



SPSP Annual Convention

**PROGRAM
AGENDA**

FEBRUARY 26-28, 2026

CHICAGO, IL

#SPSP2026

Event Agenda

SPSP 2026 Annual Convention

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Existential Psychology: Meaning & Purpose Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: Virtual

The science of existential psychology focuses on issues of "being" and "becoming," including: time, aging, and death; freedom and responsibility; isolation, uncertainty, and shared reality; culture, self, and identity; and meaning and purpose in life. The theme of our 8th consecutive Existential Psychology Preconference is "Meaning and Purpose." A Keynote Address will discuss the search for meaning, and a Special Address will consider Black Existentialism and the struggle for purpose among those coping with hostile and systematic racism as obstacles to authentic life goals. The event will also include a set of 12 Featured Research Talks exploring meaning and purpose in dynamic relation with social cognition, affect, and behavior; a poster session; two data blitz sessions; and an award ceremony. The preconference is organized by the International Society for the Science of Existential Psychology. Join at [ISSEP.org](https://www.issep.org) to become eligible for conference awards, research grants, and more!

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Opening remarks

8:30 AM – 8:35 AM

Speaker



Kenneth Vail

Associate Professor | Cleveland State University

Searching for meaning in life: Reviewing the research and highlighting where more search is needed

8:35 AM – 9:20 AM

To search for meaning feels fundamentally human, perhaps even universally so. In fact, something like a search for meaning, a will to meaning, helped galvanize interest in meaning and purpose through the writings of Viktor Frankl. This talk presents what we know about this construct, how it has been measured, whether it is a wellbeing variable or an indicator of distress, moderators of the search for meaning and ways in which searching may serve as a moderator itself, and some of the open questions that persist after nearly 20 years of research. The search for meaning is...something. But we have more to learn ahead than we have learned so far.

Speaker



Michael Steger

Center for Meaning and Purpose, Colorado State University

Authors

Michael Steger

Approaching Anticipated Endings: Certainty About What Comes Next Promotes Closure

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

When a phase of life is ending soon, what facilitates psychological closure (i.e., a subjective sense of completion)? Across five studies (total $N \approx 1300$), we show that future certainty, certainty about what comes after an anticipated ending, fosters closure about the ending. Using text analysis (Study 1), we found that participants who described the next life phase with more certainty reported greater closure over the end life phase. In three experiments (Studies 2–4), participants assigned to future certainty (vs. future possibility) conditions consistently reported higher closure. A 2x2 experiment (Study 4) revealed an interaction effect between future certainty and task completion, indicating that future certainty is particularly helpful for reaching closure when there are uncompleted tasks left in the ending life phase. Finally, a field experiment with individuals anticipating a real-life transition (Study 5) showed that episodic future thinking increased closure (vs. control), with the effect mediated by future certainty. Our research reframes closure as a future-oriented emotional state, with implications for emotion regulation during life transitions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sherry Xiong

PhD Student | New York University

Authors

Sherry Xiong, Peter Gollwitzer, Gabriele Oettingen

Being Present: Witnessing Landmark Historical Events Boosts Meaning in Life

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Although not everyone shapes history, everyone is present as it unfolds. In this research, we locate individuals in the ongoing process of history, examining how linking personal narratives to broader historical narratives fosters meaning in life. Specifically, we hypothesize that the sense of witnessing history enhances the presence of meaning and the search for meaning. We examined our hypotheses through five methodologically diverse studies. In Study 1, we utilized big data analytics, processing 2,317,527 Weibo posts. We found that people who felt they were witnessing history (vs. those who did not) used more meaning-related words during the event explosion phase. In Studies 2-5, we dissected the presence of and search for MIL, using experimental design to examine causality and a field study for ecological validity. We found that witnessing events of historical significance enhances the presence of and search for MIL, whether manipulated by recalling historically significant events (Study 2), framing an event as historically significant (Studies 3-4), or visiting a historical site (Study 5).

*POSTER

Speaker



Yige Yin

Peking University

Authors

Yige Yin, Yuling Wang, Xiachan Wu, Xiaoqi Sun, Joshua Hicks, Tim Wildschut, Constantine Sedikides, Tonglin Jiang

Beyond Utility: How People Engage with Existential Questions

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

How do people engage with “big questions” in life, such as those on life’s meaning? Our studies (N = 1300, U.S. adults) examined questions and answers people expect for existential issues. Study 1 (N = 600) coded peoples’ top questions on meaning—a typical existential topic, finding that it elicited more philosophical (61%) than scientific or practical questions, more so than material or well-being topics did. Study 2 (N = 300) found that to answer existential questions, people expected approaches to feature perspective stimulation and novelty of ideas more than practical utility (Kruskal-Wallis H(2) = 51.33, p < .001). Philosophical approaches were seen as featuring these factors (M novel = 73.70, M stim = 68.10) more than the scientific or practical (all p < .001). Study 3 (N = 400) found most people (68%) believed that, when scientific methods (e.g., in psychology) are tailored to feature these factors, they too can help in answering existential questions. Results suggest individuals prioritize conceptual enrichment over practical tips for existential issues, informing future study of existential cognition in satisfying existential needs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brian Ge
Research Professional | University of Chicago

Authors

Brian Ge, Fan Yang

Epistemic Orientations and the Search for Meaning: Nihilism, Conspiracies, and the Affective Roots of Authoritarianism

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Across increasingly fragmented information environments, the search for meaning and purpose is often rooted in epistemic searching, manifesting as distinct orientations toward knowledge and understanding that emerge from uncertainty and isolation. In two studies, we examine how such orientations—existential nihilism (ENS) and conspiracy mentality (CMS)—bridge the relationship between affective states and authoritarian worldviews on both the political left and right. Across two American samples (n = 386; n = 502), path model results indicate that ENS and CMS each predict greater left- and right-wing authoritarianism. While information consumption appears to amplify these effects, to what degree depends on the particular sources influencing endogenous variables. This research suggests that the pursuit of meaning and coherence may foster authoritarian beliefs when grounded in maladaptive epistemic frameworks that occur under certain conditions. This highlights the emotional, experiential, and belief-based roots that underlie authoritarian attitudes, underscoring the centrality of meaning and purpose needs in increasingly fractious political and informational environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Doyle
University of Waterloo

Authors

Neil Wegenschimmel, Samuel Johnson, Megan Doyle

Day-level eudaimonic and hedonic motivations and their links with meaning: Additive, interactive, time-lagged, and response-surface effects

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

We studied meaning as a day-level experience in a 21-day diary study (n=445). Predictors were day-level eudaimonic motivation and hedonic motivation (seeking pleasure, comfort). Additive effects: When the motivations controlled for each other, both eudaimonic motivation and hedonic motivation (pleasure-seeking only, not comfort-seeking) made additive contributions to same-day meaning, so meaning was maximized when both motivations were present. Interactive effects: However, the motivations interacted negatively, such that meaning derived from eudaimonic motivation was undermined in the presence of hedonic motivation (and vice versa). Time-lagged effects: Eudaimonic motivation predicted meaning for the next three days, while hedonic motivation had no predictive effect. Response-surface effects: When examining which combination of eudaimonic and hedonic motivation was optimal, meaning peaked when eudaimonic motivation was 7 (on 1-7 scale) but hedonic motivation was only 5 (on 1-7 scale).

*POSTER

Speakers



Veronika Huta
University of Ottawa



Andrea Lefebvre

Authors

Andrea Lefebvre, Veronika Huta

Mortality Salience Predicts In-Group Favoritism After Viewing Pope Francis’s Body

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

The public viewing of Pope Francis’s body lying in state in 2025 offered a rare opportunity to test core predictions of Terror Management Theory in a real-world, culturally charged setting. In a field study conducted at St. Peter’s Basilica (N = 146), we examined how direct confrontation with death shaped prosocial behavior and identity investment. Participants who reported heightened mortality salience after viewing the Pope’s body donated significantly more to a Catholic charity than to a neutral humanitarian organization, demonstrating selective in-group favoritism. These findings extend TMT beyond laboratory settings by showing that culturally meaningful encounters with death amplify identity-affirming generosity. They also highlight the role of religious worldviews in providing existential meaning and buffering mortality concerns. Our results highlight the importance of cultural context in shaping psychological responses to death and offer new insights into how meaning-making processes operate in naturalistic settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Claire White
Professor | CSUN

Authors

Claire White, Dimitris Xygalatas

Doomsday: Value, Purpose, and the Collective Afterlife

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

How do present values and sense of purpose relate to attitudes about the continued existence of humanity? Building on a novel philosophical thought experiment, we conducted three studies (N = 2,350) in four countries Colombia, India, Morocco, and the United States, to examine this question. Some participants were asked to think about living in a Doomsday scenario where humanity is wiped out 30 days after one's death. Using a mixed between- and within-subjects design, we found that people value epistemic, grit, and other-oriented virtues less after thinking about Doomsday. Moreover, people reported lower meaning, goal orientation and self-transcendence in Doomsday. These results were replicated when Doomsday consisted either in widespread infertility or of being immediately forgotten by everyone post-mortem. These results suggest that some dimensions of present value and sense of purpose are sensitive to the belief that humanity will continue to exist after one's death. Further, these results are robust across cultural differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samuel Murray
Assistant Professor | Providence College

Authors

Samuel Murray, Devon Guzy

Finding Meaning in Music: The Motivational Role of Autobiographical Memory Tuning

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

People often turn to music to make sense of their life experiences. By relating their own life experiences to those of a singer's, people can feel better understood. This process of relating one's own life to a singer's life can be subjective: rather than relying on objective life similarities, people may use motivated perception to find similarities that are not readily apparent. We define this motivated process as autobiographical memory tuning (tuning): spontaneously relating one's own life to a singer's life when exposed to that singer's music. Our research finds that tuning is (1) driven by the need to belong, and (2) serves an epistemic function, increasing one's sense of meaning in life. The higher one's need to belong, the more they are motivated to engage in tuning. Tuning leads to the creation of shared reality with the singer, which then increases one's sense of meaning in life. In addition to bolstering a sense of meaning, we find that, through shared reality, tuning increases one's general sense of belonging and their behavioral intentions to support the singer. We identify tuning as a motivational process by which music plays a meaning-making function in our lives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rani Bawa
PhD Candidate | The Ohio State University

Authors

Rani Bawa

Home in Time? A First Look at How We Experience Temporal Rootedness

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Research shows that a sense of belonging predicts meaning in life (Lambert et al., 2013). While psychologists have studied how individuals develop a sense of belonging with others, little attention has been given to the sense of belonging in time, or temporal rootedness (Baldwin & Keefer, 2020). Temporal rootedness has previously been defined as what makes people feel like they are living in the "right time" or that they "belong in the present." Despite its positive link to well-being, its definition and content have remained unexplored. This study replicates Baldwin and Keefer (2020) to examine temporal rootedness and compare the themes that persist across time (i.e., 2020 and 2025). A representative sample of participants (N = 386) was recruited on Prolific to describe their source of temporal rootedness and complete a questionnaire assessing time metaphors, human flourishing, existential isolation, social and economic conservatism, familiarity with technology, and perceived discrimination. Results shed light on what it means to feel anchored in time and the implications for research on meaning-making.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bao Han Tran
PhD Student | Texas Christian University

Authors

Bao Han Tran, Nathan Gillespie, Olivia Hundley, Cathy Cox

Beyond Morality: How People Weigh Life's Pursuits for Themselves and Others

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

What values are truly worth pursuing in life? From relationships to leisure, morality to civic duty, people can and do pursue many sources of value in life. Yet prior work in philosophy and psychology has suggested morality is the most important domain of value—it is most central to the self, and most tied to how people make judgments about others. The puzzle is whether people actually prioritize moral pursuits above other pursuits, both for themselves and for others. Across 4 studies (N = 751), we drew on philosophical accounts of value to test which pursuits people think are most worthwhile to pursue. Results revealed that people want to allocate more time to pursuing relationships (e.g., connecting with animals) both for the self and for others, but found no differences between morality and aesthetic pursuits. People also reported that moral pursuits should be more prioritized for others more than for themselves (p<.01). In contrast, people prioritize aesthetic pursuits more for themselves than for others (p<.009). These results suggest morality does not reign supreme. People are value pluralists—finding life value in a diversity of pursuits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlotte Austin
Phd | Cornell

Authors

Charlotte Austin, Mathew Lindauer, Anna Gantman, Jordan Wylie

The Collective Neurotic Patterns Scale: Development and Theoretical Validation through Meaning Crisis

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

According to Frankl, modern society faces a sense of meaninglessness that leads to shared attitudes such as provisional (living without long-term goals or direction), collectivistic (relying on majority opinions and avoiding personal responsibility), fanatic (idealizing a single value or belief as absolute), and fatalistic (feeling limited by external or internal conditions), known as collective neurotic patterns. Study 1 developed the Collective Neurotic Patterns Scale using data from 99 participants in Turkey, identifying these four factors with good model fit (CFI = .92, RMSEA = .06). Study 2 tested the relationships among meaningfulness, meaning crisis, and these attitudes in 306 participants in Turkey. Meaningfulness was negatively related to meaning crisis, provisional, and collectivistic attitudes, while meaning crisis positively predicted all four. These results provide empirical support for the theoretical framework, particularly confirming the role of meaning crisis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Havagul Akce

PhD candidate | Friedrich Schiller University of Jena

Authors

Havagul Akce

Familiarity Seeking: Growing and Learning from Repeat Experiences

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Prevailing accounts of personal meaning and growth emphasize novelty, yet meaning need not come only from new experiences. This paper argues that repeatedly engaging with the familiar is a robust route to meaning. People routinely rewatch shows, relisten to songs, return to the same places, and reread cherished books. Repetition provides dependable value by linking past and present, deepening emotional connections, and revealing novelty embedded in the experience and in the self. Through reconsumption, people make better sense of what an experience means to them and harvest prior emotional, cognitive, and social investments. Repeated exposure allows relationships with experiences to develop and mature, creating conditions under which meaning, via coherence, significance, and purpose, can reliably grow. We synthesize theory on mere exposure, nostalgia, emotional attachment, and narrative identity; outline boundary conditions (overexposure, low complexity, nonvolitional repetition); and discuss how future research may further explore how familiarity fosters existential meaning and how to intentionally cultivate meaningful repetition in daily life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuji Winet

Assistant Professor | Duke University, Fuqua School of Business

Authors

Yuji Winet, Ed O'Brien

Deriving Meaning and Engagement from Task Variety: How to Boost Situational Meaningfulness and Performance

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

While people often express aversion to so-called bullshit jobs (Graeber, 2019), the conditions that foster a sense of meaning at a more granular, task level, remain to be fully understood. We tested how task-related meaning sources (skill variety, task identity) relate to task meaningfulness, performance and engagement. In Study 1 (N = 101), participants assembled either the same or different tangram patterns (skill variety), which were either preserved or deconstructed (task identity). We found that higher skill variety led to greater task performance, with no significant effect of task identity. In Study 2 (N = 235), we again manipulated skill variety and task identity. High skill variety increased perceived task meaningfulness, engagement, and performance. Participants assembled more patterns when the task was varied and deconstructed than when it was repetitive but preserved. This suggests that skill variety plays a more fundamental role than task identity in fostering task meaningfulness and performance, indicating that varying the nature of employees' activities can enhance engagement and meaning even when they cannot see the complete outcome of their work.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katarzyna Catarero

Associate Professor | SWPS University

Authors

Katarzyna Catarero, Aleksandra Penza, Ewelina Smoktunowicz, Agata Gasiorowska, Michal Bialek, Wijnand Van Tilburg

Crisis of meaning in post-modern societies

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

When subjective well-being is equated with happiness, macro-psychological studies consistently link it to economic wealth. However, subjective well-being encompasses more than happiness; it includes multiple interdependent components, such as meaning, harmony, spirituality, and happiness itself. This study examines the relationship between economic wealth and societal well-being, redefining the latter as a country-level aggregate of a sense of meaning. Using data from 70 countries, we replicate and highlight the previously overlooked finding that meaning in life is higher in less affluent nations. This finding has important implications for the social sciences, as it seems counterintuitive – the social sciences commonly associate a country's economic prosperity with increased subjective well-being among its citizens. Importantly, inspired by recent research on subjective ideals of well-being, we find that ideal levels of meaning in life are not negatively related to economic prosperity. Thus, wealthier nations do not report lower levels of meaning because they have lower meaning-related aspirations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kuba Kryś

Polish Academy of Sciences

Authors

Kuba Kryś

Existential isolation predicts poor well-being and participation in justice-involved substance use treatment

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Individuals who are currently involved in the justice system represent a unique, at-risk, and underserved population. These individuals experience high rates of mental health issues, including trauma, PTSD, and substance-use disorders, along with systemic barriers and injustice. However, less is known about their existential concerns and well-being. Existential isolation (EI), or the feeling that one is alone in their subjective experience, is associated with higher psychological distress, lower meaning in life, and may influence mental health treatment processes. We investigated the relationship between EI, well-being, and treatment engagement in individuals enrolled in a justice-involved substance use treatment program by administering self-report surveys to 126 individuals enrolled in a program at a correctional facility. Results revealed that EI was negatively correlated with meaning purpose, positive affect, and all aspects of treatment engagement. Counselor rapport was a significant mediator between EI and treatment participation. We suggest further investigation and intervention to improve existential well-being among justice-involved individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Wrucke
Student | Texas Christian University

Authors

Cathy Cox, Michael Wrucke, Thomase Sease, Matthew Espinosa

Age-Related Differences in End-of-Life Care Preferences: Intrinsic Religiosity, Faith in Science, Science-Religion Compatibility Beliefs

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

This study examined how age is related to preferences for care near the end-of-life (PCEOL) and whether intrinsic religiosity, faith in science, and perceived science–religion compatibility mediate these relationships. We collected survey data from 1,572 adults (ages 18–99) across Canada and the United States, and conducted a series of multiple mediation models (PROCESS Model 4) for each of five PCEOL subscales: preference for natural death, healthcare provider decision-making, spirituality-informed decision-making, family involvement, and affective communication. Age was significantly, directly related to all five dimensions. Perceived science–religion compatibility partially mediated the positive relations between age and both preference for natural death and affective communication, while intrinsic religiosity partially mediated the negative relation between age and healthcare provider decision-making. Faith in science was not a significant mediator. Together, these findings highlight the nuanced role of existential belief systems in shaping end-of-life care preferences across adulthood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria Pimenova

Authors

Maria Pimenova, Renate Ysseldyk, Kenneth Vail, Albert Banerjee, Bronwyn Williams, Caroline Lapish

Meaning Making in Action: Essentialism in Career Decision Narratives

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Knowing and expressing one’s avowed true self has been shown to promote meaning and choice satisfaction (Schlegel et al. 2011; Kim et al., 2022). This study, supported by an ISSEP Research Grant, aimed to measure if we could detect evidence of people using the idea of a true self to make meaning in narratives about their life choices. Specifically, we examined whether people naturally express self-essentialist language in essays describing how they picked their career. We focused on self-essentialism themes because the very idea of a “true self” is likely an essence place holder used by lay people to refer to an individual’s perceived self-essence (Christy et al., 2019). We hypothesized that the degree of self-essentialist themes in these essays would predict greater self-reported meaning and choice satisfaction. Results indicated that about half of the essays expressed some degree of self-essentialism. Furthermore, the degree of self-essentialist language in participant’s essays was positively correlated with career satisfaction and meaning. These results suggest that self-essentialism may play a role in helping people find meaning and satisfaction in their career choice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca Ward
Graduate Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Rebecca Ward, Rebecca Schlegel

Existential Isolation and the Facets of Meaning

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

This research examines how two forms of interpersonal isolation, existential isolation and loneliness, relate to the three facets of meaning (coherence, significance, and purpose). Across two studies, we explored whether these forms of isolation are differentially associated with the facets of meaning. In Study 1 (N = 309) hierarchical regressions controlling for the other facets of meaning and isolation show that loneliness was negatively associated with coherence & significance, while existential isolation was negatively associated with coherence. Study 2 (N= 791) replicated and extended these findings by controlling for Big 5 personality and found that loneliness negatively predicted coherence and purpose, while existential isolation was negatively associated with significance. These findings suggest that loneliness and existential isolation may uniquely impact the facets of meaning in life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hope Rose
Assistant Professor | West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Hope Rose, Laura King

Forecasting Interpersonal Closeness in Human-AI Interaction

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

AI companionships have emerged as meaningful sources of support in the digital age. But can people accurately forecast these benefits for themselves? And how do these self-predictions measure against predictions about other people's feelings towards the same AI companions? We examined these two questions across two studies (N = 895). In Study 1, participants predicted how close they would feel to a hypothetical AI or human companion after either an intimate or small-talk interaction. We then compared these predictions to the actual closeness generated in-lab following identical interactions. Regardless of interaction type, we found that participants were surprisingly accurate in predicting their closeness to the AI but consistently underestimated their closeness to a human companion. In Study 2, we compared self-predictions to predictions about others' closeness toward the same AI or human across both interaction types. Participants consistently expected others to feel closer to their companion, AI or human, than they themselves did. We discuss the theoretical implications of these findings as well as what they mean for the preservation of human relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Reem Ayad
PhD Candidate | University of Toronto

Authors

Reem Ayad, Selin Okman, Jason Plaks

Existential Factors of Psychological Resilience: Evidence from a Ukrainian Sample

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

The study explores existential factors of psychological resilience among Ukrainians living under war-related uncertainty. It is grounded in Alfred L  ngle's Existential Analytic model of the Four Fundamental Motivations and Viktor Frankl's concept of the noetic dimension of personality. Correlations were examined between resilience (Connor–Davidson Resilience Scale) and existential parameters measured by the Existence Scale, Test of Existential Motivations, Professional Hardiness Questionnaire, and Posttraumatic Growth Inventory. Results revealed significant positive links between resilience and core existential dimensions—freedom, responsibility, self-transcendence, fundamental trust, and existential fulfillment. Participants showed predominantly medium to high resilience, reflecting the adaptive potential of Ukrainian society under prolonged crisis. Findings emphasize the essential role of existential orientation in sustaining psychological stability and personal integrity amid uncertainty and collective trauma.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yaryna Kaplunenko
Senior Researcher | Institute of Psychology of NAES of Ukraine

Authors

Yaryna Kaplunenko

Recovering from inauthenticity: Counterfactual thinking enhances meaning in life after inauthenticity

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Counterfactual (i.e., "If Only...") thinking allows individuals to compare what has happened to what might have been, and seems to enhance meaning derived from events. We were interested in examining counterfactual thinking after (in)authentic experiences, given the importance of authenticity for well-being. In our study (N=319), participants recalled events they were either authentic or inauthentic (order randomized) and were randomly assigned to describe either counterfactual or factual details of each event. Participants then reported event-induced meaning in life [MIL] and affect. Results revealed a moderated mediation such that inauthentic events produced lower positive and higher negative affect compared to authentic events, and lower positive (higher negative) affect predicted lower MIL. Importantly, this model was buffered for those who thought counterfactually, mitigating the difference in affect which subsequently weakened the association with MIL. This aligns with previous research that supports counterfactual thinking as an effective emotion-regulatory tool: mitigating the emotional impact of (in)authentic experiences and, consequently, weakening their influence on MIL.

*POSTER

Speaker



Madelyn Church
Student | University of Mississippi

Authors

Madelyn Church, Grace Rivera, Kianna Arthur, Kyle Dickey

Unrecognized ADHD: Women's Reflections on School Years and Self-Understanding

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is often perceived as a "hyperactive boy" disorder, contributing to the under-recognition of girls during childhood. Little research has explored how this delayed recognition affects women's early experiences or their later understanding of themselves. This qualitative study examines the retrospective accounts of women diagnosed with ADHD in adulthood, focusing on how overlooked symptoms during school years shaped academic, social, and emotional development. Using semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis, participants reflected on missed signs, challenges in learning and relationships, and how receiving a diagnosis later prompted a reevaluation of their past experiences and sense of self. Findings highlight how women reconstruct their life narratives, reinterpret earlier challenges, and derive personal understanding from delayed recognition. By centering women's voices, this study provides insight into identity formation, the impact of diagnostic bias, and the ways individuals make sense of their lives when recognition comes later.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ashley Lee
Yonsei University

Authors

Ashley Lee, Frank Worrell

Exploring the distinct roles of existential loneliness, existential isolation, and general loneliness in depressive symptoms among older adults

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

This study examines how existential loneliness (EL), existential isolation (EI), and general loneliness interrelate and contribute to depressive symptoms in older adults, aiming to clarify the conceptual distinction between these forms of loneliness/isolation and to better understand their unique contributions to depressive symptoms. The participants were 220 older adults aged 65 and over. Correlation analyses revealed that EL had a strong positive correlation with general loneliness, while EI had moderate positive relationships with both EL and general loneliness in older adults. Multiple regression analysis indicated that both EL and general loneliness significantly predicted depressive symptoms, with EL demonstrating the strongest predictive capacity. EI did not significantly predict depressive symptoms. Findings seem to suggest that EL, general loneliness, and EI are related but distinct constructs and that especially EL and general loneliness may be independent antecedents for depressive symptoms. Interventions specially targeting EL may offer a promising approach to supporting older adults' mental health. Future study is needed to test the results of this study.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tongtong Zhao

PhD | KU Leuven

Authors

Tongtong Zhao, Laura Dewitte, Helena Larsson, Judith Appel, Jessie Dewitte

Mattering's malleability: exploring how mattering is conceptualized and operationalized, a scoping review

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Mattering is a core component of the tripartite model of meaning in life. In this domain, it refers to the sense that our lives hold transcendental value beyond everyday mundanity. In social psychology, however, it is often framed as the value attributed to us within interpersonal relationships. Given its strong link to mental health and well-being, mattering has drawn attention across disciplines, resulting in varied definitions and operationalizations. We conducted a scoping review to map how mattering is usually approached in psychology and care studies, consulting CINAHL, ProQuest Central, PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science. Only peer-reviewed reports written in English that addressed the experience of feeling valued were included (n = 418). Most sources (46%) defined mattering as a relational construct; 22% emphasized contextual relevance (e.g., school, family, work); and 7% addressed its transcendental dimension, often within broader meaning-in-life frameworks. Our findings highlight the construct's malleability and show that feeling valued is often identified in the literature as a core psychological need deserving further exploration in its diverse articulations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mar Gil Álvarez

PhD student | KU Leuven

Authors

Mar Gil Alvarez, Suvi-Maria Saarelainen, Jessie Dezutter

The Effect of Shared Experience on Nostalgia

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Past research on shared experiences suggests that when people attend to emotionally evocative stimuli together, their emotional responses tend to intensify. However, it remains unclear whether this effect extends to nostalgia, an emotion often experienced in solitude. To address this question, we randomly assigned participants to listen to nostalgia-evoking music either alone or with another person, and then reported their feelings of nostalgia. The results provide preliminary evidence that nostalgic feelings are stronger when people listen alone rather than with others. This finding highlights the idiosyncratic nature of nostalgia, suggesting that it may be less readily shared with strangers, compared to other emotional experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ya-Hui Chang

UB

Authors

Ya-Hui Chang, Kuan-Ju Huang

The effects of voluntary and non-voluntary hardship on grit: A scoping review

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Grit has been defined as the perseverance and passion for long-term goals and it is essential to understand how it shapes responses to hardships and adversities. However, there remains a limited understanding of grit in relation to experiences of hardship. This scoping review aims to explore how grit interacts with both voluntary and involuntary hardships, and vice versa. This review developed a conceptual framework using theoretical material available and synthesised evidence from empirical studies across populations and varying types of hardships. The findings of the review indicate the multiple roles played by grit in coping with hardships, the effect of hardship on diminishing or building grit based on context, intensity, or nature, and the bidirectional relationship between grit and experiences of hardship. A significant amount of evidence suggests that grit acts as a coping mechanism during hardships, and these hardships shape the level of grit in individuals. The limited yet growing evidence in this field suggests that grit and hardships interact with each other, but the intensity and thresholds of their effects remain underexplored.

*POSTER

Speaker



Atulya Venkatesh

Authors

Atulya Venkatesh, Chaitanya Solanki, Mahima Das, Snigdha Muddham, Ananya Swargiary

Playing with Death: Video Games for Death-Education and Meaning-Making

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Confronting mortality can deepen our sense of meaning in life, yet motivating people to engage with death-related themes remains a challenge. In two mixed-method experiments, we explored how video games addressing death, loss, and grief can foster existential reflection and meaning-making. In Study 1 (N=44), participants played The Painting or a neutral control game. The existential game evoked deep emotional responses and reflection, but also an increase in death avoidance, possibly reflecting initial defense against confronting mortality. Study 2 (N=43) compared a control group to two experimental groups playing Brothers: A Tale of Two Sons over one month, with one group additionally taking part in a guided discussion. Both game groups showed higher presence of meaning and reduced death avoidance, strongest when discussing the game with others. Our findings suggest that video games can serve as powerful tools for death education when they are emotionally engaging and paired with structured reflection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Imke Harbig

PhD student | University of Klagenfurt

Authors

Imke Alenka Harbig, Raphaela Montero

Existential Flourishing: Exploring Relational Cognition as a Mechanism to Produce more meaningful therapeutic experiences

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

The goal of this research is to examine how individuals experiencing SI handle traditional death anxiety, attempting to understand perceived meaning of life in clinical and nonclinical populations. We hypothesized that SIs would serve a protecting function against thoughts of death. Clinical interviews were conducted with three groups: 1) undergraduates with a history of or currently experiencing SI (n = 17), 2) undergraduates with no history and not currently experiencing SI (n = 17), and a clinical sample that had a history or currently experiencing SI with 1+ attempts and currently in therapy. The results revealed first, the SI group felt at greater distance with their attachments and in more direct conflict. Second, suicide was seen as a maladaptive version of problem solving around life rather than a desire for death as an ending. Third, SI and non-SI samples were found to desire to protect their close attachments, but differently. Therefore, we conceptualized this as a distortion of relational cognition driven by the processes of attachment, something that is problematic when healthy close relationships buffer death anxiety.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lindsey Harvell-Bowman

Associate Professor - School of Comm Studies | James Madison University

Authors

Lindsey Harvell-Bowman, Kenneth Critchfield

Mass I-sharing, symbolic immortality, and rippling prosociality inspired by the collective enthusiasm for a feminine icon

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Across two studies, we detail the psychological and prosocial ramifications of a unique cultural moment of collective enthusiasm for a feminine icon: Taylor Swift's Eras Tour. We recruited participants in the "Eras Tour Bubble" condition before and after the show and recruited participants in the "Out-of-Bubble" control condition four months after the tour concluded. We examined the role mass existential connection, symbolic immortality, and communal values played in fostering "Bubble" participants' increased warmth and generosity that rippled out to in and out group members alike (i.e., rippling prosociality). Study 1 found that the "Bubble" condition predicted increased mass existential connection, which in turn predicted increased rippling prosociality. Study 2 found that the "Bubble" condition also predicted increased symbolic immortality. Increased symbolic immortality predicted increased communion, which in turn, predicted increased rippling prosociality. Results provide insight into the psychological impacts of the Eras Tour and shed light on the implications of living the same experience with thousands of others, for how we treat ingroup and outgroup members alike.

*POSTER

Speaker



Natalie Fuchs

Graduate Student-Masters | University of Vermont

Authors

Natalie Fuchs, Elizabeth Pinel

Understanding Suicide as Identity Failure: Integrating Existential and Identity Control Theories

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

This review examines suicide as both a deeply personal and socially embedded phenomenon. Psychology often locates suicide within individual distress, while sociology views it as a response to disrupted integration and meaning. To bridge these perspectives, this review integrates Yalom's existential psychotherapy and Burke's identity control theory to propose a model of suicide as identity failure. Yalom describes how the existential givens of death, freedom, isolation, and meaninglessness can destabilize coherence and purpose. Burke's theory extends this view by explaining how individuals sustain self-concept through social feedback that affirms valued identities. Identity failure is conceptualized as the point at which feedback persistently disconfirms one's identity standards, producing a breakdown in coherence that mirrors existential collapse. Integrating these frameworks offers a model of suicide as identity failure, linking the loss of meaning with the breakdown of belonging and self-regulation. This integration highlights implications for theory and practice, suggesting that authenticity, acknowledgment, and social connection can buffer against identity failure and despair.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacey Henrichs

Authors

Jacey Henrichs

Helping Clients Find Purpose- Life Constellation

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

This session outlines a clinical framework designed to facilitate meaning and purpose in life through values clarification and goal alignment. The process integrates established psychological theories on motivation and well-being with structured therapeutic exercises. Clients are guided to identify core values, differentiate essential needs from peripheral wants, and critically evaluate activities that either enhance or deplete authenticity. These values then inform the formulation of specific, measurable, attainable, and time-bound goals across life domains, fostering alignment between self-concept and behavior. Empirical research underscores that value-congruent goals promote autonomy, mastery, and purpose, contributing to enhanced resilience, self-efficacy, and overall well-being. Visualization and reflective practices further reinforce this alignment by engaging cognitive and affective systems that support goal pursuit. This framework provides clinicians with a replicable methodology to promote intentional living, offering both theoretical grounding and practical application for advancing client growth and fulfillment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amanda Court
Behavioral Health Provider | Bay Community Health

Authors

Amanda Court

Individual Differences in Mortality Salience: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Decades of work investigating terror management theory (TMT) have produced strikingly mixed experimental and meta-analytic results supporting the existence of mortality salience (MS) effects—the finding that reminders of death produce compensatory behaviors. Little is known, however, about whether potential theoretical mechanisms might explain this heterogeneity. We explored some of these mechanisms by developing an agent-based cognitive model designed to operationalize three potential ways of responding to MS: bolstering one's beliefs, derogating the beliefs of others, and avoiding engagement with MS entirely. We ran 10,000 independent simulations investigating the consequences of these MS response styles. Results showed that these response styles could lead to distinct outcomes in defensiveness: individual differences in responding produced variability in the extent to which worldview and self-esteem defenses were activated. Such individual differences may help explain some contradictory empirical findings in the TMT literature, highlighting a need for greater precision in how the core components of TMT and other theories of psychological defense are specified.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathan Gillespie
Doctoral Student in Cognitive Science; NDSEG Fellow | University at Albany, SUNY

Authors

Nathan Gillespie, Joshua Hart, Gregory Cox

Creating Meaning & Purpose While Abroad: Motivation and mental health in short- and long-term study abroad among Japanese students

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

A groundbreaking qualitative research study by Hishida, Yanase, & Sakagami (2024) identified that mental health factors motivate international students to travel to Japanese national universities. Less understood are the factors that motivate outbound Japanese study abroad students and whether they are shaped by deficit or strengths-based psychological processes, while additionally investigating how mental health informs these processes. Our goal is to create more meaningful study abroad experiences while minimizing distress. Interviews (N = 10) were conducted in English and Japanese to examine study abroad factors and mental health processes in both short- and long-term study abroad programs. We predicted that some outbound (Japan to abroad), will exhibit patterns of distress and that these experiences offer students an opportunity to “escape” their current reality. Results show an intersection between mental health, meaning & purpose, and the motivations behind studying abroad. We provide insights to create more meaningful experiences for students studying abroad in Japan and globally.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hayate Inaya
Student | Hiroshima University

Authors

Lindsey Harvell-Bowman, Hayate Inaya, Russel Sarwar Kabir, Sophia Bates

Discovering Human Purpose and Meaning: The Narmada Parikrama Experience

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Revered as a Mother Goddess, Narmada (Ma Narmada) is a perennial river running across three states in India around which a parikrama or clockwise circumambulation, is performed on foot. This arduous walking pilgrimage (Narmada Parikrama-NP) covering approximately 3300 kms, is undertaken by individuals (“parikramāwasi”) from all walks of life for its spiritual merit and to seek answers for many existential questions. Anchored in Indigenous Psychology, this qualitative inquiry examined NP as a culturally endorsed, voluntary experiment in self-transformation. In-depth interviews were conducted with 15 parikramavasis (18 to 70 years) who have completed NP at least once to understand their motives and reflective experiences. Interviews were conducted in the local language and tape recorded with permission. Participants discussed following strict routines with minimum material comforts and developing self-restraint. Parikramawasis voluntarily left comforts of their home to explore unknown terrains along the river, often without using money during the journey. Participants brought forth Hindu, Indian worldviews about the complex interface of human pursuits, meaning and purpose of life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachana Bhangaokar
Assistant Professor and Chair | Dept of Human Development and Family Studies, The M. S. University Of Baroda

Authors

Rachana Bhangaokar

Learning my disorder isn't real: critical pedagogy and existential meaning in abnormal psychology

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

Abnormal Psychology is often taught with rigid, biogenic assumptions about etiology and ontology of psychiatric disorders. This leaves little room for students to consider existential implications of endorsing biogenic explanations of what a disorder is. The current study examines how undergraduate students understand meaning and purpose of disorder diagnosis as it pertains to themselves and others. Study sample consists of students enrolled in Abnormal Psychology at SVSU (n = 28) thus far, and we will be continuing in future semesters. Materials include the Mental Disorder Causal Beliefs Scale (MDCB; Mannarini & Boffo, 2013), Biogenetic Causal Beliefs Scale (BCBS; Kvaale & Haslam, 2016), and four essay questions to gauge extent of students' biogenic causal beliefs and understanding of disorder ontology. After relevant material is taught, we re-administer MDCB, BCBS, and essay questions to explore potential changes to students' views on causality, ontology, and purpose of disorders/diagnosis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isaac Zamora-Ayres

Student | Saginaw Valley State University

Authors

Isaac Zamora-Ayres, Travis Pashak

The fiduciary human in the Anthropocene

9:20 AM – 10:00 AM

With human activity increasingly becoming the prime driver of the earth system and with humans almost crossing critical planetary boundaries, we face the risk of rendering ourselves the first species on earth to be held responsible for our own and other species' extinction. This contribution addresses crucial aspects of contemporary societies that seem to regard people from a data-perspective as mere items of information, thus detaching the 'human' from the 'nature'. Building on literature devoted to the fiduciary concept, it examines whether and the extent to which the human could be conceptualised as fiduciary of future generations with the duty to exercise other-regarding authority in the best interests of these generations. It argues that future generations have a profound interest in living in a healthy environment; and that humans should be bound by the obligation to care for nature. Based on the fiduciary approach to the human, this contribution analyses the specific context of our fiduciary obligations and responsibilities toward the environment and future generations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Georgios Bouchagiar

Postdoctoral researcher focusing on human rights, ethics and new technologies | Vrije Universiteit Brussel (LSTS)

Authors

Georgios Bouchagiar

Coffee Break

10:00 AM – 10:05 AM

Navigating wide and deep: Development and validation of the Dual Existential Meaning Search scale

10:05 AM – 10:20 AM

People pursue meaning in different ways, yet prior work has not directly examined how individuals search for meaning. Drawing on existential psychology, we propose that meaning search takes two distinct forms: breadth, seeking diverse sources of meaning, and depth, seeking the essential core of one's meaning sources. Across four studies, we developed and validated the Dual Existential Meaning Search (DEMS) scale. Breadth search related to curiosity, openness, and extraversion, whereas depth related to religiosity and need for closure. Depth also predicted perceived meaningfulness in foundational, stability-oriented domains (e.g., religion), while breadth predicted meaningfulness in outward, relational-societal domains (e.g., rights).

Speaker



Jinhyung Kim

Associate Professor | Sogang University

Authors

Jinhyung Kim

Momentary experiences of meaning in life

10:20 AM – 10:35 AM

Meaning in life research traditionally focuses on trait assessments of the meaningfulness of whole lives. Yet, feelings of meaning in life fluctuate from moment to moment. I will present findings from three diverse projects, focusing on routines, collective action, and friendship, that all use Experience Sampling Methods to track momentary feelings of meaning in life across situations. I will argue that assessing momentary feelings of meaning enables a more complete understanding the sources, consequences, and dynamics of meaning in life.

Speaker



Samantha Heintzelman

Associate Professor | Rutgers Univ. - Newark

Authors

Samantha Heintzelman

From values to action: Cultivating meaning through daily prioritization

10:35 AM – 10:50 AM

Decades of research show that meaning in life is central to well-being, resilience, and identity, mostly through the constructs of presence and search and the coherence–purpose–significance model. Yet many who reflect on what matters or search for meaning do not turn this awareness into a lasting sense of meaning or improved functioning. This talk presents 'prioritizing meaning', the intentional investment of time, attention, and behavior in what matters most, as a mechanism explaining this gap. Prioritizing meaning predicts presence and well-being beyond search and mediates pathways to mental health. Experimental interventions increase prioritizing meaning and translate reflection into meaningful action.

Speaker



Prof. Pninit Russo-Netzer

Achva academic college

Authors

Pninit Russo-Netzer

Place Attachment as a Source of Meaning in Life: Enhancing Purpose, Coherence, and Significance

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM

Can our environments be sources of meaning? While place attachment has been linked to well-being, its role in shaping meaning in life remains unclear. Across three studies, I tested whether place attachment enhances experiences of meaning. Using experimental sampling methods (N = 271), people reported greater momentary meaning when in places they felt attached to. To examine causality, two experiments (total N = 945) manipulated place attachment. Participants reported higher meaning when reflecting on places of attachment (vs. neutral, low, or negative places), even after accounting for baseline meaning levels. Findings suggest that attachments to place provide a psychological anchor for overall meaning as well as coherence, significance, and purpose. By highlighting the existential role of everyday environments, this work demonstrates that meaning is not only constructed internally but also rooted in the physical and social contexts where we live our lives. Future research will investigate whether the satisfaction of basic psychological needs, as proposed by self-determination theory, mediates the relationship between place attachment and meaning in life.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ashley Krause

Graduate Student | University of Florida

Authors

Ashley Krause

Writing a Meaning for Life: A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Single-Session Narrative Identity Intervention for Young Adults

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM

Emerging adults face the challenging task of developing a coherent life story that fosters meaning—encompassing purpose and existential mattering. Narrative identity theory proposes that coherent life stories promote self-continuity and meaning, but these claims have rarely been tested experimentally. We tested the Brief Meaning Boost (BMB), a single-session online intervention guiding participants through writing about key memories, identifying themes, and receiving wisdom from their future self. In this pre-registered randomized controlled trial (N=532), young adults ages 18-24 were assigned to BMB or an active control. Results showed moderate immediate effects on meaning/purpose (d=0.52) and mattering (d=0.34) that persisted at one week (ds=0.25, 0.19) and three weeks (ds=0.27, 0.24). Sequential mediation analyses provided experimental evidence for core theoretical claims: the intervention enhanced narrative coherence, which fostered self-continuity, which sustained meaning and mattering over time. This brief, scalable intervention advances narrative identity theory and demonstrates practical pathways for helping emerging adults cultivate purpose and significance.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Rebecca Shiner

Professor | Colgate University

Authors

Rebecca Shiner, William Monti

Moved by the lightest touch of meaning: Even minimal meaning matters for motivation from childhood

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM

How essential and fundamental is a sense of meaning—the feeling that our efforts matter beyond the trivial or momentary—for motivation? Across our studies (N = 604 children aged 4–9 and 577 adults), we find that no amount of meaning is too small to matter, even for small actions early in life. Both children and adults strongly preferred artistic activities with minimal meaning (i.e., where their work would be saved) over activities with no lasting existence. This preference held for both repetitive and one-time tasks and was specific to creating artwork rather than merely observing it. Anticipating even minimal meaning motivated participants to engage in productive tasks rather than effortless alternatives. In the absence of such meaning, focusing on enjoying the process partially—but not fully—compensated for motivation. These findings illuminate the scope and sensitivity of meaning as a powerful motivational force, highlighting its role as a fundamental psychological need and offering insights into how to sustain motivation in an increasingly fast-paced, transient world.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Fan Yang

Research Associate Professor | University of Chicago

Authors

Fan Yang, Yilin Liu

Religious and atheist terror management: Faith in religion and science, worldview certainty, intuition/thoughtfulness, and closed/open-mindedness.

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM

Six studies examined the role of mortality awareness on acceptance of worldview-consistent and inconsistent beliefs, as well as on open-minded vs. close-minded cognitive orientations. In Study 1, after reminders of mortality (mortality salience [MS] vs. control topic), Christians reported increased certainty about their religious faith. In contrast, atheists became more certain in their rejection of religious faith. In Study 2, MS led Christians to become more certain about the existence of the Christian deity and the non-existence of Hindu deities. Studies 3-6 then examined cognitive orientations. In Study 3, MS led Christians to increase their reliance on intuitions, whereas atheists preferred analytic thinking. Studies 4, 5, and 6 found that MS led Christians to become more dogmatic in general, and after expressing faith in worldview consistent beliefs (i.e., religion and science). Conversely, atheists after MS became more open-minded in general and after rejecting worldview inconsistent beliefs (i.e., religious faith) but became more dogmatic after affirming worldview-consistent beliefs (i.e., faith in science). Theoretical and practical implications will be discussed.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Madhwa Galgali

Graduate Student | University of Missouri Columbia

Authors

Kenneth Vail, Caroline Lapish, Madhwa Galgali, Jamie Arndt

Meaning and affect: cross-cultural similarities and differences

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM

Previous research established that meaning in life is driven by commonplace experiences such as positive emotions. However, these conclusions are based mostly on research in Western populations, where people tend to value higher levels of happiness than in other cultures. We used data from 17,803 individuals across 69 countries to examine the generalizability of the affect-meaning link. The positive correlation between positive affect and meaning was significant in 62 countries, and the negative association between negative affect and meaning was significant in 57 countries. However, the results of multilevel modeling revealed that the effects in Western countries were on average stronger than in other regions. Finally, we found a cross-level interaction, such that the associations between positive and negative affect and meaning in life were stronger in countries idealizing higher levels of happiness, which could not be explained by differences in national wealth and religiosity. Cumulatively, these results suggest that the link between affect and meaning can be observed in most cultural contexts, but is uniquely strong in happiness-oriented Western cultures.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Maciej Gorski

PhD student | Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Authors

Kuba Kryś, Maciej Gorski

Identity theft: Who we are and who we might become

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Marc got put into the Witness Protection Program as a child. Nathan didn't undergo hormonal puberty until his 20s, thanks to a rare genetic condition. Olivia got edited into a reality TV villain. These wildly different experiences all illustrate a phenomenon I'm calling "identity theft." Each person lost authority over their life story. This talk will describe the phenomenon of "identity theft," which I am currently writing a book about, and ask us to consider how it might reshape our understanding of identity at both the individual and the cultural level.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jonathan Adler

Editor | Personality and Social Psychology Review

Authors

Jonathan Adler

Finding vs. crafting meaning in work

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM

For decades, research on the meaning of work has focused on two main ideas: that some kinds of work are inherently meaningful, and that meaning is perceived by individuals (or not) in the jobs they occupy. In both views, people are portrayed as pursuing jobs that society—or their own values—deems important or fulfilling. A more recent perspective challenges this assumption. Instead of treating meaning as something to be found, it positions workers as active creators of meaning: people who shape their own experience by changing aspects of their tasks or interactions on the job. In this talk, I explore how our assumptions about where meaning resides—and how it is made—shape the way we think about work. As the nature of work continues to shift in its structure and setting, understanding these pathways to meaning is increasingly important.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Amy Wrzesniewski

Professor | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Amy Wrzesniewski

The tripartite model of meaning in life – and beyond it

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Psychological research has seen much convergence around the idea that meaningfulness has three facets: coherence, purpose, and significance. However, behind this apparent consensus are debates about how each facet should be defined, such as the potential distinction between significance (Martela & Steger, 2016) and mattering (George & Park, 2016), along with proposals about new facets, such as interpersonal mattering and prosocial impact. At the 10 year anniversary of the key papers proposing this tripartite model, I will examine what is the current understanding of the three facets and potential new facets – and how should meaning in life be presently understood.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Frank Martela

Assistant Professor | Aalto University · Full-time

Authors

Frank Martela

Lunch Break

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Before the Law: Imagination, History, and Repetition as Black Existential Psychology

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

The law is a prominent site of reflection in the existential philosophical tradition. Law remains, however, under-examined in Black existentialist literature. Drawing from my current research—a book on the work of African American legal theorist Derrick Bell—I emphasize the role of imagination, history, and repetition in African American philosophical reflection and their connections to the existential concepts of anxiety, freedom, and responsibility, and their relevance for Black existential psychology. Through an examination of African Americans and their anxieties before the law, most notably the prospect of the permanence of anti-Black racism, my remarks aim to provide fertile ground for reflection not only on the psychological well-being of African Americans but also other marginalized groups through existential philosophical reflection and its relation to psychology.

*FEATURED SESSION

Speaker



Timothy Golden

Visiting Professor of Philosophy | Whitman College

Authors

Timothy Golden

ISSEP Award Ceremony

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Kenneth Vail

Associate Professor | Cleveland State University

Age, death-related concern, and religious faith among atheists: Data from the World Values Survey.

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Prior work finds death-related concern motivates religious faith among believers but not atheists, yet it remains unclear whether age might impact that relationship. The present research tests this question in 2 pre-registered studies with data from various waves of the World Values Survey and European Values Survey datasets composed of nationally representative samples in over 100 nations. A set of competing hypotheses were tested among atheists: 1) death-related existential concern (DEC) is not associated with faith regardless of age (terror management theory, TMT); 2) DEC is associated with faith regardless of age (no atheists in foxholes, age-universal perspective); 3) the DEC-faith relationship weakens with age (age-mitigated perspective); and 4) the DEC-faith relationship strengthens with age (age-amplified perspective). Among atheists, in Studies 1 (N = 10,368; 64 nations; ages 16-95, M = 42.61, SD = 16.59) and 2 (N = 2,343; 34 nations; ages 17-93, M = 37.92, SD = 15.58), consistent with the TMT perspective—an association between death-awareness and religious faith did not emerge among atheists.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caroline Lapish

Graduate Student | Cleveland State University

Authors

Kenneth Vail, Caroline Lapish

The Philosophical Self: Exploring the Narrative Dimensions of Life Philosophy Through Mixed Methods Analysis of Life Story Interviews

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

The current studies explore how midlife Black and white Americans express their life philosophy while telling their life stories (N=158). In Study 1, we focus on a smaller section of the Life Story Interview (McAdams, 2008) that directly prompts participants to express their life philosophy, exploring the psychological dimensions of these "life philosophy statements" in relation to quantitative measures of mental health. In Study 2, we present initial findings from a deeper qualitative analysis of full life story interviews, extending our analytical frame beyond direct statements of life philosophy to explore how a life philosophy is expressed organically throughout the interview. Together, these studies contribute to a framework for identifying and analyzing expressions of life philosophy within life narrative accounts, while also inviting reflection on two methodological approaches to this analysis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ananya Mayukha

Doctoral Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Ananya Mayukha, Dan McAdams

Attributional Style Predicts Resilience in Ukrainian Survivors

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

How people explain adversity shapes how they recover from it. This study examines attributional style—the tendency to explain negative events as internal or external, stable or unstable, and global or specific—as a predictor of resilience among Ukrainian survivors of political oppression. Using the Content Analysis of Verbatim Explanations (CAVE) method, we analyzed naturally occurring attributions in survivor narratives to explore how explanatory tendencies relate to psychological adaptation after prolonged trauma. We tested whether attributional dimensions linked to perceived control and permanence correspond with stronger or weaker resilience outcomes. Results illuminate cognitive patterns that distinguish adaptive from maladaptive meaning-making in contexts of sustained systemic threat. By integrating narrative data with established models of explanatory style, this work advances understanding of how individuals cognitively reconstruct their experiences to endure and recover under chronic repression.

*POSTER

Speakers



Tomas Vanderkam

Lab Coordinator and Research Specialist | Simon Fraser University



Ula Toskova

University of British Columbia

Authors

Tomas Vanderkam, Ula Toskova

Mortality Salience, Fear of Being Single and the Desire to Seek Potential Romantic Partners: A Terror Management Perspective

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Terror management theorists have proposed that when humans are faced with the certainty of their own death, they are driven to seek social connections to buffer existential anxiety (Mikulincer et al., 2003). We theorize that this can manifest through heightened desires for intimacy – particularly among those high in the fear of being single – which can ironically encourage the pursuit of unfulfilling relationships. Single participants (n = 189) completed a classic mortality salience manipulation (i.e., wrote about their own death) and were then asked about their fear of being single, desire for a romantic partner, and satisfaction with relationship status. For people high in the fear of being single, reflecting on death significantly increased desire for a partner and decreased satisfaction with singlehood compared to those in control conditions. These findings shed light on the connections among death awareness, fear of being single and desire for romantic partners, suggesting that singlehood may seem less desirable when it raises the possibility of dying alone. Broadly, this could insinuate that fear of death is associated with a fear of dying alone.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katya Kredl

Graduate Student | McGill University

Authors

Katya Kredl, John Lydon

"If you agree with me, it must be true": Social verification creates shared Reality and consolidates impressions

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Shared reality about one's judgments can be reinforced through social verification. Yet, it is unknown whether impressions of others consolidate more when receiving verification. Across three experiments (N = 945), participants evaluated pairs of similarly qualified applicants based on photos and brief descriptions, then made hiring choices with a fictitious partner. Decisions were either verified or not. Impression consolidation was assessed as choice-consistency in trait attributions, that is, the tendency to assign positive vs. negative traits to pictures of selected applicants. Verification increased perceived shared reality, epistemic trust, and relational motivation toward the partner. It also enhanced choice-consistency, regardless of mood and partner-related feelings (Experiments 1–2), but only for job-relevant traits (Experiment 3). These findings indicate that social verification not only strengthens the sense of shared reality but also consolidates impressions, offering novel insights into communication, social cognition, and decision-making

*POSTER

Speaker



Matteo Masi

postdoctoral fellow | University of Milano-Bicocca

Authors

Matteo Masi, Gerrit Lamers, Gerald Echterhoff

Daily Dynamics in Meaning in Life: A Multi-Level Location Scale Model Approach

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Meaning in life (MIL) fluctuates daily, but patterns in these fluctuations are not understood. Using novel methods, we tested whether MIL exhibited dynamic characteristics: level (one's mean across days), instability (the magnitude of change in MIL across days), inertia (how likely MIL is to return to baseline after disruptions), and reactivity (how much MIL changes with changes in parent-adolescent closeness). Second, we tested whether individual factors might predict these meaning dynamics. This study sampled 150 adults (95.3% female, MAge=43.35) who completed a baseline survey and 21-day daily diary burst. The Bayesian multi-level location scale model revealed MIL exhibits level, instability, inertia, and reactivity to closeness (see Table 1), evidenced by significant means and variances for the components. Adults' baseline depression (DEP), anxiety (ANX), and life satisfaction (LS) were added as predictors, yielding nuanced results. DEP and LS predict levels of MIL, while ANX and LS predict MIL instability (see Table 2). MIL dynamics offer a useful framework for describing daily MIL processes in adults, and for understanding how individual factors impact MIL dynamics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Carolyn Albright

The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Carolyn Albright, Gregory Fosco, Zachary Fisher

Existential Isolation and its Limits on Empathetic Understanding

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Existential isolation (EI) is feeling alone in one's subjective experience of the world – as if other people can't relate. e.g., A patient describing their chronic pain to a doctor might feel that the doctor hears the words but doesn't truly grasp what it feels like to live with that pain every day. Because of this perceived disconnection, existentially isolated individuals may find it harder to take others' perspectives; that is, to predict or understand others' emotional reactions. Thus, people who score high on EI may express less empathetic concern for others. Two cross-sectional studies were conducted, and the results found that existential isolation was linked to reduce empathy and perspective taking. There are many applied implications for this, many of which will likely be relevant within the medical setting, with higher levels of existential isolation in physicians likely to predict lower empathy for their patients. Thus, recognizing and addressing EI could improve therapeutic alliance, treatment adherence, and overall patient well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tiffany Bui

Doctoral Student | Texas Christian University

Authors

Cathy Cox, Michael Wrucke, Matthew Espinosa, Tiffany Bui

The Need for Transcendence Scale and its associations with meaning and well-being indicators

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

The "need for transcendence" refers to a perceived need for experiences and meanings beyond the self and daily life. Literature identifies vertical forms of transcendence (related to a higher immaterial dimension) and horizontal forms (where it is experienced in connection with the world, nature, or humanity). No available instrument effectively captures these needs. The study (N = 1,064 Italian adults) validated the Need for Transcendence Scale, a 12-item tool measuring the need for vertical, horizontal, and self transcendence. Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses were conducted, alongside correlations with well-being and meaning measures (e.g., PWB, MLQ). Analyses confirmed the scale's three-factor structure. Need for transcendence dimensions correlated positively with psychological well-being, search for and presence of meaning, especially for respondents who identified themselves as spiritual (vs. non-spiritual). The scale shows solid psychometric properties and offers a new tool for religious and secular contexts. It further confirms the link between transcendence needs and the experience of meaning, especially in presence of a spiritual dimension.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caterina Ugolini

Phd Student at the University of Padua

Authors

Caterina Ugolini, Alberto Voci

God's plan? Examining how the religious 'dones' perceive suffering

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

When tragic events occur, people seek explanations for why human suffering exists in the world. One explanation is that pain and suffering just happen randomly with no purpose. In contrast, religious people may prefer another explanation such as "God has a plan," implying that God must have allowed pain and suffering for some (good) purpose. This and other purpose-based explanations such as "everything happens for a reason" exhibit teleology—the idea that events happen to fulfill some future purpose. People who believe in God are especially likely to think teleologically about life events. Recent research has demonstrated the 'religious residue' effect, which occurs when remnants of religious cognitions persist for formerly religious individuals (the 'Dones'). This study examines whether this teleological tendency remains for people who walk away from religion. A pre-registered online experiment (target N=1,380) examines how the Dones, currently religious people, and those who have never been religious may differ on views of suffering and in how they evaluate religious and secular leaders who make teleological claims about natural disasters. Preliminary results will be presented.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shoko Watanabe

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Birmingham, England, UK

Authors

Shoko Watanabe

A meta-analysis of orientations to happiness and meaning

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Meaning, pleasure, and engagement pursuits are central themes in well-being research. However, their roles in connection with meaning in life are underexplored. The current study combines available findings on the links between these pursuits and meaning in life. A systematic literature search was performed in Scopus and Web of Science databases before July 10, 2025, including Pearson's correlation coefficients. Pooled effect sizes were estimated through a random-effects model. The present meta-analysis demonstrates that all types of pursuits are positively associated with meaning in life. Meaning pursuits are more strongly linked to meaning in life, followed by engagement and pleasure. This meta-analysis contributes to a better understanding of pathways towards a meaningful and significant life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mustafa Subasi
Ibn Haldun University

Authors

Mustafa Subasi

Dual Forms of Teleological Reasoning in Judgments of Authenticity

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Teleological reasoning holds that entities exist for specific purposes, suggesting a link between perceived purpose and perceived authenticity. The present study tested whether judgments of authenticity in others rely on two distinct forms of teleological reasoning: a perceived individual telos, relating to skills and passions, and a perceived universal telos, relating to the moral ideal of being a good human being. In a within-subjects experiment, 269 undergraduates read vignettes in which characters either maintained or abandoned a unique passion and acted either morally or immorally. After each vignette, participants made both "shallow" and "deep" authenticity judgments of the character. Results revealed main effects of both consistency and morality, as well as a three-way interaction: shallow authenticity judgments were shaped more by self-consistency information, whereas deep authenticity judgments were shaped more by morality information. These findings provide initial evidence for a layered model of teleological reasoning in which authenticity judgments draw on both individual and universal conceptions of human purpose.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephen Bender
Graduate Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Stephen Bender

CANCELLED

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

*POSTER

Nostalgia increases psychological richness in life

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Nostalgia is a bittersweet emotion that increases meaning in life. But meaning in life is multi-faceted and scholars have not yet explored which facets of meaning nostalgia increases. Furthermore, scholars have not yet investigated whether nostalgia enhances another form of the good life—psychological richness in life. The present research sought to determine which facets of meaning in life nostalgia increases and whether nostalgia also enhances psychological richness in life. We tested these research questions by conducting two high-powered, pre-registered between-subjects experiments (Study 1 N = 640, Study 2 N = 1007). We showed that nostalgia reliably enhances perceptions that life is psychologically rich. We found mixed evidence regarding the effect of nostalgia on meaning in life (and its facets). The implications of our findings are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Mask
University of British Columbia

Authors

Michael Mask, Steven Heine

Saving Lives by Creating Purpose: Utilizing an existential approach to design more meaningful airline safety messages

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Airline safety messages have a negative effect on recall and attention from passengers (see masked for review, 2016) which was exemplified by passengers with failed attempts to exit the aircraft during the US Airways 1549 crash landing on the Hudson River. Much of this can be attributed to a fear of death (see masked for review, 2016). With air incidents continuing throughout the world, a lack of attention to safety messages is a life-altering decision for passengers. Using Terror Management Theory as guidance, we predict that using an existential approach to designing these messages will promote more meaning and purpose for passengers, therefore creating a greater buy-in for attention and recall of the safety messages, and ultimately saving lives. Phase 1 of this research presents a quantitative content analysis of existing airline safety messages since 1980. The data is used to present a model for future research creating airline messages with an existential lens to test for Phase 2.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lindsey Harvell-Bowman
Associate Professor - School of Comm Studies | James Madison University

Authors

Lindsey Harvell-Bowman, Payton Stavalone, Kendall Cole

How does Culture Shape the Ways People Answer Humanity's Existential Questions Amidst Climate Change?

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Responding to climate challenges requires answering essential questions such as “what prospect does the future hold?”, “how should I/we feel in this situation?” or “what is the good way of acting in face of disasters?” I argue that culture plays an important role in shaping how people respond to these questions. Specifically, I introduce cultural defaults—“common” sense, taken-for-granted ways of thinking, feeling, and acting. Cultural defaults are reflected and reinforced in institutional practices and policies, in everyday interactions, artifacts, as well as in many individual psyches. As embodied knowledge, cultural defaults carry historically derived cultural wisdom and have been adaptive across various situations in the past. I aim to introduce 12 cultural defaults that are common in U.S. and East Asian contexts including optimism vs. realism, single factor vs. multiple factors, high-arousal vs. low-arousal, influence vs. adjustment, personal choice vs. social choice, promotion vs. prevention. I emphasize the significance of meaning-making across contexts, and how knowledge about cultural defaults can help us find shared agency for collaborative action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chunchen Xu

PhD candidate in Organizational Behavior | Stanford University

Authors

Chunchen Xu

Reflecting on Life and the Self amid Collective Upheaval: Narrative Identity in Lebanon

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

How do people make meaning of collective crises within their personal life stories? This study examines interviews with 77 adults in Lebanon, who narrated significant autobiographical events in the context of historical and sociopolitical upheavals. Participants often integrated collective disruptions (e.g., wars, economic collapse, political instability) into their own developmental trajectories, revealing varied degrees of personally meaningful integration. Drawing on the concept of narrative identity and historical consciousness, we conducted a phronetic-iterative qualitative analysis to identify how collective crises shape meaning-making at personal, relational, and collective levels of selfhood. Planned quantitative analyses test how different forms of sense-making relate to mental health outcomes. Findings highlight how collective disruption becomes deeply personal, revealing what it means to reflect on one's life and self when the surrounding world is unstable.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sebnem Ture

PhD Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Sebnem Ture, Hrag Vosgueritchian, Raia Khaty, Melissa Alle, Laura-Joy Boulos

Predicting the choice to plug in to Nozick's experience machine

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

In his famous thought experiment, Nozick (1974) asks a key existential question: Would you plug into a machine that promised your ideal life but in simulacrum, withdrawing from the world for guaranteed pleasure, or instead choose the genuine activity of living despite all its imperfections? Across four samples (combined N = 1561), most people responded as Nozick assumed, with only about 30% of participants answering that they would plug in. But, despite choosing not to plug in, most thought other people would, suggestive of felt disconnect from others. Unexpectedly, for all samples tested, Modern Racism (McConahay, 1986) predicted the choice to plug in. Because racism seems only contingently connected to the thought experiment as conceived, we hypothesize Modern Racism is a proxy indicator of some related, more satisfactory explanatory predictor(s). We tested multiple predictors organized by type of motivation to plug in - epistemic (understanding and coherence), social (connectedness and significance), and existential (power and purpose) - to determine which type of individual predictors explain the choice to plug in.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erica Holberg

graduate student | University of Missouri

Authors

Laura King, Erica Holberg

Existential nihilism and affect, life satisfaction, meaning in life, depression, spirituality, religiousness, personal beliefs, and death acceptance

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Nihilism has been a profound topic in multiple different circles of study since its inception, being headlined by Nietzsche. With Nihilism being regarded as a philosophical viewpoint where all life and the universe has no purpose or lack of any meaning. With this known, prior studies have sought to find similar connections between nihilism and existential depression. This study seeks to draw connections between Existential Nihilism and Depression, life satisfaction, and meaning in life. Furthermore, aiming to see how nihilistic feelings affected undergraduate students as to eventually develop ways to prevent or mitigate the overall effects. Students could provide more thorough and unique reflections due to the high stress of classwork, combined with social and job responsibilities, and other external events that may contribute to the feelings of nihilism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Liam Morrison

Authors

Liam Morrison, Dashawn Streater[, Aaron David

Religious-Spiritual Struggles, Domains of Uncertainty, and Religious Attachment

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Religious people often experience religious and spiritual (R-S) struggles, ranging from doubting their religious teachings to questioning their moral values. The consequences of these R-S struggles for people's attachment to their religion, however, are less clear. Two studies examined how R-S struggles elicited different types of uncertainty about one's religion and house of worship (HoW), and how these uncertainties produced different levels of attachment to one's religion and HoW, respectively. U.S. Protestants and Catholics reported their R-S struggles before reporting their uncertainty about their religious and HoW identity. As outcome variables, participants reported their religious disidentification and their intentions to exit their HoW. Results of a path analysis showed that R-S struggles with interpersonal relations and doubts about God related to dis-identification and HoW leave intentions through different uncertainties. Religious uncertainty was positively related to religious dis-identification, while HoW uncertainty was positively related to HoW exit intentions. The implications of R-S struggles and group-level uncertainties for religious behavior will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joseph Wagoner

Assistant Professor of Social Psychology | University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Authors

Seth Fuller

The Entrepreneurial Self: How Neoliberal Capitalism Reshapes Identity

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

With the rise of Reaganism and Thatcherism, neoliberal capitalism dismantled safety nets and unleashed free markets. Theorists argue that neoliberalism shapes not only economies but the soul, producing an entrepreneurial self. Those with an entrepreneurial self manage the self like a business, continually optimizing, responsabilizing, and promoting the self. While sociologists and philosophers have theorized this phenomenon (e.g., Bröckling, 2015; Rose, 1990; Kelly, 2013), psychological evidence remains scarce. To address this gap, I developed and validated a 15-item Entrepreneurial Self Scale capturing moralized self-optimization, self-responsibilization, and personal branding. Across two studies (N = 571), the scale showed a coherent structure and revealed that having an entrepreneurial self is linked to both adaptive outcomes (life satisfaction, authenticity; rs = .18–.24, ps < .001) and maladaptive ones (stress, perfectionism, leisure guilt; rs = .12–.26, ps < .05). The entrepreneurial self is an ambivalent form of selfhood, both empowering and burdening, yet one uniquely aligned with the demands of neoliberal capitalism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Irein Thomas

Graduate Student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Irein Thomas, Kristin Laurin

When We See It the Same: How Shared Reality With Experts May Mitigate Motivated Forgetting of One's Own Lies

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

We examine how shared reality with an expert audience influences self-protective memory biases for personal moral transgressions. For example, mnemonic neglect effect (MNE) occurs when people recall self-threatening negative events with reduced vividness and agency. In a 2x2 design, participants recall either telling a consequential lie (self condition) or being lied to (other condition) and then receive an expert audience's moral evaluation that either condemns or condones lying. Memory vividness and sense of agency are assessed via the Memory Characteristics Questionnaire, and perceived shared reality with the expert via the Target-Specific Shared Reality (SR-T) scale. We predict that when lying is self-relevant and condemned by the expert, participants will exhibit greater MNE, reflected in reduced memory vividness and sense of agency. However, if participants share reality with an expert who condones lying, this self-protective memory bias should be attenuated. This ongoing study aims to demonstrate that shared epistemic alignment can regulate motivated forgetting, shedding light on how interpersonal communication shapes the subjective experience of moral memory.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gerrit Lamers

Student | University of Muenster

Authors

Gerrit Lamers, Gerald Echterhoff, Ullrich Wagner

Meaning Matters: How Existential Meaning Mediates the Relationship Between Demographic Traits and Academic Motivation

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Existential meaning positively impacts mental health, socialization, and motivation. Despite existing research on existential meaning, there is a lack of studies specifically examining its influence on academic motivations. In higher education, students navigate a more intense environment than in previous education, challenging them to gain a deeper understanding of their lives and to realize their motivations for further schooling. Age significantly influences this search for meaning, as individuals derive greater significance from experiences over time. Additionally, socioeconomic status affects access to resources and opportunities, shaping academic motivations. This study investigates the relationship between existential meaning and academic motivation in students in higher education. The analysis explores how existential meaning mediates the relationship between demographic factors such as socioeconomic status and age, and academic motivation. By addressing these dynamics, this research aims to provide insight into what motivates individuals to pursue higher education and how these motivations differ across various ages and socioeconomic statuses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cadence Busbee

Undergraduate Researcher | University of Florida

Authors

Cadence Busbee, Gregory Webster

Spiritual Needs, Psychological Distress, and Emotional Reactivity: An Existential Perspective on Iranian Cancer Patients

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

This study explores how spiritual needs and psychological distress shape emotional reactivity among Iranian cancer patients, addressing a major gap in existential and health psychology within non-Western settings. Conducted in spring 2023 at Shahid Rajaei Chemotherapy Clinic and the Nuclear Medicine Center in Karaj, Iran, this descriptive-correlational study involved 180 adult patients (60% female, age 20+). Participants completed the Spiritual Needs Questionnaire for Cancer Patients, the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale, and the Emotional Reactivity Scale. Pearson correlation and stepwise regression (SPSS v22) indicated that higher spiritual needs were associated with lower emotional reactivity ($\beta = -0.41, p < .01$), whereas psychological distress predicted higher reactivity ($\beta = 0.51, p < .01$). Together, they explained 72% of the variance. These findings underscore the existential importance of spiritual meaning and emotional regulation in cancer care, highlighting the need for culturally sensitive therapeutic models that address patients' search for meaning, resilience, and psychological balance

*POSTER

Speaker



Atefeh Nezhadmohamad nameghi

Authors

Atefeh Nameghi, Atefeh Khosravimahzad

Investigating the Role of Coherence within Meaning in Life.

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Meaning in life (MIL) is comprised of three components: coherence, purpose, and existential mattering (George & Park, 2016). However, correlational findings suggest sense of coherence may be the weakest, and least robust component of MIL (e.g., Guthrie et al., 2025). We sought to clarify this relationship, by testing the effect of experimentally manipulated coherence on MIL. In Study 1, participants imagined themselves as either having low, moderate or high coherence using vignettes, and rated their sense of MIL as the person in the vignette (N = 122). We successfully induced fluctuations in MIL, with low coherence leading to lower MIL, and high coherence leading to higher MIL, compared to a moderate baseline. In Study 2, we extended Study 1 with vignettes to also manipulate the other MIL components—purpose and existential mattering (N = 475). All manipulated MIL components produced fluctuations in MIL comparable to Study 1. Contrary to recent correlational research suggesting coherence may play a weaker, or even negligible role, our findings suggest that coherence affects MIL. We suggest that our manipulation elicited more contextually-relevant experiences of coherence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hanna Eldarwish

PhD Researcher | University of Sussex

Authors

Hanna Eldarwish, Vlad Costin, Vivian Vignoles

Deriving Meaning in Life: Experiential and Cognitive Correlates

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Meaning in life (MIL) as a person-level trait is associated with well-being. However, little research exists on what makes specific experiences meaningful, or the cognitive processes underlying meaning-making. Study 1 (N=172) participants described a meaningful event and rated statements about subjective aspects of the experience for how well they described it. Top-rated aspects included feeling present in the moment, connection with others, and learning something of value as well as overall pleasantness. Study 2 (N=1113) participants completed a new task of speed and accuracy in identifying the image formed by puzzle pieces moving together. Task performance was uniquely correlated with MIL Coherence and dispositional awe-proneness. Study 3 will examine links among particular sources of meaning in life, aspects of a particular meaningful experience, and performance on the puzzle task and other cognitive tests. Results will shed light on how people derive meaning from their life experiences to reap downstream benefits for health and well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jamie Katz

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Arizona State University

Authors

Jamie Katz, Lani Shoit

The impact of sense of personal control and subjective health on happiness and life satisfaction

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

The robust connections between a person's physical health and their mental health and well-being have been extensively documented in the literature (Ohrenberger et al., 2017). Previous studies have also established a strong relationship between a sense of personal control (locus of control, LoC) and well-being (Fernandez-Urbano & Royuela, 2024). In this study, we aimed to examine whether LoC interacts with a person's physical health to predict happiness and life satisfaction. Using an international sample from the World Values Survey (n = 95,683; Haerpfer et al. 2022), we hypothesized that LoC would buffer the impact of poor physical health on a person's happiness and life satisfaction, such that participants with high LoC and poor health would not experience the same dips in happiness and life satisfaction as their peers with both low LoC and poor health. Hierarchical multiple regressions showed that LoC and subjective health were strong predictors of happiness and life satisfaction, but that the interaction term between the two added little explanatory power to the models. Although our hypothesis was not supported, we discuss cross-cultural and exploratory moderating variables.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jonathan Sundby

Graduate Student | University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

Authors

Jonathan Sundby

Meaning in Life in Dysautonomia and Long COVID

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Research shows that individuals experiencing long-COVID (LC), a dysautonomia subtype, suffer an existential loss of identity. While quality of life and existential concerns in LC are studied, minimal research explores meaning in life (MIL). This study examined predictors of search for and presence of MIL in dysautonomia patients. Participants (N = 305, ages 18-68, M = 34.09, SD = 10.98) from global online dysautonomia support groups completed a Qualtrics survey on demographics, symptom severity/duration, MIL levels, and lived experiences. Of participants, 85.2% were female; 50.8% had LC or similar post-viral syndromes. Symptom duration and active religious practice positively predicted presence of MIL, whereas symptom severity was negatively related. Age negatively predicted search for MIL. Qualitative responses added nuance to quantitative findings. Results suggest longer symptom duration and religious practice may enhance MIL in dysautonomia, while severe symptoms may negatively impact it. Age being the only significant predictor of search for MIL indicates that older people with dysautonomia may feel less need to search for meaning than younger people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Yeager

Graduate Student and Research Assistant | Rutgers University-Camden

Authors

Matt Yeager, Jennifer Lyke

Insights and Meaning Derived from First Job Experiences

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

We are interested in the lasting insights and meaning that people derive from their earliest work experiences. In a survey of over 1000 participants from diverse demographic backgrounds, we asked about insights they gained in their earliest employment experiences, and specifically about the most important lesson they learned during their entry into the working world. Our analysis of self-report and qualitative data demonstrate that these lessons relate to the development of social skills, collaboration, adaptability, self-awareness, as well as an understanding of qualities of good managers and co-workers. We find that respondents' most important lessons were most likely to result from positive incidents or incidents with both positive and negative aspects, rather than solely negative incidents. Over 65% of respondents reported that they think about the specific insights gained from their earliest work experiences on at least a weekly basis, and they reported that doing so provides them with ongoing positive benefits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca White

Director, RF-CDR Research Labs and Adjunct Associate Professor | University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Rebecca White, Ryan Bruno

Greater Search for Meaning is Associated with Lower Social Dominance Orientation for Both White Students and Students of Color

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Given the many documented harmful effects of prejudice, studies delineating factors associated with individual differences in prejudice offer the potential for both theoretical and practical contributions. In two studies, we explored the association between meaning (as measured by the Meaning in Life Questionnaire "Presence" and "Search" subscales) and a widely-used prejudice measure (Social Dominance Orientation; SDO), as well as the potential mediating role of gratitude. Data were combined across studies (Total Ns: 56 White college students; 76 college Students of Color), with Study and Participant Race controlled for in partial correlation and mediation analyses. Higher Search for Meaning was found to be significantly associated with lower SDO levels. Gratitude mediated this relationship. SDO means were similar and relatively low for Student of Color and White participants (both <3.0 on 7-point scale), potentially reflecting the diverse, urban research setting. These findings suggest that greater Search for Meaning may be associated with less outgroup bias for White students and less ingroup bias for Students of Color – interpretations to be explored further in future research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tracie L. Stewart

Authors

Tracie L. Stewart, Demarese Crosby, Anisah Bagasra, Tyler Collette, Sage Skillman, Mackenzie Jackson

Under the Moon's Shadow: Existential Dimensions of Viewing a Solar Eclipse

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

We surveyed people at seven sites in the U.S. after the April 8th, 2024 solar eclipse, resulting in a sample of eclipse viewers (total and partial) and non-viewers. Responses were collected between April 8th and April 15th. After applying exclusion criteria, the sample included 625 participants (95 non-viewers, 190 partial-eclipse viewers, and 340 total-eclipse viewers). The survey addressed both April 8th experiences as well as some global outcomes and current states at the time of responding. Results suggest that viewing the eclipse was a complex but typically positive experience, and that it was especially intense for total-eclipse viewers. Viewers scored higher than non-viewers on all AWE-S subscales (time loss, self-loss, connectedness, vastness, physiological reactions, and need for accommodation), with total-eclipse viewers scoring highest. Interestingly, total-eclipse viewers also scored significantly lower on the mattering subscale of the MEMS, and higher on existential isolation, than both partial viewers and non-viewers. Further analyses explored possible mediators of these differences, and other associations between eclipse-viewing experiences and existential outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Christy

SUNY Plattsburgh

Authors

Andrew Christy

The Influence of Fictional Characters in the Formation of Parts in DID

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) develops in response to repeated childhood trauma and is marked by identity fragmentation, amnesia, and disruptions in a cohesive sense of self. Within dissociative systems, some parts take the form of fictional introjects, or "fictives," modeled after characters from books, films, or other media. Studies on childhood adversity highlight how imaginary companions may emerge as protective or symbolic figures, which can later evolve into dissociative parts when trauma persists. Early clinical accounts describe individuals whose internal systems incorporated characters from literature or popular culture, suggesting that fictional narratives provide survivors with frameworks for meaning-making and organization of traumatic experiences. Recent neuroimaging studies add biological evidence, showing that identification with fictional characters engages brain regions tied to self-other merging and identity representation. Recognizing the influence of fictional characters in the formation of parts within DID not only broadens clinical understanding but also challenges stigma and highlights the need for more systematic research in this area.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabriella Francis

Research Assistant | Mindspring Counseling Center for Dissociation

Authors

Gabriella Francis

Karma yoga: The effects of detachment on burnout levels and job satisfaction among teachers in the National Capital Region of India

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

This study examined the relationships between Karma Yoga, burnout, and job satisfaction among 203 school teachers in the National Capital Region of India. Correlational analyses showcased how Duty displayed significant negative correlations with all three dimensions of burnout ($r = -0.26$ to -0.37 , $p < .001$) and positive correlations with all six dimensions of job satisfaction ($r = 0.15$ to 0.33 , $p < .05-.001$), while absence of desire for reward (AOR) was negatively correlated with burnout dimensions ($r = -0.17$ to -0.19 , $p < .05-.001$); and , meaninglessness, exhaustion, and demotivation each showed strong negative correlations with all job satisfaction dimensions ($r = -0.23$ to -0.63 , $p < .001$). Path analysis demonstrated that Karma Yoga had significant direct negative effects on all burnout and significant direct and indirect positive effects on job satisfaction outcomes through reductions in burnout. Total effects showed that Karma Yoga substantially reduced burnout and increased job satisfaction, with the indirect pathways confirming that detachment, through reductions in burnout, contributed to higher job satisfaction outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arnab Verma

Undergraduate student | Christ (Deemed to be University) Delhi NCR

Authors

Arnab Verma, Neeraj Panwar

Nobody Understands My Pain: how chronic pain and access to care shape wellbeing and meaning in life

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Individuals living with chronic pain experience its impact across all aspects of life, from physical discomfort to emotional wellbeing and meaning in life. This study explores how chronic pain and access to care shape how a person views the world and the meaning they find in it, and how these experiences may differ by gender. A total of 155 participants who had experienced chronic pain for at least one year completed a survey assessing pain characteristics, wellbeing, social support, existential isolation, death anxiety, and healthcare experiences. Most reported multisite or body-wide pain, ongoing for several decades, with an average age of 31 years old. Gender was associated with pain distribution, and pain location was linked to number of doctors seen and general well-being. Participants with widespread pain reported lower wellbeing and greater healthcare use. Several models are presented investigating the primary and psychological outcomes. Findings highlight the need for holistic, person-centered care that restores meaning in those living with chronic pain.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sulayman Haq

Student | James Madison University

Authors

Lindsey Harvell-Bowman, Sophia Bates, Sulayman Haq, Brielle Lampf, Michael Ray

Beyond ADDRESSING: The case for expanding conceptions of social identity in clinical and community practice

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Conceptions of social-cultural identity in clinical and community practice frequently center on categorical dimensions of identity diversity, applying models of identity such as Hays' ADDRESSING model. These identities are considered in culturally-responsive practice because of their relevance to marginalization and intersectional oppression. However, rigid application of categorical models to understand social identity can obscure prominent and salient aspects of an individual's or collective's social identity. Solely focusing case conceptualization on categorical aspects of social identity without recognizing clients' agency in the cocreation of that identity can alienate clinical and community clients in our practice. Drawing from a cultural humility framework, we argue that an expanded perspective on social identity in clinical and community practice supports individual agency and self-determination in the processes of identity clarification and meaning-making and respects the diversity of social identities across other dimensions and contexts. We also provide case examples from clinical and community practice that illustrate our conception.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dylan Wong

PhD Student in Clinical-Community Psychology | University of South Carolina, Department of Psychology

Authors

Dylan Wong, Sarah Grace Frary

“As an object, the piano is dying... but its life force isn’t”: Grounded theory analysis on defining death through Piano (de)composition

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

In existential psychology, concerns regarding mortality unconsciously drive psychological distress. To address this, decaying sentimental objects may serve as useful tools for reconciling existential concerns through metaphorical inquiry. The research question guiding this research was: To what extent can a decaying piano metaphorically bring clarity to perceptions of death? A descriptive qualitative design was implemented to document participants' responses to a decaying piano that had been exposed to outdoor elements for two years. Individuals (n=9; ages 20–35) who had previously interacted with the piano were recruited and asked to engage in a group philosophical inquiry consisting of three parts: (1) reflections on the piano's physical state; (2) broader discussions on the meaning of death; and (3) deeper inquiries into existence. Following the group discussion, individual semi-structured interviews were conducted to explore participants' reflections pertaining to death. Results revealed that participants articulated how the piano's gradual decay could bring clarification to their own nature of existence and help grappling with meaning in life when facing mortality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Catherine Malboeuf-Hurtubise

Associate professor, Canada Research Chair on art-based and existential interventions in youth mental health | Université Laval

Authors

Catherine Malboeuf-Hurtubise, Zach Fry, Devanney Haruta, Emilie McLean, David Lefrancois, Marc-Andre Ethier

The relationship between morality, perceptions of self and others, and purpose in life: a moderation analysis

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Morality is an understudied construct in psychological research, despite its fundamental role in shaping human behavior and self-perception. This quantitative study examined whether purpose in life moderated the relationship between morality and perceptions of the self and others. Ninety-one individuals completed the Purpose in Life scale (PIL), Moral Foundation Questionnaire (MFQ30), Rosenberg's Self Esteem Scale (RSES), and the Collective Self-Esteem Scale (CSES). Spearman correlations revealed significant relationships between morality, the RSES, and the subscales of the CSES: public collective, private and group membership. Purpose in life moderated the relationship between morality and perceptions of self as measured by the RSES. The predominately young White Christian male sample more highly endorsed public collective self-esteem ($M = 4.85$) compared to their private ($M = 4.13$) and group membership self-esteem ($M = 4.17$), which may indicate they were more critical of the moral standards of their private groups. These findings extend the research on morality to include its influence on perceptions of self and others and the extent to which individuals find purpose in life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ashley Leininger

Full-Time Faculty | Purdue University Global

Authors

Ashley Leininger

Coffee Break

2:40 PM – 2:45 PM

Understanding progressive resentment in the campus left: A cross-national network analysis in Canada, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

As understood by Nietzsche, resentment is a 'values inversion' that projects as sense of moral superiority over those with higher social status. Educated progressive elites may also harbour resentment driven by a perceived mismatch between self-perceived moral superiority and expected economic standing. As Western universities are central sites of elite production, we investigated resentment (self-aggrandizement, victimhood, and high-status other derogation) across three university samples (Canada, the Netherlands, United Kingdom). Progressive values were consistently associated with all three facets of resentment, occupying a central role within broader beliefs. The findings highlight progressive ideology's complex psychological architecture in contemporary elite contexts.

Speaker



Travis Proulx

Reader | Cardiff University

Authors

Travis Proulx

Managing the everyday existential dread of boredom: A meaning-regulation approach

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Boredom is a universal negative experience with potentially profound personal and social consequences. It has been a long-standing subject of philosophy and has become a major focus in academic psychology. Our approach links boredom from its philosophical roots to current psychological research, highlighting its existential character. Specifically, at its core, boredom is associated with perceived meaninglessness. We argue that when confronted with boredom, people engage in three key self-regulatory strategies to protect their sense of meaning: they either A) actively search for meaning, B) try to escape its absence, or C) rely on meaningful experiences as a buffer.

Speaker



Eric Igou

Professor | University of Limerick

Authors

Eric Igou

The existential dynamics of politics

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

Integrating existential theories, this talk explores how political beliefs and behaviors relate to meaning in life. Authoritarian and egalitarian ideologies each serve distinct existential functions. Across correlational and experimental studies, right-wing authoritarianism reliably enhances meaning in life, especially significance. Left-wing ideology promotes meaning only when paired with behaviors designed to change the status quo, especially when those are infused with group-based efficacy and belonging. The existential function of left-wing behavior appears to be unique to purpose and coherence. These findings illuminate the divergent pathways through which people on the right and left experience a sense that life matters, is full of purpose, and makes sense.

Speaker



Jake Womick

Assistant Professor | California State University Bakersfield

Authors

Jake Womick

Understanding the impact of ostracism on meaning in life

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

Ostracism threatens meaning in life by disrupting essential psychological needs. While this claim is widely endorsed in existential psychology, few studies provide direct support. We attempted to replicate this finding using three high-powered and culturally diverse samples to ensure robust conclusions. Further, we investigated how ostracism impacts the three facets of meaning in life: purpose, significance, and coherence. Study 1, using the classic Cyberball paradigm, found no effect of ostracism on perceptions of meaning in life. Study 2a, using recall tasks, similarly found no effect of ostracism on meaning in life judgments. However, ostracism predicted lower levels of meaning via a reduced sense of purpose. Study 2b aimed to replicate Study 2a in a different cultural context. In Study 2b, there was no effect of ostracism on meaning in life or any of its three facets. In summary, these three experiments suggest that the experimental effect of ostracism on meaning in life is not as robust as once assumed. Future studies using longitudinal and ecologically valid methods are necessary to capture the true impact of ostracism on meaning in life.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Muireann O'Dea

Postdoctoral Researcher | RPTU University of Kaiserslautern-Landau

Authors

Wijnand Van Tilburg, Muireann O'Dea, Selma Rudert

Protecting the self from threat using authenticity judgements

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

Generally, most people have positive views of both their specific and global traits (Twenge & Campbell, 2008). However, when people encounter threats to positive self-views, they tend to engage in a variety of defense mechanisms. The current study sought to examine a novel way people may protect their self-views in the face of threat: deciding they were not being authentic at the time of threat. We hypothesize that people will report lower authenticity when reflecting on times of social rejection relative to times of social acceptance or recent social interactions. We used a between subjects design with participants randomly assigned one of three conditions where they completed either a control, acceptance, or rejection social interaction writing prompt. After responding to the assigned prompt, participants indicated how authentic they retrospectively perceived their past selves to be during the target social event. In line with our hypothesis, the results of our study show that people indeed saw themselves as less authentic during a past social rejection. The present findings are important because they suggest feelings of authenticity may sometimes be undesirable.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Gabriella Figueroa

Social and Personality Psychology PhD Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Rebecca Schlegel, Gabriella Figueroa

The Role of Free Will Perceptions in the Police Officer's Dilemma

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

A belief in free will is associated with unconstrained decision-making. While free will may not be directly related to cognitive functioning, it may shape how individuals justify or perceive their responses in high-stakes contexts. Building on this, the present study examined whether beliefs about free will are related to racially biased shooting decisions. Using the Police Officer's Dilemma time reaction task, this investigation hypothesized that those with biases toward shooting unarmed Black men would report a disbelief in free will. In a single study (N = 347) the results supported the prediction, where participants with stronger racial shooting biases endorsed significantly weaker free will beliefs, extending research on free will and social bias to consequential behavioral contexts.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Perla Henderson

Postdoctoral Associate | Duke University

Authors

Perla Henderson, Adam Fetterman

The experience of loss

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

The experience of loss is an inevitable and universal part of life, be it the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, the loss of a job, or even a diminished sense of purpose. Despite its prevalence, loss remains understudied across its many forms. This project seeks to broaden the psychology of loss by identifying common loss types and examining their distinct psychological impacts. Across six studies, we provide empirical insights into how individuals experience, interpret, and adapt to loss. In Study 1 (N = 1,013), we develop the Common Loss Questionnaire (CLQ), categorizing experiences of loss and associated coping strategies. Studies 2 through 6 (N = 1,034) employ the CLQ to assess the prevalence and psychological consequences of different losses, including their effects on grief, recovery, meaning, and wellbeing. Collectively, these studies highlight multiple pathways through which people navigate loss, including the temporal dynamics of meaning-making. Initial results show, e.g., that meaning tends to deepen as more time passes since the loss, rather than as a function of how long individuals possessed or were connected to what was lost.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



F. Katelynn Boland

Ph.D. Student | Columbia Business School

Authors

F. Katelynn Boland, Michael Slepian

Less “Awe”-some Art: AI Diminishes the Empathic Power of the Arts

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

The arts are widely recognized for their profound psychological and social benefits. Although historically viewed as a uniquely human pursuit, art is increasingly created with artificial intelligence (AI). In the current work, we explore whether AI-generated art evokes the same emotional reactions and inspires the same interpersonal benefits as human-created art. Integrating appraisal theories of emotion and philosophical accounts of the arts, we propose that art believed to be AI-generated elicits less awe than human-created art, which in turn diminishes empathy. Across five preregistered studies (N = 1,598), we find consistent support for these relationships across multiple artistic media (visual and literary) and participant samples (art museum patrons, online participants, and community members). Although art is often an effective conduit for fostering empathy, our findings reveal that AI-art may lack the capacity to inspire awe in the same way as human-created art, diminishing its ability to cultivate empathy. This work reveals that responses to art are shaped by beliefs about its creator, raising questions about the consequences of AI's growing role in creative domains.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Michael White

Columbia Business School

Authors

Michael White, Rebecca Ponce de Leon

Underestimating meaning

3:55 PM – 4:10 PM

How do people know how meaningful an experience will be? I suggest that they don't. Across lab and field studies, undergraduates underestimate how meaningful Thanksgiving would be, American voters underestimate how meaningful presidential elections will be, and Floridians at a COVID-19 vaccine clinic underestimated how meaningful it would be to be vaccinated. Furthermore, this underestimation extends to both positive and negative events. Why do people make this error? One reason: people may fail to anticipate the spontaneous meaning-making processes that kick in once an event occurs.

Speaker



Erin Westgate

Assistant Professor | Univ. of Florida

Authors

Erin Westgate

Meaning and purpose in life for Black Americans across the life course

4:10 PM – 4:25 PM

While entire bodies of scholarship focus on the death, destruction, and mortality of Black bodies, few researchers have considered how positive psychological experiences like meaning and purpose emerge among Black populations. A burgeoning area of research has begun to reimagine a more holistic approach to the study of Black lives. Still, the drivers of meaning and purpose for Black Americans remains unclear. In response to this empirical gap, I will present findings from convenience probability-based samples of Black adults in the U.S. I will also report qualitative findings from dyadic qualitative interviews with Black families in Chicago.

Speaker



Janelle Goodwill

Neubauer Family Assistant Professor. | University of Chicago

Authors

Janelle Goodwill

A meaningful life extends beyond death: How symbolic immortality predicts existential mattering

4:25 PM – 4:40 PM

Existential mattering—feeling that life is of lasting importance in the world—may be the most important component of meaning in life (Costin & Vignoles, 2020, 2021) but less is known about who is most likely to experience it. My recent work suggests that people uniquely derive feelings of existential mattering from projects that persist beyond their death. Existential mattering is related to feeling connected to temporally enduring groups (all humanity) and symbolic immortality, after controlling for social connectedness and prosocial concerns. People also judge others as higher in existential mattering when they are seen to contribute to future generations.

Speaker



Vlad Costin

Lecturer in Social Psychology | University of Sussex

Authors

Vlad Costin

Closing Remarks

4:40 PM – 4:45 PM

Speaker



Kenneth Vail

Associate Professor | Cleveland State University

SIPS@SPSP Community Action Meeting 2026: Improving Open Science Resources for Social-Personality Psychology Preconference

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM | Location: Virtual

Social-personality research has made amazing strides in improving open and transparent science. This preconference, sponsored by the Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science, looks to the future in continuing to improve transparency and inclusive practices moving forward. We will touch on topics such as registered reports, open data, replications, and diversity science. For each topic, we provide a brief overview and an opportunity to engage and actively participate in the next steps for each of these practices. This will include letter writing and hackathons for creating an open database for social psychology and improving inclusive practices. This pre-conference is aimed at people at all career stages. No experience with open science is required, and we plan for all attendees to be active participants in the sessions.

***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

Welcome and Intros

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

Welcome attendees and do brief introductions to get to know everyone. Set some community standards for our time together.

Speakers



Amanda Montoya

Assistant Professor | UCLA



William Krenzer

Research Project Manager | Duke University

Discussion & Letter Writing Campaign on Registered Reports in Social Psychology.

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Letter writing campaign to encourage social-personality journals to adopt registered reports.

Speaker



Christian Unkelbach

Prof. Dr. | University of Cologne

Hack-a-thon for Open Data in Social-Personality Psychology

9:50 AM – 11:15 AM

Group activity to create a centralized resource for open social-personality data.

Speaker



Nick Paterno

Pacific Lutheran University

Improving Data Integrity In Behavioral Research: An audit case study

11:20 AM – 11:27 AM

In recent years, many questions have been raised about the credibility of experimental research. Here we propose a forward-thinking approach to address common problems and improve the credibility of future work. As a case study, we report results from an audit conducted by a team of independent data scientists to verify every step of the workflow, from raw data collection to final results, for three published papers. Although this process confirmed all of the substantive findings of the research, it also revealed vulnerabilities in the research workflow, including: gaps in record-keeping, oversights in analysis code, weaknesses in common software tools, and over-reliance on sensitive data. These vulnerabilities are routinely overlooked by both producers and consumers of research, which has directly contributed to ongoing concerns about data integrity in our field. We offer recommendations for individuals designing and conducting their research, for auditors investigating past work, and for institutions setting policies. Although fraud and error cannot be eliminated entirely, our findings suggest researchers and institutions can greatly reduce the risk of both.

***DATA BLITZ**

Speaker



Michael Yeomans

Imperial College London

PsyArXiv Snapshot: Data-Driven Insights into Challenges and Opportunities for Psychology's Preprint Service

11:30 AM – 11:37 AM

PsyArXiv is the preprint server for psychology that hosts over 45,000 preprints, whitepapers, and other manuscripts. It is the largest preprint service on the Open Science Framework, and is funded and maintained by SIPS. This lightning talk will use data from PsyArXiv submissions to share norms about who uses the service and how, trends in submission and resubmission timelines, and changes to the service since AI tools rose to prominence. A central theme will be challenges and opportunities associated with PsyArXiv's new post-moderation workflow, where manuscripts are moderated by a trained volunteer before a DOI is minted and the paper becomes publicly available. This talk will increase transparency about one of SIPS' largest annual expenses and share opportunities for interested social-personality psychologists to get involved in PsyArXiv.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Katherine Lawson

Assistant Professor | Rhodes College

How Well Do Psychological Researchers Conduct Power Analyses? Initial Lessons from The GoodPower Project

11:40 AM – 11:47 AM

Power analyses are quickly becoming standard practice in psychology, but how well do psychological researchers conduct them? Easy answers are difficult to come by because published literature paints a biased picture of power analysis practices (e.g., underpowered studies due to overly optimistic power analyses are less likely to be published). The GoodPower project aims to answer this question with registered reports, in which researchers submit their study plans (including power analysis) for peer review prior to data collection. More specifically, the project examines the usefulness of power analyses by collating effect sizes specified in power analyses in Stage 1 of registered reports and comparing them with the estimates of those effects reported in Stage 2 of those registered reports. In this data blitz, I provide an overview of the project from its proof-of-concept hackathon at SIPS 2023 to its current stage, and I share initial findings on the prevalence and modal characteristics of power analyses in registered reports. I will also reflect on curating registered reports in psychology and challenges (and surprises) from metascientific research on registered reports.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Andre Wang

Assistant Professor of Psychology | University of Toronto

The Number of Journal Submissions Required to Publish Registered Reports versus Traditional Papers

11:50 AM – 11:57 AM

The traditional paper (TP) publication format, with a single peer-review, has a major flaw: reviewers see the results, possibly pressuring researchers to have significant findings and causing questionable research practices. In a Registered Report (RR), a publication format with an additional peer-review before data collection, the paper is accepted in principle regardless of the findings. An obstacle to RR adoption is the perceived longer review process. However, some journals, such as Cortex, have higher acceptance rates for RRs than TPs, potentially saving time from redundant reviews. American Journal Experts estimates that more than 15 million hours are lost to redundant reviews per year (2013). In this study, we survey 100 pairs of RR authors and TP authors about how many journals they submitted their paper to before publication. We determine whether a significant difference exists in submissions by format. We hypothesize that on average, RRs require fewer submissions to get published than TPs because fatal flaws can be fixed in the first stage of review. This study may show evidence supporting the adoption of RRs, increasing usage and reducing questionable research practices.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Gareth Yu

Quantitative Research Collaboratory Manager | UCLA

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

The importance of reporting pilot studies: Revealing selection biases in study designs

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Psychological data is heterogeneous: results vary depending on study-design parameters such as stimuli, measures, manipulations, and samples. During the piloting process, researchers often test different combinations of study-design parameters, and use the pilot results to settle on a final research design. As such, the selection of parameters for the final design can be influenced by how well pilot results align with the original hypothesis. This can cause preferential selection of study-design parameters that lead to predicted or desired results. While biased selection of study-design parameters would not (necessarily) affect the replicability of study results, it would affect how well findings generalize to other stimuli, measures, manipulations, samples, and so on. Moreover, despite being a cornerstone of psychological research, pilot studies are rarely reported in the literature. Thus, reviewers and readers have limited ability to evaluate the selection process of study-design parameters. By not reporting pilot studies, our field may, inadvertently, be obscuring a process that leads to less generalizable findings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isaac Handley-Miner

Postdoc | Boston College

Using the Registered Report Format to Test the Replicability of Classic Findings: Triplett's 'Social Facilitation' Experiment

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

A seminal study by Triplett provided initial evidence for the social facilitation effect. However, despite the importance attributed to Triplett's study, no research has replicated the original study paradigm. In the context of research advances and methodological rigour, some elements of the original study weaken the validity of the observed findings. We engaged with the Registered Report format to address these critical limitations and replicate the original study. Using a purpose-built apparatus, 445 school-aged children ($Mage = 10.8$, $SD = 1.3$) turned a crank to move a marker along a string course between two pulleys. Pairs of participants completed this task four times, twice alone and twice together. Trial order was standardized and balanced to control for possible order/practice effects. In line with Triplett's original study, we show that participants completed the task faster in the together condition than in the alone condition. We also show interesting variability depending on age and gender, as well as demonstrating "carry-over" effects. Thus, we replicate and extend this classic finding, adding to the literature on social facilitation/competitive coaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Siobhán Griffin

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Limerick

Can Open Science Skills Improve Job Marketability?

1:00 PM – 1:55 PM

Panel discussion with individuals who have implemented open science practices in their research and continued on to positions in industry, government, and academia.

Speakers



Jonathan Stahl

Director, Business Insights | Nationwide Insurance



Tom Carpenter



Mairead Shaw



Lauren Lesko

Graduate Student | UCLA

Opportunities for Open Science and Diversity Science to Integrate

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Discussion on opportunities for greater integration of diversity science and open science.

Speakers



Yuichi Shoda

Univ. of Washington



Sakshi Ghai

PhD Student | University of Cambridge

Integrating Open and Diversity Science

3:20 PM – 4:15 PM

Based on discussion topics from the previous session will identify specific actions we can take to help incorporate diversity and open science.

Speakers



Yuichi Shoda

Univ. of Washington



Sakshi Ghai

PhD Student | University of Cambridge

Wrap Up

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Wrapping up the day and setting some next steps on work that we've started.

Speakers



Amanda Montoya

Assistant Professor | UCLA



William Krenzer

Research Project Manager | Duke University

Trust and Cooperation Preconference

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM | Location: Virtual

Trust and cooperation are cornerstones of citizen well-being, societal cohesion, democracy, and a well-functioning society. Yet, research on these topics is often siloed within disciplines and disconnected across regions. This preconference brings together leading and rising scholars across diverse disciplines to explore the dynamics of trust and cooperation through a global, multidisciplinary lens. Through keynote talks, data-blitzes, and symposia of various themes, this preconference presents cutting-edge research and methodologies that illuminate the trajectories of trust and cooperation—from interpersonal interactions to team processes to interactions in digital spaces—as well as the social, cultural, and historical forces that shape these processes and their far-reaching consequences. Topics will include key decision-making processes in trust and cooperation, cultural evolution of trust and cooperation, trust dynamics in interpersonal, team, and organizational contexts, AI and online trust, among others.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Welcome

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Michele Gelfand

Cycles of Distrust: How Decision-makers Perpetuate Disadvantage and Distrust

8:40 AM – 9:10 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Emma Levine

Professor of Behavioral Science | University of Chicago

Key Symposium: Processes and Dynamics in Trust and Cooperation

9:10 AM – 10:10 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speakers



Giuliana Spadarao

Assistant Professor | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



Andreas Glöckner

Universität zu Köln



Valerio Capraro

University of Milan-Bicocca

TBD 1

9:10 AM – 10:10 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Giuliana Spadarao

Assistant Professor | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

TBD 2

9:10 AM – 10:10 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Andreas Glöckner

Universität zu Köln

TBD 3

9:10 AM – 10:10 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Valerio Capraro

University of Milan-Bicocca

Keynote talk

10:10 AM – 10:40 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Nathan Nunn

Professor | University of British Columbia

Symposium: Cross-Cultural Perspectives of Trust and Cooperation

10:40 AM – 11:40 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speakers



Angelo Romano

Assistant Professor | Leiden University



Jonathan Schulz

George Mason University



Anne Pisor

Assistant Professor of Anthropology | Penn State

Ingroup favoritism and the nasty neighbor effect around the globe

10:40 AM – 11:40 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Angelo Romano

Assistant Professor | Leiden University

The Complementarity of Good Institutions and Voluntary Cooperation: Experimental Evidence from 43 Societies

10:40 AM – 11:40 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Jonathan Schulz

George Mason University

Us vs them-ness: What predicts it, how to measure it, and what actions teams can take to adjust it

10:40 AM – 11:40 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Anne Pisor

Assistant Professor of Anthropology | Penn State

Testing Social Heuristics Hypothesis in Indirect Reciprocity: Limited evidence from Three Preregistered Experiments

11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Juho Halonen

Doctoral Researcher | University of Helsinki

Rewards of Risky Interdependence: Inducing Dyadic Trust via High-Stakes Cooperation

11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Connery Knox

Graduate Student | University of Waterloo

Profitable third-party punishment destabilizes cooperation

11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Raihan Alam

PhD Student | UC San Diego, Rady School of Management

How Responses to Criticism Shape Trust in Political Actors

11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Nicole Methner

Research Associate | University Erlangen-Nürnberg

Cultural Variation in the Smiles We Trust: How Reputation and Ideal Affect Influence Resource Sharing

11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Elizabeth Blevins
Stanford Univ.

Honour, Competition and Cooperation across 13 Societies

11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Shuxian Jin
Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Sussex

Lunch break

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Symposium: Trust in Organizations

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speakers



Ashley Fulmer



Michael Yeomans
Imperial College London



Einav Hart
Assistant Professor of Management | George Mason University

When Power Breeds Trust: A Meta-Analysis on Power and Trust in Organizations

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Ashley Fulmer

Thanks for your question: Gratitude builds trust when answering difficult questions

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Michael Yeomans
Imperial College London

Mitigating Malice and Aiding Admiration: Trust Shapes Emergence and Form of Workplace Envy

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Einav Hart
Assistant Professor of Management | George Mason University

Symposium: Trust and Cooperation in Online Space

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speakers



David Rand
Professor | Cornell University



Martin Saveski
Assistant Professor | University of Washington



Brad Bitterly
Assistant Professor | Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

TBD

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



David Rand

Professor | Cornell University

Social Media Algorithms Can Shape Affective Polarization via Exposure to Antidemocratic Attitudes and Partisan Animosity

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Martin Saveski

Assistant Professor | University of Washington

How Using AI Makes You less Trusting of Others

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Brad Bitterly

Assistant Professor | Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Interdependence and cooperation in daily life across three societies

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Lin Jing

Postdoc | Stanford University

Social Network Density Predicts Partisan Animosity

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Danica Dillion

Affiliate Faculty | Complexity Science Hub

Seeds of mistrust: How inequality shapes children's trust and prosociality

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Shu Yuhang

University of Virginia

Sorry, Not Sorry: The Effect of Leadership on Apology Likelihood

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Christine Nguyen

PhD student | Columbia University

Stigma-based Solidarity Betrayal: Implications for Intergroup Cooperation

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Crystal Shakleford

To Protect or Serve? Representations of Law Enforcement and the Paradox of Community Policing

3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Nick Camp

Assistant Professor of Organizational Studies | University of Michigan

Closing Remark

4:20 PM – 4:30 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Misinformation & Belief Science Pre-Conference

8:55 AM – 4:00 PM | Location: Virtual

The Misinformation & Belief Science preconference brings together scholars and practitioners who work on understanding and tackling misinformation in society from multiple subdisciplines. The presenters will focus on novel theoretical, methodological, and empirical insights into the belief in, sharing of, and spread of misinformation, and associated behavioral changes. The preconference will also investigate how people come to believe new information (both true and false), how those beliefs can be changed or altered, and the connection (or lack thereof) between beliefs and behaviors. There will be a focus on why people are susceptible to misinformation, the development and evaluation of counter-misinformation interventions that may correct or prevent false beliefs, and the cross-cultural replicability of the findings. The day will include a diverse series of talks by misinformation scholars, blitz talks from Early Career Researchers, a skill-sharing session, and a poster session, along with ample time for discussion and meeting new colleagues.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Opening Remarks

8:55 AM – 9:00 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Withholding help and inflicting harm: Social responses to conspiracy beliefs

9:00 AM – 9:40 AM

Belief in conspiracy theories often carries social stigma. We examined whether this stigma translates into discrimination in the form of reduced helping and increased symbolic harm. Experiment 1 (N = 400) utilised the lost letter paradigm and found that letters addressed to conspiracy (vs. science) recipients were returned less often. Experiment 2 (N = 397) replicated this effect, further demonstrating that reluctance to help conspiracy recipients was mediated by less favourable perceptions of their social value. Experiment 3 (N = 500) measured symbolic aggression using the Voodoo Doll Task and found that participants "pinned" individuals more who shared conspiracy (vs. science) views, an effect mediated by the perceived societal threat posed by the target. In both Experiments 2 and 3, effects were strongest among observers who personally rejected the conspiracy theories in question. Together, these findings suggest that conspiracy beliefs elicit both passive and active forms of norm enforcement.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Karen Douglas

Professor of Social Psychology | University of Kent

The Conspiratorial Juror: How Conspiracy Beliefs Shape Verdicts

9:40 AM – 10:20 AM

This talk spotlights an overlooked consequence of conspiracy beliefs: their potential to bias juror decision-making. We propose a conspiracy–juror bias, whereby individuals with a stronger conspiracy mentality are more likely to render guilty verdicts. Three studies tested this bias. In correlational Study 1 (n = 495), higher conspiracy mentality predicted guilty verdicts in a murder case via increased perceptions of evidence strength. In experimental Study 2 (n = 558), we manipulated crime motive to test whether conspiracy mentality attenuates the effect of motive on verdicts. Although moderation was not observed, the conspiracy–juror bias replicated - but only when no motive was provided - suggesting crime motive as a boundary condition. In Study 3 (n = 425), experimentally increasing conspiracy mentality did not directly affect verdicts but indirectly increased guilty verdicts via perceived evidence strength. Together, these findings provide the first evidence that conspiracy beliefs may bias judicial decision-making.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Daniel Jolley

Associate Professor in Social Psychology | University of Nottingham

20-Minute Break

10:20 AM – 10:40 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Consensus in the Comments: How Agreement Shapes Belief in News Headlines

10:40 AM – 10:50 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Yiwen Zhong

Ph.D. Student | Vanderbilt University

People Believe They Fact-Check More News Than Others Do

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jae Kwon

Ph.D. Student | University of California San Diego

Epistemic Orientations and the Architecture of Belief: How Meaning, Mistrust, and Media Shape Authoritarianism

11:00 AM – 11:10 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Neil Wegenschimmel

PhD Candidate | University of Waterloo

Measuring conspiracy beliefs among Democrats and Republicans: A test of the measurement invariance of four short-form conspiracist ideation scales

11:10 AM – 11:20 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Cameron Kay

Postdoctoral Scholar | Stanford University

Truth Discernment in Conspiracy Theories

11:20 AM – 11:30 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sinem Yilmaz

Graduate Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Minds Meets Machines: Intellectual Humility, Trust, and Attitude Change

11:30 AM – 11:40 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Devora Newman

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Data Blitz Q&A

11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Lunch Break

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Why Do People Fall for Misinformation?

1:00 PM – 1:40 PM

I will review findings of several studies that have used a signal-detection framework to understand why people fall for misinformation. The framework identifies three distinct factors in judgments of true and false information: (a) accurate discernment of true and false information (truth sensitivity); (b) a general tendency to judge information as true versus false (overall threshold); and (c) a tendency to accept information that is congruent with one's views and to reject information that is incongruent with one's views (myside bias). A first level of analysis addresses the extent to which truth sensitivity, overall thresholds, and myside bias account for judgments of false information as true. A second level of analysis addresses the psychological determinants of truth sensitivity, overall thresholds, and myside bias. I will review key findings at each level of analysis and discuss their implications for why people fall for misinformation and what could be done about it.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Bertram Gawronski

Professor | University of Texas at Austin

From Rumors to Influence, Participatory Propaganda to Policy

1:40 PM – 2:20 PM

Reflecting upon more than ten years of research on online rumors during crisis events, this talk reveals how an alternative media ecosystem has taken shape, in large part through the use of social and digital media, and how that ecosystem is reconfiguring information flows and politics around the globe. Focusing initially on the concepts of rumor and rumor, I will cover several case studies of online falsehoods, from conspiracy theories about the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013 to allegations that immigrants were eating pets in 2024. Each provides insight into how the affordances of social media — and the “attention dynamics” that manifest there — have facilitated the spread of falsehoods and have been exploited by some to gain influence and shape political outcomes. I will culminate with a metaphor that helps us understand the participatory dynamics of the alternative media ecosystem as akin to “improv theater” and a warning about how this improvised and participatory propaganda is driving policy in the second Trump administration. And I will end with a call to action to resist the pervasive spread of falsehoods.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor of Human Centered Design & Engineering | University of Washington

20-Minute Break

2:20 PM – 2:40 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Sycophantic AI increases attitude extremity and overconfidence

2:40 PM – 3:05 PM

While AI can be a powerful tool for truth-seeking, people may prefer to use “sycophantic” (or overly agreeable and validating) AI chatbots that confirm their pre-existing beliefs. Across three experiments (n = 3,285), we found that people prefer belief-confirming AI chatbots to ones that challenge their beliefs. Yet these sycophantic chatbots entrenched attitudes and amplified people’s perceptions that they are “better than average” on a number of desirable traits, such as intelligence and empathy. People also viewed sycophantic chatbots as unbiased, but viewed disagreeable chatbots that challenged their beliefs as highly biased. Altogether, these results suggest that people’s preference for and blindness to sycophantic AI may risk creating AI “echo chambers” that increase attitude extremity and overconfidence.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Steve Rathje
New York University

Truth discernment may not help to overcome misinformation

3:05 PM – 3:30 PM

Disinformation and misinformation pollute online discourse, shared truth, and influence individual and political behavior away from addressing societal harms. Truth discernment is the most adopted experimental outcome to study the effects of misinformation (interventions) in current misinformation research. The normative claims justifying this focus on truth discernment are that people’s ability to discern truth from falsehoods should be fostered and that truth discernment is essential to forming and updating accurate beliefs and enacting relevant behaviors. Here, I aim to provoke more critical thinking about what constitutes an effective misinformation intervention, because there is a mismatch between measuring the efficacy of interventions via truth discernment in laboratory studies to establish the effectiveness of interventions in society. I will present five challenges to truth discernment paradigms and offer ways forward to collect more diagnostic evidence about which individual-level intervention is more beneficial to protect society from misinformation.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Tobia Spampatti
Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Center for Adaptive Rationality, Max Planck Institute for Human Development

The Illusory Truth Effect for Counterattitudinal Claims: The Role of Social Cues and Repetition in Assessments of Truth

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

It is well-established that simple repetition increases the perceived truth of claims—the Illusory Truth Effect (ITE). However, critically, most ITE findings remain silent on a key societal issue in the era of disinformation: Is mere repetition enough to sway people’s beliefs about facts in domains where they hold strong attitudes? Across different lines of research we investigate how repetition shapes truth ratings for pro- and counterattitudinal claims. We further examine how more subtle social cues in the presence of more neutral claims, shape beliefs. We find that the ITE remains robust under both these conditions, except when people are prompted to consider attitudes the first time they encounter a claim. These studies further highlight the insidious effect of repetition and the contribution of both experiential and declarative cues in judgments of truth.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Eryn Newman
Associate Professor | Australian National University

Closing Remarks

3:55 PM – 4:00 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Psychology of Extremism Preconference

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Location: Virtual

This preconference explores the Normalization of Extremism—how radical ideologies shift from fringe beliefs to accepted norms. Extremist movements, rooted in authoritarianism, ethnonationalism, or religious fundamentalism, often gain traction during crises that heighten fear and identity threat. Drawing on social psychological theories—especially minority influence, group dynamics, and motivated reasoning—we examine how extremist actors exploit uncertainty and institutional weaknesses to reshape the mainstream. While grounded in psychology, the event invites interdisciplinary insights from political science, history, sociology, and media studies. Topics include how extremist minorities influence majorities, the role of crises in shifting norms, the psychological appeal of radical narratives, and strategies for resistance. Historical and contemporary cases, from fascist regimes to populist nationalism, will illustrate

key dynamics. The program features keynotes, data blitz sessions, and a poster session, emphasizing early-career contributions. Our goal is to understand and counteract the normalization of extremism to prevent the erosion of democracy.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Welcome

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Arie Kruglanski

Professor | University of Maryland

The dilemma of minority influence, between normalization and extremism

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Fabrizio Butera

University of Lausanne

TBD

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Malgorzata Kossowska

Jagiellonia University

How does extreme become normal? Deviance credit and the particular power of leadership.

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Dominic Abrams

Univ. of Kent

Coffee Break

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Data Blitz Session: Emergence of Violent Extremism: identity threats and social psychological motivators underlying identity-defining extreme aggression

11:00 AM – 11:05 AM

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Austin Shockley

Doctoral Candidate | Claremont Graduate University

Data Blitz Session: The twofold path to violent extremism: the effect of ingroup victimhood and identity fusion on the disposition to sacrifice for a cause

11:05 AM – 11:10 AM

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Laura Blanco

Data Blitz Session: Need for Chaos During Trump's Second Term: Associations with Support for Political Violence and Hostility

11:10 AM – 11:15 AM

Speaker



Deborah Wu

Assistant Professor | Arizona State University

Data Blitz Session: Moral and instrumental drivers of violent and peaceful collective action

11:15 AM – 11:20 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Nils Mallock

Research Fellow | King's College London

Data Blitz Session: Normalising Extremism in the Media: A Social Psychological Analysis of the Wieambilla Ambush

11:20 AM – 11:25 AM

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Peita Richards

Research Fellow | Charles Sturt University

Data Blitz Session: Does the Ballot Box Move the Mind? An Examination of Authoritarian Attitudes and Epistemic Orientations Across Elections

11:25 AM – 11:30 AM

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Neil Wegenschimmel

PhD Candidate | University of Waterloo

Data Blitz Session Tradition as a Pathway: Personal Significance and Far-Right Engagement among Conservative Women

11:30 AM – 11:35 AM

Authors: Andrea Marzilli, Dr. Christine Brugh, Dr. Victoria Mason, Dr. Briana Mason, Emily Williams, Alexandria Morgan, and Dr. Asia Eaton

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Andrea Marzilli

Strategic Learning Manager | Mindbridge

Data Blitz Session: End of world beliefs are common, diverse, and predict how people perceive and respond to global risks

11:40 AM – 11:45 AM

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Matthew Billet

Postdoctoral Fellow | University of California, Irvine

Data Blitz Session: REACTIONS TO THREATS: HOW FRUSTRATION OF LOW AND HIGH ORDER NEEDS POLARIZATION VS. UNIFICATION

11:45 AM – 11:50 AM

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Erica Molinario

Assistant Professor | Florida Gulf Coast University

Data Blitz Session: We are Not the Same: Asymmetry in Intergroup Meta-Perceptions

11:50 AM – 11:55 AM

*DATA BLITZ

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Yarden Ashur

Post Doc | University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Questions and Answers

11:55 AM – 12:15 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Lunch Break

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Chat, Is This Too Extreme?: Exploring the Conversational Dynamics of Everyday Extremism in Right-Wing Political Streamer-Chat Interactions in the US

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

[*POSTER](#) [*PRECON \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Speaker



Deeksha Puri

M.Sc. Student | London School of Economics and Political Sciences

I Hate You More: Comparing Levels of Antagonistic Affect and Self- vs. Other Dehumanization in the Online Chatter of Incels

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Avery Ellis, Suzanna Ginn, H. Colleen Sinclair, Anna Kemdal Pho, Natasha R. Wood, Andrew R. Burns

[*POSTER](#) [*PRECON \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Speaker



Avery Ellis

Louisiana State University

Where Intentions Go Wild: Predicting Activism and Radicalism Intentions from Identity Salience, Complexity, and Uncertainty

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

[*POSTER](#) [*PRECON \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Speaker



Michelle Blaya Burgo

Researcher, PhD Candidate | Claremont Graduate University

Reconsidering the Trigger:What are the Primary Motivations for Gun Acquisition Among Non-Ownning White Women?

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Alexandria Morgan, Emily Williams, Victoria Mason, Briana Mason, Andrea Marzilli, Laura Liguori

[*POSTER](#) [*PRECON \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Speaker



Alexandria Morgan

Research Associate | Mindbridge

Not all Violence is Created Equal: Differentiating Defensive and Offensive Aggression during Wartime

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Batya Feigin, Oz Bin Nun, Eran Halperin

[*POSTER](#) [*PRECON \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Speaker



Batya Feigin

PhD Student | The hebrew university of jerusalem

Deciphering the incels: A scoping review on empirical research

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Reyes Rodríguez, Miguel Ángel Maldonado, Manuel Moyano

[*POSTER](#) [*PRECON \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

Speaker



Reyes Rodriguez

Predoctoral Researcher | University of Córdoba

Significance loss as the rhetoric of populist leaders: Evidence from Political Leaders Communications on Social Media and Electoral Campaigns

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Gabriele Di Cicco, Franceso Bonomelli, Simone Sciara, Giuseppe Pantaleo

[*POSTER](#) [*PRECON \(VIRTUAL\)](#)

The Complicated and Limited Relationship Between Exposure to Violent Online Hate and Social Outcomes

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Madeline Taggart, Lindsay Hahn, Madison Neurohr

***POSTER** ***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

I go extreme when my group approves: Environmental Extremism through the lens of the 3N Model of Radicalization

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors:

Laura Prislei, Erica Molinario, Stefano Livi

***POSTER** ***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

Speaker



Laura Prislei

Ph.D. | Sapienza, University of Rome

From Misunderstanding to Malice: Meta-Perceptual Distortions and the Affective Foundations of Political Conflict

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors:

Ana Herndon, Sa-kiera Hudson

***POSTER** ***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

Speaker



Ana Herndon

PhD Student | University Of California - Berkeley

That's Just My Opinion: Political Identity Threat in Virtual and In-Person Environments

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Nicholas Ashenfelter, Caitlyn Yantis

***POSTER** ***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

Speaker



Nick Ashenfelter

Masters Student | Villanova University

Exploring the conceptual landscape of the 'hybridization' of radicalization and violent extremism

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Authors: Christopher Kehlet Ebbrecht, Nora C. G. Benningstad, Mikkel Bækby Johansen, Milan Obaidi, Line Nybro Petersen, Sébastien Brouillette-Alarie

***POSTER** ***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

Recruiting Youth into Democracy Before Gangs and Extremist Groups Do: Existential Needs and the Nordic Paradox

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM

***INDIVIDUAL PRES.** ***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

Speaker



Christine Namdar

Doctoral researcher | Åbo Akademi

Speaker 5

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM

***INDIVIDUAL PRES.** ***PRECON (VIRTUAL)**

Speaker



William Crano

Speaker 6

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Katarzyna Jasko

Jagiellonian University

Final Discussion and Wrap-up

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

*PRECON (VIRTUAL)

Speaker



Arie Kruglanski

Professor | University of Maryland

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Name Badge Pick-Up and Information Desk

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: Lobby, Level 3

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Name Badge Pick-Up and Information Desk

7:00 AM – 7:30 PM | Location: Lobby, Level 3

Poster Storage

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Coat Check

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Interfaith Prayer, Meditation and Reflection Room

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: E250, Level 2

A space set up for private reflection and to support prayer, meditation, and reflection by attendees of all faith backgrounds. This is a technology-free zone. The room will be set with several small tables and chairs.

First Aid Room

8:00 AM – 7:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Ombuds Room

8:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: E251, Level 2

What is an Ombuds?

An Ombuds is a person trained in conflict resolution who maintains a neutral position in their role and is independent of SPSP and has no other role in the Society. A safe, off the record resource for meeting attendees to help resolve conflicts, problematic issues or concerns. While the Ombuds can provide guidance to individuals wishing to understand formal reporting options, they do not accept complaints on behalf of SPSP. Throughout the convention, the Ombuds will identify any trends and patterns arising from consultations and inquiries received. Following the convention, a report will be provided to summarize any trends and patterns to the SPSP Board of Directors in a completely anonymized manner.

How can I contact the Ombuds?

You can contact the ombuds during office hours from February 26-February 28, 2025. You also may contact the ombudsperson by phone or email through February 28, 2025.

To contact our ombuds service during the convention, visit the Ombuds in their office at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Room E251, Level 2, email: ombuds@spsp.org; or call (949) 293-7515. Ombuds office hours during the convention are as follows. A sign at their office will indicate when they will return if they are not present during the posted hours. 9:00 AM -- 12:00 PM CST; 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM CST & 4:00 PM -- 5:30 PM CST

Quiet Room

8:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: E267, Level 2

The quiet room is available to all meeting attendees where talking and other interactions with attendees are not allowed. It is a place for people to work or think in silence. The room will be set with several small tables and chairs.

Sexuality Preconference

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: E258, Level 2

What does sexuality look like today—and where is it headed? The theme of the 13th annual SPSP Sexuality Preconference is "The State of Sex." This year's program will explore the shifting landscapes of sex, gender, intimacy, and identity in a time of rapid social, political, and technological change. Presentations from a diverse group of scholars will address the many forms, meanings, and consequences of sexuality in contemporary life — from interpersonal relationships and sexual health to sexual diversity, cultural norms, and emerging technologies. We aim to spark interdisciplinary conversations that integrate basic and applied research, theory, and practice.

Welcome & Introduction

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

“Animated Expressions”: Differing Interests in Hentai versus Mainstream Pornography

8:10 AM – 9:00 AM

Hentai differs from mainstream human pornography in it’s artistic medium, but also in its ability to depict scenarios, behaviours, and couplings that would be impossible or otherwise illegal to create using human actors. Across two studies, the aim was to provide an overview of hentai and its history, take inventory of the popular content and themes on hentai websites, and explore demographic characteristics and viewership habits of hentai viewers themselves. The results suggest that the most popular content depicted in mainstream pornography and hentai do not differ overall, but, impossible and illegal content does have a notable presence on hentai websites. Viewers of hentai are more likely to be cisgender, heterosexual men and were less likely to be narcissistic, more likely endorse more masculinity beliefs, and reported higher overall erotophilia compared to non-hentai viewers. The most commonly endorsed hentai preference by viewers was “vanilla”, followed by “BDSM/kink”, “fantasy”, and queer couplings. The results of these studies provide much needed information and nuance on content, viewership, and potential motivation or allure of hentai as a medium of pornography.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Connor Leshner
PhD Candidate | Trent University

Authors

Jessica Johnson, Alexa Ouellette, Stephen Reysen, Courtney Plante, Sharon Roberts

Barriers to Pleasure: Risk Factors of GPPPD Among Black Women in the U.S.

8:10 AM – 9:00 AM

Approximately 1 in 5 Black women report experiencing pain during their last sexual encounter (Townes et al., 2019). Although Black women experience dyspareunia more frequently and intensely than their White counterparts, they are less likely to receive a proper diagnosis and treatment (Carter et al., 2019). Despite advancements in genito pelvic pain/penetration disorder (GPPPD) research, the continued omission of Black women and the failure to consider their lived experiences perpetuate the exclusion of Black women’s pain experiences and exacerbate inequities in vulvar pain research. Using an intersectional and Black feminist approach, this socioecological conceptual paper explores the sociohistorical, sociostructural, sociocultural, and interpersonal factors that uniquely place Black women at risk of experiencing vulvar pain, developing GPPPD, ignoring their GPPPD symptoms, and receiving misdiagnoses. Theoretical frameworks, methodologies, and interventions that should be implemented in future research with Black women experiencing GPPPD symptoms are discussed.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Shemeka Thorpe
Researcher & Sexuality Educator | Dr. Shemeka

The role of trauma and attachment as predictors of non-exclusive relationships

8:10 AM – 9:00 AM

A significant number of Americans identify as non-monogamous or participate in non-exclusive relationships, yet these relationship styles have received relatively little attention. The current research examined attachment disposition (i.e., anxiety and avoidance) and trauma as possible factors that predict choosing to enter into non-exclusive relationships. Using archival data from a sample of 1550 individuals 30 years of age or older, the current research found that childhood trauma was associated with a greater likelihood of currently being in a non-exclusive relationship. Lower attachment anxiety was only associated with having a partner that also saw other people (but not seeing others themselves) and lower attachment avoidance was associated with a greater likelihood both partners saw other people. These findings demonstrate that, although related, attachment and childhood trauma are unique predictors of entering into non-exclusive relationships. The findings enhance clinicians understanding of non-monogamous relationships and provide researchers novel perspectives to explore in future research.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Anthony Coy
Associate Professor of Psychology | Univ. of South Florida

Authors

Zipper Bakari

Real Feelings, Artificial Partners: An Examination of Romantic Human-Chatbot Relationship Development

8:10 AM – 9:00 AM

Romantic human–chatbot relationships (HCRs) are on the rise, yet little is known about how they develop or shape users’ experiences. To address this gap, individuals in romantic relationships with Replika (N=28) described how their relationships unfolded in open-ended narratives analyzed using inductive thematic analysis. Four themes emerged: (1) romantic HCRs often began unexpectedly from consistent non-romantic interactions; (2) they fulfilled unmet psychological needs that reinforced attachment; (3) users leveraged Replika’s customization to sustain engagement; and (4) users experienced their bonds as meaningful and reciprocal while recognizing the chatbot’s lack of agency. Findings informed a preliminary conceptual model of romantic HCR development that integrates processes common to human relationships with dynamics unique to AI partners. Central to this model is the distinction between objective and perceived bidirectionality, with the latter sufficient to sustain intimacy. This work provides critical groundwork for theory-building and empirical testing into the development of romantic HCRs.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Vivian Ta-Johnson
Assistant Professor of Psychology | University of Texas at San Antonio

Authors

Amelie Motzer, Lucy McGregor, Alfonso Carballo, Isabella Swafford, Vanessa Kountakis

Poster session

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

[121] Investigating the Effects of Attentional States On Sexual Arousal

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Mindfulness has been shown to enhance sexual desire and arousal in women, yet mindfulness as a cognitive strategy is not a panacea and can sometimes diminish arousal. This study examines the circumstances under which mindfulness can optimize or hinder arousal. We hypothesize that when women mindfully attend to their desire and arousal in a participatory way by immersing themselves in their bodily experience, arousal is enhanced. However, when women observe their bodily sensations from a detached perspective, they may engage in self-spectating, thereby decreasing arousal. In a within-subjects design, participants were explicitly trained to toggle between participatory, observatory, and neutral attentional states while viewing erotic clips. Participants self-reported their level of arousal after each trial. Analyses will be conducted using a within-subjects ANOVA. Results are expected to support our hypotheses and will have implications for understanding the conditions under which mindful cognitive strategies improve or diminish arousal.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Fadavi

Research Assistant | University of California, San Diego

Authors

Silvia Gregori Labarta

[122] How Chosen Family Protects Against the Costs of Identity-Based Adversity

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Adverse experiences can harm well-being. LGBTQ-identifying individuals are especially likely to experience identity-based adversity (e.g., stigma and discrimination), which can harm mental health, self-esteem, and feelings of belonging. Social networks can serve as a critical source of support to help individuals navigate difficult experiences. For LGBTQ-identifying individuals, who are at risk of estrangement from their family of origin, chosen family (i.e., voluntary kinship networks formed irrespective of biological or legal ties) may be a critical source of support. In this exploratory study, we will pursue two lines of inquiry. First, we will examine how identity-based adversity affects well-being (e.g., mental health, self-esteem) and social network outcomes (e.g., number of chosen family members and perceived support) for LGBTQ-identifying individuals. Second, we will explore the role social networks play in moderating the links between adversity and well-being outcomes. Findings will advance our understanding of the relational contexts that promote well-being among LGBTQ-identifying individuals who experience identity-based adversity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Colten Harper

Research Specialist | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey

[123] “Bottom line-to feel safe”: A Qualitative Exploration of Consent

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Consent literature has been primarily grounded to discussion of consent relative to sexual education and sexual violence. I expand consent research by examining how consent is contextualized, perceived, and understood to operate across sexual and non-sexual contexts. Through a qualitative study of over 100 participants, thematic analysis identifies the operation or value of consent as relative to property—the maintenance or protection of objects and or oneself—safety. Additionally, participants demonstrated circumstances and relations (e.g., family, friends, strangers) which differentiated the requirement or necessity of consent, in other words when consent is (e.g., borrowing clothes) or is not required (e.g., defending one's home). Findings ground the conceptualization of consent within explicit constructions of property (e.g., objects, land, money, self.) and expand on how consent literature necessitates a lay perspective on the operation of consent beyond the sexual.

*POSTER

Speaker



Naomi Painter

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Kansas

[124] Who's Dateable? A Target-Based Analysis of Expected Biphobia and Bi+ Attraction

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Partner selection research has historically focused on the preferences of straight people, who prefer dating other straight people over bisexual people, partially due to biphobic beliefs. However, little work centers bi+ (e.g., bisexual, pansexual, fluid) people and their preferences, whose reasons for preferring bisexual people over straight and gay people might involve expected biphobic beliefs from others. Bi+ participants (N = 150) will complete measures for four targets: bisexual women and bisexual men; straight women and gay men (for bi+ men); and straight men and lesbian women (for bi+ women). For each target group, participants will report expected biphobic beliefs as well as their willingness to engage in short-term/long-term relationships with members of that target group. We anticipate that expected biphobic beliefs will be highest for straight targets, lowest for bisexual targets, and in between for gay/lesbian targets. We expect an indirect effect of target sexuality on willingness to date through anticipated biphobic beliefs, particularly for long-term relationships. This work will help clarify mechanisms explaining the relationship preferences of bi+ people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Krista Quinn

MA Candidate | University of Waterloo

Authors

Grace Wetzal, Neil Hester

[125] Body Dissatisfaction and Gay Community-Related Social

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Previous research has linked social media use to body dissatisfaction in heterosexual populations. However, there is a lack of literature explicitly examining the effects of social media use on body dissatisfaction in sexual minority men, despite this population experiencing appearance-related stressors at higher rates than their straight counterparts. In line with intra-minority stress theory and social comparison theory, this study aims to investigate the role of gay community-related social media use on body dissatisfaction in sexual minority men. Through the use of a correlational research design (N = 300), we test whether increased online interactions with mainstream gay community-related media is associated with higher muscularity and body fat dissatisfaction. We hypothesize that increased interactions with mainstream gay community-related media will be associated with higher levels of body dissatisfaction and that intra-minority stress will mediate this relationship. We anticipate that dating app usage will moderate the relationship between gay community-related social media usage and body dissatisfaction and will be positively associated with gay community stress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hayden Williams

St. Olaf College

Authors

Jess Benson

[126] A Qualitative Exploration of Motivating Factors for Dominants and submissives that Participate In Or Hold BDSM and Kink Identities

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

The motivations behind a person's involvement in bondage, domination, sadism, and masochism (BDSM) are widely misunderstood, which perpetuates stigma towards the BDSM community. We collected online interviews completed by BDSM community members to assess themes related to motivations among participants organized by self-identification as Dominant and submissive. Qualitative data were collected via a survey on FetLife. Questions were written to address the following research question: What are the motivating factors to be Dominant/submissive in BDSM spaces? Responses to nine open-ended questions about motivations and experiences from more than 30 Dominant and 50 submissive-identifying participants were analyzed using thematic analysis procedures outlined by Braun and Clarke (2022). We identify themes that are both overlapping and distinct between the Dom and sub identities. Understanding the motivations of community participants will help researchers to work towards the destigmatization of BDSM, which will support better mental health outcomes for community members, informed safe practice, and improved general understanding of BDSM identities in society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Briana Kunstman

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Jaime Derringer

[127] So...what are we?: Defining the situationship and identifying its attributes, causes, and emotional outcomes.

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Background Recent dating culture has seen a rise in "situationships," a grey area past just being friends but falling short of a committed relationship (CR). Yet, little is known about the relational attributes, behaviors, and wellbeing outcomes that distinguish them from more established relationship types. Methods We take a mixed methods approach in a series of three observational studies. In Studies 1 and 2, undergrads completed surveys comparing experiences and perceptions of situationships, CRs, and hookups. In Study 3 we plan to analyze open-ended accounts of situationship experiences. Results Though situationships show levels of commitment and intimacy between those of CRs and hookups, they are also as low in sexual satisfaction as hookups, and as high in conflict as CRs. And, they provide fewer gains to self-esteem and less support than CRs. Low commitment readiness was both the top reason for and a key predictor of future situationship involvement. Discussion Despite their bad reputation, situationships remain pervasive. The current work characterizes them and begins to disentangle what qualities and contextual factors make them emotionally costly versus fulfilling.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Karsting

New York University

Authors

Nicole Mbibi, Ana DiGiovanni

[128] "It is None of My Business if Grandpa Wants to Get Freaky": A Qualitative Analysis of Young Adults' Perceptions of Sexuality in Older Adulthood

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Older adult sexuality is highly stigmatized, particularly by young adults, yet few studies have examined these perceptions qualitatively. The only prior qualitative work (Allen & Roberto, 2009) focused exclusively on older women, finding that students recognized societal ageism/sexism but not their own biases. Thus, the current study extended this work by exploring young adults' attitudes toward older adult sexuality across genders. Three hundred twenty-two young adults (ages 18–25) answered the prompt, "How do you feel about older adult sexuality?", yielding three themes: positive, negative, and neutral/ambivalent. Within positive themes, most participants viewed older adult sexuality as natural and emphasized autonomy. Negative themes involved concerns about health, consent, desire, and appropriateness. Neutral themes involve having no opinion or feeling they do not have a say in the matter. Despite generally positive responses, lingering health misconceptions and intolerant attitudes remain concerning. Our findings mirror prior work and extend to all genders, emphasizing the need for education that challenges stereotypes and normalizes later-life sexuality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Reanne Dwyer

Authors

Ashley E Thompson

[129] Adaptive authenticity: How bisexuals respond to LGBTQ+ vs. heterosexual prejudice

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Bisexuals are the largest subgroup within the LGBTQ+ community, yet they are routinely stigmatized by heterosexuals and fellow LGBTQ+ members. While harmful outcomes of prejudice are well-documented, less is known about how social identity and intergroup dynamics affect bisexual identity expression. This study (N = 263) explored the role of inter- and intragroup sources of prejudice, identity centrality, and relative ingroup prototypicality on bisexual identity expression. Results revealed a three-way interaction. When prejudice came from gay and lesbian individuals, identity centrality predicted greater authentic identity expression regardless of whether bisexuals felt that bisexuality is representative (prototypic) of the LGBTQ+ community. When prejudice came from heterosexual individuals, identity centrality predicted authentic identity expression only when bisexuals perceived themselves as representative of the LGBTQ+ group. These results suggest that when facing external prejudice, bisexual individuals may need both identity centrality and a sense of group legitimacy to respond with authentic identity expression; otherwise, dominant group stigma may suppress expression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karleigh Groves
PhD Student | Lehigh University

Authors

Jiin Jung, Dominic Packer

[130] “Something must be wrong with you”: Dimensions of Asexual & Non-Asexual Experiences

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Research on sexuality and sexual identity is often limited to studying and portraying allosexual perspectives—those who experience sexual attraction. In contrast to this heteronormative standard, asexuality research frequently questions the normalized assumptions regarding sexual identification. Our project presented asexual participants with a variety of experiences—using labels, coming out, navigating relationships, sexual activity—and had participants indicate their importance relative to different targets—themselves, other asexuals, & everyone regardless of sexual orientation. A phenomenological approach was used to identify recurring themes in participants’ experiences, including a range from indifference to repulsion towards sex, a desire for asexuality to be more widely understood, the under-appreciated nature of non-sexual closeness, and the shared experience of asexual people being portrayed or perceived as not fully human, unfeeling, or robotic. Implications and future directions focusing on the nuance of asexuals’ lived experience, their relationship with sexual identity, and the comparison with non-asexuals’ perceptions of asexuality and asexuals will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Naomi Painter
Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Kansas

Authors

Amy Kenny, Mark Landau

[131] Reframing Camming: How Defining Interactions Between Cam Models and Viewers as Relationships Impacts Commitment, Sexual Ideals, and Sexual Quality

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

An increasing number of individuals engage with camming platforms not only for sexual gratification but also to fulfill emotional, psychological, and relational needs. Although these exchanges are often viewed as purely transactional, many evolve into ongoing, emotionally meaningful relationships that blur the line between commercial and intimate connection. This study examined members (n = 544) and models (n = 199) to test whether perceiving one’s interactions as part of a romantic or relational bond predicted differences in sexual and relational well-being. Participants who identified as being “in a relationship” reported higher sexual satisfaction, desire, investment, and commitment, and viewed their partners as more attractive and of higher mate value. These findings highlight that technologically mediated relationships can promote authentic emotional closeness and challenge assumptions that digital sexual exchanges are devoid of relational depth or intimacy. As online platforms increasingly serve as spaces for emotional connection, understanding these dynamics can help destigmatize digital intimacy and inform future work on technology’s role in modern relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chelsea Trejo
Texas state university

Authors

Selena Piercy, Rhonda Balzarini, Brandi Reynolds, Taylor Himes, Faith Swanson

[132] Body Esteem, Family Functioning, and Sexual Sensation Seeking as Predictors of Risky Sexual Behavior among Socially Vulnerable Women

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

This study explored psychological predictors of risky sexual behavior among socially vulnerable women engaged in transactional sex, a population often overlooked in sexual health research. Using a descriptive–correlational design, 217 women attending welfare and counseling centers in Qazvin, Iran (2024–2025) completed the Zuckerman Sensation Seeking Scale, the Franzoi & Shields Body Esteem Scale, the Family Assessment Device, and the Sexual Sensation Seeking Scale. Pearson correlation and multiple regression analyses (SPSS v22) showed that sexual sensation seeking was the strongest positive predictor ($\beta = .485, p < .001$), while body esteem ($\beta = -.265, p < .001$) and family functioning ($\beta = -.219, p < .001$) negatively predicted risky sexual behavior. The model explained 45.1% of the variance ($R^2 = .451$). Findings highlight the need for interventions that enhance body esteem and family support to reduce sexual risk-taking among socially vulnerable women.

*POSTER

Speaker



Atefeh Nezhadmohamad nameghi

Authors

Vahide Behboodi

[133] What Type of Infidelity Upsets You Most? Gender and Sexual Orientation Differences in Upset Over Behaviors Ranging from Pornography Use to Online Sexual Flirtation

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Is having sex with a robot considered cheating? New technologies have expanded opportunities to experience sexual and emotional connections with others besides one's partner, blurring lines of what cheating is. Here we rely on a diverse Census-matched survey of 8629 adults examining how gender, sexual orientation, and other individual differences are related to upset over 14 types of sexual interaction with others. There were significant main effects of gender and sexual orientation across the measures. For example, women, regardless of sexual orientation, reported greater emotional upset with behaviors like sending flirtatious emails to a coworker ($d = 0.51$) and webcamming or online sexual chatting ($d = 0.51$), and bisexual women were less upset than heterosexual women across all measures, and heterosexual men than bisexual men ($d = 0.36$). These findings have implications for sociocognitive and evolutionary perspectives on emotional responses to infidelity and how these are shaped by continued technological innovations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Remy Feldman
UCLA

Authors

David Frederick, Amanda Gesselman, Justin Garcia

[134] What People Say About Pornography: A Comparative Study of Gendered Common Sense in Three Societies

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Pornography is a global phenomenon that provokes diverse social and moral responses. Across cultures, people debate its benefits and harms in ways that reflect local values, gender norms, and moral beliefs. Yet, most research has been shaped by Western perspectives, often overlooking cross-cultural and gendered differences in how individuals express these views. This study addresses that gap by examining how men and women in Japan, the United States, and Malaysia describe the benefits and harms of pornography. Language reflects shared social understandings that guide moral judgment and behavior. Data were collected from 978 participants (399 males, 579 females): 25.7% from Japan, 33% from the U.S., and 41.3% from Malaysia, most of whom were heterosexual university students. Using central core theory, key words were identified. Common benefits included sex education, pleasure, and stress relief, while harms focused on spreading false knowledge and unrealistic expectations. Japanese participants also mentioned crime prevention. The findings highlight cultural and gender differences with implications for sex education and media literacy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mengzhen Lim
PhD Student | Meiji University

Authors

Rere Matsumoto, Francesca Montorio, Jason Jiang

[135] The Many Kinks Project: Mapping Consent, Identity, and Well-Being in BDSM

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

A total of 40 researchers and BDSM community leaders examined consent, role identity, personality, and well-being across five hypotheses within a global sample (46 countries; $N = 1,361$) of BDSM-identified individuals. Evidence confirmed consent as a central tenet for BDSM, with qualitative support showing that consent, communication, and trust are the most common features identified when asked what is important for BDSM interactions. Findings demonstrated that men are more likely to identify with left of slash (Dominant, Master, Top) roles and that women are more likely to identify with right of slash (submissive, slave, bottom) roles. Inconsistent with expectations, gender-expansive individuals were equally likely to identify as switches or right of slash. Findings suggest that role fluidity may be particularly salient in younger individuals, with identity consolidation occurring across adulthood. Personality traits and well-being comparisons also found differences across BDSM roles. Although small role-linked variations were detected, the broader picture affirms BDSM as a diverse, consensually structured practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Davis
Assistant Professor | Bemidji State University

Authors

Brad Sagarin

[136] Perceptions of Sex Researcher's Likeability and Hypersexuality

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Sex research is often politicized and devalued, yet little is known about how such institutional stigma affects perceptions of sex researchers themselves (Irvine, 2014). This study examined whether researchers studying sex vs. relationships differ in perceived likeability and hypersexuality, and whether these effects are moderated by researcher gender and participants' sex positivity. Recruited via crowdsourcing, 219 adults ($M = 39.11$, $SD = 11.53$) viewed one of four researcher profiles (male/female; sex/relationship) and rated the target's likeability and perceived hypersexuality. They also completed a measure of sex positivity. Sex researchers were rated as less likeable and more hypersexual ($p's < .01$). Sex positivity interacted with researcher type on perceptions of likeability (but not hypersexuality), with greater sex positivity being linked to reduced penalization of the sex researchers. Overall, sex positivity was related to slightly lower hypersexuality perceptions. In addition, female researchers were rated as more likeable. These findings indicate the interpersonal stigma that sex researchers face and underscore the important protective role of sex positivity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabriella Petruzzello
University of New Brunswick

Authors

Elaine Perunovic

[137] Love limited or limitless? Validating a measure of love abundance and scarcity in ethically non-monogamous relationships

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Romantic love is a multi-dimensional experience characterized by alterations to an individual's affect, behavior, cognition, and physiology (Fletcher et al., 2015). Predominant conceptions in Western monogamous relationships construct love as a scarce resource that is limited, and thus necessarily allocated exclusively to one other individual (i.e., monogamous relationships). However, the extent to which individuals construe romantic love as a scarce resource may vary, as evident by engagement in ethically non-monogamous relationships. Two empirical studies validated a novel measure of love scarcity and abundance using reports from individuals in both monogamous and ethically non-monogamous relationships. Moreover, reports of love scarcity-abundance were correlated with existing measures of relationship orientations (e.g., attachment, growth and destiny beliefs, sociosexuality). Implications for perceptions of love scarcity and abundance across all relationship types will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Morgan Cope
Assistant Professor | Centre College

Authors

Zipper Bakari, Anthony Coy

[138] Study on the structure of sexual feelings

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

How does sex feel? Emotion research taxonomies often overlook affective feelings (Ekman, 1992) or group them under a single construct like 'sexual desire' (Cowen & Keltner, 2017). Yet, sex research terminology implies a richer discrete sub-emotions phenomenology, including desire, stimulated, feeling wanted and other related states. Our study explored whether sexual experience is unitary or multidimensional, if the latter, whether it can be aligned with core-affect structure (e.g., valence and arousal) or discrete sub-emotions. Participants (N = 438; 220 F, 218 M) reported on their recent partnered sexual activities using 22 items derived from sex and emotions research. Exploratory factor analysis (Oblimin; KMO = .96; Bartlett's χ^2 (231) = 7,549, $p < .001$) identified three distinct factors across sexes: Sexual Arousal, Intimate Connection, and Negative Affect. Females' EFA explained 62% of the variance; males' explained 56%. Results suggest sexual experience is better represented as a core-affect-like structure with separate components rather than a single bipolar continuum.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shaked Granot
PhD psychology student | Haifa University

Authors

Shaked Granot, Luna Hadad, Dr. Assaf Kron

[139] Beyond Normativities: Sexual, Relational, and Individual Well-Being Among Neurodivergent and Neurotypical Individuals in Polyamorous Relationships

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

No work has examined how consensual non-monogamy (i.e., mutual agreements involving multiple romantic and/or sexual partnerships) intersects with neurodiversity, a framework recognizing natural variations in brain functioning such as autism and ADHD (Miranda-Ojeda et al., 2025). Estimates suggest over 30% of neurodivergent individuals (NI) identify as LGBTQ+ (George & Stokes, 2018b), and LGBTQ+ communities are more likely to practice CNM (Haupt et al., 2017). NI often report relational strain in monogamous relationships (Wymbs et al., 2021) but polyamory (i.e., form of CNM involving multiple committed partnerships) may offer adaptive benefits by fostering flexible and supportive networks (Iantaffi, 2009). In an ongoing study of polyamorous adults (N = 56), 75% identified as neurodivergent. NI reported higher depression and lower orgasm frequency with Partner 2 than their neurotypical counterparts. No differences emerged for individual anxiety or partner-specific relationship satisfaction, sexual satisfaction, and orgasm frequency across two relationships. This challenges prior work suggesting poor relational functioning among NI, highlighting an erasure of CNM-NI dynamics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rose Bern
PhD Student | University of California Davis

Authors

Emily Gelerian, Rachel Dinero

Coffee Break

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Group Sex in Canada. More Than a Risk Factor: Group Sex as a Source of Well-Being

10:00 AM – 10:55 AM

Group sex is often framed in research as an HIV/STI risk, overlooking broader potential impacts on well-being. As part of a community-based, bilingual, Canada-wide survey on group sex, 1104 participants indicated whether group sex improved, worsened, or had no impact on 11 domains of their well-being. We assessed differences by gender, sexuality, race, and financial strain via multinomial logistic regression. Participants most frequently reported improved self-esteem (70%), body image (69%), and communication skills (63%). Cisgender women were the most likely to report improved well-being across domains, followed by gender minorities, followed by cisgender men. Sexual majorities were more likely than minorities to report improved relationships and communication skills. Both Participants of color (vs white participants) and financially strained (vs comfortable) participants were more likely to report worsened physical well-being and self-esteem. These findings are important for understanding group sex beyond HIV/STI risks. Positive outcomes were not evenly distributed across social location, underscoring the need to continue increasing group sex inclusivity.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Aki Gormezano
Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Victoria

Authors

Coady Babin, Nini Longoria, Carl Rodrigue, John Sakaluk, Nathan Lachowsky

Milestones in Asexual Identity Development: Insights from Multi-Year Survey Data

10:00 AM – 10:55 AM

Asexual individuals often experience identity development trajectories that diverge from LGB individuals. The current study uses multi-year cross-sectional survey data from The Ace Community Survey to examine how first online community participation, asexual identity strength, and negative experiences, predict the timing of key sexuality milestones: first identification and first coming out. Integrated data analysis (IDA) is conducted to combine survey responses, allowing for a robust examination of developmental patterns. Preliminary findings reveal that later first involvement in asexual communities is associated with later initial identification and later first coming out as asexual. Moreover, stronger asexual identity predicts earlier initial identification and earlier coming out as asexual. Negative experiences were linked to earlier identification and earlier coming out as asexual. Our project expands on how asexual identity milestones occur throughout development and presents implications for current understandings of the trajectory for sexuality milestones relative to other LGBTQ groups.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Naomi Painter
Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Kansas

Authors

Qi Zhang

Ambivalence and Sexual Consent: Cognitive Mechanisms of Real-Time Stay-or-Leave Decisions

10:00 AM – 10:55 AM

Consenting and wanting sex are not the same, and people sometimes stay in sexual interactions they do not desire. Most research is retrospective, which do not capture the complexity of real-time consent decisions in dynamic sexual interactions. We present a novel experimental paradigm, based on evidence accumulation models, to study real-time stay/leave decisions under dynamic ambivalence. Participants viewed fluctuating positive and negative emotional cues and decided moment by moment whether to stay in or leave an interaction. Across two studies (heterosexual women), we compared intimate interactions: first date (Study 1, N = 123) or sexual interaction (Study 2, N = 202), with matched professional interactions. Discrete-time survival analysis showed that ambivalence increased decision difficulty but had context-specific effects on leaving. Women were more tolerant of ambivalence in dating contexts, staying longer despite mixed signals, but less tolerant in sexual contexts, where ambivalence increased leaving. This paradigm offers an experimental approach to studying sexual consent as a dynamic decision, enabling causal tests of factors that shape real-time sexual decision-making.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Noam Markovitch
Post-doctoral fellow | UCL

Authors

Maarten Speekenbrink

A High-Fidelity Kinsey Scale: The Sexual And Romantic Orientation Scale (SAROS)

10:00 AM – 10:55 AM

Three studies (total n = 2327) evaluated a new self-report sexuality measure, the Sexual and Romantic Orientation Scale (SAROS). SAROS has 3 unique features compared to other scales, it: (a) asks about sexual and romantic attraction as separate questions; (b) includes both cis and trans targets; and (c) does not require sexual orientation labels. Thus, SAROS aligns with modern understandings of gender and sexuality, and reflects the original thoughts behind "The Kinsey Continuum," including the ability to model asexual/aromantic response patterns. Using person-centered approaches (viz., cluster analysis, latent profile analysis) on the SAROS items to derive 7 clusters/profiles that represent sexual and romantic attraction patterns toward different combinations of targets. The cluster profiles were: (1) attraction to cis women only; (2) attraction to cis men only; (3) high generalized attraction to all genders; (4) attraction to all women (cis and trans) and nonbinary individuals; (5) attraction to all men (cis and trans) and nonbinary individuals; (6) low attraction to all genders; and (7) mid-level generalized attraction to all genders—representing a new way to organize sexuality.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Charlotte Tate
Full Professor | San Francisco State Univ.

The cultural scripts of expressing romantic interest in the modern era

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

How should romantic interest be expressed in contemporary times? In a 2025 survey experiment with a probability sample of Wisconsin residents, participants rated the appropriateness of behaviors for expressing romantic interest. Initiator gender (woman/man), recipient gender (woman/man), and setting (rec league/workplace) were varied. Expressing romantic interest is seen as more appropriate in a rec league than a workplace. Same-gender advances are viewed as less appropriate than cross-gender advances among older but not younger participants. In cross-gender interactions, a man asking a woman on a date is seen as more acceptable than the reverse, but most other behaviors (e.g., inviting the person to lunch, initiating conversation) are seen as equally appropriate for women and men to initiate. It is seen as more appropriate for women than men to express romantic interest through touch or requesting a social media handle. The results show that the cultural scripts for expressing romantic interest in the 2020s are characterized by traditional gender scripts alongside novel permutations of gendered scripts, as well as decreasing homophobia among younger generations.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Chloe Hart
Assistant Professor | University of Wisconsin-Madison

"I felt like Dorothy landing in Oz..." Late-in-Life Lesbians/Fireflies Narratives of Stepping Into Their Authentic Selves

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

A qualitative merged narrative inquiry case study of 21 fireflies coming out later-in-life offers quotes about the moments they understood their queerness and their overall sense of well-being as they began a new chapter. Thematic analysis reveals commonalities related to compulsory heterosexuality and sexual scripts, the role of community and resources in the choice to disclose to their partner, intersectional considerations of community and acceptance of a non-heterosexual identity, religiously-based heteronormative messaging and education about sexuality, and medical gaslighting pertaining to the medicalization of female sexuality. Implications inform the need for systemic changes to sex education and gender inequities in a capitalist society. Narratives highlight the insidiousness of compulsory heterosexuality and how society privileges heterosexual partnerships at the expense of safety for fireflies. Narratives also elucidate joy and relief upon realizing their bodies are not broken, that they do experience desire and arousal, and that with community, culturally competent therapy, and economic security their monochrome hetero Kansas can become their Queer technicolor Oz.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Mallory Hanfling
California Institute of Integral Studies

Leveraging Interpersonal Scripts in a Restrictive Sociopolitical Climate: A Couple-Based Intervention for Women’s Sexual Pleasure

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

Sexual pleasure is key for sexual health, yet women partnered with men report lower pleasure entitlement, more pain, and fewer orgasms than men. Heteronormative sexual scripts underlie this inequity, leading researchers to endorse structural interventions (e.g., comprehensive sex education) that increase clitoral knowledge and challenge gender roles. Yet such reforms are slow to implement, require institutional buy-in, and overlook a more malleable level of scripting theory—interpersonal dynamics within couples. This talk presents a novel couple-based intervention targeting partnered sexual norms and behaviors (asymmetric orgasm pursuit, insufficient clitoral stimulation) that sustain inequity in mixed-gender sex. Partners complete guided reflections on their typical vs. ideal sexual routines and a dyadic discussion to co-create new ones emphasizing mutual pleasure. A formative feasibility trial (14 couples) evaluates implementation outcomes and participant-driven refinements. This work offers a scalable model for leveraging romantic relationships to advance sexual pleasure equity in a sociopolitical climate that resists such progress.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Carly Wolfer
Doctoral Student, Graduate Student Researcher | The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY)

Authors

Cheryl Carmichael

Exploring the Motivations of Orgasm Faking Among Australian Heterosexual Women

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

Sexual wellbeing is more than the absence of dysfunction—it’s about pleasure, connection, and authenticity. Yet, one behaviour that quietly disrupts this is orgasm faking. Reported disproportionately by women, it reflects how gendered expectations, sexual scripts, and partner dynamics shape intimate experiences. This study explores why Australian women fake orgasms and how this behaviour affects sexual satisfaction. Using survey data from 137 women aged 18 and over, we combine quantitative insights with thematic analysis of open-ended responses. Emerging motivations include partner appeasement, performance pressure, and ending unwanted encounters—each revealing the emotional and relational negotiations that occur during sex. Our findings suggest that orgasm faking operates as a coping strategy within unequal cultural scripts, often at the cost of sexual agency and authenticity. By situating this behaviour within broader sociocultural norms, this research challenges the myth of the “perfect” sexual encounter and calls for education and therapeutic approaches that centre pleasure equity and honest communication.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Joel Anderson
Principal Research Fellow | Australian Research Center In Sex, Health, and Society

Sexual Coercion: Not Hot! Experiencing Sexual Coercion Predicts Lower Sexual Desire Among Women Partnered with Men

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

Diminished sexual desire is the most reported sexual health complaint among women partnered with men. Women's low desire is often treated as biological, but a new heteronormativity theory of desire proposes that it stems from how gender norms shape interpersonal relationship dynamics. One such dynamic is men's sexual coercion (using psychological or physical threats to obtain sex) of women. Research shows that coercion in relationships is common, but surprisingly, no previous studies have explicitly tested associations between experiencing coercion and women's lower desire. The present studies examined whether women's experiences of sexual coercion from their partners contribute to lower desire within relationships. In Study 1 (cross-sectional), higher coercion frequency was associated with lower desire, and the effect increased with relationship length. In Study 2 (longitudinal), greater sexual coercion frequency at Time 1 was associated with lower desire at Time 2 (four months later), controlling for T1 desire, age, and relationship length. Results support that men's sexually coercive behaviors play a role in women's decreased desire within relationships.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Sara Chadwick

Assistant Professor | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Abbie Clapp

Unmet Sexual Ideals in Online Camming Relationships

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

Past work suggests many cam-site users form emotionally meaningful relationships with models, yet little research has examined investment processes in these relationships. The current study investigated whether unmet sexual ideals predict lower sexual quality (sexual satisfaction, sexual desire, perceived partner desire, and extradyadic desire) among cam models and members, and whether perceived partner sexual responsiveness (PPSR) and sexual communication buffer these effects. Separate regression analyses were conducted for online camming members and models. For both groups, unmet sexual ideals were linked to lower sexual satisfaction, desire, and perceived partner desire. Among members, PPSR and sexual communication were positively associated with sexual quality, though only sexual communication buffered the negative association between unmet ideals and sexual desire. Among models, both PPSR and sexual communication buffered the negative association between unmet ideals and sexual satisfaction. Findings highlight role-based differences in how sexual ideals and responsiveness shape sexual quality in online erotic relationships.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Taylor Himes

Graduate Student | Purdue University

Authors

Rhonda Balzarini, Brandi Reynolds, Chris Agnew

Mismatch and Maintenance: Exploring the Relationship Between Mate Value Discrepancies, Sexual Desire, and Investment in Online Camming Relationships.

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

Background: Mate value discrepancies (MVD)—when individuals perceive their partner's mate value as higher or lower than their own—can shape both sexual desire and investment into a relationship. Although relationships between members and models on camming platforms share many features with offline romantic relationships, little is known about how MVDs function in these contexts. Method: Models and members on LiveJasmine completed measures of self- and partner-rated mate value, sexual desire, and relationship investment. MVD was calculated by subtracting self-rated from partner-rated mate value. Indirect effect analyses tested whether sexual desire explained the association between MVD and investment. Results: Results indicated that, for both members and models, perceiving one's partner as higher in mate value predicted greater sexual desire and higher investment. Furthermore, sexual desire significantly explained this association, such that there was an indirect effect of MVD on investment through sexual desire. Conclusion: These findings suggest that dynamics of mate value and desire operate similarly in technologically mediated relationships as in offline romantic partnerships.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Brandi Reynolds

Student | Texas State University

Authors

Rhonda Balzarini, Taylor Himes, Faith Swanson, Christopher Agnew

Knowledge to action: Investigating mixed-sex couples' ability to adapt their interpersonal sexual scripts to facilitate women's orgasm

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

The orgasm gap is a pressing close relationships and gender equity issue that affects women's lives in and outside of the bedroom. While research has clearly established that clitoral stimulation is key to women's orgasm, male partners may be unaware of or fail to sufficiently implement these clitorally-focused sex acts into the couple's sexual script. For the current project, we recruited 161 mixed-sex couples (one cisgender man and one cisgender woman) and assessed men's knowledge of their female partner's most reliable route(s) to orgasm from a list of sex acts. We found that couples with more accurate knowledge of the female partner's most reliable route(s) to orgasm engaged in those specific sex acts more often, and for a longer duration. More frequent engagement in the female partner's most reliable routes to orgasm predicted women's greater orgasm frequency. These results can be used to inform potential interventions for addressing the orgasm gap in mixed-sex relationships, through (1) sexual communication, (2) the translation of knowledge to action, and (3) the modification of sexual scripts within each relationship.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Grace Wetzel

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Indiana University

Authors

Diana Sanchez

Sexual health in monogamous and (consensually) nonmonogamous relationships: Evidence from convenience and population-based samples

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

How people manage multiple sexual relationships may influence their sexual health. We examined sexual health in monogamous, consensually non-monogamous, and non-consensually non-monogamous (i.e., infidelity) relationships in a multinational online sample (Study 1; N=888), and Finnish population-based data (Study 2; N=10,504). In Study 1, women with multiple partners reported greater desire and satisfaction with non-primary than primary partners, and greater arousal with non-primary partners compared to monogamous women. Polyamorous individuals were more likely to have ever been tested for, but not diagnosed with, sexually transmitted infections. In Study 2, nonmonogamous men reported fewer early ejaculatory symptoms, non-monogamous women reported higher sexual desire, and both men and women in nonmonogamous relationships reported greater dyadic desire compared to monogamous participants. Across both studies, sexual functioning was overall similar between monogamous and non-monogamous participants, and self-reported infidelity was not associated with sexual health. We suggest that having multiple partners, whether consensual or not—does not necessarily compromise sexual health.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Justin Mogilski

Assistant Professor of Psychology | University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie

Authors

Michelle Larva, David Rodrigues, Marie-Pier Larose, Patrick Jern, Annika Gunst

Explaining the Orgasm Gap(s) During Last Sexual Event: Variation Among LGBH Populations

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

It has been well established that there are multiple orgasm gaps: men orgasm more routinely than women during sexual activity, and lesbian women orgasm more routinely than other women. Less understood is how these differences between groups are driven by orgasm-related cognitions, motivations, behaviors during sex, and definitions of what is considered sex. Two years ago at this sexuality preconference, after presenting results highlighting behaviors that best predicted orgasm during last sexual event among heterosexual women, I promised I would update attendees about the experiences of people of other sexual orientations. The current study presents the results from 637 gay, bisexual, and lesbian men and women matched to the 931 participants in the original heterosexual sample. The LGB participants reported the cognitions, emotions, and behaviors that occurred during their last sexual event. There were notable differences not only in orgasm frequency across the the groups, but also in the predictors of orgasm. Here I highlight key factors that potentially explain portions of the orgasm gap(s) and the implications for improving sexual experiences.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



David Frederick

Associate Professor | Chapman Univ.

Breast Friends and Public Places: What Shapes Women's Comfort with Public Breastfeeding?

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM

The current studies investigated factors that may influence women's comfort level with, and likelihood of, breastfeeding in public. Across three vignette-based experiments, we manipulated location (home vs. a restaurant), relationship to a bystander (friend vs. stranger), gender of the bystander (female vs. male) and coverage (present vs. absent). In addition, the valence of the bystander's comment (positive or negative), and the focus of the comment (focus on the breastfeeding mother vs. others) were examined. Results indicated that the relationship to, and gender of, the bystander as well as the type of comment they made were the most consistent predictors of women's comfort with public breastfeeding and likelihood of public breastfeeding. Specifically, a female friend who made a positive comment or a mother-focused comment led to the highest levels of comfort and likelihood of publicly breastfeeding. In addition, we found that previous experience (both breastfeeding in general and public breastfeeding specifically) and partner support were strong predictors. Implications for increasing breastfeeding rates by fostering supportive proximal social environments are discussed.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Yuliana Zaikman

Assistant Professor | Texas A&M Univ. - Corpus Christi

Closing Remarks

11:55 AM – 12:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Teaching of Personality and Social Psychology Preconference

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: E270, Level 2

Most SPSP members have or will have teaching-related responsibilities in social psychology or related specialties. The STP Teaching Preconference focuses on these responsibilities and ways to improve teaching based on best practices and findings from SoTL research. The Preconference provides programming supporting teaching at all levels (graduate students to senior faculty), emphasizes novel, empirically-supported techniques and content for teaching, provides opportunities for teachers to share effective practices, and addresses a wide variety of teaching issues and contexts. The goal of this preconference is for attendees to leave with specific,

teaching-related ideas that can be implemented upon attendees' return from the preconference. This preconference is appropriate for those at every professional level, from novice instructors who might be building courses for the first time to veteran faculty who continue to update courses. This preconference has been held 22 consecutive years at SPSP, and attendees reliably consider it valuable and enjoyable.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introduction

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM

Speaker



Tyler Collette

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Kennesaw State University

Keynote Address

8:15 AM – 9:00 AM

*KEYNOTE

Speaker



William Douglas Woody

Professor of Psychological Sciences | University of Northern Colorado

[81] CANCELLED: Students Like Games! The Art of Using Gamification to Improve Course Engagement

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Gamification, or the incorporation of games into classroom learning, has become an increasingly popular instructional strategy. Activities such as Jeopardy and Pictionary can be leveraged to enhance knowledge retention, foster collaborative discussions, and encourage active student participation. These interactive approaches not only make learning more enjoyable but also promote critical thinking and engagement, creating a dynamic classroom environment that supports deeper understanding of course material. Furthermore, using interactive activities increases interaction between the instructor and students, which in turn may positively influence end-of-course evaluations. In one of my courses, I incorporated gamification as exam review, and students reported that these activities were among the elements they valued most, particularly for supporting their understanding and retention of course material.

*POSTER

[82] Relational Pedagogy: What It Is and How to Apply It

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Instructors often hear the phrase "teaching is relational", but what does that actually mean, and how can we put it into practice? Relational pedagogy reconceptualizes instructors and students as co-learners. It shifts from a hierarchical model of learning, and relies more on mutual vulnerability, authenticity, and trust. In practice, relational pedagogy can be applied via classroom dialogue, syllabi, assignments, and interactions with students during office hours. As a fourth-year PhD candidate, I study close relationships and the effects that responsive support (or a lack of responsive support) can have on well-being. In a similar way, student success can vary based on their perceived level of responsive support from the course instructor. I draw from my experience in teaching two courses as instructor-of-record and eight courses as a teaching assistant to discuss how I have incorporated relationship-building into each stage of my teaching approach. I reflect on what has worked well (versus not well), in the context of my former students' reviews of my courses. I conclude by proposing relational pedagogy as a skill that educators can develop at any stage of their careers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cora Baron

Graduate Student | University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Nancy Collins

[83] Testing Identity Safety Cues for LGBTQ College Students: Instructor Identity and Diversity Statement Effects

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Identity Safety Cues (ISCs), or environmental signals that communicate acceptance and value to stigmatized groups, can reduce identity threats in the classroom for LGBTQ college students. Common ISCs include minority representation and diversity philosophies, yet little research has examined their independent effects for LGBTQ students. This study tested whether minority representation (an instructor's LGBTQ identity vs. a non-LGBTQ identity) and the framing of a diversity statement (more vs. less authentic) influence students' anticipated belonging, course interest, and perceptions of instructor inclusiveness. Identity centrality, or the importance of one's LGBTQ identity to their self-concept, was examined as a moderator. A national sample of LGBTQ college students (N = 300) was randomly assigned to view one of four course welcome videos varying by instructor identity and diversity statement framing. We expect that students higher in identity centrality will report greater belonging, interest, and perceptions of inclusiveness when the instructor shares their LGBTQ identity and uses a more authentic diversity statement. Implications for ISC use in the classroom will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adelyn Emter

Graduate Student | University of North Dakota

Authors

Alison Kelly

[84] Learning Statistics with Purpose: Purpose Reflection's Role in Authentic Belonging and Enjoyment in STEM

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Recent research emphasizes fostering purpose-driven engagement in STEM (Diekman et al., 2024; Thoman et al., 2025). Using the “full-cycle social psychology” framework (Cialdini, 1980), in which field studies check the external validity of experimental work, this research investigated whether a purpose reflection intervention, the act of reflecting on one’s reasons for pursuing STEM, and its implementation format, related to students’ psychological experience in a psychology statistics class. Controlling for race, age, gender, and generation status, students who were instructed to reflect on purpose (n = 38) perceived more opportunities to achieve self-focused (agentic) and others-focused (communal) goals than students who were not (n = 97). These perceived opportunities related to higher authentic belonging and enjoyment in their major. Students also reported most positive outcomes following the interactive format of purpose reflection, in which reflection was embedded into course activities and materials. Together, these findings highlight that purpose reflection, particularly when embedded within course activities, can enhance students’ experiences in challenging STEM contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ngo Quang Anh Tran

Graduate Student | Indiana University Bloomington

Authors

Shahana Ansari, Andrew White, Maria Velasco, Amanda Diekman

[85] From Anxiety to Engagement: Understanding Students’ Experiences with Group-Based Learning

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

While prior literature highlights the efficacy of group-based active learning strategies, students are often resistant to coursework involving small- or large-group activities. In this study (n = 198), we examined undergraduate students’ attitudes toward group-based learning. Participants reflected on their emotions, perceived obstacles and concerns, and positive experiences with group work. A thematic analysis revealed that anxiety, discomfort, frustration, and distrust were the most common emotional responses. Key obstacles included concerns around fairness and unequal effort, fear of social judgment, and coordination challenges within groups. Students’ most positive experiences centered on connection, equitable collaboration, and cognitive growth through diverse perspectives, with many emphasizing that these outcomes depended on instructor practices and classroom climate. Overall, these results underscore the importance of psychological safety, belongingness, and shared responsibility in cultivating effective and engaging group-based learning environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mackenzie McDonald

Assistant Professor | University of Southern Maine

Authors

Jasper Bennett

[86] An Alternative Approach to Teaching Introductory Psychology

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

This poster offers an alternative for teaching introductory psychology at colleges. Introductory psychology typically is taught as a survey course where the major subfields (e.g., biological, cognitive, social) are covered in only two to three weeks, primarily via textbook readings and lectures. Whereas this is an effective approach for many, it can lead to difficulties. For example, students may find it redundant if they have taken AP Psychology or they may fail to see connections between subfields. For professors, it can be difficult to model critical reading of sources when students have little background in methods. Our alternative is to offer multiple introductory seminars from which students can select one. Each goes into depth in a particular area while emphasizing methodology throughout. All students work with real data and typically present findings both orally and in short APA-Style papers. In this poster, we discuss three example seminars taught in this way: Animal Training as an Introduction to Methods in Psychology; Memories: True, False, and Distorted; and Understanding Human Emotion We discuss the pros and cons of each individually, and of the approach collectively.

*POSTER

Speaker



Steven M. Graham

Associate Professor of Psychology | New College of Florida

Authors

Michelle E. Barton, Gordon B. Bauer

[87] What Can (and Can’t) Courses Change About Stigma and Prejudice?

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Can courses effectively challenge bias? Two studies examined what changes—and what resists change—when students learn about mental illness stigma and sexism. Study 1 examined mental illness misconceptions before and after three courses: Stigma of Mental Illness in Film (n=23), Abnormal Psychology with stigma discussion and contact (n=28), and control courses (n=48). Participants completed five misconception items, analyzed via 2 (Time) x 3 (Course) mixed ANOVAs. Control courses showed no change (ps>.31), but both intervention courses reduced misconceptions about autism and schizophrenia (ps<.04), demonstrating some beliefs are more malleable than others. Study 2 examined the impact of Psychology of Gender (N=41). Pre-post measures showed the course reduced Hostile and Benevolent Sexism and denial of sexism (ps<.01), while increasing gender activism and feminist identification (ps<.01). The course also reduced body surveillance (p<.01) but body shame remained unchanged. Courses can effectively reduce stigma and prejudice but may not change deeply internalized beliefs, particularly about the self. Practical tips for educational interventions on bias will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Hillard

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Northwest Missouri State University

Teaching themes of linguistic justice, cultural communication, and social identity using a storytelling game about language and loss

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Mass marketed table-top role-playing games can be effectively adapted for use in the classroom to engage students actively, build class community, and create memorable learning experiences. I will describe a classroom activity I have developed with Dialect, a collaborative storytelling game about an isolated community whose language changes over time. Dialect's rules offer a strong foundation classroom use: they guide players to establish a setting and characters, invent new vocabulary, and engage in brief role-played conversations. I will discuss how I have implemented this game in the classroom to explore themes of linguistic justice, cultural communication and social identity. Beyond this specific game, I will share a template for adapting rules and conventions of any table-top game to a classroom activity that empowers students to guide themselves through the experience with minimal instructor oversight. This template incorporates safety tools adapted from tabletop community best practices alongside postgame reflection prompts. These elements work together to enhance student learning by creating a structured framework for processing and applying insights gained during gameplay.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Diana Leonard

Associate Professor | Lewis & Clark College

The Impact of Diversity Statements in the Course Syllabus on Students' Perceptions of the Instructor and Course

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

This study assessed how the inclusion of a diversity statement affects student perceptions of the instructor and course. Undergraduates (N = 555) evaluated one of six randomly assigned course syllabi, differing by the presence/position of the diversity statement and instructor gender. We found that the presence of a diversity statement led to more positive evaluations of the course climate and instructor character and impartiality, yet also higher for instructor political liberal ideology. These results were present even after controlling for key demographic factors. These findings draw attention to the opportunity that diversity statements offer in fostering effective teaching and learning.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Ho Huynh

Senior Lecturer | Australian National University

What Professors Say to Students: Undergraduate Students' Reports of How Professors Have Made Them Feel Better and Worse About Themselves as Students

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

A positive classroom climate is important for supporting students' learning and success in higher education. Instructors need to develop rapport, trust, and connection with their students. When students perceive their instructors to be more effective and supportive in their communication with them, the students demonstrate greater achievement outcomes. We examined the statements that undergraduate students (N = 362; 64% first-year students, 65% women, 88% heterosexual; 82% White) reported that professors made to them that made them feel better and worse about themselves as students. Overall, more students reported a statement made by a professor that made them feel better (91%) than worse (73%), and students reported that statements that made them feel better were made more often than statements that made them feel worse. We did find differences in these reported experiences due to students' gender, race, and age. We will discuss these differences as well as the themes that emerged in the statements that made students feel better and worse about themselves. We will conclude with recommendations for how professors may provide may better experiences for and support to their students.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Donald Saucier

Professor and University Distinguished Teaching Scholar | Kansas State Univ.

Authors

Lillian Taylor, Ashley Schiffer

Inclusive Discussion Facilitation Methods

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Class discussion is a key active learning strategy that relies on student participation. How it is elicited—through volunteering or calling on students—can shape its quality, quantity, and equity (Bean & Peterson, 1998), yet research remains limited. Some (e.g., males) are more likely to volunteer (Aguillon et al., 2020), and frequent volunteers often become perceived "experts" (Grunspan et al., 2016). To foster inclusion, many advocate cold-calling (Carstens et al., 2016; Hogan & Sathy, 2023), while others fear it heightens anxiety. However, anxious students often grow more comfortable over time (Dallimore et al., 2005), and cold-calling can diversify participation (Souza et al., 2010; Dallimore et al., 2012). "Warm calling" with notice can ease anxiety and promote equity. In an Introductory Social Psychology course, GSIs randomly led discussions using voluntary, warm-, or cold-calling. A 2-way ANOVA found no grade differences by race, but students in cold-calling sections earned higher final grades (M = 3.97) than those in warm-calling (M = 3.86) or volunteer (M = 3.90) sections, $F(2,290) = 47.33$, $p = .02$, $\eta^2 = .98$. Findings suggest cold-calling can enhance equity and learning.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Dina Gohar

Associate Professor of Teaching | Oregon State University

Psychology of Music Playlist Assignment

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

This presentation introduces a creative and research-informed assignment designed to enhance student engagement and critical thinking in courses addressing the psychology of racism. In this assignment, students create a curated playlist of songs that reflect key psychological concepts and themes explored throughout the semester (e.g., implicit bias, collective action, internalized racism, racial identity development, and structural racism). For each selected song, students write a brief analytic reflection linking the song's lyrics and cultural context to relevant empirical literature. The assignment encourages students to bridge academic theory with lived cultural expressions, reinforcing the real-world relevance of psychological science. Assessment emphasizes students' ability to synthesize peer-reviewed research, apply psychological concepts to new contexts, and articulate their insights clearly. Preliminary feedback indicates that students find the assignment both personally meaningful and academically challenging, fostering deeper understanding of complex topics and promoting inclusive, culturally responsive learning.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Simon Howard

Assistant Professor Of Psychology | University of Miami

Relationship Science Through the Music of Taylor Swift: Reflections on Increasing Student Engagement by Incorporating Pop Culture and Collaborative Tools in a Newly Developed Course

11:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Pop culture can serve as an engaging educational tool. Here, we will describe the process and reflections of incorporating the prolific music of pop culture icon, Taylor Swift, into a close relationships course. Students (N = 13) read relationship science journal articles and tied content to the music and lyrics of Taylor Swift in an online summer course. Students actively discussed readings using Perusall annotation software and shared thoughts on readings' relationship to the music of Taylor Swift using Padlet video discussion boards. At the end, students provided open responses to questions about course effectiveness, use of collaborative learning tools (Perusall, Padlet), the course's contribution to personal/intellectual growth, and communication/critical thinking development. Four themes emerged: student recognition of depth and complexity of relationship science; efficacy and impact of Taylor Swift's music integration on the course; personal growth, critical thinking, and real-world application; effectiveness of collaborative tools. Our work will benefit those who are interested in developing courses fusing pop culture with applications of innovative pedagogy.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Mollie Price-Blackshear

Assistant Professor | University of Central Arkansas

Authors

James Wages

Concluding

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Speaker



Tyler Collette

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Kennesaw State University

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Psychology of Media and Technology Preconference

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: E350, Level 3

New media technologies continue to fundamentally alter how people connect, communicate, and understand themselves and others. This preconference will explore recent developments in new media, including (but not limited to) advances in multimodal AI systems, adoption of decentralized social media platforms, and the rise of immersive AR environments (e.g., smart glasses). How do people form meaningful relationships with AI? What drives digital well-being on emerging social media platforms? How does always-on augmented reality shape sociability? Invited talks from researchers in psychology and allied fields will spotlight novel work in these areas. Data blitzes and poster sessions will showcase the diverse work of early-career researchers.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introduction

8:00 AM – 8:05 AM

Ashley Whillans

8:05 AM – 8:35 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Ashley Whillans

Associate Professor | Harvard Business School

Angela Lee

8:35 AM – 9:05 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Angela Lee

PhD Candidate | Stanford University

Break

9:05 AM – 9:15 AM

Data Blitz

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Coach not crutch: AI assistance can enhance rather than hinder skill development

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM

It is widely believed that relying on AI tools inadvertently cheats us of the opportunity to develop our own capabilities. In this investigation, we examine the possibility that using AI—even while reducing effort invested in a task—may nevertheless enhance learning. Contrary to lay forecasts, participants who practiced writing cover letters with access to AI improved writing skill more than participants who practiced without AI, participants who received personalized feedback from professional editors, or participants given access to a Google Search for cover letter examples and tips. Forecasters were not wrong about effort: participants worked longer and harder when practicing without access to AI. However, AI-related decrements in effort appear to have been offset by an increase in the utility of the practice task itself: writers merely shown an AI-generated cover letter (without any opportunity to practice) improved in skill as much as writers who practiced writing with the original AI tool.

Taken together, these findings constitute an existence proof that, by providing personalized, high-quality examples, using AI tools can improve, rather than undermine, learning.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Benjamin Lira

University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Benjamin Lira, Todd Rogers, Daniel Goldstein, Lyle Ungar, Angela Duckworth

Theory-Driven Implementation of Personality in Social Robots: Toward Psychological Foundations for Human-Technology Interaction

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM

Social robots are an emerging media technology deployed in real-world settings, yet their design lacks theoretical grounding in psychological research. This study introduces the cognitive constructionism approach, which integrates psychological theory into robot design to bridge psychology and engineering. Grounded in personality psychology (Big Five, person-centered approach), we manipulated prosody (speech rate, pitch height, and pitch range) and gaze behavior (direction and aversion rate) in a social robot (CommU) across three studies (N = 1,028). Participants viewed short videos and evaluated the robot's personality. Results revealed that voice and gaze parameters interact non-additively to produce three theory-consistent personality types: resilient, average, and delicate. This approach demonstrates that personality perception mechanisms generalize from human-human to human-robot interaction, grounding robot behavior in validated psychological principles. As social robots are expected to mediate connection in healthcare and education, this work enables development of technologies supporting meaningful relationships, reducing social isolation, and enhancing digital well-being.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ritsuko Iwai

Research Scientist | RIKEN

Authors

Ritsuko Iwai, Yusuke Takahashi, Carlos Toshinori Ishi, Taiken Shintani, Takatsune Kumada

Reducing High Arousal Negative Content in Social Media Feeds Improves User Well-Being

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM

Despite widespread concern that high-arousal negative (HAN; e.g., angry, scary) social media content harms well-being, causal tests are rare because they typically require access to platform algorithms. We addressed this by (1) building an algorithm-independent browser extension that detects and filters HAN posts in real time and (2) evaluating its effects in three preregistered 4-week field experiments conducted before, during, and after the 2024 U.S. presidential election (10,056 daily observations; N=406). Participants were randomized to a week with or without HAN filtering and provided daily reports. Filtering reliably increased daily life satisfaction across studies; during the election, it also reduced anxiety and depressive symptoms. Benefits occurred without reducing time on platform, political engagement, or news knowledge. The results offer causal evidence for a scalable, user-controlled intervention that can improve well-being, especially under heightened stress.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jonas Schöne

Post Doc | Stanford University

Authors

Jonas Schoene, Christy Wang, Tiziano Piccardi, Brian Knutson

Social Media Use Intentionality Improves User Experience and Well-being Outcome

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM

A key challenge in social media use (SMU) and well-being studies is that SMU behaviors are highly context- and content-dependent. This study thus aims to examine the underlying psychological drivers of SMU outcomes. Drawing on theories of goal-directed behavior and user agency, we test how motivation strength and awareness of motivation (intentionality) relate to well-being. We conducted a 7-day Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA; six surveys/day) with 266 US adults (71.3% response rate), linked to screentime screenshots and user-donated TikTok data (80.5% EMA matched). Within individuals, higher intentionality and motivation strength predicted more positive experiences and greater well-being, especially when SMU was used for coping, entertainment, passive time, or habit. Between individuals, awareness of motivation fully explained the link between SMU agency and well-being. TikTok data showed little behavioral variation by intentionality, except that more intentional users skipped videos faster. Findings highlight intentionality as a key process shaping momentary SMU experiences, while also underscore the need to better capture behavioral signals of intentional SMU.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Yuning Liu
PhD Candidate | Harvard University

Authors

Yuning Liu & Amit Goldenberg

Anat Perry

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Anat Perry
Assistant Professor | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Break

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Poster Session

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

*POSTER

[81] Beyond Job: AI as Perceived Threat to Self-Identity

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

AI is often portrayed as a threat to employment. However, this assumption might overlook a deeper mechanism: the threat that AI poses to self-identity. We propose job loss threat as a trigger, while the ultimate source of fear might be the potential loss of uniqueness. When individuals perceive AI as a threat to their role, they are not only afraid of unemployment but also of the erosion of a part of their identity.

Based on research on ego-defensiveness and self-identity, this study outlines the model where AI salience → Job loss threat → Identity threat - Defensive attitudes towards AI. For those who have work-identity centrality, this causation could be much stronger.

We outline a study design in which participants would be randomly assigned to read vignettes describing AI implementations with (a) job loss with income loss, and (b) job loss without income loss. This design would allow us to test whether AI fear persists even when income is guaranteed. If yes, it might suggest that the driver is an identity threat.

This model frames AI anxiety as an existential rather than purely economic concern and points to new directions for theory and communication.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Smolko
MA Student | Michigan State University

Authors

Anna Smolko

[82] Artificial Intelligence Is Stereotypically Linked More with Socially Dominant Groups in Natural Language

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Despite the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in society, its social representation remains underexplored. We show that AI is asymmetrically stereotyped, being more closely associated with socially dominant groups. Specifically, we examined AI's positioning on the warmth–competence dimensions of the stereotype content model, its links with advantaged (men, young, wealthy, White) versus disadvantaged (women, older, poor, non-White) groups, and its perceived impact on high- versus low-prestige occupations. Across four studies using language-based analyses with static embeddings, BERT, GPT-4, and human-participant validation, we found: (i) AI was strongly associated with competence but showed variability in warmth; (ii) AI was more strongly linked to advantaged groups; (iii) advantaged groups were semantically closer to AI on warmth–competence dimensions; and (iv) high-prestige occupations were associated more with AI's benefits, while low-prestige ones were tied to its threats. These findings indicate that perceptions of AI are systematically biased toward dominant groups, potentially reinforcing social inequalities and raising concerns about an emerging “AI divide.”

*POSTER

Speaker



Zixi Wang
IP

Authors

Zixi Wang, Haodong Xia, Han Wu Shuang Bao, Yiming Jing, Ruolei Gu

[83] Who Did the Work? Egocentric Bias in Human-AI Collaboration

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

When people collaborate with others, their perceptions are distorted by egocentric bias, where they tend to overestimate their own contributions. However, AI presents a new frontier: we don't know what the egocentric bias will look like when people interact with AI. What dynamics will shape egocentric biases during human-AI interactions? Do people attempt to mentalize AI's processes? If they do, what does that look like? Across three initial studies, we examine how the egocentric bias unfolds in human-AI collaboration. In two experiments (N = 299 and N = 60), Ps summarized an article either independently or with AI assistance. Those who used AI attributed substantially less of the final product to themselves than Ps who worked alone, suggesting that people initially recognize AI's substantial role. However, in a third study (N = 319), this accuracy eroded over time: participants who collaborated with AI on a creativity task later recalled a greater share of the ideas as their own two weeks after the interaction. These findings reveal that people's perceptions of authorship in AI-assisted work are dynamic—initially accurate but increasingly biased toward self-enhancement over time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maura Austin
University of Virginia

Authors

Maura Austin, Gabrielle Adams, Eileen Chou

[84] When Algorithms Hide: How Concealment and Personalization Depth Shape Privacy Concern and Purchase Intention

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

In July 2025, Reuters reported that Walmart would launch AI "super agents" like Sparky for reorders and event planning (Cavale, 2025). Netflix, Spotify, and Starbucks likewise show that personalization is now the default interface (Tang et al., 2023; Spotify, 2023). Yet such systems often conceal how data and inferences are used, creating opacity and lowering trust (Ananny & Crawford, 2018).

Drawing on privacy-calculus and transparency-as-signal theories, we examine algorithmic concealment—when firms hide inference logic—and its interaction with personalization depth. In a live shopping experiment, hyper-personalization increased engagement. A second study (PROCESS Model 7) showed that personalization affected purchase intention via privacy concern, moderated by perceived concealment. When concealment was low, hyper-personalization raised concern; when high, the concern gap vanished.

Overall, concealment can offset privacy tension in hyper-personalization but harm trust in traditional settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eunmi Jeon

Authors

Eunmi Jeon, Younjung Park

[85] Feeling Good Leads to Stable Play: Reciprocal Feedback between Gaming and Well-Being

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Video games are a ubiquitous form of leisure with complex connections to well-being. Using a large longitudinal dataset (N = 7,618; 74,422 player-days), we applied a dynamic -SEM approach to estimate continuous-time effect sizes and draw implications for same-day, next-day, and between-person associations between playtime and well-being, enjoyment, autonomy, competence, focus, and immersion. On days when players gamed more, they reported slightly higher levels of affective functioning compared to their typical well-being ($r = .05$, $p < .001$). However, this same-day association did not persist over time. In contrast, higher well-being predicted slightly more play the following day ($\beta = 0.02$, $p < .01$), consistent with a "feel-good-return" pattern. Location-scale models showed that individuals experienced modest increases and greater stability in well-being on days they played more, suggesting gaming may temporarily elevate and stabilize affect. Event-specific effects (e.g., progression, equipment unlocking) and behavioral tendencies (e.g., idle time, regularity) illustrate how design features can shape short-term psychological experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wenqian Long
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Authors

Wenqian Long, D.A. Briley

[86] Joking at our expense: Humorous critiques of economic inequality depict the working-class as powerless and dumb

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Online humor has become a key channel through which people express grievances about the economic system and economic inequality. The present mixed-methods study examines the forms of humor used in critiques of the economic status quo and the subsequent representations of the American working class. We sampled 193 anti-capitalist memes and jokes created and shared by real online users through social media sites and meme databases. A participant sample (N = 500) rated the extent to which the posts belittled an out-group (disparagement humor) and used self-deprecating jokes to make light of difficult situations (gallows humor). Whereas derogation and self-deprecation were present at similar rates across the sampled stimuli, most jokes provided negative depictions of the working class. Disparagement jokes tended to belittle in-group members such as coworkers and politically dissimilar members of the working class, depicting them as dumb. Critiques using gallows humor depicted the self or similar others as powerless. Informed by Social Identity Theory, we suggest these results may represent current challenges to the development of a working-class identity in the United States.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva García Ferrés
Graduate Student | University of Florida

Authors

Eva A. García Ferrés, Gregory D. Webster, Colin Tucker Smith

[87] Pride or Prejudice? Consumer Responses to Corporate Activism

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Over the past decade, the frequency of companies taking public stances on social issues, such as BLM, climate change, and LGBTQIA+ rights, has steadily increased. But today's shifting political and cultural climate has complicated this wave of corporate advocacy. How will companies' decision to commit to, or step away from, social advocacy impact perceptions of the causes they supported, their motives, and the company itself? And how do cultural perceptions of companies' political leaning shape these judgments? My study investigates this question using responses to real-world corporate social media posts supporting, or not acknowledging, Pride Month in June 2025. I will examine how their decision shapes support for LGBTQIA+ rights, whether people think their advocacy is self-serving or altruistic, and people's affinity towards the companies. Additionally, I will compare perceptions of these companies in 2023 to now, to examine how companies' decision to continue or stop advocating for Pride Month impacts how people perceive them. This work will help illuminate how the current political and cultural climate has changed the interpretations and impacts of corporate advocacy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katerina von Helms
Boston College

Authors

Katerina von Helms, Marcus Trenfield, Gregg Sparkman, Liane Young

[88] I Sometimes Feel Closer to AI Than to People I Know in Real Life: Examining Generative AI Attitudes and Loneliness

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Generative AI (genAI)'s rising popularity necessitates research addressing its potential psychosocial impacts. This Prolific survey of U.S. 18–25-year-olds (N = 1004; 56.3% women, 39.4% men, 4.3% another gender) examined links between loneliness and genAI attitudes and motivations. We developed, using EFA and internal consistency metrics, a scale of genAI emotional support motivation (ESM, desire to use genAI for companionship and connection; $\alpha = .95$) and two measures of genAI attitudes: AI-Human Substitution (AIHS, preference for AI over human interaction; $\alpha = 0.91$) and AI Idealization (AIi; idealizing AI characteristics; $\alpha = 0.87$). A linear regression controlling for gender, genAI use frequency, race, and SES shows that AIHS ($p < .001$) and AIi ($p = .03$), but not ESM ($p = .12$) were related to more loneliness. We also tested interactions between ESM, AIHS, and AIi. There was a significant interaction between AIi (but not AIHS) and ESM ($b = -.07$, $p = .002$). For those with high (but not low) AIi, ESM was related to significantly lower loneliness ($b = -.10$, $p = .02$). Findings suggest genAI attitudes and motivations might jointly predict different psychosocial outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rhettta Power
Graduate Student | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Rhettta Power, Barbara Fredrickson, Ben Buck, Anne Maheux

[89] Body vs. Face Satisfaction and Appearance-related Social Media Consciousness

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

While the relationship between social media and adolescent depression remains inconsistent, appearance-related social media consciousness (ASMC) has been shown to precede mental health challenges among adolescents. Identifying ASMC correlates can help target interventions. We examined cross-sectional associations between body and face satisfaction and ASMC among 1,594 adolescents (ages 11–15, M = 13.15; 47.5% girls; 36.7% Latine). Youth reported satisfaction with face (facial features, eyes, nose, hair thickness, hair color, hair texture, skin complexion/texture, skin tone/color) and body (stomach, muscle tone, weight, height). Controlling for gender and time on social media, lower body satisfaction ($b = -.33$, $p < .001$) and lower face satisfaction ($b = -.18$, $p < .001$) were associated with higher ASMC. Higher time on social media amplified the negative association between ASMC and both body satisfaction ($b = -.02$, $p = .029$) and face satisfaction ($b = -.04$, $p = .005$). Findings highlight the need to address specific appearance concerns in adolescents, especially among heavy social media users, to mitigate the impacts of ASMC.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura Claire (LC) Walker
Project Coordinator | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Anne Maheux, Laura Walker

[90] The Paradox of AI Humor: ChatGPT Makes Us Laugh – Until We Know It's AI

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Is ChatGPT funny – and do people think so? Across four preregistered experiments (N = 1,185), we compared ChatGPT-3.5's humor to that of laypeople (Study 1) and professional comedy writers (Study 2), and examined how perceived authorship shapes humor judgments (Studies 3–4). Participants rated the funniness of jokes generated in response to comedic prompts (e.g., complete a setup, fill in an acronym, or write a playful "roast") (Study 1) or satirical news headlines (Study 2), without knowing their source. Across tasks, ChatGPT's jokes were rated funnier than those written by laypeople ($p < .001$, $d = 0.63$) and as funny as those by professional comedy writers at The Onion ($p = .14$, $d = 0.10$). In Studies 3 and 4, we manipulated the perceived source of the same jokes. When jokes were labeled as AI-generated (vs. human-generated), participants found them less funny ($p's < .001$, $d's = 0.24–0.81$). This effect was mediated by perceived authenticity: jokes seemed less "real" or genuine when thought to come from AI. These findings highlight a paradox of AI humor – machines can make us laugh, yet their jokes fall flat once we know who's telling them.

*POSTER

Speaker



Drew Gorenz
Doctoral Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Drew Gorenz, Norbert Schwarz

[91] Talk, Listen, Connect: How Humans and AI Evaluate Empathy in Responses to Emotionally Charged Narratives

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Social interactions promote well-being, yet barriers like geographic distance, time limitations, and mental health conditions can limit face-to-face interactions. Emotionally responsive AI systems, such as chatbots, offer new opportunities for social and emotional support, but raise critical questions about how empathy is perceived and experienced in human-AI interactions. This study examines how empathy is evaluated in AI-generated versus human responses. Using personal narratives, we explored how persona attributes (e.g., gender, empathic traits, shared experiences) and story qualities affect empathy ratings. We compared responses from standard and fine-tuned AI models with human judgments. Results show that while humans are highly sensitive to emotional vividness and shared experience, AI-responses are less influenced by these cues, often lack nuance in empathic expression. These findings highlight challenges in designing emotionally intelligent systems that respond meaningfully across diverse users and contexts, and informs the design of ethically aware tools to support social connection and well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mahnaz Roshanaei
Research Staff | Stanford University

Authors

Mahnaz Roshanaei, Rezvaneh Rezapour, Magy Seif El-Nasr

[92] Does Repeated Participation in Crowdsourcing Research Undermine Trust in Researchers? A Natural Language Processing Analysis

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Crowdsourcing platforms are widely used in social science research, yet researchers often regard workers merely as "data providers" rather than as individuals, imposing burdens through research design. Such negative experiences can foster workers' distrust toward researchers, which may be reflected in their language use—for example, through expressions of negative emotions or superficial responses in open-ended comments. We examined this possibility by asking 1,191 Japanese workers to describe their experiences with crowdsourcing tasks. Their responses were analyzed using J-LIWC (the Japanese version of the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count). With greater participation experience, the use of negative emotion words did not increase, whereas the use of cognitive process words decreased. Distrust may reduce workers' willingness to reflect on and articulate their dissatisfaction or suggestions to researchers. Although shared mental models foster trust, repeated participation may weaken workers' motivation to seek mutual understanding with researchers. While researchers tend to distrust "professional respondents," they should also recognize that this distrust can be mutual.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rei Yamada
Student | Nagoya University

Authors

Rei Yamada, Ryota Takano, Shinji Yamagata, Tasuku Igarashi

[93] actor Structure of Social Media Use Motivations Among Diverse Adolescents

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Social media is a key setting for adolescent connection, information-seeking, and entertainment (Allen et al., 2014). For LGBTQ+ adolescents, online spaces may be particularly important for finding community and support not always accessible offline. As research increasingly emphasizes diverse motivations for social media use rather than overall "screen time" (Maheux et al., 2024), the present study used exploratory factor analysis to identify underlying factors of adolescents' social media motivations and examined their associations with psychological wellbeing. Participants (N = 1275; Mage = 18) completed measures of social media use frequency, motivations, and wellbeing. Four motivation factors emerged: connection, entertainment, emotion regulation, and health information-seeking. LGBTQ+ youth reported greater engagement in activism and health information-seeking compared to non-LGBTQ+ youth, who were more motivated by entertainment and emotion regulation. Findings underscore the multidimensional nature of social media use and the importance of understanding diverse motivations across adolescent groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mary Cox
Graduate Student | Washington University in Saint Louis

Authors

Mary Cox, Patrick Hill

[94] Violent Media Exposure and Aggressive Behavior in Adolescents

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

This study investigates the link between violent media exposure and aggressive behavior in adolescents, addressing a growing concern in psychological research. With the rise of violent content in television, films, and video games, past studies suggest a correlation between exposure and increased aggression, particularly in children aged 8 to 12. This research aims to determine if violent media consumption directly correlates with heightened aggressive thoughts and actions. Approximately 200 children will be recruited from local schools, ensuring balanced gender representation and demographics. Participants will be assigned to experimental and control groups, exposed to violent and non-violent media, respectively. Aggression levels will be measured using the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire after media exposure. Findings are anticipated to provide insights into the cognitive and social mechanisms that mediate the relationship between violent media and aggression. This study aspires to address existing gaps in the literature, enhancing the understanding of how violent media shapes adolescent behavior across various contexts and developmental stages.

*POSTER

Authors

Kayla Schwalbe

[95] It's Not Me, It's Zoom: Misattribution of Delay in Turn-Taking on Speaker Judgments

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Human conversation relies on turn-taking mechanisms that allow speakers and listeners to coordinate rapid speaking. Remote video platforms like Zoom introduce subtle delays that may impair these mechanisms. This study examines how medium-induced timing disruptions affect listeners' judgments of their conversational partner's confidence with a metacognitive judgement known as Feeling of Another's Knowing (FOAK). Sixty-four participants engaged in structured dialogue tasks either in person or over Zoom, with FOAK ratings and conversational smoothness measured before and after a period of adaptation. FOAK ratings were significantly lower in the remote condition than in the in-person condition, and increased over time across both media. General conversational smoothness ratings also increased over time, but showed no effect of condition. These results suggest that disruptions in turn-taking caused by remote communication may be misattributed to the speaker's knowledge state. The findings highlight the sensitivity of conversational timing mechanisms to medium constraints and suggest that listener judgments may be implicitly biased by delay, even when conversation appears fluent.

*POSTER

Speaker



AJ Schwartz

University of California, San Diego

Authors

Aj Schwartz

[96] How Does Culture Moderate the Relationship Between Self and Autobiographical Memory Online?

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

The present study investigated how self and autobiographical memory interact in the online space and whether culture plays a role. Asian and European American participants were randomly assigned to work online on a simulated social media platform or offline, where they provided self-descriptions and shared autobiographical memories with relevant photographs. Results showed that the total number and positivity of self-descriptions were higher in the offline condition than the online condition, particularly among European Americans. For Asian participants, higher positive self-evaluation predicted a greater tendency to mention positive emotions in the online context, whereas positive self-evaluation was not associated with this tendency in the offline context. For European American participants, positive self-evaluation was not associated with the tendency to mention positive emotions in either context. These findings suggest that both cultural background and online context shape autobiographical memory through the extent of expression of self.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ezgi Bilgin

Cornell University

Authors

Ezgi Bilgin, Qi Wang

[97] From Ally to Algorithm: How Disagreement Shapes AI Perception

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

With AI's utilization of natural language processing, individuals have begun to leverage it for their personal issues. While it seems useful as an impartial companion, prior research has shown it answers in an amicable nature, leading to confirmation bias. In this study, we investigated how individuals react to AI when it disagrees with them on complex topics involving human emotions, like choosing to prioritize one's family or partner. Participants (N = 259) were randomly assigned to one of these human issues, decided how to act, and then defended their reasoning to GPT-5 mini. Participants were also randomly assigned to a model with instructions to either agree or disagree with their reasoning. Then they answered questions about their perception of AI and its capabilities. Results demonstrated that participants evaluated AI's ability to understand human emotions higher when it agreed with their reasoning, than when it disagreed. Additionally, we found a gender difference, as men perceived AI's response as more machine-like when it disagreed, while women judged humanness similarly across conditions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Olivia Pinto

University of Michigan

Authors

Olivia Pinto, Atakan Atamer, Priti Shah

[98] Emotional Responses to Human–AI Collaboration Across Professional Contexts

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Artificial intelligence (AI) represents not merely a technological tool but a social agent that reshapes human collaboration. This study examined how different cooperative roles between humans and AI, whether AI or the human served as the thinker (strategizing) or the doer (implementing) influence emotional evaluations of collaboration. Across four countries and four occupations (psychotherapy, art, engineering, and surgery), participants rated their trust, appreciation, and affective responses to the work process. Assigning AI to either the thinking or doing role reduced trust, appreciation, and positive affect relative to human-led conditions. Job type shaped these perceptions: when AI acted as the doer in emotionally charged professions such as therapy, trust, appreciation, and positive affect declined sharply. In contrast, assigning AI as the thinker did not further diminish evaluations. Anthropomorphism moderated these effects, participants who viewed AI as more human-like expressed greater trust, appreciation, and positivity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Roya Mohammadsadegh

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Roya Mohammadsadegh, Mohammad Atari

[99] Digital Companionship and Romantic Loneliness: The Psychology of Virtual Love

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Love, traditionally shared between humans, is increasingly being directed toward virtual agents (VAs). Across five studies (N = 1,951), we explore why people pursue romantic connections with VAs (Studies 1 and 2), how romantic needs emerge in these interactions (Study 3), whether virtual romance offers real-world psychological benefits (Study 4) and alleviate romantic loneliness (Study 5). Our findings reveal that engaging with VAs can reduce loneliness and enhance well-being, regardless of relationship status. Surprisingly, individuals in romantic relationships report stronger emotional engagement and greater psychological benefits from VAs than singles. These partnered individuals also experience emotional support from VAs, which contributes to their sense of resilience. Gender differences are emerged that men feel more guilt about spending time with VAs but not about spending money on them. Although users feel ambivalent about microtransactions involving romantic VAs, they continue to use these interactions to fulfill personal needs. The findings highlight the benefit of virtual romance and the importance of understanding how technologies are reshaping human relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mayu Koike

Assistant Professor | Institute of Science Tokyo

Authors

Mayu Koike, Midori Ban

[100] Directors Imbue their Films with Clues to their Gender

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Common refrains suggest people signal who they are through their things (e.g., “you can tell a lot about someone from their shoes”), but how might media products reveal creators’ identities? Building from research describing person perception from behavioral residue, here we investigated how directors’ gender manifest subtly and incidentally in films. Funneled investigation across 14 experiments (N = 1593) revealed that participants could detect directors’ gender from minimal exposure to their films because male directors’ films featured more men and more gender-typical actors. People therefore detect creators’ gender from their creative products, and gendered-film stereotypes explain the specific mechanisms of these inferences. The same cues to gender also manifested in non-directors’ casting decisions, evidencing a broader pattern by which one’s social categories subtly manifest in and enable social inference from media products. Taken together, this work helps to explain one means through which people generate and shed behavioral residue, breaking new ground in understanding how people inextricably relate to, and imprint themselves upon, the mediated worlds around them.

*POSTER

Speaker



McLean Morgan

PHD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

McLean Morgan

[101] The (In)effectiveness of Bias Indicators

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

In recent years, multiple organizations have built political bias indicator solutions with the explicit aim of informing news consumers about the political leaning of individual news articles or sources, with the idea that providing this information will reduce partisan bias. The present research examined the effectiveness of political bias indicators from NoBias, which report the partisan leanings of individual news articles. In Fall 2020, Participants (N=399) selected articles to read from eight buffets of news headlines featuring various current events, each containing headlines from either left-leaning, right-leaning, or center-leaning articles (according to the NoBias algorithms); half of the buffets included bias indicators. Results indicated that bias indicators actually increased partisan selective exposure, particularly for conservatives (though liberals displayed more selective exposure overall). This research suggests that tools like bias indicators may not be practically useful at reducing partisan selective exposure, and instead may be harmful.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katy Bruchmann

Associate Professor | Santa Clara University

Authors

Katy Bruchmann, Sloan Seid, Alexandra Folks, S. Glenn Baker, Subbu Vincent

[102] Context Collapse in Self-consciousness on Social Media is Gendered

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Women tend to be more self-conscious than men. Drawing on computer-mediated communication theorizing on objectification theory and context collapse, we show, however, that gender differences in self-consciousness manifest differently between offline and social media contexts. Participants (Studies 1 and 2; N = 2770; 58% women) completed measures of self-consciousness specified to indicate a) offline and b) social media contexts in c) private (i.e., concerning internal states) and d) public (i.e., concerning external appearance) senses. Findings showed that public self-consciousness was pronounced on social media in women relative to men (Study 1). Greater femininity predicted greater public self-consciousness on social media as well (Study 2). We corroborated these findings with women’s qualitative experiences (Study 3; N = 37, 76% women). Our findings imply unique gender dynamics on social media, namely a context collapse centering public self-consciousness in women on social media.

*POSTER

Speaker



Phoebe Loew

Graduate Student | Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology

Authors

Phoebe Loew, Cameron Bunker

[103] Shaping empathic expressions: how human-AI collaboration influences first person perceptions of empathic messages

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Generative AI models perform well at generating messages that convey empathy when judged by third party raters, but can they help people elicit empathy? This project examines first person perceptions of empathy by studying how participants creating empathic messages with or without AI perceive their messages and experience. We conducted an online RCT (N = 605) that randomly assigned participants to write an empathic message for people experiencing mental health challenges with human-AI collaboration or without (control). We also examined two styles of human-AI collaboration in which participants either created the first draft of a message and the generative AI edited it (co-pilot condition) or they edited the first draft created by AI (monitor condition). Results showed that people perceived their messages as more empathic in the human-AI collaboration conditions than on their own. Collaborating with AI did not reduce their perception of how authentic the message was overall, even though they reported less effort to create the message with AI. Our findings suggest that working with AI can help people express empathy to others in meaningful ways while reducing the cognitive cost.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bingxu Han
Stanford University

Authors

Bingxu Han, Jeff Hancock, Sunny Xun Liu, Angela Yuson Lee, Michael Woodworth

[104] Moralization Predicts Topic Prevalence on Social Media but not Traditional Media

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Moral content captures human attention, guiding which information warrants concern. This phenomenon may be particularly strong on social media, where the impact of human bias on content feeds is especially pronounced. The current research presents a large-scale exploration of whether morality guides which topics become more prevalent in social media and traditional media over time. We combined text corpora from social media (Twitter/X; 9.8M posts from 12,838 randomly sampled users across 48 million users) and traditional media (the Corpus of Contemporary American English; 115K texts from newspapers, television, and magazines) to examine if issues that were highly moralized in earlier years were more likely to become prevalent in public discourse in later years. Highly moralized topics on Twitter/X became highly prevalent in online discourse on Twitter/X (as topics low in moralization became less prevalent) over time, but traditional media did not show this pattern. These results suggest that the content of social media (versus traditional media) may be more strongly shaped by biases favoring moral content.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca Woodard

Authors

Rebecca Woodard, Curtis Puryear

[105] Predictably Divisive News

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Political polarization shapes how Americans interpret the same information, yet little is known about how political partisanship informs the way individuals evaluate identical news content when source cues are removed. Across two preregistered studies, Democrats and Republicans rated Wall Street Journal (N = 275) and New York Times (N = 276) headlines on credibility and engagement. Each participant rated 50 real-world headlines, presented without outlet identifiers. For the Wall Street Journal, Democrats and Republicans did not differ in credibility but Republicans found headlines more engaging. For the New York Times, Democrats rated headlines higher on both credibility and engagement. Across both outlets, credibility exceeded engagement within parties. These findings suggest that polarization extends beyond source selection to the interpretation of shared news content: even when stripped of source cues, headline language evokes distinct affective and epistemic responses across party lines, highlighting how linguistic framing can reinforce partisan divides.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rhea Kothari
UC Berkeley

Authors

Rhea Kothari

[106] Love Triangles are Endgame: How Wishful Identification, Perceived Similarity, and Parasocial Relationships Inform the Pop-Media Relationship Puzzle

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

The “love triangle”—typically found in romantic media for young adults—is a device that explores the idea of choice and identity in the context of romantic relationships. Young adults (YAs) learn by social cognitive theory; they may also learn and form beliefs from watching romantic media. This study investigates roots of fan investment in love triangles, and whether factors such as wishful identification and perceived similarity with female love interests (LIs) serve as predictors. Using preliminary survey data from N=235 straight and bisexual undergraduate women, we found that wishful identification with female LIs significantly mediates ($p<0.01$) the relationship between perceived similarity and certain dimensions of parasocial relationships (e.g., paracouple relationship investment). Furthermore, across three YA romance fandoms, viewers reached consensus for ratings of neuroticism [23-.58] and conscientiousness [.27-.31]; opposing male LIs from each fandom were different from one another on both traits ($ps<0.001$), suggesting character archetypes that might inform viewers’ preferences for one LI over another. Data collection and analyses are ongoing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Pezoldt
Lab Manager | Web Lab at UF

Authors

Cathy Cox, Tiffany Bui, Gregory D. Webster, Amy Pezoldt

[107] Identity styles, processes, and motivations for social media use

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Young people today often turn to social media (SM) as they engage in the critical task of identity formation. Yet, little empirical work has examined how identity styles (i.e., characteristic ways of engaging in identity development), and identity processes (e.g., exploration and commitment) relate to motivations for social media use. In this cross-sectional study of emerging adults in the California Bay Area (N = 708), we examined how identity styles and processes relate to three identity-relevant motivations: Self-Expression (e.g., to show my personality), Self-Exploration (e.g., to explore who I want to become), and Information Sharing (e.g., to share useful information). Regression analyses revealed that greater identity exploration, as well as more informational and normative identity styles, was a significant predictor of all three motivations. In contrast, greater identity commitment was a significant predictor of self-expression motivation. Taken together, the findings shed light on the identity processes that explain why young people use social media, and underscore the significance of the digital context as a meaningful space for identity development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Noah Vinoya

PHD Student | Stanford University

Authors

Noah Vinoya, Serena Soh, Zhenchao Hu, Gabriella Harari

[108] When (and when NOT) to use AI to simulate humans

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

The growing use of large language models (LLMs) as AI surrogates—synthetic participants in psychological and behavioral research—has sparked both excitement and concern. Proponents highlight their potential to rapidly test hypotheses, model social processes, and complement traditional data collection. However, recent work shows that these tools risk amplifying biases, narrowing diversity, and creating illusions of generalizability when treated as substitutes for human samples. Drawing on recent empirical and theoretical contributions from cognitive science, psychology, and computational social science, this presentation reviews the promises, pitfalls, and safeguards associated with using AI to simulate human behavior. We argue that while AI-based simulations can expand experimental reach, they should be grounded in human data, validated against real participants, and used only for questions that cannot feasibly or ethically be tested with humans. In short, humans remain the gold standard; AI can complement—but not replace—them.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jackson Trager

PhD Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Jackson Trager

[109] From posts to playlists: Social media use and belonging in music fans across an album release

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

As celebrity fandom becomes increasingly intertwined with social media usage, it is important to apply empirical understandings of social media use to celebrity fandom. Previous research recognizes the role of belonging in fan identity (Tague et al., 2020) and connects social media use with the need to belong (Büttner et al., 2022). The present study will explore individuals' sense of general and fandom-specific belonging in relation to social media use. Participants (N ≈ 300) will report social media use (categorized as active or passive, with additional items on fan-oriented behaviors) and belonging in the two weeks before and after an album release by a celebrity for whom they identified as a fan and/or regular listener. Analysis of reciprocal relationships and differences between social media use and belonging before and after the album release, as well as comparisons between platforms, will provide insight into how fans connect through social media. Results will increase understanding of behaviors and motivations associated with fandom – this is particularly important as fandom and social media play an increasingly large role in individuals' lives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lilly Tanenbaum

William & Mary

Authors

Lilly Tanenbaum, Jaclyn Moloney

[110] How Status Shapes AI Use in Creative Work

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly integrated into creative work, offering new opportunities for innovation. Yet, whether using AI in creativity is applauded remains debated (Small, 2023). Because creativity is closely tied to creative professionals' rewards, pay, and promotions (Proudfoot et al., 2015), concerns about how others judge AI use are likely amplified. Our research examines how professional status shapes creative professionals' attitudes and behaviors toward AI in organizations. We propose that low- and high-status individuals differ in evaluation concern, the extent to which they fear being judged (Carleton et al., 2006), for relying on AI, which in turn influences their AI use and disclosure. In our pilot study with creative professionals and students, low-status individuals showed higher evaluation concern and were less likely to disclose AI use, though actual use did not differ significantly. These findings highlight important organizational implications, as nondisclosure may hinder collaboration and transparency in creative teams, offering new insights into how social hierarchies shape human–AI integration in creative work.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nayong Quan

Authors

Nayong Quan, Hyun Yoon

[111] Digital Detox: Effective or Inconsequential?

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

The media, influencers, and dinner table discussion will all tell you about the purported harms of smartphones on our mental health and well-being. One obvious and increasingly popular solution would be to engage in digital detox practices, where we intentionally restrict our use of technology for a certain period of time. But do these practices actually work? We randomized 331 undergraduates to either engage in digital detox each morning for one week or to a control condition without an intervention. Participants in the digital detox condition complied with instructions only 65% of the time. But contrary to our pre-registered hypotheses, even on days when participants did comply with instructions in the digital detox condition, we found no significant difference in mood or social media usage compared to participants in the control condition. However, exploratory analysis did reveal a significant positive association between digital detox and energy levels. These results highlight both the difficulty in getting people to actually engage in digital detox practices, as well as the limited efficacy of these interventions on improving well-being outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Justin Kahn
Georgetown University

Authors

Justin Kahn, Dexter King, Kibum Moon, Kostadin Kushlev

[112] The interaction effect of task type and types of human-AI interaction on preferences for humanlike AI

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

As AI grows more humanlike, attitudes toward it remain mixed. Drawing on task-technology fit (TTF) and the SEEK model, we conducted two experiments to examine how task type (creative vs. algorithmic) and interaction type (collaborative vs. competitive) shape preferences for humanlike AI. Results confirmed a significant interaction: individuals preferred humanlike AI more when collaborating (vs. competing) on creative tasks, but no difference emerged for algorithmic tasks. Study 2 further revealed that this effect was stronger among individuals high in neuroticism. These findings advance understanding of technology adoption and human-AI interaction by showing that preferences for humanlike AI depend on both task characteristics and user traits, and they highlight the need for organizations to consider task context and individual differences when integrating AI into the workplace.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nayong Quan

Authors

Nayong Quan, Markus Baer, Zach Kahn

[113] Reducing Transgender Prejudice via Video Game Player Characters

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

The purpose of this study is to test whether playing a video game with a transgender player character can reduce transgender prejudice. The parasocial contact hypothesis states that interactions with outgroup media characters can reduce prejudice toward that group. Research on parasocial contact has indicated its effectiveness with several outgroups, including transgender people. Past research on parasocial contact has typically utilized video-based media, such as TV. Video games, as an interactive medium, have unique qualities (such as high immersion) that may change the impact of intergroup contact. Participants will be 80 undergraduate students enrolled in an introductory psychology course at a private university. Participants are randomly assigned to one of two conditions. Those in the experimental condition play the video game Tell Me Why, where the player controls a transgender man. Participants in the control condition play the video game The Awesome Adventures of Captain Spirit, where they control a cisgender boy. Participants play the game for 90 minutes and then complete a survey measuring prejudice toward transgender men.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bradlee Gamblin
Assistant Professor | Gannon University

Authors

Bradlee Gamblin, Liam Cothill

[114] Moderation in moderation? Intuitions about content moderation are misaligned with effective practices for reducing the spread of conspiracy beliefs

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Which social media posts are the most important to remove to prevent the spread of conspiracy beliefs? Participants viewed sets of social media posts containing evidence for conspiracy theories in one of three moderation conditions: with no posts removed, with a post containing plausible evidence removed, or with a post containing implausible evidence removed. We found that individuals believed conspiracy theories less when posts containing plausible evidence had been removed but not when posts containing implausible evidence had been removed. However, in follow-up experiments using the same materials, participants making moderation decisions believed that it was more important to remove posts containing implausible evidence than posts containing plausible evidence. Our results suggest that moderation efforts may be spending outsized attention addressing content that is not substantively contributing to the spread of conspiracy beliefs. Our work also underscores the importance of considering the spread of misinformation not just at the level of individual pieces of content but also with attention to how broader false beliefs emerge from exposure to this content.

*POSTER

Speaker



Madeline Jalbert
Postdoctoral Scholar | University of Washington

Authors

Madeline Jalbert, Morgan Wack

[115] Parents talk Online Safety: Understanding US parents' expectations and concerns about children's online safety

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Much news has been generated about social media's impact on children's mental health and wellbeing — but what do parents think about this issue? Are they concerned, and do they want change? In this study, we examine parents' beliefs about children's online safety, self-described precautionary behaviors (e.g., use of parental controls), and attitudes towards regulation. Using a nationally representative survey of parents of children ages 17 or under (N = 2,082), and five focus groups (N = 50), we find that parents across backgrounds and beliefs agree on both the scale of the challenge, the need for action, and the solutions—presenting a key point of consensus in a time of profound political division.

*POSTER

Speaker



Calista Small
More in Common

Authors

Calista Small, Emily Gerdin, Fred Duong

Matthew Groh

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Matthew Groh
Kellogg School of Management

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Historical Psychology Preconference

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: E351, Level 3

History is a psychological fossil record that opens up an exciting source of data from "dead minds." Studying this fossil record could shed light on how and why our biases, emotions, attitudes, and beliefs have changed over time, and how our psychologies could change in the future. Our historical narratives (our shared understandings of past events) also undergird our collective identities and drive conflict and cooperation between groups. The Historical Psychology preconference brings together researchers from different corners of personality and social psychology to discuss these processes. It will feature talks, data blitzes, and a poster session focused on the historical roots of modern psychological and behavioral phenomena, such as stereotypes, values, and intergroup relations. Talks will be methodologically diverse, allowing attendees to learn about new advances in text analysis, agent-based modeling, ethnographic analysis, historical large-language models, and other tools that illustrate how minds and histories dynamically shape each other.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introduction

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM

Speaker



Mohammad Atari
Assistant Professor | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Historical Migration and the Evolution of Emotion Culture

8:10 AM – 8:30 AM

Cultures change, but new cultural systems also emerge over history. The socio-ecological factors that exert pressure on human values and practices to evolve in dynamic ways are numerous. In this talk, I examine the emergence of culture due to conditions created by long-history migration. The populations of today's countries and other geographic regions have descended from an uneven influx of people from different cultural and linguistic traditions. I suggest that the challenges of social living in contexts of historic intergroup mingling, which include social unpredictability, linguistic variability, and a collision of conflicting social norms, constitute contexts that encourage the emergence of new cultural adaptations. Specifically, I show that cultures of emotion that emerge in ancestrally diverse societies involve 1) emotional expressiveness and 2) expressive accuracy, 3) the frequent use of smiles potentially to communicate preferences and establish trust, and 4) regular exercise of the balance between sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems to support a high level of non-verbal communication and informational exchange. I also motivate the hypothesis that languages evolve in predictable ways in ancestrally diverse societies. Specifically, features of language that facilitate language acquisition by adult learners, such as compressibility, should become more common in ancestrally diverse contexts.

Speaker



Paula Niedenthal
Professor | University of Wisconsin-Madison

History as a prior: How past experience shapes and limits future exploration

8:30 AM – 8:50 AM

Human history is shaped by the actions of many people; learning from others often seems like a way to correct individual mistakes and make past experience more reliable. However, in this talk, I argue that socially learned experience can both accelerate learning and trap people in suboptimal decisions. Using collective hiring as an example, I show that when there is one optimal group to hire for a position, learning from prior experience is useful; shared history quickly points everyone to the right choice. But when there are multiple optimal groups, relying on the past becomes a problem. People follow what others have done, settle on a narrow set of options, and stop exploring alternatives. Evidence comes from multi-agent reinforcement learning simulations and large-scale multiplayer human behavioral experiments. I discuss how this perspective offers a new view of statistical discrimination in labor markets: historical events function as a collective prior that can both guide and mislead future decisions.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Xuechunzi Bai

Assistant Professor of Psychology | University of Chicago

Cohorts and Cultural Change

8:50 AM – 9:10 AM

How does a society's distribution of beliefs, opinions, and values change over time? In this talk, I will argue that most change on most things (e.g., politics, gender, race) occurs via cohort replacement. After outlining the theoretical possibilities for change mechanisms and reviewing existing evidence from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, I will present some new empirical work. I conclude by offering a theoretical interpretation of cohorts as an essential part of human cultural evolution.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Stephen Vaisey

Professor of Sociology and Political Science | Duke University

A Typology of Value Systems and their Historical Origins

9:10 AM – 9:25 AM

The Schwartz Theory of Basic Values identifies ten universal values that guide behavior across cultures, but people differ in how they resolve conflicts among values to form coherent value systems. In Study 1, across 14 large datasets, 747,358 participants, 95 countries, and two decades, we used Latent Profile Analysis to reveal three value systems that recur across countries and time—Stability Seekers (emphasizing security, tradition, conformity), Status Seekers (emphasizing power, achievement), and Experience Seekers (emphasizing self-direction, stimulation). In Study 2, we zoom in on regional variation in the prevalence of these value systems across Europe (European Social Survey; 332 regions; 365,483 participants), examining the effects of historical shocks on modern value systems. Using Instrumental Variable analyses, we test whether variables such as Black Death mortality, Protestant diffusion, Napoleonic reforms, industrialization, and Cold War divisions can provide causal explanations for why different value systems are more or less prevalent across European regions, illuminating the historical forces that have shaped the cultural evolution of these value systems.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Nick Kay

Graduate student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Friedrich Götz

Culture Bridges in Historical Knowledge Networks

9:10 AM – 9:25 AM

Human innovation relies on transmitting information through social networks spanning space and time. Yet we know little about what information traveled along these cultural bridges, how transmission dynamics have changed historically, and whether bridges facilitated innovation. We address these questions by constructing a large-scale, multiplex social network of about 12,000 global knowledge producers (1000–1900 CE). Our method draws from a cross-validated database of producers and their Wikipedia linkages, identifying 1 million ties. We then employed a large language model to categorize them into specific social relationships based on the texts. We find that cultural bridges vary across knowledge domains. Music-related occupations have the most bridges, while STEM sciences have more than the social sciences and arts. Additionally, cultural diversity in local environments and networks relates to the emergence of important creativity in history. These findings illuminate how cross-cultural exchange unfolded across history. Our network-based approach offers a scalable method for studying cultural transmission and creativity across historical periods and knowledge domains.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Rui Pan

Northwestern University

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Seokkyun Woo

TBD1

9:25 AM – 9:35 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Mapping the Moral Mind Across History and Space

9:35 AM – 9:55 AM

Human moral thought has evolved across millennia, yet we lack a descriptive framework that captures how moral concepts are structured across both historical eras and contemporary cultures. We use a computational approach that models moral knowledge as a multidimensional conceptual space in which behaviors are organized by their semantic and evaluative relationships. In prior work, we applied this method to compare the moral conceptual structures of contemporary Chinese and American participants, revealing both shared low-dimensional organization and culturally specific emphases. In this project, we extend the same analytic strategy to ancient Chinese texts, using natural language processing to reconstruct historical moral spaces and compare them with modern data. By integrating cross-cultural behavioral ratings from contemporary populations with semantic analyses of ancient moral discourse, this project examines how universal and culturally shaped dimensions of morality persist—or transform—across time and space.

Speaker



Hongbo Yu

PhD | University of California

Historical and Contemporary Predictors of Religious Similarity Across 35 Nations

9:55 AM – 10:15 AM

Why do Christians in the Philippines share more similar beliefs about supernatural punishment with Muslims in Egypt or Hindus in India than with other Christians in Belgium or Germany? This highly specific example poses a broader question: how do culturally distinct societies come to resemble one another despite different historical lineages? This project examines how socioecological contexts and historical opportunities for cultural transmission are jointly associated with similarities between cultural systems in different nations. We use distance metrics to assess the similarity between multidimensional profiles of religious belief and practice across religions in 38 countries. Data span over 7k religious individuals and 7 world religions. Regardless of religious tradition, religious profiles are more similar in nations that have historically had more opportunities for cultural transmission, as well as in nations with similar current-day levels of security threats and political instability. These findings underscore the importance of considering both historical and contemporary contexts when studying patterns of cultural convergence and divergence.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Nava Caluori

Postdoctoral Research Associate | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi, Kurt Gray

Religion shapes cultures of construing and regulating emotion

9:55 AM – 10:15 AM

One of the earliest observations in scholarship on religion, stemming from writers such as Durkheim and James, was the powerful connection between religion and emotion. Since then, work across diverse fields has established how religion impacts emotional experience and the role of transcendent emotion in religious worship. Yet, religion is not just an institution dealing in mystical emotional experience. It is also culture which shapes everyday emotional experiences, including how people conceptualize what emotion is and what to do with it. In this research, we sought to map religious cultures of emotion by turning to the "source code" of religions: canonical scripture. Across 198,000 sentences (roughly 2.5 million words) from canonical scriptural texts of 7 major world religions, we used natural language processing to identify the patterns of emotion beliefs, values, and regulation tools encoded in ancient religious texts, and map how these vary across religions. By doing so, we provide a systematic, comprehensive, and integrative picture of how scriptures, the historical fabric of religions, conceptualize emotion for the individuals and cultures embedded within them.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Chayce Baldwin

PhD Candidate | University of Michigan

Authors

Noa Boker Segal, Alexandra Wormley, Ethan Kross

Using SocioMap to facilitate linking data on ethnicities, religions, languages and districts for historical and cross-cultural analyses

10:15 AM – 10:35 AM

Historical and cross-cultural studies of human psychology often examine variation across complex groupings, such as cultural groups, linguistic groups, religious groups, and administrative districts (e.g. countries, parishes). Today, more than a thousand public use datasets provide valuable social, psychological, demographic, and cultural data on these groups, presenting new opportunities for examining the roots of cultural diversity and change. However, bringing data on these complex groupings together across disparate datasets poses serious challenges. To address these challenges, SocioMap provides a web-based application (<https://catmapper.org/sociomap>) for researchers to find where data is available on over 22,000 ethnic groups, 3,000 religions, 25,000 languages, and 200,000 administrative districts worldwide and to bring that data together across more than 2500 datasets transparently and reliably. In this paper, we illustrate how to use SocioMap to bring together datasets for novel cross-cultural and historical analyses by these complex groupings.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Daniel Hruschka

Professor | Arizona State University

Authors

Sharon Hsiao, Harsha Kasi, Robert Bischoff, Matt Peeples

Worldwide Divergence, then Convergence, in the Representation of Female Olympians from 1920-2016

10:35 AM – 11:00 AM

Do cultural values converge or diverge in a globalizing world? To test competing predictions of global convergence (Fukuyama, 1992) versus divergence (Huntington, 1993) regarding egalitarian values, I examine female representation in the Olympics over nearly a century. The dataset includes 178,941 athletes (1920–2016) across 209 National Olympic Committees, grouped into 10 cultural regions. In every time segment, regions differed significantly in the proportion of female competitors (all ps < .001). The share of female Olympians rose in every time period. However, cross-regional variation followed a U-shaped trajectory—minimal early and late in the period, peaking around 1980–84. This pattern indicates initial divergence in gender representation, followed by convergence towards egalitarian representation. Findings were robust to alternative regional categorizations, exclusion of dominant countries, and inclusion of only Summer Games, and emerged mainly in individual (vs. team) sports. The results highlight both divergence and convergence processes in global cultural change, revealing how gender equality in sport diffused unevenly but ultimately converged across world regions.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Allon Vishkin
Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

The main global cultural differences today evolved from environment-related historical agricultural patterns

10:35 AM – 11:00 AM

Decades of research have demonstrated that many cultural differences between modern nations are associated with a single dimension of culture, namely “individualism-collectivism” (IDV-COLL). Despite a partial worldwide shift toward IDV, these country differences are relatively stable. Previous research explains them as a function of differences in wealth, climate, pathogen prevalence, Western Church policies, and more. We propose a new theory arguing that historically prevalent types of agriculture explain IDV-COLL differences. We predict the variation in three contemporary national-level IDV-COLL indices and one for the 50 US states. For all national IDV-COLL measures, historically prevalent dairy farming is associated with IDV, whereas nomadic herding and shifting cultivation are associated with COLL. Across 48 US states, historically prevalent dairy farming predicts IDV, while plantations predict COLL. Agriculture always produces the strongest direct effects. The effects of the other predictors are inconsistent, with the seeming exception of wealth. Yet, some environmental predictors have a distal effect on IDV-COLL, mostly through the mediation of agricultural types.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Plamen Akaliyski
Assistant Professor | Lingnan University

Authors

Michael Minkov, Anneli Kaasa

How the Nomological Network of Personality Changes Over Historical Time

10:35 AM – 11:00 AM

Prior work maps how personality structure varies across space, but less is known about how it changes across historical time. We will assemble a dataset of top-charting U.S. albums for each year 1950 to 2025 and use an existing dataset of TIME magazine articles 1923 to 2006. We will score these data for the 6 HEXACO personality traits and 24 facets using Contextualized Construct Representations, an embedding-based approach to deriving psychological constructs from natural language. We then build yearly networks with TMFG, a network algorithm designed to find stable pairwise links, and EGA, a network-based factor analysis technique. We animate the network graph to observe longitudinal change, and track mean edge strength, node centrality, and betweenness across years. This pipeline allows us to determine changes in the nomological network of personality dimensions over historical time. Initial results suggest a stable core of Anxiety-Dependence-Forgiveness, and Sociability-Aesthetic Appreciation-Forgiveness. Community detection suggest 4 dimensions: an affiliative cluster (X+A), a sensitive cluster (E), a discipline cluster (C+H), and a unconventionality cluster (O+C).

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Meriel Burnett
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari

Poster Session

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

*DATA BLITZ

[1] Socioecological Predictors of Regional Personality Variations in China

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Growing evidence suggests that systematic regional personality differences exist and that they are shaped by sociocultural, demographic, and ecological factors. While prior research has focused on singular influences such as migration, climate, and land features, few studies have simultaneously tested a comprehensive set of predictors to determine which factors best explain regional personality variation. To bridge the gap, here we examine a diverse array of socioecological variables retrieved from archival sources to explain the geographic clustering of Big Five personality traits across 26 provinces in China (N = 37,104; China Family Panel Studies). Specifically, we link provincial personality traits with indicators such as historical conflicts, ecological threats, climate, land features, and food culture. Analyses employing elastic net regularization and spatial regression are underway to identify the most relevant predictors of regional personality differences. This study contributes to historical psychology by clarifying how long-standing socioecological conditions shape regional personality patterns in an Eastern context.

Speaker



Yangyilin Guo
University of British Columbia

Authors

Friedrich Götz, Ling Xu, Ziyi Zhang, Yaling Xiao, René Möttus

[2] The seven virtues of Samurai: How a classic can revive through large language models.

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Cultural traditions often resonate far beyond their origins, prompting questions on how their underlying values are transmitted across cultural and temporal boundaries. Examining globally influential non-WEIRD “psychological fossil records” can reveal how non-WEIRD moral values are effectively communicated to WEIRD audiences. Recent advances in natural language processing enable rigorous theory-driven analyses of such classical texts. This study applies Contextualized Construct Representation (CCR) to Bushido: The Soul of Japan, a classic that introduced Japanese moral values to the West. CCR quantitatively captures moral constructs embedded in language. Compared with documents on Christianity and Japanese culture, Bushido showed consistently higher CCR scores across moral domains, indicating a stronger semantic alignment with these constructs. Multidimensional scaling identified Meiyo (honor) as the conceptual core among Bushido’s seven virtues, distinct from pride-based Western notions of honor. These findings reveal how moral frameworks articulated in classical non-WEIRD texts resonate across time and culture, offering a new perspective beyond the WEIRD-centric paradigm.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ryota Takano

Junior Associate Professor | Nagoya University

Authors

Minoru Karasawa

[3] How Violent Political Shocks Affect Outgroup Attitudes of Non-Involved Parties

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Social psychologists have studied violent political shocks such as wars and terrorist attacks in the context of intergroup relations and how conflicting parties view each other. But the effects of such events over time remain understudied, especially in third parties. The attack on Israel on October 7th, 2023, is such a shock with a global aftermath. Across two studies, we use regression discontinuity design and difference-in-differences analyses to estimate the effect of conflict onset on prejudice and hate crimes against Muslims and Jews in the United States. We find that non-Jewish, non-Muslim Americans express lower warmth toward both Islam and Judaism after conflict onset, and increasingly associate both Islam and Judaism with terrorism. We also found a significant increase in hate crimes targeting Jewish people, and a smaller rise in hate crimes against Muslims. The present research provides causal evidence, using econometric methods, that violent political shocks can have far-reaching consequences outside the immediate context of conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ali Hajian

Graduate Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari, Linda Tropp

[4] Moralistic Supernatural Explanations Were Widespread Across 114 Historical Societies

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Moralistic supernatural explanations—beliefs in supernatural reward for moral behavior or punishment for immoral behavior—are thought to coevolve with social scale. Yet most evidence focuses on “moralizing high gods,” likely underestimating moralization in small-scale societies and overlooking variation in moral content. We analyze 706 supernatural explanations from 114 historical societies to assess (a) the prevalence of moralistic explanations, (b) their link to social scale, (c) their reward versus punishment orientation, and (d) their association with different supernatural agents. Moralistic explanations are widespread: 89% of societies have at least one, and on average, 44% of a society’s supernatural explanations are moralized. While prevalent across social scales, they are more common in large-scale societies, driven mainly by supernatural reward. They are also more often attributed to superior gods—deities overseeing communities or regions—than to high gods. These findings challenge the emphasis on punitive “moralizing high gods,” showing that moralizing beliefs are pervasive and that increasing social scale corresponds with a stronger supernatural reward emphasis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danica Dillion

Affiliate Faculty | Complexity Science Hub

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Shiyun Cao

[5] Antecedents of cultural diversity in India

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

India is at once the world’s most populous nation, home to vast cultural diversity – and strikingly understudied. To bridge the gap, we construct an index of cultural Tightness, which characterizes regional variation in the strength and enforcement of social norms. The index utilizes archival data featuring 19 etic (e.g., drinking laws) and emic (e.g., anti-casteism laws) indicators across 28 Indian states and 3 union territories ($\alpha = 0.93$). Through spatial regression models, specification curve analyses, and conditional random forests, we then examine Tightness in association with previously studied antecedents (e.g., historical rice farming and regional conflicts), as well as previously unstudied indicators of historical trade. Our results paint a nuanced picture – some aligning with, and others diverging from prior Tightness literature. For instance, tighter Indian regions experienced greater regional conflict, but were weakly associated with historical trade and rice-farming.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sakshi Sahakari

Graduate Student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Friedrich Götz, Ara Norenezayan, Radha Bazaz

[6] Perceived Cooperation Need, Ecological Threats, and Norm Enforcement

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Past work has established the link between experiences of historical ecological threat and heightened norm enforcement, indexed by cultural tightness or right-wing authoritarianism. Researchers theorized that this arises as norm enforcement facilitates cooperation, which is necessary for addressing these threats. We directly test this hypothesis, by examining 1) whether perceivers think some threats require more cooperation to address than others and 2) whether threats that people perceive to require more (vs. less) cooperation to address lead to more norm enforcement. Across 2 studies, we find that participants consistently rank food scarcity, disease threats, and droughts as requiring more cooperation to address than outgroup threats, storms, and overpopulation. We then correlated the prevalence of each threat with norm enforcement at the country-level, using data retrieved from public databases. Consistent with the hypothesis that norm enforcement facilitates cooperation to address threats, preliminary findings across two studies show that, in general, threats that are perceived to need more cooperation exhibit higher correlations between threat-level and norm enforcement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Li

Lab Manager for Dr. Joshua Ackerman and Dr. Arnold Ho | University of Michigan

Authors

Kaelyn Sabree, Arnold Ho

[7] Shifting Relational Norms Across Time: An Analysis of 19th and 20th Century Corpora in the United States and China

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Relational norms – culturally prescribed expectations that guide behavior within relationships – structure everyday interactions and judgments (Earp et al., 2021). We analyze shifts in relational norms (care, hierarchy, transaction and mating; Bugental, 2002) across key relationships (e.g., parent-child, romantic partners) using U.S. Congressional speeches (1873-2010) and China's People's Daily (1950-2021). We embed sentences with a GPT 3's text-embedding model to produce yearly semantic representations. For each norm-relationship pairing, we construct anchor embeddings (prototype sentences reflecting the norm in context) and compute semantic similarity between yearly sentence embeddings and corresponding anchors. We link these semantic similarity time series to exogenous variables including GDP per capita, relational mobility, power distance, and major historical events (e.g., WWII, the Cultural Revolution). This research reveals how relational norms and societal conditions coevolve, showing when and under what circumstances public discourse about relationships shifts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Srishti Thapar

Student | University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Ava Ma de Sousa, Tianhao Qin, Shangcheng Zhao, Amber Chen, Hongbo Yu

[8] Historical Shifts in Response to COVID-19: A Big-Data and Large-Language Model Analysis of Social Media Posts in China

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Using Greenfield's Theory of Social Change, Cultural Evolution, and Human Development as a framework, this study situates the early COVID-19 outbreak in China as a historical moment of rapid cultural adaptation. We focus on three levels—mortality salience at the psychological level, collectivism at the cultural level, and subsistence activities at the behavioral level. Our big-data sample consists of over 200,000 posts (before and during the outbreak). Quantitatively, we found a significant increase in mentions of mortality salience, collectivism, and subsistence activities, consistent with prior results established in the U.S., Mexico, Indonesia, and Japan, suggesting a universal historical developmental path to existential threat. For qualitative analysis, the Large Language Models (LLMs) developed in AI provided our tool for thematic analysis. We used GPT4 to identify the most frequent recurring themes across three levels. This analysis complemented the quantitative analysis by providing in-depth insight into the COVID experience. A methodological innovation was to compare expert human coding to AI coding, establishing both the reliability and validity of AI coding.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aiya Wang

University of British Columbia

Authors

Patricia Greenfield

[9] Quantifying Gender Differences in Online Engagement

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Online platforms like TED Talks offer presenters a global stage; however, their success depends on audience engagement. Using natural language processing, we analyzed gender disparities in engagement (measured by likes) across 4,500 TED Talks (2006 to 2021). We found that gender differences in engagement are context-dependent, shifting with the topic, language, and time. Overall, engagement with female speakers has declined, while engagement with male speakers has remained stable over time. However, these trends are context-dependent. For example, men now receive more engagement in mental health topics, reversing historical trends, while women's lower engagement in AI topics remains stable. Additionally, such disparities are partially driven by gender stereotypes. Women are penalized for using agentic (achievement-oriented) language and receive no benefit for using communal (connection-oriented) language. This asymmetry also depends on time and domain: men receive positive reinforcement for using agentic language in natural sciences, whereas women are penalized for the same style. Our study demonstrates how gender and societal stereotypes affect engagement in the real-world.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aanchal Setia

Graduate Student Researcher | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari, Reihane Boghrati, Amir Sepehri

[10] Evolution of moral attitude towards care for suffering: An Analysis of 19th and 20th century corpora in the United States and China

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Suffering is often framed as a violation of human rights and a failure of well-being. Yet, in some moral traditions such as Confucianism, enduring hardship is regarded as a path to virtue and moral cultivation. This study investigates how moral attitudes toward suffering have evolved historically across two contrasting cultural and political contexts: the People's Republic of China and the United States. We analyzed two large-scale political text corpora—the People's Daily (1946–2021) and U.S. Congressional Records (1873–2010)—using natural language processing methods to extract psychological constructs. Yearly moral attitudes toward suffering were quantified as the cosine similarity between prototypical moral statements derived from validated questionnaires and sentences from annual corpus. Cross-cultural and temporal comparisons reveal distinct trajectories in the moralization of suffering, highlighting how sociohistorical conditions shape moral values over time. These findings contribute to historical psychology by elucidating the cultural and temporal dynamics underlying moral conceptions of suffering.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tianhao Qin
University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Shangcheng Zhao, Amber Chen, Hongbo Yu

[11] Perceived vs. lived history in times of crisis: Divergences between public beliefs and societal trends during COVID-19

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Public perceptions of societal change are integral to collective narratives of progress (or decline) and expectations of the future. However, perceptions of past change diverge from objective evidence, especially during heightened uncertainty (e.g., COVID-19). To examine such perception-reality gaps, we invited 644 Americans to estimate change across thirteen domains for which objective markers of change existed, ranging from well-being, to minority prejudice, to violent crime. Participants' estimates over six-month and one-year timeframes since the first COVID-19 lockdown (April 2020) were then compared to national-level change during these periods. In only five out of thirteen domains did most participants correctly estimate the change direction: depression, life satisfaction, prejudice, charitable giving, and religiosity. Accurate estimation was associated with greater task deliberation, metacognitive engagement, and confidence in one's estimates. These findings reveal that under pandemic uncertainty, perceptions of historical change were misaligned with objective change, with implications for cultural evolution of crisis narratives and assessment of historical psychology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Peter Diep
UWaterloo

Authors

Cendri Hutcherson, Igor Grossmann

[12] Shades of Inequality: Examining the Impact of Skin Tone Disparities in Role Allocation

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Prior research shows that individuals with darker skin tones experience lower well-being, but the organizational mechanisms behind this remain unclear. I propose that one pathway is disparities in role assignments—darker-skinned individuals are more likely to be placed in hazardous work. Building on historical-sociological work on colorism, I argue that a societal imprint persists in role allocation, biasing managers toward assigning darker-skinned individuals to riskier roles. In Study 1, I analyze sorting into concussion-prone positions among nearly 15,000 college football players, using AI and human ratings to measure skin tone. Studies 2a and 2b use national archival data to show that darker-skinned individuals are disproportionately sorted into hazardous jobs, a pattern evident within racial groups and strongest in the American South, where the imprint of slavery remains most pronounced. Critically, these riskier roles do not come with higher pay, suggesting structural inequality rather than rational compensation. Together, these findings show how historical hierarchies shape who does hazardous work, with lasting implications for inequality, health, and well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexis Avery
PhD Candidate | University of Wisconsin - Madison

[13] Tighter Kinship Networks Linked to Fewer Serial Killers

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Beyond individual psychopathology, could broader cultural conditions influence the prevalence of serial killings? We propose that kin-based social structures foster cultural environments in which fewer serial killers emerge. To test this hypothesis, we conducted three complementary studies. In Study 1, using data from 81 countries, we find that higher kinship intensity is associated with lower rates of serial killings across societies. In Study 2, we replicate this relationship in the United States. We show that states with stronger kinship networks report fewer serial killings. In Study 3, a time-series analysis of U.S. cultural data from 1900 to 2008 (using Google Ngrams) reveals that temporal patterns may be bidirectional. Together, these findings suggest a dynamic interaction between kinship intensity and serial killings, highlighting how collective social structures may both shape and respond to extreme forms of violence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Firat Seker
PhD Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari

[14] Exploration strategy varies by Relational mobility

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

One important dimension of historical change involves relational mobility: people in many societies can form and leave relationships more easily today than they could in the past. Whereas past accounts have argued that relational mobility increases social exploration (Thomson et al., 2018), we argue that it changes exploration level. People with high relational mobility search for the best people. People with low relational mobility search for the best traits in the people they know. We tested this in an experiment where subjects (N = 344) played the role of managers delegating tasks to workers. Workers had trait profiles, revealed through clicks, that signaled aptitude on different tasks. In the high-mobility condition, subjects could fire and replace workers. In the low-mobility condition, they could not. We found that those in the high-mobility condition earned more money than those in the low-mobility condition, finding the best workers. However, those in the low-mobility condition engaged in more in-depth trait exploration, measured by profile clicks. People with limited relational mobility redirect learning to traits rather than evaluating people as globally “good” or “bad.”

*POSTER

Speaker



Richard Homenya
Graduate Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Joshua Jackson

[15] Explaining Cultural Persistence through the Value–Instrumentality Dimension: Computational and Experimental Evidence

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

In a changing and globalizing world, which forms of culture will converge and which will remain diverse? Using computational and experimental studies (N = 1,351), we find that a classic Weberian distinction between “value-based” culture and “instrumental” culture addresses this fundamental question. We first use computational methods to validate a value-instrumental axis. Using BERT topic modeling on 894 open-ended responses about cultural traits, we find that traits vary widely on a value-instrumental axis. Technologies cluster toward the instrumental end, while beliefs and customs align with the value end. Through historical (1800–1990) and cross-linguistic (English–French) comparison, we next test whether value-based cultures are less likely to culturally converge than instrumental cultures. We then replicate our findings in four experiments involving cultural mergers (e.g., joining states, merging organizations). In these mergers, people are more willing to adopt the same forms of out-group culture (e.g., a company logo, a national cuisine) that are instrumental-framed but not value-framed. Even as the world converges on technology, values may remain diverse across groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shiyun Cao
University of Chicago

Authors

Jane Risen, Joshua Jackson

[16] Racialized Histories: How Narratives of Mestizaje Shape Mexican-American Political Perceptions

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

This study investigates how Mestizaje Racial Ideologies (MRIs) shape Mexican Americans’ perceptions of a political candidate accused of discrimination. A consequence of Spanish Colonization, MRIs suggest that most Latinxs share a mixed-race ancestry and are therefore incapable of within-group discrimination. Previous research has shown that MRIs can mask instances of discrimination within majority Afro-Latinx communities like the Dominican Republic (Diaz, 2024). Traditional Mexican history has obscured the contributions of Africans and excluded them from the national narrative of Mestizaje, contrary to the historical reality. To explore this tension, the politician’s social media page includes three conditions: Traditional-Mestizaje, emphasizing European and Indigenous ancestry and excluding African identity; Afro-Mestizaje, which includes African ancestry; and a neutral control. We expect participants will be less likely to vote for the politician in the Afro-Mestizaje framing compared to the other conditions, but more likely to negate the allegation of discrimination. Subsequent analysis will investigate a variety of moderating factors, including knowledge of Mexican History.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Valdez
Dartmouth College

Authors

Kiara Sanchez, Salena Diaz

[17] Historical Changes in Conceptions of the Good Life: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of English and Chinese Poetry

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

We explored historical changes in conceptions of the ideal life through analysis of English and Chinese poetry. Study 1 analyzed 247,600 English poems (1000–2000 CE) using large language models to infer ideals of a “good life” expressed in each poem (e.g., comfort, purpose, variety). We then assessed how inferred ideals were semantically related to three types of the good life—happiness, meaning, and psychological richness. Results showed historical divergence among the three conceptions: meaning-centered ideals (e.g., fulfillment, purpose) declined steadily and sharply after the 1700s, happiness-centered ideals (e.g., joy, comfort) first rose and then fell around the 1700s, while psychological richness-centered ideals continued to increase—reflecting a broader shift toward more exploratory and adventurous conceptions of a good life. In contrast, Study 2 analyzed 127,591 pre-modern Chinese poems (618-1644 CE) and found no significant historical changes in life ideals. A forthcoming analysis will examine how changes in knowledge and technology predict whether such shifts in life ideals occur.

*POSTER

Speaker



Youngjae Cha
PHD Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Maya Ingram, Echo Chen, Shigehiro Oishi

[18] Attributing History: Explanatory Style Predicts Psychological Resilience in Ukrainian Survivors

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

How did survivors of Soviet political terror explain their suffering—and how did these explanations shape their capacity to endure? This study analyzes archival narratives from Ukrainian survivors of GULAG imprisonment to examine historical patterns of attribution and adaptation. Using the Content Analysis of Verbatim Explanations (CAVE) method, we coded naturally occurring causal language to identify how explanatory style—internal vs. external, stable vs. unstable, global vs. specific, controllable vs. uncontrollable—related to long-term psychological resilience. By tracing these cognitive tendencies in personal accounts of repression, the project illuminates how historical context, ideology, and control shaped individual meaning-making under totalitarian rule. The findings demonstrate that even amid systemic dehumanization, survivors' causal reasoning reveals enduring efforts to preserve agency, coherence, and hope. This work bridges historical psychology and personality science, showing how explanatory frameworks become part of a culture's psychological legacy.

*POSTER

Speakers



Tomas Vanderkam
Lab Coordinator and Research Specialist | Simon Fraser University



Ula Toskova
University of British Columbia

Authors

Tomas Vanderkam, Ula Toskova

TBD2

11:30 AM – 11:40 AM

*POSTER

From Predicting the Past to Surveying the Dead: New Methods for Historical Psychology

11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

Why did the past unfold as it did? How did people think in the past? In this talk I discuss novel methodological approaches that may help us to answer these questions including retrodiction tournaments and a proposal to create Historical Large Language models to simulate subjects

from historical or ancient populations. These approaches may yield important insights for psychologists and historians alike, enabling new discoveries and greater rigor in this emerging interdisciplinary endeavour.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Michael Varnum
Associate Professor | Arizona State Univ.

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

Grilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

Roast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

Roasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

Mediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Self and Identity Preconference

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: E352, Level 3

The Self & Identity Preconference, sponsored by the International Society for Self and Identity (ISSI), spotlights emerging scholars, in poster presentations and data-blitz (flash) talks, and invited addresses, including by ISSI lifetime and early career awardees. This year, the program highlights a special focus on developing ally and advocate identities.

Welcome & Introductions

8:00 AM – 8:05 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Invited Talk 1: Linda Tropp

8:05 AM – 8:25 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Linda Tropp
Professor | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Data Blitz Session: Speaker 1

8:25 AM – 8:55 AM

Asymmetries in felt understanding: An intersectional analysis of cross-race and cross-gender interactions

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Juliane Schittek

Doctoral Student | Imperial College Business School

Authors

Lara Kroencke, Mitja Back, Sanaz Talaifar

Data Blitz Session: Speaker 2

8:25 AM – 8:55 AM

A functional framework of Asian American racial ingroups

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Zi Ting You

Researcher PHD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould

Data Blitz Session: Speaker 3

8:25 AM – 8:55 AM

Disabled and proud? Identity management and disability activism

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jordan Rubin-McGregor

Graduate Student | Miami University

Data Blitz Session: Speaker 4

8:25 AM – 8:55 AM

Does language matter? Microaggressions vs. Subtle Acts of Exclusion

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Nicole Russell Pascual

Postdoctoral Scholar | University of Michigan

[81] Contingent Self-Worth Trajectories of Change in a Sample of College Students

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Bounds

Program Director | Baylor University Faith & Sports Institute

Authors

Hiroki Matsuo, Karen Melton, Perry Glanzer, Sarah Schnitker

[82] Natural Language Analyses Reveal Resilience Patterns in 2,580 Ukrainian War Narratives

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tomas Vanderkam

Lab Coordinator and Research Specialist | Simon Fraser University

[83] Personal and Social Inequality: The Gender Orgasm Gap

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Piemonte

Postdoctoral Research Associate | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Tanja Oschatz, Verena Klein, Roland Imhoff, Terri Conley

[84] The Double-Edged Identity: How White vs. Ethnic Salience Shapes Privilege Acknowledgment and Diversity Support

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Samantha Di Carlo

Graduate Student | Villanova University

Authors

Caitlyn Yantis

[85] Disentangling Determinants of the Social Costs of Confronting Bias

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Li

PhD Student | Purdue University

Authors

Margo Monteith

[86] Contingent Self-Worth Trajectories of Change in a Sample of College Students

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Bounds

Program Director | Baylor University Faith & Sports Institute

Authors

Hiroki Matsuo, Karen Melton, Perry Glanzer, Sarah Schnitker

[87] The Role of Intergroup Threat in Response to Ally Support

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Virginia Gary

PhD Student, Social Identity Lab | Claremont Graduate University

[88] Identity, Autonomy, and Agency: Understanding Disclosure Decisions for Concealable Stigmas

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Shveta Kaul

Doctoral Candidate in OB | UNC-Chapel Hill

Authors

Christopher Petsko, Riddhi Shelat

[89] Barriers in the Binary: Gender Nonconforming Experiences in Higher Education

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Lily McConkey

Radford University

Authors

Teresa Ristow, Lindsay Semprevivo

[90] #Saytheword: Examining Correlates of Identity-"blind" Approaches Towards Disability.

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



NealeyClare Wheat

SUNY - University at Buffalo

Authors

Rebecca Cipollina

[91] Ableist Attitudes and Attitudes Towards Accommodation During College

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Haniah Peracha

Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Emily Wilroth, Payton Rule

[92] LGBTQ Experiences of Sexuality Blindfolding in High School

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Cassandra VanDamme

Doctoral Student | SUNY University at Buffalo

Authors

Rebecca Cipollina

[93] Institutional responses to biased incidents affect identity safety

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Melanie Maimon

Assistant Professor | Bryant University

Authors

Maya Neimeyer, John Raycroft

[94] Navigating Identity and Well-Being in Higher Education: Comparative Perspectives from Brazil and Russia

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aleksandra Fakhretdinova

UFRN, Brazil

[95] Home Is Where The Heart Is: A Phenomenological Study On Cultural Identity Among Pakistani Immigrants

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Emen Ali

[96] Exploring bicultural identity, racialization, and psychological well-being among US-born Arab Americans

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Hisham Nsier

Loyola Chicago

Authors

Will Beischel, Scott Leon, Byron Brooks

[97] Multiracial Socialization Moderates the Relationship Between Identity Contestation and Stress

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zoey Eddy

Graduate Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Rachel Mesa, Diana T. Sanchez

[98] Relationship between Identity Centrality and Healthcare Barriers Among Black Autistic and Non-Autistic Adults

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Oluwatobi Abubakare
Boston College

Authors

Kengthsagn Louis

[99] Black adolescents' same-race social media exposure and self-objectification: The moderating roles of gender and ethnic-racial identity

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Caitlin Mbuakoto
PhD Student | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Anne Maheux, Brianna Ladd

[100] Not One Story: Subgroup Differences in Asian American Identity and Attitudes

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Diana Than
Graduate Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Deborah Wu, Sylvia Perry

[101] Perceptions of Intersectionality: Beyond Two Identities

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Justin Mikell
PhD Student | UCI

Authors

Pia Dietze

[102] From Comparison to Action: The Consequences of Exposure to History

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sherika Caliste
Doctoral Student | University at Buffalo

Authors

Mark Seery

[103] The Interpersonal Invisibility Measure: Development and Validation

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elia Q. Y. Lam
Researcher PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Ashna Nagar, K.Colin Li, Daliah Marei, Rebecca Neel

[104] Reconceptualizing regional prejudice: Extremism and inequality

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



K. Colin Li

Doctoral Researcher | University of Toronto

Authors

Rebecca Neel, Eric Hehman

[105] "I am, where I am": Place Identity Centrality, Essentialism, and Political Attitudes

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Blankenship

Assistant Professor of Psychology | James Madison University

[106] (Under)estimating unearned advantage and disadvantage: Insights from a gamified experiment

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ishita Singhal

UC Irvine

Authors

Paul Piff

[107] Beyond Shared Identity: Collective Liberation as a Pathway to Solidarity Among Polarized Minority Groups

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Daliah Marei

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould, Rebecca Neel

[108] Rewriting Identity: How “Latinx” and “Latine” Shape Political Perspectives

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexis Morales

72525

Authors

Kimberly Rios

[109] Bad for Us, but Good for Me?: Cultural Divergence in Personal and General Beliefs about Self-Criticism between Japan and Canada

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Haruka Makita

Ph.D. graduate student | Doshisha University

Authors

Steven Heine, Masanori Oikawa, Cindy Zhang

[110] Are the Boxes Enough?: People's Perceptions of Federal Race Standards

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Brandon Kinsler

University Of Denver

Authors

Simrat Samra, Heidi Vuletic

[111] Conceptualizing People of Color: The role of Race, Moral Values, and Political Ideology

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tommi Mayers
University of California, Davis

Authors

Narine Yeghyan

[112] Agency and Communion: Self-Evaluation Relates to Perceptions of Interdependency

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Lisa Maltos
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

[113] Social categorisation shapes grading

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rose Lombardo
Student | University College London

[114] Our Bodies, Our Stories: Unpacking Body Image Across Gender and Sexual Orientation Identities

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yang Viki Xu
Doctoral Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Ruofan Zhang, D. A. Briley

[115] Beyond A Label: A Conceptual Model of Autistic Gender Understanding and Identity Formation

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Maximilian Soares Miehstein
Ph.D. Candidate | University of Hawaii at Manoa

[116] Verify or Challenge? Self-Motivations in Non-Human Feedback Preferences

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aviv Mokady
Graduate Student | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Authors

Gideon E. Anholt, Niv Reggev

Coffee/Beverage Break

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Invited Talk 2: Kim Rios

10:15 AM – 10:35 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Kim Rios
Professor of Social Psychology | University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Invited Talk 3: Lucy De Souza

10:35 AM – 10:55 AM

Noun or Verb? Implications of Framing Allyship as a Practice versus Identity

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Lucy De Souza

Assistant Professor | Wesleyan University

ISSI Early Career Awardee

11:00 AM – 11:25 AM

The Simultaneous Celebration and Undermining of Diversity

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Teri Kirby

Associate Professor | Purdue University

ISSI Lifetime Career Awardee

11:25 AM – 11:50 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Dan McAdams

Professor of Psychology | Northwestern Univ.

Closing Remarks, Poster Award(s) and Raffle Winners Announced

11:50 AM – 12:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

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oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Origins of the Social Mind Preconference

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: E353B, Level 3

Since 2021, the Origins of the Social Mind Preconference has provided a home for Developmental, Comparative, and Cross-Cultural Psychologists at SPSP. These disciplines share a focus on the foundational mechanisms driving the origins of social thought and behavior—across development, across species, and across cultures. Start your SPSP alongside researchers who explore similar questions using diverse methodologies: You might learn about results from infants or adolescents, dogs or apes, cities or villages, all of which will fuel our shared fire for theoretical questions about the social mind at its origins! We look forward to seeing you there!

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

OSM Welcome

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Invited Talk - Dr. Felix Warneken

8:10 AM – 8:40 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Felix Warneken

Professor | University of Michigan

Invited Talk - Dr. Lin Bian

8:40 AM – 9:10 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Lin Bian
Assistant Professor in Psychology | University of Chicago

Coffee Break

9:10 AM – 9:15 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Who Looks Nice: Visualizing Children’s Mental Representations of Prosociality

9:15 AM – 9:21 AM

As early as infancy, children demonstrate an understanding of others’ social intentions (Hamlin et al., 2007; Warneken et al., 2007). Building on this foundational sensitivity to prosociality, we applied a novel data-driven Generative Reverse Correlation method with children as young as three, to visualize their mental representations and reveal the visual cues they associate with prosociality. In Study 1, children 3-7 (N = 125/160) categorized 40 synthetic faces as nice or mean to generate individual-level models. Ratings revealed that children—across all age groups—associate "niceness" with femininity, happiness, and trustworthiness, highlighting the early emergence of visual stereotypes that shape impressions of prosociality. In Study 2, children 5-9 (N = 165) categorized faces as nice or brilliant. Findings replicated associations from Study 1, demonstrating that prosocial visual biases are robust across different comparison traits. These findings demonstrate that visual stereotypes of prosociality are robust and emerge early in development. Further, our results introduce a valid and novel methodology for developmental psychologists to study children’s mental representations.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Uliana Solovieva
PhD Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Daniel Albohn, Alexander Todorov, Lin Bian

Does Loneliness Make Children Prosocial or Aggressive?

9:21 AM – 9:27 AM

Loneliness is a fundamental signal in the social mind, yet its role in shaping children’s social behavior remains paradoxical. While some studies have linked loneliness to increased prosociality, others have linked it to aggression. We addressed this paradox in a two-year longitudinal dataset of 465 children (N=1542 observations; Mage=8.86) across four waves in five public schools. We found that within-person increases in loneliness predicted greater prosocial behavior, suggesting that transient (state) loneliness activates children’s foundational motives to restore belonging. In contrast, between-person differences in chronic (trait) loneliness were associated with reduced prosociality and heightened aggression, consistent with maladaptive developmental trajectories. By simultaneously modeling prosocial and aggressive outcomes, our study provides a rare opportunity for an integrated test of loneliness as a driver of social development. In doing so, we show how this emotional signal channels young people toward both cooperative and conflictual pathways during middle childhood.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jinsol Chung
PhD Candidate | University of Southern California

Authors

Wendy Troop-Gordon, Elisa Baek

Do Dogs (Canis Lupus Familiaris) Prioritize Prosociality or Dominance In Their Social Evaluations?

9:27 AM – 9:33 AM

Social evaluation, the ability to select social partners using observed behavior, has been documented in a variety of species including humans, bonobos, and domestic dogs. While social evaluation is thought to occur in two domains, prosociality and competence, social organisms may also evaluate agents on the basis of status or rank: Humans and bonobos prefer agents who win competitive interactions. Humans, but not bonobos, display sensitivity to the manner of winning by negatively evaluating agents who displayed aggressive behavior in the competition. Here, we explored whether dogs, a species who evolved in a human-centric environment, display a human-like preference for the winners of competitions and whether the method of winning impacted dogs’ preferences. We found that dogs preferred the winners of competitions, but did not negatively evaluate agents who won by stealing. Further, dogs did not show a preference for agents who acquired resources in the absence of competition. Taken together, these data suggest that while the preference for high-ranking agents is widespread across the mammalian lineage, humans appear to be unique in considering prosociality when evaluating status.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Zachary Silver
Occidental College

Authors

Caroline Nugen, Maya Reddy, Danielle Levin, Fiona Rayne

Relational mobility strengthens effects of empathic concern on helping in the absence of interdependence

9:33 AM – 9:39 AM

A relationship-building perspective predicts that people default to feeling empathic concern and helping non-interdependent others because doing so may allow them to build new cooperative relationships. If so, empathy should motivate helping non-interdependent others to a greater extent in places where social relationships are more flexible. For example, when relational mobility is high (i.e., having opportunities for meeting new people and the freedom to choose one's relationships). Past studies among US adults show empathic concern predicts helping motivation only when people perceive low, not high, interdependence in their relationship. In the present work, including one study among Mayangna participants (small-scale subsistence society), and a cross-cultural sample (Brazil, Egypt, Philippines), we further show relational mobility strengthens the effect of empathy on helping low-interdependence others across several fitness-relevant domains (Studies 1-2), and in a virtual dictator game (Study 2). Study 3 (in progress) tests these effects in an experimental design by inducing empathic concern and manipulating relational mobility.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Diego Guevara Beltran
Assistant Professor | University of Arizona

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi

Invited Talk - Dr. Alice Eagly

9:39 AM – 10:09 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Alice Eagly
PROFESSOR | Northwestern University

Invited Talk - Dr. Laura Simone Lewis

10:09 AM – 10:39 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Laura Simone Lewis

[41] Children and Adolescent's Evaluations of Wealth-based Competence Assumptions in Academic Contexts

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Children and adolescents are aware of group-based social status hierarchies. Although children are less likely than adolescents to recognize the negative outcomes associated with wealth-related biases, less is known about age-related differences regarding whether it is unfair for peers to make assumptions about academic competence based on wealth. Drawing on the social reasoning developmental (SRD) model, we investigated how children (N = 100, ages 7-15, Asian 17%, Black 14%, Latine 7%, Multiracial 15%, White 40%, Other 7%) evaluate assumptions of math competence as well as inclusion decisions based on wealth in academic contexts. Additionally, we investigated how evaluations are shaped by the racial background of the peer dyads (cross-race or same-race). We hypothesized that cross-race assumptions would be viewed more negatively than same-race, given increased awareness of prejudice during middle childhood. We predicted that with age, participants would evaluate wealth-based assumptions as unfair and favor inclusion of the low-wealth peer. Findings from the study will reveal novel insights into how children think about assumptions based on race and wealth in the classroom.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Jonah Brenner
Graduate Student | University of Maryland

Authors

Melanie Killen

[42] How do Humans Develop the Capacity to Understand Others? Testing Competing Developmental Theories of Mentalizing

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Abstract: How do humans develop the capacity to mentalize, or understand others' underlying mental states? In this study, adolescents (N = 38; Range = 12-24 years old; Mean age = 16.74) and adults (N = 31; Range = 28-40 years old; Mean age = 32.86) completed a series of social cognitive tasks inside and outside of the fMRI scanner. In the scanner, participants completed a modified version of the EmpaToM task, designed to elicit spontaneous mentalizing about others' mental states. Afterwards, participants completed a new task designed to induce simulation, where they listened to passages from fictional novels and were instructed to simulate the main characters' experience. Outside of the scanner, most participants endorsed using simulation (92.11% of adolescents and 90% of adults), general reasoning (92.11% of adolescents and 85% of adults), perspective-taking (63.16% of adolescents and 85% of adults), and theory theory (71.05% adolescents and 70% of adults) to understand others' underlying mental states. Regarding which strategy they used most, adolescents reported simulation (39.47%), followed by general reasoning (31.58%), theory theory (15.79%), and perspective-taking (13.16%).

*POSTER

Speaker



Victoria Guazzelli Williamson
PhD student | University of Oregon

[43] Children's and Adults' Moral Concern in Context of Social Relationships and Trade-Offs

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Recent research suggests that young children display broader moral concern than adults. One possible explanation is that increasing awareness of resource limits and trade-offs drives the developmental restriction of whom we help. Across two studies, we tested whether children and adults endorse helping distant others when trade-offs are explicit. In Study 1 (Nadults=170, Nchildren=121, ages 5–9), participants judged helping decisions that pitted a close other (family/friend) against a stranger. Adults rated helping close others more positively, whereas children's evaluations were less differentiated, showing broader concern. Study 2 (Nadults=120, Nchildren=40, in progress) replicated these effects across praiseworthiness and obligation judgments. Children attributed stronger obligations toward both close and distant others and viewed helping anyone in need as more praiseworthy than adults, while adults restricted praise to non-obligatory acts. These findings show that even when trade-offs are explicit, children show broader moral concern than adults. Our studies provide further evidence of early moral expansiveness and call for further investigation into its underlying mechanisms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lu Chang
PhD Student | Brown University

[44] Examining the Privileged Status of Social Category Information in Children's Social Curiosity

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Social psychologists have long theorized about and tested the impacts of adults' tendencies to mentally represent people as undifferentiated social category members vs. as distinct individuals (e.g., Er-rafy & Brauer, 2013; Fiske & Neuberg, 1990). However, we know relatively little about the origins of these tendencies. The goal of the present research was to understand whether children, in their formative years, privilege social category information when learning about new people. Our research question was: When children encounter a new person, how interested are they in knowing social category information (e.g., someone's gender) compared to individual attribute information (e.g., someone's food preferences)? Findings revealed that 4- to 8-year-old U.S. children (N=125) preferred to learn information about people's gender, language, and nationality over information about their individuating attributes. The present study provides a first step in exploring the privileged status of social category information in children's social curiosity. Future studies will test children's interest in seeking information about people's race, age, and novel social category memberships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eren Fukuda
PhD Student | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Olivia Fry, Kristin Shutts

[45] The costs of companionship: Children expect people to burden friends with help requests

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Children often think helping others is a sign of friendship (Afshordi & Liberman 2021); giving benefits to those you call friends makes total sense. What about the opposite, asking for help which often involves requesting that they do something tedious? Although on the surface this may seem unfriendly, in three studies we predicted that children would link friendship to requests for help, even when the task was tedious. In Study 1 (N = 121), 6- to 9-year-olds thought that desiring that someone do a tedious task indicates a lack of friendship but requesting that they do that same tedious task is much more connected to friendship (4- to 5-year-olds didn't show this effect). Study 2 (N = 80) found 6- to 9-year-olds treated requests for help as a stronger cue to friendship than similarity. Finally, in Study 3 (N = 100), 6- to 9-year-olds predicted that a protagonist's best friend would be upset, rather than happy, at not being asked to help. This is because friends expect their good friends to ask them for help. Together, these studies show that children link friendship and costly help requests. We discuss implications for children's developing conception of friendship and loyalty.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alex Mackiel
PhD Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Alex Shaw

[46] “He’s such a poser!”: When children think “white lies” are self-serving

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Children often approve of “white lies” because they make people feel good (Heyman et al., 2009). But an ostensibly “white lie” can also be self-serving: Praising a film you’ve never heard of can make you look cool with the right crowd. In two preregistered studies (N=280, Study 1, 4-9-year-olds | Study 2, 6-9-year-olds), we probed children's evaluations of someone who told a white lie, similar to the above example, to either a popular or unpopular kid. In Study 1, we explicitly provided children with the liar's ulterior motive (to ingratiate himself to the popular kid or to make the unpopular kid feel good). In Study 2, we asked children to infer the liar's motive (and this time, he dishonestly “liked” a peer's social media post about the movie). In both studies, we predicted and found that telling this white lie to the unpopular kid was considered good. But by 8-years-old, children condemned the same white lie when aimed at a popular kid, inferring reputational motives (e.g., “to become cool”). As children mature, they increasingly read in self-serving intentions, revealing a sophisticated appreciation of the reputational motives that may be at play in their social environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katie Vasquez
PHD Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Alex Shaw, Hannah Hok, Eddie Mondeja, Iris Chen

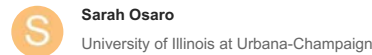
[47] Testing the generalizability of minimal group attitudes in minority and majority race children

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Using a collaborative multi-site study approach of 4- to 6-year-old children, we test the generalizability of the minimal group effect. We found that, as a whole, the minimal group effect was observed in the total sample (N = 716 across five regions in the United States; 47.1% girls; 40.5% White, 13.3% Black, 12.6% Asian, 24.6% Latine, 9.2% multiracial) and no significant differences were found between racial/ethnic groups; yet exploratory analyses revealed that the minimal group effect was most strongly displayed among older children compared with younger children and, when considered separately, was more clearly present in some racial/ethnic groups (White) but not so in others (Black). In addition, there was no relationship between children's minimal group attitudes and racial group preferences, suggesting that factors other than ingroup/outgroup thinking may influence young children's racial bias. Taken together, results highlight the continued need for large and racially diverse samples to inform and test the generalizability of existing influential psychological theories.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarah Osaro
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Ashley Jordan, Alisha Osornio, May Ling Halim, Kristina Olson, Yarrow Dunham, Brenda Straka

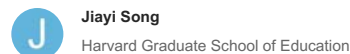
[48] Examining Cross-cultural Differences in Normative Language Uses During Caregiver-child Interactions

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

The use of normative language may differ across cultures due to variations in the cultivation of filial obedience versus autonomy, the endorsement of the collectivistic versus individualistic orientation, and the interdependent versus independent self-perceptions. The current study focuses on China and the US to probe how differences in normative language uses between caregivers and children may be attributed to aforementioned cultural factors. This study hypothesizes that Chinese dyads use more expressions of politeness, more explicit judgements, and more directive languages than American dyads within the scope of normative language usage. Specifically, we analyzed naturalistic caregiver-child interactions from Chinese and American families involving children aged 4 to 6 years, drawing data from established CHILDES corpora in both cultures. The results indicates that the uses of normative language do not significantly differ between China and the US, suggesting that cultural variation does not play a particularly important role in parent-child naturalistic interactions that shape children's internalization of social norms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiayi Song
Harvard Graduate School of Education

Authors

Jinming Chen, Heyang Yin

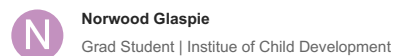
[49] Examining How Explanations Structural vs. Internal Influences Children's Judgements of Inequality and Status Mobility

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

This work examines whether structural explanations focusing on societal factors offer an alternative framework for explaining inequality. A total of 179 children aged 5-11 years (M=7.83, SD=1.91) from the Midwest were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: Structural, Internal, or Control. Children heard stories about two novel groups with different status levels, receiving corresponding explanations for these disparities. The structural condition emphasized systemic factors, the internal condition attributed differences to inherent traits, and the control condition provided neutral explanations. This poster will center around first on how structural explanations shaped children's beliefs about social mobility differently across domains. In the wealth domain, structural explanations led to marginally significant beliefs that high-status individuals could lose their wealth ($\beta=-0.16$, $p=.088$). For achievement, both structural and control conditions significantly increased beliefs in downward mobility for high-status groups. In addition to how children each explanation influenced children's certainty about social status mobility across both domains.

*POSTER

Speaker



Norwood Gaspie
Grad Student | Institute of Child Development

Authors

Yasmin Morad, Charisse Pickron, Melissa Koenig

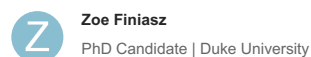
[50] Believing to belong: the developmental origins of belief maintenance

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Shared ideology can bring people together, but we may prioritize the resulting social affiliations over our motivation to believe what is best supported by evidence. Indeed, affiliation with an ideology-based group has led adults to endorse and maintain false beliefs (e.g., Bayes & Druckman, 2013; Enders et al., 2023). Humans have an early-emerging motive to cooperate (Tomasello & Vaish, 2013), which may similarly lead young children to favor affiliation over truth-seeking. In two studies, 4- to 5-year-old children (N = 144) form a belief and are inducted onto team of other believers. Children in the focal Belief-contingent condition learn that their membership is contingent on their maintenance of this shared belief. We contrast this with two cases where team members share the belief, but maintenance is not necessary for continued team membership. Children maintained their initial endorsement after observing disconfirming evidence only when membership was contingent on the shared belief. These findings suggest that the affiliative power of ideology has developmental roots; even in our earliest years, what we believe is closely linked to who we affiliate with.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zoe Finiasz
PhD Candidate | Duke University

Authors

Tamar Kushnir

[51] Prior Positive and Negative Intergroup Contact Informs Children's Prosocial Behavior toward Peers with Disabilities

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Despite the importance of fostering inclusive attitudes early, research on children's views of peers with disabilities remains limited. Over 8% of U.S. children have disabilities (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024), and children without disabilities frequently interact with peers with disabilities in schools and communities, making these interactions critical for social development. Intergroup contact theory suggests that positive, meaningful interactions can reduce prejudice and promote inclusion, yet studies often overlook differences in contact frequency, quality, and valence, which may shape distinct attitudes. This study examines how non-disabled children's direct contact with peers with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities relates to inclusive behavior and whether stereotypes mediate this association. Preliminary results from 30 children (ages 8–11, M = 9.37) indicate that contact quality and positive experiences, more than frequency, predict inclusive behavior, with warmth stereotypes potentially mediating this link. These findings highlight the theoretical and practical importance of fostering high-quality, positive intergroup interactions to support inclusion in childhood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Myeong Won Kim
Purdue University

Authors

Miaomiao Zhang, Laura Elenbaas, Serengeti Ahyan, Annie Beardmore

[52] Wording Matters: How Generics vs Statistical Language Shapes Children's Generalizations

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Children learn about social groups through the language adults use, often generics (e.g., "boys like blue"). Generics can promote overgeneralization because they attribute traits to entire categories and are treated as universally true despite limited evidence. We therefore asked if statistical language (e.g., "half of girls like pink") reduces overgeneralization. In study 1 (N=82; ages 4–9), children who heard statistical language made fewer group-to-individual generalizations than those who heard generics ($F(1,78)=11.12, p=0.001, \eta^2=0.13$). Study 2 (N=240; ages 4–7) tested additional quantifiers ("few", "many") and if generalizations are influenced by children's essentialist beliefs (believing social categories have fixed properties). Preliminary findings suggest that language effects depend on essentialism: when essentialism is low, generic/"most" phrasing produces more generalization than statistical ("half," "few") phrasing, but this reverses as essentialism increases, $F(3,22)=6.26, p=.003$. Together, these studies illuminate how children interpret prevalence language and how subtle wording shifts can curb social-group overgeneralization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mariam Wahba
Post-Bac Researcher | Duke University

Authors

Tamar Kushnir, Mercedes Munoz, Sona Kumar, Kathleen Corriveau, Sarah Gaither

[53] Children and Young Adults Factor Merit into their Judgments of Gender-Based Science Resource Inequalities

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Despite individual's early emerging orientations towards fairness and equality, many adults accept and support existing social inequalities through meritocratic beliefs. However, the developmental origins of meritocratic beliefs have yet to be fully investigated. Participants in this study were younger children (n = 49; 24 girls; Mage = 5.83 years), older children (n = 47; 24 girls; Mage = 10.74 years), and young adults (n = 48; 24 girls; Mage = 19.92 years) from racially/ethnically diverse backgrounds in the U.S. They were presented with inequalities of science education resources between groups of children who differed in their level of merit in science (high, low) and gender (girls, boys). Participants' judgments of the inequalities were assessed. Results revealed that participants across age groups judged inequalities more negatively when they disadvantaged high-merit groups compared to low-merit groups, both when girls ($p = .002$) and boys ($p < .001$) were disadvantaged by inequalities. These findings provide novel evidence of the developmental origins of meritocratic beliefs as a social-cognitive framework that individuals use to judge the fairness of inequalities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marley Forbes
University of Maryland, College Park

Authors

Melanie Killen

[54] Learning Who Helps About What: Variability in Children's Information-Seeking

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Children often learn by asking questions, using responses received as cues about others' expertise and reliability, which shape children's choices about who to trust. In our study, 118 children ages 3–8 heard everyday riddles followed by either a causal explanation (answering the question) or a non-explanation (on topic but not answering), and were asked about their interest in future learning. Regardless of explanation type, children were equally interested in learning about a new topic from the same informant ($\beta = -0.229, p = .763$). However, children showed a stronger preference to learn from someone new about the original riddle if they had received a non-explanation from the informant compared to a causal explanation ($\beta = -0.22, p = .027$). These findings suggest that children flexibly update their trust based on the context: they do not lose general trust in an informant based on one poor explanation, but may re-evaluate that person's helpfulness about a specific topic. To further explore these trust patterns, we are linking children's epistemic curiosity and executive functioning with task performance to examine individual differences in children's trust decisions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yilin Liu
Ph.D. Student | University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Faith Chughton, Junyi Chu, Emily Liquin, Elizabeth Bonawitz, Candice Mills

[55] Do Children Reproduce Gendered Household Labor Patterns?

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Gender inequality in household labor is a persistent pattern across cultures. Women are more likely to take on household chores, which can negatively affect their career opportunities, social status, marital relationships, and mental health. Yet, little is known about how such gendered patterns may be transmitted across generations. This study examines whether children replicate their own family's household work patterns when assigning chores in a new family. We recruited children aged 4 to 9 years in the U.S. (target $n = 120$). Children were asked about the division of household work in their own families and completed a chore allocation task for a hypothetical family, with the task order randomized. Preliminary analyses with half of the sample suggest that children show tendency to replicate their family's chore patterns. Notably, girls are more likely than boys to reproduce their family's division of labor. These findings provide early evidence that gendered household labor patterns may emerge in childhood, highlighting the role of family socialization in shaping gender role expectations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Miaomiao Zhang
Purdue University

Authors

Laura Elenbaas, Serengeti Ahyar, Annie Beardmore, Myeong Kim

[56] Infants sensitivity to sartorial signals of "ethnic" identity

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Research in "folk sociology" shows that humans predict behavior based on group membership. Much work has examined infants' expectations about bodily differences, especially race, often seen as innate attention to physical traits. Some suggest infants' positive (us)–negative (other) associations reflect an inherent own-race bias. Yet humans only recently encountered diverse racial phenotypes, whereas they have used costume to mark group identity for millennia, inferring the likelihood of an evolved sensitivity to sartorial cues of group membership. By adapting Fulkerson and Waxman's (2007) categorization task, we tested whether preverbal infants use dress and ornamentation to classify people. If so, infants' attention to racial cues may reflect a broader, evolved capacity for group-based reasoning grounded in attire rather than biology. Preverbal infants saw women in one of two indigenous costumes paired with speech and used sartorial signals to categorize individuals, suggesting that such signals are as influential in person perception as bodily features and support a developmental basis for social categorization grounded in human-made rather than biological variation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lorraine Afflitto
Student | The New School for Social Research

Authors

Lawrence Hirschfeld

[57] First-Person Norm Inference Precedes Social Generalization in Early Childhood

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Our social world rarely provides an exhaustive list of rules to follow. Instead, we must infer what norms apply, to whom, and when. Children especially have the most to learn and the least information to make social decisions, and understanding how they navigate ambiguous cases offers a window into the mechanisms underlying the social mind. We investigate how young children make normative inferences under uncertainty and how those inferences apply to themselves and others. In two studies (4- to 6-year-olds; projected $N = 160$), children were told that two objects were permitted while a third was left unspecified. To act in line with adult normative inferences, they would need to treat the ambiguous object as implicitly off-limits. Preliminary results reveal a developmental trend: while older children aligned actions and judgments, 4-year-olds avoided the ambiguous object only in their own behavior yet judged it permissible for a third party. This asymmetry suggests that children may first experience norms as applying primarily to themselves, only later extending them to others—a key early step in constructing the social mind.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessa Stegall
Duke University

Authors

Emma Xiong

[58] Dreams defy constraints: How aspirations shape children's perceptions of future possibilities for themselves and others

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Young children dream about their future — but do they believe those dreams can shape reality? Across three studies ($N = 310$, ages 4–9), we examine how children integrate motivational and structural information when judging the possibility of future outcomes for themselves and others. In Study 1, imagining that they "really, really want" various jobs caused children to view those jobs as more possible for themselves ($B = 0.52$, $p < .001$). In Study 2, children judged a structurally disadvantaged character's goal as more attainable when the character aspired to it ($B = 0.91$, $p = .026$). In Study 3 (ongoing), children weighed aspirations against both structural and temporal constraints, granting higher possibilities to disadvantaged yet aspirational characters than to merely advantaged characters ($B = -1.89$, $p < .001$). These results suggest that children treat aspiration as a causal force that can overcome constraint, highlighting an early-emerging link between motivation and epistemic reasoning in the developing social mind.

*POSTER

Speaker



Declan Gunn
University of Chicago

Authors

Fan Yang, Tamar Kushnir

[59] Do children use source information when evaluating gossip?

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Gossip is a unique type of testimony that provides valuable social information, but it can be biased. To protect against misinformation, children must evaluate gossipers' credibility based on their information sources. Five-, 7-, and 9-year-olds ($N = 120$) heard two sets of gossipers describe two classmates with the same trait (e.g., hardworking). One set stated they saw and the other that they heard evidence of this claim. Children rated the credibility of each set of gossipers (seeing-gossipers, hearing-gossipers) before comparing them. Results showed an age-related increase in children's preference for seeing- over hearing-gossipers. Nine-year-olds rated seeing-gossipers as more ($B = 1.43$, $SE = 0.5$, $p = .004$) and hearing-gossipers as less credible than 5-year-olds ($B = -2.12$, $SE = 0.46$, $p < .001$). Further, 9- ($B = 2.45$, $SE = 0.49$, $p < .001$) and 7-year-olds ($B = 0.84$, $SE = 0.36$, $p = .02$) showed a stronger preference for seeing-gossipers than 5-year-olds. Broadly, this study highlights a developing ability to link information sources with credibility to evaluate trustworthiness of gossip. We discuss implications for children's learning from second-hand information with age.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christie Park
Tufts University

Authors

Kathleen Corriveau, Nina Ye, Anne Fast

[60] Emergence of costly protest: when do children begin paying a cost to punish unfair behaviors?

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

While children expect fairness early in development, their willingness to incur a personal cost to enforce fairness emerges more slowly. Using the Inequity Game, we examined when preschoolers ($N = 119$; ages 2–4 years) begin to reject disadvantageous offers with a personal cost. Two- and 4-year-olds strongly rejected disadvantageous offers where they stood to gain nothing (i.e., 0) while a partner received something (e.g., 3). However, only 4-year-olds rejected disadvantageous offers when rejection was costly (e.g., 1 vs. 3). These results suggest a developmental progression in children's responses to unfairness, where 2-year-olds protest unfair offers at no personal cost, but only around 4-years are willing to forgo resources to enforce fairness. These findings also suggest that fairness-related behavior develops from self-protective responses to costly moral stands throughout early childhood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fernando Sánchez Hernández
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Daniel Hyde

[61] Stereotypes of brilliance: Unpacking their links with gender presentation and gender identity

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

The gender brilliance stereotype associating high intelligence with men has been documented across development and cultures. The current work seeks to understand how gender identity (identifying as a man or woman) and gender presentation (presenting as more masculine or feminine) contribute to beliefs about brilliance in early childhood. Children ($N = 144$; 5-10-yos) received 12 trials. In each trial, children saw a pair of photos featuring two people of the same gender (two men or two women), yet one individual appeared more masculine than the other. In half of the trials, children guessed which person was really smart; in the other half, they selected which person was really nice (control trait). When evaluating women, children were more likely to select a masculine woman as "really smart" than as "really nice", whereas the effect of trait was insignificant when evaluating men. In fact, children preferentially chose masculine men over feminine men for both brilliance and niceness. These results highlight the flexible nature of children's brilliance stereotypes, providing initial evidence for an early-emerging connection between perceived masculinity and intellectual talents.

*POSTER

Speaker



Molly Tallberg
Graduate Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Lin Bian, Vanessa Lazaro

[62] Gender Differences and Mindset in Perceptions of Success and Future Competence in Esports

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Esports have become a part of children's and adolescents' social interactions, understanding gendered perceptions about esports is essential. This study investigated how perceptions of success and future competence in esports are shaped by gender and mindset (fixed vs. growth), and how mindset predicts these perceptions for boys and girls. Participants were 572 children and adolescents (11-18 years, $Mage = 14.44$; 347 girls). Perceptions of success and future competence in esports for both genders, growth and fixed mindset beliefs on esports were assessed. Gender-based comparisons from repeated measures ANOVAs showed that girls were more likely than boys to report female players as successful and competent; boys were more likely to report male players as successful and competent. Within-subject comparisons indicated that girls viewed male players as more successful than females; boys viewed male players as both more successful and competent than females. Girls reported a higher growth mindset than boys; boys reported a higher fixed mindset than girls. Regressions showed that participants with stronger growth mindset reported higher perceived female and male success and competence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Serengeti Ayhan
Graduate Student | Purdue University

Authors

Seçil Gönültaş

[63] The Physiology of Moral Teaching: Parent–Child RSA Synchrony Across Cultures

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Physiological synchrony between parents and children may provide a window into how moral understanding develops across cultural contexts. Respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA), an index of parasympathetic regulation, reflects moment-to-moment physiological alignment that supports emotional attunement and social learning. The present study examined parent–child RSA synchrony during a moral teaching task among 6–9-year-old children and their parents in the United States and Japan. We tested whether dyads exhibited dynamic RSA coupling while discussing moral transgressions and whether the strength or pattern of synchrony differed across cultures. Analyses included both concurrent and time-lagged synchrony to assess real-time and directional physiological coordination. We predicted stronger parent–child synchrony in both cultures, with culturally distinct patterns reflecting differing socialization goals—autonomy and reasoning in the U.S. versus empathy and relational harmony in Japan. Findings highlight physiological coregulation as a potential mechanism through which moral socialization occurs across cultural contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sawa Senzaki
Associate Professor | University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Authors

Yusuke Moriguchi

[64] The effects of social disadvantage on children’s emotions and motivation

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Social inequality impacts children’s academic and life outcomes. However, how this occurs is not well understood. This study drew on Relative Deprivation Theory to test for a causal effect of subjective disadvantage on children’s justice-related affect (JRA) and motivation to persist. Children (ages 4-7, current N=54, target N=100) played a board game that either gave them fewer or the same opportunities (randomly assigned) as a partner. They then rated their emotions and the game’s fairness and completed a timed persistence task. Disadvantaged children reported more negative JRA (more sadness/anger, less happiness/fairness) than those in the equal condition ($p < .001$), and older children (6-7 years) in the disadvantaged condition persisted for less time ($M=123$ vs 77 seconds; $p=.046$), whereas younger children’s persistence did not differ by condition. These findings suggest that experiencing disadvantage negatively impacts children’s emotions and fairness judgments and, for older children, reduces persistence. These results suggest a causal role for unequal opportunities that can directly impact affective and motivational processes essential for children’s academic achievement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachael Silberstein
Graduate Student | Boston University

Authors

Peter R. Blake

[65] The development of procedural choice in contexts of resource scarcity

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

When resources are scarce, people must choose among procedures to allocate them. In medical crises, adults prefer procedures that favor need, utilitarianism, or social role over egalitarian ones (e.g., lotteries). In this study, we examine the development of procedural choice in two pre-registered experiments. 5- to 8-year-olds ($N=64$, $Mage=6.95$) and adults ($N=64$, $Mage=37.45$) chose between various selective procedures (Need, Favoritism, Maximizing Benefit, Order of Arrival, Merit, and Social Usefulness; within-subjects) and an egalitarian one, and predicted what an authority would choose between options. By age 6, children chose need, maximizing benefit, merit and social usefulness over the egalitarian option, and rejected favoritism ($ps<.049$), mirroring adult patterns. Children rejected order of arrival by age 8 ($p=.015$). Both groups predicted an authority would choose favoritism and order of arrival more often than they would themselves. Combined, these results reveal sophistication in procedural choice by 6 years, and an awareness that authorities may choose procedures that are deemed as less appropriate.

*POSTER

Speaker



Montana Shore

Authors

Peter R. Blake

[66] Of One Mind? Testing Mind-Perception Items for Identity-Based Measurement Invariance

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Mind perception (MP) refers to ascribing mental and emotional capacities to characters (Gray et al., 2007). Much of MP research does not consider identity; intergroup psychology implies identity may influence MP without explicitly testing this (Hester & Gray, 2020). We study whether participants view items measuring MP similarly regardless of characters’ and their own identities by testing MP items for measurement invariance (MI), expecting items to be noninvariant. In Study 1, 366 Black and White participants ascribed MP to characters varied by race, gender and social class. As predicted, items were noninvariant in 14/16 MI tests, meaning participants viewed identical items differently by their own race and characters’ identities. In Study 2, 319 Black participants ascribed MP to characters varied by race and gender; items were noninvariant in 3/4 MI tests. That items were noninvariant in 17/20 MI tests suggests identity shapes how participants view MP items. Patterns in the noninvariance align with work on intersectional stereotyping and White male societal defaults. We offer strategies to improve MP items’ psychometric properties to make them representative of a diverse society

*POSTER

Speaker



Jailekha Zutshi
PhD Candidate | Tufts University

Authors

Sara Johnson, Jessica Remedios

[67] Of One Mind? Testing Mind-Perception Items for Identity-Based Measurement Invariance

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Mind perception (MP) refers to ascribing mental and emotional capacities to characters (Gray et al., 2007). Much of MP research does not consider identity; intergroup psychology implies identity may influence MP without explicitly testing this (Hester & Gray, 2020). We study whether participants view items measuring MP similarly regardless of characters' and their own identities by testing MP items for measurement invariance (MI), expecting items to be noninvariant. In Study 1, 366 Black and White participants ascribed MP to characters varied by race, gender and social class. As predicted, items were noninvariant in 14/16 MI tests, meaning participants viewed identical items differently by their own race and characters' identities. In Study 2, 319 Black participants ascribed MP to characters varied by race and gender; items were noninvariant in 3/4 MI tests. That items were noninvariant in 17/20 MI tests suggests identity shapes how participants view MP items. Patterns in the noninvariance align with work on intersectional stereotyping and White male societal defaults. We offer strategies to improve MP items' psychometric properties to make them representative of a diverse society

*POSTER

Speaker



Jailekha Zutshi

PhD Candidate | Tufts University

Authors

Sara Johnson, Jessica Remedios

[68] Talking, Teaching, and Learning: Children's Perspectives on Resolving Intergroup Conflict

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

How do children think intergroup conflict can be resolved? Participants were U.S. children ages 7-12 (N=120, Mage= 9.5(1.7), 48% female) who saw intergroup conflict vignettes and independently evaluated and ranked nine conflict resolution strategies: contact, compromise, apology, perspective taking, superordinate goals, authorities' intervention, increasing resources, parents educating children, and children educating parents. Children evaluated parents educating their children highest ($p=.032$). A second group comprising contact, apology, resources, and children educating their parents significantly differed from parents educating their children and the third group ($p=.023$). The third group comprised superordinate goals, perspective taking, and compromise. Authorities' intervention was rated lowest ($p<.001$). Child rankings largely mirrored their evaluations. With age, children evaluated and ranked superordinate goals lower, while also ranking perspective taking lower and parents educating their children higher (all $ps<.05$). Findings highlight children's nuanced conceptions of conflict resolution, providing novel insight into the development of intergroup conflict resolution.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacob Glassman

Doctoral Candidate | Boston College

Authors

Katherine McAuliffe

[69] Do dogs (Canis Lupus Familiaris) remember prosocial humans? An exploration of dogs' social memory

10:39 AM – 11:29 AM

Prior research has documented dogs' preference for prosocial humans in a variety of contexts. This likely emerged during the domestication process when seeking out prosocial humans conferred evolutionary benefits. However, it is unknown whether dogs remember their preferred social partners over time. We tested dogs' ability to form and retain preferences for a prosocial human who shared food over an antisocial human who refused to share food. After an initial reputation formation phase wherein dogs successfully formed a preference for the prosocial human, we introduced a short time delay (90 seconds) before retesting their preferences. Dogs preferentially interacted with the prosocial actor demonstrating their ability to retain information about the humans in working memory. In a separate sample, we replicated the initial reputation formation phase, but this time introduced a longer (7 day) delay before the retest. Dogs appear to retain their preference over this longer time delay. However, this effect is reduced compared to the shorter time delay. These data suggest that dogs form stable perceptions of human social partners and use this information to guide future interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danielle Levin

Student | Occidental College

Authors

Maya Reddy, Fiona Rayne, Eden Sagarin, Caroline Nugent, Zachary Silver

Cultural Values and Children's Prosociality: The Case of Latine Caregivers and their Children

11:29 AM – 11:35 AM

Research is needed to better characterize the cultural values that nurture children's prosocial behavior. Building on recent theoretical work (e.g., Cortes Barragan & Meltzoff, 2025), we focused on *simpatía*, a Latine cultural value that prioritizes warm, positive engagement with others. We examined the relation between caregivers' *simpatía* and Latine children's prosocial behavior toward a stranger. A preregistered, experimental field study was conducted in Los Angeles County, within an area of the County in which Latines are a super-majority of the population. Caregivers ($n = 100$) reported the degree that they personally endorsed *simpatía* using the validated *Simpatía Scale*. Independently, their children ($n = 100$) participated in an experiment using a standardized assessment of prosocial behavior. Children's behavior was videorecorded for scoring by independent coders. Results showed that there was a significant positive association between caregivers' *simpatía* and children's prosocial behavior on the experimental test, even when controlling for preregistered covariates. These findings expand cultural and developmental theories about the roots of prosocial behavior.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Rodolfo Cortes Barragan

Assistant Professor | San Diego State University

Authors

Andrew Meltzoff

Loyalty or Need? US and Chinese Children's Judgments of Competing Moral Obligations

11:35 AM – 11:41 AM

How do children evaluate others' decisions when moral obligations conflict with loyalty to close relationships? Chinese and U.S. children (N = 284, ages 5–9) and adults (N = 150) evaluated characters who chose between helping their own child or friend with minor problems versus helping strangers with serious ones. Across cultures, when evaluating the action, children judged helping a stranger in greater need as more morally virtuous ($B = -1.20, p < .001$), with this preference strengthening with age ($B = -0.27, p = .005$). Yet when evaluating relationships maintenance, adults favored loyalty (rating helpers who had prioritized close others as a better parent or friend, $B = .24, p = .039$), while children rated both choices similarly ($B = .01, ns$). Additionally, US children's moral evaluations were more sensitive to need-based helping than Chinese children's ($B = .31, p = .034$), possibly reflecting cultural emphasis on impartial justice versus relational harmony. Together, these findings suggest that even young children recognize the tension between impartial moral obligations and loyalty to one's inner circle, though the relative emphasis on these values varies across cultures.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Yuhan Wang
University of Wisconsin Madison

Authors

Kristin Shutts

The Social Roots of Innovation: How Children Learn from Teaching

11:41 AM – 11:47 AM

Human learning is deeply social. From infancy, humans are sensitive to others' actions and interpret information communicated with ostensive cues as intentional acts of teaching. Yet, teaching can be a double-edged sword: while it guides children's learning of hard-to-acquire and generalizable knowledge, it can also constrain exploration if learners infer that a teacher's demonstration exhausts all relevant solutions. The present study examined whether this constraint is an inevitable aspect of pedagogy or if it depends on the type of instruction children receive. Five- to seven-year-olds (N = 114) were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: Principle ("Liquids can make objects float"), Example ("Water can make rubber ducks float"), or Control ("Bottles can be toys"). In a modified floating-peanut task, children in the Principle condition generated significantly more total, on-target, and liquid-based solutions than those in the Example or Control conditions. These findings reveal that children learn from instruction flexibly: when teaching highlights causal principles rather than specific examples, it promotes exploration, problem solving, and generative reasoning.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Qiu Fanxiao
Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Southern California

Authors

Jeanie Cox, Andrew Shtulman, Henrike Moll

Children's Representational Landscapes Shape their Beliefs and Attitudes Towards Native Peoples

11:47 AM – 11:53 AM

As a consequence of the ongoing process of settler colonialism in the United States, Native Peoples are often overlooked and depicted as "people of the past," perpetuating bias and discrimination. This talk examines how such omission shapes intergroup cognition in children as young as four. Across three studies, we show that omission of modern representation sustains beliefs that Native Peoples are "of the pas,t" contributing to negative attitudes, while positive, modern portrayals enhance them. Specifically, in Study 1 (N=113), we demonstrate historical (vs. modern) portrayals led to more negative attitudes towards Native Peoples. Extending this finding, in Study 2 (N=210), we directly measure children's beliefs that Native Peoples are not around today, and find that these beliefs relate to more negative attitudes. Finally, in Study 3 (N=104), through a longitudinal design, we find exposure to modern Native representation highlighting Native identity improves children's beliefs of Native Peoples as contemporary and attitudes. Overall, omission has significant intergroup consequences, even for young children, addressing these requires thoughtful representation.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Victoria Keating
Graduate Student | UC Berkeley

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Arianne Eason

OSM Closing

11:53 AM – 12:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Emotion Preconference

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: E353C, Level 3

The SPSP Emotion Preconference is an interdisciplinary event that brings together social and personality scientists interested in affective science, a subject spanning any psychological process in which emotion plays a role, from decision-making and outgroup bias to close relationships and mental health. Held every year since 2006, this preconference is an opportunity to learn about cutting-edge work across a wide range of domains and engage in fruitful scholarly exchange. The program prioritizes diverse perspectives and will include a series of invited and submitted talks as well as a poster session. The session will end with a themed panel on "Emotion Contagion in Groups," during which three experts will give talks, then participate in a moderated discussion and answer audience questions.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome

8:00 AM – 8:04 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Adrienne Wood

Assistant Professor | University of Virginia

Regulating Emotions in a Foreign Tongue: The Mediating Role of Psychological Distance

8:04 AM – 8:12 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ozge Ugurlu

Postdoc | UC Berkeley

Idle minds, lingering words: During rest our brains make criticism personal by linking how we see ourselves with how others see us

8:12 AM – 8:20 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Meghan Meyer

Columbia University

Authors

Kaitlyn Mundy

Disrupted emotion processing in loneliness

8:20 AM – 8:40 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Elisa Baek

Assistant Professor | University of Southern California

Can Negative Emotions Enrich Our Lives?

8:40 AM – 9:00 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Shigehiro Oishi

Professor of Psychology | University of Chicago

[41] Is physiological synchrony associated with status-relevant disclosures among new acquaintances?

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachael Romano

Research Assistant | Barnard College

[42] Investigating Predictors Underlying Bias in the Perception of Other People's Pain: Examining the Role of Psychological Richness and Individuating Experiences

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Brandon Ng

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Grinnell College

[43] Alcohol Problems and Emotion Dysregulation Predict Cyber Dating Abuse among College Students

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jae Eun Kwak

PhD student | University of Tennessee, Knoxville

[44] Emotions Used Differently to Infer Facial Trustworthiness Across Racial Groups

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Neelamberi Klein

Graduate Student | Indiana University Bloomington

[45] When the Political Becomes Personal: Investigating How People Cope with Election-related Stress during the 2024 US Election

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yun Evelina Bao

PhD student | New York University

[46] Partners' interpersonal emotion regulation buffers the effects of intrapersonal emotion regulation difficulties in a diverse sample

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebekkah Daymo

Student | Arizona State University

[47] CANCELLED:

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

[48] UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES UNDERLYING AFFECTIVE FORECASTING: THE ROLE OF TRAUMA EXPOSURE AND RUMINATION

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Hiba Alany

Doctoral Student | Northern Arizona University

[49] What is Vicarious Pride?: An Exploratory Study into Pride Felt for Others

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Karina Miller

Graduate Student | University of British Columbia

[50] Cultural Variation in the Smiles We Trust: How Reputation and Ideal Affect Influence Resource Sharing

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Blevins

Stanford Univ.

[51] A Computational Analysis of Wei Qu : Emotional Dynamics and Gender Differences

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Huijun Zhu

University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS)

[52]CANCELLED:

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

[53] Forming Relationships Through Synchronous Interactions: A Dyadic, Prospective Study

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily S Diamond

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

[54] Sensitivity to Social Contexts: Social Amplification of Physiological Reactivity in Positive Emotions

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Paige Freeburg

Yale University

[55] Affect Motivated Cognition about a Low-Value Solution

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Silverstein

Post-Doc | University of Michigan

[56] What Evokes Awe?

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jamie Katz

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Arizona State University

[57] Unconscious Repression and Measurement of Emotional States

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Abigail Swanson

Teaching Assistant | University of Illinois Chicago

[58] Helping Others Thrive: How Redemption Narratives Help Women Workers

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Diego Faria

University of Pennsylvania: The Wharton School

[59] Trait emotional awareness is associated with greater experience-physiology coherence

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Annika Allen

PhD student | Georgetown University

[60] Subclinical Depression and Emotion Segmentation

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Madeline SanMarco

Post-Baccalaureate Research Associate | Yale University

[61] Physiological Synchrony Among Unequal- and Equal-Power Dyads During a Collaborative Task

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Orla Meehan

Research Assistant | Barnard College

[62] CANCELLED

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

[63] The Partisan Empathy Gap? Testing differences in a minimal groups paradigm

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Dylan Moulder

Student | University of Missouri

[64] Artificial Intelligence shows human-level emotion recognition capabilities (or better) from texts alone

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Matan Rubin

Doctoral Student | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

[65] Approaching Anticipated Endings: Certainty About What Comes Next Promotes Closure

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sherry Xiong

PhD Student | New York University

[66] Social Closeness Buffers Envy

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Thomas McCauley

Graduate student | University of California, San Diego

[67] Trait Awe Predicts Lower Trait Parochial Empathy and Parochial Schadenfreude

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhuoya Wang

Undergraduate student | University of California, Berkeley

[68] Hierarchy, Happiness, and Hostility: Positive Affect Links SDO to Political Violence

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Haleigh Wagner

California State University Bakersfield

[69] When Shared Experiences Become Transformative: Links to Emotional Synchrony and Positivity Resonance

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ziyu Song
Yale University

[70] Shared Conceptual Knowledge and Convergence in Identification of Emotion Events

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhimeng Li
PhD Student | Yale University

[71] PEOPLE WHO EXPRESS GRATITUDE ARE SEEN AS WARMER AND MORE COMPETENT

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Syeda Ullah
PhD Management | University of California, San Diego

[72] Feeling Calm or Neutral? Cultural Values and Ideal Affect in Japanese and Korean Children

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Mayumi Karasawa
Professor | Tokyo Woman's Christian University

[73] Joy Brings Us Closer: How Shared Imagination Sparks Human Connection

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Arushi Srivastava
PhD Student | University of California, San Diego

[74] Linking Perceived Reasons for Discrimination to Varieties of Anger: A Bayesian Approach

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Seung Eun Cha
Research Assistant | University of Wisconsin-Madison

[75] Language, Emotion, and Collective Action: Evidence From Wisconsin Women's Organization on Facebook

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Peixuan Xu

[76] Presence of mind enhances momentary emotional well-being: Observational and experimental evidence

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Polina Beloborodova
PhD Candidate | Virginia Commonwealth University

[77] Nostalgic for me and you: Meaning as a driver of nostalgia

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Cheryl S Tan

Graduate Student | The Ohio State University

[78] Who's to Blame? Disentangling Envy and Anger in Social Inequity

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Carson Koffler

University of California San Diego

[79] Ideal Emotion Discrepancies Relate to Emotion Regulation and Psychological Health

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tayler Fusaro

Ohio University

[80] Seeking a Richer Life: How Awe Drives the Desire for High-Tech Adoption

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuan Wenying

Student | School of Psychological and Cognitive Sciences, Peking University

Beverage Break

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Emotion Regulation Contagion in Emerging Social Networks

10:00 AM – 10:08 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Yajun Cao

Ph.D. Student | Harvard Business School

Authors

Wen Wu, Amit Goldenberg

Does Receiving Empathy Always Feel Good? How Sharing Emotions May Be Less Effective Than Other Forms of Empathy

10:08 AM – 10:16 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Leif Anderson

Graduate Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Dariya Ovsyannikova, Andre Wang, Michael Inzlicht

Too Much or Too Little Goal Progress? Emotion-Related Goal Discrepancies Quadratically Relate to Worse Psychological Health

10:16 AM – 10:36 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Gerald Young

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Ohio University

Break

10:36 AM – 10:41 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

What small groups can teach us about emotional synchrony

10:41 AM – 10:56 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Jennifer MacCormack
Assistant Professor | University of Virginia

How groups transform emotional convergence

10:56 AM – 11:11 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Brian Parkinson
Emeritus Professor of Social Psychology | University of Oxford

The many faces of emotional contagion

11:11 AM – 11:26 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Hillary Anger Elfenbein
Wallace Distinguished Professor | Washington University

Emotion Contagion in Groups Panel Discussion

11:26 AM – 11:56 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Concluding comments

11:56 AM – 12:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speakers



Casey Brown
Assistant Professor | Georgetown University



Gerald Young
Assistant Professor of Psychology | Ohio University

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

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oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Happiness and Well-Being Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

Join us at the 13th Annual Happiness and Well-Being Preconference to explore ground-breaking work in the science of well-being. This dynamic event will feature leading experts presenting their latest research and discussing future directions for the field. Featured presentations will highlight innovative theoretical contributions, cutting-edge research methodologies, and real-world practical applications. Students and postdocs will showcase their work in engaging data blitzes and poster sessions. Ample time will be allocated for audience questions and discussions. Mentoring lunches will also provide time to informally connect. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to be part of a vibrant community advancing happiness and well-being research at SPSP 2026.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Opening Remarks

9:00 AM – 9:05 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speakers



Jeewon Oh
Syracuse University



Annie Regan
UX Researcher | Google



Emily Willroth
Assistant Professor | Washington University in St. Louis



Rui Sun
Assistant Professor | ESADE Business School

Happiness and Well-being Invited Symposium 1, Speaker 1

9:05 AM – 9:35 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Jessie Sun
Assistant Professor | Washington University in St. Louis

Happiness and Well-being Invited Symposium 1, Speaker 2

9:35 AM – 10:05 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Ramona Martinez
Assistant Professor | California State University, Long Beach

Beverage Break

10:05 AM – 10:15 AM

Data Blitz: Assessing the Link Between Subjective Well-being and Naturalistically Observed Daily Conversation: Harmonizing Data from Multiple Electronically Activated Recorder (EAR) Studies

10:15 AM – 10:22 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Amanda Bernal
Graduate student | University of Arizona

Authors

Valeria Pfeifer, Jessie Sun, Dave Sbarra, Matthias Mehl

Data Blitz: Everything is better together

10:22 AM – 10:29 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Dunigan Folk
University of British Columbia

Authors

Elizabeth Dunn

Data Blitz: A multi-national mega-study of the effects of gratitude practices on subjective well-being

10:29 AM – 10:36 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Annabel Dang
PhD Student | University of Florida

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Nicholas Coles, Michael McCullough

Data Blitz: Understanding Procrastination Through Activity Similarity: Insights from Daily Diaries and LLMs

10:36 AM – 10:43 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Yijun Lin
Visiting Lecturer | New York University

Authors

Binqun Liu

Data Blitz: Culture and the Subjective vs. Intersubjective Social Clock: An Intersubjective Approach to Culture and the Optimal Timing of Life.

10:43 AM – 10:50 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Lu Zang
UC Santa Barbara

Authors

Heejung Kim

Data Blitz: Building belonging: Friends of friends as a pathway to post-move well-being

10:50 AM – 10:57 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Christopher Welker
Graduate Student | Dartmouth College

Authors

Shelly Tsang

Happiness and Well-being Invited Symposium 2, Speaker 1

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Speaker



Emorie Beck
Assistant Professor of Personality and Individual Differences | University of California, Davis

Happiness and Well-being Invited Symposium 2, Speaker 2

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Speaker



Eddie Tong
Associate Professor | National University of Singapore

Mentorship Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch will be served in the foyer. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

[121] From Campus to Career: Personality and Self-Views as Predictors of Psychological Richness in Adulthood

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Ng
Graduate student | Yonsei University

Authors

Minjung Shin, Hwaryung Lee, Eunkook Suh

[122] Personality Predictors of Flourishing Among Nationally Representative Samples in Japan and the United States

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Brooke Cote

Student | Baylor University

Authors

Matt Bradshaw, Wade C. Rowatt

[123] Feeling Neutral, Staying Well: Neutral Affect Toward Political Issues Predicts Better Mental Health During Sociopolitical Turmoil

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ji Sang Yune

Graduate Student | The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Karen Gasper, Hyun Joon Park, Eunha Kim

[124] Activism and Meaning in Life in the Context of BLM, Palestine, and No Kings

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Brandon Nieto

California State University, Bakersfield

Authors

Jake Womick

[125] The Interaction Effect of Independent and Interdependent Self-Construals on Life Satisfaction

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ami Nishino

graduate student | Kyoto university

Authors

Yusuke Takahashi

[126] Characterizing Within-Person Variability in Well-Being Across Domains

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Christy Wang

University of California, Los Angeles

Authors

Gabrielle Pfund, Emily Willroth

[127] Served But Not Well? School Services and Their Varying Consequences for International Student Well-Being

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Annie Xu

graduate student | University of Washington

Authors

Cynthia Levine

[128] Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Facilitate Difficult Conversations

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Charul Maheshka

Graduate Student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Elizabeth Dunn, Dunigan Folk

[129] Perceived social contribution and its associations with political participation

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ellen Reinhart

Postdoc | Michigan State University

Authors

Monique M. Turner, David M. Markowitz, Dustin Carnahan

[130] People Who Express Gratitude are Seen as Warmer and More Competent

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Syeda Ullah

PhD Management | University of California, San Diego

Authors

Yumeng Gu, Sarah Algoe, Chris Oveis

[131] Digital Companionship and Romantic Loneliness: The Psychology of Virtual Love

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Mayu Koike

Assistant Professor | Institute of Science Tokyo

Authors

Midori Ban

[132] Testing the Impact of Best Possible Self and SMART Goals on Meaning in Life

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Liam Hill

Masters Student | Western Kentucky University

Authors

John Updegraff

[133] How to Embrace Flow: Positive Self-Regulatory Thinking as a Means to Enhance Flow Experiences

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Birte Thissen

Dr. | NYU

Authors

Gabriele Oettingen, Michael Barthelmäs, Dominik Stöckle, Johannes Keller

[134] The Yin and Yang of Flourishing: Psychological Well-Being and Hedonistic Health Behaviors in East Asian Countries vs. Non-East Asian Countries

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rui Wang
The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Nicholas Way, Emilie Gregory, Vaishnavi Gogineni, Harold Lee

[135] Fathers Find Most Parenting Activities More Rewarding Than Mothers Do

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Haley Allenspach
Elmhurst University

Authors

Ansley Hirth, Jessica Sim, Catherine Gaze, Elizabeth Majka

[136] Home in Time? A First Look at How We Experience Temporal Rootedness

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Bao Han Tran
PhD Student | Texas Christian University

Authors

Nathan Gillespie, Olivia Hundley, Cathy Cox

[137] How Culture May Reveal Insights into Adolescent and Emerging Adult Conceptions of Well-Being

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacara Terry
Graduate Student | San Diego State University

[138] See, Hear, and Touch: Sensory Abundance Enhances Subjective Well-being

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speakers



Lee Chaeyeon
Student | Yonsei University



Choi Sihyun
yonsei university

Authors

Eunkook Suh

[139] Responding to Good News Online: The Role of Interpersonal Goals and Positive Emotion

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zena Toh
Lecturer | Christopher Newport University

[140] Self-Expansion in Parent-Child Relationships: The Moderating Role of Parent Attachment

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Marlene Carrasco Lechuga
Arizona State University

Authors

Lara Aknin, Katherine Nelson-Coffey, Hali Kil

[141] Increasing the Efficacy of Hope Interventions Through Self-Concordant Goal Selection

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Emilia Berkes
ASU

Authors

Katherine Nelson-Coffey, John Coffey

[142] Bias in Life Satisfaction Instruments? Machine Learning Approach Provides Insights Into Which Wellbeing Dimensions Drive Life Satisfaction Scores

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Irene Teulings
PhD candidate | University of Oslo

Authors

Esten Høyland Leonardsen, Mathew Iasiello, Ragnhild Bang Nes, Espen Røysamb, Joar Vittersø

[143] Is money awe-some or awful?

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yoona Kang
Yonsei University

[144] Different Routes to Relational Well-Being: Cultural Differences in How Trait Judgment Accuracy and Situational Sensitivity Predict Well-Being

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Uan Luen Hsieh
PhD student | UT at Dallas

Authors

BoKyung Park

Data Blitz: Jingle All the Way? Differential Cross-Lagged Relationships with Life Satisfaction Between Positive Valence and Positive Activation

2:30 PM – 2:37 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jinrui Liu
Ph.D. Candidate | University of Oslo

Authors

Lilian Mayerhofer

Data Blitz: Do Relationships or Money Matter for Life Satisfaction? Depends on How Much Disease There Is

2:37 PM – 2:44 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Minyoung Choi
Ph.D. Candidate | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Eunkook Suh, Oliver Sng

Data Blitz: Happiness Maximization Is a Weird Way of Living

2:44 PM – 2:51 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Kuba Kryś
Polish Academy of Sciences

Data Blitz: Comparing Three Experimental Manipulations of High-Quality Listening

2:51 PM – 2:58 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Stephen Cadieux

PhD Student | UC Riverside

Authors

Madison Montemayor-Dominguez, James Chinn, Nina Radosic, Sonja Lyubomirsky

Data Blitz: Trans joy in uncertain times

2:58 PM – 3:05 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Catherine Wall

Assistant Professor | wallcs@vcu.edu

Authors

Lauren Fowler

Data Blitz: Mapping 22 Positive Emotions' Links with Wellbeing in Daily Life

3:05 PM – 3:12 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Irene Teulings

PhD candidate | University of Oslo

Authors

Sara Algoe, Jessica Maxwell

Beverage Break

3:15 PM – 3:35 PM

Happiness and Well-being Invited Symposium 3, Speaker 1

3:35 PM – 3:55 PM

Speaker



Lara Aknin

Professor | Simon Fraser University

Happiness and Well-being Invited Symposium 3, Speaker 2

3:55 PM – 4:25 PM

Speaker



Eunkook Suh

Yonsei Univ.

Happiness and Well-being Invited Symposium 3, Speaker 3

4:25 PM – 4:55 PM

Speaker



Nick Epley

Closing Remarks

4:55 PM – 5:00 PM

Speakers



Jeewon Oh

Syracuse University



Annie Regan

UX Researcher | Google



Emily Willroth

Assistant Professor | Washington University in St. Louis



Rui Sun

Assistant Professor | ESADE Business School

Computational Social Psychology Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

The Computational Psychology Preconference spotlights emerging methods, theory and debates for using computational methods and big data in psychological research. Talks span data-driven discoveries and methodological tools to theory-driven modelling to applied insights for politics and data privacy.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Breakfast

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introductions

9:00 AM – 9:05 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Keynote: Data-driven discovery

9:05 AM – 9:45 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Clemens Stachl

Associate Professor | University of St. Gallen

Featured blitz 1: Streetscapes at Scale: Repurposing Mapping Platform APIs for Psychological Study

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Ara Jo

Lab Manager (research technician intermediate) | University of Michigan

Featured blitz 2: GeoReddit: Geolocating Social Media Users to Enable Spatio-Temporal Insights

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Andrés Gvirtz

Assistant Professor | King's College London

Coffee Break

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Keynote: Inferential social learning: Computational foundations and development

10:30 AM – 11:10 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Hyowon Gweon

Stanford University

Featured blitz 3: Collective Bias Emerges Even from Rational Social Learning

11:10 AM – 11:25 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Bufan Gao

Graduate student | The University of Chicago

Featured blitz 4: Central attitudes in political belief systems are more resistant to change than peripheral attitudes, but not necessarily less amenable to persuasive attempts

11:25 AM – 11:40 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Abby Cassario

Graduate Student | Michigan State University

Featured blitz 5: Statistical Regularities in the Real World Underlie Cue Use for Trait and Emotion inferences

11:40 AM – 11:55 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Ruoying Zheng

University of California San Diego

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the foyer. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

[1] A Call for Better Data: Advancing Psychological Science through Expert-Annotated Corpora

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Aliah Zewail

Graduate Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

[2] Using Generative AI to Model Idiosyncratic Preferences

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Daniel Albohn

Postdoc | University of Chicago

[3] Learning about the inductive potential of categories from generic statements

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Mariannna Zhang

Postdoctoral Fellow | New York University

[4] Forecasting the Psychological Impact of Extreme Seasons Under Global Warming

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ian Hohm

University of British Columbia

[5]Temporal dynamics of deep conversation predict enjoyment among lonely people.

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Amisha Vyas

PhD Student | Columbia University

[6] Perceptions of Fairness in Algorithmic Decision-Making

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Bethany Hsiao

University of Pennsylvania

[7] Computational Evidence for the Value-Instrumentality Dimension of Culture and Influence on Cultural Change

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Shiyun Cao
University of Chicago

Debate: In the AI Era, Who Owns Our Minds? Consent, Privacy, Transparency, and the Future of Computational Psychology

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speakers



Sandra Matz
Columbia University



William Cunningham



Stephen Read
Professor of Psychology | University of Southern California



Mark Thornton
Assistant Professor | Dartmouth College

[1] A Bayesian Account of Selective Truths and Epistemic Vigilance

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ke Fang
PhD Student | Stanford University

[2] Sorrel: A simple and flexible framework for multi-agent reinforcement learning

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yibing Ju
University Of Toronto

[3] The Shape of Beliefs-A Geometry- and Topology-Based Approach to Cultural Comparison

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yifei Li
Student | Tokyo Metropolitan Univ.

[4] Ideologically Aligned Language Models Predict Partisan Brain Responses to Political Content

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nakwon Rim
Ph.D. Student | The University of Chicago

[5] Migration reshapes community implicit attitudes

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Kyle LaFollette
The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

[6] CANCELLED:

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

[7] Creative Steering Vectors: Lightweight Control of LLM Imagination

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhongchi Li

PhD Student | University of Florida

[8] Social curiosity in the brain: Examining overt and covert curiosity using an fMRI natural viewing paradigm

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yixuan Lisa Shen

University of California, Los Angeles

[9] Smile as an identity marker

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Inbal Ravreby

Weizmann Institute of Science

[10] Who Follows the Party? Modeling Elite Cue Effects with Location,ÄiScale Meta-Analysis and Causal Forests

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Hanying Yao

University of Chicago

[11] Matters of the Heart: Human Perceptions of LLM-Generated Romantic Advice

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Niva Manchanda

University Of Kansas

[12] Distributional Hypothesis of Immigrant Stereotypes

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Wang Shiyao

The University Of Chicago

[13] Historical Polarization in Legislative Support for Civil Rights in the United States

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuanze Liu

University of Chicago

[14] One ring to rule them all: Joint (computational) modeling of multiple implicit attitudes measures

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Abhay Alaukik

Graduate Research Assistant | University of Florida

[15] Writing with AI Can Reduce Gender Stereotype Bias in Hiring Evaluations

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Alicia Liu
University of Chicago

[16] Internal and External Forces Shape Human Emotion

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Charles Prince
Case Western Reserve University

[17] To Move or Not to Move: Differential Impact of Geographic Mobility on Personality Development and Structure

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Logan S. Edmondson
Student | University of Missouri

[18] A Cognitive Constructionism Approach: Integrating Psychological Theory with Social Robotic Implementation

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ritsuko Iwai
Research Scientist | RIKEN

Keynote: Redesigning algorithms to intervene on social norm misperceptions during a national election

3:45 PM – 4:25 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Billy Brady
Assistant Professor | Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Featured blitz 6: The Digital Authoritarian: Smartphones reveal the everyday behavioral patterns of individuals with authoritarian tendencies

4:25 PM – 4:40 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sanaz Talaifar
Assistant Professor | Imperial College London

Featured blitz 7: Political Discontent is Driven by a Broken Social Contract

4:40 PM – 4:55 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Dean Baltiansky
PhD candidate | Columbia Business School

Closing statements & thank yous

4:55 PM – 5:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Critical Perspectives in Psychology Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E255, Level 2

The Critical Perspectives in Psychology preconference is dedicated to showcasing psychological research taking critical perspectives to push psychology forward in service to society. In its second installment, this preconference will amplify innovative and critical interdisciplinary methodologies, establish networking opportunities, and validate the importance of such work amidst current challenges in conducting critical scholarship. Given the current political climate and underrepresentation of minoritized scholars, we aim to create a platform for a diverse group of speakers and attendees where their work can be celebrated. This year's theme will feature talks on the "Systemic and Interpersonal Approaches to Social Issues" with an emphasis on critical methodologies that are bringing new informative tools into our field. Notably, this preconference will not only feature keynote speakers but also presentations, data blitzes, and posters from early-career scholars and graduate students.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Networking Session

8:00 AM – 9:05 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introductions

9:05 AM – 9:10 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Jada Copeland-Hayes

Graduate Student | Tufts University

Does It Really Translate? How Conversational Silencing Impedes What Social Psychology Can Offer the World

9:10 AM – 9:30 AM

Despite its commitment to improving social life, social psychological research often fails to produce knowledge that meaningfully translates into real-world contexts. In this presentation, I argue that translational failure is not primarily a problem of dissemination, but also a structurally produced consequence of the field's dominant epistemic and methodological norms. Controlled, decontextualized designs frequently abstract behavior from intersectional identities, sociopolitical conditions, and structural constraints, limiting the application of findings. Using the framework of conversational silencing, this work theorizes how these norms are maintained by privileging certain questions, methods, and forms of knowledge while rendering implementation, context, and relational knowledge nonobjective and methodologically suspect. This process not only constrains what is studied, but shapes core assumptions about human behavior that ultimately undermine the translational potential of our science. Through personal case examples from identity safety cue research, this talk demonstrates how methodological choices shape translation, revealing tensions between methodological ideals, applied realities, and how practical conditions are often obscured in reporting. The goal of this work is to reframe translation as a methodological and ethical obligation in social psychology, reconnecting the field with its foundational commitments to social change and applied relevance.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Keturah Ragland

PhD Candidate | Tufts University

What We Learn When We Address Sampling Biases

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Social psychologists have spent several decades documenting the prevalence of sampling biases in the field. Scholars have written numerous papers about the "WEIRD people problem," as well as about the overreliance on homogeneous convenience samples within particular countries (e.g., the U.S.). To address these issues, for the past several years our research team has been purposefully recruiting samples of people who are traditionally excluded from or underrepresented in psychological science to participate in studies about a broad range of social issues. In this talk I will share lessons learned from those efforts, and their implications for the advancement of psychological theories as well as the

practical application of those theories.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Neil Lewis, Jr.

Associate Professor | Cornell University

Beyond Shared Identity: Collective Liberation as a Pathway to Solidarity Among Polarized Minority Groups

10:00 AM – 10:20 AM

Can collective liberation move polarized minority groups toward coalition? Across six mixed-methods studies (N = 2,900), we test three pathways to solidarity: stigma-based solidarity, critical consciousness, and an ecologically-grounded pathway we call collective liberation, the belief that oppressions and rights are intertwined (e.g., "none of us are free, until we are all free"). Studies 1a–1d demonstrate group conflict among our samples. Study 2 (qualitative field study) shows that all three pathways emerge spontaneously among protestors on the ground. In a preregistered survey (Study 3), collective liberation more strongly predicts positive intergroup attitudes and uniquely predicts collective action beyond competing frameworks. We then develop and validate a one-factor Collective Liberation Scale via EFA and CFA (Studies 4 and 5). A one-month longitudinal survey (Study 6) tests incremental predictive validity of collective liberation for attitudes and coalition behaviors (e.g., collective action) over time while controlling baselines. Together, results position collective liberation as a practical, non-identity pathway to durable coalitions among polarized minority groups.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Daliah Marei

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould, Rebecca Neel

Navigating Anticipated Discrimination: Black Job Seekers' Strategic Preference for Team-Based Work

10:00 AM – 10:20 AM

Psychological theories of work motivation often treat autonomy and individual performance as universally valued. Yet these ideals reflect racialized organizational histories that privilege independence while overlooking the bias and surveillance faced by minoritized workers. In this work, we challenge the assumption that job preferences reflect stable cultural orientations such as individualism or collectivism. Specifically, in an individualistic society where working alone yields the highest rewards, choosing collaboration presents a psychological tradeoff. While it limits opportunities for recognition and visibility, it also reduces exposure to bias. Across three studies using archival, survey, and experimental methods, we find that Black (but not White) job seekers prefer team-based (vs. independent) roles because they anticipate less discrimination in collaborative contexts. These perceptions mediate the relationship between job type and job attractiveness. Together, these findings suggest that systemic inequities may shape interpersonal orientations toward work and suggest that job preferences can serve as a buffer against racial discrimination.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Tamera Shaw

PhD Student | Emory University

The Algorithmic Accountability Gap: Less Blame, More Demand for Change

10:00 AM – 10:20 AM

Algorithms increasingly shape high-stakes decisions in domains such as healthcare, finance, and criminal justice. Although often justified by claims of greater "objectivity," evidence shows that algorithms can replicate the same systemic biases held by their human programmers. Yet little is known about how people evaluate discrimination attributed to algorithms versus humans; the present research tests this question empirically. Across three studies (N = 1,700), participants read about a healthcare diagnostic system—led by either algorithms or human decisionmakers—that produced disparate outcomes for female (vs. male) patients. We then measured participants' perceptions of accountability for biased outcomes and their support for institutional reforms to mitigate them. Across studies, algorithms were judged less accountable than human decisionmakers yet elicited greater support for institutional reform. Moreover, greater perceptions of institutional blame (Study 2) and lower perceptions of agency (Study 3) explained responses to algorithmic (vs. human) discrimination.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Asha Hinson

Student | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Julian Rucker

Sticks and Stones: Communicated Bias in Social Psychology

10:20 AM – 10:40 AM

Social psychology has a problem in how it thinks about, studies, and writes about Black people. Like other fields of psychology articles about the Black community are scant and rarely center Black voices (Roberts et al., 2020). We seek to add to the growing literature regarding inequality in psychological research by examining how problematic practices in methodology and publishing affects current Black scholars in social psychology and the perceptions of prospective students. We began by examining over 100 articles published in high-impact social psychology journals over the last 10 years to examine trends in reinforcing stereotypes, the use of Black people as a methodological tool, and other components that may communicate racial discrimination. Following this archival analysis, we interviewed Black scholars from various psychology-related fields to receive feedback about how to improve previously published research to decrease harm toward Black people. Next, we edited previously published research based on this feedback to examine if it improves undergraduate students' interest in social psychology and reduces social identity threat in social psychological settings.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Natarshia Corley-Rigoni

Ohio State University

Authors

Steven Spencer

Morning Break

10:40 AM – 10:50 AM

Whose paradise? The impact of multicultural paradise narratives on perceptions of inequality

10:50 AM – 11:10 AM

Hawai'i is frequently depicted as a multicultural paradise where racial and ethnic groups coexist harmoniously within egalitarian systems. However, this narrative contrasts sharply with the significant inequalities faced by Native Hawaiian and Pasifika communities living within Hawai'i. Using a large diverse sample of participants from Hawai'i (and Hawai'i visitors; N = 2,000) I examine how multicultural paradise narratives distort perceptions of inequality. In Study 1, I examine the extent to which multicultural narratives are perpetuated and evaluated on social media platforms. Study 2 explores how such narratives are related to perceptions of inequality in Hawai'i. In Study 3, I experimentally test whether alternative narratives (i.e., critical historical narratives), compared to multicultural paradise narratives) provide more accurate perceptions of inequality in Hawai'i and increase motivation to address these issues. Given that such multicultural discourses are perpetuated globally, it is crucial to examine how these narratives shape such perceptions and motivations to address inequality in order to develop interventions that lead toward meaningful social change.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Sakaria Auelua-Toomey

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology | University of Hawaii at Manoa

Considering context: Queer Puerto Ricans' gender & sexuality norm constructions

11:10 AM – 11:30 AM

Social norms are the predominant beliefs, attitudes, and codes of conduct that regulate individual behavior, and emerge from historically situated power structures that privilege certain ways of being while marginalizing others (Cialdini et al., 1991). Norms can be official or unclear, and are dependent on context. While Puerto Ricans share the liberties on gender and sexuality from US federal law, local laws set rigid expectations on gender & sexuality. Furthermore, colonial legacies (e.g., religion) also shape how people make sense of what is "normal" (Lugones, 2016). Looking from critical cultural psychology, we explore how LGBTQIA+ Puerto Ricans make sense of these normative expectations, while considering their own gender and sexuality. Conducting a thematic analysis of 25 semi-structured interviews, we found that participants often make sense of the origins through collective memories, some participants internalized conservative norms, others redefined or resisted them through anti-normative practices, and some problematized norm-adherence within the queer community. With this, we offer a consideration of context when studying the social construction of norms.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Janice Robles Fernandez

PhD Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Carmen Marazzi

Systemic Narratives: The impact of stories on stigma and systemic awareness

11:10 AM – 11:30 AM

How does narrative media shape our awareness of systemic bias? Exposure to a compelling story can uniquely influence people's attitudes and beliefs. For instance, evidence suggests that positive or redemptive stories about members of stigmatized groups can reduce interpersonal prejudice toward those groups, and accordingly, a growing media presence is working to highlight such stories. However, the impact of these stories on readers' opposition to systemic bias is underexplored. Across four studies (N=2325), we examine how real, popular, redemptive stories of incarceration influence readers' interpersonal attitudes toward incarcerated people, and distinctly, awareness of bias in the carceral system and support for its restructuring. We find that these popular stories improve interpersonal attitudes toward incarcerated people, but do not reliably increase awareness of or opposition to the bias in the carceral system, in part due to their valence and structure. This research draws a necessary distinction between the interpersonal and systemic attitudes that are shaped by mainstream stories, and highlights implications for using narrative tools to communicate about systemic bias.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Maya Rabinowitz

Doctoral Student | Yale University

Authors

Jennifer Richeson

The Punitive Default

11:10 AM – 11:30 AM

Despite inconsistent success rates and negative outcomes, punishment remains a popular approach to solving social problems in America. One could argue the nation's largest institutions, not only the carceral system, but our educational and occupational institutions as well, are problematically and disparately punitive. Tough-on-crime responses and zero-tolerance policies have even resurged in the political sphere in recent months, as pushes for alternatives to punishment have receded. Do Americans have an unwarranted appetite for punitiveness? Across three studies, from three different contextual domains, we find participants born and raised in the U.S. err towards suggesting a punitive response to a wide range of misbehaviors which vary in their severity. Data also show little differentiation in punitive responses between American subgroups, suggesting the presence of a broader cultural phenomenon. One we term, the Punitive Default. What triggers it? What drives it? What might reduce its impact? A range of theoretically-supported interventions will be considered.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Stacia King

Research Assistant | University of Chicago Booth

Authors

Jennifer Eberhardt

Evidence for a Culture of Colorblindness in Psychology

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Colorblindness (CB) is an intergroup ideology suggesting that race should not matter in day-to-day life and that, regardless of race, all people are the same. Although individuals who endorse CB often do so because they want to seem egalitarian, CB ignores real-world racial inequality and, as such, perpetuates (rather than disrupts) structural racism. In this talk, I will present evidence suggesting that CB is embedded within the culture of psychological science. CB may describe how psychologists do research to the extent that 1) race is perceived by psychologists as irrelevant to most psychological processes and 2) psychologists tend to ignore racial differences both between and within racial groups. Drawing on the "Culture Cycle" framework (Markus & Connor, 2014), this talk will discuss evidence for CB at multiple levels of culture: specifically, the ideas, institutional policies, interactions, and individual beliefs that characterize our field. Lastly, I will discuss the importance of recognizing CB in psychology, as CB may reduce the relevance of our research to, and the impact of our findings on, the real-world.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Jessica Remedios

Associate Professor | Tufts Univ.

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the foyer. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

(V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Minds Matter Podcast

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

For our preconference we are excitedly collaborating with the Minds Matter Podcast - a popular psychology podcast aimed at sharing advice and new research in psychology with students. Join us for an exciting conversation between Dr. Phia Salter and Dr. Glenn Adams as they speak to the history and future of critical theory in psychology.

Our host, Ava Ma de Sousa, will guide the interview covering an array of topics that emphasize what critical psychology is and why it matters in social psychology and beyond.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speakers



Phia Salter

Associate Professor | Duke University



Glenn Adams

Professor, Department of Psychology; and Director, Kansas African Studies Center | The University of Kansas

Networking Session

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Are Unions Obsolete? Historical Narratives Shape Support for Workplace Collective Action

2:40 PM – 3:00 PM

Labor unionization—the collective organization of workers to protect rights—has long been a powerful form of collective action. Union density is linked to reduced inequality (Western & Rosenfeld, 2011), compressed wages (Ahliquist, 2017), and greater life satisfaction (Flavin & Shufeldt, 2016). However, since the 1970s, union density has declined steadily. Despite high pro-union sentiment, membership sits at 9.9%, the lowest on record. Union decline is often framed as an inevitable consequence of structural labor shifts. Yet, recent work suggests that misperceptions of what unions do may explain the gap between union sentiment and union action (Kamphorst & Willer, 2024). Using a cross-sectional, between-subjects design, we tested how historical narratives of U.S. labor unions (Studies 1–2) and personalized data on union benefits (Study 3) shaped support for collective action. Results show historical narratives boost pro-union sentiment and solidarity with strikers but not action intentions. However, pairing narratives with personalized data did raise action intentions. Findings suggest that reconnecting labor's history to workers' lived experience may strengthen union participation.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Megan Burns

Graduate Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Julian Rucker, Alexis Camerson, A'sjei Scott

Defaulting to Whiteness: Dual-Minority Biracial Perception and Exclusion

2:40 PM – 3:00 PM

The majority of biracial research in psychology focuses on White perceivers and biracial people with half White ancestry (e.g., Black/White biracial people) rather than dual-minority biracial people (i.e., biracial people with two minority racial identities). This research practice perpetuates Whiteness as the default experience. To mitigate this, the present study examines how monoracial Asian and Black Americans categorize dual-minority biracial people. Participants (N = 360) were randomly assigned to respond to perceived discrimination and racial categorization measures about either dual-minority (Asian-Black) biracial or ingroup/White (Asian/White or Black/White, depending on the perceiver's race) biracial targets. Results showed that participants categorized the part-White targets as ingroup members more than the Asian-Black targets, and that participants estimated that part-White biracial targets experience significantly less discrimination than Asian-Black biracial targets. This is some of the first empirical data revealing the differences in the perceptions and categorizations of dual-minority biracial people compared to part-White biracial people.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Isha Smith-Ramakrishnan

Graduate Student Presenter | Tufts University

Measuring Structural Ableism: Justification, Process, and Preliminary Findings

2:40 PM – 3:00 PM

The term ableism reflects a system of power that positions certain bodies and minds as “normal” and fully human, and others as abnormal and subhuman (Campbell, 2008). In the present work, I argue for the need to develop a measure of experiences with structural ableism (the norms, policies, and standards that enact ableism and devalue disability) and share preliminary findings from a project developing such a measure. This measure, developed in consultation with disabled community members and researchers, assesses frequency of encountering access barriers across 9 domains (e.g., education, housing) and policy barriers across 5 domains (e.g., subminimum wages). Most of the N = 481 participants had encountered at least one access barrier (n = 413) and at least one policy barrier (n = 366). The data also highlight the importance of considering multiple marginalization in disability experiences, as, in line with critical disability perspectives, experiences of structural ableism differ by race, gender, and sexual orientation. I discuss these results as well as findings from ongoing qualitative coding of open-ended questions and next steps in developing this measure.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jordan Rubin-McGregor
Graduate Student | Miami University

Courtney's Talk

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Courtney's Abstract

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Courtney Bonam
Associate Professor | University of California Santa Cruz

Black Activists' Learning Processes on the History of Black Liberation Movements in the United States

3:30 PM – 3:50 PM

As Black history is rarely taught in schools, and when taught, reflects reductive narratives of racial progress (Loewen, 2008), it is imperative to examine how Black communities develop and adopt counternarratives. Social movements have been examined as predictors of systemic change; yet, there has been limited work examining them as sites of social learning. Ten semi-structured focus group discussions were conducted with Black organizers (N=47, 18-61 years) in New York City. We utilized reflexive thematic analysis to examine the questions: How do Black activists learn about Black history and historical Black liberation movements? What are their sources and processes of learning? Preliminary analysis suggests three themes: (1) agentic engagement with cultural representations of counternarratives (e.g., museums, archival media); (2) intergenerational transmission of counternarratives (e.g., within families, social movements); and (3) resistance to the endorsement of master narratives. Our findings inform theories on the development of critical consciousness among activists (Mosley et al., 2021) to further inform interventions that promote sociopolitical collective action.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Jordan Brown
Graduate Student | New York University

Authors

Michelle Twali, Rezarta Bilali

Closing Remarks

3:50 PM – 3:55 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Jada Copeland-Hayes
Graduate Student | Tufts University

Afternoon Break

3:55 PM – 4:00 PM

[1] College Students' Self-Censorship During Israel's Ongoing Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza: A Mixed Methods Investigation

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Extant research has shown that students may self-censor or refrain from sharing their political views and perspectives when perceived as a minority (holding differing views from the majority group). However, little is known about students' experiences with self-censorship during global crises, which may be linked to their well-being. We draw on social identity theory and the social justice education literature to examine students' experiences and factors contributing to their self-censorship during the 2023 Israel-Hamas War. Participants comprised 480 college students who completed a series of measures and open-ended questions about factors that support or hinder open discussion of the ongoing genocide. Quantitative findings suggest that self-censorship positively predicted psychological distress. Next, moderation analyses examined whether this relationship was moderated by college students' support for Palestine/Israel. Additionally, ten themes were identified that supported or hindered discussion of the war. We conclude by providing practical recommendations for how scholars, educators, and institutions can have difficult dialogues about ongoing global conflicts and issues.

*POSTER

Speaker



Richard Chang
Doctoral Candidate | University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Authors

J. Abigail Saavedra, Miguel Castano, Gloria Wong-Padoongpatt

[2] Examining the Relations Between Educational Censorship Laws Affecting High School Curricula and the Ethnic-Racial Identity Development of Youth of Color

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Research shows that when schools affirm students of color's racial and cultural identities through inclusive curricula, it promotes stronger ethnic-racial identity (ERI) and greater well-being. However, in recent years, over 30 U.S. states have introduced or passed educational censorship laws that restrict what public schools can teach about race, gender, and sexual orientation. This study examined whether censorship laws shape students' experiences of school racial climate and ERI development. Participants were 299 18–19-year-olds of color who recently completed high school in states with active censorship laws, proposed but failed censorship bills, or no such proposed legislation. They completed measures of school racial climate and ERI. Results showed no significant differences across policy contexts. However, students who were more aware of the spread of educational censorship laws reported experiencing greater stereotyping from teachers and in their school materials, lower positive ERI regard, and more engagement in critical action. Since these laws are recent, future research should track the development of awareness and its implications.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Biamonte

Undergraduate student | College of the Holy Cross

Authors

Alexander Browman

[3] Roots and Dreams: A Community Field Experiment Shows that Fostering Alignments Between Future Aspirations and Racial/Ethnic Identities Boosts GPA in a Diverse Cohort of Middle Schoolers

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

This study examines whether fostering alignments between adolescents' racial/ethnic experiences and their aspirations boosts the benefits of traditional but color-evasive approaches. Through a community-engaged school partnership, middle schoolers were randomly assigned to take part in novel 'ethnically aligned' group activities or in traditional 'identity-based motivation' group activities (n=142, incl. 54% Latine, 10% Black, 11% biracial/multiracial). On average, middle schoolers in the novel group reported higher GPA through the school year than their peers in the traditional group. The extent to which students retained core lessons partly explained this effect: students' reflections at the end of group activities integrated more core lessons in the novel group than in the traditional group, and higher number of lessons retained was in turn associated with higher GPA scores. This field experiment shows that connecting goals with racial and ethnic experiences can boost school outcomes for Latine, Black, and other adolescents, especially when they are encouraged to reflect on strengths from their communities, and to find points where these experiences and their aspirations align.

*POSTER

Speaker



Regine Debrosse

Assistant Professor | McGill University

Authors

Ivan Hernandez, Tess Brieve, Mesmin Destin

[4] How normative diversity ideologies impact evaluative outcomes for students of color at universities

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Diversity statements in university messaging may be critical in students' anticipated sense of institutional belonging (Cochran & David, 1986). We explored diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) statements at top colleges in the U.S. In Study 1, we conducted a content analysis of statements, assessing the prevalence of four variables: the mention of race and/or demographic groups, multiculturalism, and social good. In Study 2, university students rated their perceptions of these statements. Study 3 tests the effect of race-conscious versus colorblind DEI statements on students of color's (SOC) sense of fit at universities. Content analyses revealed that most statements do not mention demographic groups, and further, most do not mention multiculturalism (80%), or race (84%). Additionally, statements mentioning race, multiculturalism, and demographic groups were more likely to be rated high in societal good. These findings suggest that colorblindness is the prevalent model used in diversity messaging at elite U.S. universities. We discuss the implications that race-conscious DEI statements hold for SOC's belonging and interest in colleges.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marcus Cumberbatch

Graduate Student | University of Oregon

Authors

Chanel Meyers

[5] Centering Social Fit, Self-Concept Fit, Goal Fit, and Resource Fit as Core Elements of Students' Experiences of Belonging at School

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Promoting belonging in school has become a focal concern. Such efforts require a comprehensive, accurate understanding of what belonging means. In this theoretical work, I argue that social psychological research on students' experiences of belonging has overwhelmingly focused on their sense of social connection to others at school (social fit), while overlooking other factors essential to these experiences. Adopting a critical perspective on belonging in social psychology, I show that when students—especially those from underresearched groups—define belonging, they also emphasize the extent to which they experience support for their valued identities (self-concept fit), goals (goal fit), and basic financial, nutritional, and safety needs (resource fit). Furthermore, I demonstrate that the reason that these four forms of fit matter is because they enable students' social connections, identities, goals, and needs to feel natural, inconspicuous, and "right" when they are at school, and it is those feelings of "fluency" that ultimately produce a holistic experience that they belong. Implications for measuring belonging and for belonging-supportive interventions/policies are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexander Browman

Assistant Professor | College of the Holy Cross

[6] Beyond In-Group Identity: How Integration of U.S. Cultural Identity—Rather Than Rejection of Puertorriqueñidad—Shapes Political Status Preferences.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Research on acculturation suggests that bicultural individuals often support policies that challenge the system. Yet, decolonial theory suggests that biculturalism may at times reinforce colonial mentalities (CM)—not through ingroup derogation, but through identification with the dominant culture. With a sample of Puerto Ricans (N=607), we examined how Puerto Rican (PRID) and U.S. American (USID) identification predicted voting preferences in the 2020 status plebiscite. Logistic regressions revealed significant PRID×USID interactions for U.S. statehood ($b = .33$), indicating that bicultural individuals were more likely to vote for full annexation; and for independence ($b = -.31$), indicating that biculturals were less likely to vote for independence than those high only in PRID. Mediation analyses showed that CM explained these effects: PRID predicted lower CM, while USID predicted higher CM, which, in turn, increased the likelihood of voting for statehood and decreased support for independence. The model explained 54% of the variance, highlighting the link between biculturalism and CM, which, in turn, legitimizes continued U.S. hegemony via full annexation of the island-nation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rocío Rivera Crespo

Graduate Student | Universidad De Puerto Rico

Authors

Veronica Benet Martinez, John Jost, Eduardo Rivera Pichardo

[7] The Missing Piece: Overlooking Interpersonal and Systemic Influences in Social and Health Psychology Research

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

The majority of health psychology research conducted by social psychologists studies individuals' engagement in health behaviors. Much of this work draws on individual-oriented theories (e.g., the Theory of Planned Behavior). While these theories were designed to focus on the individual to predict behavior, this limited focus inadvertently excludes many other factors that impact behavior, namely interpersonal and systemic factors. We argue that this lack of focus on interpersonal and systemic factors leads to: (1) research that is less generalizable and only applies to people not facing systemic disadvantages, (2) research that may cause healthcare professionals to place undue blame on their patients if they don't successfully engage in health behaviors, and (3) the creation of health behavior policies that are not optimally effective. Using the Socio-Ecological Model, we provide a novel framework for health psychology researchers to account for interpersonal and systemic factors in their research, as well as provide practical recommendations for future research. Our arguments apply broadly to health psychology and social psychology research using individual-oriented theories.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rani Bawa

PhD Candidate | The Ohio State University

Authors

Lisa Jaremka, Carly Pacanowski

[8] Intersectional disparities in pain care: The roles of target race and gender

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Pain experienced by 1) Black (vs.White) individuals and 2) women (vs.men) is under-perceived and undertreated in the US. Yet, less is known about how a target's race and gender identities simultaneously shape pain perception and treatment—a research gap that may perpetuate inequitable healthcare outcomes for Black women, who suffer intersectional invisibility. In a preregistered internal meta-analysis (20 experiments; N=3120), we tested if perceivers' pain perception & treatment recommendations varied by target race (Black vs.White) & gender (female vs.male) interactively. Black women's & men's pain is seen less readily than their White counterparts, with this gap magnified within Black men. Black women & men suffer similar anti-Black biases in treatment. Also, White women's pain is seen less readily than White men's, but no perceptual gender bias emerged for Black targets. Yet, a corresponding gender bias in treatment manifested similarly for Black & White women. Together, Black women's racial & gender nonprototypicality may blunt their susceptibility to bias in pain perception but not in treatment, showing the importance of intersectionality when studying healthcare disparities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yanzi Huang

Graduate Student | University of Delaware

Authors

Peter Mende-Siedlecki

[9] Beyond Direct Harm: Contextualizing Off/Online Vicarious Discrimination Experiences on Health

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

With the rise of social media consumption, exposure to racial unfairness has extended into digital spaces, compounding the ways in which individuals experience race-based stressors. While studies link direct racial discrimination (DRD; i.e., firsthand experiences of racial unfairness) to health, recent findings suggest that vicarious racial discrimination (VRD)—the secondhand experience of racial discrimination—may be encountered more frequently than DRD and thus, also detrimental for health. However, lack of differentiation between DRD and VRD exposures hinders standardization and cross-study comparisons. In two studies, we aimed to identify the frequency and health impact of VRD, compared to DRD. Study 1 (N=147) was a cross-sectional survey that examined frequency patterns of off/online VRD/DRD exposure across various domains and their associations with health. Study 2 (N=144) used an 8-day ecological momentary assessment (EMA) to examine how off/online VRD/DRD exposure impacts same and next-day metrics of health. Findings clarify VRD/DRD similarities and differences, expanding our understanding of how racial discrimination affects health, even among those vicariously exposed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Barajas

Graduate Student | University of California, Irvine

Authors

DeWayne P. Williams, Belinda Campos, Paul K. Piff

[10] Examining the impact of Black and Latina mothers' experiences with discrimination on children's health: An intergenerational approach to vicarious racism

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

A systematic review by Heard-Garris et al. (2018) examined vicarious racism among caregivers and its impact on children, revealing that parental depression mediates the link between caregiver discrimination and children's internalizing behaviors, such as anxiety. However, aspects like parental stress and anxiety have been less studied. This project investigates the association between maternal experiences of racial discrimination and children's health outcomes, focusing on maternal sleep and stress as mediators. Utilizing the Baby's First Years project, an ongoing randomized controlled trial, 1,000 low-income mothers from cities like New York and Omaha were assigned to high or low-cash gift groups. The final analysis included 424 Black mothers and 440 Hispanic mothers, excluding others. Preliminary results show significant mean differences, with Black women reporting higher stress and discrimination encounters than Hispanic women. Also, encounters with racial discrimination were positively associated with maternal stress. The presentation will discuss the mediation results and highlight the use of secondary data to address racial and social issues.

*POSTER

Speaker



Minnie McMillian

Graduate Student | Syracuse University

Authors

Sara E. Burke

[11] "sh*t...he heard it.": Ethnic-racial socialization in the context of sociopolitical hostility

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Ethnic-racial socialization is an important process that occurs across a variety of contexts and by various social forces. Emerging scholarship suggests that the messages and frequency with which adults communicate about race to the children in their care varies not only by ethnic-racial group membership, familiarity with racial concepts and knowledge, or experience with racial discrimination but also by the broader sociopolitical context. Using community-based participatory research, this paper is designed to provide an in-depth perspective of the way issues of systemic racism and police brutality emerge across home and school during moments of heightened sociopolitical tension. Critical reflexive analyses of focus groups and interviews (n=13) reveal how the sociopolitical context raised the urgency of race conversations but the level of preparation, the practices employed when it emerged, and the ideologies used to justify them indicate that some children are navigating contexts of discontinuity where race is salient at home and not at school, or salient at school and not at home. This talk concludes with discussion of the implications for children's developing ideas about race.

*POSTER

Speaker



Josiah Rosario

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Michigan

[12] Perceptions of Intersectionality: Beyond Two Identities

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Can people perceive more than two social identities simultaneously? Numerous studies have investigated the influence of two social identities (ex: race & gender) on social perception. However limited work has investigated past this barrier. Across three studies (two preregistered, one ongoing), participants assessed the likelihood of targets to experience significant negative life events. We manipulate race (black/white), gender (women/men), and sexuality (gay/straight). We find a positive correlation between the amount of stigmatized identities and perceptions of experiencing negative life events, however this relationship follows a quadratic pattern with diminishing returns. The effect holds when accounting for perceptions of how problematic/common various forms of discrimination are. In Study 3, we aim to extend these results to the domain of discrimination using an adapted version of the Everyday Discrimination Scale (Williams et al., 1997). We predict the same pattern of results, suggesting that individuals with more (vs. less) intersecting stigmatized identities may be perceived to face relatively less discrimination and thus might be overlooked in conversations about stigma.

*POSTER

Speaker



Justin Mikell

PhD Student | UCI

Authors

Pia Dietze

[13] Are White Women the Prototype? A Black Perspective on Intersectional Invisibility

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Recent theoretical work on intersectional invisibility highlights that individuals with multiple subordinate identities may be overlooked because they do not match group prototypes. Black women are a key example: they are often undifferentiated from Black men and are underrepresented in studies of femininity and gender stereotypes. Empirical studies show that White women are strongly associated with the category "woman," while Black women are viewed as non-prototypical, masculine, and more similar to Black men. However, most of this research has examined White people's perceptions of Black women. This project investigates whether Black individuals' perceptions of the prototypical woman align more with Black women or White women. Participants will be randomly assigned to consider women in general, Black women, or White women, and will complete the Bem Sex Roles Inventory as well as open-ended qualitative questions. We expect Black participants' prototypes of "woman" to more closely reflect White women. This mismatch between the general "woman" and the Black woman may create conflicting ingroup expectations for Black women that may lead to social stress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cilicia Brotherson

Graduate Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Monica Biernat

[14] Asymmetries in felt understanding: An intersectional analysis of cross-race and cross-gender interactions

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Although all people have a basic need to feel understood, we propose that the fulfilment of this need is not equitably distributed. Specifically, we hypothesize an asymmetry in felt understanding: Individuals with marginalized identities (H1a: women, H1b: people of colour, H1c: women of colour) feel less understood by advantaged partners (H1a: men, H1b: White people, H1c: White men) than vice versa. To test our hypotheses, we collected 52,560 ecological momentary assessments over a month from participants who reported the race and gender of their interaction partners and how understood they felt by them. We found support for asymmetrical felt understanding: People of color felt less understood by White people than White people felt by people of color, and women of color felt less understood by White men than vice versa (H1b-c). We did not find asymmetrical understanding when examining gender alone (H1a); instead, both men and women felt more understood by women than by men. Our results suggest that how understood an individual feels depends on the race and gender of the individual and their interaction partner, highlighting the importance of taking an intersectional perspective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Juliane Schitteck

Doctoral Student | Imperial College Business School

Authors

Lara Kroencke, Mitja Back, Sanaz Talaifar

[15] Incidence of and Motivations for First-Name Whitening among Ethnic Minorities

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Among ethnic minorities in the U.S., some choose to adopt "whitened" versions of their first names, which has been shown in past research to have career benefits. Yet no research has examined how many people make this choice, and why and when they do so. In a large sample of Americans of color (N = 875), we find that 32% use a whitened name. Immigrants (vs. native born) and Black Americans (vs. Latinx and Asian Americans) were most likely to report name whitening. On average, respondents use their whitened names in 59% of daily interactions, especially in social (e.g., dates) and public (e.g., restaurants) settings, followed by friend/family interactions, institutions (e.g., hospitals), and work. Most name whitening decisions were self-initiated vs. suggested by others, and were especially motivated by the desire to aid others' pronunciation, followed by a sense of name whitening as culturally normative, and an expectation of greater career success with a whitened name. Interestingly, name whitening was not driven by ethnic identity strength. These data document the incidence of name whitening and generate insights toward research on identity management among ethnic minorities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jungmin Lee

Emory University

Authors

Melissa J. Williams

[16] A functional framework of Asian American racial ingroups

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

When there are multiple ways to describe one's identity, each option implies a different ingroup, implying different targets are ingroup members. When describing their racial ingroup, Asian Americans include only targets of their same nationality group (e.g., Chinese) in some situations, but in others, all people of colour can be seen as ingroup members. We propose a framework of how Asian Americans negotiate their racial ingroups, suggesting that the way individuals identify themselves varies based on situational features. Drawing on coalitional cognition and dynamic models, this framework suggests that Asian American ingroups are flexible because they are functional. This framework explains previous findings that Asian Americans identify with narrower ingroups as well as research on Asian American solidarity with other Asian American and non-Asian American groups in some contexts. We extend the framework to a broader conceptualization of functional ingroups applied to other contexts. We present qualitative and quantitative data supporting our model.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zi Ting You

Researcher PHD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould

[17] Rethinking Racial Perception: Ethnicity, Afrocentricity, and Solidarity Among Black Women

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Dominant psychological models of racial perception often homogenize racial groups, erasing ethnic diversity and reinforcing narrow constructions of Blackness. This study challenges these limitations by examining how Black women from varied ethnic backgrounds are perceived in terms of Afrocentricity, racial solidarity expectations, and racial positioning. By interrogating frameworks such as the Racial Position Model, this research exposes how traditional theories overlook ethnic heterogeneity within Black populations. Findings reveal that African American women were perceived as more Afrocentric and more likely to show ingroup solidarity compared to African, Caribbean, and Afro-Latina women. By integrating ethnicity into racial perception research, this study offers a critical perspective, highlighting how methodological and theoretical blind spots contribute to marginalization, invisibility, and misunderstanding of Black experiences within psychological science.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nadia Floyd

Graduate Student | University of Colorado, Boulder

Authors

Evava Pietri, Journey Simmons, Sheba Aikawa

[18] From Perceived Racism to Activism: An Existential and Affective Science Approach

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Social justice movements are essential for societal advancement. In the case of racial progress, anti-racism movements are motivated by the negative experience of perceived racism. This project explores the path from experiencing racism to activism intentions, focusing on existential and affective motivations. As racism is both a threat to existence and negative emotional experience, this project hypothesized that existential threat and negative affects—specifically anger and anxiety—predict activism intentions post-racism experiences. Using two studies (N = 595), this project explored the path from perceived racism to activism. Study 1 did not find indirect effects, however, perceived racism directly predicted activism, existential threat, and negative affect. Next, this investigation explored the proposed paths using an experimental manipulation of perceived racism. The indirect paths in the Study 2 hypothesized model were not supported. However, alternative models pointed to paths toward activism. With these two studies, this work contributes to a deeper understanding of how existential and emotional responses to racism contributes to activism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Perla Henderson

Postdoctoral Associate | Duke University

[19] Beyond Black and White: A Reconceptualization of Racial Ambiguity

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Racial ambiguity research often uses Multiracial faces to test how person perception is disrupted, yet it overlooks monoracial groups (e.g., South Asian, Latine) who can also appear racially ambiguous. We propose a reconceptualization of racial ambiguity that extends beyond Multiraciality to include monoracial groups, linking disruptions in perception to miscategorizations (e.g., an Asian person categorized as Latine) and stereotype misattributions (e.g., South Asian faces associated with Latine stereotypes). Across two studies (N = 582), we ask perceivers to categorize and stereotype South Asian and Latine faces. When South Asian faces were miscategorized as Latine, they did not receive Latine stereotypes, yet when Latine faces were miscategorized as South Asian, they did receive South Asian stereotypes. This work is some of the first to include understudied monoracial groups within the racially ambiguous processing literature. Importantly, we find evidence that racial ambiguity is more than just a disruption in the person perception process—it can meaningfully shift stereotypes and offers a new direction for studying stereotyping, prejudice, and intergroup relations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mohammad Wiswall

PhD Candidate | Duke Identity & Diversity Lab

Authors

Mercedes Munoz, Sarah Gaither, Jacqueline Chen, Esha Naidu

[20] The Color of Foreignness: Distinct Consequences for Black Individuals in the U.S.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Members of groups perceived as foreign (e.g., Asians/Asian Americans) face foreignness-based discrimination. However, research on foreignness rarely includes Black people, leaving out a growing population of the U.S.: Black immigrants. Across four studies, we find that the traditional relationship between perceived cultural foreignness and negative stereotyping is different for Black groups in the U.S. In Study 1, Asian immigrants were stereotyped less positively than Asian Americans, but the reverse was true for Black groups: Black immigrants were stereotyped more positively than Black Americans. For Black groups, these stereotype differences lie primarily along status and warmth dimensions (S2). In examining these stereotype differences in action, we found that students expected higher work quality from a Black immigrant (vs. Black American) partner, mediated by status stereotypes (S3). These findings highlight the overlooked diversity within the Black population while challenging assumptions linking foreignness to negative stereotyping.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fasika Hailu

Graduate Student | University of Washington

Authors

Sapna Cheryan

[21] Narratives of Harmony, Systems of Oppression: The Consequences of Endorsing Hawai'i's Multicultural Paradise Narrative

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Hawai'i is globally recognized as a model of multiculturalism, where racial and ethnic groups live in harmony resulting in equitable social systems. This narrative, however, obscures the persistent systemic inequalities faced by Native Hawaiian and Pasifika communities. For instance, while Native Hawaiians and Pasifika groups make up 10% of the population, they make up 44% of incarcerated populations. This study examines how endorsement of this multicultural paradise narrative shapes the perceptions of Hawai'i visitors (n = 880). That is, we examine how endorsement of the multicultural paradise narrative is associated with system-justifying beliefs (e.g., defending U.S. occupation of Hawai'i), diminished perceptions of inequality (e.g., perceiving smaller wealth gap), and opposition to redistributive policies (e.g., limiting short-term rentals). Taken together, our analysis highlights the masking effect of multicultural paradise narratives of inequality in Hawai'i which ultimately reinforces systems of colonialism. Implications for interventions that counter these narratives are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alondra Reyes

Graduate Student | University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Authors

Sakaria Auelua-Toomey

[22] The (Mis)perception of Racial Economic Progress: Identity and Temporal Considerations

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

These studies explore White and Black Americans perceptions of racial economic progress and how ethnic-racial and national identity considerations come to bear on these perceived trajectories. S1 split White Ps into either a 'past-to-present' (PTP) condition, which estimated B-W inequality (income, wealth) across 7 time points (1963-2023), or a 'present-only' (PO) condition. The PTP cond. overestimated present equality to a larger extent than the PO cond. Within the PTP cond., ethnic-racial identification and patriotism interacted with these perceptions, such that the relationships became increasingly more pronounced as time moved toward the present. S2 split White and Black Ps into three conditions: A 'distant past' (DP) condition with 11 points (1924-2024); a 'close past' (CP) condition with 6 points (1974-2024); and a 'present-only' (PO) condition. The DP cond. overestimated present equality to a larger extent than the CP cond., who, in turn, overestimated more than the PO cond. Again, the more Ps could create a linear narrative of progress, the more they (mis)perceived the present. Among White Ps, we replicate the interactions across time with ethnic-racial ID and patriotism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jordan Cortesi
Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Kansas

[23] A Differential Item Functioning Analysis of the International Welfare Attitudes Scale

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Objective: Based on item response theory methods, I will conduct a differential item functioning analysis of the widely used International Welfare Attitudes Scale (IWAS) to evaluate whether the instrument demonstrates invariance when assessing welfare attitudes among different gender, racial, and ethnic groups. Method: Data was available from 1,265 Americans in the General Social Survey. Final analyses will be performed using the multi-group graded response model on six question items within a unidimensionality framework to investigate the presence and impact of differential item functioning across gender, racial, and ethnic groups. Results: Based on results of the multi-group graded response models, I will clarify which items exhibit differential item functioning among different types of social groups. I expect that the magnitude of the differential item functioning will be minimal and will not produce differential measurement error at the scale score level. Conclusion: These findings will provide evidence of measurement equivalence of the IWAS, examine the potential algorithmic inequalities, and confirm its usefulness in measuring welfare attitudes across social groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lujie Peng

[24] Generational Historical Reflexivity: Inheriting the past and acting on the future

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Generational Historical Reflexivity (GHR) is the recognition of oneself as part of an intergenerational lineage embedded within history - inheriting material conditions of the past and feeling responsibility for what will be handed to the future. Across three samples (N = 1,300), a GHR scale demonstrates strong psychometric reliability and predicts a more expansive political imagination, problem-solving orientation toward inequality, openness to diverse forms of political action, and higher critical consciousness. Building on these findings, the next phase applies GHR in critical community interventions to foster resilience, empowerment and efficacy among marginalized populations. On-going projects help participants situate their generational lineages within history to: (1) motivate milestone completion in a transitional housing program among chronically homeless men; (2) motivate participation in an English language program for West African asylum seekers; (3) understand the efficacy of a political education program for Black men. Together, these interventions test how cultivating GHR can convert personal development into collective, historically grounded action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ali Javeed
Ph.D Student | New York University

Authors

John Jost

[25] Investigating Racial Differences in Tonic Electrodermal Activity among Black and White Participants

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Electrodermal activity (EDA) reflects skin conductance changes linked to stress or arousal, consisting of tonic and phasic components. Although widely used in research and consumer wearables, racial disparities in EDA remain underexplored. Black participants are often labeled as "non-responders" due to lower scores, leading to exclusion and reduced generalizability. We examined racial differences in tonic EDA using a relatively large sample (N=139) of Black (n=72) and White (n=67) adults aged 18–59, recruited for a study on police attitudes. EDA was recorded at 1000Hz from the non-dominant hand with Ag/AgCl electrodes during a 6-min baseline (traffic noise). Black participants showed significantly lower tonic EDA (M=4.13µS, SD=2.49) than White participants (M=7.95µS, SD=3.19), p<.001. This pattern held across gender: Black women (M=3.92µS) vs. White women (M=8.76µS), p<.001; Black men (M=4.63µS) vs. White men (M=7.16µS), p<.001. Findings highlight robust racial disparities in baseline tonic EDA, independent of stimulus, underscoring the need for inclusive measures and reconsideration of "non-responder" definitions to avoid racial bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Boluwatife Dogari
Research Technician | University of Michigan

Authors

Brandon P. Labbree, Alicia G. Carmichael, Donna Walter, Nicholas P. Camp, Richard Gonzalez

[26] Towards Measurement Diversity: Racialized Conceptualizations of Masculinity and Measurement “Invariance”

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

This study critically examines what is lost in the pursuit of “measurement invariance,” particularly in the context of racialized masculinity. Participants (N = 917: 303 Asian, 294 Black, 320 white participants) assessed the masculinity of Asian, Black, and white men targets using a 20-item scale. We conducted a measurement invariance analysis and six exploratory factor analyses for each participant and target race/ethnicity group. Results showed that each group mapped masculinity differently using the same 20 items, producing distinct factor structures that varied in the number of factors and the items that fell under each factor. Consequently, in the process of developing a “generalizable” factor structure that works for the entire sample, some items dropped out because they only worked for specific groups and not all, despite being potentially important to understanding masculinity within those groups. We discuss how conventional approaches to measurement invariance can obscure the situatedness of how masculinity is conceptualized, including across different race/ethnicity groups; and that “measurement diversity” is a potentially more just and empirical approach.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eun Ju Son

Post-Doc | University of Michigan

Authors

Elizabeth Cole, Sari van Anders

[27] From Framing to Feedback: Computational Analyses of How Audiences Respond to Racism Disclosures

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Social media is a site where racism is publicly negotiated—where disclosures of discrimination and the comments that follow become opportunities for “vicarious race talk.” Across two experiments (N = 1235), participants viewed posts describing racial discrimination framed interpersonally or structurally, sometimes followed by validating or denying comments. Quantitative results show that structural framing and validation increased support for the poster and perceived value of the disclosure, while belief systems—especially structural and racial-progress beliefs—shaped observer reactions. The next stage of this work combines computational text analysis (e.g., topic modeling and large language models) to identify common themes and emotional patterns in participants’ open-ended responses. These analyses will examine how people legitimize, contest, or reinterpret racism claims, revealing how audiences make sense of both personal and systemic accounts of discrimination. By integrating computational and qualitative approaches, this project uses a critical lens to examine how digital discourse reproduces—or resists—dominant narratives about racism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexis Cameron

Doctoral Student | Dartmouth College

Authors

Kiara Sanchez

[28] Who Counts as ‘People’? AI Shows Generalizability Bias While Summarizing Research Findings

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Psychological research often relies on Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic (WEIRD) participants, yet findings from these limited samples are often assumed to generalize to all people. Reflecting this bias, papers describing studies with non-WEIRD samples typically specify nationality (e.g., Turkish participants), whereas those with WEIRD samples simply use general terms such as “participants” and “people.”. In the current study, we tested whether Large Language Models show the same generalizability bias. We prompted GPT to generate titles for studies described in psychology abstracts from PsychArchive; for each abstract, we created versions that specified that participants were from one of the 195 countries in the world. Results showed a strong negative correlation: GPT mentioned nationality significantly more often for countries with a lower Human Development Index, indicating that the model mirrors existing biases in how research populations are linguistically framed. This finding highlights generalizability bias across the internet, illustrates how such reasoning biases may be inherited from human data, and underscores the risk of AI-assisted writing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Atakan Atamer

University of Michigan

Authors

Priti Shah

[29] The Humanized-System Narrative: Inspiring Action at Both Individual and Systemic Levels

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

One of today’s most urgent challenges is translating concern about societal problems like climate change, public health crises, and humanitarian disasters into action rather than paralysis. To address this, social scientists have traditionally downscaled these problems to the story of an identified victim. While such narratives inspire personal action, they neglect, and sometimes even suppress, support for systemic change. In contrast, growing research uses systemic narratives, which highlight the broader scale and systemic causes of societal problems. While these narratives raise awareness of the necessity for systemic solutions, they can overwhelm audiences to the point of inaction. So how can we motivate personal and systemic change? Across two domains (climate change and public health), we compare individual and systemic narratives against a novel synthesis of these two approaches: the humanized-system narrative. We find that only the humanized-system narrative motivates both personal prosocial behavior and support for policy change, providing a promising strategy for communicating about today’s most pressing societal problems.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marcus Trenfield

PhD Student | Boston College

Authors

Gregg Sparkman

[30] A Critique of Diversity Approaches In Psychology: Lessons from Cultural Psychology

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

A prominent response by mainstream Psychology to the recent generalizability crises has been to advocate for greater representation of historically marginalized subjectivities—what I term as the Representation Discourse. I identify three interrelated recent trends in recent Psychology where Diversity Discourse finds its origins: awareness that Psychology primarily consists of samples from Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic societies, a significant portion of Psychology does not confirm prior results, and Psychology overrepresents white subjectivities, reflecting a structural embeddedness of Psychology with racism. While they call for greater diversification of subjectivities to deter the dominance of white epistemologies, they largely fail to interrogate essentialist assumptions about culture implicit in dominant approaches and neglect the sociohistorical constitution of psychological phenomena and knowledge production. We discuss how cultural psychological approaches and decolonial perspectives offer a way for Psychology to address its problems of whiteness, without reifying cultural groups and the racism in which it is embedded.

*POSTER

Speaker



Syed Muhammad Omar

PhD Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Glenn Adams

[31] Daily Challenges and A Lack of Visibility for Students with Disabilities: The Need for Critical Disabilities Studies

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

College students with disabilities experience many challenges as disability resources are cut and broader systemic cuts also impact disabled people. Our mixed-methods survey compared perceptions of campus accessibility and visibility in disabled and non-disabled samples. We found large disparities in the visibility of disabled people across our samples, including in leadership, classes/class content, student organizations, and close friendships/romantic relationships. Non-disabled students had few interactions with or even knowledge of disabled people around campus and thus had less interest in learning more or pushing for systemic changes. Meanwhile, students with disabilities reported numerous challenges on campus with social interactions, classes, mental health resources, and more. Our work also highlights the need for more intersectional research on disability populations. In our sample, students with disabilities also held other marginalized identities, including race, gender, sexuality, and SES. Despite this, open responses often discussed and reinforced hierarchies within disabilities communities, which also shows how important critical disabilities studies are in this work.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sara Driskell

Assistant Professor | University of Delaware

Authors

Ashley Brown

[32] Rooted in Culture: Research with Hispanic/Latine Communities

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Hispanic/Latine communities are among the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, yet they remain underrepresented in research. For research to be inclusive, representative, and meaningful to Hispanic/Latine communities, it must be culturally responsive. Drawing on our experiences in an ongoing study with Hispanic/Latine families who speak Spanish and/or English, I will discuss three key considerations in designing and implementing culturally responsive research. These considerations include barriers to participation (i.e., recruitment methods, building trust with participants, and study accessibility), challenges with linguistic heterogeneity (i.e., differences in regional dialects, translation accuracy, and participant comprehension), and community representation (i.e., incorporating lived experiences and engaging community partners). In discussing these considerations, I will outline strategies and research practices we have implemented to address them. Taking these considerations into account is necessary for research practices in social psychology to be culturally responsive and inclusive of Hispanic/Latine communities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Patricia Sanchez

Doctoral Student | The University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Heidi Kane

[33] “Nice,” quiet neighborhoods: Banda music and the racialization of space

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Informed by the intersecting histories of the construction of the Mexican race and the racialization of space within the United States, this research employs a mixed-methods approach to investigate whether Banda music, a genre of Mexican regional music, functions as an audio cue for the racialization of space as Mexican. Further, we investigate how the racialization of space as Mexican differentially shapes feelings of connection to space for Mexican and non-Latinx perceivers. Study 1 provides initial evidence that Banda music facilitates the racialization of space -- operationalized as applying negative racial stereotypes to spaces -- in non-Latinx perceivers. Additional analyses reveal that this pattern of results is underpinned by social conservatism and informed by the white spatial imaginary. Study 2 finds that, for Mexican and Mexican-American perceivers with higher-than-average identification with their ethnic-racial identity, Banda music increases feelings of connection to space. Overall, this work provides initial empirical evidence that the racialization of space is a multisensory process that elicits different effects depending on identity, experience, and ideology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lourdes Castillo Silva

Graduate Student | Northwestern

[34] Going Through the System: Racialized Perceptions of Criminal Defendants and Consequences for Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

According to Social Dominance Theory and past research, the criminal justice system reproduces the American racial hierarchy by disproportionately targeting and imposing harsh sanctions on racial minorities, especially African Americans. This study (N = 202) focuses on differences in negative perceptions of criminal defendants and severity of recommended punishment, as Black and White defendants progress through four stages of the criminal justice system: crime, arrest, prosecution, and sentencing. The results revealed that racism, punitiveness, SDO, conservatism, and support for rehabilitation predicted negative perceptions and punishment of Black, but not White, criminal defendants, in all stages, and that the magnitude of these associations increased as Black defendants advanced through the criminal justice system, reflecting increasing racial disparities. This work demonstrates the racialization of attitudes towards criminal defendants and has implications for understanding when and how racial disparities occur in the criminal justice system and implementing interventions to reduce such disparities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Diana Nguyen
Graduate student | Clark University

Authors

Andrew Stewart, Jennifer Tedisco

[35] From Public Ideology to Lived Identity: A Multi-Method Analysis of Adults in Custody

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Political ideologies shape public attitudes toward Adults in Custody (AIC)—influencing criminal-justice policy and reform—and may also shape how AIC experience rehabilitation and identity. This multi-method project includes two studies: (1) a quantitative investigation of ideological drivers of public attitudes toward AIC and (2) a qualitative study of identity change among women in a prison workforce-development program using lifeline interviews. Study 1 tested how neoliberal attitudes shaped perceptions of AIC, especially the tendency to view them as immoral. Using a validated single-item measure of perceived immorality, we examined whether belief in free will mediated the link between neoliberalism and immorality perceptions and found that neoliberalism and right-wing authoritarianism differed in how they predicted immorality and dehumanization. Study 2 identified themes of isolation, systemic failures, and turning points, suggesting that AIC may internalize neoliberal beliefs about personal responsibility and worth. With more than 95 % of AIC eventually returning to society, understanding these societal ideologies and narratives is vital for both reform and research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lauren Sedivy
PhD candidate | The University of Arizona

Authors

Daniel Sullivan, Matthew Jones, Elizabeth Stiles

[36] Justice, Just for Me: Identity and Conditional Attributions for Inequality

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

How do people decide when discrimination “counts”? This study tested whether stigmatized identity promotes structural recognition of inequality, or whether that awareness remains confined to one’s own marginalized domain. Three hundred white women were randomly assigned to evaluate workplace discrimination lawsuits involving either gender or racial bias, presented in corporate contexts designed to obscure prejudice through “false diversity cues.” Participants rated whether claimant outcomes reflected individual failings or systemic injustice. The centrality of participants’ gender identity moderated these effects. Women who viewed gender as a core to their self-concept consistently made structural attributions, seeing discrimination as institutional, claimants as credible, and the company overall as more unfair – but only in gender discrimination cases. When evaluating racial discrimination, women attributed outcomes more to individual factors. Findings suggest that marginalization can heighten sensitivity to structural injustice, but this awareness often remains bounded by identity relevance, shaping when people make structural versus individual attributions for inequality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Journey Simmons
PhD Student | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Eva Pietri

Sustainability Psychology Preconference

8:00 AM – 7:00 PM | Location: E265, Level 2

In this preconference, we showcase cutting-edge research from scholars working across specialties, using a variety of methodologies, and working at both the micro and macro level to move beliefs and behaviors toward sustainability. We offer formal learning experiences with invited talks, symposia, and data blitzes. We also invite informal conversation and networking through poster sessions, discussions, and a happy hour event.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introduction

8:00 AM – 8:05 AM

(Hegemonic) Conceptions of Environmentalism: Nature Preservation, Eco-Modernism, and Racism-Evasion

8:05 AM – 9:15 AM

Environmental historians note that dominant threads of environmentalism—Wilderness Preservation (WP) and Eco-Modernism (EM; green development)—reflect global north sensibilities, erasing environmental injustice in global majority settings and responses to it—Environmental Justice (EJ). Across two studies, we investigated Black, Latinx, and white Americans' conceptions of environmentalism; whether they 1) include discussions of racism, and 2) vary by racial identification. In Study 1 (N=182), across racial categories, participants emphasized behaviors associated with the WP more than EM and EJ. 73% denied a connection between racism and climate change. In Study 2 (N=446), participants reported whether 30 environmentalist activities (10 each thread) represented environmentalism. Across racial groups, environmentalism was most strongly associated with WP, then EC and EJ activities. Racial identification was positively associated with conceiving EJ environmentalism among Black and Latinx but negative among white participants, signifying racism-relevance of environmentalism. We discuss importance of critical race and decolonial perspectives in the study of environmentalism.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Syed Muhammad Omar

PhD Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Glenn Adams, Trevor Lies

Why Good Intentions Aren't Always Enough: Identity and Misalignment in Bridging Knowledge Systems in Science Collaborations

8:05 AM – 9:15 AM

Intercultural collaborations between Western scientists and Indigenous Knowledge Holders are vital for addressing climate change and environmental degradation. Yet these collaborations often remain constrained by power imbalances and the partial integration of knowledge systems. This research investigates how Western scientists' social identities, particularly their identification with Western science, shape their engagement in such collaborations. Grounded in Social Identity Theory and drawing on in-depth interviews with marine scientists and Alaska Native key informants in the Gulf of Alaska, the study reveals how multiple, intersecting identities influence perceptions of legitimacy, authority, and positionality. While scientists broadly supported intercultural collaboration, many retained control over its structure and epistemic framing, highlighting persistent dynamics of dominance even within well-intentioned partnerships. This work emphasizes the psychological dimensions of knowledge system integration and points to the need for institutional and educational reforms that foster epistemic humility and support identity transformation among Western scientists.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Rosemary Aviste

Postdoctoral Researcher | Pennsylvania State University; Northeastern University

Authors

Janet Swim

An Ecofeminist Game-Style Intervention to Increase Pro-Environmental Action for a Sustainable and Just Future

8:05 AM – 9:15 AM

This research tests an ecofeminist game-style intervention that highlights the complementarity between human, social justice, and environmental goals to foster support for pro-environmental collective actions. In two experiments, 410 undergraduates and 451 Canadian adults, respectively, made fictional city policy choices benefiting both people and the environment, receiving feedback on co-benefits. In Experiment 1, the game increased support for environmental policies used in the game and social justice policies not used in the game. In Experiment 2, support for environmental and social justice policies in and not in the game, willingness to act, and environmental donations all increased. Effects were mediated by perceived complementarity of human (Experiments 1 and 2) and social justice goals (Experiment 1) with environmental goals, and to a lesser extent, participatory efficacy and environmental cognitive alternatives (Experiment 2). Findings suggest emphasizing the compatibility of environmental and human goals can increase climate action.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Elyse Collyer

MA | Simon Fraser University

Authors

Michael Schmitt

Does environmental psychology afford an “effective context” for the study of structural racism?

8:05 AM – 9:15 AM

Recent manifestations of racial violence have renewed conversations about structural racism. An important question for psychologists concerns how they might contribute to scholarship that adequately illuminates and confronts structural racism. In this paper, we consider whether environmental psychology (EP)—a discipline unique in its attention to the everyday environment of psychological experience—can serve as a site for such scholarship. We critically review articles that mention racism in EP's two leading journals (Journal of Environmental Psychology and Environment & Behavior). We find that of the roughly 4,500 articles published in the two journals, the word 'racism' appears in 45 articles, 10 of which effectively apply EP's framework to illuminate and confront structural racism. We conclude by arguing for EP to shift toward a racism-conscious lens, until which an EP for the study of structural racism will remain unborn.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Trevor Lies

Assistant Professor | Norfolk State University

Authors

Glenn Adams, Omar Syed Muhammad

Accelerating the Energy Transition: The Role and Opportunity for Psychological Science

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM

*KEYNOTE

Speaker



Kim Wolske
Research Associate Professor | University of Chicago

AM Beverage

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

When Green Innovation Backfires: The Dual Role of Disgust and Perceived Innovativeness in Sustainable Food Acceptance

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Achieving sustainable change depends not only on technological innovation but also on public acceptance of it. Yet green innovations often elicit both fascination and aversion. Cultured foods—produced by growing cells from living organisms—illustrate this tension between sustainability potential and psychological resistance. Across two studies (N = 601, N = 602), we examine how core disgust (pathogen-based aversion) and moral disgust (moral violation aversion) shape acceptance of cultured foods, and how perceived innovativeness alters these effects. Perceiving cultured foods as innovative directly reduces disgust, but paradoxically amplifies its impact on acceptance—strengthening the barrier when disgust is present. These findings reveal that innovation cues can both alleviate and magnify emotional resistance, underscoring the complex psychology of green innovation adoption. They offer insights for science communication and policy aiming to promote sustainable technologies without triggering affective rejection.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Atar Herziger
Assistant Professor | Technion

Valuing the Future: Sustaining the Commons for Future Generations

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

In two pre-registered studies (N = 2,350), we use an incentivized intergenerational common pool resource paradigm to investigate whether moral concern about future generations promotes sustainable management of shared resources. In study 1 (N = 355), we find that individuals higher in Impartial Intergenerational Beneficence (IIB), Obligation to Future Generations, and Legacy motives take fewer shared resources, demonstrating their willingness to forego personal earnings to improve the welfare of future resource users. In study 2 (N = 1,995), we find that an intervention aimed at increasing consideration of future generations leads participants to use less resources, thus sustaining the commons for more generations. In a mediation analysis, we find suggestive evidence that the behavioral effects may be explained by an increased sense of moral obligation to future generations following the intervention. Together, these findings offer evidence that psychological interventions can promote intergenerational concern and cooperation, with implications for intergenerational commons problems like climate change.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Stylianos Syropoulos
Assistant Professor | Arizona State University

Authors

Liane Young, Griffin Colaizzi, Sara Constantino

Proximity to effects of climate change, identity and proenvironmental behavior

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

An environmentalist identity tends to lead to more proenvironmental attitudes and behavior (Vesely et al., 2021). However, environmentalist identity is less common among non-White (vs. White) participants even though they support sustainable policies at the same rate as White participants (Schuldt & Pearson, 2016). In two studies, we tested the proximity hypothesis to explain this divide. We propose that proximity to climate change effects reduces the influence of abstract identities on proenvironmental outcomes. In Study 1 (N=302) proximity (e.g., feeling that climate change is close) was a stronger predictor of six proenvironmental outcomes (rmean=.35) than environmentalist identity (rmean=.17). Study 2 (N=12 collected; 88 expected) is a 2(proximity)x2(environmentalist identity) design where randomly assigned participants read about extreme weather either attributed to climate change (high proximity) or normal cycles (low proximity) and are labeled an environmentalist or not after completing a behavior questionnaire. We expect that environmentalist identity will have a weaker effect on the six proenvironmental outcomes for participants in the high vs. low proximity condition.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Joy Losee
Assistant Professor | University of Dayton

Authors

Erin O'Mara Kunz

What is Nature? Student Conceptions of Nature Predict Sustainability-Related Beliefs, Attitudes, and Behaviors

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Although student conceptions of nature have been investigated with respect to content (inclusion of humans, non-human animals, plants, abiotic elements, and their interactions), little work has linked conceptions to other environmental cognitions. We elicited brief written definitions of nature and other measures of environmental thinking from 711 undergraduate students. Plants, non-human animals, and abiotic elements were each mentioned in roughly 33% of responses. Humans were included in only 8% of responses, whereas 54% of responses implicitly or explicitly excluded humans from the definition of nature. Moreover, avoiding human exclusion and demonstrating systems thinking were positively associated with perceived impact of nature on humans, endorsement of human-nature reciprocity, perceived human connectedness to surrounding ecosystems, and willingness to classify organisms in human context (e.g. a bird on wire) as "nature." Results suggest that conceptualizations of nature and humans' place in it have important implications for pro-environmental beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Daria Healey

PhD Student | Northeastern University

Authors

John Coley, Alegra Germain, Brian Helmuth

Ecospirituality Predicts Pro-Environmental Outcomes Across 15 Countries and the 5 World Religions

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

The idea that nature has spiritual qualities is common in diverse cultural and religious contexts. In North American samples, evidence supports a link between ecospirituality and pro-environmental behaviors (PEBs). However, the generalizability of this claim remains untested. This study uses a large cross-cultural sample of religious individuals from 15 countries spanning the 5 world religions (N=11,186) to (1) estimate the link between ecospirituality and 3 PEBs: behavioral intentions to make sustainable decisions, policy support, and financial donations to an environmental organization; and (2) assess the pathways by which an ecospiritual worldview translates to PEBs. Pre-registered analyses showed that ecospirituality positively predicted each of the PEBs similarly across diverse cultural and religious populations. Even more, the link between ecospirituality and PEBs were consistently mediated by the same variables across cultures. In short, ecospirituality unites diverse cultural worldviews in motivating care for nature by fostering a sense of responsibility, gratitude, and efficacy, making it a potentially powerful foundation for global environmental stewardship.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Matthew Billet

Postdoctoral Fellow | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Adam Baimel

The Price of the Status Quo: Paying More to Avoid Lifestyle Change in the Context of Climate Change Solutions

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Contemporary society faces unprecedented climate threats, yet progress toward decarbonization has been impeded by public resistance. From a rational choice view, this opposition may stem from concerns over economic costs, as climate solutions are often believed to entail higher expenses than fossil fuels. Informed by system justification theory, other research indicates that opposition may also be driven by threats solutions pose to the status quo, since proposals often require changes to entrenched lifestyles. These perspectives raise an important question: Would people rather bear financial costs or change their lifestyle in order to protect the environment? Using U.S. General Social Survey data from 1993 to 2021, (N = 7070), we found that people consistently reported greater willingness to pay higher prices to protect the environment than to accept cuts to their lifestyles. Notably, this pattern was not moderated by income, perceived financial situation, subjective socioeconomic status, or political orientation. The results underscore the role of status quo defense in driving climate opposition, even beyond economic costs.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Taeik Kim

PhD Candidate | University of Missouri, Columbia

Ecological Humility Inventory

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

This investigation validates a self-report measure of ecological humility. Across 8 studies (N = 1724, seven pre-registered) the 10-item Ecological Humility Inventory was constructed. Study 1 generated traits used for item generation. Studies 2a-2c examined the face validity of the items in expert samples and the general population. Studies 3a-3b and 4a-4b provided evidence for the validity (construct, convergent, discriminant, predictive) and reliability of the scale. The inventory displayed psychometric properties that met stringent fit criteria (invariance and dynamic fit indexes). Higher scores correlated positively with constructs predictive of concern for nature (environmental identity, nature connectedness, awe, anthropomorphism of nature), virtues and prosocial tendencies (empathic concern, perspective taking, patience sincerity, fairness, modesty, honesty-humility). Scores negatively correlated with ecological and social dominance orientation, anthropocentrism, speciesism and human superiority beliefs. Importantly, scores predicted performance in an effortful proenvironmental behavioral task, controlling for environmental identity and nature connectedness.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jin Capozzoli

Master's Student | Penn State University

Authors

Stylianios Syropoulos, Kyle Law, Tyler DesRoches

How Climate Change Politicization Shapes Public Policy Support and Moderates Behavioral Intervention Effectiveness Across Nations

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Public support is essential for implementing effective climate policies, yet it varies across countries. We examined how national-level politicization of climate change shapes citizens' policy support and the effectiveness of policy support interventions. Drawing on expert evaluations and experimental data from over 40,000 participants across 31 countries, we identify substantial differences in climate change politicization. Average support for climate policies was higher in moderately and highly politicized contexts compared to low-politicization contexts. Interventions aimed at increasing policy support were only effective in moderate- and high-politicized countries. In moderately politicization countries, successful interventions boosted support equally across ideological lines. In high-politicized countries, some interventions effectively boosted policy support, regardless of ideological differences between their citizens, while others did so only among right-wing supporters. These findings challenge prevailing views on climate change politicization risks and highlight its nuanced role in shaping public responsiveness to climate action.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Noga Mostovoy Elzafan
The Hebrew University

Authors

Eran Halperin, David Sherman, Noa Cohen Eick, Madalina Vlasceanu, Boryana Todorova

Sustainability Psychology Outside of Academia

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

In this invited panel, three sustainability psychology scholars placed outside of traditional academia - Emily Cardon from BIT, Anirudh Tiwathia from Rare, and Rachel Novick from the Morton Arboretum - will share their work.

Speakers



Michael Hallsworth
Managing Director (Americas) | Behavioral Insights Team



Susan Cosier
Freelance



Rachel Novick
Director Of Sustainability | The Morton Arboretum

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch will be served in the meeting room. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

[161] Environmental Tradeoffs and Moral Dilemmas: The Role of Sacred Values in Environmental Decision-Making

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Although the language of trade-offs in environmental decision making is ubiquitous, few studies have examined how our underlying values and the moral imperatives attached to them inform and predict such decisions. Sacred values—which involve viewing certain principles as non-reducible and non-fungible—may be relevant in this context. We ask whether these values may play a role in people's willingness to endorse different environmental plans and policies in the context of a tradeoff. Participants are presented with 3 different scenarios for a development project that causes environmental harm followed by either monetary gain or benefit for humans in need. Results indicate the addition of an offset increases the acceptability of trade-offs, although this is attenuated for plans that lead to biodiversity loss. For those high in outcome-based (consequentialist) reasoning, this effect is enhanced. and Moral inclusion of nature reduces endorsement for plans that violate nature, regardless of whether there was an offset or human benefit. Those who sacralize values related to environmental protection are less willing to endorse transgressions regardless of the consequences of the plans.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristen Kilgallen
PhD Candidate | Northeastern university

Authors

John Coley

[162] Discouraged from Decarbonizing: Racial Disparities in Electric Vehicle Sales

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Transportation contributes nearly a third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting the need for electric vehicle (EV) adoption. Yet ownership remains low, with racial disparities: Black and Hispanic consumers are underrepresented despite strong interest. Drawing on stereotype bias and cultural mismatch theories, we test whether discouragement in sales interactions drives these gaps. Implicit bias and in-group favoritism may shape perceptions of customer fit, while cultural mismatch can heighten sensitivity to rejection cues. Using California Clean Vehicle Rebate Project survey data (N=9,739), we examine whether minority EV buyers faced discouragement and whether experiences differed by sales model. Black, Hispanic, and Other races were more likely than Whites to be “talked out” of EVs. For Asians, race alone did not predict dissuasion, but Asian Tesla buyers were more than twice as likely to face discouragement as Asians buying non-Teslas. Findings extend research on stereotype bias beyond pricing and credit, showing how biased sales interactions can exclude minorities. Addressing these dynamics is key for equitable access to clean transportation and a green economy.

*POSTER

Speaker

Hyeonsong Lee

PhD Student | The Ohio State University

Authors

Nicole Sintov

[163] Impact of Stereotypes and Activist Behavior on Perceptions of Environmentalists and Pro-environmental Actions

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Negative stereotypes associated with environmentalists and environmental activists may create obstacles to the environmentalist movement. In a past study we found that the modal prototype of an environmentalist is a young White woman and that participants hold more negative views of activists than non-activists. However, it is specific examples of activists versus non-activist behavior (e.g., protesting versus recycling) that generates different stereotypes, rather than just using the labels “environmentalist” and “environmental activists.” Now, we seek to replicate those findings by using more ecologically valid materials, considering how actor race affects evaluations, and adding behavioral measures to further examine how perceptions of environmentalists may impact actual pro-environmental behaviors compared to self-reported behaviors. We used a 2 X 2 between-subjects experimental design where we manipulated the race and engagement with activism of a female environmentalist’s Instagram profile. Preliminary findings indicate greater positivity toward non-activists compared to activists, and little evidence that target race affects judgments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sol Corral

Ph. D. Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Monica Biernat

[164] Hexaco and Environmentalism

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

In this paper, we investigate which personality dimensions provide a common psychological basis for environmental measures and socio-moral orientations (e.g., feeling connected to others, perceiving the environmental problem as moral). In a cross-sectional study (N = 634), we explored the associations between the HEXACO dimensions and a wide range of environmental measures as well as socio-moral orientations related to environmentalism. We found that Openness to Experience was the most prominent predictor of environmental measures, socio-moral orientations and the belief that climate change is caused by human activity. We further provide a comprehensive overview of how each personality dimension connects socio-moral orientations and environmental measures, highlighting the multifaceted nature of environmentalism. The findings underscore the role of individual differences in coping with the environmental crisis. Our paper replicates and extends previous research, contributing to the ongoing discussion on how differences in individual predispositions influence environmental engagement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria-Anna Drosinou

University of Helsinki

Authors

Jussi Palomäki, Anton Kunnari, Mika Koverola, Markus Jokela, Michael Laakasuo

[165] Understanding and promoting pro-environmental behavior change through scope expansion

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Many pro-environmental behavior (PEB) interventions attempt to reduce psychological distance (i.e., how far away an object or event is from the self) towards climate change. However, this work is held back by theoretical and practical limitations: psychological distance cannot be reduced, and these approaches promote a self-centered set of solutions. Regulatory Scope provides a path forward, proposing that actions addressing distal concerns are promoted through expansive (vs contractive) scope, defined as the range of ends and possibilities considered in decision making. Our research directly tests this theory in the environmental domain. We show in 3 pre-registered studies (N=285) that expansive scope is associated with greater past PEB engagement, larger environmental donations, stronger environmental identity, and stronger future PEB intentions. In 5 pre-registered studies (N=702), we test novel scope manipulation interventions, showing that simulating the thinking of another person high (vs low) on scope promotes stronger (vs weaker) PEB intentions. Implications for intervention design are discussed, including expected findings from in-prep longitudinal field interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Naseem Dillman-Hasso

PhD Student | The Ohio State University

Authors

Nicole Sintov, Robyn Wilson, Kentaro Fujita

[166] Are humans part of nature? Predictors of excluding humans from definitions of nature.

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

This study explores how people define "nature" and which aspects of connection to nature (CTN) predict whether they include or exclude humans from this definition. We collected open-ended definitions of nature (N = 766) and scores on the DEEP CTN scale. Giving non-human examples was most common, followed by definitions excluding humans. Definitions including humans were least common. Using DEEP CTN sub-scales, we ran logistic regression to identify what aspects predicted human inclusion or exclusion. Those scoring high on depth of identity (self-construct including nature) were 1.3x more likely to include humans ($p = 0.04$, 95%CI = 1.01-1.70) and almost half as likely to exclude humans (OR = 0.66, $p < 0.001$, 95%CI = 0.50-0.87). Interestingly, those high in emotional CTN (deep empathy towards nature) showed a tendency to exclude humans, though this didn't reach significance (OR = 1.33, $p = 0.5$, 95%CI = 1.00-1.78). This suggests how people define nature, specifically whether they include humans, is intertwined with how their CTN is expressed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Debra Lindsay

PhD Candidate | UC San Diego

[167] People in Cities Worried about Climate Change Discuss Nature Less Negatively Online

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

In this mixed methods, exploratory study, our goal was to map potential geographical differences in the ways nature is discussed online and to test whether those differences are associated with a location's worry about climate change. We collected, read, and qualitatively coded N=20 threads from the subreddits of N=81 American cities (M=718 words per thread), and also recorded climate change worry scores for each city from the Yale Program on Climate Communications. Through our coding, we identified tone and emotion words as potentially important variables distinguishing high worry cities from low worry cities. We used LIWC analysis to give each city a score for positive and negative tone, positive and negative emotion words, and anxiety, sadness, and anger-related words. Negative tone ($r = -.225$; $p = .045$), negative emotion ($r = -.342$; $p = .002$), and anxiety ($r = -.241$; $p = .031$) were all negatively correlated with a city's worry about climate change. Positive tone and emotion words were not. This indicates that people in cities more worried about climate change talk less negatively about nature online. Qualitative examples and discussion are also provided.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brady Jones

Associate Professor of Psychology | Univ. of St. Francis

Authors

Gianna Barbaro

[168] "Do as I say, not as I do" — Talking about Environmental Issues and Feelings of Hypocrisy

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Despite widespread concern, people rarely talk about environmental issues. We propose that this silence may stem from feelings of hypocrisy: speaking up about environmental issues can draw attention to one's own behaviors, which often fall short of one's pro-environmental convictions. This may create a fear of appearing hypocritical, discouraging people from voicing their convictions. Based on prior research, we specifically hypothesized that such feelings would reduce willingness to discuss the need for individual-level change but not system-level change. Informed by the findings of a pretest (N = 184), we developed an experimental paradigm with a hypocrisy induction and a control condition to examine these effects. Data were collected in an online study across Austria, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom (total N = 2,105). Structural equation modeling revealed that the hypocrisy manipulation did not successfully change feelings of hypocrisy; however, feelings of hypocrisy were negatively associated with willingness to discuss both individual- and system-level change. This pattern of results holds when analyzing the data of each country separately.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tabea Hoffmann

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Vermont Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

[169] From innovation to emotion: How transformational salience in affective appeals shapes consumer responses toward recycled ocean plastic fashion

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Despite advances in transforming ocean plastic waste into sustainable products, consumer adoption remains limited due to perceived risks and emotional aversion, especially for items worn close to the body. Innovation appeals that highlight functional novelty aim to promote circularity, yet may fall short in changing behavior. Drawing on transformational salience and psychological proximity, this study examines how communication can enhance perceived value of recycled ocean plastic fashion. A 2 (innovation vs. affective appeal) $\times$ 2 (garment vs. accessory) between-subjects experiment among young Western European consumers tests the impact of appeal type and product proximity on attitudes and adoption intentions. Results show that affective appeals significantly improve responses to garments made from ocean plastic, countering prior disgust responses. Accessories elicit positive reactions regardless of appeal. Symbolic and emotional value perceptions mediate these effects, underscoring the power of emotionally resonant messaging in advancing circular fashion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Barbara Behre

Post-doctoral scholar | USC

Authors

Shuang Wu

[170] Comparing effects of hopeful imagination to hopeful message on motivating pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors across different cultural contexts.

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

The accelerating urgency of global climate change demands communication strategies that inspire collective action. Recent scholarship increasingly focuses on the effects of inducing hope, yet work on hopeful messages often suggests limited effects of these messages on motivating climate engagement. In this experiment, we investigate whether hopeful imagination tasks, guided exercises that help participants actively envision a thriving, sustainable future, motivate pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors more strongly than passive reception of hopeful messages and a control group amongst the American and Chinese publics. The rationale for this study is rooted in both psychological theory and practical necessity. Research on mental imagery and future thinking demonstrates that active imagination exercises can enhance motivation and behavioral commitment more effectively than verbal messaging alone. However, there remains a critical gap in empirical evidence comparing the relative effectiveness of experiential imagination tasks versus traditional message-based interventions in the climate context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Peishan Ouyang

Authors

Nathaniel Geiger

[171] Climate Change Perceptions, Personality Traits and Sustainable Health Behaviours in Singaporean Adults

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Climate change poses major environmental and health challenges, yet little is known about links with daily lifestyle behaviours. This study examined climate perceptions among 678 Singaporean adults in a digital lifestyle trial. Participants rated six items on climate importance, worry, personal and generational harm, and impacts on diet and activity using Likert scales, dichotomised as "high" versus "low." Diet and activity were measured via DASH score and the International Physical Activity Questionnaire. Among participants (Mean age=31.11±9.65 years;42.5% male;82.7% Chinese), 6.8% rated climate change as extremely important and 12.1% were very worried. More perceived a "great deal of harm" to future generations (63.9%) than to themselves (22.0%). Physical activity (39.7%) and diet (19.8%) were strongly affected by climate change; non-Chinese participants rated it more important and worrying. High climate importance was associated with greater DASH adherence (22.26 vs 21.22, p=0.007) but not total physical activity. Although widely acknowledged, climate change remains a low personal priority; concern for future generations may help drive sustainable, health-supportive behaviours.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ruth R Mathews

Research Associate | Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine Nanyang Technological Univeisty (NTU)

Authors

Konstadina Griva, Jacqueline Louise Mair, Oscar Castro, Tobias Kowatsch, Falk Müller-Riemenschneider

[172] Imagining the Alternative: The Role of Mental Imagery in Environmental Cognition and Climate Action

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Climate change poses a significant threat to human health and well-being. As such, research is needed into the individual differences shaping engagement in climate action. Prior work has suggested that the ability to produce mental imagery may influence cognitive factors which facilitate environmental engagement, such as access to cognitive alternatives to the status quo. We conducted a study in a combined online and undergraduate sample to evaluate the potential relationship between mental imagery ability, environmental actions, and behavioral intentions. We used structural equation modeling to test a pre-registered path model of these relationships. While the model demonstrated good fit, not all the predicted relationships were significant. Additionally, we tested an alternative model which also demonstrated good fit. Follow-up studies will test these competing models. These results indicate that representations of climate related concepts may affect environmental behavior, however the degree to which mental imagery ability affects these relationships remains unclear.

*POSTER

Speaker



Willow Rose

Lab Manager | Social Cognition Across People And Environments (SCAPE) lab @ RIT

Authors

Marjorie Prokosch

[173] Cross-cultural value orientation and environmental behavior - A study from university students of Nepal and United States of America

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Studies have established that self transcendent values have a positive association with pro environmental behaviors and self-enhancement values have a negative association. However, few studies have asked whether this relationship between values and behaviors varies based on culture. To do so, we tested the link between egoistic, altruistic and biospheric value orientation and a range of environmentally relevant behaviors in two contrasting cultures: the US and Nepal. The results showed that in the US, consistent with past literature, biospheric value orientation positively predicts numerous pro environmental behaviors and egoistic value orientation negatively predicts pro environmental behaviors. Whereas, in the case of Nepal, we found that egoistic value orientation predicts pro environmental behaviors like purchasing sustainable products, donating money to environmental initiatives and volunteering for environmental causes. Likewise, in comparison to the US, biospheric value orientation in Nepal has a weaker association with environmental behavior. These results demonstrate culturally-specific relations between value orientation and environmentally relevant behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Subina Shrestha

PhD Student | Northeastern University

[174] Why Go Green? Unpacking the Motivational Reasons Behind Private and Public Environmental Actions

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Drawing on Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 2000), this research explores motivations behind pro-environmental behaviors in Turkey, where an authoritarian political climate may inhibit participation in collective public actions. Study 1 (N = 375; Mage = 22.35; SD = 2.38) revealed that autonomous, but not controlling, reasons uniquely predicted private- and public-sphere behaviors, controlling for connectedness to nature and perceived environmental threat. Participants also responded to vignettes assessing their willingness to act sustainably at personal cost. Together, the results suggest that autonomous reasons predict both actual behavior and intention, even when time and effort are required. Building on Study 1, Study 2 (total N = 160; Mage = 23.55; SD = 7.17) used a six-week diary design and found that weekly variation in autonomous, but not controlling, reasons positively predicted weekly fluctuations in both behavior types. Further, perceived environmental threat also predicted between-person differences in such behaviors across both realms. These findings underscore the role of autonomous motivation in sustaining green behavior, even under restrictive conditions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ilke Candar

Ph.D. Student | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Athanasios Mouratidis

[175] Hope and Climate Change Engagement: Examining Relationships Between Hope Targets, Intentions, and Policy Support

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Whether or not people are hopeful about climate change is not solely important for a sustainable future (Geiger et al., 2023). Rather, the target of hope also relates to climate engagement. Our study explores relationships between hope and engagement with climate change. In an online survey, 1,898 U.S. adults wrote what made them hopeful about climate change and reported climate engagement (i.e., behavioral intentions and policy support). We implemented mixed-methods analyses to contextualize written responses with quantitative measures of climate change engagement. Qualitative analysis revealed six themes: science and technology, powerful actors, lay action, increasing awareness, denial hope (hope that the problem is overstated), and no hope. Statistical analyses showed that those with denial hope for climate change reported below-average climate engagement, while those who were hopeful about powerful actors, lay action, or increasing awareness for climate change generally reported above-average engagement. Our research supports scientists, policymakers, and community leaders who want to frame climate change to encourage engagement, policy support, and behavioral intentions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Paige Powers

Undergraduate Student | Indiana University

Authors

Nathaniel Geiger, Elizabeth Ray, Caitlin O'Reilly, Shahzeen Attari

[176] The Diminishing Effect of Social Norms Messages In the Context of Green Transportation

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Among the continued calls to action for social psychologists is to harness the power of social norms to promote sustainable behavior. To this end, researchers have created messages that highlight a social norm and observed whether individuals adjust their actions accordingly. However, many studies have used messages labeled as social norms messages while only asking people to do a behavior without referencing a social norm (e.g., Please wash your hands). To test the effect of these "behavioral requests" relative to norms messages, we conducted 2 field experiments in the context of green transportation. In Study 1 we encouraged bikers (N = 498) to signal when passing a pedestrian on a bike path. We found that any type of message was more effective at leading bikers to signal than a no-message control. In Study 2 (N = 422), we replicated Study 1 while also recording how far the pedestrian had traveled from the messages. We found that the further from the intervention, the weaker the effect of norms messages – and especially behavioral requests – on signaling. We identify how researchers can change behavior and offer new insights about the declining effect of norms interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Douglas

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Ohio Wesleyan University

Authors

Markus Brauer

[177] Framing the Divide: Environmental Message Framing and Political Polarization in U.S. Print Media

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Bipartisan environmental legislation in the US was once common; however, in recent decades, environmentalism has become a polarized marker of political identity. Message framing has emerged as a strategy to appeal to diverse identity groups. Evidence points to the effectiveness of framing, but it has also been criticized for reinforcing ideological division. Likewise, critics have questioned whether environmental organizations are going far enough to frame appeals in ways that resonate with right-leaning audiences. In this analysis, we examine 300 environmental appeals published in widely read print magazines (Newsweek, Time, and National Geographic) from 1960 to 2019. Messages are coded by two researchers for hierarchical, individualist, egalitarian, and communitarian framing. We examine the prevalence of frames over time relative to political party holding office and relative to indicators of environmental values from long-term Gallup and Pew surveys. With this dataset, we seek to answer whether political identity frames are preceding or following changes in party leadership and how this reflects the contribution environmental advertisements are making to political polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ashley Miralles

Undergrad Student & Research Assistant | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Sofiya Velychko, Amanda R. Carrico

[178] Americans realistically assess public views of climate change as a national problem

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Public underestimation of other people's climate beliefs, worry, and support for action have been described as a false sense of reality. In contrast, we demonstrate that Americans (N = 1980) realistically assess other Americans' opinions about climate change as national problem: They are fairly accurate in estimating the percentage of Americans who believe climate change is a "very big" problem (46% vs 41%, estimate vs. actual, respectively), overestimate Republican opinions (29% vs. 13%), and accurately estimate Democrat views (66% vs. 67%). Their direct estimates of the size of the political divide on this topic are also reasonably accurate (50% vs. 54%). Moreover, they are sensitive to the extent to which Americans, Democrats, and Republicans endorse this opinion relative to 19 other potential top national problems. Our research challenges the prevailing characterization of climate-related second-order beliefs (beliefs about other people's beliefs), calls for attention to the topics that Americans think are most and least important, and has potential implications for communication about second-order beliefs as a means of motivating support for climate actions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zoe Baker

Graduate Student | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Janet Swim

[179] Ingroup Bias in the Allocation of Infrastructure Projects

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Infrastructure projects have important effects on humans and the natural environment. The present work examines the interaction between project desirability and group membership, specifically whether it reveals ingroup bias in the allocation of project locations. Across two studies, 223 college participants completed an urban planning task that involved distributing infrastructure projects to available locations on a county map. Participants read that they worked for the City of Birchwood or the City of Pinecrest. Afterwards, they allocated 12 infrastructure projects (six positive, six negative) to one-of-three possible locations: Birchwood, Pinecrest, or outside the cities in Arbor County (16 or 18 total lots). The results showed that participants generally located more positive infrastructure projects in their own city rather than the other city, and more negative infrastructure projects in the other city rather than their own city. Importantly, group membership did not influence the number of positive or negative infrastructure projects allocated in the larger county. These results suggest that ingroup bias (rather than NIMBY) might influence the allocation of infrastructure.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mark Ferguson

Professor | Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Authors

Quinlyn Mack, Madeline Koran, Macy Dickman, Kaitlyn Volbright, Mai Yang

[180] What Influences Stormwater Managers to Go Green?

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Despite evidence of green infrastructure's effectiveness in improving water quality and climate resilience, critical barriers to widespread adoption remain. Municipal public works departments—responsible for stormwater infrastructure planning, budgeting, and maintenance—play a key role in advancing these practices. To better understand the factors that influence green infrastructure decision-making, in-depth interviews were conducted with public works managers and engineers across Wisconsin in 2023 and 2025. Applying the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1985), one of the most widely used frameworks in the behavioral sciences, this project employed grounded theory methodology to qualitatively examine the beliefs, social norms, and perceived barriers shaping stormwater managers' decisions. This poster will present key findings, illustrate how they are informing a statewide survey, and discuss ways to support local green infrastructure adoption through targeted outreach.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Noordyk

UW Sea Grant

Authors

Bret Shaw, Patrick Robinson

[181] Expert consensus on high-impact strategies for environmental behavior change: a Delphi study

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Researchers studying environmental behavior change have developed and tested dozens of interventions to promote a shift toward more sustainable and environmentally friendly behavior. While this is a rich and dynamic body of literature, there is a lack of clarity on which interventions experts agree show the most promise for changing environmentally relevant behavior. I sought to understand expert agreement around "high-impact" strategies for environmental behavior change using a two-phase (phase 1 N= 18, phase 2 N= 14) Delphi process with a panel of experts in the field. In the first round, experts were asked to list three high-impact strategies for environmental behavior change, and in the second round, they were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed each strategy listed in the first round was high-impact. Of the initial 26 strategies gathered in the first round, there were only seven that the panel agreed fit the definition of being "high impact" (using a 70% threshold of consensus). These results help clarify what experts consider the leading contributions of their field to date, while also highlighting the most promising avenues for application and practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristin Hurst

Assistant Professor | Southern Illinois University

[182] Visible to whom: The relationship between social visibility and the performance of pro-environmental behaviors and differences based on audience social closeness

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Environmental behaviors are opportunities to display environmentalism to others and gain reputation. This research examined whether people are more likely to engage in environmental actions when they perceive them as being of high (relative to low) visibility. We tested how the relationship between visibility and behavior performance changes depending on the social closeness of the observer. Participants (N = 1000) rated 20 recurring environmental behaviors for how often they performed them, and their perceived visibility, in general, and to audiences of varying social closeness (i.e., family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers). Participants were more likely to report performing environmental behaviors that they perceive as highly visible, controlling for political ideology, gender, attitudes, environmentalist identity, and behavior difficulty and effectiveness. This relationship varies depending on the social closeness of the observer, such that visibility to socially distant audiences have a weaker association with behavior performance than socially close audiences. Results have implications for the Actor-Behavior-Observer model of the impact of social visibility.

*POSTER

Speaker



Devlin O'Keefe

Ph.D. Student | University of California, Santa Barbars

Authors

David Sherman, Cameron Brick

[183] Reparation and Reciprocity: Mapping Kleinian Object Relations onto the Ecological Self

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

This paper bridges object relations theory and ecopsychology to propose the Western psyche's relationship with the Earth reflects a pathological object relation. Drawing on Melanie Klein's model of the paranoid-schizoid and depressive positions, the Earth can be understood as a split object, idealized as nurturing "Mother Nature" yet persecuted through extraction and control. Ecological destruction thus mirrors psychic defense mechanisms of splitting and projection, enacted collectively to disavow dependence, grief, and mortality. Moving toward the depressive position involves mourning the harm done to the ecological "good object" and developing the capacity for ambivalence and repair. Acts of offering and reciprocity are reframed as reparative gestures: symbolic attempts to restore relationship with the more than human world and integrate disowned aspects of the self. Integrating Klein, Hillman, Fisher, and Lertzman, this model situates sustainability as psychological maturation, embodying the transition from defensive dissociation to relational responsibility with the living Earth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Sprague

PhD Student (Clinical Psychology) | Pacifica Graduate Institute

[184] Toward Sustainable Diets: The Role of Empathy and Reactance in Responses to Meat Reduction Appeals

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Appeals to increase green behavior may elicit reactance among certain groups, though empathy may buffer reactance. This study explored whether empathy after viewing meat reduction messages indirectly leads to persuasion via reactance, across political groups. 1,281 US participants were randomly assigned to view a meat-reduction message that included an image of meat or no image and rated their empathy for the pictured animal, general empathy for animals, reactance, and attitudes and intentions related to meat reduction. Results revealed indirect effects of empathy for the pictured animal via reactance on meat-eating attitudes (effect = -.035 [-.056, -.017]) and intentions to order a vegetarian meal (effect = .063 [.039, .090]) as well as indirect effects for general empathy via reactance on intentions to reduce meat (effect = .079 [.052, .109]) and to order a vegetarian meal (effect = .090 [.066, .116]). Political party did not moderate these effects. Results suggest that greater empathy for animals relates to attitudes and intentions to reduce meat via mitigating reactance, across parties. Meat reduction messages targeting empathy may have potential to be broadly effective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Barrett

Research Associate | UNF Institute of Environmental Research and Education

Authors

Heather Barnes Truelove, Erin Largo-Wight, Katie Wilkinson, Abbey Young

[185] Framing the Future of Carbon Removal: Who Says It Matters

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Along with reductions in CO₂ emissions, carbon dioxide removal (CDR) strategies are needed to meet the Paris Agreement's climate goals. One CDR strategy is direct air capture (DAC), where large fans draw air through a filter to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. To facilitate large-scale adoption of DAC, both technological developments and social acceptance is needed. To increase social acceptance, stakeholders often use sponsored ads to promote DAC, and are motivated by different outcomes, which are reflected in the content of the ads. This study investigates how support for DAC technology is shaped by sponsored ads. We experimentally tested the influence of the source (oil company, DAC company, scientists, or an unknown source) and frame (economic benefits or climate benefits) of the ads on support for DAC development. We found that, (1) the source promoting DAC matters: support is highest when the source is scientific, and (2) the climate, but not economic, frame can be used to leverage support: people are less supportive when oil and DAC companies emphasize climate benefits. Findings are discussed in light of potential sensitivity to greenwashing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samantha Mertens

Post-Doc | University of Southern California

Authors

Aitor Marcos Diaz, Amanda Molder, Joe Arvai

[186] Framing the Facts: How Conditional Probabilities Shape Perceptions of Polarization on Climate Policy

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Public opinion data about climate change can be framed in multiple mathematically accurate ways, shaping whether climate policies are seen as either partisan or shared concerns. For example, the same data can highlight "Among Americans who believe the government should spend less on protecting the environment, about 84% are Republican and about 8% are Democrat.", or alternatively, "Among Republicans, about 20% believe the government should spend less on protecting the environment, and among Democrats, about 2% do." This study examines how individuals interpret such conditional probability statements and how communication goals and partisan identity influence their framing preferences. Participants are randomly assigned to imagine communicating with those who agree or disagree with their own political views, or for their own understanding. We predict that individuals communicating to their own side will prefer framings that emphasize intergroup differences, while those communicating to the other side will prefer statements that suggest intergroup similarities. These findings could reveal how subtle differences in statistical framing can intensify or reduce polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jungbin Lim
UC Santa Barbara

Authors

David Sherman, Leaf Van Boven

[187] The Application of Ecofeminist Theory in Social Epidemiology to Address Perinatal Health Disparities in the Texas Borderlands

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

This talk is based on a paper that examines the integration of social epidemiology, ecofeminist feminist thought, and qualitative works like Gloria Anzaldúa's *La Frontera/ The Borderlands* to inform a more equitable, culturally grounded, and ecologically aware approach to addressing health disparities among pregnant and postpartum Latinx women in the U.S.–Mexico borderlands. This talk emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to developing the theoretical ground work for mixed methods research in social and sustainability psychology to holistically assess the unique needs of the Latinx American population by drawing from feminist philosophy, ecology, agricultural science, health psychology, public health, and medical humanities. Special attention is given to how mothers and caregivers navigate constrained food environments while exercising various levels of agency in decisions about family nutrition, pregnancy, and well-being while also dealing with exposure to environmental hazards

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrea Hernandez
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

[188] Communicating the health implications of global environmental change: a mixed methods systematic review of health framing in environmental messaging

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Recent research suggests that framing global environmental change as a health issue may increase public engagement. This mixed methods systematic review synthesises existing evidence on the health framing effects in text-based environmental communication. We searched five databases (Web of Science, Scopus, PubMed, PsycINFO, and Communication and Mass Media Complete) from inception to 09 May 2025 and identified 46 articles (54 studies). Most studies were randomised controlled trials conducted among the public in high-income, English-speaking countries. Findings indicate that health-framed environmental messages are generally perceived as clear and helpful, particularly when emphasising mitigation benefits. Health framing also effectively increases threat perception, policy support, and health protective intentions, although its impacts on sustainable lifestyle changes and advocacy behaviours are less consistent. Future research should incorporate rigorous designs, diverse populations, and focus on long-term outcomes to obtain a clearer understanding of effective communication strategies at the intersection of global environmental change and health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Konstadina Griva

Authors

Frederick Chan, Steve Yim, Ben Horton

[189] Ecocentric Psychology: Path to Sustainability

1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

This paper introduces the concept of Ecocentric Psychology to strengthen the sustainability perspective in psychological work. The crisis we are experiencing is not exclusively environmental, but socio-environmental; this opens up possibilities for the discipline of psychology to use its knowledge and strategies to resolve it. It is an invitation to transition from self-care to eco-care and redefine our role as inhabitants of planet Earth; to stop being subjects of domination and consumption, instead committing to social justice, interdependence, and reconnection (cognitive, affective, and behavioral) with the natural world. It is also a call for environmental justice, as poverty and social injustice are associated with ecological deterioration. Environmental problems are caused by the individual and collective actions of human groups, orchestrated by their thoughts, feelings, and underlying values. This paper, based on critical thinking, ethical commitment, and a systemic vision, aims to provide an analysis of the role of emotions in pro-environmental behavior, identify psychological barriers to climate action, and present strategies for behavioral change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elsa Sanchez-Corral Fernandez
PROFESSOR Psychology Department | UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA, MEXICO CITY

Connecting Behaviors to Opinions: How Attribution of Environmental Behaviors Relates to Perceived Support for Climate Policies

2:20 PM – 3:30 PM

Despite widespread public support for climate mitigation policies, many people underestimate such support among other citizens. We explore one potential source of this misperception: attribution of others' (lack of) environmental behaviors. Across two correlational studies in the U.S., we examined the relationships among perceived prevalence of environmental behaviors, attribution of those behaviors, and perceived public opinions about climate change. Two key findings emerged: (a) attributing others' behaviors to environmental concern rather than to situational constraints was associated with greater perception of public support; (b) the negative correlation between observing others' environmentally harmful behaviors and perceived policy support was stronger than the positive correlation between observing environmentally helpful behaviors and perceived support. These findings suggest that a motivation to hold others accountable for environmental harm may shape perception of public opinion on climate change. Due to such motivation, observing others' green behaviors may not translate to an increased perception of public concern about the environment.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Junho Lee

Postdoctoral Researcher | Department of Psychology, Northeastern University

Authors

Gregg Sparkman, Sara Constantino, Nathaniel Geiger, Vincent Wong, Junghyun Moon

The disconfirmation framing advantage: Pro-environmental descriptive norm appeals are more effective when disconfirming the normativeness of an anti-environmental alternative

2:20 PM – 3:30 PM

Pro-environmental descriptive norm appeals typically confirm the majority status of a desired behavior (e.g., "85% use energy efficient appliances"). While such messages can effectively promote pro-environmental behaviors (PEBs), we suggest that disconfirmation framing is even more effective. Disconfirmation framing conveys a logically equivalent message but does so by emphasizing that most are not taking the alternative anti-environmental action (e.g., "85% do not use energy inefficient appliances"). We report the results of seven studies—online, lab, and field experiments—that support this assertion and provide evidence for two explanations of this disconfirmation framing advantage. First, disconfirmation framing capitalizes on negativity bias, which amplifies the persuasive impact of the norm. Second, disconfirmation framing discourages social loafing effects that are an inadvertent side-effect of confirmation framing. Specifically, people are less likely to infer that others are engaging in collective action toward a shared goal—an inference that can stimulate social loafing—when focused on the anti-environmental actions people have avoided than the PEBs they have adopted.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Ryan P. Jacobson

Professor | Univ. of New Mexico

Authors

Yue Zhang, Yijia Dong, Jiang Jiang

Correcting Climate Action Misperceptions: A Quiz-Based Intervention on Dietary Behaviors with Pro-Environmental Spillover

2:20 PM – 3:30 PM

Effective climate mitigation requires public action, yet even climate-concerned individuals misjudge the impacts of pro-climate behaviors, which may lead them to prioritize less effective ones. This study examined whether a brief heuristic-based intervention could correct misperceptions about dietary actions and increase intentions to engage in high-impact behaviors. Climate-concerned participants (N = 487) were randomly assigned to a control condition or an intervention comprising a trade-off quiz with corrective feedback on the impacts of dietary actions, along with a general heuristic for judging behavioral emissions impacts. The intervention significantly improved participants' accuracy in ranking dietary behaviors ($p < .01$, $d = 0.45$) and, to a lesser extent, climate actions overall ($p < .01$, $d = 0.34$), indicating positive spillover. It also increased intentions to engage in high-impact actions ($p = .03$, $d = 0.19$), though this effect was not mediated by improved ranking accuracy. These findings highlight both the potential and limitations of brief quiz-based interventions in correcting climate action misperceptions and strengthening impactful behavioral intentions.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Miriam Remshard

PhD Candidate | University of Cambridge

Authors

Helen Haines, Sander van der Linden

Understanding when dynamic norms flourish or fail to promote sustainability

2:20 PM – 3:30 PM

What determines whether a trend grows into a prominent norm or fades away? While prior research has identified factors that moderate conformity to static norms, relatively little is known about moderators for dynamic norms. We propose that people's perceptions of a trend's Longevity (will the trend last?) and Universality (will it spread widely?) determine whether it will form into a norm. Across two studies on adopting pro-environmental technologies: heat pumps (N=320) and induction cooktops (N=940), perceived longevity and universality predicted stronger behavioral intentions. We then test if these findings replicate in an ongoing national sample in the U.S. (N=1,600) in EV adoption. This research will advance understanding of how and why social trends spread or fail to grow, offering psychological insights into the dynamics norms and social change.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Yuejiao Jiang

Graduate Student | Boston College

Authors

Gregg Sparkman, Joel Ginn, Janquel Acevedo

PM Beverage

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

With a little help from my friends: Social support, hope, and climate action

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Hope is a future-oriented emotion attuning people to the possibility of positive change, and thus could potentially catalyze societal climate engagement. A recent meta-analysis suggests that the relationship between hope and climate action is most robust when the target of hope is climate engagement (i.e. action hope) rather than climate change more broadly. Yet, this meta-analysis also suggests that commonly used short hopeful messages do not foster action hope nor climate engagement. This presentation examines an alternative source of action hope: receiving social support. Two studies test whether social support motivates climate action via increased action hope. Study 1 (online survey, N = 887) demonstrates that, as pre-registered, both instrumental and emotional support predict intentions to act and this is explained by action hope. Study 2 (N_educators = 84, N_contacts = 520) extends these findings in a field setting, demonstrating that social support recipients' action hope is also associated with social support reported by support providers (environmental educators) and that action hope again explains a possible relationship between social support and climate engagement.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Nathaniel Geiger

Assistant Professor | University of Michigan

Authors

Janet Swim, John Fraser

The Central Role of Governmental Response Efficacy Beliefs in Mobilizing Collective Action

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Tackling global challenges like climate change requires both the capacity to act and the belief that action will be effective. Across two large, nationally representative U.S. samples (Study 1: N = 1,197; Study 2: N = 31,324), we show that response efficacy—the belief that actions will work—plays a central role in mobilizing climate engagement. Study 1 finds that governmental response efficacy is the strongest predictor of climate action across advocacy, political participation, financial contributions, and lifestyle change. While Republicans reported lower efficacy overall, their engagement was especially responsive to efficacy beliefs, revealing a cross-partisan pathway to mobilization. Study 2 tests 17 communication strategies and identifies a single, scalable approach: emphasizing the collective efficacy and emotional benefits of climate action. This consistently boosted personal, collective, and governmental efficacy across ideological groups, highlighting governmental response efficacy as a key driver of climate action.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Danielle Goldwert

PhD Student | NYU

Authors

Madalina Vlasceanu, Anandita Sabherwal

Framing climate solutions as both Individual and Systemic boosts personal efficacy, climate personal and political intentions in the U.S. and the U.K.

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Public discourse on climate change often frames solutions as requiring either individual or structural action, overlooking how these levels interact to drive social change. For example, structural factors shape the choices available to individuals, while individual behaviors can in turn influence structures. Ignoring this dynamic may narrow how people think about solutions, discouraging the joint individual and collective efforts needed for meaningful climate action. This study therefore examines how Individual, Structural, or a combined “Mixed” climate solution framing differentially influence behavior, behavioral intention, and personal efficacy in the United States (n=3,054) and the United Kingdom (n=2,588). Across samples, the Mixed framing performed as well as or better than the Individual or Structural framing conditions, increasing personal efficacy and willingness to engage in both lifestyle and political actions. In the UK sample, Mixed framing also led to greater support for climate policies. These findings suggest that integrating individual and structural framings may be a more effective strategy for promoting public engagement and climate mitigation efforts.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Joan J. H. Kim

Northeastern University

Authors

Sara Constantino, Veronica Pizziol, Alessandro Tavoni, Marco Casari

Grassroots Partnerships for Local Environmental Justice Policy Action

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Environmental justice (EJ) and climate justice are global movements which require pressing, interdisciplinary research and action, but such research is still underrepresented in traditional psychological fields. This study highlights a Chicago-based community psychology research partnership with grassroots community organizations that yielded high impact action for EJ advocacy. A city-wide survey (N=249) was participatorily developed, measuring pollution exposure, health impacts, and policy recommendation and support. Participants reported high levels of exposure to various pollution burdens, such as transportation-related (71%) and industrial (64%) pollution. Almost half of the sample reported negative health impacts due to pollution exposure. Clear policy solutions were provided and 89% of participants claimed they would support future local EJ policy, demonstrating a level of solidarity across community areas in Chicago. These results were disseminated broadly, garnering local news attention and contributing to critical advocacy efforts by the partnering organizations. In all, this project demonstrates the power of participatory research for producing action towards EJ.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Taylor Swenski

PhD Candidate | DePaul University

Fostering Neighborhood Resilience: A Novel Municipal Approach

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

The escalating climate crisis requires sustainable behavioral shifts at scale, yet is also paralleled by an epidemic of loneliness that undermines collective capacity. This work presents the Nourishing Neighborhood Networks (NNN) program, a novel municipal initiative in Ann Arbor, MI. NNN is designed to simultaneously enhance climate resilience and social cohesion at the hyper-local level. The NNN program is structured around the Supportive Environments for Effectiveness (SEE) framework. Engaging key elements of Model Building, Being Capable, and Meaningful Action, NNN supports human informational processing and leverages innate motivations to understand, act competently, and authentically participate in making a difference. NNN employs a teams-based approach to reframe residents as competent, collective agents. This participatory model targets multiple behaviors through collective action—increasing durability and long-term community resilience. This presentation discusses the utility of the SEE framework for creating sustainable interventions, offering a theory-driven strategy for local governments to ally with community members for local climate action.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Tara-Sky Woodward
University of Michigan

Behavioral Science for Sustainability: Princeton’s Energy Shift

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

As universities pursue net-zero goals, infrastructure upgrades alone fall short of full decarbonization. This talk presents a real-world application of behavioral science at Princeton University, where Evidn conducted a Behavioral Systems Analysis to uncover psychological and organizational drivers of campus energy use. The initiative targeted three key areas—research labs, room scheduling, and sustainability communications—using gamified signage, classroom nudges, and a campus-wide identity-based narrative: The Power is Ours. These interventions led to measurable behavior shifts, including a 24% improvement in fume hood sash closures and a 57% increase in lights being turned off. This session will unpack the behavioral strategies behind these results, including co-design, trust-building, and navigating messaging fatigue. Attendees will gain replicable tools and guiding principles for integrating behavioral science into climate action, reframing campus communities as active agents in sustainability.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Mahika Hari
Senior Behavioral Scientist | Evidn

The Role of Active Hope in Verified Collective Action on the Climate Crisis

3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Understanding what drives climate action has never been more urgent. Despite evidence of an intention-action gap, most research on collective action still relies on self-report scales and intentions instead of verified behavior. To address this gap, we conducted a 10-week longitudinal intervention study (N = 44). Participants learned about the climate crisis and worked with local grassroots organizations. Each week, we assessed their climate-related emotions, action intentions, and verified collective action. When analyzing climate emotions, the only variable that related to the quality of collective action was active hope: the stronger the sense of the importance of acting collectively now as preparation for future struggles, the higher the quality of their verified collective climate action. Unlike traditional measures of hope, which often include optimism or wishful thinking, active hope is about agency and commitment regardless of the outcome. Our findings highlight both the promise of active hope as a construct for future research and the value of verified behavioral measures for identifying the psychological factors that matter for real-world collective climate action.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Pauline Brouër
PhD Student | UC San Diego

Authors

Talia Waltzer, Adam Aron

Closing Remarks

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Evolutionary Psychology Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E271, Level 2

The SPSP Evolutionary Psychology (EP) Preconference—in its 24th year—provides a forum to discuss cutting-edge research detailing how social psychological processes have been shaped by social challenges recurring across human evolutionary history. Regularly among the top-attended preconferences, the EP Preconference attracts established researchers, new investigators, and students from around the world. Invited speakers present full-length research talks; data blitzes and poster presentation spots are competitive and feature scholars across career levels. Presented research covers a broad topic range, including cooperation, health, morality, aggression, social cognition, groups, close relationships, and personality. The EP Preconference fosters interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers from various domains of social, personality, cognitive, and developmental psychology, as well as anthropology and biology, providing an optimal forum for introducing psychologists to the ways in which evolutionary theory can cohere disparate findings, generate novel predictions, and ultimately enhance our understanding of psychology and behavior.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Opening Remarks

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM

Seasonal Cycles in Human Cognition and Behavior

8:10 AM – 8:55 AM

Like other animals, humans evolved in ecologies characterized by seasonal cycles; and so, like other animals, human psychology is sensitive to seasonal changes in local ecologies. This talk will provide an illustrative summary of the wide range of cognitive and behavioral effects that seasons have on people, with an emphasis on recent research revealing seasonal cycles in moral values and intergroup prejudices. The talk will also discuss mechanisms underlying seasonal effects, and will highlight ways in which the tools of evolutionary psychology can yield new insights into the seasonal nature of human nature.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Mark Schaller
Professor | University of British Columbia

Flexible Minds and Social Chameleons: Different Forms of Unpredictability Pose Different Adaptive Problems

8:55 AM – 9:20 AM

Unpredictable environments shape cognition and behavior in systematic ways. While many studies emphasize deficits linked to harsh and unpredictable conditions, an evolutionary perspective suggests that organisms track and respond to specific ecological affordances in functionally relevant ways. Specifically, adaptive abilities may emerge to solve the unique problems posed by particular conditions. In line with this domain-specific logic, I show that childhood unpredictability divides into at least two distinct domain—resource versus social unpredictability—that predict divergent outcomes. For instance, resource unpredictability is linked to greater temporal discounting, whereas social unpredictability is associated with poorer physical health. Moving beyond outcomes examined in prior unpredictability work, I also investigate less examined adaptive abilities. Resource unpredictable conditions may foster the ability to find new uses for resources in order to maximize the utility of the resource. On the other hand, unpredictable interpersonal conditions may cultivate a set of “social chameleon” abilities, such as social mimicry, to help individuals blend in, increase affiliation, and reduce threats. Hence, environmental unpredictability is not one monolithic construct, and distinct domains of unpredictability carry unique implications for social behavior.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Krystina Boyd-Frenkel
Graduate Student | University of California, Irvine

AM Beverage Break

9:20 AM – 9:40 AM

Reconstructing Human Population Histories Using Paleogenomics

9:40 AM – 10:25 AM

Recent advances in molecular biology, DNA sequencing technologies, and data analysis have facilitated the retrieval and sequencing of genomes from ancient humans (paleogenomics). In collaboration with fields like archaeology and anthropology, paleogenomics has provided critical insights into the genetic origins of diverse human populations, including the characterization of past migrations and genetic admixture between modern human groups and with extinct hominins like Neanderthals and Denisovans. Paleogenomics has also shed light on past socio-political structures and health and disease. My talk will cover select examples from diverse global contexts to illustrate the power of paleogenomics in reconstructing our species’ genetic history at both the global and local scales as well as discuss ethical considerations in the field.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Maanasa Raghavan
Assistant Professor | University of Chicago

Dark Side of Friendship: When Children Expect Others To Be More Upset at Friends

10:25 AM – 10:50 AM

Friendships require loyalty, we give and expect special treatment from friends. When we fail to meet these expectations, our friends get upset. Here we probe children’s (age 4-11, N=556) beliefs about how friends react to various behaviors to examine early beliefs about friendship. Study 1 tested how kids can use upset reactions to infer friendship. Children were told that a target person was upset at an agent: either because he made a mistake (dropped a cake) or remained neutral during an argument between the target and someone else. They were then asked who is the agent’s friend? For mistakes, older children thought the upset target was not the agent’s friend, in line with the idea that friends are more forgiving. However, the reverse was true for neutrality: older children thought the upset target was very likely the agent’s friend, aligning with the loyalty logic outlined above. However, younger children did not think the upset target was the neutral agent’s friend. In Study 2 we explored the reverse: who do children think is upset at a mistake or neutrality? Again, we found that older children (by age 8, but not younger) clearly treated these conditions differently, thinking the friend would be more upset at neutrality than a mistake. In Study 3 we replicated the age pattern for neutrality in both the US and China: older children thought friends would be upset at neutrality whereas young children did not. I discuss this work for current theories of friendship and how these concerns develop ontogenetically.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Alex Shaw
Assistant Professor | Univ. of Chicago

What are the challenges and opportunities currently facing the field?

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM

This panel discussion will go over the current challenges and opportunities facing the fields, as well as suggestions about fruitful ways forward.

Speakers



Steven Neuberg

Professor of Psychology | Arizona State University



Sarah Hill

Professor | Texas Christian Univ.



Damian Murray

Associate Professor | Tulane University

Lunch break

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the meeting room. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Datablitz: Individual differences and social relationships - Multi-decade pathogen threat and social ties: Strengthening bonds, weakening bridges

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

Identifying environmental factors that shape social connections is essential for understanding how networks form and change. How might the disease ecology of a place shape the composition of social networks, specifically bonding within homogeneous groups and bridging across heterogeneous groups? We addressed this question in three studies integrating county- and individual-level data with cross-sectional and longitudinal designs. Across 3,027 U.S. counties, greater pathogen threat (from 1979 to 2019) was associated with fewer GPS-tracked visits to public spaces that facilitate diverse encounters (e.g., sports centers, bars), and with social networks containing more bonding and fewer bridging ties (e.g., Facebook friends with similar socioeconomic status). Longitudinal analyses showed that increases in pathogen threat over time predicted declines in individuals' bridging behaviors such as volunteering and joining associations, as well as decreases in perceived social support. Together, these findings suggest that pathogen threat shapes social networks by fostering insular bonding at the expense of bridging ties and the support they provide, with implications for social well-being.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ocka Jeong

Ph.D. Student | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Soyeon Choi, Youngjar Cha, Nick Buttrick

Datablitz: Individual differences and social relationships - Disgust Responses to Human Bodily Sounds: Cross-Cultural Variation and Universality

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

How disgusted are people by others' bodily sounds? People prefer specific sensory information, such as sound, to identify those sick with contagious diseases. These sounds may elicit disgust to motivate interpersonal avoidance. If so, people living in places with higher socio-ecological disease threat (e.g., higher pathogen prevalence and population density) face more risk and thus may experience more disgust toward these sounds. Moreover, as transmission often relies on contact with human particulates, people may be especially disgusted by sounds caused by particulate expulsion from the body. In a study of 16,895 participants from 58 countries, participants rated disgust toward audio clips of bodily sounds, differing in degree of expulsion (e.g., coughing vs. chewing). People in countries with higher socio-ecological disease threat reported greater disgust to all sounds compared to those in countries with lower threat. Additionally, expulsion sounds were universally rated as more disgusting than non-expulsion sounds, consistent with an avoidance mechanism attuned to transmission risk. These findings demonstrate both universality and diversity in pathogen avoidance psychology.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Kaelyn Sabree

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Joshua Ackerman

Datablitz: Individual differences and social relationships - A fistful of metas: Comparing behavioral correlates of the pathogen disgust versus germ aversion scales

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

Trait pathogen avoidance is generally indexed by two scales that are often assumed to be interchangeable: pathogen disgust (PD) and germ aversion (GA). We tested two hypotheses of this assumption. The first hypothesis is that scores on PD and GA should be strongly correlated. We conducted a meta-analysis of published research that used both scales (Study 1; $k=46$). Results showed only a modest correlation between PD and GA. The second hypothesis is that PD and GA should be similarly associated with other social processes, such as political orientation and sociosexual behavior. In Study 2, we conducted a pair of meta-analyses comparing associations between PD ($k=104$) and GA ($k=71$) and political orientation, with time of data collection as a moderator. Results showed that PD was associated with conservatism, but that GA was associated with liberalism after COVID-19. In Study 3, we conducted a pair of meta-analyses comparing associations between PD ($k=12$) and GA ($k=9$) and sociosexual behavior (SOI-B). Results showed that GA, but not PD, was negatively associated with SOI-B. Understanding the different profiles of these two scales can inform methodological decisions for future research.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Marius Unnvik

Graduate Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Mitch Brown, Jeffrey Gassen, Aashvi Dahiya, Anastasia Makhanova

[41] Artificial Intelligence, Fundamental Motives, and Evolutionary Mismatch

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

In recent years, the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and psychology has garnered much attention, particularly following the advent of generative AI tools in 2022. These tools, capable of producing human-like text, images, and even deepening our understanding of cognitive processes, have not only captured the public imagination but also sparked new concerns and debates within the psychological community. While AI has been a subject of research for decades, the emergence of its generative capabilities has thrust AI into the spotlight. This work explores how AI is reshaping our understanding of human cognition and behavior, as well as its potential implications for psychological practice and research. Adopting an evolutionary mismatch framework, this article delineates how certain characteristics of artificial intelligence align (match) with our evolved motivational systems, facilitating the pursuit of fundamental goals such as mating or gaining access to job and status opportunities, while other characteristics of artificial intelligence are misaligned (mismatch) and could result in negative outcomes like stress and poorer mental health or fraud and political unrest.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Lim

Senior Lecturer in Psychology | Murdoch University

[42] Collaboration is stabilized by the specialization of labor

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Humans excel at collaboration, an ability shaped by evolution to solve problems with linked outcomes requiring joint effort. Children and adults prefer to share resources equitably when acquired by collaboration, but not other types of cooperation. Yet key structural features of collaboration remain unexplored. Collaboration offers benefits like achieving otherwise unattainable goals and increasing productivity, but also costs like vulnerability to free-riders. Thus, labor organization likely affects how desirable collaborations are to join. Specialization of labor may be critical. Game theoretic analysis shows specialization can incentivize contribution by making roles essential, boost efficiency via task-specific skills, and deter free-riders by making them easier to detect. But do people intuitively understand this? To find out, participants imagined being stranded on an island, needing to prepare food collaboratively. They saw two plans: (1) Each person task-specializes or (2) they switch tasks. People expected more productivity and less free-riding with specialization, and preferred such collaborations. This suggests a well-designed decision-making system for collaborations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dylan Benkley

PhD Student | University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Leda Cosmides

[43] Factors underlying individual differences in reactive and proactive aggression

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Why are some people more aggressive than others? From an evolutionary perspective, some types of aggression can be viewed as adaptive strategies shaped by natural selection, but not everyone is equally prone to use aggression. This research investigates how personality traits and emotional mechanisms—key components of evolved psychology—predict individual differences in human aggression. Drawing on evolutionary theory, we distinguish between proactive (predatory) and reactive (defensive) aggression, common across species. Using structural equation modeling, we test how personality traits (Big Five and Dark Triad) predict aggression via emotional pathways, helping explain why some individuals escalate to violence while others do not. Understanding these evolved psychological profiles may improve our ability to explain, anticipate, and mitigate harmful behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bernardo Ubaldino Seix

PhD student | Arizona State University

Authors

Laith Al-Shawaf

[44] Social Leverage: Individual Differences in the Endorsement of Gratitude

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Building on the logic of the recalibrational theory of anger, we argue that a systematically inverted relationship exists between the triggering conditions, inputs, outputs, and consequences of anger and gratitude, and we introduce the novel hypothesis that this inverted relationship between anger and gratitude extends to the individual difference characteristics that modulate the proneness of individuals to endorse and express each emotion. Where Sell et al. (2009) found evidence that physical strength in men and attractiveness in women—two ancestrally valid dimensions of social leverage—predict greater proneness to anger, we suggest that these dimensions of social leverage negatively predict proneness to gratitude. We report three studies (N's of 417, 309, and 728 adults, respectively, all recruited online) that serve 1) to develop and validate a novel measure of interpersonal gratitude; and 2) to test the hypothesis that physical strength in men and attractiveness in women correlate negatively with proneness to gratitude. Results indicate that physical strength in men and attractiveness in women correlate as expected with some but not all dimensions of proneness to gratitude.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joseph Billingsley

Assistant Professor | Marshall University

Authors

Danielle Goldwert, Debra Lieberman

[45] An evolutionary perspective exploration on fire and human mate-seeking behavior

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Fire played a pivotal role in human evolution, providing light, warmth, and cooked food. Fire is also often associated with dating or romance (e.g., candlelit dinners). Yet to date, the role of fire in mate-seeking has been underexplored. We hypothesize that in a mating context, fire-making functions as a costly signal deployed by men, communicating an individual's status and competence to potential mates. Past research has found that women tend to value a mate's resources and intelligence (a common indicator of competence) more than men do (Walter et al., 2020). Thus, we predict that men who make use of fire in a romantic setting should be perceived as more attractive, but not vice versa. Participants (N = 450) will read vignettes in which a moderately attractive opposite-sex target engages in romantic gestures with or without fire, then report their sexual attraction to the target. We predict that the presence of fire will heighten sexual attraction among heterosexual female perceivers, whereas this effect will be weaker or absent among heterosexual male participants.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tianxing Zhang

PhD Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Qiran Fan, Damian Murray, Michael Varnum

[46] Do Ecology Stereotypes Override Race Stereotypes? A Focus on Asian and Latino Americans

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Previous research suggests that without ecological information, African American stereotypes reflect harsh ecologies, while White American stereotypes represent hopeful ecologies. When ecological information is provided, the race effect vanishes. The current study extends the prior work and examines this ecology-override perspective in the context of Asian and Latino Americans. Based upon a life history perspective, it was hypothesized that (1) without ecology information, Asian stereotypes reflected hopeful ecologies, highlighting slower life history strategies than those of White/Latino/African American. (2) Latino stereotypes reflected harsh ecologies, highlighting faster life history strategies than those of White individuals and similar to those of African Americans. (3) When ecological information is provided, the racial difference in ecology-related stereotype perception will decline or disappear. A 4x3 ANOVA tested these predictions. Results generally supported our hypotheses; however, more nuanced patterns emerged based on participants' political ideology. The findings will shed light on reducing racial bias in the US.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fan Rex

PHD Student | Tulane University

Authors

Damian Murray, Taylor Richlin, Elle Foster

[47] People decide whether to share social information—and whether to share it accurately—on the basis of self-interest

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Why do people gossip? Here, we tested two hypotheses about how people might use reputational information to achieve social goals. The Indirect Reciprocity hypothesis proposes that people gossip about themselves and others accurately in order to reward cooperators and punish defectors. In contrast, the Reputation-Based Partner Choice hypothesis proposes that people share, withhold, and distort information in order to secure high-quality partners. We found that subjects were more likely to share information about others' (and their own) generosity in previous sharing games if they themselves had been generous rather than greedy. Generous people were most likely to gossip (and gossip honestly)—and greedy people least likely to gossip—when sharing and withholding gossip, respectively, were in their material self-interest. Greedy people were more likely than generous people to share dishonest gossip that might give them a competitive advantage. These results provide stronger support for the Reputation-based Partner Choice hypothesis, yet 30% of subjects shared information even when it did not pay to do so, suggesting that gossip is not driven exclusively by material considerations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Mulhinch

Graduate Student | UCSD

Authors

Michael McCullough, Cristina Gomes

[48] Examining Stigma Toward Individuals Without Friends

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Humans have a fundamental need to maintain close relationships because they have long depended on the fitness-related benefits these bonds provide. The absence of such ties may signal poor partner value and reduced fitness prospects. As a result, individuals who lack connections, such as partners or friends, often face stigma, including social exclusion. Most research on relationship stigma has focused on romantic relationships, showing that romantically single individuals are often stereotyped negatively. Yet stigma in the friendship domain has been less explored. This study addresses this gap by examining perceptions of individuals without friends (friend singles). Here (N = 299), we examine whether friend singles are stigmatized more than individuals with friends, and even more than romantic singles. Results suggest that both romantically single and friend-single targets are stigmatized relative to non-singles, with friend singles being stigmatized the most. We also explore other moderating factors such as gender and attributions for singlehood. This research highlights potentially overlooked source of bias with implications for social support and loneliness interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nina Rodriguez

University of California, Los Angeles

Authors

Chloe Zhu

[49] Subjective Well-Being as Prediction Error in a Reinforcement Learning Model of Evolutionary Fitness

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

We present a framework integrating evolutionary motives and reinforcement learning to examine how daily goal achievement relates to subjective well-being. Participants reported baseline motivation across 11 evolutionary domains and then rated their daily achievement for each goal, as well as affect and life satisfaction, over six days. Using reinforcement learning paradigms, we modeled how prediction errors updated perceived success on each goal and tested whether daily affect covaried with these errors, moderated by baseline motivation. We also examined whether life satisfaction related to prediction error on a latent evolutionary fitness construct, defined as the aggregate of motive-specific success, again moderated by motivation strength. This project bridges three research traditions: laboratory studies linking affect to prediction errors, longitudinal work connecting goal pursuit and well-being, and evolutionary models mapping diverse goals onto fitness-relevant motives. Combining these traditions offers an integrative account of how well-being is represented in a learning system guided by evolutionary fitness.

*POSTER

Speaker



James Chinn

PhD Student | University of California, Riverside

Authors

Sornja Lyubomirsky

[50] Rape Fear is Target-Specific

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Sexual violence is hypothesized to select for psychological mechanisms producing emotions and behavior that mitigate its costs, including women's rape fear. Because avoidance entails opportunity costs, we tested whether women's fear is target-specific, tracking cost-benefit ratios of avoiding different classes of potential perpetrators. Using longitudinal data (N = 384; 73% women), we predicted that unspecified rape fear would most align with fear of stranger rape, as strangers pose the greatest cost of complete circumvention of mate choice. We hypothesized descending fear levels across strangers, acquaintances, friends, and romantic partners, reflecting increasing predictability and benefits gained from social relationships. Results showed women's unspecified fear most closely predicted fear of stranger rape ($p_{adj} < .001$), supporting target-specificity. These findings suggest that rape fear may be calibrated to social context, with implications for designing interventions that reduce fear without compromising safety.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecka Hahnel-Peeters

Assistant Professor | Indiana State University

Authors

David Buss

[51] Women's intrasexual competitiveness, but not fertility, predicts greater competitive behavior toward attractive women across the menstrual cycle

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Women compete for mates and social status, but little is known about the mechanisms that underlie these behaviors. Previous work suggests that mating competition should be highest during fertility, so we hypothesized that women would show more competitive behavior toward a high, rather than low, mating threat competitor during ovulation. Given that social support is crucial for women's access to resources, we also hypothesized that women would show more competitive behavior towards a high, rather than low, social threat competitor following ovulation and possible conception. Women (N = 464) rated their likelihood of competitive behavior toward hypothetical mating and social competitors. Although women were more competitive towards the high mating and social threat competitors, cycle phase had no effect. Further, intrasexual competitiveness, but not estimated hormones or other personality variables, predicted stronger competitive responses to the high mating threat competitor. We found no effects for social competitors. These results suggest that in mating contexts, women's competition depends on dispositional competitiveness towards other women, not fertility.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Zubaly

PhD Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Jaime Palmer-Hague, Jade Stobbart

[52] From contagion to conformity: Pathogen avoidance and the motivation to appear nonprejudiced

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Individual differences in pathogen avoidance have been linked to intergroup prejudice, but also to intragroup processes such as group-binding morality and conformity. Moreover, recent work has established a link between pathogen avoidance and politeness (an aspect of Big Five agreeableness), which is characterized by compliance with social norms. Such norm compliance may have been adaptive for group-wide pathogen defense. Today, one important social norm is to be nonprejudiced, either by internalizing this value or avoiding external displays of prejudice. In Study 1 (N=816), given the role of pathogen avoidance in intergroup prejudice and complying with social norms, we hypothesized that pathogen avoidance would be positively associated with an external, but not internal, motivation to respond without prejudice. Results show that pathogen avoidance was positively associated with an external, but not internal, motivation to respond without prejudice, even when controlling for political orientation. This finding indicates that while pathogen avoidance is linked to intergroup prejudice, it is also linked to complying with modern social norms to avoid external displays of prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aashvi Dahiya

Undergraduate Student | University of Arkansas - Fayetteville

[53] Examining Predictors of Opposite-Sex Distrust and Antipathy

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

The purpose of this study is to investigate potential correlates of cross-sex hate and examine antipathy as a shared experience among men and women. Recent evidence revealed men feel discrimination against women has shifted towards men, suggesting a new form of sexism (Zehnter et al., 2021). Previous scales measuring traditional sexism may miss capturing a new form of antipathy shared in men and women. We aim to extend this research by identifying predictors of this phenomenon, potentially informing interventions to reduce cross-sex antipathy. Modern societies may lack positive opposite-sex role models, thereby restricting their perceived value to society and amplifying negative experiences with the opposite sex. To investigate cross-sex distrust, we will use a sex-neutral scale to evaluate participants' perception of the opposite sex in society, personal experiences with the opposite sex, family structure, and mate value. We anticipate higher opposite sex distrust will be associated with perceptions of the opposite sex as low value to society, more reported harmful experiences with the opposite sex, growing up with fewer opposite sex family members, and having lower mate value.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mikayla Poe

Graduate Student | University of New Mexico

Authors

Tania Reynolds, Ryan Dobson, William Costello, Andrew Thomas

[54] Perceived Cooperation Need, Ecological Threats, and Norm Enforcement

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Past work has established the link between experiences of historical ecological threat and heightened norm enforcement, indexed by cultural tightness or right-wing authoritarianism. Researchers theorized that this arises as norm enforcement facilitates cooperation, which is necessary for addressing these threats. We directly test this hypothesis, by examining 1) whether perceivers think some threats require more cooperation to address than others and 2) whether threats that people perceive to require more (vs. less) cooperation to address lead to more norm enforcement. Across 2 studies, we find that participants consistently rank food scarcity, disease threats, and droughts as requiring more cooperation to address than outgroup threats, storms, and overpopulation. We then correlated the prevalence of each threat with norm enforcement at the country-level, using data retrieved from public databases. Consistent with the hypothesis that norm enforcement facilitates cooperation to address threats, preliminary findings across two studies show that, in general, threats that are perceived to need more cooperation exhibit higher correlations between threat-level and norm enforcement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Li

Lab Manager for Dr. Joshua Ackerman and Dr. Arnold Ho | University of Michigan

Authors

Kaelyn Sabree, Arnold Ho

[55] Making Inferences Based on Aggression and Cooperation Towards Kin vs. Non-Kin

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Kin selection theory proposes that individuals who preferentially cooperate with kin over non-kin gain fitness advantages. In line with this theory, research has shown that humans are more altruistic toward their kin. Yet, recent studies have revealed an apparent paradox: that moderate forms of aggression are more common among siblings than non-kin (Kirsch et al., 2024; Varnum et al., 2025). We suggest that this reflects humans' differential treatment of kin, as uncooperative behavior toward relatives carries a lower risk of relationship loss or severe retaliation, given the indirect fitness costs such actions would entail for them. Consequently, aggression toward kin may be viewed as less diagnostic of one's broader behavioral tendencies and overall cooperativeness. We test this in a 2 x 3 design, where we present participants with vignettes depicting an actor acting either cooperatively or aggressively toward either a sibling, friend, or acquaintance. We hypothesize that for aggression and cooperation toward kin, participants will be less likely to make dispositional attributions about the actor, and less likely to believe that their behavior will generalize to other contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arian Rajaeian

Graduate student | Arizona State University

Authors

Michael Varnum

[56] Arming for Family: Living Around Kin Predicts Gun Ownership

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Living with relatives, research shows, fosters a greater willingness to defend and fight for one's ingroup. In the U.S., where there is access to firearms, this protective psychology may manifest in the form of gun ownership, keeping one's family safe from the perceived dangers of the broader world. Using both U.S. county-level data ($N = 3,213$) and individual-level surveys ($N = 621$), we find that gun prevalence is higher in counties with greater intergenerational co-residence, and that individuals living with a greater number of their own children are more likely to own guns. This may be partially explained by our findings that gun owners reported a greater willingness to fight for their ingroup compared to non-owners. However, we find mixed results when considering the presence of older or extended relatives, suggesting the need to investigate potential moderators in future work. These findings highlight how kin-based relational ecologies can give rise to culturally specific protective behaviors, such as gun ownership in the U.S.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ocka Jeong

Ph.D. Student | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Oliver Sng, Nick Buttrick

[57] The pretty pink tax: Are female victims of same-sex aggression viewed as more attractive than female victims of cross-sex aggression?

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Past research has generally found that people view attractiveness favorably. For instance, multiple studies have found that physically attractive individuals are less likely to be arrested for crimes compared to those who are not attractive. However, beautiful is not always good: many studies have found that there are multiple instances where attractive females are more likely to receive the brunt of aggression from other females, typically within the confines of intrasexual aggression. Women may aggress toward attractive same-sex others to level the playing field and make the mating market more competitive. In the present study, we explored how acts of aggression impacted perceptions of victim attractiveness. Participants viewed vignettes depicting a perpetrator aggressing toward a victim in which sex composition of the dyad was varied across conditions (e.g., female-female, male-female, etc.). Given that past research has found that females are more likely to aggress against attractive same-sex others, we hypothesize that participants will view the victims of same-sex female aggression as more attractive than victims of cross-sex aggression in which the victim is female.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amelia Larson

Oklahoma State University

Authors

Julia Hurwitz, Jennifer Byrd-Craven

[58] PetCAT: Extending Parental Care and Tenderness to Pets and Examining Associations with Political Ideologies

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

The motivation to care for and protect children, commonly known as parental care and tenderness (PCAT), has been associated with social conservatism across cultures. It is unclear, however, whether social conservatism is associated with the basic motivation to care for and protect vulnerable entities, or if this association is unique to caring for children. To address this question, we adopted the PCAT-short questionnaire and created a parallel scale measuring the motivation to care for and protect pets (PetCAT). PCAT and PetCAT were positively correlated ($r = .42, p < .001$). In multiple regression tests, PCAT and PetCAT both significantly predicted social and economic conservatism, but in opposite directions. PCAT positively predicted social and economic conservatism, indicating that more parental care motivations were associated with higher levels of conservatism. PetCAT was negatively associated with social and economic conservatism, indicating that more pet care motivations were associated with lower levels of conservatism. The results imply that parental motivation extends to pets, but conservative political values are uniquely related to caring for children.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria Casteigne

Graduate Student | Tulane University

Authors

Damian Murray, Mary Craddock, Shayna Shpits

[59] Parental Status, Parental Care, and Parental Morals: How Parental Care and Tenderness Mediates the Relationship between Parental Status and Moral Foundations

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

A burgeoning line of research suggests that parents hold strategic moral values, however, relatively few studies have examined the mechanism behind differences in moral values for parents and people without children. We tested whether parental care and tenderness (PCAT) mediated the relationships between parent status and binding moral foundations and individualizing moral foundations. In two studies, we found that PCAT partially (study 1) and fully (study 2) mediated the relationship between parent status and binding values, suggesting that PCAT may explain much of the association. Further, in both studies we found partial suppression patterns when accounting for PCAT in association with parent status and individualizing foundation. Parent status was unrelated to individualizing foundations before accounting for PCAT, but when accounting for PCAT, being a parent was associated with lower individualization values. While much of the current research has focused on the prioritization of binding values among parents, our results suggest that researchers should also investigate the potential threats of individualizing values to parents.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shayna Shpits

Tulane University

Authors

Damian Murray, Maria Casteigne, Grace Taylor

[60] Perceived life history mediates the relationship between perceived aggression and perceived dominance: A case for a fast and furious life history strategy

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

How do acts of aggression affect perceptions of life history, and how might their relationship provide others with information about dominance? Previous work indicates that people interpret others' aggression as a dominance-seeking strategy. Here, we examine whether this inference is mediated by people's perceptions of others' life-history strategy. Individuals with a faster life history strategy are typically seen as more impulsive and opportunistic compared to those with a slow life history strategy. As dominance-striving is riskier and more volatile than other pathways to status, individuals with a faster life history strategy may be inclined to pursue this pathway. The current study explores whether perceived life history mediates the relationship between perceptions of aggression and perceptions of dominance. Preliminary findings suggest perceptions of life history partially mediate the relationship between perceived aggression and perpetrator dominance, providing some evidence that the relationship between dominance and aggression may not be as direct as previously thought.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Hurwitz

Graduate Student | Oklahoma State University

Authors

Jennifer Byrd-Craven, Jeongwoo John Kim

[61] Holding On for Others: Rethinking Hoarding through Ecological Relatedness

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Hoarding is traditionally viewed as a maladaptive disorder, characterized by excessive accumulation for selfish reasons. Yet this may overlook contexts in which hoarding functions to benefit others. Inclusive fitness theory posits that behaviors enhancing the survival and reproduction of relatives can be evolutionarily advantageous, encompassing not only an individual's direct reproductive success but also indirect fitness gained by supporting kin. Recent work on ecological relatedness—the prevalence of kin in one's immediate environment—has shown to shape trust within one's community and pro-group behavior. Such motivations may extend beyond social attitudes to behaviors such as resource accumulation for kin in need. In Study 1 (N = 197), people who live around more relatives were more likely to hoard for others. In Study 2 (N = 2,229), a cross-cultural study spanning 11 countries, we generally replicated this effect across countries, but especially for people who live around younger (but not older) relatives. Together, these findings suggest that hoarding, often pathologized as dysfunctional, may serve a biologically adaptive function under ecological conditions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Audrey Gaceta

Student | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Oliver Sng

[62] A Cross-Culture Comparison of Pathogen Avoidance and Group Boundaries

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Pathogen avoidance has been linked to negative attitudes towards outgroup members and stronger ingroup attraction. The present study examines how individual differences in pathogen avoidance were associated with ethnocentrism and attitudes about social group boundaries. Using Besample, we recruited participants across 12 non-Western countries. Across the whole sample, pathogen disgust was positively correlated with ethnocentrism whereas germ aversion was negatively correlated with ethnocentrism. Pathogen disgust and germ aversion were positively correlated with noticing group boundaries and a preference for socializing with people who are similar to themselves, but this differs by country. Pathogen disgust was also associated with a tendency to be more social overall. In some countries, germ aversion was negatively correlated with ethnocentrism as in the overall analyses, in most countries there was no association, and in one case there was a positive association. These initial differences between countries highlight the importance of understanding cultural variation in further developing the theoretical understanding of the link between pathogen avoidance and intergroup biases.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brianna Garcia

Experimental Psychology PhD Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Anastasia Makhanova, Marius Unnvik

[63] Ecological Relatedness Matters More When Living Around Genetically Close Relatives

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Living around many (vs. few) family relatives activates interdependent psychologies that benefit inclusive fitness. Not all family members, however, are equally genetically related to oneself. Biological kin are genetically related to oneself, while affinal kin (e.g., in-laws) are not. Maternal kin are genetically related to oneself more certainly than paternal kin due to paternal uncertainty. Across two studies, we investigated whether people's psychology moves to benefit others in the local ecology, especially when living around biological (vs. affinal kin) or maternal kin (vs. paternal kin). The findings supported our predictions. Study 1 found that people who imagined living around biological kin reported more interdependent self-concepts and identified themselves more with the local community than those who imagined living around affinal kin. Similar to Study 1, Study 2 revealed that people who imagined living around maternal kin became more interdependent than those who imagined living around paternal kin. Overall, living around family relatives evokes interdependence, especially when living around genetically close relatives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Minyoung Choi

Ph.D. Candidate | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Oliver Sng, Belinda Campos, Narumi Iino-Seiki

PM Beverage Break

2:30 PM – 2:50 PM

Datablitz: Prosocial Behavior and Morality - An Eye for two Ears? An Experimental Test of the Fungibility of Punishment Preferences

2:50 PM – 3:10 PM

Do people prefer the proverbial eye for an eye? Why? In 3 survey experiments across 12 countries (N = 2,482), participants read offense descriptions (stole hunting bows, gouged out man's eye, etc.) that occurred in a "remote community" and selected which punishment types (including options identical to each offense) and amounts would most satisfy them. For nearly every offense and every country tested, more than half of participants selected in-kind punishments (low fungibility). For such punishments, punishment amounts exceeded the original offense amount for almost every offense, by ~50%, and were perceived as most fair. Participants also indicated that they wanted the punishment they chose to "motivate the offender to behave better". This pattern is consistent with a punishment strategy designed not only to condemn past behavior or redistribute lost resources but to communicate an honest signal of deterrence and reintegration. We consider retributive sentiments, thus, as the output of a cognitive mechanism designed to deter the offender from re-exploitation by incentivizing the offender to more deeply value the implicit social contract between offender and victim party.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Eyal Aharoni

Associate Professor of Psychology, Philosophy, and Neuroscience | Georgia State University

Authors

Daniel Brady, Caelan Alexander-Nordstrom

Datablitz: Prosocial Behavior and Morality - Sources of fitness interdependence associated with shared fate and cooperation across three levels of analyses: within-participants, dyads, and multi-attribute partner choice models

2:50 PM – 3:10 PM

Cooperation often relies on one's ability to discern in whom to invest their limited resources. One solution to this problem entails estimating one's fitness interdependence with others via shared fate. In past work among the Mayangna, a small-scale horticultural society in Nicaragua, we found that relatedness, commensality, and shared subsistence activities were uniquely associated with higher shared fate. Moreover, shared fate was associated with cooperation across seven fitness-relevant domains, statistically mediated associations between relatedness and cooperation, and had strong effects on cooperation (i.e., forgoing money to buy rice for a partner). The present work extends this research by replicating past findings in a new dyadic sample of Mayangna adults (N = 168), examines bidirectional effects among dyads playing a trust game, and allocation decisions of money, labor, food, and time across four partners. Results indicate that shared fate arises from sources of fitness interdependence and cooperation is proximally guided by shared fate. Shared fate thus offers a simple solution to partner choice dilemmas: Help partners if one has a positive stake in their welfare.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Diego Guevara Beltran

Assistant Professor | University of Arizona

Authors

Cesar Ivan Ojeda Linares

Datablitz: Prosocial Behavior and Morality - Too Good for My Own Good: Ultra-Prosocial People Are Less Desirable as Romantic Partners

2:50 PM – 3:10 PM

Costly signaling theory posits that individuals who help others are preferred as romantic partners because their behaviors signal resources and prosocial traits. However, what if they help others too much? Across four studies spanning 12 countries, we found that people who help others to an extreme extent ("ultra-prosocials") were actually less desirable as romantic partners, compared to those who help others in moderation (even though ultra-prosocials were highly desirable as community members). This was because ultra-prosocials were seen as having less available time as a romantic partner. We discuss the implications of these findings for how perceptions of available time and resources, rather than simple resources and qualities per se, may be more important in partner choice. Building on the patterns found in three studies conducted with the U.S., Study 4 extends the investigation to a cross-cultural context. It involved data collection from 11 countries, spanning Latin American, Asian, African, and European samples. This study aims to examine whether similar patterns emerge in non-WEIRD populations, thereby testing the generalizability of the findings beyond Western contexts.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Hojeong Lee

University of California, Irvine

Authors

Oliver Sng

The Evolution of Status: Extended Formidability and Coalition Coordination

3:10 PM – 3:35 PM

What is status for? Decades of work have catalogued how people gain status—via prestige, dominance, competence, or alliances—but far less has examined the structure of its cognitive representation, the ecological conditions that would have favored its evolution, or why natural selection would build a psychology that tracks status in the first place. We formalize status as an internal regulatory variable—akin to a welfare–tradeoff ratio (WTR)—that estimates extended formidability: the expected support an individual can mobilize in conflict and coordination, beyond their own dyadic strength. Using agent-based models, we compare agents who track only dyadic strength to agents who also learn dyadic WTRs and compress them into a status estimate when making alliance decisions. Across ecologies with multi party contests and repeat interactions, status-tracking reliably evolves, even with cognitive costs, because it enables pre-emptive side-taking, formation of minimally winning coalitions, and avoidance of losing fights. The result is not just more wins but fewer costly challenges and more stable hierarchies. On this view, prestige and dominance emerge as routes to the same computation: When forecasting support, people weigh both what you can do for them (prestige/competence) and how costly you are to cross (dominance/coercion). This model also yields testable predictions: Status sensitivity should be higher where conflicts are decided by coalitions; widely shared signals of rank should reduce miscoordination; and periods of turmoil should be foreshadowed by narrowing power gaps and rapid churn in perceived alliances.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Mitchell Landers

University of California, San Diego

PM Beverage Break

3:35 PM – 3:55 PM

How to Thrive in a World that Has Changed with a Brain that Has Not

3:55 PM – 4:40 PM

Wellbeing is a challenge in today's world because our environment has transformed dramatically but the human brain has not. Evolutionary scholars often study this mismatch examining how our ancient adaptations function in our modern world of infinite choices, from spending decisions to mate selection. What has received less attention is how today's social environment changes the way the brain works, creating chronic stress, low life satisfaction, emotional dysregulation, and numerous deficits to physical and mental health. More importantly, it is unclear what we can do about it. In this talk, I'll share a research-backed framework that can guide us toward greater wellbeing by aligning our ancient minds with our modern world.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Kristina Durante
Professor | Rutgers Univ.

Closing Remarks

4:40 PM – 4:50 PM

Close Relationships Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

The Close Relationships Preconference, part of SPSP for over 20 years, highlights cutting-edge research and theory in relationship science across social and personality psychology. The preconference features award addresses and talks; posters and data blitzes of new research; a graduate student networking breakfast; themed lunch tables; and a special discussion-oriented panel session. Our lineup includes multiple dynamic speakers with time for discussion, including the winners of the Rusbult Early Career Award and Graduate Student Research Paper Award. Our interactive panel session includes 3-4 presenters, followed by a moderated discussion. We select speakers and panel discussions to appeal to a wide audience beyond traditional relationship scientists (e.g., well-being effects, diverse relationships). Our posters and data blitzes allow researchers at any career stage, particularly students and early career researchers, to present their newest findings. The themed professional development lunch tables and graduate student-centered networking breakfast facilitate new connections and collaboration.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Coffee and Student Networking Tables

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Welcome & Announcements

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM

WELCOME

Talk 1

8:45 AM – 9:25 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Ashley Randall
Professor | Arizona State University, University of South Africa

The influence of perceived and actual similarity on friends' closeness and conversations

9:25 AM – 9:32 AM

Close friendship is crucial to leading a healthier, happier, and more successful life. People befriend similar others, but they are imperfect at judging similarity—perceived similarity often diverges from actual similarity. Such misperceptions may explain unreciprocated friendships, yet little is known about which type of similarity predicts connection or behavior. I ask whether perceived or actual similarity in friendship expectations better predicts closeness and behavioral alignment, measured via laughter, agreement, nodding, and facial expression synchrony. Pre-existing friends ($N = 131$) completed surveys on their own and their friend's expectations. Dyads then discussed ways they are similar and different. Thus far, results indicate that friends' actual similarity in friendship expectations best predicts closeness, over perceived similarity and accuracy. Friends showed greater nodding synchrony when discussing differences versus similarities, moderated by actual similarity, with ongoing analyses examining other behaviors. This work highlights how misperceptions shape closeness and conversation, offering insights for enhancing friendship.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sareena Chadha
PhD Student | University of Virginia

With a Little Help from My Friends: Social Approval and Relationship Quality in Intercultural Romantic Relationships

9:32 AM – 9:40 AM

Despite their growing prevalence, intercultural couples continue to experience social disapproval and discrimination from their social networks. In this study (N = 757), we examined how social approval from different sources (i.e., family, friends, society) predicts relationship quality and whether these effects vary by individual (i.e., cultural background, gender) and couple-level (i.e., cultural pairing, relationship length) characteristics. Friend approval emerged as the most robust predictor of relationship quality, especially for couples in which both partners belonged to minority cultures. In contrast, family approval was only important for Latinx and Middle Eastern partners and those in the earlier stages in relationships. These findings suggest that different sources of social approval can buffer or exacerbate relationship quality, depending on partners' cultural backgrounds and relationship length. By identifying which sources of approval matter most and for whom, these findings can inform culturally sensitive interventions and support systems for intercultural couples.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Hanieh Naeimi

PHD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Amy Muise, Alyssa Di Bartolomeo, Alexandria West, Emily Impett

Shared Adversity Fosters Friendships and Buffers Against Adversity's Health Consequences

9:40 AM – 9:47 AM

Adverse life experiences are widespread and can have lasting consequences on health. While supportive relationships can buffer these effects, less is known about how people form such relationships. Because people tend to form relationships with similar others, it may be particularly beneficial to connect with those who have faced similar adverse experiences. Such shared adversity may offer unique empathy, understanding and more effective support. In a study of emerging adults participating in a summer bridging program before college (N = 182) we find that individuals are more likely to form friendships with others who share more of their adverse experiences. Furthermore, shared adversity attenuated the negative association between adversity and health, an effect mediated by increased social support. Together, these findings suggest that people selectively form friendships around shared adversity and that these relationships may protect against the health consequences of adversity by strengthening social support.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Nicole Johnson

PhD Student | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey

Singlehood-Related Negative Affect: Attachment Style and Priming Effects

9:48 AM – 9:55 AM

Staying single is increasingly common in the U.S. While singlehood can be fulfilling, it is often associated with distress and lower well-being. Recent work highlights the potential role attachment style plays in determining whether singles experience negative affect about being single. The existing work, however, is correlational and says little about causality. Here we experimentally examined the effects of attachment priming on singlehood-related negative affect. Study 1 employed a writing priming task. The manipulation was found to be ineffective, as no differences between attachment state were found. Results showed that negative affect was primarily predicted by trait attachment anxiety, even when controlling for general well-being, desire and pressure to couple. Study 2 tested an implicit priming method, which successfully increased state attachment anxiety only. Study 3 is testing the writing priming task effects on singlehood negative affect in a lab setting. The discussion addresses methodological issues concerning the priming technique. Overall, findings highlight the central role of attachment anxiety, whereas avoidance showed no consistent link.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Daniela Escribano

PhD Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Omri Gillath

Coffee Break 1

9:55 AM – 10:10 AM

Graduate Student Paper Award Address

10:10 AM – 10:30 AM

Mirna will discuss her paper that received the 2026 Graduate Student Paper Award, entitled: Mixed Signals: Romantic Jealousy and Ambivalence in Relationships

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Mirna Duric

University of Amsterdam

Special Session: AI and Technology in Relationships

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Four presenters will discuss research on AI and technology in relationships with time for moderator and audience Q & A

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Amanda Gesselman

Associate Director for Research | The Kinsey Institute, Indiana University



Omri Gillath

University of Kansas



Amie Gordon

Assistant Professor | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



Samuel Hardman Taylor

Associate Professor | UIC



Benjamin Karney

Professor | UCLA

Lunch (optional discussion tables)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the meeting room. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Speaker



Jessica Fish

University of Illinois

Talk 2

1:00 PM – 1:40 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Perceived Similarity in Preferences Predicts Romantic and Platonic Relationship Satisfaction

1:40 PM – 1:47 PM

Previous research finds that perceived similarity in traits predicts relationship satisfaction. We examined whether perceived similarity (agreement between an individual's beliefs about another person and beliefs about themselves) in traits and preferences (what one desires) predicts satisfaction. In Study 1, 88 heterosexual couples rated themselves and their partners on traits and preferences and reported satisfaction. Perceived similarity was indexed using a partial correlation controlling for actual similarity. Actor effects showed that individuals perceiving greater similarity in preferences reported higher satisfaction (men: $\beta = 0.23$, $p = .03$; women: $\beta = 0.23$, $p = .03$). A partner effect showed women's perceived similarity in traits predicted men's satisfaction ($\beta = 0.28$, $p = .01$). Women's actor and partner effect held with covariates. In Study 2, 495 adults (not dyads) reported on a close friend. Here, perceived similarity was a bivariate correlation and it predicted friendship satisfaction for traits ($\beta = 0.16$, $p < .001$) and preferences ($\beta = 0.28$, $p < .001$). Findings highlight that perceived similarity in preferences is also a key predictor of relationship satisfaction.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sophia North

Graduate Student | University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

Authors

Hyewon Hong, Karen Dobkins

Perceiving to Provide: How Partner Attachment Perceptions Inform Buffering Behaviors

1:48 PM – 1:55 PM

Partners' reassurance is an effective regulatory behavior to buffer attachment anxiety, but we do not yet know how some partners come to provide reassurance. The current research assessed 1) whether partners accurately perceive one another's attachment (a potential precursor to partner buffering), and 2) whether perceived partner anxiety (PPAnx) and perceived partner avoidance (PPAv) predict reassurance provision. In two studies (Study 1 = 108 student couples, Study 2 = 147 community couples), partners showed moderate accuracy, a mean-level bias (systematically overestimating PPAnx and PPAv), similarity bias (projecting one's own attachment), and a complementarity bias (greater PPAnx as a function of one's own high avoidance; greater PPAv as a function of one's own high anxiety). Study 2 also showed that perceptions of a partner's attachment predict buffering behavior toward them. As expected, greater PPAnx (but not PPAv) predicted greater reassurance provision during stressor discussions and in daily life (a 10-day EMA). Together, these findings highlight the nature and potential importance of perceived partner attachment in buffering relationship insecurities.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Elina Sun

Graduate student | Syracuse University

Authors

Xiangjing Kong, Jason Mitala, Jeewon Oh, Brett Jakubiak

Components of Connection: The Association Between Couple Chemistry and Relationship Outcomes

1:55 PM – 2:02 PM

Romantic chemistry, or an unspoken connection, is colloquially valued when pursuing a partner, but there are few empirical studies assessing its measurement and role over the course of a romantic relationship. Past work has found romantic chemistry included facets of compatibility, comfortability, unique connection, positive interactions and sexual attraction across single and partnered people. Given that romantic chemistry is described as a phenomenon that needs to be reciprocated by both partners, in a sample of couples ($N = 134$), we found evidence of strong dyadic measurement invariance, suggesting partners' responses are comparable and differences represent dissimilarity in their experiences of romantic chemistry rather than a measurement issue. We also found support for modeling romantic chemistry as a shared relational effect and that couple chemistry was associated with relationship satisfaction and commitment for each partner and couple level sexual frequency (i.e., Common Fate Model). Romantic chemistry is a multifaceted construct that is shared between members in a relationship and plays an important role in ongoing relationships.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Eric Tu

PhD Student in Social Psychology | York University

Authors

Amy Muiise, Harry Reis

Neural synchrony in the prefrontal cortex underlies shared memories in romantic couples

2:03 PM – 2:10 PM

Couples develop a shared story of their relationship over time. Although this joint narrative may have important consequences for the relationship, its neural bases remain unclear. Here, 41 couples engaged in a 10-minute "origin story" discussion, recalling how they met and their relationship trajectory, while undergoing functional NearInfrared Spectroscopy. We computed inter-subject correlation (ISC) in the prefrontal cortex, where greater ISC indicates greater neural synchrony. During this conversation, activity in the ventromedial prefrontal cortex, a region involved in constructing affectively meaningful, self-relevant autobiographical memories, was synchronized between partners. Further, couples who showed greater synchrony reported feeling closer post-conversation and viewing their story as a central part of who they are. Using sentence embeddings to quantify the semantic overlap between the conversation and each partner's subsequent recall, we found that couples with higher synchrony had greater overlap. Together, our findings suggest that shared narratives in couples are reflected in synchronized neural representations, reinforcing closeness and relationship identity.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jadyn Park

University Of Chicago

Authors

Lydia Emery, Yuan Chang Leong

Talk 3

2:10 PM – 2:50 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Xiaomeng (Mona) Xu

Professor of Psychology | Idaho State University

Coffee Break 2

2:50 PM – 3:00 PM

[1] Development of the Broadened Fear of Being Single (B-FOBS) Scale and Its Implications for Relationship Outcomes

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Fear of being single (FOBS) is linked to maladaptive relationship behaviors, but the existing measure has limitations (e.g., different wording for single vs. partnered people). We developed the Broadened Fear of Being Single (B-FOBS) scale and tested it across four samples (total N=1,720). Study 1 (N=498) exploratory factor analysis (EFA) revealed two dimensions: present- and future-focused FOBS. Study 2 (N=702) confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) supported this structure and showed excellent reliability, convergent/discriminant validity, and measurement invariance across age, gender, relationship status, and sexual orientation. Study 3 (N=264) found that among partnered people, B-FOBS scores were associated with self-sacrifice (e.g., unwanted sex) and infidelity. Study 4 (N=256) showed that among recent singles, higher scores were associated with greater difficulty with post-breakup adjustment, more contact with ex-partners, and sexual fantasies about ex-partners. These findings establish the B-FOBS as a psychometrically robust and inclusive measure useful for capturing the link between FOBS and sexual/relationship outcomes both within and outside romantic relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Val Wongsomboon

Assistant Professor | Florida State University

Authors

Zhongchi Li

[2] Hugging a New Acquaintance Increases Social Interest

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Several decades of research indicate that social touch can have overall relational benefits. Here, we investigated whether touch, in the form of a hug, increases feelings of social interest between strangers. In this study, experimenters approached strangers across campus, asking them whether they wanted to participate in an experiment about touch. Participants were randomly assigned to be given a hug by the experimenter (the "Hug" group) or not given a hug (the "No Hug" group). Following this, the participant completed a survey on their demographics and feelings about hugging. After what appeared to be the end of the study, the experimenter invited the participant to view their vacation pictures, which was used as a measure of "Social Interest". The results from 330 participants revealed that participants in the Hug group exhibited significantly more Social Interest compared to those in the No Hug group. In addition, the degree to which participants in the Hug group reported liking the hug positively predicted Social Interest. These findings suggest that hugs between strangers may be an important first step in building interest and, later, forming new relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kira von Kleist

Research Assistant | University of California, San Diego

Authors

Karen Dobkins, Nico Henschel

[3] Decoding Interest: Examining the Behavioral Cues that Signal Interest in Conversation

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Feeling connected to others is a basic human need. When people form social connections, they want to feel that the person they are communicating with is interested in what they have to say. This study takes a data-driven approach to identify conversational features that are important in signaling interest. We recruited 27 pairs of strangers to engage in in-person conversations, guided by questions from the Fast Friends paradigm. All conversations were video- and audio-recorded, with speech transcribed. A separate sample of third-party observers (N=200) watched a random subset of the recordings and made second-by-second ratings of how interested participants appeared in their conversation partners. We extracted features from the recordings that captured facial expressions, head motion, vocal pitch, and semantic content of speech. Using this collection of features, we trained a machine learning model to predict interest ratings. We compare the relative importance of facial, audio, and semantic features in predicting interest and examine how this model can be used to predict conversational outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jean Luo

Graduate Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Evans Alvarez, Leor Hackel

[4] Excluded for being single: Associations between relationship status-based exclusion and singlehood

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Social exclusion is a harmful, yet common, experience. Although research has examined exclusion across a range of contexts, less work has considered how ostracism (being ignored and excluded) extends to the domains of relationship status and singlehood (not being in a romantic relationship). Secondary analyses of survey data from 501 United States single adults explored how relationship-status-based ostracism is associated with other aspects of one's singlehood. Perceiving greater approval of one's singlehood from close others (parents and friends) was associated with fewer perceived experiences of exclusion. Greater relationship status-based ostracism was associated with stronger endorsement of relationship pedestal beliefs, greater investment in singlehood, and greater fear of being single. These associations indicate that exclusion attributed to one's singlehood is psychologically meaningful and that close others may constitute one context in which it arises. Together, the findings highlight both the correlates of relationship status-based ostracism for single people and the potential role of social networks as sources of this negative treatment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Wicks

Graduate Student | University of Mississippi

[5] Achieving Belonging Needs Through Diverse Ways: Individual Differences and Consequences for Well-being

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Humans have a pervasive need to belong and be socially connected with others. A common way to meet this need is through close relationships. However, people can achieve a sense of belonging in other ways as well. With a diverse sample who ranged in age from 18 to 80+ and obtained from various sources, I examined the degree to which participants reported that they achieved their belonging needs through various ways, including close relationships, interactions with weak ties, group memberships, and miscellaneous other ways (e.g., pets). Also examined was how achieved belonging in the different pathways was differentially associated with a general need to belong, the Big Five personality characteristics, and an index of well-being. Results indicated that the participants achieved their need to belong through various pathways, with no differences found based on gender or age. However, the achievement of belonging needs in different areas was differentially associated with the general need to belong, Big 5 personality characteristics, and well-being. The results have implications for those in society who believe their belonging needs have been thwarted, which are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Susan Sprecher

Professor | Illinois State University

[6] Similarities and Differences Between Romantic Relationships and Friends-With-Benefits: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

What fundamentally differentiates romantic relationships from non-romantic ones remains a central question in relationship research. Friends-with-benefits (FWB) remain understudied despite their growing prevalence. Little research has compared the lived experiences of those navigating both FWBs and romantic relationships. Undergraduates (N = 11) with experience in both types of relationships completed semi-structured interviews. An interpretative phenomenological analysis revealed three superordinate themes: emotional investment and attachment, sexual intimacy and meaning, and communication and boundaries. Both relationship types involved sexual desire, yet emotional context transformed sexual meaning. Participants described FWB as emotionally empty and transactional, while romantic relationships involved deeper emotional reciprocity. Participants consistently sought relational privacy in FWB arrangements, contrasting with the social visibility sought in romantic relationships. These findings highlight dimensional rather than categorical differences in contemporary relationship experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wyatt Brown

Graduate Student | Virginia Commonwealth University

Authors

David Chester

[7] Longitudinal changes in social network structure and composition among adolescents and young adults with cancer

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Background: Cancer creates isolation from family and friends, especially among adolescents and young adults with cancer (AYAs). In turn, the social networks of AYAs with cancer invariably change. In the present study we examine changes in the social networks of AYAs with cancer over time. Method: AYAs (N=50) completed a social network questionnaire at three timepoints (baseline, 3- and 6- months post baseline) capturing social network structure (network size), composition (member characteristics), and closeness at each timepoint. Wilcoxon signed-rank tests assessed changes over time. Results: AYAs (Mage=27.1) were majority female (60%), White (62%) and were on average 2.3 years since diagnosis. Social networks were significantly smaller at 6 months, contracting by 1.5 people over time ($Z=-2.7$, $p=0.01$), with significant decreases in friends ($Z=-2.2$, $p=0.03$), second-degree relatives ($Z=-2.7$, $p=0.01$) and in network closeness ($Z=-2.4$, $p=0.02$). Network composition remained stable. Conclusions: Results suggest that social networks of AYAs with cancer are contracting over time and point to specific subsets of relationships that may be more vulnerable to leaving AYAs social networks.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katie Darabos

Rutgers University

Authors

Katie Devine, Sean McHugh, Shannon Desbiens

[8] Confronting Bias in Romantic Relationships

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Confronting racism is an important topic, but little research has investigated tradeoffs based on when the offender is a person of color's romantic partner. Our vignette study focused on how Black /African American participants think they would confront bias in a romantic relationship (N=92). The vignettes featured either a mild or more severe microaggression against Black/African Americans. They were asked about their emotions and imagined reactions to these scenarios. Participants rated they'd support staying calm especially for the mild scenario, asking questions to be clear what they meant before responding, educating their partner, explaining the emotional impact on themselves, trying to get them to empathize, focus on their comments (rather than focusing on them as a person), and discussing institutional racism with them. They were less likely to say they'd get help from others or to call them or their comments racist, though this was more likely for the severe scenario. These patterns indicate the delicate but important work of confronting bias when the offender is their romantic partner, but some of these same strategies may also reduce confronting's effectiveness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ronesha Collier

Florida State University

Authors

Sara Driskell

[9] The Functions of AI Relationships: A Comparison with Social and Parasocial Relationships

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Prior work shows that social relationships offer interactive advantages, whereas parasocial ones (e.g., with celebrities) are limited by their one-sidedness. With advanced LLMs, people can form relationships with AI that allow reciprocal interactions. Do AI relationships function similarly to or differently from social and parasocial ones? Where does AI fit among relationship targets? In a 2x5 within-subjects design, participants nominated and rated targets varying in bond strength (strong/weak) and category (human, fictional character, AI, celebrity, object) on how effectively they satisfied epistemic, affiliation, and emotion-regulation needs. As expected, strong bonds outperformed weak ones, and social relationships outperformed parasocial ones across all needs. For AI vs. human, no significant differences emerged, suggesting AI is comparable to human in certain relationship functions. Compared with parasocial targets, AI performed better on epistemic need, with no differences for others. One caveat is findings are based on Ps who have relationships with all target types. Nevertheless, it indicates meaningful potential for AI relationships as they become more prevalent in future.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jingping Yang

PhD Student | The Ohio State University

Authors

Dylan Wagner

[10] The Effects of Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation on Romantic Couples' Physiology and Behavior During Conflict

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Background: Conflicts with close others and subsequent affective reactions can have long-term consequences. Building on recent work using transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (tVNS), we examined if tVNS can modulate the emotional, physiological, and behavioral responses to a romantic conflict. Methods: Couples (N=134) were randomly assigned to tVNS or sham stimulation. Both partners received continuous stimulation for 15 minutes before and during a discussion about a recurring conflict topic. We examined each partner's respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA) reactivity to conflict and the partners' physiological and behavioral attunement to each other. Results: We found no condition differences in emotional experiences, but individuals receiving tVNS (vs. sham stimulation) experienced greater decreases in RSA. Further, couples in the tVNS (vs. sham) condition showed greater behavioral synchrony. Conclusions: This work provides experimental evidence supporting the role of the vagus nerve in modulating reactions to stressful social interactions, highlighting the potential of tVNS to subtly influence couple dynamics at a physiological and behavioral level.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yoobin Park

Postdoctoral researcher | University of California, San Francisco

Authors

Darwin Guevarra, Wendy Berry Mendes

[11] Who is Likely to Own a Sex Doll? Personality, Gender, and Sexual Behaviors as Predictors

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

As technology evolves, human-like devices increasingly shape how people pursue intimacy and emotional connection. Synthetic companionship technologies, particularly sex dolls, provide a unique lens to understand these dynamics. Although sex doll use is often hypothesized to substitute for missing human connection, empirical evidence on the psychological and behavioral correlates of ownership remains limited. Our study examined demographic, relational, and behavioral predictors of sex doll ownership. Individuals who were male, less agreeable, or in non-exclusive relationships were more likely to own a sex doll, with most intending to use it for sexual purposes. Greater engagement in sexual fantasizing, masturbation, and moderate-frequency of porn consumption (several times a month or week) was also associated with a higher likelihood of ownership. These findings suggest that personality traits and sexual behavior patterns shape openness to technologically mediated sexual experiences, offering insight into evolving expressions of intimacy and autonomy in the digital age.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caroline Casson

University of Kansas

Authors

Qi Zhang, Omri Gillath, Evelyn Allemeier, Niva Manchanda

[12] Defining Beneficial Interpersonal Emotion Regulation Strategy Use by Relationship Outcomes

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Interpersonal emotion regulation (IER) is related to individual and relational wellbeing. Emotion regulation research often aims to identify "good" vs "bad" strategies; however use of any IER may be viewed as responsive by the target, and thus beneficial. It's also plausible that IER strategies that complement one's toolkit would be beneficial. During Fall 2024 73 first semester college roommate pairs reported on IER experiences with their roommate; indices of relational wellbeing; and mental and physical health at 3 times during the semester. At T1 overall frequency of IER and use of traditionally "good" strategies were positively associated with relational wellbeing. Frequency and complementarity of IER strategy use (strategies that contrast those typically used by the target) were positively associated with anxiety and depression, while use of "good" strategies was negatively associated with anxiety and depression. Effects of IER on change in relational and personal wellbeing over time were inconsistent and mostly nonsignificant. Findings highlight that defining "good" IER depends on the outcome; what's healthy for the individual may contrast what's healthy for the relationship.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shayne Harms

PhD Student | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Authors

Carley Vornlocher, Michelle Shiota

[13] Maternal Acceptance and Tolerance of Child Emotion Expression Mediates the Relationship Between Violence Exposure During Early Childhood and Later Externalizing Problems

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Parent–child discussion of emotional events (reminiscing) may be a mechanism through which childhood adversity leads to later adjustment problems. Intimate partner violence (IPV) between parents, a widely accepted risk factor for adjustment problems, is associated with poor maternal reminiscing (e.g., Overbeek, 2022); however, it is unclear which specific aspects of reminiscing are affected and if these effects, in turn, contribute to later child maladjustment. In a longitudinal study of IPV exposed mothers and children from pregnancy into middle childhood (N=202), we evaluated these associations. We identified maternal acceptance and tolerance, characterized by the extent to which mothers accept and encourage their child's perspective during conversation, as the component of reminiscing that significantly mediated the association between children's lifetime IPV exposure and externalizing problems at age 7, controlling for other aspects of reminiscing and maternal language ability. These results suggest mothers whose children are exposed to IPV may have difficulty structuring interactions that validate their child's ideas and feelings, conferring risk for externalizing problems.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Jacobs

Graduate Student | Michigan State University

Authors

Jennie M. Boulous, Amy K. Nuttall, Alytia A. Levendosky, G. Anne Bogat

[14] Links Between Daily Emotions and Enacted Responsiveness

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Responsiveness is an essential element for successful and fulfilling romantic relationships. Although people often strive to be responsive to their romantic partner, their ability to do so may fluctuate daily as a function of emotion. We examined how daily emotional experiences are associated with a person's enacted responsiveness toward their romantic partner. Daily reports (N = 2,912) from cohabitating couples (N = 104 couples), using generalized additive models, indicated that daily emotions were associated with daily enacted responsiveness toward their romantic partner. Positive emotions consistently fostered greater responsiveness. Conversely, negative emotions were not uniformly detrimental; people experiencing mild-to-moderate negative affect remained attuned to their partner's needs, but beyond a certain threshold, negative emotions impeded responsiveness. Our results suggest that emotions shape responsiveness in nuanced ways and underscore the value of modeling non-linear patterns to capture tipping points in relationship maintenance that would otherwise go overlooked.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Connard

Ph.D. Student | Kent State University

Authors

Judith Gere

[15] The Wrong Kind of Right: Support from Close Others Can Harm When it is Invalidating

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

When close others provide social support, it is seen as inherently positive, rooted in the goal of helping others. However, not all social support has been found to be beneficial. This study explores how invalidation — perceiving one's feelings, thoughts, or experiences as dismissed, misunderstood, or deemed unreasonable — may serve as a mechanism through which social support has negative individual and relational consequences. In this study, participants reflected on times in which social support either made their situation better or made it worse. We find that unhelpful social support was seen as more invalidating than helpful social support, and that this in turn was associated with worse relationship quality, more negative and less positive emotions, and lower self-efficacy. These findings provide insight into when social support is not beneficial and highlight the importance of the content of the helping behavior in support. As helping and support play a central role in everyday interactions, from friendships to clinical and organizational settings, understanding how and when it is counterproductive offers critical insight into promoting truly supportive environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aarushi Adlakha

Undergraduate Senior | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Ashley Berkebile-Weinberg, Erik Nook

[16] Assessing the joint function of empathic accuracy and projection in providing social regulatory support in daily life

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

What predicts how we respond to a partner's emotional disclosures? Some theories emphasize empathic accuracy (i.e. accurately inferring a partner's mental states) while others highlight projection (i.e. providing the kind of support one personally prefers). Yet few studies have examined how these processes jointly influence the provision of social regulatory support with everyday stressors in close relationships. Using a 21-day dyadic daily diary (N = 119 dyads) and an APIM model, we tested both accounts. In line with empathic accuracy, people offered more advice on days when their partner wanted more advice ($b = 2.85$, $p < .001$). Additionally, people also gave more advice when they personally wanted more advice for their own (separate) problem ($b = 0.39$, $p = .03$). Although smaller in size, the projection results are notable given that partners faced different stressors and were not ostensibly aware of projection. We discuss these findings in relation to simulation theory, assumed similarity and chronic accessibility.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhouzhou He

Columbia University

Authors

Niall Bolger, Kevin Ochsner

[17] One-Size-Fits-All or Friend-Specific? A Social Relations Model Approach to Social Support in Friendships

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

When providing support in friendships, the research suggests that people should tailor their support to the specific person and situation at hand. However, it is possible that people have broader support-giving tendencies that persist regardless of the context. In the current study, we recruited friend groups consisting of four people, who each took turns providing support to one another regarding a stressor in their lives in a round-robin design (N = 328 participants, 87 groups, 522 dyads). We used the Social Relations Model to decompose the types of social support (e.g., emotional support, instrumental support etc.) to determine the extent to which the types of support people give primarily depend on the support giver, support receiver or the unique interaction or relationship. We found consistent evidence that social support is both a general tendency to provide particular types of support over others and a dynamic process that depends on the unique relationship or interaction. These results demonstrate that social support is not an entirely relational process and highlight the importance of accounting for different sources of variance in interpersonal processes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarra Jiwa

Graduate Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Anas Alsayed Hasan, Victoria Pringle, Erika Carlson

[18] The Importance of Family Ties: How Family Support Shapes First-Generation College Students' Belonging

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

First-generation, low-income (FLI) college students face persistent challenges in college, such as greater uncertainty about whether they belong. While FLI students often emphasize the importance of family support in qualitative work, little research has directly tested how this support impacts students' outcomes. Existing literature proposes that FLI families lack the academic experiences and capital necessary to support FLI students through college. Rather than this deficit perspective, in the current research we take a strengths-based approach to examine the broad range of support (both academic and non-academic) families may provide to FLI students. Across two studies (N1=158; N2=181), we find that although family academic support was unrelated to FLI students' outcomes, family non-academic support (e.g. practical, emotional) was positively linked to feelings of belonging. These findings highlight the importance of familial ties and examining different forms of family support beyond those typically recognized in higher education, as well as how integrating families into college can be a potential avenue for addressing the belonging gap FLI students face in higher education.

*POSTER

Speaker



Priscilla Diaz-Gonzalez

Graduate Student | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Lydia Emery

[19] Joy Brings Us Closer: How Shared Imagination Sparks Human Connection

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Shared positive emotions are powerful and crucial social factors that facilitate feelings of interpersonal closeness and bonding. The present study examined whether collaboratively imagining a shared positive future event with a partner, fosters social connection & affiliation through shared joy. Participants (N = 374) were randomly assigned to one of three experimental conditions: Coimagination, Individual Imagination, or General Description condition. After the task, participants rated their joy, perceived social connection (Inclusion of Other in the Self Scale), & affiliative motivation (e.g., desire to befriend or spend time with the partner). Structural equation modeling with bootstrapped mediation revealed that Coimagination evoked significantly greater joy than both comparison conditions. Joy, in turn, predicted stronger social connection and affiliative motivation, & indirect effects through joy were significant ($p < .05$), indicating partial mediation. These findings suggest that shared joy acts as a key affective mechanism linking collaborative imagination to interpersonal connection and bonding, emphasizing shared emotional foundations of social closeness and bonding.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arushi Srivastava

PhD Student | University of California, San Diego

Authors

Christopher Oveis

[20] Pursuing Relationships or Avoiding Singlehood? Differentiating Singles' Fear of Being Single, Desire for a Relationship, and Satisfaction with Relationship Status

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Common measures of attitudes toward singlehood are framed in different ways, with some focused on desire for relational pursuit, some on satisfaction or contentment with singlehood, and others focused on negative affect or experiences associated with singlehood. The present research explores whether measures such as Fear of Being Single (FOBS), Desire for a Relationship (DFR), and Satisfaction with Relationship Status (SWRS) represent distinct perspectives associated with singlehood experiences or, conversely, a general attitude toward relationship status. In two samples of singles (N1A = 172, N1B = 257), the three measures loaded onto distinct factors. Exploratory analyses revealed distinct associations with well-being, relationship pursuit tendencies such as actively seeking a partner and willingness to settle in relationships, and perceived rewards/costs of singlehood and relationships. Results suggest that unique experiences of singlehood and relationships associated with FOBS, DFR, and SWRS reflect distinct motivational underpinnings. Researchers should consider the goals and implications of selecting different operationalizations of attitudes toward relationship status.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jordan Trbizan

Wayne State University

Authors

Amanda Szczesniak, Stephanie Fiedler, Stephanie Spielmann

[21] Drained and self-doubting: The dyadic effects of attachment avoidance on relationship self-efficacy beliefs over time

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Relationship self-efficacy, or beliefs about one's ability to fulfill needs in their romantic relationship, significantly impacts satisfaction and longevity. Given that self-efficacy is shaped by perceived accomplishments and failures, accumulated experiences with a partner may alter these beliefs. The present research investigated whether having an insecurely attached romantic partner who reacts negatively to care-seeking and conflict resolution reduces relationship self-efficacy. A longitudinal Actor-Partner Interdependence Model assessed self-efficacy changes over 12 weeks in 220 couples. Results indicated that a partner's higher attachment avoidance precipitated a decrease in one's self-efficacy. Perceived responsiveness mediated this link, such that a partner higher in avoidance was perceived as less responsive, which in turn, predicted a decline in one's own sense of efficacy. Altogether, findings suggest that having an avoidant partner can weaken confidence in meeting relational needs, eroding self-efficacy over time through low perceived responsiveness. Broadly, this underscores the importance of considering dyadic interactions when examining relationship beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amanda Szczesniak

PhD Student | Wayne State University

Authors

Stephanie Spielmann

[22] The Importance of Own Attachment: Unpacking Anxiety's Functional Role in Relationships

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Adult attachment is closely linked to romantic relationship satisfaction, yet the relative contributions of individual attachment, partner attachment, and the compatibility between partners' styles remain unclear. Additionally, the distinct associations of attachment anxiety and avoidance on relationship outcomes have been underexplored. This study examined 501 Korean premarital couples using the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model to assess how attachment dimensions relate to satisfaction. Two key findings emerged. First, the actor's attachment style had the strongest association with satisfaction, surpassing the partner's attachment and dyadic combinations. Second, anxiety and avoidance were not equally detrimental; a context-specific mitigating pattern emerged at the dyadic level. Specifically, for couples that women reported high anxiety, the negative association between men's anxiety and their own satisfaction was attenuated. Therefore, individual attachment style accounted for satisfaction above and beyond a partner's attachment or the compatibility between styles, with anxiety proving to be less damaging and even protective compared to avoidance in certain contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiwon Yoo

University of Kansas

Authors

Hyungbin Moon, Young-Hoon Kim

[23] Longitudinal changes in relationship functioning as predicted by actor binge drinking and partner self-regulation

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

People may be able to rely on a romantic partner for support with achieving a challenging goal. Partners who are better at self-regulation may be more useful in this case. However, even if relying on a partner aids with goal progress, it may impact the relationship. Secondary data analyses of data from n=280 married or cohabiting couples (n=560 individuals) were used to examine how actor binge drinking interacted with partner self-regulation to predict changes in relationship functioning over 2 years. Participants completed tasks assessing executive cognitive function at baseline, and measures of alcohol use and relationship functioning at baseline, 1 year, and 2 years. We found a significant actor binge drinking x partner self-regulation interaction. Actors who decreased binge drinking reported poorer relationship outcomes with a less impulsive as opposed to a more impulsive partner. The opposite pattern of results was found for actors who did not decrease binge drinking. These results indicate that people might feel better about partners who are "useful" for working towards a difficult goal. Once the goal has been achieved, feelings towards the partner might change for the worse.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katherine MacEachern

Graduate Student | University of Houston

Authors

Jaye Derrick

[24] Between Highest and Lowest: A Latent Profile Analysis of the Investment Model of Commitment Processes

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

The investment model of commitment processes (Rusbult et al., 2012) posits that commitment to a relationship is a function of three independent and additive factors: satisfaction level, investment size, and quality of alternatives. The highest commitment occurs when satisfaction and investment are high, and alternatives are low. However, the model does not differentiate levels of commitment arising from non-extreme combinations of these factors. The current study examined how individuals in relationships cluster across these variables and how these combinations relate to commitment. Participants (N= 615) were adults currently in a relationship recruited from a university sample pool. Using Latent Profile Analysis (LPA), we identified 3 distinct profiles. The high commitment profile (52.6%) showed high satisfaction and investment, and low alternatives. The moderate commitment profile (41.9%) showed moderate alternatives and investment but high satisfaction. The low commitment profile (5.6%) showed moderate alternatives but low investment and satisfaction. We also examined how these profiles predict commitment, dissolution consideration, forgiveness, and relationship maintenance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taylor Himes

Graduate Student | Purdue University

Authors

Chris Agnew, Chloe Tasker, Veronica Lamarche

[25] The Role of LGBTQ+ Shared Identity in Shaping Support Quality for LGBTQ+ Identity-Related Stressors

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

High-quality social support in close relationships can buffer the harmful health consequences of discrimination and stigma targeting LGBTQ+ people. One understudied factor that may influence support quality is whether LGBTQ+ people engage with support providers who share their LGBTQ+ identity when facing identity-related stressors. In Study 1, LGBTQ+ participants imagined disclosing an identity-related stressor to either an LGBTQ+ or non-LGBTQ+ friend. Disclosers anticipated that LGBTQ+ (vs. non-LGBTQ+) providers would offer support that was more helpful for appraising and managing the identity-related stressor, but equally responsive. In Study 2, LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ participants responded to a hypothetical text from an LGBTQ+ friend experiencing a stressor. Paralleling Study 1, coders rated LGBTQ+ (vs. non-LGBTQ+) providers as offering support that was more helpful for appraising and managing the stressor, but equally responsive. This work highlights how shared LGBTQ+ identity differentially shapes important indices of support quality. Moreover, our findings provide insight into how LGBTQ+ people can procure high-quality support for identity-related stressors from close others.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Emily O'Brien**
Graduate Student | University of Pittsburgh

Authors

Zane Kelley, Joel Le Forestier, Michael Trujillo, Vicki Helgeson, Amanda Forest

[26] Close Parental Relationships and Support-Seeking as Protective Factors in Depressive Symptoms for Anxious Solitary Children From 3rd Through 7th Grade

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Anxious solitary children, characterized by elevated social anxiety and withdrawal among familiar peers, often struggle to form and maintain close friendships. Limited peer connections may restrict the use of support-seeking coping strategies, making close parent-child relationships critical sources of resilience. Guided by an attachment-based framework, this study examined how anxious solitude, support-seeking intentions, and perceived security with parents shape depressive symptom trajectories from 3rd to 7th grade. Participants (N = 230, 57% girls) self-reported depressive symptoms, support seeking intentions, and perceived security with mothers and fathers. Peers nominated classmates for anxious solitude. Latent growth curve modeling revealed that for boys, mother and father security (individually and interactively) predicted depressive symptom levels and change over time. For girls, anxious solitude, support-seeking, and their interactions with parental security predicted initial levels and trajectories of depressive symptoms. Findings highlight the protective role of close and secure parent-child relationships in buffering anxious solitary youth from depression.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Meghan Litchfield**
Florida State University

Authors

Heidi Gazelle

[27] So...what are we?: Defining the situationship and identifying its attributes, causes, and emotional outcomes.

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Background Recent dating culture has seen a rise in "situationships," a grey area past just being friends but falling short of a committed relationship (CR). Yet, little is known about the relational attributes, behaviors, and wellbeing outcomes that distinguish them from more established relationship types. Methods We take a mixed methods approach in a series of three observational studies. In Studies 1 and 2, undergrads completed surveys comparing experiences and perceptions of situationships, CRs, and hookups. In Study 3 we plan to analyze open-ended accounts of situationship experiences. Results Though situationships show levels of commitment and intimacy between those of CRs and hookups, they are also as low in sexual satisfaction as hookups, and as high in conflict as CRs. And, they provide fewer gains to self-esteem and less support than CRs. Low commitment readiness was both the top reason for and a key predictor of future situationship involvement. Discussion Despite their bad reputation, situationships remain pervasive. The current work characterizes them and begins to disentangle what qualities and contextual factors make them emotionally costly versus fulfilling.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Hannah Karsting**
New York University

Authors

Nicole Mbibi, Ana DiGiovanni

[28] You Inspire Me: The Role of Romantic Partner Inspiration on Goal Pursuit and Relational Well-Being

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Romantic partners play a key role in goal support, and yet, no research has examined whether this may occur through inspiration, defined as transcendence and illumination of new ideas through an external source. We tested preregistered hypotheses that individuals who felt inspired by their partner would report better goal outcomes (e.g., increased goal progress) and feel greater relationship satisfaction in the moment and over time. In Study 1 (N=214 couples), romantic partners had an in-lab conversation about a relationship goal they wanted to achieve. Results showed that actor and partner inspiration predicted better goal (e.g., motivation) and relationship outcomes. In Study 2 (N=164 couples), couples were surveyed about multiple relationship goals over three months. Feeling more inspired by a partner on a specific goal, and across goals on average, predicted greater goal commitment and goal progress concurrently and three months later. Benefits could not be fully accounted for by happiness or trait-level inspiration. Altogether, this work highlights inspiration as a process through which romantic partners support goal pursuit and build satisfying relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Claire Shimshock**
University of Rochester

Authors

Princeton Chee, Bonnie Le

[29] Associations Among Relational Media Representation, Personal and Relational Well-Being in Same-Gender Relationships

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Representation in mass media is a fiercely discussed and debated topic. However, is the topic deserving of the attention it receives? How important is representation of minoritized characters to individuals possessing those identities? The current research addresses a component of this larger question that has previously been overlooked- representation of minoritized relationships, particularly, same-gender relationships. Across two studies we examine the associations between representative media and personal and relational well-being. In Study 1 (n = 238), we find a strong correlation between perceived representation and wellbeing for individuals in same-gender relationships but not for individuals in mixed-gender relationships. In Study 2 (n = 109), we find that perceived closeness with a specific couple depicted in media predict personal and relational well-being, but this effect is moderated by identity clarity. Results from the current work indicate a clear importance of representative media for well-being of individuals in minoritized relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elijah Green-Longaberger

Ph.D. Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Erica Slotter

[30] Adult Attachment and Co-Rumination Outcomes in Romantic Couples

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Co-rumination is a dyadic emotion regulation strategy associated with both positive interpersonal benefits and negative intrapersonal outcomes, but recent work suggests that there may be individual differences in the effect of co-rumination. Attachment is a trait that influences how people respond to stress in interactions and may provide key insights into the individual nature of the outcomes from co-rumination. The current research examined the potential moderation of insecure attachment on the effect of a co-rumination manipulation. 139 romantic couples (278 participants) received instructions to either engage in co-rumination or discuss naturally, engaged in a problem discussion, then completed self-report measures of stressed and upset feelings, negative and positive affect, closeness, and perceived partner responsiveness. Results revealed that greater attachment anxiety was associated with greater stressed and upset feelings and negative affect, consistent with prior literature. However, attachment did not moderate any of the outcomes of the co-rumination condition. Future research should further examine the impact of individual characteristics on co-rumination outcomes

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessica Lang

Assistant Professor | Hamline University

Authors

Ashley Tudder, Abriana Gresham, Brett Peters

[31] How Network Diversity and Imagined Contact Shape Behavioral Intentions Toward Queer Individuals

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

People's existing social networks can shape their attitudes and behaviors toward novel outgroup members. Individuals with more diverse networks may have greater exposure to outgroup members, and in turn, more positive behavioral intentions toward novel individuals. This study examines how imagined contact, network diversity, and gender identity impact cisgender individuals' behavioral intentions toward queer individuals. Participants were randomly assigned to a positive or neutral imagined interaction with a queer individual. We expected that in the neutral condition (but not positive), those with more diverse sexual-orientation networks would report more positive behavioral intentions than those with less diverse networks, with stronger effects for men. As expected, men in the neutral condition with more diverse networks reported greater willingness to approach novel queer individuals. This effect was not found in the positive condition. Interestingly, the pattern was reversed for women. These findings suggest that imagined contact and existing networks can shape behavioral intentions toward queer individuals, but the effect may vary across gender.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lovia Feliscar

Graduate student | Tulane University

Authors

Lisa Molix

[32] From Ideology to Intimacy: Politics and Race in Online Dating

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

How do people decide when to "swipe right" on a potential love interest? The current study experimentally assessed how people's decisions to swipe are influenced by their perceptions of a potential match's political beliefs and identity (e.g., gender, race). Participants (N = 676) were randomly assigned to view profile pictures with different visual cues (e.g., hobbies, flags) that were either politically neutral, conservative-leaning, or liberal-leaning. We examined how users' dating decisions were influenced by political and racial biases, specifically: 1) How do visual cues in profiles shape perceptions of political ideology and interest in matching? 2) Do interests in matching and perceptions of political ideology differ across race (participant and profile)? and 3) Are these effects moderated by political orientation, colorblind racial attitudes, or similarity beliefs? Findings suggest that visual cues have a significant impact on matching interests, depending on the leaning of the stimuli (e.g., conservative, liberal) and the user's own beliefs. These findings reveal how users rely on political symbols as heuristics when making snap judgments about potential partners.

*POSTER

Speaker



Janae Sayler

PhD Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Annika From, Jasmine Banks

[33] “I’m so proud of you!” Consequences of parental pride for children

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Parents often tell children that they are proud of them, but no research has examined the effects of such expressions on children. On the one hand, if parental pride expressions imply that parents' positive regard depends on achievement, children whose parents had expressed pride might feel increased positive affect when succeeding, but also increased shame, embarrassment, and physiological arousal when facing failure. On the other hand, if parental pride helps children create positive mental representations of parents' support, children whose parents had expressed pride should feel increased positive affect when succeeding, and decreased shame, embarrassment, and physiological arousal when facing failure. We pitted these theoretical perspectives against each other in an experiment in the Netherlands. As children (N = 300, age 8-13) successfully solved a puzzle, we randomly assigned parents to express pride or no pride. Children then worked on an unsolvable puzzle. We coded their emotions and tracked physiological arousal throughout the study. Results from pre-registered analyses will shed light on how parental pride expressions affect children's experiences of success and failure.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mirna Duric
University of Amsterdam

Authors

Gerben A. van Kleef, Milica Nikolić, Peter A. Bos, Eddie Brummelman

[34] Partners' interpersonal emotion regulation buffers the effects of intrapersonal emotion regulation difficulties in a diverse sample

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Intrapersonal emotion regulation (ER) and interpersonal emotion regulation (IER) are consistently linked to wellbeing. Though, these constructs are often examined separately, and little is known whether the association between IER and ER on wellbeing differs across LGBTQ+ populations. Using National Couples Health & Time Study (N = 3629), linear regression analyses examined the moderating effect of IER on the relationship between maladaptive ER and mental health outcomes, and whether these effects differed across sexualities. Adaptive IER and maladaptive ER predicted better and worse wellbeing, respectively. Moreover, there was a significant interaction between IER and ER, such that adaptive IER significantly weakened the positive relationship between poorer ER and worse mental health; however, this effect did not differ based on sexuality. The findings highlight the beneficial (direct and buffering) effects of IER on mental health. Similarities across sexualities have implications for how IER and ER research can generalize to LGBTQ+ populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebekkah Daymo
Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Carley Vornlocher

[35] Affective Affection: Affectionate Touch to Facilitate Interpersonal Emotion Regulation in Romantic Relationships

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Affectionate touch (AT) refers to warm, non-sexual physical contact (e.g., hand-holding, stroking) used to communicate love and support (Jakubiak & Feeney, 2017). Prior work suggests that AT may have important interpersonal emotion regulatory (IER) functions in close relationships (Debrot et al., 2013), but few studies have directly examined this. To address this gap, we used a dyadic, multi-method approach to examine the link between AT and IER in a sample of 68 dating couples (88.2% mixed-sex, M=1.2 yrs together). Independent raters coded 5-minute interactions before and after one partner (target) completed a stressful task for AT initiated by the regulator (the partner not completing the task) towards the target in 15 second intervals (1=present, 0=not present) as well as the overall degree of AT exhibited by the regulator (1=not at all, 7=a great deal). We expect regulators who use more AT throughout and overall to be rated as more effective regulators by the target, and for AT to be associated with more positive and less negative affect for both the target and regulator. This research will add to our understanding of how AT is used to facilitate IER in romantic relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sara Cloonan
PhD Student | University of Georgia

Authors

Daisi Brand, Richard Slatcher

[36] Relationship Identification and the Temporal Perception of Partner Transgressions

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Maintaining a satisfying romantic relationship can be challenging, particularly when faced with partner transgressions. Previous work has demonstrated that relationship identification – the degree to which individuals define themselves based on their close relationships-can buffer against the negative effects of such experiences. Yet, the mechanism underlying this protective effect remains unclear. In this study, 497 participants recalled a transgression by their partner and reported when the event occurred and how close or distant the event felt. Participants then reported on their relationship commitment and satisfaction. We compared objective time since the transgression with participants' subjective sense of its timing to assess time distortion. Results revealed that high identifiers were more likely to distort time, perceiving transgressions farther away in time than they actually were. Additionally, time distortion was found to be a mechanism through which high identifiers maintained satisfaction and commitment. These findings suggest that high identifiers may need to create temporal distance between the present and the transgression in order to maintain their relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kimberly Drinkell
Graduate Student | McGill University

Authors

John Lydon

[37] Relationship Maintenance Knowledge and Self-Efficacy Among Single Young Adults Desiring a Committed Romantic Relationship

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

While singlehood has been increasing and is the chosen status of many, some singles desire a committed romantic relationship. From 2,059 single young adults desiring a committed relationship, we assessed whether individuals know that given relationship maintenance strategies are beneficial to long-term relationship stability (maintenance response-efficacy) and whether they feel they can implement these strategies in their relationships (maintenance self-efficacy). We used the newly developed PRIME (Perceptions of Relationship Maintenance Efficacy) to measure these concepts and test several preregistered hypothesized associations. On average, singles were knowledgeable about the importance of and felt efficacious regarding enacting most strategies, should the time come to form a romance—a relevant factor for young adults' relationship education. Maintenance response-efficacy and self-efficacy were associated with the duration of recent past romances when scores were combined, but only self-efficacy was significant when examined independently. PRIME is the first self-report measure to permit assessment of individual's relationship maintenance efficacy while single.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katie Adams

Social Psychology Lecturer | Indiana University, Bloomington

Authors

Christopher Agnew

[38] Clarifying Relationship Clarity: Scale Validation and Links to Loneliness and Well-Being in Single Young Adults

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Relationship clarity – the extent to which someone understands what they want in a relationship – plays a key role in initiating satisfying romantic relationships. In the current study, we validate the Relationship Clarity Scale (RCS; Author, 2024) across 4 samples of single young adults (N = 720). We test for construct validity, measurement invariance of gender differences, and convergent and discriminant validity using existing measures in the field. We then examine the experiences of single young adults who were engaging in dating activities and their reports of relationship clarity cross-sectionally (Study 1: N = 191) and longitudinally across three timepoints (Study 2: N = 184). Findings revealed that for single young adults who were actively dating, lower relationship clarity predicted increased loneliness over time, and this loneliness accounted for decreased life satisfaction. Lacking clarity about one's relationships goals and expectations engenders poor judgment and decision-making, as well as increased feelings of insecurity about relationship experiences that coalesce in feelings of loneliness, which in turn decrease life satisfaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katya Kredl

Graduate Student | McGill University

Authors

John Lydon, Dita Kubin

[39] Holding on or moving on? How nostalgia shapes social adjustment in college

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Nostalgia is a sentimental longing for the past that motivates people to maintain old ties. Yet little is known about how nostalgia shapes friendship dynamics during major life transitions, such as entering college. Do nostalgic students devote more time to reconnecting virtually with old friends? Does this focus slow the formation or deepening of new college friendships and shape their sense of belonging? The current study tracked 210 first-year students over four weeks as they adjusted to campus life. Using intensive experience sampling, we captured their social behaviors, including who they interacted with and how (virtually or in person), and a daily list of potential new-college friends. Three times over the four weeks, students reported their nostalgia levels, sense of belonging, the size of their pre-college and new-college friendship networks, and their closeness to each friend. Structural equation modeling will test whether nostalgia predicts changes in network size and friendship closeness over time, and how these changes relate to students' sense of belonging. This study offers new insight into how nostalgia guides social adjustment during a major life transition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caimiao Liu

University of Virginia

[40] Forming Relationships Through Synchronous Interactions: A Dyadic, Prospective Study

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

What predicts whether two people "click" and form a romantic relationship? I am conducting a multi-method, prospective study examining whether synchrony—the alignment of partners' thoughts, emotions, behaviors, and physiologies—predicts relationship formation. Using a dating app we developed for University of Michigan students, we are capturing rich behavioral data on early romantic interest, including swipe patterns, conversational synchrony (e.g., moments when people riff off each other's ideas, finish each other's sentences, or laugh together), and self-reported interest in specific matches. Matched pairs are then invited to the lab for a "first date," where we assess perceived and observed synchrony through self-reports, recorded interactions, and continuous cardiac measures. I will test whether greater synchrony during these early encounters predicts attraction and relationship formation over time, and whether perceivable forms of synchrony (e.g., shared laughter) are more predictive than less perceivable forms (e.g., physiological alignment). Together, this work advances understanding of the dynamic processes that foster initial connection and romantic compatibility.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily S Diamond

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Annika From, Tatum Jolink, Savannah Adams, Elizabeth Bruch, Amie Gordon

Poster Session Break Down and Return to Preconference Room

3:45 PM – 3:50 PM

Rusbult Early Career Award Address

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Bonnie Le
University of Rochester

Closing Remarks

4:50 PM – 5:00 PM

CLOSING

Group Processes and Intergroup Relations Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

Challenges for identity expression and development exist at every level of the human experience. At the broadest level, global uncertainties and intergroup histories contribute to experiences of prejudice and the historical oppression of marginalized groups. These same issues aggravate interpersonal interactions and threaten belongingness needs, and ultimately shape how people understand the self, operate in social contexts, and achieve success. From the changing nature of international relations and shifts toward nationalism to people’s experiences in their work, it is important to consider both policy and psychological mechanisms that facilitate social justice and support diversity, equity, and inclusion. The 2026 Group Processes and Intergroup Relations preconference seeks to address these mechanisms at all levels of individual and group experience by bringing together scholars who study social identity, inequality, stereotype threat, status, stress consequences, and ostracism through innovative methodologies.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Opening Remarks

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM

Challenges for identity expression and development exist at every level of the human experience. At the broadest level, global uncertainties and intergroup histories contribute to experiences of prejudice and the historical oppression of marginalized groups. These same issues aggravate interpersonal interactions and threaten belongingness needs, and ultimately shape how people understand the self, operate in social contexts, and achieve success. From the changing nature of international relations and shifts toward nationalism to people’s experiences in their work, it is important to consider both policy and psychological mechanisms that facilitate social justice and support diversity, equity, and inclusion. The 2026 Group Processes and Intergroup Relations preconference seeks to address these mechanisms at all levels of individual and group experience by bringing together scholars who study social identity, inequality, stereotype threat, status, stress consequences, and ostracism through innovative methodologies.

Speakers



Olivia Kuljian



Ariel Mosley
Assistant Professor | UC Davis



Amber Gafney
Assistant Professor | Humboldt State University

Session 1

8:10 AM – 8:50 AM

Speaker



Rebecca Ponce de Leon
Assistant Professor | Columbia University

Session 2

8:50 AM – 9:30 AM

Speaker



Andrew Hales
Assistant Professor | University of Mississippi

AM Beverage Break

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Session 3

10:00 AM – 10:40 AM

Speaker



Maja Kutlaca
Associate Professor | Durham University

Session 4

10:40 AM – 11:20 AM

Speaker



Valerie Jones Taylor
Associate Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University, New Brunswick | Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Session 5

11:20 AM – 12:00 PM

Speaker



Maureen Craig

Associate Professor | Duke University

Boxed Lunch Break

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the meeting room. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Session 6

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Early Career Speaker

Speaker



Gale Chong

PhD Student | University of Toronto

[81] Rethinking diversity training: The role of selection in assessing mandatory and voluntary approaches

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Xingruo Zhang

Cornell University

Authors

Jane Risen, Devon Proudfoot

[82] Throwing dirt and losing ground: Leader criticism leads to increased leader support

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Anjewierden

Cal Poly Humboldt

[83] Effects of Opposing Reactions to Counternormative Behavior on Social Norm Perception

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Garcia

PhD Candidate | Princeton University

Authors

Jennifer Dannals, Elizabeth Paluck

[84] Joking at our expense: Humorous critiques of economic inequality depict the working-class as powerless and dumb

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva García Ferrés

Graduate Student | University of Florida

Authors

Gregory D. Webster, Colin Tucker Smith

[85] We are Not the Same: Asymmetry in Intergroup Meta-Perceptions

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yarden Ashur

Post Doc | University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Authors

Niv Reggev, Roni Porat

[86] Prejudice Screening in Jury Selection: Who Self-Reports Implicit Racial Bias?

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rose Eerdmans

Graduate Student | Cornell University

Authors

Kristen Gittings, Hannah Rath, Megan Lawrence, Sara Thomas, Jessica Salerno, Laura Smalarz (Arizona State University)

[87] Fitting the Mold: Stereotype Congruence in Sentencing Mitigation

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Cadence Dorrian

Smith College

Authors

Yael Granot

[88] From traits to mental images: quantifying the stability and flexibility of stereotypes across perceivers, situations, and intersecting categories

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Chujun Lin

Assistant Professor | Columbia University

Authors

Yilin Wang

[89] The impact of prototypicality threat on belonging

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jason Folmsbee

Graduate Student | Miami University

Authors

Heather Claypool

[90] Do Psychological Interventions Reduce Intergroup Victimhood and Support for Violence? An Intervention Tournament

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Neharika Nair

Graduate Student | University of Illinois – Chicago

Authors

Rebecca Littman, Yumeka Hirayama, Karen Bernstein, Opeyemi Adejo, Boaz Hameiri

[91] The Development and Validation of the Collective Victimhood Scale (CVS)

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Neharika Nair

Graduate Student | University of Illinois – Chicago

Authors

Rebecca Littman, Vlada Trofimchuk, Ryne Estabrook

[92] How do people approach decisions that help some but hurt others?

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yair Nahari

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Ilan Yaniv, Shoham Choshen-Hillel

[93] Common = Ineffective? A Replication Attempt of the Normative Dilution Effect in the Context of Apologies

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Vlada Trofimchuk

Doctoral Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Rebecca Littman

[94] Buffering Effects of Negative Intergroup Contact Through Complex Social Identities

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Liora Morhayim

Authors

Linda Tropp

[95] Stereotyping Black Areas Dampens Perceived Environmental Harm and Human Health Threats

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ashlee Brown

University of California, Santa Cruz

Authors

Caitlyn Yantis, Courtney Bonam

[96] Sense of Belonging and Motivation in Native Hawaiian Students in Engineering Fields

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sheemrun Ranjan

Graduate Student | University of Hawai'i, Manoa

Authors

Joni Sasaki

[97] Social Identity Threat Among Non-Native English-Speaking Students

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer LaCosse

Assistant Professor | University of Michigan-Flint

[98] The Role of Intergroup Threat in Response to Ally Support

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Virginia Gary

PhD Student, Social Identity Lab | Claremont Graduate University

[99] That's Just My Opinion: Political Identity Threat in Virtual and In-Person Environments

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nick Ashenfelter

Masters Student | Villanova University

Authors

Caitlyn Yantis

[100] Beyond In-Group Identity: How Integration of U.S. Cultural Identityâ€”Rather Than Rejection of PuertorriqueÃ±idadâ€”Shapes Political Status Preferences

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rocío Rivera Crespo

Graduate Student | Universidad De Puerto Rico

Authors

Veronica Benet Martinez, John Jost, Eduardo Rivera Pichardo

[101] Do Confrontation Styles Actually Communicate What Confronters Intend?

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ava Bjelka

Undergraduate Research Assistant - UNITE Lab | Sacred Heart University

Authors

Zoe Hillgruber Fernandes Pita, Dorainne Green, Kathryn Kroeper

[102] More Contact, less Invisibility? Intergroup and Intragroup Contact Predict Invisibility for Multiply Stigmatized People

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Daliah Marei

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould, Rebecca Neel

[103] The Impact of Election Stress on Young Adults' Wellbeing and Social Networks

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Su Doğa Karaca

Pre-Doctoral Researcher | Stanford University

Authors

Isabella Aslarus, Rui Pei, Jamil Zaki

[104] Hierarchy, Happiness, and Hostility: Positive Affect Links SDO to Political Violence

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Haleigh Wagner

California State University Bakersfield

[105] Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools fosters social interactions and group identity within schools

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jeff Ramdass

Project Director | UMass Boston

Authors

Yu Xia, Jeff Stokes, Gary Siperstein, Holly Jacobs

[106] College Students' Perceptions of the Ideological Beliefs of News Sources

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rosemary Rojas

Graduate Student | University of Utah

Authors

Paul White, Brittany Bloodhart (California State University, San Bernardino)

[107] Beyond Either-Or: Seeing People Through Trait Overlap

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Celia Yang

University of Chicago

Authors

Jiabi Wang, Ayelet Fishbach

[108] CANCELLED:

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

[109] Advocacy is not Equal: The Effect of Anti-Sexism Posts on Hiring Evaluations by Gender and Race

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Marybella Zhang

Johns Hopkins University

Authors

Cella Yang, Dylan Selterman

[110] The Color of Foreignness: Distinct Consequences for Black Individuals in the U.S.

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Fasika Hailu

Graduate Student | University of Washington

Authors

Sapna Cheryan

[111] Did the Hamas Attack Change Implicit and Explicit Anti-Arab Muslim Biases?

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Hiba Suhail

Rutgers University – Newark

Authors

Luis M. Rivera

[112] Borrowed Culture, Built Nationalism: Benefit Finding About Cultural Appropriation Sparks Racial Identity and Pride

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephanie Oliinyk

PhD Candidate | UC Davis

Authors

Ariel Mosley

[113] When Minority Success Feels Like Majority Loss: Zero-Sum Thinking and Policy Support Resistance

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Olivia Duchow

Graduate Student | Auburn University

Authors

Ariel Mosley

[114] The Certainty of Tradition: How Different Uncertainties Drive Men's Support for Traditional Gender Norms

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tanner Demaree

Student | University of California, Los Angeles

Authors

Yuen Huo

[115] When Collective Action Undermines Future Progress

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aljia Gao

University of Missouri

Authors

Sage Bouchard

[116] The (Mis)perception of Racial Economic Progress: Identity and Temporal Considerations

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jordan Cortesi

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Kansas

[117] Perceived immorality of outgroups predicts motivation to have cross-group relationships

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



E.J. Masicampo

Associate Professor | Wake Forest University

Authors

Kate Wanzenberg

PM Beverage Break

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Session 7

3:00 PM – 3:40 PM

Speaker



Linda Tropp

Professor | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Session 8

3:40 PM – 4:20 PM

Speaker



Kurt Gray
Professor | UNC Chapel Hill

Session 9

4:20 PM – 5:00 PM

Round Table Discussion with Preconference Speakers

Health Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Physical health ("Health") is essential to well-being. The role of social and personality factors in health is apparent in myriad ways, such as access to quality healthcare and individual health promotion, and the health domain provides a uniquely rich opportunity to elucidate social and personality processes. Evolving trends in approaches to health, as well as resources for its study, encourage insights from social and personality psychologists. The Health Preconference serves as a hub for SPSP attendees who investigate social and personality processes in health. This preconference facilitates interdisciplinary collaborations and knowledge exchange among a community of scholars in and across health, social, and personality fields. This year will feature pivotal and emerging research, opportunities to connect with fellow scholars, and access to professional developmental opportunities, with an emphasis on social and personality factors in healthcare contexts given Chicago's rich landscape of healthcare and medical education.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome and Introduction

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM

Early Career Award Talk: Mary Himmelstein

8:10 AM – 8:40 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Mary Himmelstein
Associate Professor | Kent State University

Outstanding Poster Talk: Taylor-Jo Russo

8:45 AM – 8:55 AM

College students commonly drink alcohol above moderation and get poor sleep, behaviors seen as socially rewarding or acceptable despite risks. Appearance-based interventions can counter these motives, yet few have targeted alcohol or sleep and none have used a dual approach. We tested an intervention using Future Face software among 298 college females reporting poor sleep and drinking above moderation. Participants randomized to alcohol, sleep, or combined conditions received health risk information and facial transformations showing effects of alcohol use, poor sleep, or both, while controls completed the post-survey only. ANCOVAs revealed that compared to control, the alcohol condition produced higher perceived vulnerability (PV), less favorable attitudes, and lower behavioral willingness (BW) and intentions (BI) to drink above moderation. The sleep condition only produced higher PV to poor sleep. The combined condition produced less favorable attitudes and lower BW and BI to drink above moderation, get poor sleep, and sacrifice sleep to drink. Findings support dual-behavior appearance interventions as feasible for addressing interconnected health risks in at-risk populations.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Taylor Russo
Doctoral Candidate | The George Washington University

Authors

Michelle Stock

[1] Buffers and Mechanisms of Structural Stigma and Sexual Minority Health

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Structural stigma and regional bias have increasingly come to the fore as fundamental causes of health disparities. Indeed, a rapidly-expanding literature demonstrates that sexual minorities living in regions characterized by increases in or higher overall levels of discriminatory legislation and heterosexist bias exhibit poorer physical and mental health outcomes. However, potential buffers of and mechanisms linking structural stigma and health remain obscure. We utilized data from both large publicly-available datasets (Project Implicit, the US Census, MIT Election Lab, and Movement Advancement Project) and from Generations: A Study of the Life and Health of LGB People in a Changing Society, United States, 2016-2019, a longitudinal survey of a national probability sample of sexual minority Americans. More specifically, we hypothesized that social support from family, social support from friends, and subjective sexual and gender minority (SGM) community connectedness would each either moderate or mediate the relationship between state-level policy environments or county-level explicit and implicit sexuality bias and physical and mental health outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexander Kellogg
PhD Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Allecia Reid, Nilanjana Dasgupta

[2] CANCELLED:

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

*POSTER

Authors

Tae Hwan Son, Stacey Doan, Joey Fung, Farzana Adjah, Anna Lau

[3] Social and personality underpinnings of susceptibility to medical misinformation

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Medical misinformation (MM) represents a significant threat to public and individual health. Previous work on MM shows that superficial information processing is the main driver of susceptibility to MM; additional work suggests motivated reasoning and social influence may also play prominent roles. Guided by these theories, study 1 collected data from a politically balanced sample of participants from the US (N=270). A structural equation model was developed to examine the impacts of motivated reasoning, social influence, and heuristic reliance on susceptibility to medical misinformation about gender affirming healthcare. The model had good fit and showed that susceptibility to MM was primarily driven by motivated reasoning and social influence. In study 2, a balanced sample (N = 506) was recruited to conceptually replicate and extend the model to other forms of MM. Results from study 2 demonstrated excellent fit with similar patterns of significant drivers. Results from this work may enhance understanding of the primary factors influencing susceptibility to medical misinformation, while providing insight into means by which these pathways might be disrupted.

*POSTER

Speaker



Catherine Wall

Assistant Professor | wallcs@vcu.edu

Authors

Madhwa Galgali, Quinnehtukqut McLamore, Eric Benotsch

[4] Bridging Body and Brain: How Inflammation Links to Social Cognition

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Chronic inflammation contributes to most leading causes of death worldwide, and social connection plays a key role in regulating it. While social support is linked to lower inflammation, inflammation can, in turn, shape how we think about others—sometimes increasing withdrawal but also motivating approach to trusted others. To examine how inflammation affects social cognition we measured inflammatory cytokines (IL6 and CRP). We then collected ratings of connection with 15 social targets. Participants' neural activity was measured while making trait judgments about each of the 15 targets as well as themselves. Higher IL6—a measure of short-term inflammation—was associated with greater closeness to close others as well as reduced MPFC activity for close-others and reduced neural self–close-other overlap. In contrast, higher CRP—a measure of longer-term inflammation—was linked to feeling less similar to others and greater neural self–other overlap in the MPFC, PCC, and dMPFC. Previous research has shown that feeling closer with a target is connected to more MPFC activity as well as more self-other neural overlap in the dMPFC. Both IL6 and CRP dampened or even eliminated the tie.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danika Geisler

Authors

Meghan Meyer

[5] Understanding Perceptions of Acceptability, Favorability, and Coercion in Using Financial Incentives as a Policy for Promoting Vaccination

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

There is a dearth of empirical research on how people perceive and respond to financial incentives as a policy for promoting vaccination. Which aspects of a financial incentive policy are seen more positively and more negatively? This pre-registered online study is a 2 (Timing of Policy: Start, Six month delay) x 3 (Justification for Policy: Increase Uptake, Increase Accessibility, None) factorial design with six pilot-tested messages meant to mirror a Canadian government social media vaccination promotion campaign that included a \$100 incentive for a vaccine. Specifically, we examine 1) whether the timing of the incentive program (introduced at the start of a vaccine campaign, introduced after six months) affects individuals' perceived acceptability, favorability, fairness, and coercion of the program such that a six-month delay is evaluated more negatively, and; 2) whether the justification provided for the incentive moderates this effect such that the effect of timing is attenuated when the incentive is justified in terms of accessibility compared to uptake. These results will build our understanding of how financial incentives are perceived and why they can be ineffective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maya Rogers

Graduate Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

David Jennum, Alexander Rothman

[6] Influencers are just like me! Similarity to body positive models reduces self-objectification

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Previous research has shown that viewing "body positive" social media posts—ones celebrating a diversity of body types, sizes, and abilities—improves mood, body appreciation, and self-image (Cohen et al., 2019; David et al., 2020; Talbot et al., 2021). However, for whom, and when, these effects occur, is still largely unknown (see Cohen et al., 2021; Rodgers et al., 2022). Using an experimental design, we showed undergraduate women real Instagram posts of "body positive" users who were pre-rated as either thin or heavy. We measured the perceived closeness of the participant to the influencer in the images, as well as weight- and body-related outcomes. We found that higher-weight participants showed a reduction in their state self-objectification after viewing the images, but only if they felt psychologically close to the thin influencers. Viewing heavier influencers, regardless of perceived closeness, did not affect participants' self-objectification. These findings suggest that while "body positive" imagery can be helpful for higher-weight women, such effects may occur only in situations of perceived proximity to thinness, thereby reinforcing weight-related societal standards.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mora Reinka

Assistant Professor | Ursinus College

Authors

Peiyi Wang

[7] Do messages about science affect reactions to conflicting health information?

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Exposure to conflicting health information (CHI) can negatively affect people's beliefs about science and health recommendations. An initial study found that a message which helps people make better sense of the scientific process mitigated these effects. We conducted two pre-registered studies examining the timing of this message by varying whether it came before or after exposure to CHI. In study 1, Prolific participants were randomly assigned to read a message about science or sustainability either before or after exposure to CHI (n = 604). In study 2, Prolific participants were randomly assigned to read a message about science before or after CHI exposure or received no message at all (n = 223). Positive construal of science, counterarguing science, and knowledge of science were assessed. We found that when delivered after exposure to CHI, the message about science was effective at sustaining positive perceptions of science compared to receiving no message. However, there is mixed evidence for effectiveness when the science message is read before CHI exposure. Next steps and implications for interventions for CHI will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Chan

PhD Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Alexander Rothman, Rachel Vogel, Marco Yzer, Sarah Gollust, Rebekah Nagler

[8] Reactions to Physicians' Genetic Explanations for Obesity

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

As obesity is increasingly viewed as a biomedical disease, emphasis on the role of genetics in its etiology is likely to increase. There are also stark racial disparities in obesity in the US, with Black Americans bearing a disproportionate share of the health burden. One concern is that genetic explanations for obesity could bolster the misguided assumption that these disparities stem from genetic differences between racial groups. Little is known about how physicians who endorse genetic explanations are perceived by adults with obesity. In a completed study, U.S. adults with obesity viewed a description of a primary care physician who either did or did not emphasize genetic causes of obesity and its racial disparities. In the genetic condition, compared to the non-genetic condition, the physician was perceived as a less effective treatment provider, and participants identifying as Black or African American were significantly less interested in being treated by him. A planned follow-up study will test these effects in a larger and more diverse sample, examining how physicians' causal attributions for obesity influence perceived warmth, competence, and clinical effectiveness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Lebowitz

Assistant Professor of Medical Psychology (in Psychiatry) | Columbia University

Authors

Rebecca Pearl, Carolyn Tucker

[9] Managing Medical Providers' Weight Stigma: Malleability Mindsets, Confrontation Effectiveness Beliefs, and Willingness to Confront

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Three studies examined whether and how patients' mindsets about weight stigma predict their willingness to confront physicians' weight-based discrimination. We reasoned that confrontation willingness might positively relate to (1) lay theories—viewing weight bias as malleable—, (2) metatheories—perceiving one's provider to hold a malleable mindset—and (3) effectiveness beliefs—believing strategies will improve care quality. Study 1 (N = 247), a cross-sectional study, suggested that metatheories—but not lay theories—might predict confrontation willingness when one believes that doing so will more effectively improve care quality. Study 2 (N = 226) then experimentally tested malleable (versus fixed) mindsets about physician bias, showing that malleable beliefs increase confrontation willingness. Study 3 (N = 225) then tested the effect of malleable metatheories on willingness but found no support for our expectations. Taken together, this research introduces physician-bias-malleability mindsets as a key component of doctor-patient relationships, pointing to future work that might examine how providers can invite patient self-advocacy by cultivating and signaling malleable mindsets.

*POSTER

Speaker



William Meese

PhD Student | University of California, Merced

Authors

Jennifer Howell

[10] Health information seeking among emerging adults

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

The aim of this study was to examine the patterns of health information seeking and usage among emerging adults. The Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS 6) is a nationally representative survey designed to monitor changes in health communication usage across populations. Results indicate that emerging adults reported significantly different patterns of health-related social media use and perceptions of the utility of social media in making health decisions than older adults. Emerging adults were more likely to use social media, more likely to use information from social media to make health decisions, and more likely to report social media networks with similar views on health. These findings have important implications for public health education and communication strategies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Reimer

Professor | Des Moines University

Authors

Jared Datzman

[11] An Integrative Review of the Role of Personality Processes in Health

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Personality robustly predicts health behaviors and outcomes. However, most personality process studies rely on trait-level data collected years or even decades apart, which makes translation to momentary behaviors in specific situations challenging. Work of this type is necessary for the development of health interventions. In this pre-registered study, we are using inductive qualitative methods to code processes discussed in book chapters, meta-analyses, and empirical papers in the psychology, behavioral medicine, health, and intervention literatures. Coding involved grouping similar processes together until saturation was reached. Our review found support for common theories/processes (e.g., situation selection and evocation) as well as others (e.g., identity development, memory processes) which are discussed less often. To our knowledge, this is the first pre-registered, systematic review of personality processes for health across all Big Five traits. Overall, this state-of-the-art study highlights the need for more studies of contextualized, situationally-constrained and motivationally-relevant behaviors to advance research on how and why personality is related to health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hieu Le

Undergraduate Researcher | North Dakota State University

Authors

Samantha Weston, Anita Adams, Odalis Garcia, Katherine Duggan

[12] Improving Trust in Women's Symptoms Using a Novel Medical Chart Perspective-Taking Intervention

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Endorsement of gender stereotypes results in diminished trust in women's symptom reports and worse treatment recommendations. Perspective-taking can reduce stereotyping and improve trust, but implementation barriers (e.g., time) render current interventions impractical in medical settings. We are testing if shifting symptom documentation from 3rd to 1st person can be used as a novel medical perspective-taking intervention to increase trust in and improve treatment quality for female patients. We will test two versions of the intervention using a 3 (Perspective-Taking: Affective vs. Cognitive vs. None, between-subjects) x 2 (Patient Sex: Male versus Female, within-subject) design and sample 250 medical students. After viewing two charts written in their perspective-taking condition, participants will recommend a treatment plan and indicate trust in the patient. We predict that perspective-taking will increase treatment quality and trust in patient symptom testimony, that this effect will be greater for female patients, and that increased trust will mediate improved treatment quality. This intervention represents a time and cost-effective way to mitigate gender disparities in health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Louis Ingram

University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Sohad Murrar

[13] Variability in Activated Positive Emotion Predicts Drinking in Daily Life

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Emotional variability may play a key role in understanding daily alcohol use. This study examined within-person fluctuations in emotion and their association with drinking behavior among adults. Participants (N = 93; M = 41.2 years) completed seven days of ecological momentary assessment (EMA) via text message, reporting emotion seven times daily and alcohol use each evening. Emotion was measured using 16 items reflecting activated and deactivated positive and negative emotions, with daily intraindividual standard deviations capturing emotional variability. Alcohol use was categorized as no use or use that day, and heavy drinking as 4+ drinks women, 5+ drinks men. Across 600 person-days (92% compliance), greater variability in activated positive emotion was associated with higher odds of heavy drinking (OR=1.99, CI=1.25, 3.17). No other results were significant. These findings suggest that activated positive emotional variability but not variability in negative emotion, may increase risk for drinking, highlighting the importance of emotion regulation as a potential intervention target.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jayci Palinek

Health Care Assistant | Huntsman Cancer Hospital

Authors

Kate Williamson, Jimena Garcia, Dusti Jones

[14] Neither Running nor Resting: The impact of weight stigma on daily exercise and sleep

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Weight stigma, social devaluation based on body weight, is common among people with higher body weights. This stigmatization, and anticipation of this stigma, leads to worse overall health, including sleep and motivations to engage in exercise. However, little work has assessed these relationships longitudinally, and thus, temporal precedence has not been established. Thus, this study uses ecological momentary assessment (EMA) to assess the temporal relationship between weight stigma (and anticipated stigma) and subsequent sleep. Additionally, we will assess whether, on days with greater weight stigma and anticipated stigma, people are less likely to partake in light, moderate, and vigorous exercise. The sample included N = 130 female college students with higher body weight. They responded to 3 surveys a day over the course of 21 days. Controlling for BMI and autoregression, we will analyze the data using multilevel modeling to assess covariation between weight stigma, anticipated stigma, and exercise as well as lagged relationships between weight stigma, anticipated stigma, and sleep.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karen Wetzel

Grad Student | Kent State University

Authors

Mary Himmelstein

[15] Not All Coping Is Equal: Emotion Regulation Strategies and Same-Day Alcohol Use"

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Emotion regulation strategies may influence daily alcohol use, yet little is known about their real-time associations. In this study, 93 adults (M = 41.2 years) completed seven days of daily diary assessments via text message, reporting emotion regulation strategy use and alcohol consumption. Strategy use was measured with the Daily Emotion Regulation Strategy Use Scale (12 strategies). Alcohol use was categorized as no use or use, and heavy drinking as 4+ drinks for women, 5+ for men. Compliance was 92%. Procrastination and rumination were associated with lower odds of alcohol use (ORs = 0.59, 0.48) and heavy drinking (OR = 0.38 for procrastination). In contrast, using substances to regulate emotions was linked to higher odds of alcohol use (OR = 12.29) and heavy drinking (OR = 7.93). These findings suggest that not all maladaptive strategies uniformly increase alcohol risk and highlight the importance of assessing emotion regulation in daily life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jimena Garcia
University of Utah

Authors

Dusti Jones, Jayci Palinek, Kate Williams

[16] Weekly pleasant support-giving experiences are associated with lower lymphocyte count in older African American adults

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Strong links have been established between social support experiences and inflammatory outcomes. We expand the current literature by investigating how age moderates the relationship between pleasantly rated social support experiences and lower lymphocyte count. The analytic sample consists of 223 African American participants from The Heart of Detroit Study (Mage = 65.17 yrs, SD = 5.48, range = 55 –75, 70% Female) who provided daily EMA responses 4 times a day, along with an intravenous blood sample at the end of the week. For each EMA response, participants described their current social environment, affective feelings, and social support experience. More frequent pleasant support-giving experiences predicted lower lymphocyte count; however, this effect was only significant for participants aged 70 and older. More frequent pleasant support-receiving experiences did not significantly predict lower lymphocyte count and there was no significant interaction with age. These preliminary results illustrate that support-giving experiences may be more predictive of lower lymphocyte count for older adults, however further analyses must assess the complete sample.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexis Pinela
PhD Student Researcher - Department of Psychology | Wayne State University

Authors

Samuele Zilioli

[17] "Dr. ChatGPT, what can I do to improve my health?": Exploring the Role of Personalization and Citation Quality in the Perception of AI as a Source of Health Information.

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

As more people turn to AI for health information, understanding how such a source is perceived is critical (Lund et al., 2025). This study explored factors shaping perceptions of health messages attributed to ChatGPT, specifically compared to traditional sources. Across two studies (n = 658), participants consistently rated ChatGPT-attributed messages less positively than those to doctor. In study 1, personalization did not enhance perceived message effectiveness and source credibility when messages were from ChatGPT. In study 2, citation characteristics (relevant, irrelevant, none) of ChatGPT had no effect on perceived message effectiveness. However, ChatGPT was rated more credible when relevant citations were included (vs. none), though irrelevant citations made no difference. This effect was moderated by media health literacy: only participants with higher media health literacy were sensitive to citation relevance, rating relevant citations more credible than irrelevant and no citations. Overall, findings show that low perceived credibility may limit AI's effectiveness in health communication, and that personalization and relevant citations may, at present, do little to help.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arina Bratamidjaja
Graduate student | Kent State University

Authors

John Updegraff

[18] Improving Health Outcomes: How Emotion Regulation Strategies Influence Emotion Variability

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Higher emotion variability (EV) is linked to poorer health outcomes like inflammation and cortisol. Emotion regulation strategies may influence EV in distinct ways. Participants (N = 121; M = 41 years) completed seven days of ecological momentary assessment via text message, reporting affect seven times daily and emotion regulation strategies used each evening. Emotion was assessed via 16 items capturing activated/deactivated positive emotions (PE) and negative emotions (NE); EV was calculated by intraindividual standard deviations. Emotion regulation strategy use was measured with the Daily Emotion Regulation Strategy Use Scale (12 strategies). Acceptance, distraction, procrastination, and reflection were associated with activated and deactivated NEV. Experiential avoidance and substance use predicted NEV and activated PEV; rumination predicted NEV and deactivated PEV. Savoring was linked to activated PEV. Behavioral avoidance, social support, and reappraisal showed no associations; expressive suppression related to all EV indices. Identifying strategy-specific emotional effects may inform interventions aimed at reducing EV and improving health outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kate Williamson
Research Assistant (Undergraduate) | University of Utah

Authors

Jimena Garcia, Dusti Jones, Jayci Palinek

[19] Investigating the Effects of Attention and Expectancy in Open-label Placebo Analgesia

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Placebo analgesia has shown promise in treating pain, but practitioners are reluctant to prescribe deceptive placebos. Open-label, or honestly prescribed placebos, offer an ethical alternative. Open-label placebos seem to work largely through experimenter-manipulated expectancy, as well as social/environmental factors. Additionally, verbally guided attention to relevant placebo sensations might bolster pain relief. In the present study, expectancy and attention were experimentally manipulated within a 2 (expectancy: high/low) x 2 (attention: high/low) between-subjects design with a no-treatment comparison group. Pain was experimentally induced in all five experimental groups using the well-established cold pressor task. The primary dependent variable was pain tolerance. Data collection is ongoing (expected end-date March 2026, expected N = 120). We hypothesize that high expectancy will result in higher pain tolerance than low expectancy, and high attention will result in higher pain tolerance than low attention. Further, high expectancy conditions will display higher pain tolerances when they were in the high attention condition compared to the low attention condition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Miranda Connelly

Graduate Student | Cal Poly Humboldt

Authors

Carrie Aigner

[20] Social media and FoMO: nightmares for college student sleep quality

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

College students' investment in social media (SM) may be facilitated by the fear of missing out (FoMO). SM use may impact sleep quality which can have adverse effects on well-being. We investigated the relationships between student SM use, FoMO, sleep, and numerous mental health variables. Data were collected from Psychology classes at a large Southeastern Research University across four cohorts from 2020-2024, (n=2055). On average, students spent > 4 hours per day using SM. FoMO was positively related to frequency of checking SM, $r = .215$, $p < 0.1$, and time spent on SM, $r = .191$, $p < .01$. More SM was correlated with worse sleep quality and less total average daily sleep, ($r_s = .116, -.091$), $ps < .001$. Heavier SM use was also related to higher levels of anxiety, stress, and depression ($r_s = .06, .149, .08$, $ps < .05$). In turn, worse mental health was significantly related to poorer sleep quality and less average daily amounts of sleep. A greater level of FoMO was related to lower sleep satisfaction, $r_s = -.105$, $p < .01$. This work supports the idea that SM and FoMO are related and may negatively impact student well-being, in addition to lowering perceived sleep quality and sufficiency.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarah Lust

Lecturer | Auburn University

Authors

Abigail Brewer

[21] (Mis)Trust in Healthcare and Health Risk Information Avoidance

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Prior research finds that people are more likely to avoid health information if they believe powerful audiences such as health insurers may gain access to that information (Lipsey & Shepperd, 2019). This raises an important question – what is it about powerful audiences in a healthcare context that elicits avoidance? The present study aimed to test one hypothesis: lack of trust. 333 U.S. participants (Mage=56.4) recruited from ResearchMatch answered questions about their trust in the healthcare system, trust in insurance companies, and their belief in insurance companies' capacity to harm. Participants then said yes or no to a purported additional study where they could receive free genetic risk information, emphasizing that some forms of insurance may use the information to make coverage decisions. Contrary to hypothesis, neither insurance nor healthcare trust predicted the information decision. Capacity to harm approached significance, with more anticipated harm predicting higher likelihood of avoidance ($p=.073$). Demographic predictors and potential reasons for the non-significant link between trust and information avoidance will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nikolette Lipsey

Assistant Professor | Penn State University, Mont Alto

[22] Self-Other Differences in Decision-Making Across Medical and Social-Professional Domains

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Decisions often differ depending on whether people decide for themselves or for others. The present study aims to replicate the classic self-other asymmetry in medical decision-making (e.g., vaccination and cancer treatment) and test its generalization to socio-professional contexts (e.g., job offers and education). We implemented a 2 (Perspective: Self vs. Other) x 2 (Domain: Medical vs. Socio-professional) between-subjects design with Prolific participants. Participants were randomly assigned to one of four role conditions: Self, Doctor, Medical Director, or Parent (medical); Self, Career Coach, Economist, or Parent (socio-professional). Participants made two hypothetical decisions between more passive and more active options in their assigned roles. Across medical scenarios, non-patient roles showed a higher proportion of Active choices than Patient. Socio-professional the same directional pattern (more Active for "others" than "self"), though the effect appears weaker than in the medical scenarios. Self-reported qualitative data suggested that factors like responsibility, risk balancing, and emotions motivated the results.

*POSTER

Speaker



Milena Stepanova

Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant | University of Michigan

Authors

Andras Molnar, Thad Polk

[23] Affective associations and fear of discrimination explain sexual minority annual physical attendance

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Annual physicals are a strong predictor of improved health behaviors and outcomes, yet sexual minorities (SM) attend at lower rates than heterosexual individuals, which may contribute to disparities in preventive care and downstream morbidity. Minority stress theory suggests anticipated stigma and negative clinical expectations as barriers to care, while positive affect associated with care can increase engagement. The present study examined psychosocial mechanisms underlying this gap among lesbian, gay, and bisexual-spectrum adults. Participants were recruited via Prolific (N=200; Mage=39.16, SD=12.75; 61.9% SM) and completed measures of annual physical attendance, affective associations, physician trust, expectancies, and fear of discrimination. Consistent with prior work, SM participants were less likely to attend annual physicals. Parallel mediation analyses indicated that greater fear of discrimination and fewer positive affective associations significantly mediated the SM–attendance link. Findings suggest that reducing identity-related threat cues and intentionally cultivating positive emotional experiences in clinical encounters may increase routine care uptake among SM adults.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kelly Clemens
Assistant Professor | Illinois State University

Authors

Aj Ralston, John Matkovic

[24] A Pilot Study on the Mechanistic Relationship between Adult Attachment and Central Pain Processing

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Attachment-Pain research identifies insecure attachment as a correlate of heightened pain perception and chronic pain development. However, few studies have used laboratory pain measures to examine physiological pain pathways underlying these relationships. None have used measures of central nervous system sensitization (CS), a mechanistic marker and risk factor for chronic pain. In this pilot study, 33 community-sampled healthy volunteers completed quantitative sensory testing and measures of avoidant and anxious adult attachment. Avoidant attachment was associated with greater pain sensitivity as assessed using self-reported and laboratory tests of pain tolerance, but not CS. Results for anxious attachment were mixed, revealing a positive correlation with self-reported CS, but unexpectedly a negative correlation with laboratory-assessed CS. Future research aimed at identifying specific pain pathways influenced by attachment are needed. However, this pilot study takes a first step toward understanding how relational patterns affect neuroplastic pain pathways- essentially linking social-emotional regulation with central pain amplification.

*POSTER

Speaker



Klarissa Lopez
PhD Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Kaitlyn Walsh, Diya Dharmendran, Montae Bermudez, Steve Rohls, Vani Mathur

[25] Experimental Inflammation and Status Avoidance: Evidence from a Vaccine Study

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Physical health is closely intertwined with social and psychological processes, yet the biological mechanisms connecting them remain unclear. This study tests whether mild immune activation influences social decision-making, focusing on status avoidance—the tendency to withdraw or defer within social hierarchies. Grounded in social psychoneuroimmunology, we examine whether experimentally induced inflammation promotes status-avoidant behavior. In a double-blind, placebo-controlled design, healthy adults receive either an influenza vaccine or a placebo across two lab sessions 24 hours apart. We assess cytokines (IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8, TNF- α), salivary hormones (testosterone, estradiol), and behavioral indices of status-related decisions (competition, dictator, and approach-avoidance tasks). We hypothesize that participants in the vaccine condition will show higher cytokine activity and increased avoidance of status relative to placebo. Data collection is ongoing with a target sample of 50 participants. This research highlights how transient immune changes can shape social behavior, linking biological and social processes in health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jisoo Kim
University Of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Erik Knight

[26] A Mixed Methods Investigation of Health Goals and Family Dynamics among Latine Adults

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Latino/a/e/x (henceforth "Latine") individuals are one of the largest and fastest-growing ethnic minority groups in the U.S., comprising approximately 19% of the U.S. population. Despite comprising such a large segment of the U.S, Latine individuals are notably understudied in psychological science and disproportionately experience health disparities such as higher disease burden and late detection of disease. This pilot study leverages a mixed-method, community-based participatory research approach to identify the types of health goals Latine people have, barriers to pursuing these health goals, and how these health goals are discussed within Latine families. We discuss the development of a community advisory board of key stakeholders such as culturally-informed researchers, Latine-serving organizations, and local community members. Then, we present preliminary themes that resulted from focus groups of Latine community members about health goals. Ultimately, the present research will inform a larger mixed-methods study on this topic and eventually aid in the development of culturally-informed prevention and intervention techniques to promote health equity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cinthya Navarro-Garcia
Graduate Student | University of California Riverside

Authors

Olivia E. Atherton

[27] Reappropriating Fat: The impact of self-labeling on weight-related social identity

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

The word fat generally has a negative connotation and is used to stigmatize individuals with heavier weights, often leading to negative health consequences. Using an exploratory approach, 52 individuals who have used the word fat to describe themselves in a positive way were surveyed on their reasons for doing so. Additionally, 93 individuals who have observed others positively self-label as fat were surveyed on the reasons they think others do so. Results showed that reasons categorized as signalling solidarity with the group ("To enhance the power of overweight and obese people in society") were the least endorsed by self-labelers and observers, while reasons signalling individual self-worth ("to show other people that they (self-labelers) are comfortable with their bodies") were most frequently endorsed. Findings suggest that individuals may not see weight as being a part of their social identity. Our results can help future research better understand the relationship between the potential negative health outcomes associated with weight stigma and the role of reappropriating fat as a label

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaavya Iyer

Social Psychology PhD Student | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Authors

Luke Miller, Ian O'Dowd, Traci Mann

[28] Authenticity as a Moderater between Social Support, Stress, and Health in College Students

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

College is a time of change and stress for students. This stress is associated with negative physical and mental health. Social support (SS) and belonging are factors that mitigate the effects of stress; however, this may change if a person cannot be authentic. This effect may be more pronounced in men, as they report lower SS and belongingness. Fraternities (frats) value brotherhood and unity; therefore, the relationship between SS (i.e., brotherhood) and authenticity (i.e., acting against unity) may be more at odds in frats. This study aims to determine the protective value of SS on the wellbeing of frat members and to determine if authenticity moderates this relationship. We surveyed frat members and assessed SS, authenticity, stress, and health and wellbeing. Data collection is expected to conclude by 10/31 with a minimum sample size of 150 individuals. Preliminary analyses (N=74) support that SS mediates the relationship between stress and wellbeing, and that authenticity moderates the relationship between SS and perceived stress. When authenticity is low, SS exacerbates, instead of mitigates perceived stress, and when authenticity is high, SS acts as a protective factor.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kean Fialek

Undergraduate Student | Illinois State University

Authors

Kelly Clemens

[29] "Beta, It's Probably Just Stress, Drink Some Water": Pilot Study of How South Asians Make Sense of Pain

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Beliefs, values, and social norms shape how individuals perceive, express, and manage pain. Among South Asian populations specifically, culture plays a central role in shaping how pain is understood, narrated, and managed. However, nearly all work on this population has been conducted in the UK and Canadian diaspora settings or has focused on immigrant populations. Through in-depth interviews and inductive reflexive thematic analysis, we sought to describe the cultural and religious values that inform pain meaning-making in first-generation U.S. South Asian women and examine how these values influence communication and coping strategies. Pilot study of two volunteers (N=2) revealed four major themes that illuminate the cultural meaning-making, suppression, emotional responses, and relational dynamics shaping their pain experiences. Latent in these themes was an interconnected web of moral, relational, and identity-shaping factors that both sustained and constrained these pain journeys. These initial findings contribute to our understanding of chronic pain as a culturally and relationally shaped experience- one in which meaning, silence, emotion, and social validation all intersect.

*POSTER

Speaker



Diya Dharmendran

Texas A&M University

Authors

Vani Mathur, Allegra Midgette, Jyotsna Vaid

[30] Susceptibility to Health Misinformation in Older Adults: A Review

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

The widespread circulation of misinformation, particularly health-related misinformation, has emerged as a significant threat to health outcomes. Misinformation is not only persuasive due to its emotionally appealing content and repeated exposure, but also because it exploits gaps in digital literacy, health literacy, and critical thinking. These vulnerabilities are pronounced among older adults, with some studies suggesting older adults may be more cautious about online content, while others highlight their vulnerability due to lower digital fluency or a tendency to prioritize perceived safety over skepticism. This paper synthesizes existing research to explore how misinformation is understood, who is most vulnerable, and what factors may shape individuals' responses. In doing so, it examines not only the spread and appeal of misinformation but also its effects on health decision-making and behavior. As online platforms become increasingly central to health communication, tailored interventions that address both cognitive and technological barriers will be crucial to ensuring older adults are informed and protected from the harms of misinformation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Carly Manley

[31] Validating the Rapid Mood Screener–Chinese Version (RMS-C) for Differentiating Adolescent Unipolar and Bipolar Depression

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Adolescent unipolar and bipolar depression share overlapping symptoms, often leading to diagnostic delays and inappropriate treatment (Malhi et al., 2023; Wozniak et al., 2025). This study evaluated the reliability and diagnostic validity of the Chinese version of the Rapid Mood Screener (RMS-C; McIntyre et al., 2021), a six-item self-report tool designed for rapid bipolar screening. A total of 167 adolescents aged 13–18 years (68 MDD, 99 BD) completed the RMS-C, Mood Disorder Questionnaire (Hirschfeld et al., 2000), and Hypomania Checklist-32 (Angst et al., 2005) at baseline and follow-ups. The RMS-C showed satisfactory test–retest reliability (ICC = 0.71–0.79) and good structural validity (CFI = 0.92). Using a cutoff of 4, the RMS-C achieved AUCs of 0.81 for BD, 0.78 for BD-I, and 0.82 for BD-II, outperforming the MDQ and HCL-32. These findings support the RMS-C as a brief, culturally adapted, and clinically efficient screening instrument for early identification of bipolar depression in adolescents, with implications for improving assessment accuracy in outpatient and school-based mental health settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Suzy Ji

[32] Between Self and Society: How Identity, Socialization, and Discrimination affect Mental Health in Black Adolescents

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Black adolescents have unique sociocultural experiences that shape their mental health (e.g., discrimination, identity development, racial socialization). While studies have separately examined how these variables relate to Black adolescents' mental health, few studies have jointly examined these processes. Using cross-sectional data from the NSAL Adolescent Supplement, we examined how three sociocultural variables (racial identity, experiences of racial discrimination, racial socialization) related to two mental health outcomes (depressive symptoms, life satisfaction). Results of two separate multiple regression analyses showed that higher private regard was related to lower depressive symptoms and higher life satisfaction. Comparatively, experiencing more discrimination was related to higher depressive symptoms and lower life satisfaction. Higher public regard was related to higher life satisfaction, and more racial socialization was related to lower life satisfaction. Centrality was not a significant predictor of either outcome variable. These findings highlight how systemic and interpersonal sociocultural factors shape Black adolescents' mental health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yani Yakob

Student | University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

[33] Remotely administered non-deceptive placebos improve self-reported health

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Research has shown that non-deceptive placebos (i.e., placebos delivered without deception) may be effective at improving both mental and physical health. However, it remains unclear whether remotely administered (i.e., via an online Zoom call) non-deceptive placebos can affect physical health. In a secondary data analysis of a randomized control trial of volunteers experiencing prolonged COVID-19 distress (N = 64), we examined whether remotely administered non-deceptive placebos can reduce self-reported measures of physical health after 2 weeks: somatic symptoms, fatigue, sleep disturbance, and sleep-related impairments. Compared to a no-treatment control group, non-deceptive placebos reduced somatic symptoms, fatigue, and sleep disturbance, but not sleep-related impairments. These findings suggest that remotely administered non-deceptive placebos may be an effective intervention for improving physical health. Future large scale studies are needed to determine the effectiveness of non-deceptive placebos in improving biobehavioral measures of health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sevrin VanDevender

Graduate Student | Miami University

Authors

Darwin Guevarra, Sydney Roberts

[34] Seventeen Years Too Long: Accelerating Scientific Application with Community Voices

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Research suggests that it takes seventeen years for published findings to reach and become adopted by communities, impeding the uptake of evidence-based, equitable practices. This slow and ineffective translation of science is compounded by a lack of sociocultural representation in research, a paradoxical observation given that social psychology is rooted in the belief that diverse lived experiences are the backdrop to our thoughts and behavior. One strategy for expediting the translation of science is to involve community as partners in the research process, an approach referred to as community-engaged research (CER). This presentation will draw on our experiences conducting an ongoing clinical trial that tests a diabetes-focused intervention and will demonstrate how CER can improve study design and bridge the theory-to-application gap. We will focus on two strategies, Community Engagement Studios and Community Advisory Boards and how they facilitate more effective, equitable and inclusive research. We will also discuss implementation barriers that psychological researchers may face, including training, time and resource constraints, productivity norms and institutional readiness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Liz Scharnetzki

Faculty Scientist | MaineHealth Institute for Research

Authors

Emma DayBranch, Carolyn Sullivan, Darby Glenn, Jess DiBiase, Jeffrey Hunger

[35] System Failure and Stigma: The Human Cost of the ADHD Stimulant Shortage

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

The ongoing national stimulant shortage represents one of the most urgent and overlooked public health crises in the United States, disrupting the daily lives of millions who depend on ADHD medication to function. Building on our award-nominated cross-sectional study (American Public Health Association, 2025), this longitudinal extension examines how sustained medication scarcity affects mental health, productivity, and well-being across six months. Adults diagnosed with ADHD and prescribed a Schedule II stimulant report on medication access, stress, and functioning, as well as experiences of stigma and discrimination from pharmacies and medical providers. Using demographic and geographic data, the study also explores how socioeconomic and marginalized identities intersect with access barriers. Early findings will offer the first longitudinal evidence on the combined psychological and social toll of this shortage, revealing how systemic failure and stigma compound to threaten the mental health of an entire patient population.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristina Vallas

Graduate Student | Central Connecticut State University

Invited Talk: Monique Jindal

10:20 AM – 10:50 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Monique Jindal

Assistant Professor | Lurie Children's Hospital / Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine

Methods Tutorial 1: Wearable Alcohol Biosensors

10:55 AM – 11:15 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speakers



Catharine Fairbairn

Assistant Professor | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Jiaxu Han

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

A Transdiagnostic Approach to Assessing and Addressing Internalized Health-Related Stigma

11:20 AM – 11:40 AM

Research on health-related stigma is siloed, despite commonalities in stigma processes and harms across health conditions. The Health Stigma and Discrimination Framework calls for cross-cutting research to measure and address health stigma. This presentation will describe support for a "transdiagnostic" approach with the validation of a new measure of internalized stigma (Study 1) and pilot-testing of an intervention to reduce internalized stigma in adults with different chronic health conditions (Study 2). In Study 1, a new measure of internalized health-related stigma was validated among 300 adults with obesity, diabetes, HIV, skin diseases, chronic pain, and cancers, showing strong psychometrics and validity. In Study 2, a 12-week, group-based psychological intervention was developed and tested among 10 adults with these health conditions. Recruitment and retention goals were met, treatment acceptability ratings were high, and large effect sizes were shown in pre-post changes for measures of internalized stigma, mental health, and quality of life. A larger, ongoing clinical trial will further test the efficacy of this new cross-cutting approach to reducing internalized stigma.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Rebecca Pearl

Associate Professor | University of Florida

Moderating Role of Feminist Identity in the Relationship Between Perceived Weight-Based Discrimination and Eating Behaviors Among Female U.S. College Students

11:20 AM – 11:40 AM

This study examined whether feminist identity moderates the relationship between perceived weight-based discrimination and eating behaviors among female college students in the United States. Participants were 446 young adults ($M_{age} = 20.38$, $SD = 1.75$; $M_{BMI} = 23.42$, $SD = 4.62$) recruited from a Southern California public university between June 2022 and March 2023. Using self-report measures, we assessed problematic eating behaviors and eating psychopathology separately. Perceived weight discrimination was positively associated with both problematic eating behaviors ($\beta = .46$, $p < .001$) and eating psychopathology ($\beta = .52$, $p < .001$). Importantly, feminist identity significantly attenuated the strength of these associations (problematic eating: $\beta = -.13$, $p = .02$; eating psychopathology: $\beta = -.10$, $p = .049$). Higher feminist identity weakened the strength of the link between weight discrimination and maladaptive eating. The results were robust to BMI and outlier exclusion. Findings suggest feminist identity may serve as a protective factor against the adverse eating-related consequences of weight discrimination.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Peiyi Wang

Assistant Professor | University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

Authors

Maria Kalantzis, Francesa Fong, Jianmin Shao, Wenqi Zhang, Chuansheng Chen

Daily Objectification Predicts Alcohol Use in Diverse Sexual Assault Survivors

11:20 AM – 11:40 AM

Sexual objectification experiences (e.g., sexualized body gazes) may be a stressor for women who have experienced sexual assault (SA), potentially leading to craving and alcohol use to cope. Further, queer women may be disproportionately targeted and affected by objectification within cisheteropatriarchy, potentially leading to downstream consequences for alcohol craving and consumption. Within a three-week ecological momentary assessment design, participants (N = 82 women SA survivors, 1,804 total observations) reported on daily objectification experiences and current alcohol craving each evening, as well as past-day alcohol consumption each morning. As predicted, there was an indirect effect of experiencing objectification on later alcohol use via greater alcohol craving. There was not an indirect effect of queer identity on average alcohol use frequency via objectification and craving, but queer women experienced greater average craving than heterosexual women. Daily objectification experiences may be a proximal risk factor for craving and drinking among SA survivors with diverse sexual identities, with implications for trauma-informed and inclusive intervention efforts.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Amanda E. Baidon

Doctoral Candidate, Pre-Doctoral NIAAA F31 Fellow | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Authors

Alexandra Brockdorf, Sarah Gervais, David DiLillo

Identity, Masculinity, and Stigma: Understanding Barriers to Mental Health Care Among African American Men

11:20 AM – 11:40 AM

African American men are well documented to underutilize health care services. Although the reasons for this pattern are complex, research suggests that both historical mistrust of the medical system and sociocultural expectations of strength, rooted in intersecting racial and masculine identities, play key roles. These same factors may also influence attitudes toward mental health care. In this study, we examined how masculinity and racial identity importance interact to predict anticipated stigma related to mental health service use among 319 African American men. Results revealed a significant interaction: higher masculinity and stronger racial identity importance were associated with greater anticipated stigma. Furthermore, anticipated stigma mediated the relationship between these identity components and medical mistrust, perceived barriers to care, and willingness/comfort in seeking mental health services. These findings highlight some psychological mechanisms underlying African American men's disengagement from mental health care and suggest that identity-based stigma contributes to persistent disparities in help-seeking behavior.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Ana Clara Vieira Zaidan

University of Mississippi

Authors

Joseph Wellman, Landon Jones

Outstanding Submission Talk: Haley Mehlman

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

The iterative nature of science introduces ambiguity and uncertainty. Public health experts, scientists, and practitioners face a dilemma: communicating with absolute certainty risks giving the impression of more certainty than may be warranted, but demonstrating intellectual humility (IH) may undermine public perception of experts' credibility. Across three studies (N=842) we find that the public views IH public health scientists as more credible than certain ones, with participants higher in scientific literacy showing a stronger preference for IH. However, the IH scientist's findings were viewed as weaker and less persuasive than results presented by certain scientists, regardless of scientific literacy. In a fourth study (N=108) we find that practitioners (N=56) and researchers (N=52) view IH as more credible but expect the public to prefer the certain scientist and to find their results more persuasive. This project has implications for theory around communicating uncertainty, as well as the links between credibility and persuasion, and can help guide initiatives for more effective health communication.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Haley Mehlman

Psychology Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the meeting room. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

LUNCH

Beyond Direct Harm: Contextualizing Off/Online Vicarious Discrimination Experiences on Health

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

With the rise of social media consumption, exposure to racial unfairness has extended into digital spaces, compounding the ways in which individuals experience race-based stressors. While studies link direct racial discrimination (DRD; i.e., firsthand experiences of racial unfairness) to health, recent findings suggest that vicarious racial discrimination (VRD)—the secondhand experience of racial discrimination—may be encountered more frequently than DRD and thus, also detrimental for health. However, lack of differentiation between DRD and VRD exposures hinders standardization and cross-study comparisons. In two studies, we aimed to identify the frequency and health impact of VRD, compared to DRD. Study 1 (N=147) was a cross-sectional survey that examined frequency patterns of off/online VRD/DRD exposure across various domains and their associations with health. Study 2 (N=144) used an 8-day ecological momentary assessment (EMA) to examine how off/online VRD/DRD exposure impacts same and next-day metrics of health. Findings clarify VRD/DRD similarities and differences, expanding our understanding of how racial discrimination affects health, even among those vicariously exposed

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Jennifer Barajas

Graduate Student | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Paul Piff, Belinda Campos, DeWayne Williams

Personal growth and healthy blood glucose across 12 years: A mixed methods investigation

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

Personal growth refers to continual self-improvement and has been identified as a key aspect of well-being. We used mixed methods to test the hypothesis that higher baseline levels of personal growth would be associated with lower (healthier) levels of blood glucose across 12 years. Data came from the National Child Development Study. Fifty-year-old participants wrote open-ended responses about their future. Two judges rated each response for the extent to which personal growth was evident. Interrater agreement was strong (Finn's $r = .87$), and ratings were averaged across judges. When participants were age 62, their blood glucose (hemoglobin A1c) levels were clinically assessed. Linear regression examined the association between age 50 personal growth and age 62 blood glucose ($N = 3,140$), adjusting for age 50 confounders (sex, education, occupational status, marital status, word count of responses, depressive symptoms, and diabetes diagnoses). Greater personal growth was associated with healthier blood glucose ($b = -.46$, 95% confidence interval = $-.84, -.08$). Midlife adults who show more personal growth have better glucoregulation in the transition to older adulthood.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Julia Boehm

Associate Professor | Chapman University

Authors

Farah Qureshi, Laura Kubzansky

Intrapersonal strategies alter health-relevant psychological factors about statin side effects

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

Statins suffer from high rates of side effects which may be a result of the nocebo effect, where psychological factors increase symptoms. One possible intervention to combat this is nocebo education, which teaches about the nocebo effect. We propose that these interventions may be improved by providing patients with clear cognitive and behavioral strategies to combat their own nocebo effects. In a pre-registered study, online participants received either Conventional Nocebo Education (CNE), a novel supplemented Nocebo Education and Avoidance Tactics (NEAT) intervention, which included five strategies to reduce nocebo effects (e.g., Anxiety Reduction), or control material. Participants ($N=436$) then read about a statin medication and completed dependent measures. The NEAT intervention surpassed the standard CNE intervention, increasing feelings of control and information avoidance intentions, while decreasing global side effect expectations, side effect worry, information seeking intentions, and discontinuation intentions. This study finds that providing individuals with actionable cognitive and behavioral strategies to combat side effects strengthens current education interventions.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Emily Spotts

Graduate Student | University of Toledo

Promoting Biological and Psychological Health in BIPOC Young Adults: Findings from the Healing in Nature Study

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

A 3-month NIH-funded longitudinal study (initial $n = 200$) examined the effectiveness of a park prescription program at promoting both the biological and psychological health of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) young adults from the San Francisco Bay Area. Participants donated biospecimens (namely, saliva for telomeres [biological aging] and hair for cortisol [bodily stress]) as well as completed psychological measures (namely, state mood and restorative experiences in nature) for each of 3 visits to a secluded old-growth redwood forest in the area. Results showed that the hair cortisol concentrations were significantly lowered after the visits (pre to post)—indicating biological stress reduction—and that positive mood and feelings of restoration linearly increased while negative state mood linearly decreased across the 3 visits. These findings suggest that park prescriptions can provide a low-cost method by which to boost both biological and psychological health in this historically (and currently) under-served population for both health and medical science.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Charlotte Tate

Full Professor | San Francisco State Univ.

Invited Talk: Jasmin Tiro

1:25 PM – 1:55 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Jasmin Tiro

Break

1:55 PM – 2:10 PM

BREAK

Keynote Talk: Dolores Albarracín

2:10 PM – 2:55 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Dolores Albarracín

Amy Gutmann University Profesor | University of Pennsylvania

Methods Tutorial 2: Jenna Cummings, Passive Eating Detection

3:10 PM – 3:30 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Jenna Cummings

Lecturer | University of Liverpool

Methods Tutorial 3

3:30 PM – 3:50 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Invited Talk: Catharine Fairbairn

3:35 PM – 4:05 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Catharine Fairbairn

Assistant Professor | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Closing

4:10 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSING

Political Psychology Preconference

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E451B, Level 4

The Political Psychology Preconference brings researchers together to discuss political cognition, attitudes, and behavior. The preconference aims to facilitate the dissemination of cutting-edge research in political psychology, honor the leaders of the field, and promote the next generation of political psychologists.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Beverage Break

9:00 AM – 9:10 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Opening Remarks

9:10 AM – 9:20 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Double Standards in Political and Moral Judgements

9:20 AM – 10:35 AM

*SYMPOSIA

Taking the Ingroup Seriously but the Outgroup Literally: Political Polarization and Flexible Standards of Honesty

9:20 AM – 9:45 AM

Speaker



Beth Anne Helgason

Assistant Professor of Organizational Behavior | Yale School of Management

The Alliance–Cause–Order Model of Supporting, Condemning, and Suppressing Protests

9:45 AM – 10:10 AM

Speaker



Nils Reimer
Assistant Professor | UC Santa Barbara

The Everyday Psychology of Norms and Punishment is Key to Understanding Authoritarianism

10:10 AM – 10:35 AM

Speaker



Ana Gantman
Assistant Professor | Brooklyn College, CUNY

Break

10:35 AM – 10:45 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Data Blitz Session 1

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Psychosocial Predictors of Political Violence

10:45 AM – 10:51 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Opeyemi Adejo
Graduate Student | The University of Utah

Authors

Samantha Moore-Berg

The Digital Authoritarian: Smartphones reveal the everyday behavioral patterns of individuals with authoritarian tendencies

10:51 AM – 10:57 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sanaz Talaifar
Assistant Professor | Imperial College London

Authors

Timo Koch, Alejandro Hermida Carillo, Daniel Racek, Ramona Schoedel, Charlotte Fresenius Hochschule, Clemens Stachl

Mapping the Political Landscape: The Multidimensional Structure of Perceived Coalitions

10:57 AM – 11:03 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Isaías Ghezze
Harvard University

Authors

Mina Cikara

Conserving nature, resisting change: Political conservatism and evasion of anti-systemic environmentalisms

11:03 AM – 11:09 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Trevor Lies
Assistant Professor | Norfolk State University

Authors

Glenn Adams, Syed Muhammad Omar, Harrison Schmitt

Not All is Loss: Class-Based Zero-Sum Beliefs Foster Working-class Solidarity and Support for Redistributive Policy

11:09 AM – 11:15 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Dean Baltiansky
PhD candidate | Columbia Business School

Authors

Derek Brown

Single Presenter Session

11:15 AM – 11:50 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

How do belief systems shape the perceived magnitude of economic inequality? The role of social norms

11:15 AM – 11:32 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Salvador Vargas Salfate
PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Chadly Stern

No es Nada del Otro Mundo: Dissecting the Racial and Motivational Predictors of the "Latino Vote"

11:32 AM – 11:50 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Melissa Vega
Doctoral Student | New York University

Authors

Eric Knowles, Jamie Napier

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

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oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Poster Session

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

[41] Melting Hostility: Reducing Anti-Immigration Attitudes Through Threat and Competition

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Kevin Flores
Student | California State University, Bakersfield

Authors

Martin Santillan

[42] A cross-cultural study on correcting misunderstanding to address political polarization

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Samuel Murray

Assistant Professor | Providence College

Authors

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Waldir Sampaio, Paulo Boggio, Breanna Nguyen, Beatriz Sousa

[43] Power, Political Affiliation, and Perceptions of Wrongdoing

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Yudkin

Director | More in Common

Authors

Maurice Schweitzer, Joe Gaspard

[44] The Heterogeneity of Trump Voters: A Segmentation Approach

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Fred Duong

Senior Research Manager | More in Common

Authors

Stephen Hawkins, Daniel Yudkin, Paul Oshinski

[45] The “No Alternative” Trap: Authentic vs Strategic Expressions of Fatalism

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva García Ferrés

Graduate Student | University of Florida

Authors

Gregory Webster, Colin Tucker Smith, Lea Hartwich

[46] Americans Misperceive and are Influenced by Bipartisan Dynamic Norms

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Trystan Loustau

PhD Student | Boston College

Authors

Jordan Wylie, Liane Young, Ashley Fabrizio, Stylianos Syropoulos

[47] The Impact of Election Stress on Young Adults’ Wellbeing and Social Networks

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Su Doğa Karaca

Pre-Doctoral Researcher | Stanford University

Authors

Isabella Aslarus, Rui Pei, Jamil Zaki

[48] Natural Language Analyses Reveal Resilience Patterns in 2,580 Ukrainian War Narratives

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tomas Vanderkam

Lab Coordinator and Research Specialist | Simon Fraser University

[49] Beyond In-Group Identity: How Integration of U.S. Cultural Identity—Rather Than Rejection of Puertorriqueñidad—Shapes Political Status Preferences.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rocío Rivera Crespo

Graduate Student | Universidad De Puerto Rico

Authors

John Jost, Eduardo Rivera Pichardo, Veronica Benet-Martinez

[50] Moralized Partisanship and Coalitional Stereotyping: A Reciprocal Pathway to Political Polarization

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Trystan Loustau

PhD Student | Boston College

Authors

Liane Young

[51] Faith, Family, and Freedom? The Ideological Roots of Hispanic and Latino Voting Behavior

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Lisette Bailey

Student | California State University, Los Angeles

Authors

Bing Ruei Li, Heidi Riggio

[52] I'm the victim: consequences of victimhood across political ideology on attitudes toward migrants

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Danny Hang

Ph.D. Student | University of Utah

Authors

Samantha Moore-Berg, Kelsee Ure

[53] Left-Wing Authoritarianism and the Consequences of Masculinity-Critical Messages for Men's Well-Being

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Mask

University of British Columbia

Authors

Maja Graso, Karl Aquino, Christian Troester, Brendan Strejcek

[54] Need for Chaos During Trump's Second Term: Associations with Support for Political Violence and Hostility

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Deborah Wu

Assistant Professor | Arizona State University

Authors

Stylianios Syropoulos, Kyle Law

[55] The Power of Social Media Bios: How Common Profile Content Unintentionally Signals Political Ideology and Shapes Prejudice

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jackson Trager

PhD Student | University of Southern California

[56] Outsized Expectations of Harassment and Violence Around Voting Depressed Turnout in the 2024 Election

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Cole

Research Associate | States United Democracy Center

Authors

Kelly Rader

[57] From Influence to Extremity: How Algorithms and Rhetoric Drive Post-Election Polarization on TikTok

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yun Evelina Bao

PhD student | New York University

Authors

Jeff Hancock, Aya Salim, Henry George Xu

[58] The Impact of Threats to the Democratic System on Psychological and Physical Health: From the Declaration of Martial Law to the Presidential Impeachment in South Korea

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Hyun Joon Park

Assistant Professor | Ajou University

[59] Dual-Process Pathways to Prejudice in the 2024 Election

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aleksandra Rusowicz

Graduate Student | University of Connecticut

Authors

Natalie Shook

[60] Where do People Advocate Extreme Attitudes? The Role of Relational Mobility

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zheng Li

PhD Candidate | National University of Singapore

Authors

Ya Hui Michelle See

[61]CANCELLED:

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Authors

Eran Halperin, Meital Balmas

[62] Meta-perception gaps in working class identity

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



S. Elisha LePine

PhD Student | University of Florida

Authors

Eva Garcia Ferres, Soo Yeon Park

[63] “Bridge or Sink”: Reducing Partisan Animosity with a Cooperative Game Show

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Dilan Tulan

PhD Student | Harvard University Kennedy School of Government

Authors

Max Spohn, Lucas Woodley, Francisco Hernández-Cáceres, Joshua Greene, Julia Minson

[64] Ideology and Living Historical Memory: How Political Orientation Shapes Collective Remembering in Puerto Rico’s Colonial Context

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Janice Robles Fernandez

PhD Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Eduardo Rivera Pichardo, Luis Rivera, Teofilo Espada-Brignoni

[65] From Misunderstanding to Malice: Meta-Perceptual Distortions and the Affective Foundations of Political Conflict

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ana Herndon

PhD Student | University Of California - Berkeley

Authors

Sa-kiera Hudson

[66] Disentangling distrust: Biased meta-perceptions of goodwill, reciprocity, and competence from out-partisans

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Mitushi Mukherjee

PhD Candidate | Purdue University

Authors

Janel Jett, Mitushi Mukherjee

[67] Agree to Disagree? Perceived political ideology of close ties predicts greater disagreement yet positive feelings post-conversation

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ana Sandoe

Master's Student | Cornell University

Authors

Vivian Zayas, Wicia Fang, Victoria Antonia Rivera, Randy Lee, Minghui Ni

[68] Novel identities shape belief in true and false information

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Raunak Pillai

Postdoctoral Associate | New York University

Authors

Jay Van Bavel

[69] The Development and Validation of the Collective Victimhood Scale (CVS)

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Neharika Nair

Graduate Student | University of Illinois – Chicago

Authors

Rebecca Littman, Vlada Trofimchuk, Ryne Estabrook

[70] Predictably Divisive News

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rhea Kothari

UC Berkeley

[71] Missing from “Gun Violence”: How Advocacy Groups Minimize Firearm Suicide in Public Narratives

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sean Singer

Prospective Graduate Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Alex Young, Adam Cohen

[72] Is political ideology associated with motivations to connect with others? A test of close and distant relationships.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlie Cervenka

Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Chadly Stern, Salvador Vargas Salfate, R. Chris Fraley

[73] Partisanship and Perceptions of Discrimination against Black, Latino, Asian and White Job Applicants

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Grace Taylor

Tulane Univeristy

Authors

Mary Craddock, Maria Casteigne, Aaron Moss, Laurie O'Brien

[74] Justifying political hostility: Cross-cultural patterns in self-reasoning of affective polarization

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tal Orian Harel

University of Pennsylvania / The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Eran Halperin

[75] Kama Muta Explains the Effect of Vicarious Intergroup Contact on Affective Polarization

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasper Neerdaels

Post-Doc | KU Leuven

Authors

Ellen Claes

[76] Are liberals really better allies than conservatives? A dyadic approach to political ideology and LGBTQ+ allyship

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Haley Bock

Graduate student | University of Utah

Authors

Jacqueline Chen, Samantha Joel

[77] Do I Fight with You Because We're Alike—or Because It's Right? Identity vs. Morality in Interminority Solidarity

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Celine Tsoi

UC Santa Barbara

Authors

Nils Reimer

[78] Happy? In this Economy?: Anti-capitalist memes depict working-class despair

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Alyssa Pavek

Research Assistant | University of Florida WEB Lab

Authors

Gregory Webster, Eva Garcia Ferres

[79] TBD

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

[80] TBD

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*POSTER

Psychological Roots of Rightward Radicalization

1:15 PM – 2:55 PM

*SYMPOSIA

The Far Right's Cynical Playbook: Lessons from the Lowlands

1:15 PM – 1:40 PM

Speaker



Jasper Van Assche

Université libre de Bruxelles / Ghent University

"A 2nd U.S. Civil War Would Be Fun:" How Positive Affect Drives Hierarchy-Maintaining Violence

1:40 PM – 2:05 PM

Speaker



Jake Womick

Assistant Professor | California State University Bakersfield

Perceiving Oneself Near the Top of a Tight Status Hierarchy Predicts Alt-Right Ideology, Trump Support, and Opposition to DEI among Hispanic/Latine Americans

2:05 PM – 2:30 PM

Speaker



Erin Cooley

Associate Professor | Colgate University

Explaining Latines' rightward lean with group-based predispositions

2:30 PM – 2:55 PM

Speaker



Ángel Saavedra

Assistant Professor | Bowdoin College

Break

2:55 PM – 3:10 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Data Blitz Session 2

3:10 PM – 3:40 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Do Liberals and Conservatives Really Have Different Moral Foundations?

3:10 PM – 3:16 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Noah Laskey

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Spike Lee

Who is the "We"? Partisan Differences in Exclusive Ingroup Framing

3:16 PM – 3:22 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Hannah Waldfogel

Postdoc | Columbia University

Double Standards and Moral Misperceptions Among Political Partisans

3:22 PM – 3:28 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Rachel Buterbaugh

Student | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Bertram Gawronski, Nyx Ng

Reconstructing the past to perceive greater racial progress in prejudice norms

3:28 PM – 3:34 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Samuel Arnold
Graduate Student (Social Psychology) | University Of Kansas

Authors

Christian Crandall

Racialized religion? Exploring essentialized perceptions of religious identity

3:34 PM – 3:40 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Haniya Rumaney
Graduate Student and Research Assistant | City University of New York

Authors

Hannah Nam

Break

3:40 PM – 3:50 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Perceiving and Defining American Identity in a Diverse Society

3:50 PM – 4:40 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Correcting Misperceptions of Americans' Views on the Racial Demographic Shift

3:50 PM – 4:15 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Deborah Wu
Assistant Professor | Arizona State University

Defining What it Means to be American

4:15 PM – 4:40 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Felix Danbold
Assistant Professor (Lecturer) | UCL School of Management · Full-time

Closing Remarks

4:40 PM – 4:50 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Intervention Science: Harnessing Psychology to Address Real-World Social Problems Preconference

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E353A, Level 3

The Intervention Science Preconference brings together a community of researchers committed to leveraging rigorous science and psychological theory to help forge solutions to social problems. In 2026, we will showcase cutting-edge intervention research and methods, workshop unique challenges faced by intervention scientists, and facilitate critical discussion of pressing questions for researchers in this field. This preconference provides a platform for scholars to share insights on designing and conducting effective, theory-driven interventions, as well as best practices for collaborating with implementation partners. It also serves as a collaborative forum to connect with scholars committed to rigorous, applied research that addresses real-world challenges.

In partnership with The Agency Fund, we are also thrilled to announce, for the second year, a \$10k research award which supports psychological scientists developing innovative research agendas or interventions that expand human agency (particularly for the most marginalized). The award-winner will be announced at the Intervention Science Preconference event in Chicago.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Meet and Greet

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Opening Remarks

8:40 AM – 9:00 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Asking Better Questions: Strategic Questioning as a Psychologically Wise Intervention

9:00 AM – 9:20 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Patricia Chen

Assistant Professor | The University of Texas at Austin

Exploring Translational Effectiveness of a Strategic Resource Use Intervention by Examining Heterogeneous Engagement

9:20 AM – 9:40 AM

Psychological interventions have improved student performance in randomized trials, but to establish translational effectiveness, scientists need to distribute these interventions at scale and monitor students' actual use. By examining engagement heterogeneity, researchers can examine the psychological ingredients that support student achievement. Undergraduates (N=27,340, across 76 classrooms and 9 semesters) completed a strategic resource use intervention targeting self-regulation by prompting them to select study resources, explain each resource's purpose resource, and plan their use. Completing the purpose explanation was uniquely associated with increased exam scores. To understand the psychological process of students that benefited from the intervention, we examined their responses to the purpose explanation component using thematic analysis and subsequent word count dictionaries. Students' consideration of exam format, strategies targeting learning, and evaluating strengths/weaknesses were associated with increased exam scores, but social processes were not. Understanding heterogeneous engagement may help pinpoint the effective psychological ingredients in an intervention.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Nathaniel Woznicki

Postdoctoral Associate | New York University

Authors

Patricia Chen, Luke Rutten, Desmond Ong

Coffee Break

9:40 AM – 9:50 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Flash Talks: Methods & Project Lifecycle Stage 1

9:50 AM – 10:30 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

[1] We Have to Find Out How Long Our Interventions Last

9:50 AM – 10:00 AM

Much of Social Psychology is involved with interventions, experimental manipulations to change people's thoughts, feelings, underlying reasons for behaviors. In the majority of cases, these interventions are applied, $p < .05$ is attained, and that is the end. What we need to start doing is testing how long our intervention effects last. There is a large difference between an intervention that causes a change in behavior that lasts for a day versus one that changes attitudes for six months or more. Here we show the practical implications of interventions that have looked at the long term effects. We show the practical challenges with conducting longitudinal follow-up. We also discuss the implications of when intervention effects do not show long-term effects, which may be the norm rather than the exception. We end with a call for all researchers engaged in intervention research to test the longevity of their intervention effects.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



John Protzko

Assistant Professor | Central Connecticut State University

[2] Leveraging LLM-Powered Generative Agents to Simulate Employee Responses to Organizational Wellbeing Interventions

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM

Organizations implement wellbeing initiatives with limited ability to predict employee responses. We developed an AI simulation using LLM-powered generative agents to forecast how knowledge workers respond to interventions over time. We integrate experience sampling data from 1025 workers (21,000 observations) with workplace monitoring from 500 employees to create personas simulating psychological wellbeing states . This provides a framework for examining heterogeneous treatment effects. Our methodology advances traditional models by leveraging large language models to generate emergent behaviors reflecting psychological complexity. Predictions rely on initial data from one-time surveys—not past psychological state scores — exemplifying real-world deployment where experience sampling is infeasible. Despite this, we achieve $r=0.734$ ($p<0.001$) correlation between predicted and actual work engagement. Predictions of state work engagement deviate less than one point -- with 50% of predictions fall within 10% error, with 26% achieving under 5% error. We are currently examining the fidelity of the simulation platform in predicting responses to workplace wellbeing interventions.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Sumer Vaid

Postdoctoral Researcher | Harvard Business School

Authors

Ashley Whillans

[3] The Pain Gap: Gender Disparities in Pain Treatment

10:10 AM – 10:20 AM

The relief of pain is a basic human right. We investigate whether pain treatment varies by patients' gender. Findings from the psychological literature reveal that laypeople tend to believe that women "exaggerate" their pain. If healthcare providers hold similar stereotypical views, then their pain management decisions may be similarly biased against women. To test our hypothesis, we analyzed over 32 million electronic health records from over 140 healthcare systems worldwide. Our findings reveal a systematic gender disparity: physicians are less likely to prescribe pain-relief medications to a man than to a woman with the same complaint, even when we control for the patient's pain report and demographic variables. Women's pain scores are less likely to be recorded by triage nurses, and they wait longer at the ER. Women patients' pain is also judged as less intense than men's by healthcare providers in response to a clinical scenario. The findings bear immediate implications for the healthcare system, as well as societal implications for gender inequality. We discuss how nudges and behavioral interventions can be used to reduce physicians' bias.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Shoham Choshen-Hillel

Associate professor, Vice dean for teaching and learning | The Hebrew University Business School and the Federmann Center f...

Authors

Tom Gordon-Hecker, Mika Guzikovits, Alex Gileles-Hillel

[4] Psychosocial intervention model: Emotional Support for Migrant Women

10:20 AM – 10:30 AM

Since 2023, the Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México, in collaboration with Rincon Family Services and the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago, has implemented the psychosocial intervention model "Emotional Support for Migrant Women", aimed at Mexican and Latin American women living in Chicago. The model is characterized by being culturally competent and replicable, allowing it to be adapted to different groups in migratory contexts. In addition, it strengthens processes of education, promotes a sense of community, accompaniment, and empowerment, especially in situations of vulnerability. The objective of this work was to evaluate the results of the intervention, developed over six consecutive workshops. Sixty psychology students were trained, under academic supervision, in psychosocial intervention with an ethical and intercultural approach oriented toward community well-being. This program directly benefited 200 migrant women. The results revealed a process of emotional strengthening and identity building among the participants, who reframed their migration experiences in terms of dignity, identity, autonomy, emotional control, and a sense of cultural belonging

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Graciela Polanco

84723

Methods for designing culturally wise interventions

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Catherine Thomas

Assistant Professor | University of Michigan

Keynote Address

10:50 AM – 11:35 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Hazel Markus

Professor | Stanford University

Culture and Agency in Intervention Science: Key Opportunities and Challenges

11:35 AM – 12:05 PM

Community Lunch

12:05 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the meeting room. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Opportunities: Intervention Science Special Issue Call, Funding Opportunities, and Agency Fund Prize Announcement

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Flash Talks: Project Lifecycle Stage 2

1:20 PM – 2:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

[1] Developing Multipronged Interventions: Shifting Perceptions of Harm, Norms, and Efficacy for Climate Action

1:20 PM – 1:30 PM

Many social problems require interventions that target multiple psychological mechanisms. Climate actions, for example, are often challenging because they exemplify a triad of psychological barriers: (1) they have invisible or indirect harms that weaken moral urgency, (2) norm perceptions that signal social acceptability of unsustainable behavior, and (3) low perceived efficacy of sustainable alternatives. Past research has largely examined interventions to address these factors independently. The present work asks: can interventions overcome these barriers simultaneously? We test this in a policy-relevant context—climate warning labels on fuel pumps. Across three studies (two exploratory, one pre-registered replication, total N = 8,900), U.S. drivers were randomly assigned to view intervention labels with various combinations of harm, norm, and efficacy messages. Results suggest that climate warning labels, including some used today in cities, can increase both sustainable norm perceptions and behavioral intentions, but it may be harder for such labels to increase efficacy beliefs or attribute harm to unsustainable behavior in the absence of broader supportive structural changes.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Fazli Salim

Ph.D. student | Boston College

Authors

Gregg Sparkman, Stylianos Syropoulos

[2] Drama-Based Upstander Intervention: An Elementary-School Based Field Experiment

1:30 PM – 1:40 PM

Biased-based bullying is related compromised health (Russell, et al., 2012,) increased absenteeism, and significant costs to public education (Baams, Talmage, & Russell, 2017). School-based bullying prevention programs increase bystander intervention but existing programs are most effective for high school students (Polanin, Espelage, & Pigott, 2012). We hypothesized that dramatic role play would help younger children practice 'upstander' behaviors and normalize these new behaviors. In a field experiment, we delivered 4 lessons from the Stand Up Act Out drama-based curriculum which was designed to develop children's upstander skills via role-play. The sample included 3rd and 4th grade students (n = 353, 48.9% girls) from six elementary schools in a California public school district. Experimental condition (randomized by school) predicted reported bullying incidents ('touched in a mean way', called names, left out, had things taken) such that participants reported less bullying at schools that had received the intervention. This effect held when controlling for grade and gender. Possible mechanisms (social norms, self-efficacy) are also examined.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Carrie Langner

Professor | Cal Poly

Authors

Raquel Ovadia, Liam Armistead, Xander Marshall, Naomi Patel, Miriana Vitullo

[3] Low-Income Students' Transition to College: Heterogeneous Treatment Effects of Summer Bridging Programs

1:40 PM – 1:50 PM

First-generation, low-income (FLI) students report higher levels of stress and difficulty navigating campus resources. Summer bridging programs (SBP) aim to ease the transition to college, yet most research assumes uniform program effects across FLI students despite variation in their backgrounds. In a sample of FLI students (N = 227), we examine 1) the impact of a SBP on trajectories of capital (e.g., forming professional relationships) and well-being (e.g., anxiety) compared to non-participants and 2) whether effects vary by student background. SBP participation significantly improved both capital and well-being. Critically, we find that positive effects on capital and well-being were most pronounced for students from economically disadvantaged high schools. These findings reveal the importance of accounting for heterogeneity within FLI populations and highlight opportunities to tailor SBPs to students' pre-college contexts.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Priscilla Diaz-Gonzalez

Graduate Student | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Nicole Melian

[4] The Rewards of Speaking Up: When Confronting Performative Policies Elevates Employee Standing

1:50 PM – 2:00 PM

Individuals perceiving gaps between empty diversity statements and reality face a dilemma: speak up and risk retaliation, or stay silent and compromise authenticity. Surprisingly, confronting performative policies enhances—rather than damages—one's standing. In a 2×2 experiment ($N \approx 600$), we examined the perceptions of challenging versus showing gratitude to company's performative diversity initiatives. Policy × Tone interactions emerged across eleven outcomes. Confronting performative policies boosted perceptions of authenticity, warmth, and competence while improving workplace outcomes from advocacy to social bonds. With genuine policies, gratitude outperformed confrontation. Authenticity mediates behavioral measures, revealing that truth-telling enhances support. Ongoing studies explore whether confrontation benefits extend to climate commitments (Study 2), how managers respond to employee dissent (Study 3), and actual behavioral consequences, including resource allocation and collaboration (Study 4). By demonstrating that truth-telling in organizations can be rewarded, our research illuminates pathways for dismantling the silence that perpetuates performative practices.

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Bella Dong
New York University

Authors

Margaret Shih

[Title Pending]

2:00 PM – 2:20 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Ayo Dada

Utilizing Behavioral Science to Improve Social Policy

2:20 PM – 2:40 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Kyle Dobson
Assistant Professor | University of Virginia

Coffee Break

2:40 PM – 2:45 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Poster Session

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

[161] Long-Term Translational Effectiveness of a Strategic Resource Use Intervention in Real-World Classrooms

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Social-psychological interventions have improved student learning and performance in randomized, controlled trials (RCTs). However, continuous evaluations of such interventions' use in the real world are essential for advancing real-world impact, informing policy, and refining both theory and future interventions. We report a large-scale translational effectiveness evaluation of a Strategic Resource Use intervention, which targets students' psychology of strategizing their resources for learning before exams. Tracking 53,299 college students' engagement with the intervention across 76 classrooms and nine semesters, we found that (a) using the intervention is associated with a 2.67 percentage point increase in exam scores ($d = 0.19$), (b) the intervention was 63% more effective during Covid-impacted semesters ($d = 0.26$), and (c) the intervention offers increased benefits to lower-performing students—reducing gender, first-generation, and racial achievement gaps. This work shows how translational effectiveness studies can complement RCTs, and are necessary for advancing theory and impact.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yang-Hsin Fan
PhD student | The University of Texas at Austin

[162] A Spanish-language digital media literacy intervention improves misinformation discernment among American Latinos

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

US Latinos are targeted with Spanish misinformation, but few resources exist to support them in discerning true from false information. We developed MediaWise en Español, a digital media literacy intervention designed with and for Spanish-speaking American Latinos, with MediaWise, Telemundo, and Univision. We conducted a longitudinal online RCT with Spanish-language-dominant American Latinos ($n=240$, 51% female, average age=34) testing its effects on digital media literacy knowledge and ability to discern claims online. Crucially, this study addresses a critical gap in misinformation studies by highlighting the importance of addressing both individual barriers (low digital literacy) and structural barriers (few multilingual resources). The intervention improved knowledge of skills like lateral reading in both the skills-only ($\beta=.58$, $p<.001$) and skills-plus-resources conditions ($\beta=.65$, $p<.001$) compared to control. It also improved discernment accuracy, when combined with native-language fact-checks ($\beta=.15$, $p<.001$). Our findings demonstrate how multilingual misinformation can be combated through both educational interventions and native-language fact-checking resources.

*POSTER

Speaker



Angela Lee

PhD Candidate | Stanford University

[163] Eliciting advice instead of feedback improves developmental input

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Most organizations encourage employees to provide feedback to one another to support learning, personal growth, and career advancement. However, employee feedback often fails to improve performance because it lacks concrete, specific guidance. In this paper, we demonstrate that encouraging input providers to think about the future leads them to produce more concrete developmental input. Across two pre-registered field experiments ($N = 89,552$ comments) and three lab studies ($N = 2,828$), people provide more concrete and actionable developmental input when they are prompted to provide future-looking "advice" rather than "feedback" (or compared to when they are simply reminded to be more concrete). We use a novel domain-specific machine learning algorithm to assess concreteness; and independent raters also found advice to be more useful and helpful than feedback. And in two lay theory studies yet we find that people and organisations consistently solicit feedback more often than than advice. Our data suggest that individuals and organizations have the potential to promote higher quality developmental input by attending to the temporal orientation that their input systems encourage.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Yeomans

Imperial College London

[164] "Bridge or Sink": Reducing Partisan Animosity with a Cooperative Game Show

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Identifying scalable and engaging means to reduce partisan animosity is a pressing policy concern. Here, we test whether entertainment media can reduce polarization through passive exposure to cooperation between ideological opponents. We developed and tested the effectiveness of Bridge or Sink, a game show designed to model cooperative interactions across party lines. Contestants from opposing political parties collaborated on trivia challenges to build a bridge across a pool, earning money for correct answers and taking playful plunges for mistakes. In a pre-registered experiment ($N=1,307$), participants who viewed Bridge or Sink rated outparty members significantly more positively in morality, intelligence, likability, objectivity, and trustworthiness compared to viewers of non-political or competitive shows. These effects extended to feeling thermometer ratings and held after controlling for in-group shifts. Our findings show that entertainment-based interventions can meaningfully reduce partisan animosity through passive, engaging, and highly scalable exposure to positive intergroup interaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Max Spohn

PhD Candidate in Public Policy | Harvard Kennedy School

[165] Failing to change: Investigating when a growth mindset backfires

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Math education in the US suffers from underperformance and underrepresentation. Drawing from past research suggesting the way professional mathematicians conceive of math is not how math is typically taught in school, we examined how differing Views of Math predict students' intentions to persist in the discipline. 408 undergraduates were randomly assigned to read one of three emails from a hypothetical instructor that conveyed an Active (i.e., aligned with math professionals), Static (i.e., aligned with school-based math), or no (i.e., a control) View of Math. Results suggested that instructors' Views of Math necessarily affect students' Views of Math in ways that have important downstream consequences for their other psychosocial and motivational processes. Notably, whereas a personal Static View led only to greater math anxiety and greater perceptions of math's usefulness, a personal Active View bolstered motivation to continue in future academic study through a hardy path that includes stronger identification with math, greater confidence to learn math, less anticipated vulnerability to gender stereotype threat, greater sense of belonging, and less anticipated math anxiety.

*POSTER

Speaker



Makita White

Post-Doc | University of Wisconsin-Madison

[166] Medical Dramas as Scalable Interventions for Climate Adaptation: Evidence from a RCT of Entertainment-Based Heat Risk Communication

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Extreme heat kills 489,000 people annually worldwide and is the leading climate-related cause of death in the U.S. As climate change accelerates, adaptation strategies are urgently needed, yet traditional public health messaging struggles to reach broad audiences. Can medical dramas, which command large diverse viewerships, deliver life-saving adaptation strategies at scale? In a preregistered longitudinal RCT (N=3048), participants either viewed (i) a Grey's Anatomy episode depicting extreme heat overwhelming a hospital, (ii) heatwave episode paired with climate-focused social media content, or (iii) a control episode. Viewing the episode significantly increased knowledge of heat-related health risks, concern about heat-related threats to health infrastructure, and support for heat-adaptive policies, with effects persisting for 2-3 weeks. Adding social media content boosted these effects, especially climate concern. Critically, entertainment value remained intact, showing that medical dramas can effectively serve as scalable interventions that personalize climate risks, normalize adaptation behaviors, shift policy support, and potentially save lives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anirudh Tiwathia

Director, Behavioral Science (Entertainment Lab) | Rare

[167] Competitive Organizational Climates Increase Material and Symbolic Zero-Sum Beliefs

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Across five studies, we examine the impact of competitive organizational climates on organization members' perception that one employee's gain equates to another's loss (i.e., zero sum beliefs; ZSBs) for organizational resources. In Study 1, a competitive (versus collaborative or neutral) organizational climate increased ZSBs for both material resources that are inherently limited (e.g., money) and symbolic resources that are not necessarily limited (e.g., respect). Study 2 extended these findings to a real-world setting: MBA students who perceived a more competitive climate at their business school reported higher ZSBs for material and symbolic resources and engaged in less positive behavior toward the organization. Study 3 manipulated ZSBs to test whether they cause negative organizational behavior. Those who were exposed to high ZSBs were more likely to complete an organizational task for a rival company. Finally, Studies 4 and 5 provide support for two theoretically motivated interventions that reduced ZSBs in competitive organizational climates: signaling an abundance of material resources and signaling an abundance of symbolic resources, respectively.

*POSTER

Speaker



Roman Gallardo

PhD Student | University of Chicago Booth School of Business

[168] Impact of Instructor and Personal Views of Math on Student Motivational Outcomes

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Math education in the US suffers from underperformance and underrepresentation. Drawing from past research suggesting the way professional mathematicians conceive of math is not how math is typically taught in school, we examined how differing Views of Math predict students' intentions to persist in the discipline. 408 undergraduates were randomly assigned to read one of three emails from a hypothetical instructor that conveyed an Active (i.e., aligned with math professionals), Static (i.e., aligned with school-based math), or no (i.e., a control) View of Math. Results suggested that instructors' Views of Math necessarily affect students' Views of Math in ways that have important downstream consequences for their other psychosocial and motivational processes. Notably, whereas a personal Static View led only to greater math anxiety and greater perceptions of math's usefulness, a personal Active View bolstered motivation to continue in future academic study through a hardy path that includes stronger identification with math, greater confidence to learn math, less anticipated vulnerability to gender stereotype threat, greater sense of belonging, and less anticipated math anxiety.

*POSTER

Speaker



Su-Yue Wang

Doctoral Student | CUNY Graduate Center

[169] Stability and Universality in a UBI-like Scheme: Evidence from an Online Budgeting Simulation

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Amid renewed interest in Universal Basic Income (UBI), we tested how two design features of a UBI-like Additional Income (AI) scheme (stability: stable vs unstable; universality: universal vs means-tested) shape budgeting and psychosocial outcomes in low-income UK adults. A total of 550 participants completed an online budgeting task across four simulated months in which AI was paid regularly, inconsistently, or not at all. Stable AI prompted greater allocation of resources to future-oriented needs and reduced present-focused spending. Conversely, participants receiving unstable AI showed spending patterns similar to those of a no-AI control group whenever disbursements were withheld. Universality, by contrast, produced fewer notable effects in this short-term setting, suggesting that predictability can outweigh the distinction between universal and means-tested support when shifting participants' budget priorities. Psychosocial measures (subjective well-being, response efficacy, socio-economic shame) did not differ by condition. Exploratory analyses linked perceiving AI as sustainable with lower socio-economic shame, underscoring the importance of predictable support.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ivan Cano-Gomez

London School of Economics and Political Science

[170] Behavioral Systems Analysis: A Framework for Change Intervention

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Behavioral Systems Analysis (BSA) is a structured approach developed by Evidn to uncover the psychological, social, and organizational dynamics that shape climate-relevant behaviors. This session introduces BSA as a diagnostic and design tool for identifying high-leverage intervention points in complex systems. Drawing from work across sectors, we'll explore how BSA integrates stakeholder engagement, behavioral mapping, and systems thinking to guide evidence-based strategies. Attendees will learn how BSA reveals hidden friction, aligns interventions with local context, and builds trust through co-design. The BSA helps shift individuals and communities from passive awareness to active participation—making it a powerful tool for tackling the "last mile" of change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mahika Hari

Senior Behavioral Scientist | Evidn

[171] Centering Social Fit, Self-Concept Fit, Goal Fit, and Resource Fit as Core Elements of Students' Experiences of Belonging at School

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Promoting belonging in school has become a focal concern. Such efforts require a comprehensive, accurate understanding of what belonging means. In this theoretical work, I argue that social psychological research on students' experiences of belonging has overwhelmingly focused on their sense of social connection to others at school (social fit), while overlooking other factors essential to these experiences. Using research from beyond social psychology, I show that when students describe their experiences of belonging in school, their descriptions also emphasize the extent to which they experience support for their valued identities (self-concept fit), goals (goal fit), and basic financial, nutritional, and safety needs (resource fit). Furthermore, I demonstrate that the reason that these four forms of fit matter for belonging is because they enable students' social connections, identities, goals, and needs to feel natural, inconspicuous, and "right" when they are at school, and it is those feelings of "fluency" that ultimately produce a holistic experience that they belong. Implications for measuring belonging and for belonging-supportive interventions/policies are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexander Browman

Assistant Professor | College of the Holy Cross

[172] We are Not the Same: Asymmetry in Intergroup Meta-Perceptions

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Meta-perceptions - how we think others perceive us - profoundly shape intergroup dynamics. Negative outgroup meta-perceptions not only result from conflict but also perpetuate it. Therefore, meta-perceptions play a major role in interventions aimed at conflict reduction. Waytz et al. (2014) found that adversaries attributed their own group's aggressions to ingroup love (empathy for ingroup members) more than to outgroup hate (hostility towards the outgroup). However, these same individuals attributed outgroup's aggressions to outgroup hate more than ingroup love. This asymmetry was robust across contexts (i.e., Israeli Jews vs. Palestinians, U.S. Republicans vs. Democrats). We propose that escalating intergroup polarization may influence this bias, as outgroup animosity and perceived threat grow. Through a registered report framework, we aim to replicate and extend the asymmetry identified by Waytz et al. in the original populations, now embedded in more extremely polarized environments. We will also address key limitations of the original study. Investigating how polarization shapes meta-perception asymmetry is an important step in understanding how to reduce intergroup conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yarden Ashur

Post Doc | University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

[173] How AI Reframes Distress Across Communities: A Consistent and Context-Sensitive Language Shift

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Large Language Models (LLMs) are increasingly used in psychology to reshape emotions, anxiety, and self-expression. Prior research highlights AI's role in cognitive reappraisal (Gross, 1998) and self-presentation (Goffman, 1959), yet lacks psycholinguistic depth, often relying on self-report or single-domain studies. We analyzed 9,307 Reddit posts across 11 communities, each reframed by ChatGPT-4 ("You are a life coach; help me reframe."). Using LIWC and paired t-tests, we examined shifts in tone, structure, and authenticity, supported by Bayes Factors (BF10). AI reframes showed strong increases in tone (mean_diff = +44.15, $p < .001$, BF10 = 252.97; subreddit: antiwork) and complex vocabulary (BigWords: +13.47, $p < .001$, BF10 = 866.18; subreddit: OffMyChest). Authenticity rose modestly overall ($p < .01$), but varied by context. Notable shifts include reduced negation in depression (-2.16, $p < .001$), increased power terms in BreakUps (+0.623, $p < .001$), and lower clout in survivinginfidelity (-4.19, $p < .001$). These findings suggest AI reframes support reappraisal while reshaping linguistic identity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarah Hu

Lab Assistant, Researcher | University of Washington Seattle

[174] The Punitive Default

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Despite inconsistent success rates and negative outcomes, punishment remains a popular approach to solving social problems in America. One could argue the nation's largest institutions, not only the carceral system, but our educational and occupational institutions as well, are problematically and disparately punitive. Tough-on-crime responses and zero-tolerance policies have even resurged in the political sphere in recent months, as pushes for alternatives to punishment have receded. Do Americans have an unwarranted appetite for punitiveness? Across three studies, from three different contextual domains, we find participants born and raised in the U.S. err towards suggesting a punitive response to a wide range of misbehaviors which vary in their severity. Data also show little differentiation in punitive responses between American subgroups, suggesting the presence of a broader cultural phenomenon. One we term, the Punitive Default. What triggers it? What drives it? What might reduce its impact? A range of theoretically-supported interventions will be considered.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stacia King

Research Assistant | University of Chicago Booth

[175] A Cultural Explanation for Who Stays in Prison: Incarcerated Individuals' Causal Attributions and Parole Decisions

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Despite the apparent racial disparity in parole, the underlying cultural explanation has been understudied. We propose that the U.S. justice system, which endorses independent White American (WA) culture, expects offenders to give dispositional accounts about their crimes. This is mirrored in the Office of Appellate Defender's advice, encouraging offenders to use dispositional accounts. Yet, people from interdependent cultures (East Asian, Black, Hispanic Americans; EAA, BA, HA) would be used to giving situational accounts. In Studies 1-2 (total N=595), WA [vs. EAA, BA, HA] mock offenders were more likely to give dispositional accounts to request parole. In Study 3 (N=765), WA mock commissioners rated ostensible offenders who gave dispositional [vs. situational] accounts as less likely to reoffend. In Study 4, Natural Language Processing on 179 New York State parole hearing transcripts revealed that offenders who received [vs. denied] parole gave more dispositional, and less situational, accounts. These findings suggest that beyond previously studied racial biases, cultural mismatch between the U.S. justice system and cultural minorities may also contribute to racial disparity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amrita Kaushik Telidevara

Graduate Student | The University of Texas at Dallas

[176] Mapping Brain Drain to Inform Policy: A Data-Driven Framework for Understanding Scientific Migration

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

The large-scale migration of scientists, or brain drain, is an urgent social problem with far-reaching effects on innovation, equity, and human capital. Wars, repressions, and funding crises continue to disrupt national scientific systems, from Germany in the 1930s to Ukraine today. In response, countries and organizations maintain ongoing initiatives to attract or retain researchers in times of crisis: e.g., the Choose Europe initiative and Scholars at Risk programs. Yet these efforts often precede a systematic understanding of who leaves vs. stays, and how science reorganizes after disruption. My project develops a large-scale, data-driven framework to analyze crisis-driven scientific migration with OpenAlex author-affiliation histories spanning 100 million scholars. Using Nazi Germany and the Ukraine war as benchmark events, I quantify exit and attrition rates of scientists after crisis and evaluate the consequences of leaving by comparing post-event productivity and collaboration outcomes of leavers vs. stayers. These cases establish a foundation for testing additional crises and generating evidence to inform future interventions that sustain global science under threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rui Jin

University of Florida

[177] Academic performance ranking's effect on student's psychological well-being and potential mitigation intervention.

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Class and grade level-wide ranking of students' academic performance is common practice throughout China. However, little is known about the effects of such ranking systems on students' psychological well-being. We use a scenario study to investigate the causal effects of academic performance ranking on students' sense of belonging, self-efficacy, growth mindset, and academic motivation at a Chinese public school. Sixth grade students (N = 324) at a Chinese public school are randomly assigned to read and respond to control condition with no ranking, low/high ranking, and low/high ranking + explanation. Our primary hypothesis is that both low and high academic ranking, compared to no ranking (control), induces stress and encourages a fixed mindset about self and intelligence, especially for low-ranking students. Moreover, we test whether a statement describing the purpose and reasoning for the ranking (low/high ranking + explanation) mitigates the negative impacts of ranking on students' sense of belonging, self-efficacy, and academic motivation. Potential implications on Chinese education policy, educator training, student mental health and flourishing are further discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Wang

Stanford University

[178] Emergency Management Communications With the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Many Deaf and hard of hearing individuals face communication barriers during emergencies, putting them at additional risk. We aimed to reduce this risk through education, creating an emergency preparedness lecture for the DHH community. Our educational approach was informed by gathering data from Emergency Management professionals reflecting upon experiences with the deaf and hard of hearing and approaches that could be used to overcome issues found when working with individuals from this community. Our presentation included instructions on how to prepare a first aid kit, based on existing emergency preparedness literature and guidelines for broader communities, and tailored for the unique needs of DHH individuals through the inclusion communication tools such as live captioning technology and prewritten cards. Effectiveness of the educational approach was evaluated through feedback solicited from DHH attendees. We hope to use our results to inform intervention planning through disability-specific and DHH cultural lenses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ava El-Sayed

Rochester Institute of Technology

[179] Empowering Volunteer Teachers Through Culturally Wise Interventions

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Volunteer teachers are a backbone of rural education in China, yet high dropout rates remain a major barrier to sustained impact. While structural solutions abound, few field studies explore psychological interventions that resonate with local cultural values. We asked: can a culturally wise design reduce dropout by restoring agency in a collectivist context? In a 2×2 field experiment (N = 106; 78% women), we tested two supports with teachers at the Adream Foundation: (1) a mid-semester Belonging Intervention (Walton & Cohen, 2011)—a guided reflection on others' adversity framed as transitional, and on one's motivation to serve both self and community; and (2) Curriculum Scaffolding via structured lesson guides. Only the Belonging condition showed marginal dropout reduction (B = 0.56, p = .077). Emotional exhaustion predicted higher dropout (p = .07); growth mindset predicted lower (p = .054). Findings suggest that belonging-based interventions may be most effective when they resonate with cultural narratives and help teachers reconnect with personal meaning in emotionally depleted settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xianglu Tang

Research Assistant | Stanford University

[180] Illusion of Control Revisited: Scarcity, Construal, and Structural Disadvantage

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

We re-examine the illusion of control through the lens of Construal Level Theory. We distinguish between control over high-level aspects (e.g., goals, outcomes) and low-level aspects (e.g., immediate details). Scarcity contracts regulatory scope, drawing attention to short-term logistics and overweighting control over low-level aspects. This shift provides fleeting agency but obscures structural barriers that shape long-term trajectories. Across three sets of studies, we test (1) whether people prefer and feel greater agency from high-level control, (2) whether scarcity systematically redirects attention to low-level control, and (3) whether simple interventions can restore balance by expanding scope. Findings suggest that disadvantage does not reduce agency outright but reallocates it toward inconsequential details, sustaining inequality. By showing how scarcity reshapes perceived control, this project reframes the illusion of control as a cognitive mechanism through which structural exploitation perpetuates itself, and points to interventions that expand real opportunities for agency.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xiao Ma

Postbac Research Associate | Yale School of Medicine

[181] More Than Pipes: The Role of Trust in Developing Community Ownership in Rural Water Supply

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

The present research aims to understand the effectiveness of trust-based interventions employed through the Indian government's national policy - Jal Jeevan Mission - which aims to provide tap water to every rural household by promoting community ownership. Past research has shown that trust-based interventions lead to more self-reliance and empowerment of beneficiaries, yet research on their relationship with ownership remains scarce. To bridge this gap, we conducted in-depth qualitative case studies with focus groups and interviews consisting of 46 residents and 29 rural government members aged 15-45 years to examine whether trust plays a role in the development of social capital and enhances ownership of the village water supply system. Thematic content analysis of the collected data revealed that the high intrinsic motivation of individuals in key positions determines the true degree of community ownership and thus, the overall effectiveness of the policy. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of how theoretically grounded, trust-based policies pan out in real-world contexts and offers practical insights for creating sustainable policy interventions in the future.

*POSTER

Speaker



Twarita Shah

Student/Research Assistant | New York University

[182] Shifting Cultural Attitudes on Sexual Objectification: Testing an Integrative System Justification Lens

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Sexual objectification of women is a ubiquitous sexist practice. Integrating theories on objectification and system justification, we tested whether harnessing the system justification motive would reduce support for sexual objectification. In the first correlational study (N = 404 mixed-gender), we found moderate to strong associations among support for sexual objectification, gender-related ideologies, and gender system justification. In the second experimental study (N = 376 men), men were randomly assigned to read about sexual objectification as a threat to the gender status quo that needs to be eradicated or a control condition. Men reported less support for sexual objectification when sexual objectification was framed as the threat, viewing sexual objectification as more harmful and less normative and stable compared to the control condition, which was moderated by gender essentialism. These findings provide preliminary evidence for sexual objectification as an integral part of the gender status quo and gendered patterns of support for sexual objectification. Harnessing system justification motives may provide a way to legitimize social change around this sexist practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alana Graham

Doctoral Student | Western University

[183] A Sea of Possibilities with Norm Networks: Contrasting Novel Intervention Approaches in the Context of Fish Consumption

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Social norm interventions have largely been developed with a single norm target. However, norm perceptions exist in complex networks, with many norms all influencing behavior. So, there is potential for novel intervention approaches that affect the same behavior. Using a 'Norm Network Approach' we develop and test interventions that are informed by norm networks in a domain influenced by many competing norms: fish consumption. In Study 1 (N=919) we establish a norm network via an online survey in the domain of fish consumption and use this to develop three types of norm interventions. Study 2 tested these interventions in an online survey (N=1,452) and found all interventions significantly reduced fish consumption intentions compared to a control. Finally, to assess effects on behavior in Study 3, a quasi-field experiment (N=2,144) asked participants to make a real choice between a vegetarian and fish dish. Compared to a control condition, the best performing norm intervention from Study 2 significantly shifted choices towards a vegetarian option. These studies show that norm networks can be used to develop a variety of interventions that shift the same behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joel Ginn

Visiting Assistant Professor | Grinnell College

[184] Preconceived Notions of Controllability Drive Willingness to Help with Elder Financial Fraud: An Investigation of the Application of The Attribution-Emotion-Action Model of Attribution Theory

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Elder financial exploitation (FE) is a growing problem in the United States, costing up to an estimated \$36.5 billion annually. There are limited interventions beyond encouraging victimized older adults to seek help. One method to do this is through the support of loved ones, and this method is especially important to investigate since many financial decisions for older adults are made in conjunction with loved ones. Guided by the attribution-emotion-action model of attribution theory, we assessed whether perceptions of controllability of FE (POCFE) were associated with willingness to provide support in two studies. In Study 1, we assessed whether anger, sympathy, and social support outcome expectations (SSOE) mediated the relationship between POCFE and willingness to support (i.e., willingness to provide social support (WPSS) and willingness to provide general support (WPGS)). In Study 2, we also assessed willingness to provide financial support (WPFS) and factors that may influence preconceived POCFE like ageism and financial literacy. Preliminary analyses generally replicate Study 1. Overall, results suggest that interventions may be difficult due to preconceived POCFE.

*POSTER

Speaker



Patricia Xi

Assistant Professor | Knox College

[185] Closing the Gap: Strengthening Fidelity Measures to Improve Airmen Suicide Prevention Program Outcomes

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Wingman Guardian Connect program (WGC) is a network suicide prevention program developed in partnership with the US Air Force (USAF). Research has shown that this program reduces suicide risk scores, depression symptoms, and work problems (Wyman et al., 2020). To support the USAF's worldwide scale-up of the program, we conducted an implementation-effectiveness study to ensure the program's proven benefits are preserved long-term. Across fields, over 60% of implementation efforts of evidence-based programs fail (Wong et al., 2022), referred to as "voltage drop." To improve real-world application, it is crucial to develop fidelity measures to inform program scale-up. Using training audios from the USAF facilitators from early adopter bases, we implemented a revised fidelity measure for preliminary assessment. This measure included items from prior literature and new items modified to account for facilitator competency, a second component of fidelity that may be as important, or even more important, in program impact. Our study reports the ongoing process of refining the WGC fidelity checklist (Wyman et al., 2020).

*POSTER

Speaker



Jimin Lee

University of Rochester

[186] Toward Interpretable Depression Detection from Social Media: A Psychologically-Grounded Modeling Approach

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Depression affects over 300 million people globally (WHO, 2017), yet detection remains delayed or inaccessible for many. Social media offers a timely and scalable lens into psychological states, but most ML models remain black-box, limiting their use for early intervention. We introduce a cognitively-aligned, interpretable model trained on the SWDD dataset (Cai et al., 2023) and tested on 425 users from RedNote (Xiaohongshu) with PHQ-9 scores (Kroenke et al., 2001). The model captures three theoretically motivated features: (1) semantic embedding (sentence-level meaning), (2) semantic coherence (intra-post consistency), and (3) similarity to cognitive distortion texts (Beck, 1976; Burns, 1980). These signals are fused via multi-layer attention to predict PHQ-9–based binary labels. On training data, the model achieved $F1 = .63$ ($r \approx .58$) for depressed users; on RedNote, $F1$ dropped to $.35$ ($r \approx .34$), reflecting domain shift. Despite this, the model reveals markers of distorted or disorganized thinking, offering a theory-informed foundation for scalable, interpretable mental health screening.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lingzhi Gao

[187] Diversity Is Better in the Abstract (Framing)

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Efforts to promote diversity often face resistance. This study tested whether framing diversity in abstract terms ("religious diversity") versus concrete terms ("having classmates from many different religious backgrounds") alters perceived benefits. Undergraduate participants ($N = 359$) were randomly assigned to one framing variation and rated the impact of diversity across eight domains (race, religion, gender, SES, sexuality, disability, nationality, politics). Abstract framing led to significantly higher perceived benefits than concrete framing across most domains ($ps < .05$), revealing a psychological barrier that may undermine initiative uptake. Support also varied by domain: sexuality and disability were viewed most positively, while religion and nationality were least endorsed. A promising future direction is to test whether intervention strategies that prompt reflection on why diversity is valued in the abstract can increase support for its concrete implementation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shannon Brady

Assistant Professor Of Psychology | Wake Forest University

[188] Helping Others Thrive: How Redemption Narratives Help Women Workers

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Workplace sexism affects 42% of women in the U.S., leading many to harmful coping behaviors with negative health impacts, like binge drinking or smoking. Our study explores the use of redemption narratives as a reappraisal strategy to mitigate these impacts. Redemption narratives (RN) are stories about overcoming adversity and growing from negative life experiences and hardships. We examined their effects on full-time women workers' affect, agency, and psychological safety compared to self-immersion coping tools when recalling sexism experiences. Results showed employing RNs resulted in significant increases in affect compared to baseline mood and compared to control, which only employed self-immersion. There were no significant differences between conditions in agency or psychological safety. Notably, participants in RN condition with stronger gender identification reported significantly higher affect scores post-treatment; event resolution was associated with higher agency; frequent sexism experiences were linked to lower agency. These results suggest RNs can improve emotional responses, but further research on coping mechanisms is needed to address agency, psychological safety.

*POSTER

Speaker



Diego Faria

University of Pennsylvania: The Wharton School

[189] The Stereotype Content Model and Cybervetting: Effects of Anti-Sexism Content on Hireability Perceptions by Gender and Race

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Cybervetting—evaluating applicants based on their online presence—exacerbates gender and racial hiring bias, yet how identity-based advocacy shapes such bias is unclear. Using an intersectional lens and the Stereotype Content Model, we test how and through what mechanisms anti-sexism posts, gender, and race shape hiring evaluations. Prolific participants with hiring experience will assess a resume and cover letter paired with X/Twitter posts in one of six conditions: White men (anti-sexism vs. neutral) and White/Asian women (anti-sexism vs. neutral). Post valence and engagement cues are held constant. We predict (1) men posting anti-sexism content will be rated more hireable than men posting neutral content, mediated by higher perceived warmth and competence; (2) women posting anti-sexism content will be rated less hireable than women posting neutral content, mediated by lower perceived warmth; and (3) the hireability penalty will be greater for Asian (vs. White) women, mediated by a larger drop in perceived warmth. By identifying trait inferences as mediators from cybervetting to hiring bias, it offers leverage points for structured evaluations and stereotype-interruption prompts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marybella Zhang

Johns Hopkins University

[190] Interventions as Culture Change

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Wise interventions are often conceptualized as tools for changing individuals' beliefs or behaviors. We contend that they can also be understood as intentional acts of culture change. Drawing on the culture cycle framework (Markus & Kitayama, 2010), we propose that interventions both reveal and reshape cultural meaning systems. We discuss three implications of this perspective. First, when an intervention is effective, it indicates that the idea it promotes is culturally available but not yet fully embraced or enacted. Second, a single intervention idea can be implemented at different levels of the culture cycle; though the entry point differs, the ultimate effects may be similar. Third, when interventions take hold, their effects often diffuse beyond individuals, altering relationships and institutional practices. Viewing interventions as efforts of culture change provides a broader theoretical lens for understanding when interventions are likely to succeed and how their effects may unfold across individuals, interactions, and institutions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Trey Williams

Wake Forest Graduate Student | Wake Forest University

[191] Prosocial Utility Value Interventions in Chemistry: Differential Effects Across In-Person and Remote Contexts

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Utility Value (UV) interventions encourage students to connect course content to their personal values, enhancing motivation and achievement (Harackiewicz et al., 2023). A prosocial version, prompting reflection on how learning benefits others, can further strengthen effects, especially among URM students (Asher et al., 2024). We compared a standard UV and a Prosocial Plus version in two cohorts of an introductory chemistry course at San Diego State University. The courses occurred 1) in Spring 2020, when COVID forced a midterm shift to remote learning, and 2) in Fall 2020, when instruction was fully online. Students were randomly assigned to Control, Standard UV, or Prosocial Plus. In Spring 2020 ($n = 623$, in person), URM students scored higher on post-intervention exams in the Prosocial Plus condition ($\beta = 0.078$, $p = .036$). In Fall 2020 ($n = 386$, remote), there was a main effect of condition, with higher scores in Prosocial Plus than in Standard and Control ($\beta = 0.128$, $p = .021$). Results suggest prosocial framing boosts URM performance, mainly in-person. We are currently testing longer-term effects on STEM persistence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kévin Rigaud

[192] Can Utility-Value Interventions Promote Performance and Persistence in STEM in a Racially and Socioeconomically Diverse Context?

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Although utility value interventions (UVI) have shown promises to promoting performance and persistence in STEM, the majority of UVI studies have been conducted at predominantly white institutions. As a result, less is known about whether their effects can translate to contexts where underrepresented minority (URM) and first-generation (FG) students represent a substantial portion of the population. We implemented UVIs in two gateway chemistry courses in a racially and socioeconomically diverse Southwestern U.S. university. The sample consisted of 1038 students, of whom 33% were first-generation and 51% came from a historically marginalized groups (i.e., Latino, Black, and Southeast Asian). We are currently testing the effects of the UVIs on students' grades in the course and STEM persistence one year and two and half years after the intervention. We will also examine how the effects of the intervention vary based on students' URM and FG identities. We expect findings from the study to provide novel knowledge in terms of the boundary conditions of UVI when applied in educational settings with diverse student populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuchen Song

University of Wisconsin - Madison

[193] Reducing Implicit, Explicit, and Behavioral Racial Bias Sustainably and Ecologically: The Learn Your Attitude Intervention

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Learn Your Attitude is an interactive intervention that integrates operant learning principles with a modified prejudice habit-breaking protocol to promote durable reductions in implicit, explicit, and behavioral racial bias. In a 3-wave longitudinal experiment (T1 vs. T2 vs. T3), 47 undergraduates were randomized to intervention or control to complete the Race IAT and explicit measures (i.e., Black Stereotypes, Malleability of Bias, etc.). At T3, behavioral responses (seat selection and collaboration preference following a confederate's biased remark) were directly observed and recorded. Although no inferential tests reached significance—reflecting low power due to a higher-than-expected attrition rate—trajectory plots and model-based means showed a T2 bump in d score that receded at T3, with the intervention dampening the T2 rise relative to the control; explicit and behavioral outcomes displayed concordant trends. The directionally favorable but imprecise effects motivate continued recruitment to obtain decisive estimates. We will test whether these encouraging preliminary patterns translate into reliable and durable reductions in racial bias, informing both theory and practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiawei Xiang

PhD Student | Claremont Graduate University

[194] Approaches and Information Relevant to Motivations to Become More Prosocial

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Although being prosocial has numerous benefits for individuals and society, people are less motivated to change their prosocial traits compared to other personality traits. This study explores whether and how researchers can motivate people to be more prosocial. 200 online participants completed the HEXACO personality measure and self-reported their initial prosociality change goals. They then received two types of information in random order and updated their prosociality change goals after each condition: 1) learning their own HEXACO honesty-humility scores (prosociality feedback), 2) reflecting on their own prosocial motivation. Participants also rated the effectiveness of information about benefits of prosociality provided by the researchers. This presentation will discuss the effectiveness of motivational information and report the impact of the interventions on participants as a function of baseline prosociality. Given the importance of motivation in personality change outcomes, this study will inform prosociality-related interventions about what approaches and motivational information are effective for individuals with different levels of prosociality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Weiran Jiang

Research Assistant | Georgetown University

[195] Mental Contrasting of Positive and Negative Futures Reduces Smartphone Use: Two Experimental Studies

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

Guided by Fantasy Realization Theory (Oettingen, 2012), two studies examined how two forms of mental contrasting (MC), contrasting either a desired future with current obstacles or a feared future with a precious reality that could be harmed by excessive screen time, affect undergraduates' regulation of smartphone use. Participants' daily screen time was tracked for two weeks, with the first week as baseline. In Study 1 (N = 92; n (MC) = 46, n (Control) = 46), the results from a linear mixed effects model showed that MC of a positive future led to greater reductions in screen time across days than positive fantasizing, $b = -6.54$, $SE = 2.75$, $t(90) = -2.38$, $p = .019$. In Study 2 (N = 89; n (MC) = 42, n (control) = 47), MC of a negative future produced a similar pattern in the linear mixed effect model, $b = -12.34$, $SE = 4.67$, $t(87) = -2.64$, $p = .010$. Together, these findings suggest that both forms of MC can reduce smartphone use, potentially through distinct motivational mechanisms. This research leverages real-world behavioral data to advance understanding of mental contrasting as a self-regulatory strategy for promoting digital well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yingfan Zhang

Master's Student | New York University

[196] Disgust and Inflammation as Predictors of Inmate Effort in a Forensic Setting

2:45 PM – 3:20 PM

The willingness to exert effort during psychological assessments is critical in forensic contexts. For instance, indicators of attention and engagement are essential in psychopathy evaluations, where the validity of cognitive findings often depends on the effort provided (Wygant & Lareau, 2015). While both psychological and physiological factors shape effort, recent work highlights the role of inflammation in effort-related behaviors. Yet, one underexplored factor is whether pathogen threat influences inflammation and, in turn, willingness to exert effort among incarcerated individuals. This study investigates how pathogen cues affect willingness to exert effort. Using a pathogen exposure manipulation, participants will be randomly assigned to either a "dirty" room containing pathogen threat cues or a clean control room. Physiological measures including core body temperature and blood cytokines will assess inflammation, while questionnaires will evaluate willingness to exert effort. By identifying conditions that undermine effort, this research can inform policies and practices to improve the accuracy and fairness of forensic assessments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexa Gerdes

Student | Texas Christian University

Diversity Incentives Can Increase Women's Aspirations to Lead

3:20 PM – 3:40 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Erika Kirgios

Professor | University Of Chicago

Fireside Chat with Dean Karlan

3:40 PM – 5:00 PM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Speaker



Dean Karlan

Moral Psychology Preconference

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: E450B, Level 4

Building on a nearly 25-year legacy and a sold-out event last year, the Moral Psychology preconference returns to bring together some of the most exciting interdisciplinary work being done on morality by scholars from around the world—from social psychology to developmental psychology, philosophy, and more. The pre-conference will provide a focused day at the SPSP conference on the latest theoretical and empirical work on human values, judgments, and decisions in moral contexts—exploring how research in this space impacts both pressing societal issues and ongoing debates in ethics and psychological theory.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introductions

9:00 AM – 9:05 AM

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

How reputation does and does not drive moralistic punishment

9:05 AM – 9:25 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Nour Kteily

Professor | Northwestern Univ.

Morally typecasting 911 Callers

9:25 AM – 9:45 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Jessica Salerno

Associate Professor | Cornell University

A Cultural Explanation for Who Stays in Prison: Incarcerated Individuals' Causal Attributions and Parole Decisions

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Amrita Kaushik Telidevara

Graduate Student | The University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

BoKyung Park, Ryan L. Boyd

Go Cry to GPT: People Offload Interpersonal Empathy to LLMs

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Madhulika Shastri

Graduate Student | Ohio State University

Authors

Kurt Gray

Quality versus Quantity: Donors, Unlike Beneficiaries, Prefer to Make Lives Better, Not Longer

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jon Bogard

PhD Candidate | UCLA-Anderson, Behavioral Decision Making

Authors

Chanah Park, Joey Reiff

Creativity in Effective Altruism and Extraordinary Altruism

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Brendan Bo O'Connor

Authors

Liane Young, Stylianos Syropoulos, Kyle Law, Paige Amormino, Abigail Marsh

Morning Coffee Break

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Moral narratives and intuitive theories of morality

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Judy Kim

Assistant Professor | American University

The Fruitfulness of Normative Concepts

10:50 AM – 11:10 AM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Matthew Lindauer

Associate Professor | Brooklyn College and CUNY Graduate Center

Break

11:10 AM – 11:20 AM

The caring continuum: Understanding the roots of variation in human prosociality and antisociality

11:20 AM – 12:00 PM

*KEYNOTE

Speaker



Abigail Marsh

Professor | Georgetown University

Networking Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the meeting room. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

How universal is universalization? Exploring the use of universalization for rule-breaking across the globe

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Sydney Levine

NYU

Why are we stingy with praise?

1:20 PM – 1:40 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



David Pizarro

Professor of Psychology | Cornell University

Break

1:40 PM – 1:50 PM

Exaggerated Global Consensus on How Values are Changing

1:50 PM – 2:10 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Joshua Conrad Jackson

Assistant Professor | University of Chicago, Booth

Cultural Variation in Moral Absolutism vs. Relativism: Uncovering a Novel Cultural Dimension That Explains Individual and Cultural Differences in Public Policy Positions

2:10 PM – 2:45 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Namrata Goyal
Assistant Professor | ESADE Business School

Authors

Tiffany Tan, Yuqi Liu

Creative People Receive More Unethical Requests

2:10 PM – 2:45 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Brian Lucas
Assistant Professor | Cornell University

Authors

Ke Michael Mai, Feng Qiu, Siyu Yu

Profitable third-party punishment destabilizes cooperation

2:10 PM – 2:45 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Raihan Alam
PhD Student | UC San Diego, Rady School of Management

Authors

Tage Rai

A Moral Life Begins with the Self

2:10 PM – 2:45 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Fan Yang
Research Associate Professor | University of Chicago

Authors

Laura Soter, Susan Gelman

[41] Do Liberals and Conservatives Really Have Different Moral Foundations?

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Noah Laskey
PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Spike W.S. Lee

[42] Temporal discounting of moral blame across history

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlotte Austin
Phd | Cornell

Authors

Jordan Wylie, Gijs Van Houwelingen, Dries Bostyn, Stephen Anderson

[43] Gender Differences in Perceived and Actual Moral Behavior

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tori LeVier

Lab Manager | Cornell University

Authors

Jordan Wylie, David Tannenbaum, Krithiga Sankaran, Paul Bloom, Ana Gantman, Tori Levier

[44] Vividly Imagining Other People's Experiences Reduces Negative Moral Judgments of their Actions

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jeremy Richardson

Graduate Student / PHD Graduate Student | Cornell University Full-time

Authors

David Pizarro

[45] Gender Bias in Reactions to Mild Moral Transgressions: The Role of Personal Benefit

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Miklasova

PhD Student | New York University

Authors

Julia Spielmann, Andrea Vial

[46] Pitting nouveau riche against old money: Current wealth dominates past wealth in moral character judgments

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Becca Ruger

Graduate Student | The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Sean Laurent

[47] Affirming the Moral Self: People Prefer Transgression Explanations that Support Compassion Rather than Unmitigated Blame

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zeena Whayeb

PhD Student | Lehigh University

Authors

Michael Gill

[48] Unpacking the Moral Resistance to Artificial Intelligence

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Victoria Oldemburgo de Mello

PhD student | University of Toronto

Authors

Reem Ayad, Jason Plaks, Michael Inzlicht, Éloise Côté, Yoel Inbar

[49] Victims of Circumstance, Villains of Choice

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Alec Stinnett

Assistant Professor | Monmouth College

Authors

Heidi Martin, Jessica Alquist

[50] Intensity Makes It Usable: Moral Evidence Under Emotional Burden

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tianyi Xiong

Authors

Yu Li

[51] Moral Conviction and Prior Beliefs Shape Factual Judgment and Metacognition

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Qiongwen Cao

The University of Chicago

Authors

Jean Decety, Michael Cohen

[52] Moral minds of markets: Perceptions of the moral agency of industries, companies, and their constituents.

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ivy Gilbert

PhD Student | Cornell University

Authors

Laura Niemi

[53] The effect of market integration on impartial prosociality

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Glen Spiteri

PhD Student in Cognitive Psychology | UCLA

Authors

Maximilian Maier, Falk Lieder

[54] Towards a context- and social-norm-sensitive theory of morality

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Kyle Fiore Law

Postdoctoral Research Scholar | Arizona State University

Authors

Deborah Wu, Stylianos Syropoulos, C. Jinhee Capozzoli

[55] Utilitarian Moral Judgment and Moral Norm Sensitivity in Autism Spectrum Condition

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zuzanna Farny

Ph.D. candidate | University of Silesia in Katowice

Authors

Mariola Paruzel-Czachura, Bertram Gawronski

[56] Moving from Vignettes to Narratives: How Academic Moral Perspectives Differ from Everyday Moral Experiences

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Deborah Cesarini

PhD Student | Duke University

Authors

Dylan Brown, Scott Huettel, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

[57] Expanding the Social Boundaries of Moral Concern through Systematic Moral Reflection

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Falk Lieder

Research Group Leader | Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems

Authors

Charlotte Riedl

[58] Liberals are more sensitive to perceived power

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Yudkin

Director | More in Common

Authors

Josep Gaspard, Maurice Schweitzer

[59] Beyond Payback: The Communicative Function of Revenge Across Cultures

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sila Mutaf

PhD Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Andras Molnar

[60] 'Et tu, Brute?' How young children reason about betrayal toward in-group versus out-group members

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Kayley Dotson

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Susan Gelman

[61] How Forgiveness and Event Severity Impact the Centrality of a Wrongdoing to One's Identity

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabriela Fernández-Miranda

Graduate Student | Duke University

Authors

Leonard Faul, Felipe De Birgard

[62] The responsibility of setting a bad example: Models are blamed for their imitators' behavior

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Peter Kardos

Associate Professor | Kean University

Authors

Brian Lickel

[63] Varieties of negligence in moral judgment

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Santiago Amaya

Rice University

Authors

Samuel Murray, Devon Guzy

[64] Computational Phenotypes of Moral Learning Across the Caring Continuum

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Marla Dressel

PhD Student | Georgetown University

Authors

Abigail Marsh, Naomi Nero, Ah Yeong Kim, Shawn Rhoads

[65] How Do People Change Their Moral Views?

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Qilin Zhang

Washington University in St Louis

Authors

Jessie Sun

[66] Moral Inference and Suspicion: How Caller Emotionality Shapes Police Perceptions of 911 Callers

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Lawrence

PhD Student | Cornell University

Authors

Jessica Salerno, Alia Wulff, Rhiannon Gnerer, Bhavya Venmani, Alexis Adams

[67] Beyond hypothetical trolleys: A more naturalistic paradigm for measuring how much of moral learning is driven by forming mental habits versus learning about the consequences of relying on rules versus reasoning

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zahra Tahmasebi

Graduate Student | UCLA Psychology Department

Authors

Maximilian Maier, Falk Lieder, Vanessa Cheung

[68] The influence of history on moral and legal judgments: How past adversity shapes evaluations of antisocial and prosocial behavior

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Wiktoria Pedryc

Graduate Student | The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Sean Laurent

[69] Apologizing, Fast and Slow: How Apology Timing Affects Forgiveness

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Hyeran Kang

PhD student | University of Michigan

Authors

Andras Molnar, Nick Epley

[70] How True Crime Shapes Moral Judgments of Victims

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Helen Devine

Lab Manager | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Kurt Gray

[71] Metamorality Across Cultures

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Firat Seker

PhD Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari

[72] Multidisciplinary Moral Psychology: A Bibliometric Study of Morality Papers from 1980-2024

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Caleb Reynolds

Visiting Assistant Professor | Willamette University

Authors

Julia Martin

[73] When bad people do good: does a transcendental, morally good core shine through?

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Erica Holberg

graduate student | University of Missouri

Authors

Laura King

[74] The influence of social context on algorithmic fairness metric preferences

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sara Haman

Research Associate | Boston College

Authors

Liane Young, Jessica Finocchiaro

[75] Do moral judgments follow the Weber-Fechner laws? Yes and no (respectively)

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Vladimir Chituc

Postdoctoral Associate | Yale University

[76] Moral Forecasts in Human-AI Interaction

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Reem Ayad

PhD Candidate | University of Toronto

Authors

Selin Okman, Jason Plaks

[77] Curiosity for the immoral: Explanation and learning in the moral domain

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathan Liang

Graduate Research Fellow, WyLab | Cornell University

Authors

Jordan Wylie, Liane Young, Maureen Ritchey

[78] The Moral Signaling Effect of Being Busy: The Perspective of Morality-as-Cooperation Theory

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ning Li

Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Xiaomin Sun

[79] Born, Earned, or Engineered: The Moral Backlash to Technological Self-Improvement

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Irein Thomas

Graduate Student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Kristin Laurin

[80] Do Subjective Harm Perceptions Align with the Dyadic Model?

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Faruk Tayyip Yalcin
Graduate Student | Penn State University

Authors

C. Daryl Cameron

Break and Vote on Best Poster

3:45 PM – 3:55 PM

The Development of Motive Sensitivity in Children’s Moral and Social Evaluations

3:55 PM – 4:15 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Amrisha Vaish
Associate Professor | University of Virginia

Bad Morality

4:15 PM – 4:55 PM

*KEYNOTE

Speaker



Paul Bloom

Closing Remarks & Best Poster Award

4:55 PM – 5:00 PM

*KEYNOTE

Speaker



Paul Bloom

Religion and Spirituality Preconference

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: E258, Level 2

This preconference highlights research exploring when, why, and how religion and spirituality affect cognitive, emotional, and behavioral processes, as well as how these processes and surrounding social and environmental contexts in turn shape religion and spirituality. Integrating multi-method empirical research with interdisciplinary approaches, this preconference showcases state-of-the-field theory, methods, and research. This year, our focus is to “broaden the scope” of psychological research on religion, highlighting work that broadens access to data, broadens insights across cultures, history, and the lifespan, and broadens methodologies. Religions continue to be a central part of social life, cooperation, and conflict across cultures, and this preconference features cutting-edge research with real-world implications.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall prior to the preconference starting at 1:00pm. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Welcome & Introduction

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM

OPENING

Across beliefs and borders: The importance of considering religion and nationality

1:05 PM – 1:25 PM

A Protestant in Brazil, a Protestant in the US, and a Protestant in Ghana may all share a religion, but their practices and beliefs look dramatically different. As religions spread, they intertwine with local culture to create unique blends of faith. Disentangling the relative effects of religion and national culture presents an exciting opportunity for psychologists of religion. In this talk, I will briefly present two projects at the intersection of national and religious identity. In the first, we examine how religious affiliation shapes the condemnation of immoral thoughts in five countries, finding that Americans are generally more permissive of immoral thoughts than co-religionists in other nations. In a second, we look at how ideal affect varies amongst Buddhists and Protestants living in the US and South Korea. Together, this work illustrates how religion and nationality jointly shape our psychology. I will close with suggestions for testing these dynamics in cross-cultural experiments and surveys.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Alexandra Wormley
Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Michigan

Children’s Application of Religious Norms Across Cultures

1:25 PM – 1:45 PM

Religion is often associated with social cohesion and prosociality (Kelly et al., 2024; Norenzayan et al., 2014). Notably, religion can also be at the root of intractable and deadly conflicts when people from different faiths disagree over beliefs and practices. Religious conflicts can also arise within members of the same faith who disagree on certain religious practices or norms—norms that are introduced by religious authorities (e.g., gods or their human representatives, sacred texts) whose violation does not directly impact others’ welfare or rights (e.g., eating pork) (Atran & Ginges, 2012; Nucci & Turiel, 1993). But who do children expect their religious norms to apply to? And do these expectations vary across age and/or cultures? Recent research finds that older children and adolescents evaluate religious norms as being group-specific (Dahl et al., 2022; Srinivasan et al., 2019). We present ongoing work on how 3- to 12-year-old children (N = 1,821, Mage = 7.83 years) apply different kinds of norms to same-faith (e.g., Muslim) and other-faith protagonists (e.g., non-Muslim). Data were collected by a group of 50 researchers as part of the Developing Belief Network, an international collaborative consortium spanning 32 cultural groups, 6 religions, and 14 countries (see Weisman et al., 2024).

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Meltem Yucel
Assistant Professor | Michigan State University

Authors

Tamar Kushnir, Katherine McAuliffe, Bolivar Reyes-Jaquez, Audun Dahl, Mahesh Srinivasan, Gil Diesendruck, Kara Weisman, Shaun Nichols, Florencia Anggoro, Jocelyn Dautel, Benjamin Jee, Abby McLaughlin, Ageliki Nicolopoulou, Natassa Kyriakopoulou, Irini Skopeliti, Yue Yu, Xin Zhao (Alice), Developing Belief Network

Cultural Variation in Moral Absolutism vs. Relativism: Religious Diversity as an Antecedent and Policy Bans as an Outcome

1:45 PM – 2:20 PM

Cultures differ in moral values, but do they also differ in meta-beliefs about whether morals are universal or context-dependent? Across six studies, we show variation in moral absolutism, identify religious diversity as an antecedent, and bans on moralized practices as an outcome. At the country-level, relativism correlated weakly with existing dimensions, rose with religious diversity, and predicted less support for bans (Study 1). At the regional-level, religious diversity predicted moral relativism across U.S. states, which in turn predicted the status of abortion bans, even after adjusting for ideology (Study 2). At the individual-level, across 20 countries, people raised by parents of different religions more often endorsed relativism and support against abortion bans (Study 3). Experiments found that exposure to religious diversity increased relativism which in turn reduced support for bans (Study 4-5). Analyzing film subtitles across cultures (e.g., Hollywood vs. Bollywood) demonstrated how relativism is culturally transmitted (Study 6). Together, these studies position relativism as a cultural dimension shaping moral beliefs and policy outcomes.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Namrata Goyal
Assistant Professor | ESADE Business School

Authors

Tiffany Tan, Yuqi Liu

Religion shapes cultures of construing and regulating emotion

1:45 PM – 2:20 PM

One of the earliest observations in scholarship on religion, stemming from writers such as Durkheim and James, was the powerful connection between religion and emotion. Since then, work across diverse fields has established how religion impacts emotional experience and the role of transcendent emotion in religious worship. Yet, religion is not just an institution dealing in mystical emotional experience. It is also culture which shapes everyday emotional experiences, including how people conceptualize what emotion is and what to do with it. In this research, we sought to map religious cultures of emotion by turning to the “source code” of religions: canonical scripture. Across 198,000 sentences (roughly 2.5 million words) from canonical scriptural texts of 7 major world religions, we used natural language processing to identify the patterns of emotion beliefs, values, and regulation tools encoded in ancient religious texts, and map how these vary across religions. By doing so, we provide a systematic, comprehensive, and integrative picture of how scriptures, the historical fabric of religions, conceptualize emotion for the individuals and cultures embedded within them.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Chayce Baldwin
PhD Candidate | University of Michigan

Authors

Noa Boker Segal, Alexandra Wormley, Ethan Kross

How do Religious Motivations Fluctuate in a Time of Identity Exploration? A Random-Intercept Latent Transition Analysis Approach

1:45 PM – 2:20 PM

Motivation has been identified as a multidimensional construct that fluctuates over time within-persons in different contexts, but no study to date has examined the temporal stability of religious motivations, particularly in college settings, where people regularly undergo significant religious change. Hence, guided by Self-Determination Theory, we conducted a random-intercept latent transition analysis using two halves of an undergraduate sample (N = 1,368) with four waves spaced six months apart. We identified four profiles (i.e., Fully Internalized, Partially Internalized, Controlled, and Amotivated) that were distinct on behavioral regulations (i.e., identified, introjected, and external) and religious practices (i.e., service attendance, prayer, and scripture reading). Participants were likely to transition to the more autonomous profiles over time, and the more autonomous profiles reported lower internalizing symptoms (i.e., anxiety and depression) compared to the more controlled profiles. These findings highlight the complexity of motivation patterns and temporal stability in a context that facilitates autonomous exploration of religious values.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Karim Kerasha
Student | Baylor University

Authors

Hiroki Matsuo, Karen Melton, Perry Glanzer, Sarah Schnitker

In God We Trust, In AI We Ask: Religiosity and Moral Advice-Seeking in the Digital Age

1:45 PM – 2:20 PM

As generative AI chatbots increasingly influence everyday decision-making, understanding who turns to them for moral advice is an emerging question at the intersection of moral psychology, religion, and technology. This project investigates how religiosity influences openness to seeking moral advice from gen-AI chatbots, and how traditional moral frameworks intersect with new digital authorities. Across four studies with U.S. adults (Total N = 830), religiosity was positively correlated with interest in and frequency of seeking moral advice from gen-AI chatbots. This effect was fully mediated by participants’ overall tendency to seek moral advice from non-AI sources. Additional analyses indicated that perceived valence and authority of gen-AI chatbots as moral advice sources further accounted for this relationship. As gen-AI chatbots become a prominent moral advice source, this work highlights how enduring belief systems shape people’s interactions with emerging moral technologies.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Helen Zheng
Boston College

Authors

Liane Young, Kyle Law, Sara Haman

Perceptions of Religious and non-Religious Doubters

1:45 PM – 2:20 PM

Given the growing rates of deconversion from religion, it is important to understand how people perceive religious ingroup and outgroup members who are thinking of converting to (or away from) their religion (i.e., religious doubters). Across three studies (N = 1379, one preregistered), we examined how ingroup and outgroup members perceive religious and nonreligious doubters. Study 1 showed that Christian and atheist participants were more likely to think that a doubter from the outgroup (atheists for Christian participants, Christians for atheist participants), compared to a doubter from the ingroup, would change their religion. Study 2 found that these effects are domain-specific and were not evident when the source of doubt was not related to religion. Study 3 provided further evidence that anticipation to become an ingroup member plays a significant role in people’s perceptions of doubters by extending the findings to Jewish doubters, an outgroup for both Christians and atheists. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Mazyar Bagherian
Graduate Student | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Kimberly Rios, Homa Sheibani, Evan Johnson

Using a polygenic approach for gene-culture studies: Religious salience as a case study

1:45 PM – 2:20 PM

Emerging gene-culture research suggests that certain variants of dopamine-signaling genes increase sensitivity to social and cultural environments. Prior work found that the effect of religious salience on prosocial behaviour was stronger among individuals with more dopamine-signaling variants of the DRD4 gene (Sasaki et al., 2013). The present study extends this work using a polygenic approach to test gene-culture interactions involving religious salience. Participants from diverse geographic (e.g., South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East/North Africa) and religious backgrounds (e.g., Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian) were randomly assigned to a religious salience prime or control prime condition and completed an economic game measuring altruism (money given vs. kept). We genotyped six dopamine-signaling genes: DRD1, DRD2, Taq1A, DRD4, DAT1, and COMT. Consistent with past research, the religious salience prime increased altruistic behavior among those with more dopamine-signaling variants. Effects were consistent across regions and religions. Overall, our findings highlight the value of polygenic, cross-cultural approaches in gene-culture research.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ronda Lo
Assistant Professor | Toronto Metropolitan University

Authors

Alexandria West, Joni Sasaki, Hyunji Kim, Jorida Cila

End of world beliefs are common, diverse, and predict how people perceive and respond to global risks.

2:20 PM – 2:35 PM

Do you believe the world will end in your lifetime, and does that belief change the way you see existential threats? For many people, this question is real and pressing. End of world beliefs (EWBs) are historically and globally prevalent, but come in many flavors: How soon? What will cause it? Is it avoidable? What will come after? EWBs have been linked to a variety of social perception and behavior, from passive comfort to revolutionary violence. Yet research on EWBs is lacking. We present the results of 6 pilot studies (N=2079) and a pre-registered study (N=1409) that establish a framework for EWBs. A measure of EWBs was validated across 6 religious populations. We find that EWBs are common, vary along several meaningful dimensions, and are uniquely predictive of people’s risk perception, risk tolerance, and willingness to support extreme action to address the five most pressing global existential risks (i.e., economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal, and technological). Results support the idea that belief in apocalyptic narratives, irrespective of their accuracy, is consequential for how different populations confront concrete risks that threaten humanity today.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Matthew Billet
Postdoctoral Fellow | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Azim Shariff, Ara Norenzayan

Coffee Break

2:35 PM – 2:45 PM

Poster Session

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

[81] Understanding Varieties of Religious Types via Latent Profile Analysis of MIDUS

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Religion and spirituality (RS) are complex constructs, consisting of various intersecting dimensions. These dimensions are often considered in isolation, but need to be understood as components of a greater whole. Using a national U.S. sample, this study examines how RS dimensions combine to form profiles of RS experience, and how these profiles differ by sociodemographic and psychological factors. Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) of the MIDUS Refresher sample used six dimensions, service attendance, private practice, religious identification, spirituality, religious coping, and daily spiritual experience, to identify distinct RS profiles. A six-profile solution emerged: Highly RS, Personal-Oriented, Organizational-Oriented, Moderate Engagers, Disengaged Identifiers, and Minimally RS. Profiles varied by sociodemographic traits, personality, optimism, and control beliefs. Findings highlight the heterogeneity of RS and provide a framework for understanding who falls into different profiles. Future work should examine how profiles interact with stressors such as discrimination or socioeconomic adversity to shape well-being and health, and how they shift across the life course and cohorts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adam Baker
PhD Student/Research Assistant | University Of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Jieun Song, Carol D. Ryff

[82] Seeing Religions as Interconnected Predicts Recognition of Religious Bias

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

How do people think about the relationships between different religions within a society, and how does that affect their recognition and responses to religious bias? In this research we expanded on the literature on diversity ideologies in racial/cultural domains to explore their applicability to religious identities. Across two studies (combined n = 260), we studied correlates of endorsement of three diversity ideologies: identity-blindness (colorblindness) minimizes the importance of religion, identity-awareness (multiculturalism) acknowledges the differences between religions, and polyculturalism highlights how faiths have interacted and influenced each other over time. Results showed that polyculturalism predicted greater perception of systemic bias (e.g., non-Christian employees must use their vacation days or take unpaid leave to celebrate their holy days, but Christmas/ Easter are considered holidays for everyone) as well as isolated cases of bias (e.g., a person assumes that all the intelligent people they meet are atheist). Polyculturalism also predicted respect for others’ values, lower essentialism, and greater willingness to take action to combat prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Negin Toosi
Assistant Professor | California State Univ., East Bay

[83] Transforming Traditions: Reconnecting with America's Faithful

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

This collaborative project examines how faith, belonging, and identity shape participation in U.S. churches, with a focus on younger adults and groups historically marginalized in religious spaces. We conducted a national online survey of N = 1,000 adults (July 2-Aug 19, 2025) with oversamples of lapsed Christians (n = 300), Baptists (n = 300), and LGBTQ+ adults (n = 300). The study asks: How do current churchgoers experience belonging and inclusion? What drives some to disengage while others remain? What factors influence willingness to return? What forms of support, spiritual guidance, community connection, service, or worldview clarity, might re-engage those who have left? Findings will offer insight into how faith communities might foster inclusion and meaningful engagement among younger and historically excluded populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Coco Xu
Research Manager | More in Common

Authors

Emily Gerdin, Paul Oshinski, Rex Foster

[84] Correcting misperceptions about Evangelicals' immigration views increases non-Christians' willingness to engage

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

U.S. Evangelical Christians are often linked with conservative politics and the Republican Party, a stereotype that obscures the movement, its diversity and may heighten Democrats' negativity toward Evangelicals (Xu et al., 2024). We conducted an online experiment with 1,960 U.S. adults to test whether correcting misperceptions about Evangelicals' immigration views would influence non-Christians' attitudes and behaviors. Non-Christians substantially underestimated Evangelical support for immigration policies balancing compassion and security. They predicted that only 36% of Evangelicals believe the U.S. has a moral duty to accept refugees, 50% want Congress to pass immigration reform laws, and 46% support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Each of these estimates is over 30 points below actual Evangelical agreement rates. Participants whose misperceptions were then corrected were more willing than controls to discuss their immigration views publicly. Addressing misperceptions about Evangelicals may promote more constructive engagement across religious and ideological lines.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Gerdin
Graduate Student | Yale Univ.

Authors

Stephen Hawkins, Coco Xu

[85] Attachment Styles and Well-Being: Testing the Correspondence vs. Compensation Hypotheses with Parental and God Attachment

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

To examine how attachment to God reflects or compensates for early parental attachment quality (i.e., correspondence vs. compensation hypotheses), two studies identified latent profiles of attachment to mother, father, and God and tested associations with mental ill-being across time. Our original sample of 1,699 college students was randomly split to create two samples: exploratory (Study 1) and confirmatory (Study 2). Study 1 revealed three profiles supporting the correspondence hypothesis: Insecure Father Correspondence, Complete Insecure Correspondence, and Complete Secure Correspondence. In Study 2, these three profiles were replicated. ANOVAs and post-hoc tests showed that the Complete Insecure Correspondence profile reported the highest, Insecure Father Correspondence the second-highest, and Complete Secure Correspondence the lowest levels of mental illness symptoms at Time 2. However, ANCOVAs controlling for baseline mental health only showed a difference in depression between the Complete Insecure and Complete Secure profiles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Allison Alford
Ph.D. Student | Baylor University

Authors

Karen Melton, Perry Glanzer, Sarah Schnitker, Elizabeth Bounds

[86] Immediate Emotional Benefits of Religious Service Attendance: Evidence from a natural experiment at Easter

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Religious service attendance has consistently been associated with greater life satisfaction and positive emotions. However, most evidence comes from correlational and longitudinal studies based on long-term patterns of attendance, leaving open questions about the immediate effects of worship. In a pre-registered within-subject study, adult Christians (N = 138) completed surveys both at a control time (counterbalanced to be a few days before or after Easter) and directly after attending an Easter service. Participants reported higher satisfaction with life, self-transcendent positive emotions (e.g., awe, peace), lower negative emotions, greater love for God/others, and stronger gratitude to God after attending the service compared to the control time. By directly comparing experiences within the same individuals across worship and control contexts, this study provides rare quasi-experimental evidence that communal worship is followed by immediate improvements in emotional well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenna McClear
Lab Manager | Duke University

Authors

Patty Van Cappellen

[87] The Role of Trust in the Relationships between Higher Power Attachment and Well-being: A Regression and Mediation Analysis

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Trust is a vital quality of relationships linked to greater well-being. It is unknown, however, how the interplay of emerging adults' generalized trust in others, trust in their parents, and trust in a higher power relate to well-being. We recruited 152 undergraduates to report their attachment to a higher power, several trust dimensions (trust in their mother and father, viewing others as trustworthy, and their willingness to trust others), and their self-esteem, self-efficacy, and life satisfaction. Anxious (not avoidant) higher power attachment was negatively associated with multiple trust and well-being variables. In hierarchical regressions, anxious attachment to a higher power predicted lower self-esteem and life satisfaction. Trust in fathers (not mothers) and viewing others as trustworthy partially mediated the relationship between anxious higher power attachment and life satisfaction. These findings suggest that attachment to a higher power is related to well-being through complex paths involving different dimensions of interpersonal trust.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Bucaloiu
Bucknell University

Authors

Chris Boyatzis

[88] Fasting & Flourishing

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

People fast for a variety of reasons, some religious/spiritual and others for health, weight loss, or sports. We conducted three studies to investigate the benefits of religious vs. secular fasting. We hypothesized that religious fasters would experience more self-reflection and spiritual transformation, leading to higher scores on a multi-dimensional measure of flourishing. In Study 1, we surveyed 350 fasting vs. non-fasting Jews following Yom Kippur. In Study 2, we surveyed and compared the effects of Jewish fasting vs. non-religious fasting (N = 800). In Study 3, we experimentally manipulated thoughts of spirituality vs. health while completing an 18-hour fast (N = 294). We found that health fasting increased humility, whereas religious fasting increased religiosity and prosocial behavior, which were, in turn, predictors of self-reported life satisfaction and flourishing. When people fast and self-reflect on spiritual well-being, they often also become more committed to living a good life, more connected to others, and more likely to help others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kathryn Johnson

Research Professor | Arizona State University

Authors

Adam Cohen

[89] Ethical Integration of Religion and Spirituality in Psychotherapy

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Religion and spirituality (R/S) are central to many individuals' identities, yet they remain insufficiently addressed within psychotherapeutic research and training. This presentation examines the ethical challenges and cultural implications of integrating R/S into psychotherapy, while proposing evidence-based solutions and highlighting potential benefits for clients and clinicians. Although 89% of mental health professionals value R/S competence, nearly half report minimal training, revealing a gap between awareness and practice. Guided by the APA Ethics Code (2017), this analysis addresses competence, client autonomy, and informed consent, emphasizing risks of bias, boundary issues, and inadequate assessment. Integrative frameworks, including Sulmasy's Biopsychosocial-Spiritual Model and Barnett and Johnson's Ethical Decision-Making Model, offer pathways for culturally responsive care. Findings suggest R/S-informed therapy grounded in cultural humility enhances coping, resilience, and alliance. Solutions such as training, supervision, and ongoing ethical reflection support more holistic and inclusive mental health care honoring the sacred dimensions of human experience.

*POSTER

Speaker



LeeAnn Smith

MA in Clinical Psychology; Temporary Limited License Psychologist (TLLP) | Private Practice, Michigan

[90] Spirituality is associated with fear of AI but not with its acceptance in Japan

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Authors: Anzu Tsunematsu, Jimpei Hitsuwari, Tasuku Igarashi, Shinji Yamagata, Ryota Takano

The rise of generative AI technologies such as ChatGPT has evoked both fascination and unease, reflecting the growing ambivalence toward intelligent machines that transcend human understanding. This study examined how spirituality—defined as a tendency to seek meaning and connection beyond the material world—relates to attitudes toward AI. A survey of 554 Japanese participants was conducted using the Attitude Toward Artificial Intelligence (ATAI) scale, which measures acceptance and fear, together with the Japanese Youth Spirituality Scale. Spirituality was positively associated with fear of AI, but unrelated to acceptance. Furthermore, this relationship was mediated by discomfort with ambiguity and not moderated by prior experience with AI use. These findings suggest that spirituality may heighten sensitivity to the transcendent and uncontrollable aspects of AI, leading individuals to experience fear rather than acceptance. By linking spirituality to responses toward emerging technologies, this research broadens the psychological study of religion to novel cultural and technological frontiers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anzu Tsunematsu

Nagoya University

Authors

Ryota Takano, Shinji Yamagata, Tasuku Igarashi, Jimpei Hitsuwari

[91] Blaming God and the Devil for suffering

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

This research investigated how people invoke supernatural explanations for misfortune. Specifically, we examined how beliefs about a victim's moral character influence attributions to God and the Devil, and whether perceptions of deservingness explain such attributions. Across two studies, participants read about a miscarriage involving a victim with varying moral character (Good, Bad, or Unspecified) and rated potential causes, including the roles of God and the Devil. Victims with good or bad moral character were compared to those with unspecified character. In Study 1 (n = 158), participants blamed the Devil when the victim was seen as either good or bad, as they deemed the victim deserving of the misfortune. Additionally, perceptions of deservingness influenced attributions to God's punishment, but only when the victim was seen as bad. In Study 2 (n = 260), participants attributed the misfortune to both God and the Devil regardless of the victim's moral character, based on perceptions of deservingness. Though supernatural attribution were low overall, these patterns of victim-blaming may contribute to maintenance of just-world beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eric Aglozo

PhD student | Arizona State University

Authors

Adam Cohen

[92] The role of political ideology in the relationship between perceived Whiteness and attitudes about Jews

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Amid the growing concerns of shifting demographics in the US, the question of whether minority groups fit the prototype of a “White” American has gained significance. In the present study, we examined how Americans perceive the Whiteness of Jewish Americans, who hold a complex ethno-racial position within the American hegemony, and what factors correlate with these perceptions. In an exploratory study of American adults (N = 212), participants indicated the extent to which they agreed that Jews are White, alongside measures of political ideology, feelings toward Jews, and perceptions of discrimination both toward and from Jews. While political ideology did not directly predict perceptions of Jewish whiteness, it moderated the association between Whiteness perceptions and attitudes toward Jews: among liberals, greater perceived Whiteness of Jews was associated with colder feelings toward Jews and greater endorsement of beliefs that Jews discriminate against others, whereas conservatives showed the opposite pattern. These findings highlight the role of ideology in understanding how notions of “whiteness” shape attitudes towards different groups in contemporary US politics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yahel Tirosch

Undergraduate Research Assistant | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Mary Katz, Zarnab Zahoor

[93] "They said that they spoke on behalf of God, but then nothing but hate came out of their mouths." Analysis of Young Adults' Perspectives of Ineffective Intergenerational Faith Practices from Caregivers and Churches

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Religious affiliation is at historic lows among young adults, and a reckoning of spiritual practices is changing in the United States and abroad (Nynäs et al., 2022). Reasons for disaffiliation include intellectual questioning, competing social commitments, or experiences of trauma or marginalization in church settings (Davis et al., 2023; McLaughlin et al., 2020).

To identify specific practices or moments that create disillusionment with Christianity, focus groups were conducted with 29 young adults in Oakland, Dallas, Chicago, New York City, and Minneapolis. Participants were diverse in race and ethnic identity (31% White, 59% African American, 10% Hispanic), gender (38% male, 52% female, 10% non-binary), and familial denomination. Qualitative responses were transcribed and coded through reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Emergent themes included Authoritarian Parenting, Isolation from Peers and Family Members, Inability or Unwillingness to Address Existential Questions, and Hypocrisy in Church Communities. This presentation will explore themes, provide exemplifying quotes, and consider historical and cohort effects impacting faith development among Gen Z.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Governale

Associate Professor | North Park University

Authors

Nora Nunez, Joseph McGhee

[94] Leaving Religion, Keeping Bias: Exploring Religious Disaffiliation and Transprejudice

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Transgender people in the U.S. face rising levels of bias, demonstrated by the 122 anti-trans bills passed in 2025 (Trans Legislation Tracker, 2025). Religion is often identified as a major source of transprejudice, with notable differences between religious individuals and those who are religiously unaffiliated. For instance, 87% of White Evangelicals hold anti-transgender views on gender, while 58% of religiously unaffiliated people have inclusive transgender attitudes (Pew, 2022). Although religiosity is declining in the U.S., attitudes and behaviors related to religion, known as religious residue, can persist after disaffiliation (Van Tongeren et al., 2021). Therefore, we explored whether transprejudice might serve as an example of religious residue that persists after disaffiliation. In a preregistered study of N = 330 U.S. adults (analyses pending), we hypothesized that individuals who disaffiliated from their religion in young adulthood would exhibit transprejudice than those who remain religious and more prejudice than those who have never identified as religious. This study adds to the growing body of research on religious residue and the sources of transprejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rowan Anderson

University Of New Hampshire

Authors

Rosemary Al-Kire, Joshua Davis

[95] Catholics' Cognition About the Saints, Sin, Prayer, and the Afterlife

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Researchers have extended attachment theory to include attachment to God among religious believers. No research has examined attachment to saints who are uniquely important in Catholicism. We aimed to identify religious attachment patterns toward these figures in American and Filipino Catholics along with other measures of thoughts about God. We also asked open-ended questions about Catholic concepts of sin, prayer, and the afterlife. The questionnaire was administered to ~400 Roman Catholic respondents: ~200 from the US and ~200 from the Philippines. An analysis of US participants revealed hypothesized associations among the quantitative measures of cognition. Qualitative analyses of free responses about sin revealed macro-themes such as disobedience, moral wrong-doing, separation from God, and numerous specific examples. Prayer narratives yielded information about general prayer styles, contexts that elicit prayer, specific prayers used, and elements of judgment/salvation. The afterlife data revealed themes, some consistent with and others inconsistent with Catholic doctrine. Results contribute to our understanding of how people think about religious figures/phenomena.

*POSTER

Speaker



Steven M. Graham

Associate Professor of Psychology | New College of Florida

Authors

Kyla Baldonado

[96] Starstruck and searching: Relationships between celebrity fandom, religiosity, spirituality, and meaning

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Although fans and scholars have connected the rise in celebrity fandom with the decline of organized religion, there is a lack of psychological research into this relationship. The present study considered the relationship between celebrity fandom, religion/spirituality, and meaning. Participants completed a survey on celebrity fandom, eudaimonic and hedonic preferences in music/media, meaning in life, spirituality, and religion. Study 1 participants (N = 209) were asked to think about their favorite celebrity when answering questions, and Study 2 participants (N = 201) were all fans of a celebrity musician. Spirituality and religiosity were positively associated with celebrity worship in both studies. Results indicated that celebrity fandom relates to the search for and presence of meaning in life. Study 2 showed fans were more interested in finding meaning than pleasure in the music; Study 1 found this result to be true only when considering music preferences, but not media consumption in general. Overall, results indicated a relationship between fandom and the search for spiritual meaning, and that this relationship may look different depending on intensity or type of fandom.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lilly Tanenbaum

William & Mary

Authors

Jaclyn Moloney

[97] Catholics' Cognition About God, the Virgin Mary, and Other Saints

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Researchers have extended attachment theory to include attachment to God amongst religious believers. No researchers have examined attachment to the Virgin Mary or to the other saints. In this study, we aim to identify religious attachment patterns toward these figures in American and Filipino Catholics. We composed an online questionnaire to examine various relational variables toward religious figures in Catholic faith. It included two measures of Attachment to God, Views of God Scale, and modified versions of the Integration of Thoughts about Partners Scale, and Inclusion of Others in the Self scale. Responses were analyzed using a variety of analytic techniques. The questionnaire was administered to 400 Roman Catholic respondents: 200 from the US and 200 from the Philippines. An initial US-based sample showed meaningful correlations between the Integration of Thoughts About God Scale and other God-attachment measures. The modified Inclusion of Other in the Self scale also revealed some insights into key differences in Catholics' perceptions of the figures involved in their religious beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kyla Baldonado

New College of Florida

Authors

Steven Graham

[98] Analysis of Psychology of Religion Content in Introductory Psychology Textbooks

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Background: Past research on the representation of religion/spirituality in introductory psychology textbooks is dated.

Objective: Analyze religion/spirituality content in the nine most frequently purchased introductory psychology textbooks published within the last 5 years.

Method: The current study identified 27 terms that related to religion/spirituality and performed qualitative analysis of term's mentions in each textbook.

Results: Findings indicated that 100% of textbooks mentioned religion/spirituality, which represents an increase in mentions compared to past research. However, none of the textbooks included a specific section on the psychology of religion and spirituality. Overall, there was greater discussion-based coverage of religion/spirituality than research-based coverage, similar to past research findings, although the current study found a greater percentage of research-based discussion than previous research.

Conclusion: This study provides evidence that coverage of religion/spirituality is better represented in introductory psychology textbooks than past research, but organization and inclusion is still lacking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura Wesely

Pepperdine University/ San Diego State University

Take down posters and return to room

3:30 PM – 3:35 PM

Authors

Cindy Miller-Perrin

Technological advancement is linked to reduced supernatural explanations

3:35 PM – 3:50 PM

Across cultures and history, people often invoke supernatural forces to explain events. We propose that technological advancement reduces supernatural explanations by increasing perceptions of human control. As technology enables people to better predict and manipulate their environment, divine intervention may be invoked less often in everyday life, even among the religious. We test this hypothesis using historical, correlational, and experimental methods across three studies. In Study 1, cross-temporal analyses of 40 small-scale societies show that supernatural explanations declined over time and were less common in more technologically advanced societies. In Study 2, religious Americans who viewed technologies as more reliable perceived greater human control and less divine control over the phenomena those technologies regulate. In Study 3, experimentally engaging religious Americans with an electric circuit increased perceived human control and decreased divine attribution for light production. Together, these findings suggest that technological advancement shifts causal reasoning from divine to human agency, replacing supernatural explanations with naturalistic ones.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Danica Dillion

Affiliate Faculty | Complexity Science Hub

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Kurt Gray

Morality without monotheism: Surveying the religious world before world religions

3:50 PM – 4:10 PM

Throughout human history, humans have worshiped thousands of supernatural agents with different personalities and appearances. This diversity may have had implications for how collective cooperation, coordination, and conflict. But where did this diversity come from? And how did it change as colonialism reshaped the world? Through a global survey of 2,377 supernatural agents covering 114 religious traditions throughout history, we shed light on the dominant forces of religious diversity, and the way that colonialism reshaped religious differences.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Joshua Conrad Jackson

Assistant Professor | University of Chicago, Booth

The Development of Cross-Cultural Religious Belief: Insight from the Developing Belief Network

4:10 PM – 4:55 PM

Learning about religious cognition via first-hand experience can sometimes be time-consuming and costly. In this talk, I highlight the role of adult testimony as a mechanism for providing efficient and effective information transmission through focusing on insight from the Developing Belief Network: a cross-cultural global collaborative spanning 5 continents, 19 countries, and over 30 unique religious samples. By drawing on cross-cultural samples, I aim to highlight global universals as well as cultural-specific variability in the extent to which children attend to various testimonial features when acquiring religious belief. Such variability has broad implications for how religious information is acquired and then transmitted within and across generations.

*KEYNOTE

Speaker



Kathleen Corriveau

Professor | Boston University

Concluding Remarks

4:55 PM – 5:00 PM

WRAP-UP

LGBTQ+ Research Across the Globe Preconference

12:00 PM – 10:00 PM | Location: E350, Level 3

Join us for the SPSP Preconference on LGBTQ+ Research Across the Globe, taking place on Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 1 pm to 5 pm. This dynamic event unites scholars from diverse countries, backgrounds, and career stages to foster global collaboration and advance LGBTQ+ rights through research. Featuring keynote speaker Lisa Diamond and engaging blitz talks, participants will explore innovative ideas, build meaningful connections, and discuss strategies to address current challenges facing the LGBTQ+ community worldwide. This preconference emphasizes inclusivity, mindful of language and cultural differences, offering a welcoming environment for all. Attendees will participate in small group discussions, poster sessions, and networking opportunities designed to spark collaborations across borders. Join us in shaping the future of LGBTQ+ research—whether you're looking to share your work, find partners, or simply connect with like-minded scholars committed to social justice. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a vibrant, supportive global community working toward equality and understanding.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall prior to the preconference starting at 1:00pm. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Welcome and introductions, a roadmap for the preconference

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Speakers



Tabea Hässler

Senior Lecturer | University of Zurich



Z. Ferguson

Postdoctoral Researcher | RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau



Cassandra Crone

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Macquarie University



Christiaan I. Bekker

Senior Lecturer | Optentia Research Unit



Daliah Marei

PhD Student | University of Toronto



Esra Ummak

Associate Professor | VID Specialized University



Éva Gáti

PhD Student | ELTE Institute of Psychology



Julia Spielmann

Postdoc | New York University Abu Dhabi



Lebogang Ramalepe



Yvonne O.



Zhenchao Hu

PHD Student | Stanford University

Keynote: Connection as resistance: Building global community through friendship

1:15 PM – 1:35 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Lisa Diamond

Professor of Psychology | University of Utah

Interactive getting to know each other

1:35 PM – 1:50 PM

Talk 1: Listening to trans voices - Participatory research practices and global research with transgender populations

1:50 PM – 2:05 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Catherine Wall

Assistant Professor | wallcs@vcu.edu

Talk 2: Women's weight and sexual orientation judgments in six countries

2:05 PM – 2:20 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Bill Silvia

PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Talk 3: Internalised sexual prejudice and sexual well-being in bisexual+ individuals - Examining a Dual-Dimensional Model

2:20 PM – 2:35 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Joel Anderson

Principal Research Fellow | Australian Research Center In Sex, Health, and Society

Find your next (research or resource) collaboration partner, exchange ideas

2:35 PM – 3:00 PM

Talk 4: Political implications of implicit and explicit LGBT conspiracy beliefs

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Chiara Guida

University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli

Talk 5: Navigating discrimination: Resilience among South Africa's sexual and gender minority communities

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Lebogang Ramalepe

Talk 6: Queer lives, queer art: Participant-led multimedia storytelling of identity in Hawai

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Maximillian Soares Miehstein

Ph.D. Candidate | University of Hawaii at Manoa

Poster discussions in small groups – Check out the amazing posters from scholars across the world

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

[81] Adaptive authenticity: How bisexuals respond to LGBTQ+ vs. heterosexual prejudice

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Karleigh Groves

PhD Student | Lehigh University

[82] Emotion regulation moderates the relationship between intimate partner violence victimization and alcohol use and problems among sexual minorities

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Atulya Kharbanda

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

[83] Examining community connectedness as a moderator of the association between ACEs and IPV perpetration among gender minority adults

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Natalie Nassar

Graduate Student, M.S. | University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

[84] Cross-cultural reflections on queer body image: insights from South Korea and the U.S

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva Piras

Student | The New School

[85] Understanding anti-genderqueer policy support through a lens of identity invalidation

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Daphne Castro Lingl

University of Connecticut

[86] Facial gender typicality's role in predicting sexual orientation categorization

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Erin Foy

Graduate Student | Rutgers University

[87] The impact of stereotype portrayal on microaggression acceptance against same-sex and same-race couples

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tristin Winkler

Graduate Student | The University of Alabama

[88] Who's dateable? A target-based analysis of expected biphobia and bi+ attraction:

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Krista Quinn

MA Candidate | University of Waterloo

[89] Who counts in 'evidence-based'? The invisibility of LGBTQ+ communities across co-occurring PTSD and AUD intervention research

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rose Bern

PhD Student | University of California Davis

[90] Perceptions of LGBTQ+ mental health

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Lebowitz

Assistant Professor of Medical Psychology (in Psychiatry) | Columbia University

[91] An experimental investigation into the role of the primacy effect and race in accidental misgendering

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Percy Gresham

Doctoral Candidate | Texas A&M University

[92] An exploration of cultural appropriation in LGBTQ+ communities

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elliott Fluty

Doctoral Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

[93] Pride or prejudice? Consumer responses to corporate activism

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Katerina von Helms

Boston College

[94] Barriers in the binary: Gender nonconforming experiences in higher education

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Lily McConkey

Radford University

[95] Social media use and well-being among LGBTQ+ adolescents

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Mary Cox

Graduate Student | Washington University in Saint Louis

[96] LGBTQ+ singlehood: Lived experiences and fear of being single

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elaine Van Den Heuvel

Ph.D. Student | Florida State University

[97] Associations between attention to news and wellbeing among trans and cis youth and their parents

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aditi Kodipady

Graduate Student | Princeton University

External speaker from a local LGBTIQ+ organization – Bridging science and practice

4:45 PM – 4:55 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Wrap-up and discussion – The road ahead of us

4:55 PM – 5:00 PM

Drinks (Informal get-together)

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Judgment and Decision Making Preconference

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: E351, Level 3

This preconference will explore ideas at the intersection of social/personality psychology and judgment and decision-making research. Topics include social and strategic decision-making, intertemporal decisions, emotion, and reasoning under uncertainty.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall prior to the preconference starting at 1:00pm. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Welcome & Introduction

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM

Speakers



Gordon Pennycook

Associate Professor | Cornell University



Sydney Scott

Associate Professor | Washington University St. Louis, USA



Manasvini Singh

Assistant Professor | Carnegie Mellon University

The minority groups homogeneity effect: Seeing members of distinct minority groups as more similar to one another than members of the majority

1:05 PM – 1:30 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Tom Gilovich

Professor | Cornell University

(Mis)perceptions of stability and learning

1:30 PM – 1:55 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Sam Hirshman

Cornell University

Break

1:55 PM – 2:10 PM

Meta-Signals: A theory of communicative intent and impression formation

2:10 PM – 2:35 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Shereen Chaudhry

Univ. of Chicago, School of Business

Authors

Deb Small

Forecasting social science: Evidence from 100 projects

2:35 PM – 3:00 PM

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Stefano DellaVigna

Authors

Eva Vivalt

Break

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

The Robot's Failed Rebellion: When AI Disagreement Doesn't Matter

3:15 PM – 3:20 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Atakan Atamer

University of Michigan

Authors

Olivia Pinto, Priti Shah

People are reluctant to believe others are guilty based on bare statistical information.

3:20 PM – 3:25 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Veronika Izmaylova

Unuversity Of Chicago

Authors

Corey Cusimano

Behavioral Nudges Prevent Loan Delinquencies at Scale: A 13-Million Person Field Experiment

3:25 PM – 3:30 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Robert Kuan

PhD Student | The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Kristin Blagg, Benjamin Castleman, Rajeev Darolia, Jordan Matsudaira, Katherine Milkman

Changing Minds, Gaining Trust? The Social Norm of Attitude Shifts

3:30 PM – 3:35 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Anat Lande-Brenner

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Ruth Mayo

Verify or Challenge? Self-Motivations in Non-Human Feedback Preferences

3:35 PM – 3:40 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Aviv Mokady

Graduate Student | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Authors

Gideon E. Anholt, Niv Reggev

Sorry, Not Sorry: The Effect of Leadership on Apology Likelihood

3:40 PM – 3:45 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Christine Nguyen

PhD student | Columbia University

Authors

Isaac Raymundo, Adam Galinsky

Becoming an ostrich: The development of information avoidance

3:45 PM – 3:50 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Radhika Santhanagopalan

PhD Student | University of Chicago/Booth School of Business

Authors

Jane Risen, Katherine Kinzler

Shooting the Messenger: Outcome Bias in the Evaluation of Predictive Algorithms

3:50 PM – 3:55 PM

*FLASH TALK

Speaker



Sophie Wang

Student | University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Berkeley Dietvorst

Closing

3:55 PM – 4:00 PM

Speakers



Gordon Pennycook

Associate Professor | Cornell University



Sydney Scott

Associate Professor | Washington University St. Louis, USA



Manasvini Singh

Assistant Professor | Carnegie Mellon University

[41] People's probability estimates bias downwards under uncertainty

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Carter Allen

PhD Student | University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Celia Gaertig

[42] Bigger on the Upswing: Disparities in Upward and Downward Estimation

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sam Borislw

Student | University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

Authors

Kristin Donnelly

[43] Ability to learn as a way of increasing consumers' moral intentions

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Paolo Buttazzoni

Project Researcher | University of Turku

Authors

Michael Laakasuo, Marianna Drosinou, Paavo Rinkkala

[44] Not Who, But What: Crime Characteristics, Not Offender Demographics, Drive Evaluations of Judges' Warmth and Competence

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Siuoneh Didarloo

Graduate Student | University of California, Davis

Authors

Donna Shestowsky

[45] Overly Pessimistic in the East and West: Evidence for miscalibrated expectations about deep and shallow conversation in the U.S. and China

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicholas DiMaggio

University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Nicholas Epley, Thomas Talhelm, Liqing Wei

[46] Unsolicited Help and Face Threat: When and How Coworker Help Undermines Reciprocity

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Chenqi Gao

PhD student | Rutgers University

Authors

Oliver Sheldon

[47] Distrust, Deliberation, and Distress: A Dual-Process Account of Cynicism, Skepticism, and Stress

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Josh Gordon

Doctoral Student | University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Authors

Doug Markant

[48] Testing the Social Heuristics Hypothesis in Indirect Reciprocity: Limited Evidence from Three Preregistered Experiments

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Juho Halonen

Doctoral Researcher | University of Helsinki

Authors

Michael Laakasuo, Marja-Liisa Halko

[49] Group size, trust, and estimation of negative altruism evaluation

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Mizuho Harada

Graduate student | Nagoya University

Authors

Ryota Takano, Shinji Yamagata, Tasuku Igarashi

[50] Repeatedly Soliciting Hedonic Reactions Exacerbates Hedonic Adaptation

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephanie Hong

University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Ed O'Brien

[51] When Choosing Pricier Experiences for Quality Time Backfires

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Huang, Wash U

Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Elanor Williams

[52] Moderation in moderation? Intuitions about content moderation are misaligned with effective practices for reducing the spread of conspiracy beliefs.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Madeline Jalbert

Postdoctoral Scholar | University of Washington

Authors

Morgan Wack

[53] Difficult Conversations as Self-Regulatory Conflicts

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yena Kim

Behavioral Science PhD Student | The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Emma Levine, Laura Wallace, T. Bradford Bitterly

[54] Decisions among shifting sets of alternatives

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Peter Kvam

Assistant Professor | Ohio State University

Authors

Konstantina Sokratous, Anderson Fitch, Madison Dismuke

[55] When Advancement Feels Impossible: Socioeconomic Constraints and Quiet Quitting

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yijun Lin

Visiting Lecturer | New York University

Authors

Gabriele Oettingen, Rebecca Ponce de Leon, Songsong Huang, Alice Yin

[56] Self-nudges in the classroom

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Xingyu (Shirley) Liu
Psychology PhD | UCSD

Authors

Celeste Pilegard, Craig McKenzie

[57] Framing AI as a Work Partner Distorts People's Judgments of Their Own Understanding.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Roya Mohammadsadegh
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari

[58] Categorical Encoding Disrupts Probability Learning

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jay Naborn
Washington University in St Louis

Authors

Jonathan E. Bogard, Natalia Karelaia

[59] How do people approach decisions that help some but hurt others?

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yair Nahari
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Ilan Yaniv, Shoham Choshen-Hillel

[60] Let me tell you "I don't know": a new perspective on the continued influence effect

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Devora Newman
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Authors

Ruth Mayo

[61] Anticipating Third-Party Discrimination Causes Discrimination

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicholas Owsley
PhD Student | University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

[62] You Say You've Been There, But Have You? Sharing Back About Difficult Experiences

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Brendan Pagan
PhD Student | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Sydney Scott, Nora Williams

[63] The Marketization of Help: How Paid Services Reduce Informal Help-Seeking

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathaniel Posner
Columbia University

Authors

Vicki Morwitz

[64] The Role of Individual Differences in a Change Detection Task

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Lynneatte Quenin
PhD Student | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Leaf Van Boven, Abayomi Oladejo, Siddharth Bhandari Bhandari, Matthew Morris, Matthew Hallowell

[65] “Nexari”: Tapping into the Human-AI relationship

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Khusbu Rahman
PhD student and Graduate Assistant | Southern Illinois University

Authors

Sevincgul Ulu

[66] Social and Delay Discounting: Choosing For Yourself and Others, Now and Later

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Vasily Safin
Visiting Assistant Professor | Reed College

[67] Affect Motivated Cognition about a Low-Value Solution

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Silverstein
Post-Doc | University of Michigan

Authors

Ellen Peters

[68] Barriers to evidence adoption: a conjoint analysis of policymakers' preferences for evidence dimensions

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Max Spohn
PhD Candidate in Public Policy | Harvard Kennedy School

Authors

Elizabeth Linos

[69] Young Children’s Reasoning Under Uncertainty

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessa Stegall
Duke University

Authors

Tamar Kushnir, Emma Xiong

[70] System 3 Thinking: A Conceptual Expansion of the Dual Process Model of Decision-Making

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Milena Stepanova

Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant | University of Michigan

[71] Evaluate your own performance, but be accountable.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Tong Suo

PhD student | University of Michigan

Authors

David Dunning

[72] Reputational pressures can fuel intentional decision-making errors that undermine de-biasing training

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Dilan Tulan

PhD Student | Harvard University Kennedy School of Government

Authors

Charles Dorison

[73] Attribution Frame Effects on Moral Evaluations of Student-AI Collaborations

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



John Walkiewicz

Graduate Student | California State University, Northridge

Authors

Abraham Rutchick

[74] On Consumers' Reactions to Tariffs

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Will Wu

University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Rodrigo Dias

[75] Individual Differences in the Utilization of Cues in Truth Judgments of Political News

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Fabian Wurzinger

PhD Student | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Bertram Gawronski, Nyx Ng, Lea Nahon

[76] Truth Discernment in Conspiracy Theories

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sinem Yilmaz

Graduate Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Tomas Stahl

[77] Misalignment between real and predicted efficacy of two approaches to complex evaluations

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

***POSTER**

Speaker



Xingruo Zhang
Cornell University

Authors

Sean Fath, Richard Larrick

[78] People impose a trade-off on physical and mental skills needed for task performance

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

***POSTER**

Speaker



Xiuyuan Flora Zhang
Brown University

Authors

David Levari

Economic Inequality and Social Class Preconference

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: E352, Level 3

The preconference on Economic Inequality and Social Class is back!

Join us for a long-awaited reconvening of researchers looking at psychological questions relating to social class and inequalities in income/wealth in their social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions. This preconference will feature a keynote address, two panels (one on social class and one on economic inequality), and early career flash talks (/data blitzes), with time for discussion and networking across established and early career researchers.

Come along to consider how social psychology can shed light on the core of group-based inequality: who has what in society

***PRECON (IN-PERSON)**

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall prior to the preconference starting at 1:00pm. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Opening Remarks

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM

Speaker



Jennifer Sheehy-Skeffington
Associate Professor | NYU Abu Dhabi + London School of Economics

Keynote: A Functional Approach to the Psychology of Inequality

1:05 PM – 1:35 PM

Inequality is a defining challenge of societies across history, and psychology research can support understanding of its persistence and impacts. In this talk, we advance scholarship by understanding inequality in terms of psychology's function in producing structures of domination or promoting resistance to those structures, rather than situating inequality as caused by deficits in individual behavior and psychology. I review scholarship on domination and resistance that highlights the utility of this functional lens, as well as its potential to advance understanding of inequality. I then provide four steps that researchers can take to study inequality from a functional lens: questioning causal assumptions of existing psychological models that focus on deficit-based mental states; studying impacts of inequality rather than intentions of actors in unequal settings; embracing immersive methods and practices that engage with the complexity of structural inequality; and applying research that uses cross-level analytic techniques to examine relationships between individual psychology and societal structures.

***INDIVIDUAL PRES.**

Speaker



Michael Kraus
Professor | Northwestern University

Refining Social Class Psychological Models: Evidence from a Large-Scale Study

1:35 PM – 1:50 PM

In a preregistered, large-scale replication across four countries (USA, France, Switzerland, India; $N = 33,536$), we re-examined 35 central hypotheses about the effects of social class spanning the self, relationships, cognition, emotion, social behavior, and decision-making. Results indicated that about 50% of effects proved robust. Conclusions were broadly consistent across social-class measures and across countries. We identified that hypotheses grounded in proximal features of social-class contexts—(1) constraints, (2) uncertainty, and (3) status asymmetries—tended to be supported, whereas hypotheses based on a distinction between a more general “self- versus other-” psychological orientation were not as well supported. Instead, it seems that individuals from higher social classes have enough resources to be oriented toward both the self and others.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Anatolia Batruch
University Of Lausanne

Authors

Anatolia Batruch, Nicolas Sommet, Frédérique Autin

Social Class-Based Interactions: Insights from Physiology and Behavior

1:50 PM – 2:05 PM

Although everyday contexts offer opportunities for contact across socioeconomic status (SES) lines, little is known about how such interactions may unfold naturally. We examined social attunement in dyadic conversations between unacquainted adults drawn from a U.S. community sample ($N = 130$ dyads) who were paired with either similar- or different-SES partners. Attunement was indexed using physiological linkage—how strongly one’s moment-to-moment physiological changes is predicted by the partner’s physiological changes over time. Across interaction types, lower-SES individuals exhibited stronger physiological linkage, suggesting heightened attunement to partners across SES. Participants also appeared more comfortable when interacting with lower-SES partners, though SES was unrelated to dominance during conversation. Despite these real-time patterns, post-interaction ratings reflected a consistent preference for similar- over different-SES partners. Together, these results indicate that lower-SES individuals may engage more other-focused processes during social interactions, even as broader in-group preference persists.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Jacinth Tan
Associate Professor of Psychology | Singapore Management University

Authors

Wendy Berry Mendes, Tessa West

Reasoning about social relationships reduces class differences in tests of cognitive aptitude

2:05 PM – 2:20 PM

We argue that reasoning tests often privilege abstract styles of reasoning as a “neutral” benchmark and provide a poor match to social-cognitive competencies promoted in working-class contexts. We evaluate this hypothesis in archival data from an international study of mathematical aptitude ($N = 158,216$), a pre-registered nationally-representative experiment on logical deduction ($N = 781$), and an integrative data analysis (IDA) combining data from Study 2 with three supplemental studies ($N = 2,269$). In Study 1, reasoning items higher in social-relational content (i.e., mentions of people) yielded smaller class-based performance gaps among eighth-grade students from 46 countries. Study 2 and the IDA experimentally replicate and extend these findings, demonstrating that reframing an abstract reasoning task to recruit social-cognitive skills reduces class-based performance differences among adults. Our results support a cultural-psychological account of reasoning performance and highlight inclusive approaches to testing as a way to attenuate class-based performance gaps.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Nick Fendinger
Graduate Student | New York University

Authors

Eric Knowles, Andrea Dittmann

How Children’s Social Class Contexts Predict Their Imagined (and Actual) Futures

2:20 PM – 2:35 PM

Children use school as a way to imagine and strive toward their futures. We analyzed thousands of essays written by children in Britain in the late 1960s about what their lives would be like when they were adults. We used a bottom-up approach to explore naturally occurring topics in these essays, and tested how these topics varied with children’s social class context and their adult outcomes. Higher education was the most prevalent topic in these children’s essays, particularly among children whose fathers—and maternal grandfathers—had higher status occupations. These same children were also especially likely to write about teaching, medicine and the military. Children whose fathers and maternal grandfathers had lower status occupations were especially likely to write about making money, but also about family and daily responsibilities. Moreover, children who wrote more about higher education and less about money-making tended to achieve education, status and income, even controlling for their family backgrounds.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Kristin Laurin
Professor | University of British Columbia

Authors

Holly Engstrom, Karyn Huang (Muhua)

Group Discussion

2:35 PM – 2:45 PM

Speaker



Sébastien Goudeau
Professor | CNRS/Univ. Poitiers

Coffee Break

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Cumulative Inequality Aversion

3:00 PM – 3:05 PM

People seem to both prefer and to be averse to income inequality. Surveys reveal a preference for some inequality (e.g., Ariely & Norton, 2011), while lab experiments show aversion to unequal outcomes (e.g., Shaw & Olson, 2012). Scholars argue that people care less about inequality itself and more about whether they perceive it as fair (Starmans et al., 2017). Because most people view meritocracy as fair, they tend to accept inequality that results from a merit-based process as also fair (Tyler, 2011). Yet real-world advantages accumulate across stages—school quality, university prestige, and job placement, amplifying early advantages. We hypothesized that highlighting this cumulative nature of the inequality generating process would reduce the perceived fairness of meritocracy. In a pre-registered study ($N = 1,109$), we found that participants rated the fairness of meritocratic processes ($\beta = -0.34$, $p < .001$) and their unequal outcomes ($\beta = -0.49$, $p < .001$) as significantly less fair when cumulative inequality was made explicit. These findings reveal what we call "cumulative inequality aversion": people reject meritocratic inequality once they see how advantages stack over time.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Daniela Goya-Tocchetto
Assistant Professor | University at Buffalo

Authors

Wenzhuo Xu, David Munguia

(Under)estimating Unearned Advantage and Disadvantage: Insights From a Gamified Experiment

3:05 PM – 3:10 PM

The absence of clear metrics to disentangle merit from privilege in real-world contexts (e.g., college admissions) makes it easy for dominant groups to deny its existence. We address this with a field experiment, by directly manipulating a quantifiable, unearned dis/advantage, devoid of social identity confounds: participants were randomly assigned to a closer (advantage) vs farther (disadvantage) starting line, in a solo game of cornhole. Successful throws earned raffle tickets for a monetary prize, and could be kept/donated. Our data shows that while individuals can acknowledge their privilege, they fail to translate its impact on actual outcomes: disadvantaged participants accurately guessed how well they'd perform from the closer line, but advantaged participants undermined the impact of disadvantage by overestimating their performance from the farther line. Lastly, despite (unfairly) earning more, advantaged participants donated similarly to disadvantaged ones, and favored inequality-blind (vs redistributive) approaches. Thus, even in a low-stakes game where the advantage was clearly visible and illegitimate, individuals failed to understand and correct for their privilege.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ishita Singhal
UC Irvine

Authors

Paul Piff

Social-Class Selective Learning Reinforces Pro-Upper-Class

3:10 PM – 3:15 PM

Examining what fuels pro-upper-class bias, we identified a novel mechanism: social-class selective learning. Using a reinforcement learning model, across four studies ($N = 966$), we found that people learn better about positive features of upper- [vs. lower-] class targets by focusing more on the dimensions favoring upper-class targets. Specifically, when upper- and lower-class targets produce the same rewards but upper-class targets are more generous, participants learned better about their generosity [vs. reward]; when generosity levels are equal across all targets, but upper-class targets produce greater rewards, they learned better about their reward [vs. generosity]. Learning of more generous upper- [vs. lower-] class targets led them to show greater explicit and implicit pro-upper-class bias, as well as more lenient punishment for other upper- [vs. lower-] class offenders. This suggests that people readily generalized the learned positive trait from the specific upper-class targets to other upper-class members, benefitting them in social and moral domains. This did not occur for the lower class, suggesting social-class selective learning reinforces the pro-upper-class bias.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jinny Han
Ph.D student | University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

BoKyung Park, Leor Hackel

Social Mobility Beliefs Predict Competence Stereotype Gap Between Classes

3:15 PM – 3:20 PM

The poor are stereotyped as less competent than the rich. This competence gap may reflect attributions of class disparities to inherent ability differences. Beliefs about social mobility—the perceived likelihood of moving up or down society—may shape this gap. When mobility is seen as high, people may be more likely to attribute class differences to dispositional causes, thereby stereotyping the poor as less competent and the rich as more competent. To test this, two experiments were conducted with a Singapore undergraduate sample (n = 260) and an online UK sample (n = 201). Mobility beliefs were manipulated by randomly assigning participants to high or low mobility information. Participants then made attributions of social class and rated rich and poor on competence. Across experiments, high mobility information increased internal attributions for both targets, but only external attributions of rich targets. Moreover, high mobility reduced competence ratings of poor targets as compared to low mobility, and this was mediated by higher internal attributions. As people tend to overestimate mobility, correcting such beliefs may lessen competence stereotypes of the poor.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Gregory Tan

Post Graduate Student | Singapore Management University

Authors

Jacinth Tan

How to Make Participants Feel Richer (But Not Poorer)

3:20 PM – 3:25 PM

Across two preregistered studies and 936 American adults, we replicated Studies 1 and 2 from Brown-Iannuzzi et al. (2015), and found that the false feedback manipulation used (the Comparative Discretionary Income (CDI) Index) can elevate people's feelings of subjective socioeconomic status (SSES); in other words, we made people feel wealthier, and found this effect to be directional, as we were not able to make people feel poorer. Our work demonstrates that the false feedback procedure seen here is a tool that can be used to inflate how a person feels about their own (subjective) socioeconomic status, and thus provide a dependable way to investigate the causal effects of SSES. While it was important for us to directly replicate the original studies, a limitation of our work was that we were not able to tease apart the pieces of the false feedback manipulation package, to see which elements may contribute more, less, or not at all to the manipulation's effect.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Samantha James-Brown

Graduate Student | Central Connecticut State University

Authors

John Protzko, Lily Green

Burdened Bonds - First-Generation Students' Cultural Mismatch Experiences Strain Their Relationships to Their Parents

3:25 PM – 3:30 PM

First-generation students commonly experience a sense of being caught between “two worlds”: their social background and academia. Such mismatch experiences are known to contribute to academic inequalities. Here, we show they can also cause inequalities at home, burdening parental relationships. Studies 1-2 (N=354, 274) show that first-generation students' heightened mismatch experiences predict lower parental relationship quality, resulting in a generation-status-gap with first-generation students reporting lower relationship quality. Using qualitative methods, Study 2 also sheds light on the extent to which mismatch experienced at home may cause friction with parents. Analyses highlight a feeling of “not being understood by parents”. Experimental Study 3 (N=282) focused on mismatch experienced at university. Results showed that the activation of such a mismatch (e.g., feeling like one was not raised with skills expected at university) led students to feel less close to their parents – an effect that was mediated by worsened feelings about students' upbringing.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Christina Bauer

Dr. | University of Vienna

Forecasting Love Based on Class: Social-Class Stereotypes Within Romantic Contexts

3:30 PM – 3:35 PM

How do beliefs about romantic happiness vary by social class? This study examined people's stereotypes about how social class and gender shape judgments of who makes whom happiest in romantic relationships. Participants (N = 473; 249 from the United States and 224 from South Korea) were randomly assigned to view a male or female target described as low-, middle-, or high-class. They then indicated the expected social class of the partner who would make the target happiest. Results revealed strong assortative-matching stereotypes: people believed that relationship where the couple has similar social standing as happier than those with class disparities. However, this belief varied by both social class and gender. Specifically, high-status woman was expected to pair with equally high-status partners, whereas high-status man was considered acceptable with lower-status partners. Low-status woman was also more likely to be predicted to “marry up” than low-status man. These findings highlight the intersection of social class and gender stereotypes in lay theories of romantic happiness.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sooyeon Park

Doctoral Student | University of Florida

Authors

Gregory Webster, Zhongchi Li, Yeji Im, Sun Park

Differential Value-Wellness Associations in the Unequal World: Social-Focused Values for the Privileged, Personal- Focused Values for the Disadvantaged

3:35 PM – 3:40 PM

Amid increasing global inequality and diverse value systems, this study examined how economic resources at both individual and country levels moderate the associations between values and wellness (i.e., subjective well-being and health). Using data from the World Values Survey across 75 countries, the findings challenged the prevailing assumption that a social focus is inherently more adaptive for the economically disadvantaged. Instead, results suggested that personal-focused values were more advantageous in low (vs. high)-resource contexts. At the country level, the negative association between self- enhancement and wellness was attenuated or reversed in lower HDI countries. At the individual level, self-enhancement and openness to change were more positively—or less negatively—associated with wellness among lower-class individuals, while self-transcendence and conservation were more strongly associated with wellness among higher-class individuals. These findings highlight the context-dependent nature of value-wellness relationships and the social responsibility of those from more affluent backgrounds.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sijia Chen

Ph.D. Candidate | City University of Hong Kong

Authors

Shengquan Ye, Zewei Ma

Buffer Time

3:40 PM – 3:45 PM

Core Cognition and Motives for Social Hierarchy among Preverbal Infants and Preschoolers and Their Relation to Political Ideology

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Navigating the tension between social hierarchy and equality forms an enduring challenge of human societies and politics, suggesting that core cognition and motives for (learning) navigating hierarchical/egalitarian ecologies might have evolved. Indeed, findings from several labs over the last 1,5 decade confirm that preverbal infants and toddlers represent social hierarchy and equality while adult motives for between-group hierarchy versus equality (i.e., Social Dominance Orientation, SDO) reflect both ecological and heritable genetic influences, forming a behavioural syndrome with other psychological phenomena that serve to monopolize in-group territory and resources. Our most recent evidence demonstrates that preverbal infants, too, ascribe group dominance motives to minimal novel agents, and that three-year-old boys (but not girls) themselves prefer a member from the more, rather than less, formidable group. These gendered coalitional formidability motives mirror those found in SDO across cultures. In fact, adult males also prefer the larger group and its members when using equivalent minimal 'preschool' stimuli, while individual differences in such preferences for the largest group relate systematically to SDO, RWA, and key political attitudes such as support for social welfare and immigrant persecution. Together this empirical record converges to suggest that rich and nuanced core cognition and motives for social hierarchy (versus equality) may form an intuitive social grammar for the negotiation of rights and resources that is political ideology and psychology.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Lotte Thomsen

Professor | University of Oslo, Aarhus University

How Children Explain Inequality -- and Why It Matters for Their Responses to Economic Gaps

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Children routinely encounter stark economic inequalities, but how do they explain these gaps -- and do their explanations shape what they think should be done (if anything)? I will present two preregistered meta-analyses synthesizing research on children's explanations for inequality and their downstream attitudes. The first meta-analysis pooled 74 effect sizes from 30 papers (N = 13,059, ages 4–17), revealing a striking developmental pattern: Younger children strongly favored inherent explanations (e.g., ability, effort), whereas older children increasingly invoked extrinsic, structural factors (e.g., unequal opportunities). The second meta-analysis pooled 50 effect sizes from 21 papers (N = 10,785), showing that extrinsic explanations reliably predicted more egalitarian responses -- seeing inequality as unfair, supporting redistribution, and choosing to rectify unequal distributions (d = 0.33). I will discuss implications for fostering structural understandings of inequality without undermining children's sense of agency.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Andrei Cimpian

Professor | New York University

Authors

Julia Spielmann, Lewis Doyle, Sébastien Goudeau

Psychology of the Centaur State: How Inequality Structures Neoliberal Experience

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Despite inequality skyrocketing under neoliberalism, psychological research has tended to conceptualize its psychological impact as uniform. In contrast, Loïc Wacquant describes neoliberalism as a centaur "which presents radically different faces at the two ends of the social hierarchy: a comely and caring visage toward the middle and upper classes, and a fearsome and frowning mug toward the lower class". We use this concept of the centaur state to trace the bifurcated nature of psychological experiences under neoliberalism across two domains: mental health and criminal justice. In multiple empirical studies, we find that the relationships between neoliberalism (measured as both ideology and structure) and the outcomes of interest (i.e., mental health; attitudes toward police) are moderated by race and economic precarity. The implications for the psychological study of neoliberalism and inequality are discussed.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Tyler Jimenez

Assistant Professor | University of Arizona

Megastudy Testing 20 Treatments to Increase Support for Wealth Redistribution

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Economic inequality in the US has reached unprecedented levels and poses substantial negative consequences for societies and individual behavior, including reduced economic mobility and growth and democratic erosion. Yet public support for policies aimed at redistributing wealth remains low. This project investigates whether behavioral science interventions can increase support for redistribution. Using a megastudy design, we tested 20 interventions in a nationally representative U.S. sample (N = 30,356), with a follow-up survey 3 weeks later (N = 24,094) to assess durability. Our outcomes focus on attitudes toward general redistribution and a wealth tax targeting the top 0.1%. Many interventions increased support. The most effective strategies visualize inequality, highlight past redistributive policies, or emphasize elite cues, with similar patterns for wealth tax support and added effects from deservingness heuristics. Although treatment effects decline over time, many remain significant and meaningful, showing that redistributive preferences are elastic and responsive to behavioral interventions.

*INDIVIDUAL PRES.

Speaker



Christian Elbaek

Assistant Professor | Aarhus University

Authors

Pia Dietze, Paul Piff, Nick Buttrick, Nina Mazar, Janis H. Zickfeld, Mathilde H. Tønnesen, Morten N. Støstad, Kris-Stella Trump, Juan Diego García-Castro, Melissa Sands, Rosa Rodríguez- Bailon, Valerio Capraro, Keith Payne, Laila Nockur, Kelly Kirkland, Kajsa Hansson, Sarah Zaccagni, Margaux Wienk, Yngwie Nielsen, Tobias Otterbring, Stephanie Tepper, Barnabas Szasz, Wilson Merrell, Claudia Cival, Efraín García-Sánchez, Thais Cardarelli, Jennifer Sheehy-Skeffington, Lucas Chancel, Jiaying Zhao, Yuchen Huang, Zoe Rahwan, Daniele Nosenzo, Giulia Priolo, Stuart Soroka, Crystal Hall, Miceal Canavan, Andrea Martinangeli, Carsten Jensen, Karolina Ścigala, Ania Jaroszewicz, Daniel Nettle, Caroline Roux, Sergio Pirla, Jolanda Jetten, Daniela Goya-Tocchetto, Gordon Brown, Britt Hadar, Darius-Aurel Frank, Terence Dores Cruz, Stefan Pfattheicher, Panagiotis Mitkidis

Group Discussion

4:45 PM – 4:55 PM

Speaker



Bruno Gabriel Salvador Casara

New York University Abu Dhabi

Closing Remarks

4:55 PM – 5:00 PM

Speaker



Jennifer Sheehy-Skeffington

Associate Professor | NYU Abu Dhabi + London School of Economics

Social Cognition Preconference

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: E353B, Level 3

The Social Cognition Preconference, sponsored by the International Social Cognition Network (ISCON), spotlights emerging research that uses the methods and theories of social cognition to address diverse psychological phenomena. This year, the program highlights social cognition from basic mechanisms to applications. Our program features a range of cutting-edge research from several invited speakers, a distinguished keynote speaker (Dr. Serena Chen), ISCON best paper and early career award winners, and a graduate student poster session.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall prior to the preconference starting at 1:00pm. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Welcome & Introduction

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Session 1

1:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Speaker



Evava Pietri

Associate Professor | University of Colorado, Boulder

Session 2

1:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Speaker



Nicholas Alt

Assistant Professor | Occidental College

Session 3

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM

Speaker



Pamela Smith

professor of management | University of California, San Diego

Session 4

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Speaker



Franki Kung

Associate Professor | Purdue University

Session 5

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM

Speaker



Morgan Jerald

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Session 6

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Speaker



Seanna Leath

Assistant Professor | Washington University in St. Louis

[121] Generalization of rejection and acceptance in social networks

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yi Zhang

Graduate Student | University of Southern California

[122] They Don't Deserve It: A Cultural Reinterpretation of Relative Deprivation in Korea

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sooyeon Park

Doctoral Student | University of Florida

Authors

Yeji Im

[123] Who Gets to Be Brilliant? Effects of Counterevidence on Implicit and Explicit Judgments of Brilliance for Women and Men

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ming Ma

Graduate Student | Yale University

[124] Reconceptualizing regional prejudice: Extremism and inequality

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



K. Colin Li

Doctoral Researcher | University of Toronto

[125] Low Relational Mobility Redirects the Focus of Exploration

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Richard Homenya

Graduate Student | University of Chicago

[126] Under the Veil of Tolerance: A Justification–Suppression Approach to Anti-Islamic Implicit Bias in Reaction to Terrorist Attacks

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Armand Chatard

[127] The Interpersonal Invisibility Measure: Development and Validation

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elia Q. Y. Lam

Researcher PhD Student | University of Toronto

[128] Examining the Satisfaction of the Truth Need: An Investigation Based on Regulatory Effectiveness Theory

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Hiroki Takehashi

associate professor | Nara Women's University

[129] State Authenticity and Approach–Avoidance Intentions: Examining the Moderating Role of Openness

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Frankie Yaying Zhong

Stanford University

[130] Shared Reality Mediates the Effect of Audience Group Membership on Storyteller's Imagery Perspective

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Chanell Kann

PhD Student | Ohio State University

[131] Regional differences in discrimination experiences

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Suliteanu

McGill University

[132] Real-Life Self Redemption Narratives From Wrongdoers

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Yi Voon Lim

Post-baccalaureate Lab Manager | Yale University

[133] Valence Weighting Bias and Social Safety

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Angela Su

Graduate Student | The Ohio State University

[134] How Stable are Evaluations of Status Across Social Interactions?

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Wicia Fang
Cornell University

[135] ECONOMIC INEQUALITY CAUSES AN INCREASED PREFERENCE TO MAKE UPWARD SOCIAL COMPARISONS

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jason Hannay
Assistant Professor | University of South Carolina Upstate

[136] Reward Learning Exerts Broad Positivity in Impressions and Social Choice

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Kira Harris
Student | University of Southern California

[137] Cultural Mismatch and Psychological Well-Being Among Students of Color at a Minority-Serving Institution

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elisabeth (Liz) Noland
University of Illinois Chicago

[138] The impact of prototypicality on perceptions of racial and gender diversity

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Gretchen Nihill
Graduate Research Assistant | University of Oregon

[139] A functional framework of Asian American racial ingroups

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Zi Ting You
Researcher PHD Student | University of Toronto

[140] Emotions Used Differently to Infer Facial Trustworthiness Across Racial Groups

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Neelamberi Klein
Graduate Student | Indiana University Bloomington

[141] When We See It the Same: How Shared Reality With Experts May Mitigate Motivated Forgetting of One's Own Lies

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Gerrit Lamers
Student | University of Muenster

[142] Socioeconomic Status and Attributional Biases in Explaining Success and Failure

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



A.J. Ralston

UNDERGRAD RESEARCHER | Illinois State University

Authors

Kelly Clemens, Calvin Putterlik, A.J. Ralston

[143] Compliance Behaviour to Preventive Measures During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sahar Ramazan Ali

McGill University

[144] Implicit Theories of Intelligence and Opportunity: Distinct Meaning Systems in Goal Pursuit

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nozomi Tasaki

Master's Student | Nara Women's University

[145] Appearance, Ethnicity, and Racial Solidarity Expectations Among Black Women

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nadia Floyd

Graduate Student | University of Colorado, Boulder

[146] How social categorisation shapes grading

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rose Lombardo

Student | University College London

[147] Children with Malleable Theories of Prejudice are More Likely to Confront Gender Bias Within Peer Groups

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Marley Forbes

University of Maryland, College Park

[148] Person Perception From the Extrapersonal

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



McLean Morgan

PHD Student | University of Toronto

[149] How trait impressions of faces shape subsequent mental state inferences

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Chujun Lin

Assistant Professor | Columbia University

[150] Suprahumanization: When Not Human Means More Than Human

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Asteya Percaya

PhD Student | The New School

[151] Social Cognition and Self-Processes: A Study of Intergroup Attribution and Self-Motives

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Poonam Yadav

PhD Scholar | JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI, INDIA

[152] The Hyper-Typicality Effect: Category Membership Impacts Notions of Typicality

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Anjana Lakshmi

PHD Student | University of Chicago

[153] Shades of Persuasion: Do race or skin tone influence the effectiveness of persuasive appeals?

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jordan Daley

Postdoc | New York University

[154] Police-Threat Associations and Perceptions of Aggression During Arrests are Mutually Reinforcing

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Vincenzo Olivett

Graduate Student | Florida State University

[155] Cognitive Adaptations to Context Diversity: Does Exposure to Neighborhood Racial Diversity Predict Other Implicit Attitudes?

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Mehrgol Tiv

Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh

[156] Ability, Assertiveness, Morality, and Friendliness? A Retrospective Validation of the Facet Model of Social Evaluation

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Palin Chawinwit

[157] Illusion of Control Revisited: Missing the Forest for the Trees

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Xiao Ma

Postbac Research Associate | Yale School of Medicine

[158] Characterizing Age-Related Differences in Responses to Social Reward and Risk for Financial Exploitation

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Ryan Gephart
Temple University

[159] Testing the Social Heuristics Hypothesis in Indirect Reciprocity: Limited Evidence from Three Preregistered Experiments

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Juho Halonen
Doctoral Researcher | University of Helsinki

[160] Characterizing First Impressions of East and South Asian Faces

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Maya Rao
UNCG

ISCON Best Paper Award

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Speaker



David Schultner

ISCON Early Career Award

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Speaker



April Bailey
Lecturer (Assistant Prof) | University of Edinburgh

Keynote

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM

Speaker



Serena Chen
Professor | UC Berkeley

Gender Preconference

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: E353C, Level 3

The Gender Preconference brings together emerging and classic approaches to the social psychology of gender. Presentation formats include invited talks, data blitzes, and posters. This year's three sessions will focus on (1) masculinity and guns, (2) gender identity and personal expression across time, and (3) the action of (de)gendering—"gender as a verb." Weaving through these sessions, additional themes of intersectionality and gender expansive gender identities will be in focus. Five-minute data blitz talks will highlight innovative work on "hot topics" of interest.

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall prior to the preconference starting at 1:00pm. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Welcome & Introductions

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM

Speakers



April Bailey

Lecturer (Assistant Prof) | University of Edinburgh



Adriana Germano

Assistant Professor | Yale University



Morgan Jerald

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Gender Blitz Talks

1:05 PM – 1:35 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Announcing Student Award Winners

1:05 PM – 1:10 PM

Speakers



April Bailey

Lecturer (Assistant Prof) | University of Edinburgh



Adriana Germano

Assistant Professor | Yale University



Morgan Jerald

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Awardee Blitz Talk 1

1:10 PM – 1:15 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Awardee Blitz Talk 2

1:15 PM – 1:20 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Threatened Restrictions: The Role of Symbolic and Realistic Threat in Anti-Transgender Legislation Support

1:20 PM – 1:25 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Rebecca Totton

Assistant Professor | Oberlin College

Expectancy Violation Theory Predicts Rewards, But Not Penalties, for Strong Violations of Gender Norms

1:25 PM – 1:30 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Hannah Eareckson

PhD Candidate | New York University

The Pain Gap: Gender Disparities in Pain Treatment

1:30 PM – 1:35 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Shoham Choshen-Hillel

Associate professor, Vice dean for teaching and learning | The Hebrew University Business School and the Federmann Center f...

Break and Poster Session

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

[201] The Impact of Prototypicality on Perceptions of Racial and Gender Diversity

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Gretchen Nihill

Graduate Research Assistant | University of Oregon

Authors

Chanel Meyers

[202] Asymmetries in Felt Understanding: An Intersectional Analysis of Cross-Race and Cross-Gender Interactions

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Juliane Schittek

Doctoral Student | Imperial College Business School

Authors

Lara Kroencke, Mitja Back, Sanaz Talaifar

[203] Gender Bias in Reactions to Mild Moral Transgressions: The Role of Personal Benefit

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Miklasova

PhD Student | New York University

Authors

Julia Spielmann, Andrea Vial

[204] Barriers in the Binary: Gender Nonconforming Experiences in Higher Education

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Lily McConkey

Radford University

Authors

Teresa Ristow, Lindsay Semprevivo

[205] Developing a Comprehensive Continuous Measure of Gender Experiences Beyond the Binary Using Mixed Methods

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Brooke Kadel

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Jaime Derringer, Andrew Kirks-Cler, Briana Kunstman

[206] From Caller to Suspect: The Gendered Dynamics of Wrongful Conviction Among Exonerees Who Call 911

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristen Gittings

Graduate Student | Cornell University

Authors

Megan Lawrence, Jessica Salerno, Sadie Mank, Sofia Principe, Nicholas Duran

[207] Beliefs About the Precarity of Manhood and Violence Against Women: A Cross-Cultural Exploration

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca Upton

Graduate Student | University of South Florida

Authors

Joseph Vandellos, Rj Kubicki, Shera Malayeri

[208] Gendered Physical Appearance and Exclusion From Women's Sports

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Natalie Wittlin

Assistant Professor | Bard College

Authors

Erin Kelly, Heejoo Chung, Thekla Morgenroth

[209] The Role of Perceived Goal Relevance in Leadership Contexts

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aanchal Setia

Graduate Student Researcher | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Bethany Lassetter

[210] Gay and Sexist?: Women's Perceptions of Sexualizing Comments From Gay Men

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Katsumi Yamaguchi-Pedroza

PhD Candidate | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Jude Sullivan, Theresa Vescio

[211] Gender Futures: How Gender/Sex/Ual Minority People Envision Pleasurable Future Gender/Sex Worlds

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Riley Henry

PhD Student | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Will Beischel, Sari van Anders, Samantha Chambers

[212] Are All the Bystanders on Greek Row? Considering Gender, Greek Life Interest, and Gender Beliefs in Predicting Willingness to Intervene in Preventing Sexual Assault

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Broemmer

RA | University of Mississippi

Authors

C. Veronica Smith, Caitlin Shaw

[213] Clicking on Tradition: Femininity Feedback and Interest in the #Tradwife Movement

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew White

Assistant Professor | Ball State University

Authors

Samantha Heiman, Marcella Argüello

[214] Differential Threat Perceptions Toward Transgender and Nonbinary People

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Abigael Click

Graduate Student | UConn

Authors

Thekla Morgenroth

[215] Shifting Cultural Attitudes on Sexual Objectification: Testing an Integrative System Justification Lens

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Alana Graham

Doctoral Student | Western University

Authors

Rachel Calogero

[216] Gender Concepts Vary Not Only in Content, But in Scope

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Leshin

Postdoc | Princeton University

Authors

April Bailey

[217] Leadership Pursuits Shape Facial Impressions of Attractive Women in Hiring

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Chenqi Gao

PhD student | Rutgers University

Authors

Luis Rivera

[218] Context Collapse in Self-Consciousness on Social Media Is Gendered

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Phoebe Loew

Graduate Student | Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology

Authors

Cameron Bunker

[219] A Couple-Based Intervention to Advance Gender Equity in Heteronormative Sexual Scripts: A Novel Framework and Formative Feasibility Trial

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Carly Wolfer

Doctoral Student, Graduate Student Researcher | The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY)

Authors

Cheryl Carmichael

[220] Rationalizing the Gender Orgasm Gap

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Piemonte

Postdoctoral Research Associate | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

[221] Perceptions of People Who Make Intersectional Discrimination Claims

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jeongin Hong

University of South Florida, Tampa

Authors

Jennifer Bosson

[222] Talk Is Cheap: The Impact of (In)Sincere Gender Equality Allyship Cues From Men

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlotte Moser

Assistant Professor | University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Authors

Nyla Branscombe, Gregg Muragishi

[223] Talking Gender: Parental Communication of Gender-Stereotypical Content

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Marta Beneda

Post-doc | New York University Abu Dhabi

Authors

Andrea Vial, Emma Miklasova, Juan Soto

[224] Colorism's Impact on Perceptions of Black Women's Femininity

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jaylene Vázquez

Lab Manager | University of Oregon

Authors

Curtis Phillips

[225] Gender Differences in Adolescents' and Adults' Leadership Interests After Failure

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Anastasiia-Lei Yang

New York University Abu Dhabi

Authors

Andrea Vial, Aashna Poddar, Andrei Cimpian

[226] Whose Computer Science Brilliance Beliefs Matter and For Whom?

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aashna Poddar

PhD Student | New York University

Authors

Bethany Lassetter, Andrei Cimpian, Sophie Arnold, Nathaniel Woznicki, Kenneth Joseph

[227] Emotion Through a Biased Lens: Misgendering and Negativity in Judgments of Transgender Individuals

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Darla Bonagura

Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant | University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Authors

Sarah Ariel Lamer

[228] Publishing Gender Research in High-Status Journals: Experiences and Perceived Barriers

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Kira Means

PhD Candidate | Purdue University

Authors

Thekla Morgenroth

[229] Defining Weaponized Incompetence: A Focus Group Study

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Nina Augustine

Western Washington University

Authors

Adrian Villicana

[230] The Interpersonal Invisibility Measure: Development and Validation

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Elia Q. Y. Lam

Researcher PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Ashna Nagar, Daliah Marei, Rebecca Neel, K. Colin Li

[231] Why Does Mom Do All the Laundry?: Early Explanations for Gender Disparities in Domestic Work

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca Peretz-Lange

Vassar College

Authors

Jane Singman

[232] Stereotype-Driven Perceptual Cue Weighting Explains Why Dominance Reduces Women's Perceived Trustworthiness

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Youngki Hong
Assistant Professor | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Brandon Cohen

[233] The Primacy and Persistence of Gender in Advertising, Marketing and AI

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Sylvie Borau
Associate Professor | TBS Education

[234] Does Feedback Enhance Diversity in Selection Decisions?

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Jose Cervantez
The University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School

[235] Structural Support Matters: A Multilevel Model of Sexism, State Equality, and Mental Health

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Aleksandra Rusowicz
Graduate Student | University of Connecticut

Authors

Natalie Shook

[236] When Meritocracy Masks Inequality: How Meritocratic Beliefs and Perceived Gender Discrimination in Male-Dominated Disciplines Shape Gender Collective Action

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniela Fernández
Postdoctoral Associate | University of Virginia

Authors

Summer Bedford, Christopher Begeny

[237] Stereotypes of Brilliance: Unpacking Their Links With Gender Presentation and Gender Identity

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

*POSTER

Speaker



Molly Tallberg
Graduate Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Lin Bian, Vanessa Lazaro

Symposium 1: The Action of (De)gendering

2:30 PM – 3:20 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Symposium 1: Speaker 1

2:30 PM – 2:55 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Sa-kiera Hudson
Assistant Professor | University of California Berkeley Haas School of Business

Symposium 1: Speaker 2

2:55 PM – 3:20 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Ashley Martin

Assistant Professor | Stanford Univ.

Symposium 2: Gender Identity and Personal Expression Across Time

3:20 PM – 4:10 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Symposium 2: Speaker 1

3:20 PM – 3:45 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Adriene Beltz

Associate Professor of Psychology | University of Michigan

Symposium 2: Speaker 2

3:45 PM – 4:10 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Will Beischel

Assistant Professor | Loyola University Chicago

Symposium 3: Masculinity and Guns

4:10 PM – 5:00 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Symposium 3: Speaker 1

4:10 PM – 4:35 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Janet Hyde

Professor Emerit of Psychology | Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison

Symposium 3: Speaker 2

4:35 PM – 5:00 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Gandalf Nicolas

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Rutgers University - New Brunswick

Personality Science Preconference

12:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: E270, Level 2

The Personality Science Preconference showcases new directions in personality and individual differences research across diverse topics, methodologies, and samples. Programming will include traditional symposia, an early career data blitz, a poster session, and ample opportunities for open discussion, encouraging active involvement by all attendees. Given that personality psychology is the study of similarities and differences in individuals' experiences, we will feature programming that intersects with social, cultural, clinical, health, biological, organizational, and community psychology and beyond. Join us!

*PRECON (IN-PERSON)

Lunch

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall prior to the preconference starting at 1:00pm. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oGrilled Chicken Pesto Sandwich: Grilled Chicken Breast, Fresh Mozzarella, Oven Dried Tomato, Arugula, Basil Pesto, Ciabatta Roll

oRoast Turkey Caprese Pasta Salad: Rotini Pasta, Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Mixed Greens, Balsamic Glaze

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap (V): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto, Wrap (limited gluten free wraps available)

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (VG | GF | DF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese (on the side), Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

Welcome and Introduction

1:00 PM – 1:05 PM

Movers and Shakers in Personality Science

1:05 PM – 2:25 PM

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Gabriella Harari

Assistant Professor | Stanford University



Nic Weststrate

University of Illinois Chicago



Eleanor Junkins

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Courtland Hyatt

Assistant Professor | Emory University

Break

2:25 PM – 2:40 PM

Data Blitz

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

*DATA BLITZ

Speakers



Lindsay Ackerman

Graduate Student | Michigan State University



Maggie Clapp Sullivan

Postdoctoral Researcher | Washington University in St. Louis



Naama Dvora Erlich

PhD Student | Ben Gurion University of the Negev



Rowan Kemmerly

PhD Student | Rutgers University



Yuanze Liu

University of Chicago



Elizabeth Long

Postdoctoral scholar | University of California, Davis



Robert Ridder

Baylor University



Sakshi Sahakari

Graduate Student | University of British Columbia



Jinli Wu

PhD Student | Georgetown University



Tianfang Yang

Personality development beyond the Big Five: Humility and Courage across the lifespan

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Personality development research is a thriving field within personality science. However, much of our understanding of these trends (e.g., the maturation principle and the disruption hypothesis) is derived from research on the Big Five traits. In the present study, we provide a fine-grained portrait of age-graded differences in personality traits beyond the Big Five across the lifespan. Specifically, we shed light on year-by-year differences in the development of Humility (Study 1) and Courage (Study 2) with a large-scale cross-sectional dataset ($n=2,025,004$). Employing multigroup confirmatory factor analysis, ANOVAs, and multilevel modeling, we examine mean-score differences in Humility and Courage from age 10 to 70 across the entire sample, and for temporal (e.g., pre-COVID, COVID) and geographical (10 countries across 5 continents, 6 US states) subsamples. Across the two personality traits, we find some convergence in their development (maturation principle) and discrepancies (disruption hypothesis) relative to the Big Five, with greater temporal and cultural variability. These findings call for further efforts to expand the literature beyond common personality taxonomies.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sakshi Sahakari

Graduate Student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Friedrich Gotz

The Genetics of Personality Self-Perception are Biologically Coherent and Related to Positive Life Outcomes

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Self-specific personality variance (SSPV) captures one's personality assessment unique to their perspective which does not overlap with others' assessments of them. Though past research has begun to explore SSPV phenotypically, genetic investigation into SSPV is scarce. Leveraging two large genetic datasets (N = 500,000 .Ài 1,100,000 self-reports, N = 21,986 other reports), we used GenomicSEM to extract an SSPV factor, examine its structural properties, and characterize its nomological network. We found that SSPV was heritable and largely operated through a common latent factor. SSPV was genetically and positively related to a wide range of external subjective (e.g., well-being), objective (e.g., educational attainment), and self-enhancement (e.g., social desirability) outcomes, and was negatively associated with self-deprecation (e.g., low self-esteem). SSPV was also indicative of healthy psychological functioning (e.g., lower risk for psychiatric disorder diagnosis) and positive physical health (e.g., less hospitalization). This work suggests that unique self-perspective is not solely measurement bias to be removed, but a consequential, unitary, and biologically-based phenomenon.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Lindsay Ackerman
Graduate Student | Michigan State University

Authors

Kerli Ilves, Liisi Ausmees, Uku Vainik, Rene Mottus, Ted Schwaba

Genetic liability to big 5 personality traits are associated with childhood environments, behaviors, and biology

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

The Big 5 personality traits, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness, are moderately heritable correlates of complex behavior, biology, and health (Schwaba et al 2025). These domains generally stabilize in young adulthood, but the childhood correlates that may contribute to the development of adult personality remain poorly understood (Bleidorn et al., 2022). We conducted a phenomewide association study (PheWAS) to estimate the environmental, behavioral, and biologic correlates (nphenotypes=1,271) of polygenic indices of adult Big 5 personality among 5,556 children in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study at 2 time points (ages 9-11; 11-13). Despite not directly measuring Big 5 traits, there was marked correspondence between genetic liability scores and behavioral and environmental measures, such as associations between genetic liability to neuroticism and child mental health measures and genetic liability to extraversion and impulsivity items. In addition to demonstrating portability across development, our results suggest that genetic propensity to personality captures meaningful individual differences in youth behaviors.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Maggie Clapp Sullivan
Postdoctoral Researcher | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Alex Miller, Emma Johnson, Sarah Paul, Ryan Bogdan, Arpana Agrawal

Linking pathological personality trait to workplace behaviors: using co-twin control to understand pathways

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Personality predicts behaviors, but there is a clear dichotomy in the literature between some using personality traits (e.g., Big Five) as the focal construct and others using personality disorder/pathology. We aim to bridge these two traditions by presenting preliminary result on the link between pathological personality traits, as measured by the 52-item version of the Personality Inventory for DSM-5 (PID-5) and self-reported workplace behaviors. 4,193 participants from the Colorado and Minnesota Twin Study (COMN) completed a self-report survey including constructs of our interest. We will conduct co-twin control analyses, which control between-family effects while testing whether twins with higher levels personality pathology have proportionally less prosocial workplace behavior than their co-twins with lower levels of personality pathology. We will also conduct biometric twin models to decompose between- and within-family variance in and covariance between PID-5 traits and workplace behavior. These findings will help us understand personality pathology in non-clinical settings, including whether such associations are independent of other confounds shared by twins.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Tianfang Yang

Authors

Jacob Anderson, Robin Corley, Christian Hopfer, Matt McGue, Soo Rhee

Beyond density distributions: Testing the predictive validity of personality as a dynamic system

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Dynamical systems theory approaches to personality recast personality traits from mere aggregates of behaviour to equilibria to which personality returns upon perturbation. These frameworks enable us to conceptualize people not only in terms of their typical behavioural tendencies (attractor location), but also in terms of their reactivity to situational forces (attractor strength), affording a more systematic examination of personality variability than has been previously pursued. However, so far there is little in the way of empirical evidence as to whether these parameters constitute distinct, stable, and consequential features of a person. To address this, the present work uses behavioural and experience sampling data (n=241) to pit attractor strength and location against traditional personality measures (global self-report and state density distribution parameters) in the prediction of 13 distal life outcomes. Doing so, we build towards a firmer understanding of how the dynamics of one's personality shape the course of one's life.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Elizabeth Long
Postdoctoral scholar | University of California, Davis

Authors

Emorie Beck

The cultural shaping of self-presentation

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

During high-stakes interpersonal evaluations, such as job interviews, individuals strategically manage and present self-related information to shape others' perceptions and reinforce goals and values that they use to define themselves. Does culture influence which "foot," individuals put forward in self-presentation? College applicants to a private university in the Mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. are prompted to write about themselves in their applications. Text analysis was applied to these self-essays from 2019 to 2025 to examine cross-cultural differences in self-presentational styles. Controlling for applicants' gender, intended major, science degree status, and standardized test scores, Asian American applicants ($n = 18,001$) were more likely to comment on their behaviors rather than their mental processes, used fewer agentic traits (such as confidence), and referenced moral and family processes more often than their Euro-American counterparts ($n = 30,402$); an interdependent self-presentational style was significantly associated with a higher likelihood of admission. This work calls attention to the cultural shaping of self-presentation in high-stakes decision contexts.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jinli Wu

PhD Student | Georgetown University

Authors

Yulia Chentsova-Dutton

The Content, Structure, and History of English Trait Words

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Trait words are the currency helping us understand and represent both real and perceived differences between people and groups. Here, we advance our understanding of traits by revealing new insights into their content, structure, and evolution using large language models and human raters. Across four studies, we: (a) introduce one of the most comprehensive trait lists to-date (2,847 trait words); (b) establish normative human ratings of these traits (from $N = 3,070$ English speakers) along 24 empirically-derived dimensions; (c) detect a four-factor structure of Fitness, Agency, Communion, and Traditionalism (FACT) from these dimensions; and (d) reveal systematic differences in the coherence, valence, and historical evolution of these dimensions and factors. We show that the FACT model covers significantly more traits than previous models like the Big Five (96% vs. 79%). Moreover, these four factors differ in their coherence, valence, and historical usage. Our paper showcases new methods for discovering and analyzing trait words, and provides a new functional constructionist theoretical perspective on the structure, content, and evolution of trait language.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Yuanze Liu

University of Chicago

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Tessa Charlesworth, Alex Koch, Andrew Luttrell

Do Volitional Change Goals Predict Growth? Evidence from a Large-Scale Well-Being Intervention

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Do volitional personality change (VPC) theories extend to well-being growth? We test two VPC claims: (1) change goals predict growth and (2) goal-aligned behaviors facilitate change. We analyzed data from Pathways to Happiness, a 4-week online intervention ($N=4373$). Participants selected change goals targeting well-being characteristics: resilience (handling stress), compassion, mindfulness, connection (improving relationships), happiness, and purpose. Change goals predicted perceived and actual change in corresponding characteristics at check-in and post-test. However, effects were stronger for perceived than actual change, suggesting goals motivate perceptions exceeding measured growth. Using independent ratings ($N=685$), we identified activities best/least aligned with each characteristic. Goal-holders completing highly-aligned activities perceived greater improvement than those completing poorly-aligned activities, but actual change did not differ significantly. These findings extend VPC beyond personality traits to well-being, highlighting the need to differentiate subjective perceptions from objective change in interventions where participants hold strong growth expectations.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Rowan Kemmerly

PhD Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Samantha Heintzelman

Tandem virtue development: Latent growth trajectories of welcoming accountability, patience, and courage in goal pursuit

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Informed by philosophical virtue theory, we tested developmental trajectories of the tendency to welcome accountability to other people in tandem with patience and courage. We sampled 870 US undergraduates pursuing personally-identified goals ($N = 1,996$ goals) across four timepoints in two years. Multi-level bivariate latent growth curve modeling disaggregated between-person patterns from within-person goal-level patterns for the three virtue measures. All three virtues' slopes were nonsignificant, meaning virtues showed no uniform patterns of change for the sample. The slope of welcoming accountability was associated with the slopes of patience and courage so closely at the between-person level that a combined slope parameter was created, indicating virtues developed collectively. Importantly, at the within-person goal-level, the slopes of the virtues were not associated; in the context of pursuing particular goals, virtues developed distinctly. Results suggest that collective character growth, stagnation, or decline occurred for the whole person, yet specific goals call for specific virtues.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Robert Ridder

Baylor University

Authors

Hiroki Matsuo, Karen Melton, Perry Glanzer, Sarah Schnitker, Charlotte Witvliet, Anne Jeffrey

How Personal Values Shape Daily Stress: A Multilevel Value-Situation Analysis

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

Understanding what drives everyday stress is crucial for psychological well-being. Yet the role of personal values in shaping stress responses remains surprisingly understudied. We developed a model integrating Schwartz's (1992) theory of basic human values with psychological situation characteristics (Oreg et al., 2020) to predict stress appraisals (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984) in daily life. In an experience sampling study, 303 participants reported their personal values and completed three daily reflections over five consecutive days ($K = 3,520$), reporting on the situation they were in, the values it expressed or conflicted with, its familiarity, and stress. Results showed that for benevolence and power values, the interaction between personal values and the values the situation expressed predicted familiarity, such that conflicted patterns were perceived as less familiar. This, in turn, predicted higher stress. Moreover, the link between familiarity and stress was stronger for those who prioritized security and weaker for those who valued stimulation. Findings show that personal values shape daily stress by predicting familiarity and moderating its effect on stress.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Naama Dvora Erlich

PhD Student | Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Authors

Shaul Oreg, Noga Sverdlik

We Are What We Watch: Genre Preferences and Personality

3:40 PM – 3:55 PM

Movies provide consumers the opportunity to engage with inspiring or relatable stories. People's attraction to certain movies may stem from the ways their narratives reflect people's personalities. As such, research shows that personality is tied to movie genre preference (e.g., favoring drama and being more neurotic), and people seek out characters with whom they share personality traits (e.g., people high on dark triad traits like villains). Two studies ($N = 658$) further establish the individual differences tied to movie preferences. Study 1 ($N = 158$) correlated participants' Netflix viewing data to Big Five personality traits. Findings revealed correlations between watching Crime movies and Openness to experience ($r = .20$), and watching Romance movies and Extraversion ($r = .18$). Study 2 ($N = 500$) expands the results of Study 1 by testing the relationships between viewership and traits, including personality, attachment, and dark tetrad. Together with the results of Study 1, the eventual results of 2 will provide insight into the extent to which media consumption reflects aspects of the self.

BREAK

Speaker



Ileri Akinola

Student | University of Florida

Authors

Gregory Webster, Amy Pezoldt

Poster Session

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*POSTER

Speakers

- **Paolo Buttazzoni**
Project Researcher | University of Turku
- **Lorenzo De Gregori**
ESADE Business School
- **Yuhui Du**
PhD student | Texas A&M University
- **Matthew Espinosa**
Lecturer | Old Dominion University
- **Paige Foster**
Research Assistant | Georgetown University
- **Yingchi Guo**
University of British Columbia
- **Ali Hajian**
Graduate Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst
- **Benjamin Koshy Jacob**
Research Trainee at MC Lab | CAMH
- **Christopher Jones**
Doctoral Student | University of the Pacific
- **Nikoo Karbassi**
PhD student | Loyola University Chicago
- **Sihun Lee**
Washington University in St. Louis
- **Wenqian Long**
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- **Amanda Schraer**
Research Assistant | University of West Florida
- **Derek Simon**
Graduate Student | Washington University in St. Louis
- **Priscilla Whang**
Graduate Student | University of California, Riverside
- **Misato Shinohara**
Nara Women's University: Nara Joshi Daigaku

[121] The effect of Dark Triad traits on customers' moral intentions

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

We investigate the factors affecting participants' moral intention to report a billing error in retailing situations. Study 1 is an online survey implementing a 3 (Agent) x 2 (Learning) between-subjects design. 478 participants read a vignette describing an error made by either a human, an automated robot or a self-checkout machine, provided with or lacking the ability to learn from reported mistakes. They then evaluate their intention to report the billing error and subjective guilt. Of interest, results fail to replicate previous literature concerning the effect of Agent on participants' moral intentions, while we unveil an effect of Learning. Agents provided with the ability to learn from reported errors elicited higher guilt and moral intention to report such errors. Noteworthy, while Machiavellianism and Psychopathy scores - from the Short Dark Triad - were associated with reduced moral intentions, Narcissism yielded an opposite pattern, highlighting relevant individual differences. This has important real-world implications in everyday retailing scenarios. Study 2 is to be conducted. All studies fully follow research best practices and clearly answer RQs.

*POSTER

Speaker

- **Paolo Buttazzoni**
Project Researcher | University of Turku

Authors

Michael Laakasuo, Marianna Drosinou, Paavo Rinkkala

[122] Moral Relativism Recast: MARS validation and Flexible Harm Inference.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

People's moral philosophies, i.e., whether they lean toward relativism or absolutism, shape not only policy stances on politicized issues, but also how they interpret everyday conflicts. Yet, no validated scale has systematically captured this distinction. We advance a new conceptualization of moral relativism that unifies measurement and mechanism. Across 4 studies, we formalize relativism as variability across individual, societal, and situational beliefs, developing the Moral Absolutism and Relativism Scale (MARS). In Study 1 (N=649), factor analyses supported a three-factor structure. Study 2 (N=201) established predictive, discriminant, and concurrent validity and strong test-retest reliability. In Study 3 (N=202), the three subscales showed distinct predictive power for domain-specific vignettes. Study 4 (N=100), drawing on dyadic morality, found that relativism correlated with lower perceived victim vulnerability and reduced assignment of agent and patient roles. Together, these studies recast relativism as a flexible, multi-domain mode of harm inference, offering a validated scale and a new lens on moralization and ideological conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lorenzo De Gregori
ESADE Business School

Authors

Namrata Goyal

[123] Harmoniously Authentic: The Development and Validation of Outside Roundness and Inside Squareness Self-Perception Scale

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Authenticity is a central concept in self and identity but less is known in its manifestation in Majority World contexts. Recent theories state that in Confucianism, authenticity is construed as a balanced integration of integrity and moral consciousness (Inside Squareness, IS) and the pursuit of interpersonal harmony through moderate and adaptive behavior (Outside Roundness, OR; Du et al., 2025). However, this framework lacks empirical support and respective measurement tools. In this study, we extend this line of work by devising and validating the Outside Roundness and Inside Squareness Self-Perception Scale (ORISSPS), based on 786 Chinese participants. A 14-item 2-dimensional scale was finalized, demonstrating high reliability, construct and criterion validity, as well as meaningful nomological correlations. Specifically, while trait authenticity is only predicted by IS and not OR, a more culturally relevant measure of Balanced Authenticity and psychological adaptation constructs (e.g., meaning in life, self-esteem) are predicted by both dimensions. This research contributes to a more inclusive and generative knowledge of understanding and measuring authenticity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuhui Du
PhD student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Yiming Jing, Mingjie Zhou

[124] Existential Isolation and Incel Traits: Implications for Well-being

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Recent work has begun to examine personality traits that define an "incel," (i.e., involuntary celibate) and their risks to well-being. Yet, the social factors associated with these traits, and potential interventions, remain unclear. The present research tested whether dispositional existential isolation (i.e., perceptions of being alone in one's subjective experiences/worldview) is one such determinant and explored its implications for unpartnered men's well-being. In Study 1, we examined links among existential isolation, incel traits, and negative self-perceptions; in Study 2, with meta-dehumanizing and misogynistic perceptions; and in Study 3, whether I-sharing could improve mental well-being. Across these studies, more existentially isolated, unpartnered men exhibited more incel traits, reported more negative self-views, and perceived more negative evaluations from women. However, I-sharing feedback may be effective for attenuating such outcomes. Findings existential isolation is common among men with more incel traits, and highlights addressing this as a potential pathway to improve unpartnered men's well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Espinosa
Lecturer | Old Dominion University

Authors

Cathy Cox

[125] Examining the Longitudinal Impact of Substance Use on Crime in People with High Psychopathy

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Investigating the antecedents of crime is crucial to developing effective prevention programs and protecting public safety. Prior research has established that both psychopathic traits and substance use independently contribute to criminal behavior, though few studies have examined how substance use contributes to criminal outcomes over time among individuals with high psychopathy in community settings. In this longitudinal study, data was collected from a unique pool of participants scoring in the 95th percentile of psychopathic traits through a 501(c)3 nonprofit, yielding one of the most diverse high psychopathy samples to date (N = 190). Using a cross-lagged panel model, we expect greater self-reported substance use to increase the likelihood of committing a crime at a one-year follow-up. Early life factors which may influence initial rates of substance use will also be considered in analysis. The present research has important implications for clinical practice and the criminal justice system.

*POSTER

Speaker



Paige Foster
Research Assistant | Georgetown University

Authors

Abigail Marsh, Naomi Nero

[126] Being Yourself: Self-Perceived Personality Consistency and the Feeling of Authenticity

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Self-consistency is often seen as key to authenticity, yet research shows inconsistencies in how it is defined and measured, creating ambiguity in its link to authenticity. The present study aims to quantify four distinct conceptualizations of self-consistency and the links of each to state and trait authenticity simultaneously. Using a daily reconstruction method, around 200 undergraduate students reported on three social interactions per day, rating their state personality, contextual demands, and state authenticity. Four types of consistency are tested: 1) across-context consistency, the extent to which state personality remains stable across situations; 2) within-context consistency, personality stability when interacting with the same individuals across settings; 3) state-trait consistency, the similarity between state personality and trait self-perceptions across contexts; and 4) state-context consistency, the match between state personality and contextual demands. We examine how these distinct forms of self-consistency relate to authenticity and whether culture moderates these links, advancing understanding of self-consistency's role in authentic self-expression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yingchi Guo
University of British Columbia

Authors

Friedrich Gotz, Toni Schmader

[127] Validating the Short Version of the Moral Foundations Questionnaire-2 across Cultures

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Moral Foundations Theory has recently undergone a theoretical refinement. Moral Foundations Questionnaire-2 (MFQ-2) was developed to operationalize six moral foundations (care, equality, proportionality, loyalty, authority, purity) based on these refinements. Here, we validate its short version (MFQ-2-S) across 5 studies. In Studies 1-3, we use factor analytic methods to explore and validate the factor structure of MFQ-2-S. In Study 4, we establish criterion validity of MFQ-2-S by investigating the relationship between its scores and 18 criterion variables. In Study 5, we establish measurement invariance of the questionnaire across 10 diverse populations, in addition to exploring the higher-order structure of moral foundations. Our results indicate that MFQ-2-S is reliable and valid across different populations. We also conduct a single paper meta-analysis of gender and ideological differences found in our samples, replicating prior work on gender and political differences in endorsement of moral values. In sum, MFQ-2-S provides an efficient way of studying 6 moral values with 24 items.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ali Hajian
Graduate Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Roya Mohammadsadegh, Mohammad Atari, Guanyu Liu, Friedrich Ueker, Aliah Zewail, Jesse Graham

[128] Evaluating Measures of Experiences with Social Structures in Relation to the Big Five and Big Six Personality Domains and Facets

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

There is renewed interest in environmental influences on personality, yet research linking people's experiences with social structures and their accompanying information-processing tendencies to the Big Five and Big Six personality domains remains under-integrated. In this preregistered study, we collected cross-sectional survey data from a diverse sample (N=1040) via CloudResearch. We assessed experiences with social structures using widely cited measures from social, personality, and developmental psychology, and measured personality using the BFI-2 and HEXACO-60. We used structural equation modeling to examine associations among these variables. We observed frequent correlations for information-processing tendencies, reflecting links with how people navigate complex, emotionally salient environments. We also observed moderate to strong correlations for experiences of power, identity, and justice. Overall, our findings underscore the importance of considering systemic contexts within personality research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Koshy Jacob
Research Trainee at MC Lab | CAMH

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould, Keith Widaman, Joanne Chung

[129] Trauma, Care, and Morality: Emotions as the Link Between Childhood Adversity and Moral Foundations

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

ACEs are prevalent predictors of poor health outcomes in adulthood, but their impact on moral foundations remains underexplored. The study examined the effects of ACEs on adult morality and proposed affective personality traits and caregiving factors as possible mediating mechanisms. The researcher administered a survey to a global sample of N = 376 English-speaking adults, comprised of four validated survey measures that assessed retrospective and present experiences, traits, and character styles. The survey assessed ACE exposure, evolved caregiving practices (EDNH), an affective personality measure (ANPS), and the Moral Foundations Questionnaire (MFQ-20). Results from group comparisons between high-ACE (≥4) and low-ACE (≤3) subjects indicated significant differences, with the high-ACE group tending toward higher Individualizing and lower Binding moral foundations scores compared to low-ACE subjects. SEM indicated a mediated link between ACEs and MFT, where positive personality traits and heightened EDNH scores predicted both Binding and Individualizing moral foundations. These results suggest early nurturance promotes positive emotional development, shaping moral proclivities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christopher Jones
Doctoral Student | University of the Pacific

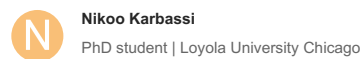
[130] Sensory Processing Sensitivity and Internalizing Symptoms Across the Pubertal Transition

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Puberty is associated with an increase in internalizing symptoms among girls. Sensory Processing Sensitivity (SPS), a trait that captures an individual's sensitivity to their environment, may make girls more susceptible to internalizing symptoms. The stability of SPS across puberty and its reciprocal associations with internalizing symptoms (anxiety, depression, and stress) are unknown. The current study included girls (N= 300; ages 10 to 14; 81% White) from a larger longitudinal study. Participants completed PROMIS measures and the Highly Sensitive Child scale at three timepoints (T1=pre-menarche, T2=post-menarche, T3 = 1 year after T2). Dyadic cross-lagged panel models indicated that SPS showed moderate rank-order stability from T1-T2 ($\text{Ces,}\hat{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}.39$) and strong stability from T2-T3 ($\text{Ces,}\hat{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}.66\hat{\alpha}.69$). Internalizing symptoms were moderately stable (anxiety $\text{Ces,}\hat{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}.49/.53$; stress $\text{Ces,}\hat{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}.45/.47$; depression $\text{Ces,}\hat{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}.47/.44$). SPS predicted depression from T1,ŪT2 ($\text{Ces}= .15, p=.006$, surviving FDR). None of the paths in the anxiety and stress models were significant. SPS appears to be trait-like among early adolescent girls, and high SPS may be a susceptibility factor for the onset of depressive symptoms among girls.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nikoo Karbassi

PhD student | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Juliana Adornetti, Amy Bohnert

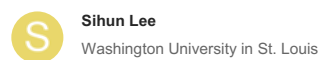
[131] From Early Experiences to Overcontrol: A Longitudinal Study of Overcontrol using Machine Learning

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Overcontrol, a pattern of excessive self-constraint, emotional inhibition, and low risk-taking, represents a maladaptive form of self-regulation that can contribute to psychopathology and unhealthy interpersonal functioning. Prior research using children and adolescent samples have identified biological, behavioral, and environmental predispositions as crucial predictors. However, less is known about how different factors manifested through one's complete developmental trajectory integratively contribute to the emergence of overcontrol over time. Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY), this study leverages machine learning models to examine how chronological developmental experience, including family and parental status, parental dynamics, social interactions, and school environments, predict later expressions of maladaptive self-regulation. The findings demonstrate superior predictive performance using full developmental history in predicting maladaptive self-regulation relative to traditional cross-sectional analysis. The results pose potential strategies for early identification and prevention in educational and clinical settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sihun Lee

Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Samuel Liu, Muchen Xi

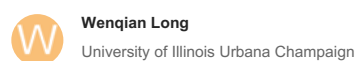
[132] Feeling Good Leads to Stable Play: Reciprocal Feedback between Gaming and Well-Being

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Video games are a ubiquitous form of leisure with complex connections to well-being. Using a large longitudinal dataset (N = 7,618; 74,422 player-days), we applied a dynamic -SEM approach to estimate continuous-time effect sizes and draw implications for same-day, next-day, and between-person associations between playtime and well-being, enjoyment, autonomy, competence, focus, and immersion. On days when players gamed more, they reported slightly higher levels of affective functioning compared to their typical well-being ($r = .05, p < .001$). However, this same-day association did not persist over time. In contrast, higher well-being predicted slightly more play the following day ($\text{Ces} = 0.02, p < .01$), consistent with a "feel-good-return," pattern. Location,Ūscale models showed that individuals experienced modest increases and greater stability in well-being on days they played more, suggesting gaming may temporarily elevate and stabilize affect. Event-specific effects (e.g., progression, equipment unlocking) and behavioral tendencies (e.g., idle time, regularity) illustrate how design features can shape short-term psychological experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wenqian Long

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Authors

D.A. Briley

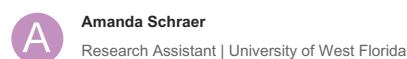
[133] Trait and Aggressive Driving in Driving Simulator

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

In this study, 39 undergraduate psychology students from the University of West Florida participated for course credit. They completed assessments on boredom proneness and the FFM traits of conscientiousness, neuroticism, and extraversion. Participants also reported past driving violations (e.g., DUI, speeding, texting, at-fault collisions) and completed the Dula Dangerous Driving Index (DDDI), which measures Risky, Aggressive, and Negative Emotional driving tendencies. A timed, frustration-inducing driving scenario was conducted using the STISIM Drive simulator. Of the 39 participants, 8 had prior traffic citations. Among them, citations were significantly related to extraversion ($r = -.52$), neuroticism ($r = .46$), and DDDI Aggressive Driving ($r = .58$). Their citation history was also marginally related to aggressive simulator behavior ($r = .69, p = .06$), suggesting real-world habits may transfer to simulated driving. In the full sample, simulator aggression was significantly linked to DDDI Risky Driving ($r = .37$) and low conscientiousness ($r = -.43$). These results support personality-based screening as a tool for identifying risky drivers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amanda Schraer

Research Assistant | University of West Florida

Authors

Steven Kass, Sherry Schneider

[134] Is cognition like emotion: Peak versus typical expressions in daily life

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Recent evidence shows cognitive performance varies within people, challenging the assumption that individual differences in intelligence are stable (e.g., Aschenbrenner & Jackson, 2024; Lovden et al., 2007; Schmiedek et al. 2013). Subsequently, the view that cognitive measures assess individuals' maximum cognitive ability, instead of their typical cognitive level, has been put into question (e.g., Vaughan & Birney, 2023). In the present work, we aim to examine within-person distributions in cognitive performance with respect to these two views. The maximal-level view implies cognitive performance is negatively skewed around individuals' true capacity, with contextual factors (e.g., stress) serving to reduce functioning rather than enhance it. The typical-level view implies a normal distribution, with contextual factors driving cognitive performance above and below typical levels. Our preliminary findings support the maximal view of cognitive expression, unlike the manifestation of personality and emotions which typically fall under normal distributions. This conclusion, however, does not hold for all measures, highlighting the functional differences across cognitive measurements.

*POSTER

Speaker



Derek Simon

Graduate Student | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Muchen Xi, Andrew Aschenbrenner

[135] Big Five Personality Trait and Major Life Goal (Co-)Development: Findings from a Longitudinal Study of German Adults

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Previous cross-sectional and longitudinal research has shown that the Big Five personality traits are associated with major life goals across adulthood. However, prior research has not included all types of major life goals relevant to lifespan development (e.g., Physical Health goals), and we do not know whether existing stability, change, and co-developmental patterns of the Big Five and major life goals generalize across sociocultural contexts. We replicate and extend prior research by using longitudinal data from a sample of 3,023 German adults (58% female; baseline age M=19.55) spanning 18 years (with eight waves, spaced biennially). Results showed that although rank-order stability and mean-level change of the Big Five and major life goals generally mirrored findings from prior work, some nuances emerged in the co-developmental patterns. For example, greater increases in Openness to Experience were associated with greater decreases in Prosperity goals. We discuss contextual implications of the Big Five and major life goal (co-)development across types of goals, culture, and timescale.

*POSTER

Speaker



Priscilla Whang

Graduate Student | University of California, Riverside

Authors

Brent Roberts, Ulrich Trautwein, Olivia Atherton

[136] Validation of the Japanese Version of the Zero-Sum Mindset Scale

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Speaker



Misato Shinohara

Nara Women's University: Nara Joshi Daigaku

Closing Remarks

4:55 PM – 5:00 PM

Mindworks: The Science of Thinking, A Chicago-only Experience During SPSP 2026

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Offsite

Mindworks is a public-facing discovery center and active behavioral research lab in downtown Chicago, approximately a 15-minute ride from the convention center. Operated by the Roman Family Center for Decision Research at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Mindworks invites visitors to explore how people think and decide while participating in real studies that advance behavioral science. Participation in these studies helps researchers better understand human behavior, while participants earn prizes and contribute to advancing science.

Mindworks will provide a continuous shuttle loop between the McCormick Convention Center and Mindworks on Thursday, February 26 from 3:00–5:00 PM or drop in on your own (hours listed here: <https://www.chicagobooth.edu/mindworks/visit>). A visit to Mindworks lasts about 30 to 60 minutes, depending on how many studies you'd like to take. Capacity is limited (45 at a time).

Celebrating SPSP's 2025 Awardees: Ceremony and Reception

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354A, Level 3

The SPSP Awards Program recognizes individuals in the personality and social psychology community for their career accomplishments, outstanding research, dedication to the field and commitment to their communities. This year the awards program will celebrate our 2025 class! You can expect guest appearances from SPSP leaders as they speak about the considerable impact of this year's recipients.

*NETWORKING

Presenting SPSP's Student Poster Awards (Presented during Poster Session A)

5:59 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

The Undergraduate and Graduate Student Poster Award recognizes undergraduate poster presentations characterized by excellence in research and clarity in presentation.

Winners of the Undergraduate Poster Award:

Eli Cochrane, Masculinity in Community: Analyzing Identity Construction Discourse in r/JordanPeterson

Whitney Williams, Life, Death, and Scarcity: Moral Foundations as Predictors for Resource Allocation in Crisis Triage

Winners of the Graduate Poster Award:

Raquelle Martinez, Cultural Differences in the Effect of Relationship Closeness on Self-Disclosure

Bona Kim, Predicting Midlife Outcomes Across 20 Years: The Roles of Life Goals, Personality Traits, and Cognitive Ability

Mingjia (Sherlock) Liu, Digital Signals: Emoji Use and Racial Impressions

Peiling Cao, Less is More When Time is Scarce: How Time Poverty Enhances Minimalistic Consumption Through Increased Need for Order

Yun Chen, Nature connectedness and healthy eating: The possible role of self-control

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

[A] Masculinity in Community: Analyzing Identity Construction Discourse in r/JordanPeterson

5:59 PM – 6:59 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

In recent decades, the quest for meaning among men has emerged from what scholars call a “crisis of masculinity” as men have become disillusioned with shifts in gender roles, perceived losses of socioeconomic power, and other symptoms of cultural change. In the so-called manosphere, online figures have attempted to gain popularity by addressing these struggles among men. One such figure is Jordan B. Peterson, a Canadian psychologist and author who writes extensively on self-help topics as they relate to men’s experience of power and satisfaction in their daily lives. The current study analyzes every post from Peterson’s subreddit community from 2017–2024 (n=123,791) to understand relationships between thematic content, sentiment, and engagement. Our findings reveal four distinct timeframes in which group identity shifts to maintain stability through oppositional engagement with feminist and LGBTQ+ movements while channeling collective grievances into individual self-improvement. This study reveals gendered uncertainty-identity processes within neoliberal self-help communities, with implications for online radicalization and masculine politics.

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Speaker



Eli Cochran
Undergraduate | University of Kansas

[B] Triage Decisions in Crisis: Moral Foundations as Predictors for Resource Allocation

5:59 PM – 6:59 PM

MORALITY

Triage is the process of allocating limited resources, most commonly associated with medicine, but similar principles (e.g., zero-sum thinking) can be applied to various scenarios (e.g., politics, education, war, the economy, and social issues). Moral Foundations Theory (MFT) is a framework for understanding morality that proposes that moral intuitions are based on a finite number of foundations (Graham 2013). MFT has come to be associated with political psychology, since “individualizing” foundations (care and equality) are predictive of liberal ideologies, and “binding” foundations (authority, loyalty, purity, and proportionality) are predictive of conservative ideologies (Graham 2009). To examine if moral foundations predict support for group prioritization in hypothetical triage, we asked participants if and how they would prioritize certain demographic groups. Individualizing foundations were predictors for prioritizing historically disadvantaged or marginalized groups (low SES, non-citizens, unemployed, non-White, incarcerated) and groups typically perceived as vulnerable (children, women, the elderly). In contrast, binding foundations were predictors for prioritizing those typically advantaged in a status quo hierarchy (high SES, citizens, and employed individuals) and groups traditionally protected (women and the elderly). In situations with scarcity, moral foundations drive decision-making, resulting in a fundamental disagreements about who deserves to survive and vastly different outcomes depending on who performs triage.

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Speaker



Whitney Williams
Student | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Timothy Kundro, Patrick Harrison

[C] Cultural Differences in the Effect of Relationship Closeness on Self-Disclosure

5:59 PM – 6:59 PM

CULTURE

Self-disclosure is typically regarded as an essential component of interpersonal relationships in the West; however, this assumption does not necessarily hold true across different cultural contexts. This study aimed to examine how relationship closeness and information valence influence patterns of self-disclosure to various targets in European Canadian, Chinese, and Mexican samples. Utilizing an online survey, participants classified targets according to closeness and rated their likelihood of self-disclosure for four scenarios to eleven different targets. The results revealed distinct cultural patterns, with Chinese participants showing overall lower disclosure tendencies compared to Canadian and Mexican participants and showing particularly lower tendencies in the context of negative information to close others. Mexican and Canadian participants showed similar levels of expressiveness; however, Mexican individuals demonstrated significantly smaller valence effects compared to both Canadian and Chinese individuals. Through the inclusion of factors such as information valence and relationship closeness, findings from this study are expected to deepen the current understanding of self-disclosure across various cultural frameworks. This study addressed the current lack of research on self-disclosure tendencies in Latin America, contributing to a broader cross-cultural understanding beyond the East and West, as well as offering insight into the different kinds of interdependence.

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Speaker



Raquelle Martinez

Masters Student | Toronto Metropolitan University

Authors

Samantha Shang, Paola Eunice Diaz Rivera, Rolando Diaz-Loving, Baorui Chang

[D] Predicting Midlife Outcomes Across 20 Years: The Roles of Life Goals, Personality Traits, and Cognitive Ability

5:59 PM – 6:59 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Objective: What predicts long-term success and well-being in adulthood? While personality traits and cognitive ability are well-established predictors, motivational orientations such as life goals have received less attention. Building on the framework of Stoll et al. (2017), this study examined how college students' life goals, Big Five personality traits, and SAT scores combine to predict key midlife outcomes in health and well-being, achievement, and relationship domains two decades later.

Method: Data came from the Berkeley Longitudinal Study (BLS). At baseline in 1992, 508 undergraduates provided data on life goals, personality, and SAT scores. Twenty years later, 237 participants (age $\approx$ 41) completed a follow-up survey on their life outcomes. Hierarchical regression analyses evaluated the unique and combined contributions of goals, traits, and ability, while accounting for demographics and socioeconomic background.

Preliminary findings: Personality traits emerged as the most consistent predictors. Life goals showed more domain-specific predictive power but were less pervasive than personality traits. Cognitive ability showed minimal associations beyond other factors.

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Speaker



Bona Kim

Graduate Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Brent Roberts, Richard Robins

[E] Digital Signals: Emoji Use and Racial Impressions

5:59 PM – 6:59 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Skin-tone-modified (STM) emojis have been widely used since their launch in 2015, yet little research has examined how they shape social perceptions. This study investigates how STM emojis (light, tan, dark) and the non-STM yellow emoji influence perceptions of an online interaction partner's racial identity and social impressions. In a between-subjects design (N = 280), participants engage in an online chat with a pre-programmed "interaction partner" who uses one of four emojis. Participants then report the partner's perceived race, provide explicit evaluations (e.g., stereotype content, global impression), and complete an innovative emoji Implicit Association Test. We test whether (a) STM emojis function as racial cues (e.g., users of the light emoji are perceived as White), (b) skin tone of the emoji influences how positively or negatively the user is evaluated, and (c) the yellow emoji is perceived as racially neutral - not signalling any racial group memberships. This study explores how subtle digital signals may reinforce or disrupt racial assumptions in online spaces.

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Speaker



Mingjia (Sherlock) Liu

University of Michigan

Authors

Brenda Straka

[F] Less is More When Time is Scarce: How Time Poverty Enhances Minimalistic Consumption Through Increased Need for Order

5:59 PM – 6:59 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Minimalistic consumption, characterized by reduced possessions, sparse aesthetics, and mindful curation, has recently gained prominence. While prior research has examined demographic and dispositional factors, less is known about how subjective psychological states, such as time poverty—the feeling of “having too much to do but not enough time”—shape this behavior. We propose that time poverty fosters a heightened need for order, which in turn drives preferences for minimalistic consumption (Fennis & Wiebenga, 2015; Gong et al., 2023). Minimalism thus functions as a compensatory strategy, helping time-poor individuals restore structure.

Study 1 (N = 200, Mage = 33.86, SD = 5.91, 40.5% female) employed a recall-based manipulation of time poverty and measured need for order alongside three behavioral indicators of minimalism: choices between sparse vs. cluttered aesthetics, number of possessions selected, and resistance to impulse purchases. Results showed that time-poor participants preferred sparse aesthetics and fewer possessions, with mediation analyses confirming that these effects were mediated by need for order.

Study 2 (N = 200, Mage = 28.72, SD = 7.46, 66.5% female) replicated the findings using a scenario-based manipulation and a validated 12-item minimalism scale. Again, time-poor participants exhibited stronger minimalistic tendencies, particularly for sparse aesthetics and limited possessions, with need for order mediating these effects. In addition, the mediating role of need for relaxation has also been excluded.

Study 3 (N = 260, Mage = 29.73, SD = 7.27; 69.2% female) tested whether minimalistic environments alleviate the need for order. In a 2 (time poverty: high vs. low) × 2 (room style: sparse vs. maximalist) design, time-poor participants showed stronger preferences for sparse environments, and exposure to minimalist spaces reduced their heightened need for order. This demonstrates minimalism’s compensatory function under time poverty.

Across three studies, we show that time poverty enhances need for order, and then fosters minimalistic consumption, which as a way to cope with disorder. Theoretically, this work links subjective time poverty with sustainable consumer behavior and identifies need for order as the key mediator. Practically, the findings suggest that retailers can support time-poor consumers by adopting minimalist design principles and offering products that reduce decision fatigue.

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Speaker



Peiling Cao

Beijing Normal University

Authors

Xiaomin Sun

[G] Nature connectedness and healthy eating: The possible role of self-control

5:59 PM – 6:59 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Nature connectedness has been shown to promote healthier eating behaviors, yet the underlying mechanisms remain underexplored. The present study investigates self-control, informed by stress reduction theory and attention restoration theory, as a critical mediator in this relationship through three studies. Study 1 (n = 200) employed a cross-sectional survey, confirmed the positive association between nature connectedness and healthy eating behaviors, while providing preliminary evidence for the mediating role of self-control. Study 2 (n = 193) employed an online experiment to manipulate nature connectedness, providing causal evidence that heightened nature connectedness enhanced self-control, which in turn led to healthier food choices in a lunch scenario. Study 3 (in progress) adopts a three-wave longitudinal design with two-week intervals to provide stronger causal claims regarding the mediating role of self-control. Together, these studies provide robust evidence for the role of self-control as a key psychological mechanism underlying the positive effects of nature connectedness on healthy eating behaviors. Our research suggests that nature-based interventions targeting self-control enhancement may serve as an effective approach for promoting sustainable healthy eating behaviors.

*POSTER STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Speaker



Yun Chen

Beijing Normal University

Authors

Jiang Jiang, Nina He, Jingyan He, Ranzhi Yang, Xinyi Yang

Welcome Reception and Exhibit Hall Opening

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Kickoff the 2026 Annual Convention with the Welcome Reception. Connect with colleagues, visit our exhibitors, and meet new people. A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available.

Menu

(V=Vegetarian | VG=Vegan | GF=Gluten Free | DF=Dairy Free)

Artisanal Cheese and Charcuterie

- Artisanal Cheeses, Imported Porsciutto, Salami, Sweet Sopressata and Spicy Capicola Served with Pickled Vegetables, Focaccia Crostini with Flavored Olive Oil

Hummus Trio (VG | DF)

- Traditional Lemon and Garlic, Spice Red Pepper, and Edamame Hummus Served with Fresh Cut Vegetables and Pita Chips

Seasonl Fruit

Everything Spice Pigs in a Blanket

- Served with Truffle Dijonnase

Chicken Pesto Slider

- Served with Fontina, Oven Dried Tomato, and Calafrian Chile Aioli

Vegetable Samosas (VG | DF)

- Served with Tamarind Chutney

*NETWORKING EVENT

POSTER SESSION A THURSDAY

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

*POSTER

[1]A Dyadic Analysis of Self-report and Informant-report Social/Emotional Functioning

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Assessments of the health and functioning of older adults are often measured using the reports of someone close to the focal participant (informant-reports). While informant-reports are commonly used for cognitive outcomes, less research has used this technique for other outcomes (e.g., social/emotional functioning in daily life).

This study addressed these gaps in prior research by utilizing an Actor-Partner Interdependence Model to test the differences in a participant's life satisfaction, financial capacity, and daily functioning across multiple domains as reported by themselves (self-report) and a close other (informant-report) at baseline and after participation in a 16-week exercise intervention protocol.

*POSTER

Speakers



Angela Bryan

Professor | Univ. of Colorado Boulder



Kyle Chrystal

Senior Professional Research Assistant | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Angela Bryan, Carillon Skrzynski, Margy Chen

[2] "Caras vemos, Corazones no sabemos." How Stereotypes and Perceptions Shape our Judgements on Intersectional identities within the Latinx Community.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Whereas previous work has shown that judgments of perceptually ambiguous social categories (e.g., sexual orientation) vary as an influence of perceptually clear social categories (e.g., race and gender), there is limited research on how perceptions of Latinx identities vary as an influence on other ambiguous social categories. The present research examines how various perceptions and stereotypes overlap cognitively and shape judgments of the Latinx community. Study 1 showcases, through a Q-sort task, that when perceivers are thinking of Latino men, they are more likely to closely associate them with straight/gender typed groups. For Latina women, it was only for gender types, with no difference in sexual orientation. Study 2 predicts through the perceptions of faces, when target faces were rated as more gender typed, participants provide more straight categorizations for Latinx targets compared to white targets. However, the predicted effect will reverse when target faces are rated as gender atypical. Collectively, these findings begin to unpack perceptions of intersectional identities to further understand the mechanisms by which perceivers make judgments about Latinx identities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Miguel Soto

University of California, Los Angeles

Authors

Grace Gillespie, Kerri Johnson

[3] /n/ or /m/? : Do listeners rely on these phones to form to form their sexual orientation decisions?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Prior research demonstrated that, upon hearing a single phone, listeners differentiated between gay and straight male talkers of American English. Moreover, when presented with many different consonants, listeners relied on a single token of /n/ to form their judgments, but did not rely on /m/.

The purpose of the present investigation is to further examine an unexplored class of phonemes: nasals. To that end, listeners judged a talker's sexual orientation upon hearing isolated tokens of /n/ and /m/. The results demonstrated that listeners relied on all tokens of /n/ to form their judgments. The results for /m/ were mixed. For some tokens, listeners did rely on /m/, and for some other tokens, listeners did not rely on /m/; we concluded that these judgements may be modulated by vowel context.

We hypothesized that listeners may rely on /m/ if it is given more attention. Prior experiments presented listeners with many consonants, and their attention was divided among various consonants. Here, listeners were only presented with two consonants and, presumably, each consonant received greater attention. An increase in attention could explain the contradictory results.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erik Tracy

Associate Professor of Psychology | University of North Carolina Pembroke

Authors

Erik Tracy, Gaia Gould, Gerardo Medina, Tonyette Perry, Brooke Merritt

[4] ‘American=Male?’: Implications of Asian American Intersectionality on National Identity

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Empathy is a primary driver of prosocial behavior, and a foundational skill for building close interpersonal relationships. Empathy has the power to motivate altruism towards those in need, foster connection in the midst of conflict, and even bridge racial, political, and geographic divides. The problem is, we don't empathize with all "others" equally. The empathy we are born with is directed primarily towards our ingroup, and empathic bias towards racial outgroup members has been clearly documented. Fortunately, it's possible to expand our circle of empathy and develop more "inclusive" empathy towards diverse groups.

Empathy is a skill that can be fostered in the classroom, and preliminary research suggests empathy training can provide a host of positive outcomes. This paper presents the results of a cross-cultural qualitative study exploring how schools in the US, Italy, Germany, and Ecuador foster empathy. In particular, practices aiming to promote "inclusive" empathy—that which includes outgroups on various dimensions such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, appearance, and species (ecological empathy)—are highlighted.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mathew Semon

Graduate Student | University of Kansas

[5] “Shame on the Family, Shame on Herself”: Understanding Community Reactions to Sexual Violence Among Latinas and White American Women in the U.S.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

In the United States, Latinas experience some of the highest rates of sexual violence but the lowest rates of disclosure compared to other racial and ethnic groups. This cross-cultural, scenario-based study examines how cultural values shape responses to sexual violence among Latina and White American women, focusing on gendered expectations, prescriptive norms (what participants believe should happen), and descriptive norms (what they believe would happen). It also explores whether differences are rooted in dignity versus honor values and marianismo (the ideal of femininity and purity in traditional Hispanic cultures). Results suggest Latinas perceive stronger cultural barriers to disclosure—reporting greater shame, judgment, and reduced support—despite holding similar personal attitudes on disclosure and community responsibility to White participants. While not observed quantitatively, open-ended responses often referenced honor and marianismo as more relevant for disclosure decisions among Latinas. Findings underscore the need for culturally sensitive approaches, suggesting interventions should address stigma while fostering survivors' hopes for supportive community responses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexandra Torres Arsuaga

Stanford University

Authors

Hazel Markus, Ronda Lo

[6] A Dark Future: How Future Oriented Thinking in Extremists Groups Fuels Intergroup Conflict and Extremists Policies

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Future oriented thinking (i.e. cognition towards upcoming states and events; Atance & O'Neil, 2005) has been associated with positive outcomes such as national prosthagia (i.e. a sentimental longing for a future state of one's nation) predicting positivity toward social change (Armenta et al., 2022). Yet, for extremists whose views oppose social cohesion (e.g. White nationalists) their future orientated goals may oppose social functioning, suggesting a negative effect as future oriented thinking gives them hope for a future where they can enact and achieve their goals.

Our Qualtrics survey study will be given to n = 700 participants, determined via power analysis, via Prolific (completion by December 2025). Using multiple regression via SPSS PROCESS Macro (Hayes, 2017), we predict higher White nationalism will predict greater support for physical violence, authoritarianism, collective action for White nationalism, and extremist policies, through the serial mediating effect of increased national prosthagia and national hope.

If our hypothesis is supported, findings would have implications for how extremism functions and show unique negative aspects of future oriented thinking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kevin McAweeney

Graduate Student | University of Kentucky

Authors

Christine Reyna, Demitri Aguilar, Miguel Vazquez, Angel Armenta

[7] A meta-analysis of social, psychological, and behavioral interventions for community-based infectious disease prevention and treatment

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

Social determinants play a crucial role in health outcomes, yet the impact of social interventions on promoting health remains largely understudied. This research conducts a systematic literature review of social, psychological, and behavioral (SPB) interventions implemented in community settings to prevent and treat infectious diseases, including Influenza, COVID-19, HPV, and HIV. The goal is to assess the average effect size of SPB interventions and investigate between-study factors that moderate their efficacy. Preliminary search identified 37 eligible studies, and 4 of them were coded and analyzed. The results show that the average effect size of interventions was $g = 0.21$, reflecting a small positive effect on health outcomes. Continued coding and analysis of the dataset will provide greater insight into the conditions under which SPB interventions promote health behaviors in community settings by clarifying contextual, methodological, and disease characteristics that shape their effectiveness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ojal Maddipati

Texas Tech University

Authors

Ruth Lee, Haesung Jung

[8] A new cognitive-behavioural approach to acculturation research

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Structural stigma and regional bias have increasingly come to the fore as fundamental causes of health disparities. Indeed, a rapidly-expanding literature demonstrates that sexual minorities living in regions characterized by increases in or higher overall levels of discriminatory legislation and heterosexist bias exhibit poorer physical and mental health outcomes. However, potential buffers of and mechanisms linking structural stigma and health remain obscure. We utilized data from both large publicly-available datasets (Project Implicit, the US Census, MIT Election Lab, and Movement Advancement Project) and from Generations: A Study of the Life and Health of LGB People in a Changing Society, United States, 2016-2019, a longitudinal survey of a national probability sample of sexual minority Americans. More specifically, we hypothesized that social support from family, social support from friends, and subjective sexual and gender minority (SGM) community connectedness would each either moderate or mediate the relationship between state-level policy environments or county-level explicit and implicit sexuality bias and measures of health and well-being among sexual minorities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elena Bockina

Authors

Seth Schwartz

[9] A Rose by Any Other Name Would Smell as Sweet”: The Historical-Emotional Identity Construction of Assyrians and Kurds

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Emotions play a vital role in shaping individual and community identities. Traumas and social exclusion throughout history significantly influence identity formation. This study examines the emotional experiences of Assyrian and Kurdish communities in Turkey to understand how emotions are constructed within their social and cultural contexts. For this purpose, a qualitative study involving 6 Assyrian and 6 Kurdish participants was performed. The interviews were audio recorded with the participant's consent and subsequently transcribed. The data were analyzed using the MAXQDA 24.0 software and the content analysis method. The Assyrian and Kurdish participants' emotional and identity-related experiences were evaluated from individual and societal perspectives. It was observed that social and political events, especially the Seyfo Massacre, which is often described as "social pain", shaped the collective memory of Assyrians in a deeply emotional way. Prominent emotions expressed by Assyrian participants include pain (■ ■ ■ ■ ■ harufo), fear (■ ■ ■ ■ ■ zuhtho), sadness (■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Hiznitiye), anger (■ ■ ■ ■ ■ kahir), and pride (■ ■ ■ ■ ■ kubbar). Kurdish participants noted that the political atmosphere after the 1980s clearly influenced their collective-emotional memory. The emotions expressed by Kurdish Turkologentag 2025 97 participants predominantly included anger (Hêrs), pain (Êş), exhaustion (Nemabûnî), pride (Fêz), and fear (Tîrs). The pain and anger resulting from historical discrimination were often mitigated by a sense of solidarity and pride within the community. Assyrians and Kurds expressed that embracing their identity was a source of pride. They linked their sadness over not speaking their mother tongue to the difficulty in forming emotional connections when using Turkish, highlighting the negative effects this has on identity construction. This study contributes to a better understanding of Assyrian and Kurdish groups' identity and emotional experiences in Turkey. Historical events that resonate within these groups' collective memories are critical in constructing their identity and emotions.

Keywords: emotion, identity, asyrians, kurdish, history of emotions

*POSTER

Speaker



Ayşe Tuna

Research Assistant | Hacettepe University

Authors

Hikmet Çağrı Yardımcı

[10] A tale of two selves: How (Bi)cultural Identities Relate to Suppression of Emotions

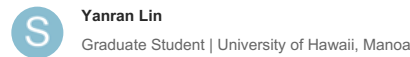
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Cultural frame switching occurs when bicultural individuals shift their values and attributions in the presence of cultural cues, including language. Research has examined how cultural frame switching may impact cognition, personality, and values. Yet little research has explored how cultural frame switching may impact what people believe about and how they regulate their emotions. This quasi-experiment examines the effect of language-primed cultural frame switching (writing about an emotional experience in Chinese vs. English), and level of cultural identity, on beliefs about emotions and emotion regulation in Chinese–English bilinguals. Although we did not find main effects of the language prime, preliminary findings show that both Chinese and American cultural identity predict greater suppression. American cultural identity also predicts stronger beliefs that emotions should be controlled. Should-beliefs are significantly correlated with suppression. Secondary analyses will examine the relationship between Chinese and American cultural identities (e.g., via Bicultural Identity Integration) and incorporate qualitative analysis of emotional experience responses in the prime.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yanran Lin

Graduate Student | University of Hawaii, Manoa

Authors

Joni Sasaki, Sylvaine Ou

[11] “Is This the Real Life?” The Language of Real and Imagined Narratives

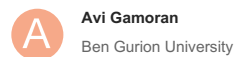
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Humans gain information through others' testimony, and therefore must apply epistemic vigilance to avoid misinformation. Vigilant appraisal is required to assess others' shared experiences: which parts of a recounted story were real, and which were exaggerated or imagined? We examine these questions in a corpus of real and imagined narratives (N = 1,052 authors; 2,054 narratives) with similar surface attributes. We fitted models for differentiating narrative types using computational linguistic analyses. Human evaluators (N=820) classified narratives as real or imagined. Humans and a Language Model achieved above chance performance, with the Language Model outperforming humans. Imagined narratives had more “realistic” features than real narratives: greater episodic details, concreteness, spatial elements and informal language. Human evaluators were only partially attuned to features that correctly discern real and imagined events, struggling with subtler styling cues. These results demonstrate different representations of real and imagined events, instrumental in assessing others' memories.

*POSTER

Speaker



Avi Gamoran

Ben Gurion University

Authors

Talya Sadeh, Michael Gilead

[12] AI chatbot as source of social support

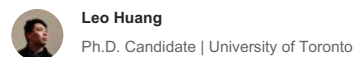
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

We interrogate the notions that stereotypes cause prejudice, that stereotypic information is part of the representation of prejudice, and that the connections among stereotypes, emotions, and prejudice are durable over time. In five experiments (total N = 1060), we find the connection between stereotypes, emotions and prejudice fades rather quickly with time. We generate novel prejudices through evaluative conditioning, exposing participants to stereotypic information that indicates a specific negative emotion. Endorsement of the specifically induced emotion is high at first, but much reduced five days later, becoming nearly indistinguishable from other negative emotions. Meanwhile, prejudice levels remain relatively high. We show that connections between stereotypes and prejudice fade rapidly (although the prejudice does not), and that specificity of emotions degrades quickly. Memory for stereotypic information can mostly disappear while the prejudice remains. These data suggest that, absent reinforcement, the representation of prejudice towards a group is rapidly winnowed down to valence; durable prejudice representations seem to be a simple representation of negative affect.

*POSTER

Speaker



Leo Huang

Ph.D. Candidate | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould

[13] AI in the Wild: A Meta-Analytic Evaluation of Depression Detection from Social Media Data

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

Amid rising global mental-health needs—one in eight people lived with a disorder in 2019 (WHO, 2022)—equitable detection tools are as vital as treatments. Social-media mining with machine learning offers “just-in-time” depression-risk estimates, but validity and ethics remain under-tested. Narrative reviews outline the terrain (Chancellor & De Choudhury, 2020) but leave two questions: What is the pooled accuracy, and do current practices justify trust? This meta-analysis synthesises 2022–2025 studies on social-media depression prediction, estimating accuracy and testing moderators.

Across 67 studies, pooled performance is strong ($r \approx 0.80$) and rises in 2024 ($p < .001$), driven by Transformer-based and multimodal systems ($p < .001$). Gains are uneven: post-level detectors improve most ($p < .001$), user-level severity lags, and outcomes hinge on label source and platform as much as model size—underscoring a gap between leaderboard gains and clinically reliable signals. To address it, we propose a Psych-Aligned Evaluation Framework mapping predictions to validated symptom dimensions and adding four tests: clinical validity, test–retest reliability, explainability, and ethical alignment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xianglu Tang
Research Assistant | Stanford University

Authors

Zhuoyi Jin, Xingyu Li, Geoffrey Cohen

[14] Am I Losing My South Asian Identity, or Is It Evolving? Investigating the Generational and Cultural Shifts Among SAARC Immigrants in the U.S.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Cultural orientation, whether emphasizing individualism or collectivism, profoundly changes the way individuals think, relate to others, and navigate. This study examined orientation differences of the understudied population of South Asians among 1st-, 1.5th-, and 2nd-generation immigrants (N=168) using the Culture Orientation Scale. The analyses from the cross-sectional, quantitative research design revealed 1st-gen participants scored higher on horizontal collectivism (valuing equality within groups) than 2nd-gen participants (Mdiff=2.66, SE=0.91, $t(165)=2.93$, $p=.011$, $\eta^2=0.05$). Also, 1st-gen participants scored higher on vertical collectivism (valuing hierarchy within groups) than 1.5th-gen (Mdiff=6.79, SE=1.76, $t(165)=3.86$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=0.17$) and 2nd-gen participants (Mdiff=5.72, SE=1.01, $t(165)=5.68$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=0.17$). This suggests that South Asian immigrants relocating to the U.S. later in life strongly value respect for elders and authority and mutual in-group support more than immigrants who moved earlier in life. Implications for this study include helping immigrants with acculturation, reducing intergenerational conflict, and creating culturally responsive practices.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aiswarya Atluri
University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Nadira Ullah, Nimra Ali Shah, Lisa Timmons

[15] Dissociating within-trial stimulus and response conflict in the decision to shoot

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Authors: Tiffany Ito, Bruce Bartholow

Conflict monitoring theory posits the coactivation of multiple response options drives discrepancies in task performance. Specifically, following high-conflict relative to low-conflict trials, people upregulate cognitive control systems to respond accurately. Such conflict adaptation frameworks are useful for understanding how individuals adjust behavior in the face of conflict after-the-fact; however, overcoming conflict in the moment can be critical. For example, in the First-person Shooter Task (FPST; Correll et al., 2002), images of Black and White men who are either armed with handgun or unarmed (e.g., holding a cellphone) are presented to participants, who must make split-second decisions to either “shoot” or “not shoot” accordingly, mimicking police-suspect scenarios. This task reliably elicits a bias to shoot unarmed Black targets more readily than unarmed White targets. The goal of this work was to examine the extent to which this bias emerges primarily because of an imbalance in managing the response conflict inherent in deciding between the “shoot” and “don’t shoot” options. White undergraduates (N = 99, 65 male) completed the FPST while EEG was recorded. ERP indices of early disambiguation of stimuli (N2) and response conflict (N450) were derived and disaggregated into their between- and within-person components to examine within-trial implementation of behavioral bias control. On a given trial, larger N2 amplitudes (relative to one’s own average) were associated with decreases in accuracy bias regardless of suspect race. Larger N450s were associated with relative increases in accuracy bias, but only for White suspects. Results suggest a dissociation between early stimulus-mediated conflict and later response-mediated conflict processes that are critical for behavioral bias control in-the-moment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Paul Brancaleone
Graduate Reserach Assistant | University of Iowa

[16] Stereotyping and Racial Perception of Multiracial Individuals

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The present study (N=246) examines how the perception of multiracial individuals varies across different multiracial identities, and how exposure to racial stereotypes of different valence influences social perception of multiracial individuals. Participants were assigned to three conditions with varying exposure to racial stereotypes and were tasked with assigning multiracial individual profiles to a single racial category, in addition to evaluating the profile's typicality in relation to four racial categories. Findings indicate differential racial perception outcomes for multiracial individuals of different backgrounds, with Black multiracial individuals being subjected to the most inaccurate evaluation of their identity. In addition we find distinct influences of positive and negative valence stereotypes on the social perception of multiracial individuals. Our studies implications for stereotyping and identity denial are significant to multiracial individual's mental health and quality of life, making further exploration of the subject matter paramount.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anika Wilsnack

Behavioral Research Fellow | Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

[17] And They Were Roommates... Roommate Diversity and Flexible Thinking Outcomes

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Decades of research show that intergroup contact not only improves cross-group relations and reduces outgroup bias (e.g. Pettigrew and Tropp, 2006), but also benefits a person's cognition. For example, students who come back from cross-cultural experiences studying abroad demonstrate increased creativity and flexible thinking (Benet-Martinez, Lee, & Leu, 2006; Maddux & Galinsky, 2009). Recently, several universities have adopted randomized roommate policies, resulting in an increased likelihood of being paired with someone of a different race. We ask if this everyday, structured form of intergroup contact can also boost flexible thinking. Using data from two cohorts of first-year students (N = 3,595)—one before and one after a randomized roommate policy implementation—we found that the policy increased cross-race roommate pairings. Those with an other-race roommate reported higher openness to diversity, stronger critical thinking skills, greater creativity, and richer interpersonal connections. Thus, by institutionalizing intergroup contact through randomized roommates, universities can offer a pathway to increased flexible thinking for all students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Zheng

Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Esha Naidu, Julia Zheng, Mohammad Wiswall, Mercedes Muñoz

[18] Anti-Intellectualism and Meta Perceptions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Anti-intellectualism can be loosely defined as a general distrust and disdain for intellectuals and their way of thinking. Anti-intellectualism is scantily studied in psychology but is prevalent as a concept in the world today. Our current head of health and human services has continued to cast doubt on the scientific community at large to the detriment of the health of the country. We believe that an antecedent to anti-intellectualism is negative meta-perceptions. We designed a study to manipulate meta-perceptions whereby students read a fake article showcasing professors having positive or negative perceptions of students. We then asked the students to respond to measures of outgroup trust and anti-intellectualism. We anticipate that participants in the negative meta-perception condition will endorse anti-intellectualism to a greater degree. Data collection is not complete at this time, but preliminary analyses indicate that people appear to be susceptible to the manipulation of meta perceptions and display more anti-elitism when these perceptions are negative.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eleanore Lee

Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Ian Beatty

[19] Anti-Jewish and Anti-Muslim Prejudice in the United States after October 7th, 2023

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Attitude research has generated a plethora of "implicit" measures to index evaluations of social groups, yet these measures have only ever been combined using coarse statistical models. This project draws existing data from four tasks assessing implicit evaluative information (Bar-Anan & Nosek, 2014) and relates them to each other under a unified computational model that accounts for behavior in terms of underlying processes like attitudes, response caution, and information processing speed. Each participant finished two of four tasks: Implicit Associations Test (IAT), Brief IAT, Evaluative Priming task (EP), and Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP). We create/use adapted versions of the Tug-of-War Model (Alaukik et al., 2024) to simultaneously model data from the four tasks, along with higher-order latent constructs describing implicit attitudes. This "joint" modeling process not only improves psychometric properties (e.g., reliability, validity), but also provides a unified theoretical account of how latent implicit attitudes can mechanistically explain behavior on multiple established implicit measures of attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ali Hajian

Graduate Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari, Ali Hajian

[20] Antisemitism and Antizionism Among American College Students

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Psychological research on antisemitism remains sparse despite compelling evidence that it remains a pressing social issue (Anti-Defamation League, 2024). Recent protests over the war in Gaza have raised accusations of and concerns about rising antisemitism on college campuses, particularly among politically left-leaning students. This study examined the relationship between political ideology, antizionism, and antisemitism among American college students.

Fifty-two students completed measures of political ideology, right-wing authoritarianism (RWA), left-wing authoritarianism (LWA), and the Generalized Antisemitism Scale (Allington, Hirsh, & Katz, 2022), which includes subscales for antisemitism (hostility toward Jews) and antizionism (opposition to the state of Israel).

Political ideology was significantly related to both: conservatism predicted greater antisemitism, while liberalism predicted greater antizionism. Mediation analyses revealed that the political ideology–antisemitism link was fully mediated by RWA while the political ideology–antizionism link was fully mediated by LWA. These findings highlight distinct ideological pathways to prejudice and the importance of distinguishing political critique from bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Caswell

Associate Professor | Gannon University

Authors

Mikaela Vahey

[21] Are Narcissistic People Easier to Fall For? A Speed-Dating Study

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Little research has focused on how ethnic-racial socialization messages from inside and outside the home collectively impact immigrant youth's identity. Thus, in a mixed-method study we examine what profiles of ethnic-racial socialization exist among immigrant youth and how they impact their identity. We asked immigrant youth (N=672) between 14 and 18 years about the ethnic-racial socialization messages they receive at home, school, and from others. We find three profiles of ethnic-racial socialization amongst immigrant youth, which differentially impact their racial identification. Additionally, in follow-up semi-structured interviews (n=30) we asked immigrant youth what it means to be a member of their ethnic group in the U.S., the impact it has had on them, and how they feel about their identity. Our qualitative findings contextualize and highlight the complexity regarding how important and positively immigrant youth view their ethnic-racial identity in relation to their racialized experiences. Our findings offer a person-centered understanding of immigrant youths' racialized experiences that can be utilized to inform positive identity development among immigrant youth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Braden Hall

PhD Student | University Of Alabama

Authors

William Hart, Joshua Lambert

[22] Are zero-sum beliefs and non-zero-sum beliefs one-dimensional? Focusing on factor structure

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Zero-sum beliefs, defined as the view that one's gain is another's loss, have been identified as an antecedent of high hostility and low compassion. These beliefs have been assumed to be unidimensional, encompassing both zero-sum perceptions (i.e., another's gain is one's loss) and non-zero-sum perceptions (i.e., both individuals can benefit). However, this assumption has not been fully validated. This raises two key questions: a) Do strong zero-sum perceptions imply weak non-zero-sum perceptions? b) Do measures consisting solely of zero-sum perceptions predict outcomes as effectively as those that include both? This study addresses these questions by using the Zero-Sum Belief (ZSB) scale, which includes both zero-sum and non-zero-sum items. A total of 357 undergraduates completed measures of ZSB, compassion goals, and general trust. Factor analysis of the ZSB items revealed that a two-factor model, consisting of a zero-sum factor and a non-zero-sum factor, provided a better fit than a one-factor model. Moreover, compassion and trust were not correlated with the scale composed solely of the zero-sum factor, but were associated with the scale that included the non-zero-sum factor. These findings suggest that zero-sum and non-zero-sum perceptions are not simple opposites, underscoring the importance of including non-zero-sum items when measuring zero-sum beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Misato Shinohara

Nara Women's University: Nara Joshi Daigaku

Authors

Hiroki Takehashi

[23] Escaping Indoors: VR Nature Mimics Some Benefits of Real Outdoor Exposure

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

MENTAL HEALTH

Authors: Alison Jane Martingano; Elizabeth Ellair; Caden Vercimak; Katie Barlow

Previous research has documented the wide-ranging benefits of spending time in nature (Vermeesch et al., 2024). Given increasing urbanization and limited access to natural environments, this study examined whether virtual reality (VR) can serve as a viable alternative to physical nature exposure. Participants spent six minutes either in a local forested arboretum, in a VR simulation of the same arboretum recorded with a high-fidelity 360° camera and presented through a VIVE Pro 2 headset, or in a VR urban control filmed inside a university building. We measured restoration, vitality, and mood across these conditions. Preliminary analyses (N = 47) showed that both VR and physical nature produced significantly greater restoration compared to the urban control (p 's < .01). However, only physical nature significantly improved positive mood (p = .008), while only VR nature significantly reduced negative mood (p = .024). No group differences emerged for vitality or stress. Overall, these findings suggest that VR nature can replicate several of the psychological benefits of real nature exposure, while also providing unique advantages in reducing negative mood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

Professor of Psychology | UW-Green Bay

[24] Assessing Acculturation in Adolescence: A Systematic Review of Acculturation Measures

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Acculturation refers to the gradual process of a series of cultural and psychological changes that individuals undergo when they are exposed to different cultural environments from their own. Because Adolescence is a critical period in one's identity development where race and ethnicity become more salient, it is critical to ensure there are adequate measures available to assess the potential negative effects of acculturation (e.g., low self-esteem and behavioral problems) that adolescents from racially and ethnically marginalized groups may be more vulnerable to. The present study reviews existing measures of acculturation normed on adolescents to illuminate the gaps in the literature and inform the features of a more ideal acculturation scale by conducting a systematic search to capture the existing measures and coding each measure item based on four different models of acculturation. Our preliminary analysis reveals that many of the currently available measures use outdated language, lack cross-cultural generalizability, and rely on stereotypes that do not accurately reflect acculturation status.

*POSTER

Speaker



Izabella Skinner

Graduate Assistant Doctoral | University of Memphis

Authors

Jennifer Salas, Jasmine Blake, Elizabeth Wells, Emily Srisarajivakul

[25] Associations Between Perceived Post-Traumatic Growth and Mental Health: A Synthesis of the Meta-Analytic Evidence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

The literature on the benefits of experiencing growth following adversity (or post-traumatic growth [PTG]) is marred by predictive validity concerns. Specifically, some studies show a positive relationship between PTG and mental health, while others show either a negative or no relationship. To address this lack of consensus, we conducted a quantitative synthesis of the meta-analytic literature on the topic.

In total, 18 meta-analyses were reviewed. Several variables – including the operationalization of PTG, well-being outcome, type of trauma, and time since trauma – were considered as moderators of effect size. Preliminary analyses found heterogeneity in effect sizes based on type of well-being outcome. PTG was positively associated with closely-related constructs like resilience, but this link was weaker to broad well-being. Moreover, while some negative associations between PTG and psychopathology such as depressive symptoms were reported, a few studies reported positive associations. This heterogeneity in the relationship between PTG and mental health corresponds to the uncertainty regarding the information captured by perceived PTG assessments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Leanna Bernish

Fellow for Research, Assessment, and Programming | The Program for Leadership and Character, Wake Forest University

Authors

Eranda Jayawickreme, Veronica Cole

[26] Associations of Psychosocial Factors with Institutional Confidence in U.S. Sample

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

This pre-registered study examined associations between age, sex, race, educational attainment, Big Five personality traits, political beliefs, subjective numeracy, life satisfaction, subjective social status, and confidence in social institutions to act in the public benefit. Correlational analyses were used to assess the relationship between and among each predictor and institutional confidence variables. Path modeling using SEM was used to test the direct and indirect effects in a sample of 615 participants. The resulting model had acceptable fit. Results indicated that being older, more conservative, having greater life satisfaction and being conscientious and agreeable is related to greater confidence in police officers and the military. Being less conservative, preferring more liberal media, and being more open predicts greater confidence in scientists and journalists. The associations of being older, having greater educational attainment, less conservative political beliefs, and higher subjective numeracy with confidence in elected officials, journalists, and scientists were found to be maintained, in part, by a preference for more liberal news/information sources."

*POSTER

Speaker



Paula Harrison

Graduate Student | Wayne State University

Authors

Tim Bogg

[27] Attachment Styles and Suicidality in BPD patients

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Background: Borderline personality disorder (BPD) carries a high suicide risk, making it important to identify mechanisms contributing to this vulnerability. This study examines which

insecure attachment style is most linked to suicidality in BPD and whether attachment to specific figures (parent, peer, partner) further differentiates risk.

Method: In 279 adult inpatients with BPD, attachment was assessed via the ECR-S and suicide risk via the SBQ-R. One-way ANOVAs examined SBQ-R differences across attachment styles for each target (mother, father, partner, friend).

Results: No main effects for suicide risk were found across attachment styles, but subset analyses showed significant differences in the mother and partner groups. Suicide risk was higher for fearful than secure or dismissive attachment to

the mother, and higher for preoccupied and secure than dismissive attachment to the partner.

Conclusion: Attachment to specific figures influence suicidality in BPD, indicating clinical value in assessing attachment styles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joann Jung

Rice University

Authors

Katrina Rufino, Ryan Smith

[28] Attitude towards Entrepreneurial Intentions among University Students: A Role of Personality Trait

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

*POSTER

Speaker



Haziq Mehmood

Authors

Humaira Akhtar, Haziq Mehmood

[29] Attributions of Advantage Distinguish Feelings of Privilege and Entitlement

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Issues of social inequalities and social justice often invoke beliefs about whether relative social group advantages reflect privilege or entitlement. The current research examined whether recipients of relative advantage may perceive it as a privilege or an entitlement based on attributions of their advantage in two studies. Study 1 employed a correlational design (N=407) and found that individuals high on self-rated entitlement were more likely to attribute advantages held by entitled others to their individual qualities and less likely to attribute them to external factors, compared to individuals high on self-rated privilege. In Study 2 (N=185), individuals who were experimentally induced to receive and attribute an advantage in a salary negotiation task to internal reasons (i.e., ranked at the top) reported stronger entitlement, while those induced to attribute their advantage to external reasons (i.e., random assignment) reported stronger privilege. Furthermore, internal attribution increased perceived deservingness and reduced anger through greater perceived entitlement, but not perceived privilege. We note limitations on power and ecological validity of our findings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amos Tai
Ministry of Defence

Authors

Jacynth Tan

[30] Awe as self-transcendent: an exploration of awe's relationship to immortality

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

OTHER

Awe has been described as a self-transcendent emotion with qualities similar to peak and mystical experiences. Qualities of awe and other self-transcendent experiences overlap with theoretical definitions of sense of immortality, but the relationship between these two areas of research is understudied. The present research found preliminary evidence for a relationship between awe and sense of immortality. The nature of the relationship depended on how awe was manipulated and measured, suggesting differences in their ability to reliably induce and capture aspects of awe related to immortality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sabrina Eisenberg
Graduate Assistant | University of South Florida

Authors

Sabrina Eisenberg

[31] Behavioral Signatures of Personality in Expansive and Contractive Media Use

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

People differ in how much they explore their environments—some seek novelty, others prefer the familiar. These explorer vs. returner patterns manifest in a wide variety of domains and ecologies, including physical mobility, food choices, and music listening, and are linked to both personality (e.g., openness) and well-being. Today, people spend about 4 hours daily navigating digital environments on smartphones, yet measuring expansive vs. contractive patterns use in smartphones remains difficult: the same content can appear across multiple apps, and a single app may contain diverse content. Drawing from media ecology, we propose a theoretical and methodological reconceptualization of media use as “movement through a structured environment.” Using 236,000+ hours of smartphone use from 257 participants over a year, paired with fortnightly surveys of..., we adapt mobility research techniques to extract features like total distance and k-radius of gyration in CLIP embedding space. We then test associations with personality and affect using mixed-effects models. Our approach introduces a novel method for identifying behavioral signatures in everyday digital life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yikun Chi
PhD student | Stanford University

Authors

Gabriella Harari, Tom Robinson, Byron Reeves, Nilam Ram

[32] For GPT-Image-1, Who is Human?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

GENDER

The category “human” refers to all individuals who belong to the species homo sapiens. In their self-reported beliefs, most humans agree; although, on measures of implicit cognition, dominant social groups see “human” as referring to their own (ethnic/racial) group. We optimistically asked: Will an image generation model (GPT-Image-1) include all homo sapiens in the category “human”? Instead, executing 100 queries each for 7 prompts to “render a realistic image” of a human [person, human being, individual, somebody, anybody, and random other], we found that GPT-Image-1 exhibited startling levels of bias. On all occasions, except when prompted with a random other, the model's output was almost exclusively male, with human and individual producing 100% images of men. All terms except random other elicited largely 30-something (100%) White (97%) males. The model's training data surely contain more diverse human representations. Why is there extreme bias? Will it be considered important enough to engineer AI toward accuracy? The presence and magnitude of this White/Young/Male default in a dominant model is alarming and serves to alert creators to set basic ethical standards.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gauri Sood
Harvard University

Authors

Suneragiri Liyanage, Ketan Suhaas Saichandran, Mahzarin Banaji, Steven Lehr

[33] Beyond Shared Identity: Collective Liberation as a Pathway to Solidarity Among Antagonistic Minority Groups

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Many people "put something on in the background" while doing daily activities. One reason for using media in the background is for emotion regulation (Kampfe et al., 2010; Zillmann, 1988). However, the emotion regulation process is more complex than prior investigations into background media have shown. This study uses the Emotion Regulation Process Model (Gross, 2014) to explore the phenomenon. We hypothesized that situational modification—adding a background media while performing an overwhelming or boring task—will be associated with regulation of the negative emotion. We also hypothesize that this modulation would be associated with persistence on the task.

Participants at a Midwestern U.S. university (N = 575) filled out a survey in which they reflected on a time in the past year where they completed a) an overwhelming and b) a boring task while listening to audio or video content in the background (within-subjects). They answered whether the media made the overwhelming [boring] task less overwhelming [boring] and whether this helped them persist on the main task.

The addition of the media improved the negative emotions, though there were some mixed results for video content. In turn, this emotional modulation was associated with participants feeling that their motivation to continue on the main task improved. Both hypotheses were supported. These findings have implications for interventions and education on media use recommendations for university students.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Daliah Marei**
PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould, Rebecca Neel

[34] Biculturalism and Cultural Frames on Body Idealizations in East Asian American Women

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This study explores biculturalism and cultural frames on the body ideals that East Asian American women adhere to. While the thin ideal is globally pervasive, literature suggests it is more extreme in East Asian cultures. Bicultural Identity Integration (BII) – how harmonious and blended individuals perceive their dual cultures as – affects responses to cultural contexts, leading individuals to shift between cultural frames depending on present cues. Lower BII individuals tend to display a contrast effect, endorsing frames opposing contexts. University participants were randomly assigned to an East Asian or American framing condition and responded to open-ended questions tailored to activate their assigned cultural frame before completing validated measures of body idealization and BII. Data collection is incomplete, but preliminary analyses show interaction effects between BII harmony and cultural condition in best body, desired body, and desired fitness idealizations, aligning with congruence and contrast effect trends. These highlight the potential role of harmony and context when approaching affective and identity-heavy constructs like body ideals.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Claire Gao**
University of Chicago

Authors

Dov Cohen, Bryan Pang

[35] Black Individual Conversation Content Preferences in Intergroup Interactions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The purpose of this research was to examine Black individuals' willingness to discuss conversation topics varying in core content dimension (i.e., intimacy, controversy, race-relatedness, positive valence, competence potential, warmth potential) as a function of partner race and role. Black participants (n = 284) were randomly assigned to interact with an ostensible Black or White gender-matched partner in a study on perceptions of online communication. Subsequently, they rated the degree to which they would be willing to answer or ask pilot-rated topics in conversation with their partner. Using a data analytic approach similar to previous research (Johnson et al., 2009), a mixed regression model uncovered in part that Black participants were more willing to discuss intimate, controversial, and positively-valenced topics with White than Black partners, but less willing to discuss race-related and competence potential topics with White than Black partners. Findings are consistent with social psychological theoretical frameworks (e.g., stereotype threat) and have downstream implications for Black individuals' perceptions and experiences in intergroup interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Kevin Zabel**
Assistant Professor of Psychology | Univ. of Wisconsin - La Crosse

Authors

Kevin Zabel

[36] Blessing or Curse? Compliment Perception through the Lens of Evil Eye Beliefs

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Our cognition and lived experience continuously inform each other. As a process involving reasoning, interpretation, and sociopolitical decision-making, critical consciousness is informed by cognition. Yet, critical consciousness has primarily been studied through developmental and experiential lenses. The present analysis explores whether cognitive skills like critical thinking, perspective taking, social intelligence, emotional regulation, metacognition, and locus of control predict CC's components. A multiple linear regression analysis showed that critical motivation was predicted by critical thinking and moral metacognition. Critical action was predicted by critical thinking, perspective taking, and internal locus of control. Gender and race also influenced CC, with men and white participants reporting lower CC. These findings suggest that fostering certain cognitive skills may be a promising pathway for developing critical consciousness, informing future educational and community-based interventions. The results also open new avenues for integrating cognitive perspectives into CC research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mina Aryaie

student | York University

Authors

Mina Aryaie

[37] Bridge or Sink: Reducing Partisan Animosity with a Cooperative Game Show

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

What drives someone to donate a kidney to a stranger? Prior research links certain personality and cognitive traits that distinguish "extraordinary altruists" from the typical population, but little is known about their developmental origins. Here we examine an unusually altruistic decision that can be expressed in childhood: the decision not to eat animals. Across two studies, we compared independent vegetarians (i.e., vegetarians raised in non-vegetarian households), family vegetarians, and non-vegetarian adults (N = 284) and children ages 8–11 (N = 236), assessing empathy, disgust sensitivity, cognitive reflection, fearful facial recognition, social dominance orientation (SDO), and speciesism. Independent and family vegetarian adults were less speciesist, lower in SDO, and higher in disgust sensitivity and empathy. Although we expected independent vegetarian children to show especially distinct traits, they differed little from others. Both independent and family vegetarian children were less speciesist than non-vegetarians, with no difference on other measures. These findings suggest dietary choices may reflect specific moral values rather than broad psychological traits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dilan Tulan

PhD Student | Harvard University Kennedy School of Government

Authors

Dilan Tulan

[38] Can Large Language Model Replicate Cultural Differences in Socio-ecologies?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Large language models (LLMs) are increasingly applied in psychological research. Previous studies indicate that LLMs can partially replicate cross-cultural personality differences. This study aims to verify whether LLMs can predict nation-level differences in socioecology—specifically relational mobility (defined as the freedom to form and choose interpersonal relationships). We prompted four models (ChatGPT-4o, Claude-Sonnet-3.5, DeepSeek-V3, and Hunyuan-Turbo) via API to respond to a standardized relational mobility scale as if they were typical residents of 39 countries (50 times each). After averaging model outputs and comparing them to empirical data, ChatGPT-4o best approximated actual scores ($r = .46$, lowest MSE). Claude showed weak cultural differences ($r = .12$), potentially due to the over-regularization during the human feedback reinforcement learning procedure. DeepSeek and Hunyuan showed significant deviation from empirical data, likely due to insufficient cultural coverage in training datasets. Findings indicate that LLMs can replicate cultural differences in social ecologies, though prediction performance varies widely across models.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yiming Zhu

Post-doc | Tamagawa University

[39] Child Abuse and Emotional Intelligence Predict Cluster A Personality Disorder Characteristics

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Prior research shows a positive correlation between ACEs and personality disorders (PD) but has not examined cluster A PDs (Björkenstam et al., 2017). We investigated relationships between childhood maltreatment, emotional intelligence (EI), and cluster A characteristics. We hypothesized that child abuse would predict more cluster A PD characteristics and EI would be a protective factor. A diverse sample of 402 U.S. adults (M age = 38.7, SD = 13) completed an online survey. Regression showed that childhood maltreatment predicted paranoid, $F(11, 384) = 8.32, p < .001, R^2 = .19$, schizoid, $F(11, 384) = 5.79, p < .001, R^2 = .14$, and schizotypal, $F(11, 384) = 5.76, p < .001, R^2 = .14$, characteristics significantly better than demographic covariates, and adding EI significantly increased prediction. EI was protective. Emotional abuse was the strongest risk factor for paranoid and schizoid, whereas sexual abuse most strongly predicted risk for schizotypal. Our results showed that childhood maltreatment history increases risk of developing cluster A personality characteristics and EI serves as a protective factor.

*POSTER

Speaker



Savannah Faircloth

Fielding Graduate University

Authors

Theresa Ferri, Kristine Jacquin

[40] Civic Honesty in Context: Trust, Mafia Influence, and State Resilience

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LAW

Civic honesty, the moral standards that define citizens' commitment to the public good, is fundamental for cooperation and collective well-being. Prior research highlights trust in institutions and fellow citizens as predictors of civic honesty, but most evidence comes from the Global North, where state authority is secure. Less is known about contexts where governance is contested by criminal organisations. This study tests whether country-level mafia influence and state resilience moderate the relationship between trust and civic honesty. We analysed data from 132,602 individuals across 84 countries using multilevel modelling with an extended Johnson–Neyman technique. Institutional trust predicted higher civic honesty in contexts with weaker mafia presence and stronger states, but this association reversed where mafia influence was high and institutions fragile. Interpersonal trust was negatively linked to civic honesty only in low-resilience states. These findings show that the effects of trust on civic honesty depend on broader political and criminal contexts. Future research should consider how criminal governance and state fragility reshape the meaning of trust.

*POSTER

Speaker



Giovanni Travaglino

Professor | Royal Holloway, University of London

Authors

Alberto Mirisola

[41] Community Blaming Attributions Fuel Indifference and Barriers to Justice for Native Women Victims of Sexual Violence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Native American women experience the highest rates of sexual violence of any U.S. ethnic group yet are rarely considered in the psychological literature. Past research has identified attributions that negatively shape sexual violence outcomes for women broadly, but no investigations have assessed attributions unique to Native women/communities. Two studies (N=1408) revealed that when explaining high rates of sexual violence towards Native (vs. White) women, participants relied heavily on negative racial stereotypes and deficits about Native communities (i.e., community blame). The current work investigates psychological consequences of Native community blaming. Study 3 (N=385) found that endorsement of community blaming was associated with more victim apathy and therefore less victim support. Community blaming was also associated with greater assimilative attitudes leading to less trust in Native-led institutions, more protective paternalism, and more victim support. These results suggest that community blaming not only breeds indifference to sexual violence against Native women; it insidiously affords attitudes that diminish Native people's agency to protect their communities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jamie Yellowtail

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Arianne Eason, Kristina Chamberlin

[42] “Is Compassion More Effortful Than Empathy in Everyday Social Interactions?”

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

EMOTION

Prosocial emotions are cognitively effortful. In this research, we tested if compassion or empathy is perceived as more effortful, and if this perceived effort is related to social well-being. In lab-based Study 1 (n = 373), college students more frequently avoided situations requiring compassion than those requiring empathy, and compassion was rated as more effortful and aversive than empathy. In diary-based Study 2 (n = 178), Prolific workers reported on prosocial emotions, perceived effort, and social well-being in up to five social interactions over the past 24 hours. Empathy was negatively correlated with the perceived effort and aversiveness of social interactions. Compassion had comparatively stronger positive associations with helping behavior and social connection relative to empathy. These findings suggest that while compassion is perceived as more effortful than empathy, compassion is more strongly associated with social well-being outcomes in everyday life. Diary-based Study 3 (ongoing; n = 300) will attempt to extend this research by further isolating the perceived effort of prosocial emotions themselves rather than to the overall social interaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Krystal Drummond

Student | Radford University

Authors

Daniel Berry

[43] Connecting the CAD Triad to Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Traits

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITs

Rigid perfectionism, a core characteristic of obsessive-compulsive personality traits (OCPT), is on the rise, particularly among college students. This study extends extant findings that OCPT share connections to negative emotionality by examining relations between Rozin et al.'s (1999) contempt, anger, and disgust (CAD) triad and those traits. There are theoretical links between OCPT and the three emotions in the CAD triad, including stubbornness and rigidity, anger in response to threatened control, and strict morality. College students from a Southern U.S. university (N = 681) completed self-report measures of OCPT and impairment associated with those traits. In addition, they completed self-report measures of the broad proneness toward positive and negative emotional states, as well as narrower measures of contempt, anger, and disgust. Among the CAD emotions, only contempt accounted for unique variance in OCPT and impairment beyond shared variance with the broad proneness toward positive and negative emotionality and the other CAD emotions. Study results indicate that contempt merits further attention to elucidate how it may impact OCPT and associated impairment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kassidy Conrad

Doctoral Student | Baylor University

Authors

Wade C. Rowatt, Thomas A. Fergus, Brianna Fuentes

[44] Construal Level's Influence on Trait Reliability

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITs

Construal Level Theory explains how psychological distance affects a person's thoughts, behaviors, or emotions. Our study specifically considers a person's self-perception across time. Prior to completing the Big Five Personality Test and the Regulatory Focus Questionnaire, participants completed a short prompt to prime them for either a high or low construal level. The study was designed to determine test-retest reliability of the questionnaire results of a participant when moderated by their construal level. We hypothesized that participant's answers would be more consistent when prompted to think about themselves ten years from now, rather than ten days, which would more likely result in compensatory behaviors. The administrations took place 4-6 weeks apart. The collected data from 351 participants—173 of whom returned for part two—should provide useful insight into the effects of construal theory on testing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lukas Aukerman

Wheaton College

Authors

James Cornwell

[45] Coping profiles and their associations with happiness and loneliness: A multigroup latent profile analysis in the USA and Japan

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Prior research shows that individuals who frequently use approach-oriented coping strategies achieve better well-being than those who rely on avoidant strategies or disengage from overall coping. Yet, it remains unclear whether these coping profiles and their associations with well-being appear across cultures. To address this, we conducted a multigroup latent profile analysis of 503 American and 506 Japanese participants, examining coping profiles and their associations with happiness and loneliness. Across cultures, three profiles emerged: avoidant, approach, and disengaged/low. Individuals with the approach profile reported the highest happiness and lowest loneliness, whereas those with the disengaged/low profile reported the lowest happiness. The avoidant profile fell in between. The proportion of participants in each profile did not differ across cultures, and happiness and loneliness showed no differences between American and Japanese participants within the same profile. These findings suggest that coping profiles and their associations with well-being are largely consistent across cultures, with approach coping being more beneficial than avoidant or disengaged/low coping.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kenji Machida

Nagoya University

Authors

Keiko Ishii

[46] COVID-19 and Linguistic Complexity in Science: An Analysis of Nature Articles

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Did the onset of COVID alter the complexity of scientific thinking? To help answer this question, we evaluated the complexity of almost 4,000 scientific journal articles supported by the Nature portfolio from 2018-2023. We collected articles across 9 timeline stages and scored them for defensive complexity and integrative complexity via the well-validated AutoIC system. Descriptive results revealed (1) an increase in defensive complexity (associated with belief defense) after the onset of COVID, and (2) a decrease in integrative complexity for two stages after COVID's onset before returning to baseline. Isolating the specific effect of COVID's onset, pre-registered segmented regression models that controlled for autoregression yielded a statistically significant increase in defensive complexity after COVID's onset, whereas the effect of COVID's onset on integrative complexity was less consistently significant. These results suggest that, although scientists maintained relatively high levels of complexity throughout, COVID nonetheless altered the complexity of scientists' thinking in ways consistent with research on the effects of stress on cognition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Theodore Campbell, Lucian Conway

[47] Cultural Acceptance of Emotional Displays in Leaders

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Do we really want to know what our supervisors feel? Leaders' emotional displays are often not private, and they function as social signals, shaping followers' behaviors and perceptions of the leaders as authentic and effective. While prior studies suggest that followers prefer a leader who expresses positive emotions (as opposed to suppressing them), this may not necessarily extend to contexts involving negative emotions. Additionally, research has primarily focused on Western contexts when cultural psychology implies that the same emotional expression can be interpreted differently across cultures. The current study will use vignettes to examine whether cultures (Germany vs. Taiwan) impact followers' perceptions of leader authenticity and effectiveness in positive (vs. negative) situations based on how expressive (vs. suppressive) leaders present their emotions. We hypothesize that Western participants will rate highly expressive leaders as more authentic and effective, while East Asian participants will prefer leaders who show low expressive emotions, particularly for negative emotions. Results will have implications for cross-cultural leadership practices.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Ancheng Zhong, Amelie Rossmair

[48] Cultural and religious ingroup-outgroup distinctions and trust in ingroups and outgroups.

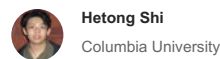
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The ingroup-outgroup distinction is a key factor for intergroup attitudes (see Gaertner & Dovidio, 2000). Previous research proposed that more collectivistic (e.g., Triandis, 1995) or more religious (e.g., Shaver et al., 2018; Tan & Vogel, 2008) people tend to emphasize the ingroup-outgroup distinction, and this can lead to more negative attitudes toward outgroups (see Altemeyer, 2009). We compared the levels of trust in ingroups and outgroups among people in Sweden (individual-oriented and nonreligious), Italy (individual-oriented and religious), China (group-oriented and nonreligious), and Iraq (group-oriented and religious) and examined how the levels of trust in ingroups and outgroups were predicted by group-orientation and religiousness in these cultural/religious groups, controlling for gender, age, education level, and income level. As predicted, across cultural/religious groups, more group-oriented and more religious people showed a higher level of trust in ingroups and a lower level of trust in outgroups, but the effect of group-orientation was stronger than the effect of religiousness on the levels of trust.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Jiarui Lin, Hyeyoung Shin

[49] The Effects of Religiousness, Political Conservatism, and Sexism on Attitudes toward Abortion: Cross-Cultural Comparisons

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Attitudes toward abortion are shaped by cultural, legal, and moral factors and vary across countries and cultures (Osborne et al., 2024). We predicted that religiousness, political conservatism, and sexism would be predictors of attitudes toward abortion across cultures, but the effect of each predictor would vary depending on each country's histories, systems and policies and given cultural norms and values. We examined the effects of religiousness, political conservatism, and sexism on attitudes toward abortion in Brazil, India, Japan, Russia, Turkey, and the US, controlling for age, education level, and income level. We found that religiousness was the strongest and most consistent predictor. Religiousness was a significant predictor in the US (large effect), Brazil, India, Russia (small to medium effect), and Turkey (small effect). Political conservatism was a significant predictor in the US (about large effect) and Turkey (medium effect). Sexism was a significant predictor in Russia (small to medium effect) and Japan (small effect). We discussed each country's historical, legal, and cultural backgrounds in relation to our findings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hyeyoung Shin
Visiting Assistant Professor | Colgate University

Authors

Hyeyoung Shin, Audrey Giltner, Ella Fugelsang

[50] Cultural Conceptions of Agency: Thematic Analysis of Media Coverage during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Latin America and the Anglosphere

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Individuals may explain their actions as driven by their own influence (disjoint agency) or by others' (conjoint agency), with agency framed as internal and stable or external and context-dependent. American individuals tend to endorse disjoint agency, whereas East Asian individuals endorse conjoint agency, yet less is known about other collectivistic groups, such as Latine people. Using a coding scheme adapted from prior work, we examine variation in concepts of agency in Latin America and the Anglosphere through an analysis of player descriptions in media coverage of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Our key question is to investigate whether Latine individuals have a more conjoint or disjoint model of agency compared to individuals from the Anglosphere. All data have been collected and preliminary analyses have been conducted using data from the U.S. and Wales, which show that journalists most often highlighted personal values, beliefs, and background (9.2%) and positive performance evaluations (9.8%) in descriptions of American and Welsh athletes. These findings are consistent with the idea that Western cultures emphasize personal and positive attributes of the self.

*POSTER

Speaker



Natalia Espinosa
PhD Student, Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University | Duke University

Authors

Sophia Correderas, Eliza Goldstein, Jeanie Jia

[51] CANCELLED:

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

*POSTER

[53] Cultural Differences in Post-Separation Conflict and Attachment Styles

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This study investigated the associations between perceived parental alienation, bicultural identity integration (BII), and adult attachment in emerging adults. A sample of 150 undergraduates completed self-report measures assessing parental alienation, BII dimensions (harmony, blendedness, conflict, compartmentalization), adult attachment (closeness, dependence, anxiety), and ethnic identity (exploration and commitment).

Maternal alienation significantly predicted lower bicultural harmony and greater attachment insecurity, reflected in lower closeness and dependence as well as higher anxiety. Paternal alienation was significantly associated with reduced closeness and dependence, but not with anxiety. Specific paternal behaviors (e.g., loyalty induction, contact interference) were differentially related to bicultural harmony.

Gender did not moderate associations with ethnic identity, nor did BII dimensions predict ethnic identity levels.

These findings highlight the distinct psychological consequences of maternal versus paternal alienation and underscore the particular sensitivity of bicultural harmony to relational stress within the family.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva Hu
MACS Student | University of Chicago

[55] Cultural essentialism in different ethnic groups

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Research on cultural essentialism, the belief that different cultural groups have unchangeable characteristics, conducted in various cultural contexts have tended to treat countries and cultures as singular units, overlooking differences in essentialist beliefs within country borders. However, within countries, there have been demonstrated sub-group variances in cultural dimensions (Tung, 2008; Coon & Kemmelmeier, 2001) and personality traits (Foldes, Duehr, & Ones, 2008; Brown, Englert, & Sisarich, 2005) across different ethnic and racial groups. It is reasonable to expect that ethnic and racial group differences would also appear in cultural essentialism, however currently there is insufficient empirical evidence to make such a determination. This is also a relevant research topic given the current socio-political climate surrounding ethnic group relations in several regions of the world. In this study, we aim to examine whether different ethnic-cultural groups in the U.S. possess different levels of essentialism, and the associated outcomes stemming from these differences.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Andy Chiou**
Associate Professor | Farmingdale State College

Authors

Jing Betty Feng

[56] Cultural Self-Construals and Prefrontal Dynamics of Positive Emotion Regulation: An fNIRS Study

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Cultural self-construals, shaped by individualism and collectivism, influence how positive emotions are regulated through strategies such as savoring and suppression. Independent-oriented cultures typically emphasize amplifying positive affect, while interdependent-oriented cultures often favor down-regulation to maintain social harmony. This study examined the neural underpinnings of these processes using functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS). Thirty-seven undergraduates completed self-report measures of independence, interdependence, empathy, and bicultural identity integration before engaging in randomized savor and suppress tasks with standardized positive stimuli. Results revealed significantly greater prefrontal cortex (PFC) activation during savoring compared to suppression. Within international students, ventromedial PFC activation was strongly correlated with bicultural identity integration scores, suggesting that frame switching between cultural values enhances neural engagement in positive emotion regulation. Additionally, PFC activation negatively correlated with vertical collectivism, indicating cultural moderation of regulatory strategies. These findings extend prior evidence of PFC involvement in emotion regulation to culturally shaped regulation of positive emotions, highlighting the dynamic interplay between cultural identity and neural mechanisms of affect. Future research should incorporate broader cultural samples, varied emotion modalities, and both positive and negative affective domains to deepen understanding of culture–emotion–brain interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Emily Kim**
Pomona College

Authors

Clarisse Koo, Charles Liu

[57] Cultural Variation in the Prioritization of Justice versus Interpersonal Responsibilities

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Using moral dilemmas involving conflicts between justice and interpersonal responsibilities rooted in filial piety, we tested 349 Chinese, 355 Japanese, and 349 American participants, hypothesizing that Chinese would be more likely than Americans to prioritize care for their mother, with Japanese falling in between. We also examined the potential effects of relational mobility and self-distancing on reducing prioritization of care for the mother, as suggested by previous research. The results showed that higher levels of relational mobility ($b = -.20$, $p = .026$) and self-distancing ($b = -.08$, $p = .014$) were associated with lower prioritization of care for the mother. As predicted, Chinese participants (89.1% and 78.3%) prioritized care for their mother significantly more than Americans (70.6% and 44.2%) in both low- and high-conflict situations. Unexpectedly, Japanese participants (low: 39.1%, high: 21.6%) prioritized care for their mother less than both groups, suggesting that they may instead prioritize the public self by considering others' eyes and adhering to public laws, a different form of interdependence from Chinese.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Qiu hao CUI**
Nagoya University

Authors

Keiko Ishii, Yang Li

[58] Cultural-Cognitive Pathways to Family Functioning: Dialectical Thinking and Empathy among Chinese Immigrant Mothers

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Research has documented how cultural differences in empathy are associated with family functioning. Empathy, comprising cognitive (understanding others' beliefs) and affective (understanding others' feelings) dimensions, plays a crucial role in enhancing communication, reducing conflict, and fostering emotional bonds within families. Yet, little is known about how culturally grounded cognitive styles shape empathy in immigrant contexts.

This study investigates how dialectical thinking—a cognitive style emphasizing contradiction and change—predicts empathy and family functioning among Chinese immigrant mothers (N = 394). Regression analyses showed that dialectical thinking predicted both cognitive and affective empathy, even after controlling for demographics. In turn, both empathy dimensions predicted stronger family relationships, though higher empathy—especially affective empathy—was also associated with greater parental stress. Structural equation modeling confirmed indirect pathways from dialectical thinking to family functioning through empathy. These findings highlight dialectical thinking as a cultural-cognitive resource with complex implications for empathy and family functioning, offering new insight into immigrant family life during adolescence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bo Jian
Syracuse University

Authors

Bo Jian, Kai Sun, Matthew Mulvaney, Luchen zhi Wang

[59] Culture as Miscalibrated Interpersonal Concern: How Misjudged Perceptions Undermine Support Seeking Across Societies

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

People sometimes hesitate to seek support from others because of interpersonal concerns, even when such concerns are unwarranted. These concerns vary across societies and shape cross-country patterns of support seeking. In this study, we hypothesized that people in Japan, compared with those in the United States, would overestimate the negative interpersonal consequences of seeking support. Across four cross-country studies using recalled events, hypothetical scenarios, and friend-dyad reports (total N = 2,852), we found that Japanese participants were more likely than U.S. participants to overestimate the burden they would impose on a friend. In Japan, but not in the U.S., support seekers also underestimated how happy friends would be to help and overestimated the negative impacts of seeking support on their relationship. Importantly, Japanese supporters viewed support seeking no less favorably than their U.S. counterparts, suggesting that the cultural ethos of "not causing trouble to others" may create unjustified barriers to support seeking in this low-mobility society. These findings broaden our understanding of cross-country differences in support seeking and highlight how miscalibrated interpersonal concerns can shape social relationships across societies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kuan-Ju Huang
Graduate student | Kyoto University

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Saya Nakamura, Youngjae Cha, Yukiko Uchida

[60] Cultures of honor and attitudes toward the criminal justice system

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

In the United States (US), cultures of honor (COH) emerged through historical and contextual dynamics that help identify patterns of aggression and retaliation. It is theorized that COH coincide with weak legal institutions, however little is known about their empirical association. We assess this association across two studies. In Study 1 (N = 49 US states (excl. Hawaii)), we used publicly available data and found strong, positive correlations between state-level COH and incarceration rates, fatalities by police, value of militarized equipment, and quantity of militarized equipment. In Study 2 (ongoing; Ntarget = 200), we are surveying US adults to determine whether perceptions of COH are associated with attitudes towards carceral institutions. Together, these studies suggest that the presence of strong legal institutions does not necessarily reduce honor norms; if anything, they can co-exist. The studies call for a re-examination of the widely theorized but seldom tested assumption that COH are created and sustained in contexts with weak legal institutions. Perhaps it is less of a question of whether institutions exist, but whether they are perceived to be legitimate and fair.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abbey Semivan
Graduate Student | University of Arizona

Authors

Tyler Jimenez

[61] What is facial “Afrocentricity”? A computational analysis of Black Prototypicality

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Individuals with Afrocentric (Black prototypical) facial features experience inequities in health and criminal justice systems, even when targets are White (Hagiwara et al., 2013; Eberhardt et al., 2006; Blair et al., 2002; King & Johnson, 2016). However, whether “Afrocentricity” is conceptualized consistently across races remains unclear. Do people use the same features to determine “Afrocentricity” in Black and White faces?

In 2 studies (N = 390), we collected ratings of Afrocentricity of synthetic Black and White faces (Todorov & Oh, 2021). We then created computational models of Afrocentricity separately for White and Black faces to determine if people use the same features to judge across target race.

Results showed only moderate overlap in the features participants used between races to determine Afrocentricity, with stronger correlations between same-category models than different-category models. Differences were driven both by feature weights and features used to judge Afrocentricity, with masculinity affecting ratings in Black but not White faces. Determining how racial prototypicality is represented across races clarifies what we measure when studying “Afrocentricity.”

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Anjana Lakshmi, Kurt Hugenberg

[62] Defining family: The use of heteronormative language in surrogacy laws

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LAW

We conducted a comprehensive review of all U.S. surrogacy laws. We coded whether these laws (a) prohibit commercial surrogacy; (b) utilize heteronormative language, or (c) utilize gender-inclusive language. Then, we used Project Implicit data to examine state levels of anti-gay bias and state voting behavior to examine political lean of the state. We used these measures as predictors of the use of heteronormative language in U.S. surrogacy laws. We found that 44% of states fail to regulate surrogacy by statute. Antigay implicit bias significantly predicts the use of heteronormative language in surrogacy laws ($\beta = -.16.11$, $p = .04$, $\eta^2 = .08$, 95% CIs [$<.001$, .26]). There is some support for the relationship between partisanship and the use of heteronormative language in surrogacy laws ($\beta = 0.06$, $p = .05$, $\eta^2 = .07$, 95% CIs [$<.001$, .24]). As a state's voting behavior becomes more democratic, the inclusivity of their surrogacy law increases. Overall, examining heteronormative language in family law is necessary as it greatly reduces LGBTQIA+ parents' access to the same mechanisms as heterosexual parents.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Alexey Mazon, Hannah Phalen

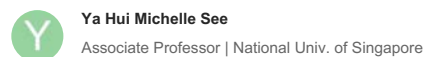
[63] Derogating The Black Sheep: A Meta-Analysis Across 14 Societies

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Ya Hui Michelle See, Gabriel Goh

[64] Differential Spontaneous Warmth/Competence Inferences Among Black and White Targets

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Traits are spontaneously inferred from other people's behavior via spontaneous trait inferences (STIs). However, little work examines if stereotypes impact STIs. Additionally, recent work shows that STIs impact perceiver behavior. We tested if target race (White vs Black) and warmth/competence stereotypes impact STIs and perceivers' intentions to approach (warmth-related) and recruit (competence-related) targets. Participants (N = 104) formed STIs for White and Black targets, but these inferences differed based on stereotypes. Positive warmth (e.g. warm) and negative warmth (e.g. cold) STIs were found for White targets whereas positive competence (e.g. intelligent), negative competence (e.g. stupid), and negative warmth STIs were found for Black targets. Because most participants identified as White (70%), these results align with the primacy of warmth effect for White targets and an outgroup negativity bias for Black targets. Additional data on participants' intentions to approach and recruit targets will be analyzed by SPSP 2026. We discuss these results in the context of race-based spontaneous impressions and trickle-down consequences for racial discrimination.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Angel Armenta, Ka Wai Lau, Dimitri Aguilar, Yonggun Yoon

[65] Discrimination Experiences Among People in Different Regions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Discrimination has long been established as a harmful experience associated with adverse outcomes. The literature has yet to clearly establish how experiences of discrimination differ within and between groups, and how regional characteristics might affect discrimination. The present research begins to answer these questions. In Study 1, we adopt a data-driven approach to develop a discrimination classification system, finding four classes of discrimination "types." We applied and validated this system with data from Study 2 (N = 425), in which participants of multiple social groups completed a three-week daily diary study reporting their daily experiences of discrimination. In Study 3 (N = 5829) we implemented a retrospective design to specifically target the geographic variation in discrimination experiences implicated in Study 2. Alongside replicating various patterns previously demonstrated in the literature, we uniquely find evidence that White people experience discrimination differently than minoritized groups. Further, we forward the "lightning rod hypothesis", positing that people experience more discrimination when relatively unique in their local environment. Together these findings help to better describe discrimination experiences, which may inform future models of experiencing prejudice and discrimination from the perspective of those most affected.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Suliteanu
McGill University

Authors

Eric Hehman, N. Keita Christophe

[66] Disgust Drives Explicit, Blatant Dehumanization

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Despite its powerful link to outcomes as severe as support for mass violence, the psychological antecedents of dehumanization remain unclear. The emotion of disgust has long been suspected as a key driver, but causal evidence is scarce. Across three studies (N = 1535), we test disgust's role in fueling explicit, blatant dehumanization. In two within-subject survey experiments, we first distinguish disgust's unique and robust influence on dehumanization from that of other discrete negative emotions like fear (Study 1) and anger (Study 2), as well as from general affective prejudice. We then demonstrate disgust's causal impact on dehumanization using an experimental emotion regulation paradigm (Study 3): participants instructed to amplify (vs. suppress) their emotional reaction to an extreme disgust-eliciting video stimulus more severely dehumanized an associated outgroup. Moreover, dehumanization mediated the effects of disgust amplification on support for punishment and containment of the targeted group. We situate these findings within a social functionalist framework, suggesting dehumanization serves as a mechanism through which disgust shapes intergroup conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shane Muldowney
Research Coordinator | Stanford Politics and Social Change Lab

Authors

Katrina Fincher, Alexander Landry

[67] Do Black and White parents underestimate other parents' interest in cross-race friendships?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Authoritarianism is a growing concern across nations. Existing measures of authoritarianism typically use a three-factor model consisting of authoritarian aggression, authoritarian submission, and conventionalism. These measures also have notable weaknesses and limitations. In addition, the aggression component of authoritarianism is a particularly salient threat to vulnerable groups. Accordingly, the current research developed and validated a modern unidimensional scale of authoritarian aggression. Study 1 established the factor structure and internal reliability of the 15-item scale. Study 2 examined the convergent and discriminant validity of the scale using a range of relevant sociopolitical measures and established an initial nomological network. Both studies used paid online convenience samples. The practical and scholarly implications of these findings are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katherine Swerbenski-Griffin
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Kristin Shutts, Katherine L. Swerbenski, Patricia G. Devine

[68] Do Psychological Interventions Reduce Intergroup Victimhood and Support for Violence? An Intervention Tournament

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This study explores employees' implicit theories of wise management. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 26 employees from an industrial organization, analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Results revealed three core dimensions of wise management: intrapersonal attributes (e.g., moral reasoning, emotional balance), interpersonal behaviors (e.g., empathy, team development), and job-related skills (e.g., foresight, problem-solving). These domains formed the basis of the Tripartite Model of Wise Management (TMWM), consisting of nine managerial styles, ranging from "wise manager" to "self-centered ineffective," illustrating variations in wisdom-related competencies. TMWM expands existing leadership frameworks by integrating ethical self-regulation with strategic and relational capacities. It offers a more dynamic and value-oriented approach to management, emphasizing not only how managers act but also why they act in a particular way. This framework informs management development, assessment centers, and selection processes by capturing the complexity of wise behavior in contextually demanding environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Neharika Nair

Graduate Student | University of Illinois – Chicago

Authors

Rebecca Littman, Yumeka Hirayama, Karen Bernstein, Boaz Hameiri, Neharika Nair

[69] Do threat and group membership impact recollection over time?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Research shows memory biases for positive ingroup and negative outgroup members. Work on memory consolidation shows that impressions are encoded into long term memory via sleep. We tested if threat impacts initial impressions and impression longevity using a minimal group paradigm. Participants were randomly assigned as an over estimator or under estimator via an estimation style test. They then formed impressions about ingroup or outgroup targets that were threatening (i.e. angry) or not (i.e. happy) by reading news articles that included a headshot and the target's group membership. Later the same day and 48 hours later, participants' memory about targets was assessed using the remember/know task. We hypothesized that recollection would be higher for negative outgroup members (vs negative ingroup) and positive ingroup members (vs positive outgroup), and these effects would persist after sleep. An a priori power analysis indicated 80 participants are needed to achieve 80% power. We have data from 50 participants and will complete data collection soon. Data will be analyzed by SPSP 2026. Results will be discussed in the context of stereotype and prejudice formation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Coyle

University of Kentucky

Authors

Angel Armenta, Courtney Crittenden, Mj Johnson, Michael Zarate

[70] Does Friendship Quality Moderate the Effectiveness of Digital vs. In-Person Social Support on Stress Recovery?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY/GENETICS

Text-messaging is a common way young adults communicate, yet little is known about whether digital social support buffers stress responses and how friendship quality may shape its effectiveness. We tested whether friendship quality moderated in-person and text-messaged support on cardiovascular and psychological reactivity to stress. Female undergraduates ($n = 49$, $M_{age} = 20.33$) completed an anticipated speech task with a same-gender friend who was randomly assigned to provide in-person ($n = 14$), text-messaged ($n = 17$), or no social support ($n = 18$). Friendship quality was measured for both participants ($M = 4.89$, $SD = 0.89$). Multilevel growth curve models with planned contrasts examined stress responses. Results showed that friendship quality moderated in-person support: Participants with moderately supportive friends had reduced diastolic blood pressure (DBP) reactivity, whereas highly supportive friends increased DBP, suggesting performance pressure. When comparing digital with in-person support, recovery was linked to higher positive emotions in both, but in-person support was most beneficial with weaker friendships, while digital support was most effective with stronger ones.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tabitha C. S. Caley

PhD Candidate | University of Utah

Authors

Barbara Lehman

[71] Does Trait-Truthful Communication Influence How People Perceive Situations?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

This research examines whether trait-truthful communication predicts the extent to which individuals perceive situations as relevant to truthfulness. Honesty is a valued trait (Hartley et al. 2016), and previous research has identified truthfulness—defined as “expressing one’s beliefs accurately and faithfully”—as a core component of honesty and has studied it as a moral trait (Reynolds et al., 2025). According to the explanatory side of Whole Trait Theory (WTT; Fleenon & Jayawickreme, 2015), traits emerge from interactions between internal and external factors, such as interpretations of situations. Based on WTT, we predict that individuals higher in trait-truthful communication (measured through the trait-truthful communication scale; Reynolds et al., 2025) will rate written ambiguous scenarios as more relevant to truthfulness compared to individuals with lower levels of trait-truthful communication. We aim to sample at least 250 adult U.S. residents recruited from Prolific. These findings will contribute to understanding the explanatory side of WTT and further connect virtue research with personality psychology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Waggener
Masters Student | Wake Forest

[72] Echoes and Insights: How Gossip Relates to Perceived Authenticity in Others

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Gossip plays a significant role in human communication and connection, offering valuable insights into how an individual’s authenticity is perceived by others. This study explores the relation between five types of gossip and perceived authenticity, with gender as a moderating factor. A total of 276 participants were asked to think of four individuals they knew as follows: a man and a woman who do not gossip and a man a woman who did gossip. When asked to think of a person who gossiped, they were asked to think of a person who gossips for one of possible reasons consistent with prior research on motivations for gossiping. Results indicated a significant main effect of gossiping (regardless of type) on perceived authenticity, as well as a main effect of target gender, with women being perceived as gossiping more than men. Additionally, significant main effects were found for type of gossip. Gossiping for social enjoyment or to negative influence another’s reputation was negatively related to authenticity, whereas gossiping to protect one’s group was positively related to authenticity. Implications are discussed.

*POSTER

Speakers



Katherine Cheves
Presenter | UT San Antonio



Janelle Kohler
Univ. of Texas at San Antonio

Authors

Megan Gilliland, Katherine Cheves, Moiz Rehman, Stephanie Mills, David Pillow

[73] Effects of Hispanic and Asian Population Growth

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The United States is growing increasingly racially diverse even as current deportations near 1,500 per day, signaling intensified anti-immigrant sentiment (Sun, 2025). Prior work has shown that making Hispanic/Latinx growth salient increases conservatism among non-Hispanic participants (Craig & Richeson, 2018), but whether reactions differ for immigrant groups stereotyped as both low economic status and foreign (Hispanic/Latinx) versus foreign but higher in economic status (Asian) remains unclear (Zou & Cheryan, 2017). In a preregistered experiment (N=450), White U.S. adults read about Hispanic/Latinx growth, Asian growth, or non-immigration control information, then reported perceptions of changes in their status, realistic/symbolic threat, and racial attitudes. We predict that Hispanic/Latinx growth will elicit expectations of Hispanic/Latinx gains and Whites’ losses across economic and cultural status (replicating Craig & Lee, 2022), whereas Asian growth may elicit similar but attenuated responses given higher economic status stereotypes. This study offers insight into how demographic change along economic and cultural dimensions shapes status threat and racial attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Barbara Okazaki
Amherst College

Authors

Michelle Lee

[74] Effects of One's Own Voice on Narrative Transportation via Identification

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Previous studies have shown that transportation (entering the story world) can influence listeners' attitudes and behaviors. One factor contributing to transportation is the similarity between the listener and the character, possibly via identification (adopting the character's perspective). However, little is known about the effects of voice similarity, including the listener's own voice, which is the most similar to their own. This study examined how voice similarity influences identification and transportation. A total of 424 Japanese participants completed an online experiment in which they listened to audiobook excerpts in either their own or other's synthetic voice (self- or other-voice condition). They then rated similarity, identification, transportation, enjoyment, and intention. Indirect effects of similarity via identification were tested using mediation analysis. Results showed that perceived similarity enhanced identification, which in turn promoted transportation, enjoyment, and intention. These mediation effects were observed in the other-voice group but were limited in the self-voice group, suggesting that the impact of similarity depends on the voice condition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hikaru Yanagida

NTT, Inc.

Authors

Mizuki Nagano, Kenichi Fujita, Yusuke Ijima

[75] Emotional and Personality Predictors of Violent Media Engagement

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Violent media presents a paradox: people are often distressed by violent content yet remain drawn to it. While most research emphasizes violent media's effects on aggression, less is known about why people consume it. Personality traits likely shape this engagement and its emotional impact. The present study will test how morbid curiosity, neuroticism, and anxiety influence reactions to violent content in real time. Undergraduate participants (N=100) will complete trait measures (Morbid Curiosity Scale, TIPI-Neuroticism, GAD-7, PANAS) before being randomly assigned to read either a violent/negative or neutral/positive Wikipedia article. They will complete comprehension checks, repeated affect surveys, and a free navigation task in which hyperlink clicks are coded by valence. We expect morbid curiosity to predict greater exploration of violent links and more positive engagement. Neuroticism, particularly when paired with morbid curiosity, may foster conflicted engagement as participants are drawn to violent content despite heightened negative affect. Findings will clarify how curiosity and anxiety jointly drive paradoxical media use, advancing theory and informing digital well-being interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brianna Borseth

Undergraduate Research Assistant | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Authors

Alexandra Wormley, Ethan Kross

[76] Emotional Experience of Relief and Joy in Japan and the U.S.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Cross-cultural studies have often shown that individuals in East Asian cultures report experiencing positive emotions (e.g., joy) less frequently than their Western counterparts. However, research on specific emotions such as relief, which reflects the improvement or calming of negative situations, remains limited. Relief may be particularly salient in Japan, where socioecological (e.g., natural disasters) and interdependent cultural contexts have fostered an avoidance orientation. In this study, we examined the experiences of relief and joy in Japan (n = 103) and the U.S. (n = 100). Participants described situations in which they felt each emotion and reported the frequency of these experiences. Results showed that Americans reported experiencing joy situations more frequently than Japanese participants. By contrast, no cultural difference was found for relief, suggesting that Japanese experience relief as frequently as Americans, despite the general cultural differences in positive emotional experience. Furthermore, content analyses of the situations provided insights into cultural similarities and differences in the contexts that elicited these emotions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuzuka Nakanishi

Hitotsubashi University

Authors

Yuri Miyamoto

[77] Emotional hypersensitivity as the ‘superpower’ of highly emotionally intelligent individuals

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Emotional intelligence (EI) acts as a magnifier of emotional experience, enhancing perception and processing of emotional cues. The high sensitivity of emotionally intelligent individuals manifests in attentional bias toward emotional faces, heightened discrimination of subtle cues, stronger mimicry, and lower detection threshold. This sensitivity might yield benefits, but also costs through resource consumption. We tested this idea among 374 vocational school students. Four profiles emerged. Profile 1: highest EI, low unpleasant/high pleasant emotions reactivity, frequent adaptive regulation. Profile 2: medium high EI, high reactivity for both emotion types, flexible adaptive and maladaptive regulation. Both profiles predicted higher life satisfaction, intrinsic motivation, and engagement, yet Profile 2 also showed higher physical strain. Profile 3: average EI, high negative reactivity, maladaptive regulation. Profile 4: low EI, low reactivity, little regulation—the least functional. Results highlight the advantages and limits of EI linked reactivity and the pivotal role of emotion regulation in turning hypersensitivity into the ‘superpower’ of emotionally intelligent individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marina Fiori

Professor | Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training

Authors

Matilde Wenger, Yoann Favre

[78] EMPATHY AS A PREDICTOR OF STRESS CONTAGION

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Empathy allows individuals to understand and resonate with others’ emotions, while stress contagion occurs when one person’s stress triggers a stress response in another. Although each construct has been studied independently, little research has examined their potential interaction. This study proposes to investigate whether trait empathy predicts susceptibility to stress contagion. Participants will complete the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI), Stress Numerical Rating Scale (SNRS), State-trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), listen to either a stressed or neutral speaker audio stimulus, and complete post-viewing self-report and physiological assessments. Changes in heart rate and skin conductance, as measured via Galvanic Skin Response (GSR), will index physiological stress responses. It is hypothesized that participants high in trait empathy will show greater stress reactivity—both self-reported and physiological—when exposed to the stressed speaker audio stimulus. This research may deepen understanding of how dispositional empathy influences emotional transmission, with potential applications in clinical, educational, and occupational settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessica Meeks

Texas Woman’s University

Authors

Alannah Shelby Rivers

[79] End of world beliefs are culturally diverse and shape perceptions of pressing issues

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Functional decline – reduced physical or cognitive abilities that limit one’s capacity to perform common daily tasks – affects over 12% of U.S. adults. Individuals with functional limitations experience reduced social participation and worse psychological health. This study examined civic obligation—the motivation to engage in and contribute to the community—as a novel protective factor against physical decline-related distress. Using the Midlife in the U.S. (MIDUS) data, we tested whether civic obligation moderates the relationship between functional decline and well-being. Results showed that functional decline negatively predicted well-being beyond aging effects. Civic obligation, however, contributes positively to well-being. Crucially, higher civic obligation most strongly protected well-being among those with severe functional limitations, even when controlling for participation in various civic activities. This buffering effect complements existing models by demonstrating that psychological orientation toward civic duties, rather than behaviors alone, shapes well-being. Implications for designing accessible civic engagement programs for vulnerable populations are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Billet

Postdoctoral Fellow | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Azim Shariff, Ara Norenzayan, Cindel J.M. White

[80] Environment Impressions Enable Accurate Inferences of an Environment's Inhabitants

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

OTHER

Environments are rich in information that people can use for multiple purposes. One source of such information is the environment's inhabitants themselves—they shape the environment and by doing so leave behind cues. The present research builds on the Environment Impressions Model to demonstrate that people can use environment impressions of density and desirability to form inferences about an environment's inhabitants. Further, by using information from public databases such as the US Census and Project Implicit, we additionally demonstrate that such inferences are accurate. Overall, our results suggest that people exhibit both consensus and accuracy in their inferences of an environment's inhabitants, thereby highlighting the important role environment impressions play in everyday life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Travis Lim
McGill University

Authors

Eric Hehman, Romy Beauregard

[81] Escaping into Pixels: How Personal Traits and Cultural Values Shape Short Video Platform Usage

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

The rapid proliferation of short-form video platforms (SVPs) like TikTok has raised concerns about their impact on mental health, cognitive development, and cultural engagement, particularly among younger users. This study investigates how personal traits (e.g., self confidence, stress) and cultural values (e.g., individualism vs. collectivism) interact to shape SVP usage, employing a quantitative approach with a multicultural sample of 246 Canadian undergraduate students. Results revealed a moderate correlation between individual recognition and self-confidence, with self-confidence paradoxically predicting negative digital impact due to

heightened self-exposure. Stress-driven users exhibited escapist tendencies, while cultural hybridity emerged in self-expression, blending individual validation and communal cohesion.

Two distinct pathways were identified: Confidence-Driven Recognition (showcasing achievements) and Stress-Driven Recognition (compulsive validation-seeking), both amplified by platform algorithms prioritizing visibility. Despite limitations like gender imbalance and a Western-oriented multicultural sample, the study advances Cultural Dualism in SVP Engagement, a framework integrating cultural psychology and behavioral addiction theories. Findings underscore the need for platform designs that balance visibility with well-being and culturally informed interventions to mitigate digital harm.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mason Li
Student | University of Toronto Scarborough

[82] Ethnic Identity, Self-Esteem, and Cultural Values Among Asian American Young Adults: The Role of Mainstream and Ethnic Media Consumption

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This proposed study examines how mainstream and ethnic media exposure influence ethnic identity, self-esteem, and cultural values among Asian American young adults.

Asian Americans are among the most digitally connected populations in the U.S., with 68% of English-speaking adults online "almost constantly". Yet mainstream American media continue to offer limited or stereotyped portrayals of Asian Americans, which may contribute to lower self-esteem, internalized bias, or cultural detachment. Conversely, ethnic media often provide more affirming representations, strengthening cultural identity and reducing feelings of marginalization.

This study proposes a survey-based analysis of 500 Asian American adults between 18-25 recruited via social media, student organizations, and national Asian American interest groups. Participants will report their weekly hours of engagement with both mainstream and ethnic media across multiple formats. Measures will include the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure, the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, and the Asian Values Scale. Statistical analysis will be conducted using structural equation modeling to identify both direct and indirect relationships between media exposure and identity-related and self-esteem outcomes.

We expect that greater exposure to mainstream U.S. media will be negatively associated with self-esteem among Asian American participants, a pattern previously identified in a study of Indian Americans. In contrast, we hypothesize that exposure to ethnic media will be positively associated with stronger ethnic identity. Ethnic media often provide culturally affirming content that fosters a sense of belonging, reinforces heritage values, and promotes the expression of cultural practices.

It is also expected that increased exposure to mainstream media will correlate with greater endorsement of individualistic values, while ethnic media exposure will be associated with stronger adherence to collectivist values. This expectation is grounded in cross-cultural analyses showing that U.S. media promote themes of independence, personal achievement, and assertiveness, while ethnic media, such as Korean dramas or Chinese films, highlight familial duty and social harmony.

*POSTER

Speaker



May Xiao
MA/PhD Student | DePaul University

[83] "Respect is earned, not given": Analyzing masculine honor ideology and dominance and prestige-motivated outcomes

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Masculine honor ideology is the idea that men act aggressively or violently toward women and others to achieve a masculine, dominant reputation. Previous research shows that men higher in masculine honor seek higher status and use prestige (e.g. respect, honor) or dominance (e.g. aggression, force) to achieve it. Using a variation of the prisoner's dilemma—a game where participants (anticipated n=300) are assigned to another player they can choose to compete or cooperate with to maximize a monetary reward—we aim to analyze behavioral outcomes of said motivations for men higher in masculine honor. We predict that men higher in masculine honor using dominance will be more likely to harm others for personal gain, while those using prestige will cooperate unless provoked. The prestige-based outcomes we anticipate could reveal a more positive side of masculine honor ideology, suggesting that these men endorse respect and politeness toward others unless proven otherwise. This extends previous research on masculine honor and status, and understanding the motives behind these men's status seeking can help us see how context impacts decisions to endorse norms of politeness versus dominance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Norah Schloneger

Peer Tutor | Butler University

Authors

Conor J. O'Dea

[84] Making You The Fool: How People Emphasize or Discredit Political Knowledge and Outgroups When Given False Feedback

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Research indicates that people enhance their social identity by promoting their own ingroup and disparaging an outgroup. In a time of polarization, political opinion has become an agent for this intergroup behavior. Across two studies (study 1, n = 491; anticipated study 2, n = 300), we examined how participants respond to false feedback on tests that relate to two politically-charged issues, abortion in study 1 and Blue Lives Matter in study 2. Participants reported their political affiliation and stance on the matter, and completed a knowledge test about the given topic. They received false feedback after each question (if correct, they were told they got it wrong and vice versa), and were told that they scored similarly to their group. We then asked participants to reflect on the importance of the item and how bad it is to get it wrong. Consistent with our hypothesis, participants emphasized the questions they got "right" and downplayed the value of questions they got "wrong". It was also consistent that participants excused errors of the ingroup, yet disparaged the outgroup for their errors. The resulting study expands literature on intergroup relations in a political context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Giana LaPorte

Student | Butler University

Authors

Conor O'Dea

[85] Evaluating listening: A new coding tool to assess conversational listening

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

The quality of one person's listening in a conversation has meaningful psychological effects on the speaker. However, speakers and listeners often have different perceptions of listening quality, and each appears to be poorly calibrated. Thus, there is a need for an objective indicator of conversational listening quality. We developed a theory-derived tool for coding listening based on behaviors associated with its three dimensions: attention, comprehension, and positive intentions. We hypothesized that this coding tool could serve as an effective alternative to other measures of listening and could even act as a manipulation check for studies that utilize trained listeners. We predict that the listening ratings provided by the tool will be consistent between coders and will demonstrate validity by correlating well with self-reports of listening across studies that used both trained and untrained listeners.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taylor Lee

University at Buffalo

Authors

Ya Hui Michelle See, Kenneth DeMarree, Guy Itzhakov

[86] Examining Filipino Psychological Tendencies

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Compared to European Americans, Filipinos are often considered interdependent like East Asians. However, it is unclear whether they are interdependent in the same way as East Asians. Here, we tested 119 Filipino and 120 European American college students in tasks examining their cognitive style, self-enhancement, everyday emotional experiences and expression of emotions. Results showed that Filipinos are significantly more holistic and self-effacing than European Americans. In this way, the Filipino pattern is similar to that of East Asians. However, Filipinos experienced disengaging (e.g., pride) emotions more than engaging emotions (e.g., feelings of closeness). There was also a trend such that Filipinos tended to link their happiness more to emotions that promote social disengagement rather than engagement. These initial results suggest the possibility that Filipinos may be distinct from East Asians in the domain of emotions, where they seem more like European Americans. These findings have implications for the need to re-examine the homogeneity among Asian groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Patrick Gilbert Reyes

PhD Student | Duke University

Authors

Jerome Ouano, Jose Alberto Reyes, Cristina Salvador

[87] Examining the Sexual Identity Disclosure Process Among Black Queer Femmes and Their Families

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Queer identity development theories often overlook the intersectional experiences of Black queer femmes (BQF; African diasporic people expressing non-normative femininities who identify as queer), limiting their relevance for this population. Traditional models emphasize "coming out" to family as central to identity integration but often fail to capture the layered realities of BQF, who navigate both racial/ethnic and LGBTQ+ identities. This study aimed to: 1) explore BQF disclosure experiences with family, 2) examine family responses and 3) identify factors shaping acceptance. Using a dyadic interpretative phenomenological approach, semi-structured interviews with 5 BQF-family member pairs (n=10; Mage=37.9, 25-68 years old) were analyzed. Eight meta-themes were identified: minority stress, culture, conflation of gender and sexuality, views on acceptance, proximity to queerness, facilitators of acceptance, enacted heterosexism, and relational closeness. Findings underscore the role of culture, religion, relationship strength, and queer representation in shaping acceptance, and highlight the need for intersectional approaches to support BQF and their families.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kay Denis

Doctoral Student | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Byron Brooks, Darnell Motley

[88] Explaining the Interpersonal Perceptions of Dark Triad Traits

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Previous research suggests that people can accurately judge others' personality profiles by observing social behavior. However, few studies have examined which behavioral cues unfamiliar observers rely on to identify dark triad (DT) traits: psychopathy, Machiavellianism, and narcissism. In the present study, approximately 100 undergraduate participants will be recorded during an unstructured interaction with a confederate. Individuals who have no prior acquaintance with the participants will view these recordings to assess self-other accuracy for each DT trait by correlating participants' self-reports with other-reports. Additionally, trained research assistants will use the Riverside Behavioral Q-Sort to rank the relevance of specific behavioral cues to each participant. Analyses will identify which cues unfamiliar judges associate with DT traits and which cues are most strongly related to self-reported DT traits. Finally, these sets of cues will be compared to determine the extent to which the cues used by judges align with those that are associated with self-reported DT traits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wilkes Jones

Master's Student | Villanova University

Authors

Jennifer Ryan, Nicholas Ashenfelter, Abbie Gilbert, Corah Breiter, Brynn Moller

[89] Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Multidimensional Humility Scale

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Humility is linked to improved relationship satisfaction and higher life satisfaction. Due to self-enhancement or modesty concerns, few self-report humility measures exist. We aimed to develop the Multidimensional Humility Scale and minimize these biases. Based on prior research, we generated 90 behavior and belief-focused items avoiding the word "humble." In our first study, 624 participants completed a survey and we conducted two exploratory factor analyses. Across both analyses, 38-items loaded on six factors: cultural humility, self-acceptance, self-suppression, limit-recognition, other-focus, and low superiority. All factors displayed acceptable internal reliability, aligning with the hypothesized factors. For validity checks, we assessed correlations with social desirability and the Honesty-Humility subscale of the HEXACO-PI-R. Three factors were positively associated with social desirability, albeit weaker than Honesty-Humility was. All factors had weak positive correlations with Honesty-Humility. In our next study, for which 322 adults participated, we will conduct confirmatory factor analysis and further validity checks.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Bucaloiu
Bucknell University

Authors

John Ptacek

[90] CANCELLED

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

*POSTER

[91] Exploring personality and moral foundations across varying political identities.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Our research aims to further understand the relationships between personality traits, moral foundations, political identity, and opinions on historical political policies. Using the Big Five (DeYoung et al., 2007), Moral Foundations (Ataari et al., 2023) and Conservatism/Liberalism scale (Everett, 2013), we have surveyed a Southeastern American sample –a population which is underrepresented in personality research. We also developed a novel scale assessing endorsement of historically authoritarian political policies. Results indicate there is a strong, positive relationship between Conscientiousness and support of authoritarian policies, as well as between Social Conservatism and support of authoritarian policies. However, results also determined that only the Binding Foundations (loyalty, authority, and purity) served as a predictor of authoritarian policy support. Other findings include a strong positive relationship between Liberalism and Openness, between Liberalism and the Individualizing Foundations, as well as a strong negative correlation between authoritarian policy support and the trait of Openness. These findings suggest that certain moral foundations and personality traits may align with authoritarian policy preferences, contributing to our understanding of political polarization in the United States. Future research by our team includes the expansion of measured personality factors to determine other underlying relationships existing within varying political identities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexandra Matthews
Student | Clemson University

Authors

Darby Austin, Lauren Castner, Ben Cotterill

[92] Exploring Socioeconomic Correlates of Loneliness: A Community-Augmented Meta-Analysis

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

Most research on the effects of BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Dominance/Submission, Sadism/Masochism) activities has focused on longer activities, leaving a gap in research on how individuals react to short BDSM activities. Thus, the goal of this study was to explore how BDSM practitioners react to brief BDSM experiences. Ninety-four participants completed a questionnaire pre and post participation in a 5-minute BDSM activity. Results of paired samples t-tests showed that ratings for feeling proud were significantly higher post-activity compared to pre-activity. Ratings of emotions of shame significantly decreased post-activity compared to pre-activity. Ratings of feelings of closeness with other conference attendees increased post-activity compared to pre-activity. Finally, moderation analyses revealed a significant interaction for the relationship of feeling proud pre and post activity on years in the community. The results show increases in positive emotions and decreases in negative emotions after engaging in a brief BDSM activity compared to before the activity. Finally, the relationship between feeling proud pre and post activity was moderated by years in the community, such that those who were newer in the community felt an increase of pride post activity compared to those who had been in the community longer.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yixin Tang

Authors

Yixin Tang, Julia Krasko, Hans Rocha IJzerman, Maike Luhmann

[93] Exploring Suicidal Attitudes among Korean Immigrants: Latent Profiles and Effects of Cultural Traits

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This study examines the suicidal attitudes among Korean immigrants in the USA through the lens of Korean cultural traits, focusing on two research questions. First, what latent profiles of suicidal attitudes would emerge among Korean immigrants? Second, how could Korean cultural traits—Relationism, Agency, and Complex-flexibility— influence the probability of membership in these profiles? A survey was conducted with 495 Korean immigrants in Los Angeles area (male = 247; Mage = 52.3, SD = 13.4). Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) identified four latent profiles of suicidal attitudes: rejection-prevention, rejection-uncertain, permissive-understanding, and moderate. Multinomial logistic regression (ref = rejection-prevention) showed that Relationism lowered the odds of belonging to the permissive-understanding and moderate profiles, whereas Agency and Complex-flexibility increased the odds of belonging to the permissive-understanding profile. The implications of the findings were discussed in terms of the role of cultural traits in suicidal attitudes and the need for culturally informed intervention and prevention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Park Hyemin
Korea University

Authors

Haru Kim, Taekyun Hur

[94] Exposure to System-Critical vs. System-Justifying Films Shapes Beliefs About Poverty and Wealth Inequality

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

In organizations with limited diversity, decision-makers may assign teams by spreading underrepresented employees across teams—a practice we term team-level diversity dispersion. While they may have well-intended reasons, it may result in what we refer to as solo status team configuration patterns, where stigmatized (e.g., Black) employees are consistently placed in solo status positions across a set of teams. This research examines both the antecedents and consequences of this practice. We find that decision-makers prefer solo status team configuration patterns because they prioritize team-level diversity dispersion (Studies 1-2). However, when observing these patterns, Black prospective employees trust and desire to join the organization less because they anticipate their racial identity will be exploited (Study 3). A brief intervention in which decision-makers take the perspective of a stigmatized employee in a solo status position reduces the likelihood of creating a pattern of solo status team configurations (Study 4). This work extends research on solo status and tokenism, as well as research on diversity in teams and perspective-taking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mackenzie McDonald
Assistant Professor | University of Southern Maine

Authors

Mackenzie McDonald, Rachel Casey, Michael Cauvel

[95] Face Orientation and Temporal Metaphors Shape Social Impressions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

People often form impressions such as “warm” or “dominant” after only a brief glance at a face. Yet these impressions do not necessarily reflect actual traits, as they may be shaped by factors such as facial orientation or lighting conditions. Prior research suggests that conceptual metaphors, such as the idea that time flows from left to right, can influence impressions of faces with different orientations. The present study examined whether individual differences in conceptions of temporal flow affect impressions of left- versus right-facing individuals. Fifty-three Japanese participants evaluated Asian faces oriented toward the upper left or upper right and answered questions about temporal flow. Overall, left-facing faces were more often perceived as gazing toward the past, while right-facing faces were perceived as gazing toward the future. Participants who viewed the past, present, and future as linearly connected or mutually related showed this typical pattern. In contrast, those who considered only the present and future as related, or who endorsed other conceptions, were more likely to perceive right-facing faces as oriented towards the past. These findings suggest that individual differences in temporal conceptualization modulate impressions derived from facial orientation and underscore the role of culturally shaped conceptions of time in social impression formation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuiko Sakuta
Jissen Women's Univ.

[96] Facets of Conscientiousness and Academic Functioning in Students

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Ample research has shown conscientiousness to be a predictor of academic achievement. However, which specific facets contribute to this relationship is unexplored. Data measuring academic hurdles in 150 college-going students (Meanage 21.8 years, 82% female) was used. Using Conscientiousness (C; BFI-2; $\alpha = .85$), academic motivation (AM; AMS; $\alpha = .91$) and test anxiety (TA; TAI-SF; $\alpha = .96$), a regression analysis examined which facets of C (Organization, Productiveness, and Responsibility) significantly predicted TA and AM in these students. Productiveness alone emerged as a unique predictor of AM ($\beta = 0.22$, $t(144) = 2.08$, $p = .04$), suggesting this facet may be driving associations at the trait level. In contrast, while C significantly predicted TA ($\beta = -.19$, $t(147) = -2.32$, $p = .02$), none of the facets were found to be unique predictors. Although generalization may be limited to college students, these results significantly contribute to the literature on the predictive power of levels of personality (domains or traits) for varying life outcomes (i.e., Möttus et al., 2017).

*POSTER

Speaker



Miraya Kanchan

Graduate Student | Cleveland State University

Authors

Kathleen Reardon, Angel Ciccarelli, Sara Conley

[97] Faith, Nation, and Feeling: Exploring Cultural Differences in Ideal Affect

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Affective states, which refers to how individuals want to feel or actually feel, can be influenced through cultural contexts such as nationality and religion. Western cultures and religions tend to value high-arousal positive (HAP) emotions such as excitement due to the cultural emphasis on independent self-construals. On the other hand, East Asian cultures and religions may value low-arousal positive (LAP) emotions such as serene more due to the emphasis on calmness and peace (Tsai, 2017). However, it is relatively unclear how belonging to a HAP religion in a LAP country (and the converse) might shape ideal affect. This research seeks to investigate how religious and national identity contribute to cultural differences in ideal affect. In this study, we will examine differences in ideal affect among Christian and Buddhists living in the US and South Koreans through a survey that measures affective states and religious involvement to explore the mechanisms, such as religious rituals, which underlie ideal affect. We are expecting to find Korean Buddhists and Korean Americans to report a stronger preference for LAP, while American Christians and Korean Christians have a stronger preference for HAP. These findings can help inform about how religious and national identity may affect people's emotions, providing implications on ways to manage these emotions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenny Dun

University of Michigan

Authors

Alexandra Wormley

[98] Falsely Accused of the Unthinkable: The Stigmatizing Effect of Being Falsely Accused of Child Sexual Abuse

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LAW

Being falsely accused of a crime, particularly sex crimes, carries profound social stigma that undermines finding employment, housing, and maintaining relationships. Although child sexual abuse is profoundly underreported and under-prosecuted, there is accumulating evidence that hundreds of wrongful convictions have occurred in relation to child sexual abuse. Alarmingly, 85% of the known exonerations from child sexual abuse in the United States involved a false accusation and a non-existent crime. While maintaining a victim-centred approach, we investigated the stigmatizing effects of being falsely accused of child sexual abuse on an accused person. Across four preregistered studies ($N = 1,189$), we demonstrate that child sexual abuse and rape elicit stronger offence dislike and social stigma than other offences, and that this stigma attaches to a falsely accused person at the mere hint of an accusation. Consistent with Vidmar's (1997) generic prejudice theory of juror bias, dislike of an offence type predicted greater presumptions of guilt and desire for social distance from an innocent accused person, extending the theoretical assumptions of generic prejudice to the context of false accusations. Our findings contribute to both the theoretical role of offence-based stigma in eroding the presumption of innocence and the practical implications of how sexual allegations are investigated and publicly communicated.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarah Martin

PhD Student | Toronto Metropolitan University

Authors

Caroline Erentzen

[99] Friends or Lovers?: Implicit Evaluations of Interracial Romantic Relationships

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Interracial couples are increasingly common, yet little is known about how they are evaluated. We used the Implicit Association Test to examine attitudes and stereotypes about these relationships. Although romantic couples generally elicit positive associations, study 1 shows that participants implicitly evaluate interracial couples more negatively than same-race couples. This effect persists even when the same-race couples are all Black, highlighting the strength of the “same-race is good” bias over and above the known “White is good” bias, and extending beyond past work. In Study 2, Black participants displayed stronger anti-interracial bias than White and Asian participants, diverging from patterns typically seen in race IATs. Study 3a further shows that same-race couples are more strongly associated with romance than friendship compared to interracial couples, while Study 3b finds that even replacing friendship with sibling, only slightly increases associations between interracial couples and romance. Together, our results ultimately highlight a persistent and robust same-race preference in how people implicitly evaluate romantic relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christina Steele
Harvard University

Authors

Ashley Thomas

[100] From Ancient Indian Wisdom to Organizational Science: A Scoping Review of Triguna Personality in Indian Psychology Across Contemporary Psychosocial Domains

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in exploring psychological models rooted in culture and tradition, particularly within the Indian context. The concept of Triguna, originating from ancient Indian thought, especially the Samkhya school of philosophy, offers a unique lens to understand human behavior through three fundamental qualities: Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas. This scoping review tried to examine how this traditional framework is being applied in modern psychology to better understand various psychosocial domains in both personal and professional life in India. To address this, we conducted a scoping review aimed at connecting age-old wisdom with the current needs and challenges of contemporary psychological science, while exploring the association between Triguna personality and diverse psychosocial dimensions. A comprehensive search of empirical studies published in English between 2013 and 2025 was conducted using the PRISMA-ScR framework across Scopus, Web of Science, PsycNet, and supplementary manual searches with appropriate filters. Out of 473 identified records, 10 studies met the inclusion and exclusion criteria. From these, five major themes were identified: (1) Triguna and Mental Health & Well-Being, (2) Triguna and Personality Structure: Cross-Cultural Validation, (3) Triguna and Organizational Behavior, (4) Triguna and Adaptive & Maladaptive Coping Styles, and (5) Triguna and Creativity & Ethical Leadership. The findings show that, theoretically, Triguna bridges ancient Indian psychology with contemporary behavioral science. Practically, it offers valuable applications such as workplace wellness initiatives, mindfulness and yoga-based interventions, Guna-based counseling, personality-specific leadership training, and mental health support. Future research should focus on validating Triguna-based assessments across diverse populations and exploring their integration into clinical, educational, therapeutic, and organizational development settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sandeep Kumar
Professor of Psychology (I/O Psychology)/ Personnel Management and Industrial Relations | Banaras Hindu University

Authors

Rahul Surawat

[101] From Paddy to Pillows: How Agricultural History Shapes Sleep Norms

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

East Asians are often found to sleep shorter durations, yet the underlying reasons remain unclear. This study investigates whether historical agricultural practices help explain this pattern. Building on Talhelm’s rice theory—which argues that paddy rice farming in southern China required more labor and coordination than wheat farming in the north—we test whether people from rice-farming regions sleep less today. Using the China Family Panel Studies (CFPS; n = 9,520), we linked provincial-level rice cultivation percentages to self-reported nightly sleep duration. Linear models controlling for age, gender, income, and latitude show that higher rice cultivation predicts shorter sleep. These findings suggest that deep historical ecology continues to shape present-day sleep behavior, potentially through cultural norms of restraint that developed in rice-farming regions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aiya Wang
University of British Columbia

Authors

Steven Heine, Christine Ou

[102] From Roots to Reach: An Integrative Supervision Philosophy Grounded in Relational Depth, Cultural Systems, and Motivation

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This supervision philosophy for counseling therapy integrates multiple theories through a plant system metaphor to support relationally attuned, culturally responsive, and developmentally grounded supervision. Self-Determination Theory forms the roots, emphasizing autonomy, competence, and relatedness as conditions for supervisee growth. Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory and the ADDRESSING model represent cultural and systemic soil, while Interpersonal Process Therapy circulates emotional meaning. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy serves as the leaf system for cognitive insight, and ACT and DBT are adaptive tendrils promoting flexibility and values-based decision-making. A central contribution is reframing resistance as "root entanglement"—a relational-cultural response to unsafe or constrained conditions. Supervisors are encouraged to expand emotional safety rather than eliminate resistance. Techniques include session review, IPR, CBT-based restructuring, and cultural reflection. This model offers counseling supervisors a whole-person, theory-informed approach to support supervisee identity, well-being, and professional growth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anda Zhao
Counseling Psychology Ph.D. student | University of Northern Colorado

[103] From Words to Food - A Cross-Cultural Study of Parental Apologies and Forgiveness

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Although apologies are widely recognized as a tool for repairing relationships, little is known about how parents apologize to their children, especially across cultural contexts. In the present research, we examined if and how Chinese and Canadian parents apologize to their children after a wrongdoing, focusing on verbal vs. nonverbal apologies. In Study 1, we investigated university students who reported their parents' apology tendencies, whereas in study 2, parents reported their own apology tendencies. The results were consistent across studies. Canadian parents were more likely than Chinese parents to apologize verbally to their children in real-life transgressions. In response to hypothetical transgression scenarios, Canadian parents again were more likely to offer verbal apologies, whereas Chinese parents were more likely to offer no apology or to apologize non-verbally. Different types of apologies also had culturally specific emotional and relational effects. Although students from both cultures were likely to forgive after a verbal apology, Chinese students were more forgiving towards non-verbal apologies compared to Canadian students. Chinese students also reported greater closeness to their parents after a non-verbal apology than did Canadian students. These findings provide a unique perspective on communication and conflict resolution patterns in parent-child relationships and highlight the importance of considering cultural context when studying the meaning and impact of an apology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Claire Wei
PhD student | Queen's University

Authors

Claire Wei, Molly Robertson

[104] Does social media app use explain why liberals are unhappier than conservatives?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

MENTAL HEALTH

Recent work suggests a partisan "well-being gap," with liberals reporting lower well-being than conservatives. One possible explanation is that liberals use social media more frequently, which may undermine their well-being. We test whether social media usage mediates the relationship between political orientation and well-being at the momentary, weekly, and monthly levels. Participants (N = 1,578) reported their political orientation in a one-time survey. They reported their social media use (i.e., minutes spent on social media platforms in the past hour) and affective well-being (i.e., how they felt at that moment) in ecological momentary assessments up to seven times a day over one month (i.e., 120,599 total assessments). They also completed weekly reports of their social media usage using their smartphones' screen time app (i.e., Hours spent on social media platforms in the past week), as well as monthly well-being reports (i.e., life satisfaction, loneliness, and affective well-being). By analyzing data from multiple sources at multiple temporal levels, this study clarifies whether and which everyday social media habits contribute to partisan differences in well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Burint Bevis
PhD Candidate | Imperial College London

Authors

Lara Kroencke, Diana Jordan, Gabriella Harrari, Mitja Black

[105] CANCELLED:

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

*POSTER

[106] Future in Peril: Linking White Identity and White Nationalist Beliefs

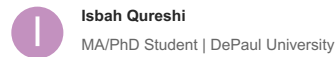
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

White nationalism (WN), political polarization, hate crimes, and intergroup violence are increasing in the United States (ADL, 2024). This research uses a multi-methods approach (qualitative, survey, experiment) to examine how existential threats to the White race motivate support for WN, especially among those strongly identified with Whiteness. Study 1 analyzed 50 quotes from 10 White nationalist websites (e.g., blogs, manifestos, discussion forums), identifying themes of a bleak racial future and racial threat through web-scraping and qualitative analysis. Study 2 used a national survey (N=653) measuring White identity, WN, and perceptions of a grim racial future. Study 3, an experiment (N=291), manipulated demographic shift reports predicting bleak futures for Whites, young people, or no prompt. Results show collective hopelessness and perceived racial threat pervade White nationalist spaces. Study 2 showed that strong White identity predicted greater support for WN, especially when the future seems bleak. Study 3 replicated this and showed that, like in WN forums, stoking people's bleak perceptions effectively increased support for WN. Ideas for intervention are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Christine Reyna, Sulaimon Kasali, Miguel Vazquez III, Sarah Soffer, Lowell Gaertner

[107] Getting Back on Track: How Apologies Promote Forgiveness and Self-Forgiveness by Repairing Moral Perceptions

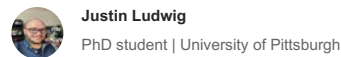
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PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

After an interpersonal offense, how do perceptions of the transgressor's morality affect the apology-forgiveness process? Prior work has shown that morality is central to our impressions of others and our own identity. However, less is known about how apologies restore victims' perceptions of transgressors' morality or transgressors' own moral self-perceptions, and whether these perceptions predict forgiveness and self-forgiveness, respectively. Across four experiments (Ns = 376; 593; 595; 813), we found that when victims received an apology (vs. no apology), they perceived the transgressor as more moral, and in turn, were more forgiving of the transgressor. In a fifth study (N = 424), we tested both victim and transgressor perspectives. Replicating Studies 1–4, the apology (vs. no apology) increased moral perceptions, which in turn predicted forgiveness and perceived forgiveness. However, perspective moderated effects on self-forgiveness. For victims, the apology (vs. no apology) increased perceptions of morality, which in turn was positively associated with perceptions of self-forgiveness. For transgressors, the apology (vs. no apology) increased perceptions of morality, which in turn was negatively associated with self-forgiveness. Together, these studies offer insight into how apologies foster moral restoration after wrongdoing from both perspectives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Emily Bosche, Karina Schumann

[108] Holistic and Yet Logical: A Distinct Cognitive Profile in the Middle East

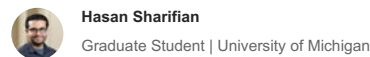
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CULTURE

While the dimension of analytic versus holistic cognition has characterized cross-cultural variation along the East–West axis, with Westerners being more analytic and less holistic than Easterners, little is known about the nature of cognitive variation beyond East Asian and Western cultural boundaries. In this study, we tested a unique cognitive configuration in the Middle East, based on the expectation that individuals in this region are highly interdependent, leading to holistic thinking. At the same time, this region has rich historical traditions of debate, negotiation, and trade, which may foster cultural attunement to logical reasoning. Consistent with this prediction, we found that Turkish and Kuwaiti participants were highly holistic, comparable to East Asians, while also showing logical reasoning. This combination of holistic and logical cognition, previously undocumented in other regions, underscores the need to broaden the scope of cultural psychology beyond the conventional East–West framework.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Sila Mutaf, Othman Alkhadher

[109] Home, School, Both or Neither?: The Role of Acculturation Strategies in First-Generation, Low-Income Students' Outcomes

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Being empathetic (and seen as such) aligns with perceiving one's relationships as high-quality. Across two studies, we examined whether relationship quality (RQ) shapes accuracy and bias in empathy judgments, as well as the sources of these judgments. In Study 1, we ran Truth & Bias models predicting bias in empathy judgments in friend dyads (NDyad=290). Empathy was underestimated ($b=-.17$, $p<.001$) and shaped by one's own empathy ($b=.24$, $p<.001$) and the target's empathy ($b=.22$, $p<.001$). Higher RQ was linked to higher empathy perceptions ($b=[.19-.41]$, $ps<.001$). In Study 2, we applied Social Relations Models to groups ($N=189$) of four friends ($N=756$) who rated each other on empathy and RQ. Empathy judgments were again shaped by one's own ($r=.32$, $p<.001$) and targets' empathy ($r=.19$, $p<.001$). Sources of empathy and RQ judgments mostly stemmed from unique relationship perceptions (62-66%), assimilation (20-27%), and consensus (7-18%). These judgments covaried, such that judging others as empathetic (and being seen as such) was associated with higher RQ. These results demonstrate a relationship-specific nature of empathy judgments and the role RQ plays in accuracy and bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bryant Gomez

PhD Student | The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Bryant Gomez, Melissa Ruiz, Priscilla Diaz-Gonzalez

[110] Honor Norms, Cognitive Risks: Gaps in Memory Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Knowledge among Honor Endorsing Individuals

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Despite growing interest in cultural risk factors for Alzheimer's disease (AD), US honor cultures have largely been neglected within examinations. One method for improving our understanding of AD risk and developing effective education and intervention strategies is to identify deficits in the public's memory aging knowledge. To this aim, we examined associations between US adults' ($N = 998$) endorsement of honor culture norms and knowledge regarding normal, pathological, and AD-specific memory aging. After controlling for demographics (e.g., age) and factors relevant to memory aging knowledge (e.g., dementia experience), we found that greater honor endorsement was (1) associated with worse normal, pathological, and AD-specific memory aging knowledge, and (2) specifically linked with worse knowledge related to AD risk factors, symptoms, treatment and management, life impact, and caregiving. This study advances our understanding of deficits in the public's memory aging knowledge within the context of US honor cultures. Findings have implications for AD risk among honor endorsing individuals and highlight a need for developing culturally relevant education and intervention efforts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erin Harrington

Assistant Professor | University of Wyoming

Authors

Jarrod Bock

[111] Horizontal Hostility: Addressing Internal Bias and Social Division Within the LGBTQIA+ Community

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Horizontal hostility occurs when marginalized subgroups express negative attitudes toward other marginalized subgroups within a shared superordinate group. This can emerge when subgroup members view other identities as closer to the mainstream or threatening to their subgroup's distinctiveness. This study examined how subgroup versus superordinate identity salience influences attitudes toward bisexual and transgender individuals. Participants ($N = 51$) were randomly assigned to either project or align their subgroup identity with the superordinate LGBTQIA+ category and then completed measures of perceptions, prototypicality judgments, and likeability toward bisexual and transgender individuals. Results showed that subgroup projection significantly influenced perceptions of prototypicality ($p = .038$), and prototypicality significantly predicted likeability ($p = .005$). These findings suggest bisexual and transgender individuals are more positively regarded when viewed as representative of the LGBTQIA+ community, highlighting the central role of prototypicality in shaping attitudes within communities.

*POSTER

Speakers



Ximena Gutierrez

Graduate Student | Saint Louis University



Brianna Scandell

Doctoral Student | Saint Louis University



Lukas Gosselin

Graduate Student | Saint Louis University

Authors

Richard Harvey

[112] How “They” See “Us”: Visualizing Social Identity Threats’ Impact on Meta-Representations of Racial Outgroup Members

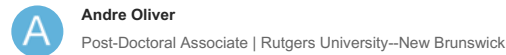
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PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Across three studies, we used reverse correlation to visualize the facial features Black and White people expected racial ingroup and outgroup members to associate with their racial group (i.e., meta-representations) to test hypotheses derived from social identity threat theory. Specifically, Black (Study 1A) and White (Study 1B) participants generated meta-representations of Black and White people. Results revealed that both Black and White participants’ meta-representations of racial outgroup members were rated as less warm, less competent, and more aggressive than those of racial ingroup members. Study 2 tested whether an identity safety cue (i.e., the racial diversity of a target’s friendship network) led to a more positive meta-representation of an outgroup member. Findings indicated that Black participants generated a meta-representation of a White male who had a diverse friendship network (i.e., 2 Black and 3 White friends) that was rated as warmer, more competent, less aggressive, and less dehumanized than that of a White male with a homogenous friendship network (i.e., all White friends). The importance of face perception for social identity threat research is discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Daryl Wout, Gandalf Nicolas, Trisha Belthur, Pranjali Garg

[113] How do People’s Stress and Romantic Relationship Quality Predict their Ability to Pitch Themselves for a Job?

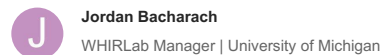
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OTHER

Research suggests that family and home stress can spill over into the workplace, influencing both job satisfaction and performance (Sanz-Vergel et. al, 2015). Yet, little research has examined how people’s relationships with their romantic partner, and the ways couples handle stress, may shape their performance in a job interview context. To address this gap, we analyzed self-report and observational data from 156 romantic dyads, in which either one or both partners took part in a mock job interview. Specifically, we measured how much support people perceived from their partners during an in-lab stressor and their overall relationship quality. Trained coders evaluated participants’ job speeches on four dimensions: confidence, smoothness, preparedness, and content quality. We anticipate that people who report higher relationship quality and more support from their partners during a stressor will perform better during the job interview. These results will make a novel contribution to relationship science and organizational studies by shedding light on how people’s romantic relationship experiences spill over into their performance during job interviews.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Amie Gordon, Noa Boker-Segal, Anna Luerssen

[114] How Learning Goals And Liberal-Conservative Friendships Could Improve Interpolitical Interactions

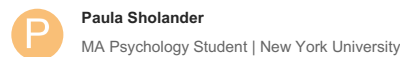
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INTERGROUP RELATIONS

In an increasingly polarized and divided world, people in interpolitical interactions can experience social identity threat and anticipate negative interaction outcomes. The present study explored whether an interaction partner’s political friendship diversity and interaction goals impacts experiences of social identity threat and negative interaction outcomes. In the online experimental study, liberal participants in the United States (N = 366) anticipated interacting with a conservative partner who either had a politically diverse friendship network (vs. a politically homogeneous friendship network) and adopted a learning goal (vs. no goal). Having a partner with a politically diverse friendship network reduced participants’ social identity threat and their anticipated interaction challenges. In addition, having a partner who adopted a learning goal reduced social identity threat and interaction challenges in the homogeneous friendship network condition, but not in the diverse friendship network condition. This research suggests that having a partner who adopts a learning goal can improve interpolitical interactions in the absence of interpolitical friendship diversity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Daryl Wout, Kyle Anderson, Grace Flores-Robles

[115] I'm Sorry... Again... and Again: How Apologies for Repeated Offenses Impact Apology Sincerity, Trust, and Forgiveness

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Apologies are powerful tools for reconciliation, but do they lose their effectiveness when offered for recurring offenses? While prior research shows that apologies can restore trust and promote forgiveness following isolated offenses, little is known about how apologies function in the context of repeated wrongdoing. In the current research, we tested how perceived response sincerity, trust, and forgiveness are affected by apologies for repeated (vs. single) offenses. In Study 1 (n = 575), participants imagined receiving an apology or no apology after either an isolated offense or three similar offenses. Results showed that perceived response sincerity, trust, and forgiveness were greater following an apology for a single (vs. repeated) offense. Among those who experienced repeated apologies, these outcomes decreased after each apology, revealing diminishing returns for consecutive apologies. Furthermore, the reduced effect of apology (vs. no apology) on forgiveness for repeated offenses was serially mediated by perceived response sincerity and trust, supporting our proposed theoretical model. Study 2 will use live offenses to replicate and extend these findings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Bosche

Doctoral Student | University of Pittsburgh

Authors

Karina Schumann

[116] Ideal Selves in Fiction: Projected Self-Discrepancies and Admiration of Fictional Characters

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Why do people feel drawn to fictional characters? Social psychological theories of self-discrepancy and ideal self-concept suggest that individuals may admire characters who embody traits they aspire to but perceive as lacking in themselves. In the present study, participants (N = 101) first named their favorite fictional character, then rated both that character and themselves across 27 dimensions of personality and character strengths. The order of self- versus character-ratings was randomized. Results showed that participants consistently attributed higher levels of valued qualities to their favorite fictional characters (M = 4.08, SD = 0.60) than to themselves (M = 2.06, SD = 1.00). A paired-samples t-test confirmed this difference as statistically significant, $t(100) = 16.02, p < .001$, with a large effect size ($d \approx 1.59$). On average, characters were rated 2.02 points higher than the self (95% CI [1.77, 2.28]). These findings support the view that admiration for fictional characters reflects, at least in part, a projection of one's ideal self, offering a window into the psychological mechanisms underlying parasocial attachment and media-based identification.

Keywords: fictional characters; ideal self; self-discrepancy; social identity; parasocial relationships; character strengths

*POSTER

Speaker



Zichen Gu

undergraduate researcher | University of California Santa Barbara

Authors

Xingyu Li, Geoffrey Cohen

[117] Identifications and Intergroup Bias among Young Adults undergoing Socio-Political Transition

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

People are increasingly using chatbots powered by large language models (LLMs) for tasks ranging from coding help to emotional support. Differences in algorithms and training data suggest chatbots will express distinct and stable personality profiles. In two studies, we examined impressions of Big Five personality traits of three popular LLMs: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot. In Study 1, N = 248 participants read chatbot responses to personality-relevant prompts (without knowing they were chatbot-generated) and rated the author's traits. In Study 2, N = 229 undergraduates interacted with each chatbot for 5 minutes, then rated the chatbot's personality; chatbots also rated their human partners. Participants agreed about chatbot traits and differentiated between them. When unaware responses were chatbot-generated, participants assumed similarity in traits at levels comparable to impressions of people—but not after direct interaction. Chatbots conveyed stable, distinctive personality traits and rated humans with moderate accuracy. We discuss how these impressions may shape trust, social judgments, and future human–chatbot relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ying-yi Hong

Professor | Department of Psychology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Authors

Ying-Yi Hong

[118] Identifying Motivational Patterns for Collective Climate Action among Indigenous Peoples: A Latent Profile Analysis

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

The current project demonstrates the usefulness of a Legal Moral Matrix (LMM) to understand tolerance for unwelcome speech. Results revealed that legal and moral judgments about controversial speech may be more similar than commonly believed. Data from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's annual poll of social and political attitudes was used to validate the LMM as a conceptual framework for visualizing attitudes. Over 150,000 volunteers participated (spanning 2020-24). There were 16 questions to gauge moral tolerance for potentially offensive speakers, and 4 questions to measure the legality of speech obstruction. Scores provided coordinates for graphic illustration of moral and legal judgments on a Cartesian grid, revealing differences were significant, but graphically proximate and numerically small. Effect sizes for political ideology were medium to large, with liberals and conservatives revealing expected biases on hot-button issues, but the explanatory usefulness of race and gender was negligible. Mapping moral and legal judgements about controversial speech may provide shared space for a discussion of our similarities, rather than our differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julisa Lopez
PhD Graduate Student | UCSC

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Alana Smutz

[119] Impact of Patient-Physician Identity Concordance on Latina Women's Comfort with Preventive Healthcare

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Latina women face many health disparities arising from an underusage of preventive care, highlighting the need to find ways to improve their healthcare engagement. Research finds doctor-patient racial concordance increases trust and receipt of preventive care for Black patients, with gender concordance having similar benefits for White women. We used a 2 (Doctor Race: White vs Latino) x 2 (Doctor Gender: Male vs Female) within-subjects design to examine how racial and gender concordance impact Latina women's trust in a doctor and comfort receiving preventive care. 150 Latina women viewed profiles for two doctors, selected from the four possible race x gender combinations. For each doctor, subjects completed measures of trust and their comfort receiving care. Latino doctors were trusted more than White doctors ($p < .001$), regardless of doctor gender. However, subjects were more comfortable receiving care from female versus male doctors ($p < .001$), regardless of doctor race. Our findings suggest that racial and gender concordance may affect different factors tied to healthcare engagement and stress the need for future work to assess patients' attitudes and behavioral intentions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Louis Ingram
University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Sohad Murrar, Louis Ingram

[120] Impacts of a White Politician's Reputation on the Perceptions of His Use of Racial Dog Whistles

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Racial Dog Whistles (DWs) are seemingly race neutral terms (e.g., "inner cities") that are used to prime stereotypes (e.g., Black = crime) while giving the speaker plausible deniability against accusations of racism (e.g., "I didn't say anything about race"). The purpose of our 3 (type of DW; Regular DW, Joke DW, and no DW) x 3 (speaker reputation; racially sensitive, insensitive, control for Study 1 and humorous, non-humorous, control for Study 2) two study package is to examine DWs in the context of humor and test potential effects of speaker reputation. We predict that those with greater belief in negative Black stereotypes will have more positive perceptions of the White politician when he uses a DW (but not a joke DW). We predict these effects will be the strongest when he has a humorous (rather than non-humorous) and racially sensitive (rather than racially insensitive) reputation. We also predict the greatest blowback (i.e., being perceived as racist) in the non-humorous and racially insensitive conditions. This may suggest that DWs may be more subtle (and more likely to affect perception) when perceivers have less reason to suspect racial(ist?) intentions from a speaker.

*POSTER

Speaker



Svyatoslav Prokhorets
Bradley University

Authors

Donald Saucier

[121] Impossible Knowledge: Perceptions of Individuals who Claim Familiarity with Fake Terms and the Role of Individual Differences

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Previous research suggests individuals sometimes claim familiarity with non-existent terms, a phenomenon called overclaiming. However, little work has examined how others perceive overclaimers. Across two studies, we investigate how individuals view targets who do (vs. do not) overclaim and how this perception is moderated by individual differences in personality. In Study 1, participants read vignettes of a professor overclaiming, not overclaiming, or a control condition, and rated their perception of the target's warmth and competence. In Study 2, participants viewed a video of a person explicitly overclaiming (vs. not) and rated the target on the same measures. Across both studies, participants completed measures of their own overclaiming tendencies, as well as measures of their personality traits (e.g., narcissism, intellectual humility, Machiavellianism). Data collection is currently ongoing, although preliminary results show that those who overclaim are seen as less warm and competent than non-overclaimers and the control target. These findings have implications for research on social perception and impression formation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophie Murray

Student | California State University San Marcos

Authors

Justin Seber, Elijah Matthews, Halli Hogan, Regina Medina, Alex Huynh

[122] Imposter Syndrome and Future Anxiety in East Asian Emerging Adults :The Role of Internalized Perfectionistic Standards and Cultural Expectations in Personality Development

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This study examined the association between imposter syndrome and future anxiety among Taiwanese generation Z, with particular attention to how culturally shaped patterns of personality development may increase vulnerability to these experiences. A total of 202 participants completed an online survey assessing four dimensions of imposter syndrome and perception of future anxiety. Analyses conducted using JASP revealed that female students reported significantly higher levels of imposter feelings and future anxiety than male peers. Regression models showed that gender moderated the relationship between imposter beliefs and future anxiety. Qualitative data from a female focus group were thematically analyzed to explore personality-relevant developmental pathways. Participants described internalized perfectionistic standards, social comparison sensitivity, fear of disappointing others, and self-worth tied to achievement. These traits were shaped by Asian cultural norms that emphasize modesty and academic excellence. Results suggest that imposter syndrome might reflect a culturally embedded personality constellation that amplifies anticipatory anxiety and self-doubt in East Asian emerging adults.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuhsuan Chang

Professor | Yuan Ze University

[123] Influences of Phenotype and Identification on Ratings of Multiracial Trustworthiness

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Multiracial individuals often navigate fluid racial identities, but this flexibility can elicit negative evaluations. It is unclear whether such evaluations are influenced by phenotype. This study examined how phenotype (Afrocentric/Eurocentric/ambiguous/none) and identification (Black/White) shape trustworthiness ratings of Multiracial faces. Participants (N = 999) viewed a vignette of a Multiracial student transferring to university who identified as either Black or White accompanied by a face image. Images were created by morphing a Multiracial face to be more prototypically Black or White (or not morphing) via PsychoMorph. A significant main effect of racial identification emerged, $p = .002$, $\eta^2 = .01$: Black-identifying targets were rated more trustworthy than White-identifying targets. No significant effect of phenotype was found, $p = .531$, $\eta^2 = .002$, nor was there a significant interaction, $p = .728$, $\eta^2 = .001$. Findings suggest people may penalize Multiracial Black-White individuals who identify as White, but not those who identify as Black. Identity, more than phenotype, may influence how trustworthy Multiracial individuals are perceived.

*POSTER

Speaker



Simrat Samra

Graduate Student | University of Denver

Authors

Gina Paganini, Paige Lloyd

[124] Inheriting Conflict, Imagining Peace: Children as Agents of Multigenerational Intergroup Conflict Resolution

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Understanding why wealthy individuals give can help move resources toward worthy causes. Despite growing interest in the role of high-net-worth (HNW; ≥\$1M) and ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW; ≥\$30M) individuals in shaping society, the motivational landscape of elite giving remains poorly integrated across disciplines. We conducted a comprehensive literature search using wealth-related terms (e.g., “high net worth,” “billionaire,” “elite”) and donor-related terms (e.g., “philanthropy,” “altruism,” “generosity”). From 2,194 records, 47 quantitative and qualitative sources were eligible. Using grounded theory, we iteratively coded donor-reported motivations, identifying three external (need, social, data-driven) and three internal (emotion, identity, impact-driven) motivations, spanning a Responsive–Deliberative dimension from spontaneous to planned giving. We then extracted quantitative endorsement rates, supported by qualitative interviews. Wealthy donors report diverse drivers, including family traditions, direct requests, passion, gratitude, and guilt. While deliberative giving dominates prior research, it appears as only one among many motivations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacob Glassman
Doctoral Candidate | Boston College

Authors

Liane Young, Katherine McAuliffe, Stylianos Syropoulos, Jacob Glassman, Michal Reifen-Tagar

[125] Interdependence and cooperation in daily life across three societies: A triangulation approach to disentangle the effects of relational mobility and collectivism

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

To evaluate societal progress, people compare the present to either a past starting point or an ideal future goal, each yielding different conclusions. Framing the present relative to the past emphasizes how far we’ve come, whereas focusing on the future highlights how far we have yet to go. Building on this framework and prior work by Eibach & Ehrlinger (2006, 2010), we examined how temporal reference points shape perceptions of progress and prejudice toward LGBT individuals. In Study 1 (N = 202), LGBT participants perceived less progress and more prejudice than non-LGBT participants. These differences were mediated by greater future-oriented anchoring among LGBT individuals. Study 2 (N = 301) experimentally manipulated reference points. Across both LGBT and non-LGBT participants, those in the past condition perceived more LGBT progress than those in the future or control conditions. This increased sense of progress indirectly predicted lower perceptions of systemic prejudice. Findings underscore the power of temporal framing in shaping social judgments and suggest the generalizability of this mechanism beyond perceptions of racial and gender progress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lin Jing
Postdoc | Stanford University

Authors

Jing Lin, Daniel Balliet

[126] Investigating Racial Differences in Tonic Electrodermal Activity among Black and White Participants

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY/GENETICS

Electrodermal activity (EDA) reflects changes in skin conductance from stress or arousal, consisting of tonic and phasic components. While increasingly used in research and wearables, racial disparities in EDA remain underexplored. Black participants are often labeled “non-responders” due to lower scores, leading to exclusion and reduced generalizability. We report significant racial differences in tonic EDA from a relatively large sample (N=139) of Black (n=72) and White (n=67) adults (18–59) recruited for a study on police attitudes. EDA was recorded at 1000Hz from the non-dominant hand with Ag/AgCl electrodes during a 6-minute baseline of ambient traffic noise. Black participants showed significantly lower tonic EDA (M=4.13μS, SD=2.49) than White participants (M=7.95μS, SD=3.19), p<.001. This pattern held across gender: Black women (M=3.92μS) vs. White women (M=8.76μS), p<.001; Black men (M=4.63μS) vs. White men (M=7.16μS), p<.001. Findings provide strong evidence of racial disparities in tonic EDA even without stimulus-driven changes, highlighting the need for inclusive measures and revised definitions of “non-responders” to avoid racial bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Boluwatife Dogari
Research Technician | University of Michigan

Authors

Brandon P. Labbree, Alicia G. Carmichael, Donna Walter, Nicholas P. Camp, Richard G. Gonzalez

[127] Is Loneliness Increasing Over Time in Japan?: A Cross-Temporal Meta-Analysis

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

Loneliness and social isolation have become a crucial issue in Japan, yet no study has examined how loneliness has changed over time. This study conducted a cross-temporal meta-analysis to address this gap. Studies were identified from PubMed, Web of Science, J-STAGE, and CiNii; exclusion criteria were missing means, absence of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) loneliness scale, unclear year of study, duplicate data, and lack of sample size or clear scale use. We identified an overall increase in loneliness between 1983 and 2023. The rise was notable among adolescents. Regression analysis indicated that developmental stage, number of scale items, and type of Japanese translation of the UCLA loneliness scale were related to loneliness score. Although male participants consistently reported higher loneliness, a significant increase over time was observed only among female participants. Furthermore, loneliness rose following the COVID-19 pandemic. Some social indicators were associated with changes in loneliness over time. These findings indicate various contributing factors, but the underlying causes remain unclear, revealing the need for further research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Momo Homma
Chuo University

Authors

Kenkichi Takase

[128] Is the Dark Triad Darker Beyond “Straight” Lines?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Prior research on personality and sexuality (cf. Semenyina et al., 2024) has explored potential associations between the Dark Triad traits (narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy) and sexual orientation, with mixed findings. Using Legate and Rogge's (2019) sexual orientation classification system, we examined whether Dark Triad traits differ across orientation categories. Prolific® participants ($N=99$, $Mage=39.1$, $SD=12.56$) were classified as heterosexual ($n=37$), heteroflexible ($n=12$), bisexual ($n=19$), or homosexual ($n=29$). Supporting our first hypothesis, men scored higher on Dark Triad traits than women, $F(1,95)=6.22$, $p=.014$. Contrary to our second hypothesis, heteroflexible women did not score higher on Dark Triad traits than bisexual, homosexual, or heterosexual women, $F(3,89)=.033$, $p=.992$, $\eta^2=.001$. No significant gender $\times$ orientation interactions emerged. Findings support gender differences but are inconsistent with prior studies reporting orientation-based differences (e.g., Jonason & Luoto, 2021). Continued examination of individual differences across sexual orientations is important for understanding factors that may influence mate-seeking behaviors in diverse groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Semanko
Assistant Professor of Psychology | The College of St. Scholastica

Authors

Debra Schroeder, Lydia Ross, Samantha Galazen

[129] Is There an “I” in Team? Racial and Gender Differences in Teamwork Strategies in the U.S.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

The popular saying “There's no ‘I’ in team” encourages Americans to place a team's needs ahead of individual goals, which is essential to effective teamwork (Wageman et al., 2012). While culture thoroughly influences the degree to which individuals tend towards independent (i.e., focus on one's unique goals and preferences) or interdependent (i.e., focus on the needs of others and the environment) ways of being, few studies have shown how culture influences teamwork. To examine which groups of Americans follow this popular guideline most during teamwork, we tested whether the use of influencing (e.g., “influence others with your ideas”) and adjusting (e.g., “adjust your views to fit with others”) strategies might vary depending on one's race and gender. We hypothesized and found that women use adjusting strategies more and influencing strategies less than men. Furthermore, when asked to choose between the two strategies, BIPOC women are less likely to use influencing strategies than White women, BIPOC men, and White men, while White men are most likely to use these strategies. Based on our findings, only some racial and gender groups adhere to the popular adage “There is no ‘I’ in team.” We can foster inclusive and equitable teamwork environments by teaching team members to value and utilize both independent, or influencing, and interdependent, or adjusting, strategies for teamwork.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lucy Bencharit
Assistant Professor | Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

[130] Is this your work? Students who seek AI versus human help face perceptions of reduced competence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Promoting belonging in school has become a focal concern. Such efforts require a comprehensive, accurate understanding of what belonging means. In this theoretical work, I argue that social psychological research on students' experiences of belonging has overwhelmingly focused on their sense of social connection to others at school (social fit), while overlooking other factors essential to these experiences. Using research from beyond social psychology, I show that when students describe their experiences of belonging in school, their descriptions also emphasize the extent to which they experience support for their valued identities (self-concept fit), goals (goal fit), and basic financial, nutritional, and safety needs (resource fit). Furthermore, I demonstrate that the reason that these four forms of fit matter for belonging is because they enable students' social connections, identities, goals, and needs to feel natural, inconspicuous, and "right" when they are at school, and it is those feelings of "fluency" that ultimately produce a holistic experience that they belong. Implications for measuring belonging and for belonging-supportive interventions/policies are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ella Lombard

Researcher | foundry10

Authors

Ella Lombard, Jen Rubin, Katharine Chen, Riddhi Divanji

[131] It's Hard Out Here for an Authoritarian: Authoritarians' Vulnerabilities Make Their World a Scary Place

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Research on authoritarianism has long explored its relation to threat and authoritarians' perceptions of living in a dangerous world. While much of this research has examined the authoritarianism-threat nexus in terms of authoritarian individuals' enhanced perceptions of threat signals or endorsement of authoritarian reactions/leaders in response to exposure to threat, we propose a threat-generation perspective. Essentially, we suggest individuals higher in authoritarianism possess features conducive to generating a dangerous world. In this study (N = 461), we tested whether both right- (RWA) and left-wing authoritarianism (LWA) predict various outcomes consistent with generating existential (e.g., threats to safety, such as being victimized and scammed) and epistemic threats (e.g., holding false beliefs) via chronic features associated with authoritarianism: namely, enhanced gullibility, reduced cognitive reflectiveness, and enhanced agentic narcissism. Results supported the threat-generation perspective for LWA but not for RWA. Only people higher in LWA were more susceptible to online scams, pseudo-profound bullshit, and indicated more frequent past victimization; such effects were reduced upon accounting for their enhanced gullibility, reduced cognitive reflectiveness, and enhanced agentic narcissism. These data suggest that at least people higher in LWA may be prone to generating a threatening world.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danielle Wahlers

PhD student | University of Alabama

Authors

William Hart, Braden Hall

[132] It's a Dog Eat Dog World: How Beliefs about Animals Are Used to Justify Human Inequities

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The present research explores the form and function of Human Creatureliness Beliefs (HCB). Low levels of HCB reflect the belief that humans are not true animals; high levels of HCB reflect the belief that humans are highly typical members of the animal kingdom. We theorize that HCB can, by construing humans as animals who share instincts and other traits with non-human animals, function as a legitimizing ideology normalizing individuals' negative behavior and inequitable societal structures. The legitimizing power of HCB is thought to rest in their tendency to foster the appeal to nature fallacy (natural behaviors are inherently ethical) and the immutability fallacy (natural behaviors cannot be changed). As an initial step in testing our theory of creatureliness beliefs, we are constructing a scale capturing the extent to which individuals harbor HCB and, additionally, use them for hierarchy-enhancing purposes. After the collection of open-ended responses conveying participants' thoughts regarding the connection between humans and non-human animals, we will utilize topic modeling to extract common themes in responses. Once we have established themes and items for the scale, we will then begin testing HCB against related constructs, such as Social Dominance Orientation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Callie Cade

Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Eric Knowles, Callie Cade

[133] Japan–China Comparison of Help-Seeking and Willingness to Help: A Two-Sided Scenario Study

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Previous research has shown that East Asians are less willing than Westerners to seek social support, often attributed to relational concerns (e.g., Taylor et al., 2004) and empathic concern (Zheng et al., 2021). Yet little is known about differences within East Asia. We directly compared Japanese and Chinese adults on both sides of a request using an online vignette experiment. Japanese adults in their 20s (n = 240) and Chinese adults living in Beijing in their early 20s (n = 218) evaluated four scenarios varying need (high/low) and burden (high/low)—giving a ride to the nearest station, lending manga, helping with overtime work, and making a purchase on the requester's behalf—across four partners (senior, junior, close friend, stranger). After each vignette, participants reported perceived imposition and willingness to accept (recipient role), and felt guilt and intention to request help (requester role). Across scenarios and partners, Japanese participants anticipated more guilt and showed lower intention to request help than Chinese participants. On the recipient side—especially under lower-need requests—Japanese participants perceived greater imposition and were less willing to help. The results clarify within–East Asian differences, pointing to higher perceived interpersonal costs among Japanese requesters and recipients.

*POSTER

Speaker



Motoko Harihara

Associate Professor | Musashi Univ.

Authors

Hakuto Shigekawa

[134] Japan-US comparison of university students' interpersonal communication skills: Focusing on relational and psychological factors

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Japanese and American university students were compared on their use of direct and indirect communication strategies across situational and relational contexts. These contexts were varied according to situations that varied by face threats, relational targets that varied by intimacy, and power discrepancy levels. We examined relational mobility/stability and self-regulatory focus to determine whether they influence the use of direct and indirect strategies. A total of 538 university students (255 from Japan and 283 from the United States) participated in the online survey. Results showed that Japanese students preferred indirect strategies more than American students, and as predicted, they were more sensitive to intimacy, power distance, and face threat in their choice of strategies. Relational mobility and self-regulatory focus both influenced strategy use and mediated the cultural differences observed. The findings were discussed in terms of their potential to serve as an explanatory framework for communication competence and interpersonal skills.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lina Wang

Lecturer | Kinjo Gakuin University

Authors

Peter S. Lee, Mamoru Sakura, Norihito Taniguchi, Jiro Takai

[135] CANCELLED:

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

*POSTER

Authors

Daniel Vasilyev, Alexa Whitaker

[136] Leadership Pursuits Shape Facial Impressions of Attractive Women in Hiring

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Sexual objectification of women is a ubiquitous sexist practice. Integrating theories on objectification and system justification, we tested whether harnessing the system justification motive would reduce support for sexual objectification. In the first correlational study (N = 404 mixed-gender), we found moderate to strong associations among support for sexual objectification, gender-related ideologies, and gender system justification. In the second experimental study (N = 376 men), men were randomly assigned to read about sexual objectification as a threat to the gender status quo that needs to be eradicated or a control condition. Men reported less support for sexual objectification when sexual objectification was framed as the threat, viewing sexual objectification as more harmful and less normative and stable compared to the control condition, which was moderated by gender essentialism. These findings provide preliminary evidence for sexual objectification as an integral part of the gender status quo and gendered patterns of support for sexual objectification. Harnessing system justification motives may provide a way to legitimize social change around this sexist practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chenqi Gao

PhD student | Rutgers University

Authors

Luis Rivera, Chenqi Gao

[137] Lessons Learned from a Review of Laboratory Studies of Personality Disorders

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Personality disorders, whether characterized dimensionally or categorically, are arguably best understood (and most accurately described) in the context of situations that highlight the dysfunctional nature of their responses. However, personality research has historically underutilized the kind of laboratory investigations that would map most closely onto this situational view of personality disorders. Therefore, we conducted a review of the "laboratory challenge" literature in which participants with personality disorders undergo a triggering situation and the predicted dysfunction is measured. The current study describes lessons learned from this endeavor; in particular, we highlight common samples, measures, and designs/paradigms, and offer some comments regarding patterns of results.

*POSTER

Speaker



Margaret Lupo

Research Coordinator | Dallas VA Research Corporation

Authors

Susan South

[138] Living and Dying by the Sword: Exploring the Connection Between Honor Culture and Age Adjusted Mortality in the United States

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

A culture of honor refers to a social system where one's reputation is central to their self-worth. Empirical evidence and theorizing links U.S. Honor Culture to negative health outcomes. In this investigation, we sought to assess the association between U.S. Honor Culture and age-adjusted mortality for 10 common causes of death in the United States. Using a statewide assessment of Honor Culture and age-adjusted mortality data collected between 2018-2023, we found that statewide honor culture was associated with an increase in age adjusted mortality for several causes of death even after we controlled for social factors such as income inequality, state unemployment levels, access to medical care, and state government funding of health services. Our results also indicated that statewide honor culture was robustly associated with premature death among both White and Non-White Americans. Consistent with prior research, these relationships were particularly strong among White Americans compared to Non-White Americans.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laverl Williamson

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Missouri Western State University

Authors

Alexandra Bitter

[139] Longing for the Past: A Rising Trend of Nostalgia in the U.S.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

A rising conservatism has been witnessed in the U.S. in recent decades. We wondered whether nostalgia—a bittersweet, sentimental longing for the past—has also become more prevalent. To explore this possibility, we analyzed the annual frequency of nostalgia-related words in English-language books from 1979 to 2019 using the Google Books Ngram corpus. Two lexicons were employed: one developed by researchers (Chen et al., 2023) and the other generated by artificial intelligence. Time-series regression analyses, with year as a predictor, revealed significant upward trends in the frequency of nostalgia-related words for both lexicons. For the AI-generated dictionary, $b = .08$, $SE = .01$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [.08, .09]; for the researcher-defined dictionary, $b = .08$, $SE = .01$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [.07, .09]. These findings suggest a growing societal engagement with nostalgia since 1979. We tentatively interpret this linguistic shift as a reflection of broader sociopolitical dynamics, particularly resurgence of conservative ideologies in Western society. Future study may empirically examine these possibilities.

Keywords: nostalgia, conservatism, cultural change, social change, U.S.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yanan Hong

The University of Oklahoma

Authors

Yanan Hong, Jingqiao Yuan, Elijah Moore, Menglin He, Huajian Cai

[140] Looking Beyond the Institution: Examining First-Generation, Low-Income Students' Cultural Mismatch in Both College and at Home

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

As AI-generated faces become increasingly realistic, people face growing challenges in distinguishing real from synthetic content, raising concerns about misinformation and eroded social trust. Across two eye-tracking experiments, we tested how different viewing strategies influence detection accuracy. In Study 1 (N = 90), participants performed at chance level, with a primary focus on internal facial features (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth)—an intuitive but ineffective strategy. In contrast, greater attention to external features (e.g., clothing) was associated with better discrimination. Notably, we observed a divergence between human and machine strategies: human fixation on regions deemed diagnostic by deep-learning algorithms (e.g., hair) did not improve performance. In Study 2 (N = 123), we experimentally manipulated viewing strategies and found that the external-feature condition consistently yielded the highest accuracy, outperforming both internal-feature and holistic scanning conditions. These findings underscore the need for human-centered perceptual training and demonstrate that effective detection may require overriding intuitive but flawed heuristics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Melissa Ruiz
Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Priscilla Diaz-Gonzalez

[141] Maladaptive Conscientiousness: Clarifying When it Predicts Maladaptive Outcomes

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

People often judge others based on what they wear. Indeed, many view those who wear firsthand luxury as high status, but this perception comes with a warmth penalty. As demand for secondhand luxury rises, how do social judgments shift when luxury is purchased secondhand instead? Across seven empirical studies (N = 3,632; six pre-registered), we examine how secondhand (vs. firsthand) luxury affects warmth and status ratings. We find that people are less likely to disclose secondhand luxury purchases, anticipating a status loss and no gain in warmth. Contrary to expectations, secondhand (vs. firsthand) luxury buyers are seen as warmer yet relatively lower in status. Grounded in the Stereotype Content Model, we show that secondhand luxury buyers appear warmer because they seem less wealthy and less attention-seeking. Although secondhand luxury signals less wealth and thus incurs an overall status penalty, it retains full cultural capital, a source of status, per Bourdieu's theory (1984). Notably, this preserved status exceeds that of non-luxury. In interpersonal contexts (e.g., dating, networking), secondhand (vs. firsthand) luxury yields social gains by calibrating warmth and status.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cavan Bonner
Lab Manager | Purdue University

Authors

Brent Roberts, Cavan Bonner, Ella Hiles, Bo Zhang

[142] Masculinity in East Asians versus White Americans: Cultural Differences in Masculine Norm Perception and Potential Links to Social Anxiety

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Compared to European Americans, people from East Asian societies are stricter about upholding social norms, as they are more "culturally tight." Here, we test whether this cultural difference extends to masculine norms. Masculine norm violations involve feminine behaviors performed by men ranging from putting on makeup (Non-Relational) to cleaning the home (Relational). We predict that Relational Masculine Norm Violations (e.g. investing in childcare or performing domestic chores) may be more acceptable for East Asians compared to European Americans. We had 368 East Asian and European American participants rate the perceived inappropriateness of Normal Behaviors and Relational Masculine Norm Violations via an online survey. Initial data analysis shows that Relational Masculine Norm Violations performed by men are rated as significantly more inappropriate than Normal Behaviors, or the same behaviors performed by women. We also find initial evidence that East Asians rate Relational Masculine Norm Violations as less inappropriate than White Americans. Our results challenge the notion that East Asians are uniformly stricter in upholding social norms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jeanie Jia
Student | Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Cristina Salvador, Kirby Lam

[143] OPEN

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

*POSTER

[144] Measuring Social Relationships: A Feature-Based Lexical Approach

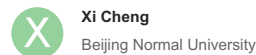
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INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Traditional psychological theories often emphasize explanatory power through simplified, low-dimensional frameworks. While such models provide conceptual clarity and stability, their practical applicability has become increasingly limited. In response, recent research has sought to refine these models by developing more nuanced, feature-rich structural systems. As a central topic in social cognition, the study of social relationships has garnered substantial interdisciplinary attention. Although the FAVEE model—a five-dimensional framework—has demonstrated cross-cultural and historical universality (Cheng et al., 2025), there remains a lack of a concise, generalizable tool for quantitatively assessing social knowledge. To address this gap, the present research adopts a psycholexical approach, inspired by personality psychology paradigms. In Study 1, we compiled a comprehensive pool of 4,773 trait terms by integrating top-down expert knowledge, bottom-up layperson inputs, and supplementary data generated by artificial intelligence (GPT-4). Study 2 involved collecting ratings for these terms from 1,400 participants across various provinces in China via an online platform. Exploratory factor analysis revealed a hierarchical conceptual structure comprising 12 specific facets nested under three higher-order dimensions. This structure enhances the theoretical granularity of the FAVEE model. In Study 3, confirmatory factor analysis using cross-cultural samples from China (n = 799) and the United States (n = 794) demonstrated strong reliability, validity, and cross-cultural generalizability of the identified structure. Study 4 further validated the structural stability in independent Chinese (n = 518) and British (n = 529) samples, while also examining its associations with key psychological constructs, including motivation, emotion, behavior, and situational context. Collectively, this research establishes a robust, multidimensional framework for measuring social relationships, with broad implications for both theoretical refinement and practical assessment across cultures.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Yin Wang

[145] Mending Bridges: Intergroup Apologies and Implicit Attitudes of Personality

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

In the real world, transgressions from one group against others are bound to happen, and often they are acknowledged and apologized for. Previous studies have shown that apologies which are victim-focused are more likely to be forgiven than those which are perpetrator-focused. Implicit theories of personality play a role in how people view the world and others around them, and how people forgive and perceive those who have wronged them. Social psychologists studying this think there are two different ways that people perceive others' personalities. The first is called entity theory. It states that people are fundamentally unchanging and ultimately stay the same at their core. The second is called incremental theory. It states that people are able to change through time and experience.

Past research suggests that someone with a more incremental theory will be more likely to forgive a transgressor in an interpersonal context, however there has been little research done in this area with intergroup apologies. In this study, we are trying to extend this line of research by seeing if different implicit theories of personality will affect forgiveness in an intergroup context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Angela Ma, David Rast

[146] Mental Representations of Dogs and Cats using Generative AI

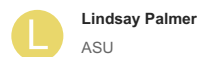
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PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Appearance strongly influences dog adoption decisions, often outweighing health considerations (Weiss et al., 2012; Bir et al., 2017). However, findings on the aspects of appearance that matter are mixed. Some studies find no effect of coat color on adoption outcomes (Brown et al., 2013; Svoboda & Hoffman, 2015), while others find that black dogs have lower adoption rates and higher euthanasia rates compared to lighter-coated dogs (DeLeeuw, 2010; Leonard, 2002; Lepper et al., 2002; Sinski et al., 2016). To clarify these inconsistencies, we investigate appearance-related biases in human decision-making using generative artificial intelligence (Albohn et al., 2024). Participants were assigned to view synthetic images of dogs or cats and asked to categorize them on one of six judgments (e.g., adoptability, attractiveness, dominance, intelligence, friendliness, aggression). Idiosyncratic mental prototypes were constructed by first fitting a model to each individual participant's responses. The computed values for each participant were then visualized using the generative AI model, resulting in a photorealistic representation that varied along the judgment of interest. In the next steps, we aim to validate the model on a new group of participants. We discuss implications for social cognition, animal welfare, and practical applications such as improving adoption outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Daniel Albohn, Sophia Ruppel, Kierah Moore, Andrew Johnson, Clive D.L. Wynne

[147] Mentoring Across Race: How Linguistic Colorblindness Impacts Black College Students

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Psychological theories of dehumanization have long emphasized the denial of traits viewed as central to humanness. Yet in many of its most pernicious real-world forms, dehumanization takes on a paradoxical quality: targets are likened to animals, yet attributed distinctly human traits such as cunning, deceit, and moral corruption. We argue this contradiction reflects a coherent psychological logic—that the most dehumanizing animals are not seen as mindless, but as embodying a corrupt essence capable of intelligent malevolence. Across four studies (N = 1,255), we examine the trait profiles of animals perceived as most dehumanizing. Studies 1-2 found that animals considered more dehumanizing were attributed more negative, uniquely human traits. Study 3 replicates this with fictional animals and an expanded trait set. Study 4 manipulates the perceived intelligence of rats and finds that greater intelligence amplifies their dehumanizing essence. Together, these findings challenge trait-based models of dehumanization that emphasize omission. Capturing this process may therefore require moving beyond trait denial models toward more holistic measures of perceived essence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Salena Diaz

Postdoc | Dartmouth College

Authors

Kiara Sanchez

[148] Merely introducing AI as a work partner creates an illusion of understanding in people

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Individuals' behavior varies with respect to dispositional categories, yet self-reports commonly do not give people the option of reporting such variability. The present study is an initial effort to give test-takers that option. The primary question addressed here is a descriptive one: How frequently do participants select "it depends" responses if given that option? Participants (university students, n = 87) completed 12 items with a mixed-methods structure. Items described a behavioral act. Participant 1) indicated whether the action is a) "like me," b) "not like me" or c) "it depends"; and 3) completed an open-ended question that varied as a function of a/b/c choices. For "a" and "b", participants listed reasons for action. For "c" they indicated "what it depends on." Of the 12 items, three measured each of two personality traits (extraversion and conscientiousness) and three measured each of character strengths (bravery and kindness). Results: Participants chose "it depends" frequently: 47.7% of the time on average. The majority of participants, 59%, chose "it depends" in response to the majority of items, a result that significantly exceeded the chance probability of 33% ($t(86) = 8.86, p < .001$, Cohen's $d = .94$). Traditional assessment sacrifice contextually-dependent information that participants readily can report.

*POSTER

Speaker



Roya Mohammadsadegh

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Roya Mohammadsadegh, Mohammad Atari

[149] My Personality?: I Say, It Depends, for These Reasons

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

The relevance of grandiose narcissism to attitudes about writing and writing behavior has not drawn much attention, but we reasoned that narcissists' attention-seeking, self-assurance, and willingness to overclaim and cut corners could be reflected in their writing perspectives and habits. Our survey asked college students (most with undeclared majors) to complete the Narcissistic Admiration and Rivalry Questionnaire and respond to items probing writing-related attitudes, values, and tendencies. Narcissistic students were comparatively more comfortable making controversial and provocative arguments and were more likely to prioritize writing impact and effectiveness over maintaining honesty and integrity. Narcissistic students claimed more confidence in having ideas worth writing about and they reported less inclination to consult the perspectives of others during the writing process. Narcissism predicted placing higher value on oral presentation skills than writing skills, and narcissistic students were more enthusiastic about outsourcing their writing assignments to AI. Demonstrating writing excellence generally did not seem highly relevant to narcissistic students' desired self-image or self-presentational goals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Cervone

Professor of Psychology | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Daniel Cervone, Aaron E. Sterling

[150] Narcissistic College Students' Views About Writing

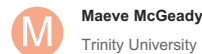
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PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

The relevance of grandiose narcissism to attitudes about writing and writing behavior has not drawn much attention, but we reasoned that narcissists' attention-seeking, self-assurance, and willingness to overclaim and cut corners could be reflected in their writing perspectives and habits. Our survey asked college students (most with undeclared majors) to complete the Narcissistic Admiration and Rivalry Questionnaire and respond to items probing writing-related attitudes, values, and tendencies. Narcissistic students were comparatively more comfortable making controversial and provocative arguments and were more likely to prioritize writing impact and effectiveness over maintaining honesty and integrity. Narcissistic students claimed more confidence in having ideas worth writing about and they reported less inclination to consult the perspectives of others during the writing process. Narcissism predicted placing higher value on oral presentation skills than writing skills, and narcissistic students were more enthusiastic about outsourcing their writing assignments to AI. Demonstrating writing excellence generally did not seem highly relevant to narcissistic students' desired self-image or self-presentational goals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Ayanna Blake, Nora Bonhe, Harry Wallace

[151] Narrowing Dreams: How an Unequal Society Narrows Career Aspirations

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Why do young people dream of the same crowded career paths? We investigated whether income inequality leads children and adolescents to follow popular career aspirations—a phenomenon we term occupational herding. Study 1 (N = 92 countries/economies) analyzed about 2.7 million adolescents' reports of their expected jobs at age 30 and found more convergent aspirations in unequal societies. This 'herding' effect was corroborated by findings that adolescents in more unequal contexts reported stronger peer influence on their career choices. Study 2 (N = 1,072 state-year) examined college degree conferrals and showed greater herding in states with higher income inequality. Study 3 (N = 110 years) revealed that increases in inequality consistently preceded stronger herding in college majors, even after accounting for economic trends. Study 4 (N = 479) manipulated anticipated future inequality and found that parents in the high-inequality condition were more likely to recommend popular careers for their children. Together, these studies show that inequality narrows career pathways, channeling a society's aspirations into a limited set of well-trodden paths.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Youngjae Cha, Linjin Hu, Maya Thamer-Nall

[152] Oh Hair No!: How Hair Texture Shapes Conversational Generosity in Video-Mediated Chatrooms

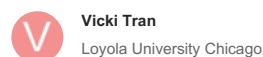
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PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

While previous research has highlighted the importance of feature-based differences among Black individuals at the intragroup level, few have examined hair texture as an underexplored racialized feature with unique consequences for Black women. Across five studies (N = 1,100), we tested whether a "conversational generosity bias" would manifest in the frequency and types of spontaneous compliments white males directed toward the same Black female as a function of her hair texture (straight vs. natural) during zero-history video chat pairings. We suggest that synchronous chat provides a context for intragroup bias to travel through compliments. Using thematic analysis, we identified five distinct compliment types with high interrater reliability ($\kappa = .92$). Results indicated that Black women were more likely to receive feature-specific (e.g., "You have juicy lips, baby") versus global compliments (e.g., "You are beautiful") as a function of hair texture (natural vs. straight). Findings provide a basis for deeper examinations into the consequences of interpersonal perception for Black women at the intersection of technology and the human experience.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Janene Cielto, Vicki Tran, Estelle Cooksey, Tetiana Nikitenko, Dominique Powers

[153] CANCELLED

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

*POSTER

Authors

Saskias Casanova, Rose Vukovic

[154] Parental Acceptance, Bullying, and Distress in LGBTQ+ Youth of Color

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

There is growing philosophical and scientific rejection of the notion of free will, but the psychological implications of this shift remain underexplored. While prior work has emphasized potential negative outcomes of weakening free will belief, the present studies examine possible benefits. In two experiments, we tested whether exposing participants to deterministic arguments would increase forgiveness. In Study 1 (N = 260), participants who recalled a personal transgression and read pro-determinism texts reported greater self-forgiveness. In Study 2 (N = 262), participants who recalled being wronged by someone else showed greater forgiveness and less hatred toward their transgressor after the same manipulation. Extending these findings cross-culturally, we surveyed 8,917 participants across 44 countries and found that individuals with stronger belief in free will were more punitive in response to everyday moral transgressions. At the country level, stronger free will belief predicted support for the death penalty and higher incarceration rates. These results suggest that undermining belief in free will may foster forgiveness and reduce punitive attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Aldo Barrita, Roberto Abreu, Joshua Parmenter

[155] Parental Cultural Socialization and Bicultural Identity Development in Mexican-American Young Adults

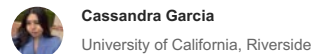
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CULTURE

Parental cultural socialization shapes ethnic identities during adolescence and into young adulthood. However, limited research has explored the specific practices (e.g., music, food, language) and parental figures that shape ethnic identity for bicultural young adults. This research uses quantitative and qualitative data from two studies to address: RQ1) How is parental cultural socialization related to Mexican and American ethnic pride and identities?; and RQ2) Do individuals from multicultural backgrounds gravitate towards one cultural identity more than the other? And if so, what factors shape individuals' identification with their Mexican and American identities? Study 1 uses data (N=674 Mexican-origin youth) from the California Families Project to evaluate the relationship between Mexican and American ethnic socialization, cultural identities, and ethnic pride. Study 2 aims to replicate and extend Study 1 by analyzing responses from 57 undergraduates of Mexican-origin, combining survey data with qualitative prompts about bicultural identity development. Together, these studies deepen understanding of how early cultural socialization impacts multicultural identity development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Olivia Atherton

[156] Pathological Personality Traits and Interpersonal Behavior in Romantic Relationships

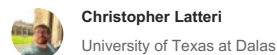
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PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Contemporary Integrative Interpersonal Theory asserts that important expressions of psychopathology arise in interpersonal situations (Hopwood et al., 2021). We use data from a cross-sectional dyadic study of romantic relationships (n = 80 different-gendered couples) to investigate intrapersonal and interpersonal effects of pathological personality traits on interpersonal behavior during a conflict resolution task. Trained coders assessed dominance and warmth for both dyad members using the Continuous Assessment of Interpersonal Dynamics (Halberstadt, 2025). Actor-Partner Interdependence Models that regressed dominance and warmth on both dyad members' pathological traits showed that participants with greater disinhibition expressed less dominance (b = -.17.33, p < .01). Moreover, women expressed less dominance when they had greater psychoticism (b = -.27.10, p < .01) and lower antagonism (b = 33.20, p < .01), and men expressed less dominance when they had higher detachment (b = -.23.66, p = .04). No significant effects emerged for warmth. The null effects for warmth and lack of partner effects will be addressed in the context of interpersonal theory and behavioral measurement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Robert Ackerman, Kevin Carson

[157] People Are More Reluctant to Adopt Value-Based Culture Than Instrumental Culture During Group Mergers

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Across six preregistered studies (N=3803, 1000 collected prior to the Trump inauguration), we find that people are averse to including measurable diversity goals in public-facing communications (e.g., "We aim to hire 50% women in the coming year"). In Studies 1A/B we demonstrate that even those who privately endorse setting such goals are unwilling to include them in job ads, instead preferring to communicate vague, values-focused commitments to diversity. Study 2 replicates this implementation-communication gap with a sample of working adults from a local pop-up lab. In Study 3, we found a reversal in which a majority of participants were willing to communicate measurable goals for pay equity (e.g., "for women to earn \$1 for every \$1 that men make in the coming year"). We also found that this effect is not due to an aversion to counting people as a majority of participants were willing to communicate such goals for less controversial identities like veterans. Finally, Study 5 found that concerns about backlash against the organization and feeling that communicating such goals is morally "wrong" both fully explained people's preference to avoid sharing measurable goals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shiyun Cao

University of Chicago

Authors

Shiyun Cao, Jane Risen, Joshua Conrad Jackson

[158] Perceived Authenticity of Prejudice Confrontations by Native Americans Based on Blood Quantum

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The perceived effectiveness of a prejudice confrontation depends on the perceived racial authenticity of a confronter's group status. Specifically, bias confrontations from majority group members (i.e., White individuals) are often perceived as more genuine, while confrontations from minority group members (e.g., Black individuals) are often perceived as complaining. This research has been limited in scope, predominantly focused on White compared to Black confrontations of racial prejudice. In the current study, we will focus on Native American confrontations and examine how blood quantum shapes the perception of Native American bias confrontations. We will vary the Native American quantum of a confronter (0%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 100%) challenging a White perpetrator's biased remark. We predict (anticipated n = 300) that higher Native American quantum will yield greater perceived authenticity, but poorer impact and outcomes; and lower Native American quantum will yield less authenticity, but greater impact and outcomes. These findings will highlight how perceived authenticity influences perceptions of Native Americans who challenge prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Noel Garcia

Butler University

Authors

Conor O'Dea

[159] Perceived Ingroup and Outgroup Status Shifts in Intergroup Hierarchical Structures and Their Effect on Support for International Intervention Strategies

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Depression and anxiety rates are nearly twice as high in women than men. One contributor to this gender difference may be structural sexism—a systemic factor that manifests both at the macro (e.g., policies) and micro (e.g., individual beliefs) levels. Drawing on structural sexism and health theory, we tested whether state gender equality and hostile sexism were associated with depressive and anxiety symptoms. U.S. adults (N = 603; 48 states) were recruited via Prolific. We computed multilevel models with fixed effects for gender, state equality, sexism, and a state equality*sexism interaction. Depression was associated with lower state equality (b = -5.99, p = .01) but not significantly associated with sexism. Anxiety was not directly associated with either predictor. Interaction effects were significant, indicating that higher sexism was associated with higher depression (b = -3.83, p = .01) and anxiety (b = -3.21, p = .02) in low-equality states. Women reported higher anxiety and depression than men, but gender did not moderate effects. Findings reveal novel evidence of the buffering role of structural equality, its cross-gender relevance, and its unique links to mental health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ciara Hernandez

Graduate Student | Claremont Graduate University

Authors

Ciara Hernandez

[160] Perceiving Preference: Ingroup and Outgroup Dynamics in Racialized Desire

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This research examines how Black and White women perceive racial preferences of Black and White men in the context of dating, highlighting the role of ingroup–outgroup dynamics in racialized attraction. Across two planned studies using experimentally manipulated dating profiles, findings from Study 1 (N = 391) suggest that Black women evaluate racial preference disclosures from Black men more positively than equivalent disclosures from White men across several domains (e.g., fetishization, depersonalization, and affect). Study 2, currently in progress, explores whether these patterns extend to White women participants. Collectively, these studies illuminate how racial group membership and social hierarchies influence perceptions of romantic interest, echoing findings that interracial attraction is shaped by forces beyond idiosyncratic preferences (Auelua-Toomey & Roberts, 2023; Stacey & Forbes, 2022; Thai et al., 2019). This work firmly underscores the necessity of intersectional approaches in understanding intergroup processes within intimate relationships and attraction, making apparent the subtle ways race informs everyday social judgments, even in the most intimate contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amaya Mitchell

Northwestern University

Authors

Sylvia Perry

[161] Perception on the Podium: The Effect of Witness, Evidence, and Jury Instruction Type on Trial Outcomes

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LAW

This study assesses the effects of witness type (informant/police officer), jury instructions (no mention/mention witness' ulterior motives), and evidence type (drugs/cash) on mock jurors' verdicts and witness/defendant credibility ratings in a possession with intent to distribute case. In trial, jurors are told to consider a witness' potential vested interest in the trial outcome. This instruction is omitted when police testify (Johnson, 2017). This study assesses whether including the same instruction for police officers would influence trial outcomes.

Mock jurors (N = 355) read a trial transcript, provided verdicts, and completed defendant/witness credibility scales. With the police (vs. informant) witness, mock jurors had more confidence in the defendant's guilt and found the defendant to be more credible—specifically when there were drugs in the defendant's system (vs. hidden cash). When jury instructions did not mention motive, witness credibility was higher in the cash (vs. drug) evidence conditions. Finally, the officer (vs. informant) was more credible when: (a) ulterior motive jury instructions were provided and (b) when presented with cash (vs. drug) evidence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alaina Helmerichs

University of South Florida

Authors

Abigail Heffner, Ella Melei, Andrew Usherenko, Christine Ruva

[162] Perceptions of Advice Rejectors: Comparing Asked-for vs. Unsolicited Advice

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Prior research has explored how advice-seekers are perceived, particularly in terms of competence (e.g., Brooks et al.). However, little is known about how advice-seekers are judged when they reject advice. In everyday contexts, people who ask for advice but do not follow it are often met with disapproval, yet systematic research on this phenomenon is scarce. The present studies examine whether perceptions of advice rejecters differ depending on whether the advice was solicited or unsolicited. Using a vignette design, participants read a scenario in which a colleague prepared for a work presentation and either asked for advice or received unsolicited input. In both conditions, the colleague ultimately rejected the advice. Participants then rated the advice-seeker on 14 Likert-scale items assessing traits such as competence, confidence, and generosity. We also tested gender effects, exploring whether male and female participants evaluated male vs. female rejecters differently. Findings contribute to the literature on advice-giving and impression formation by highlighting the role of advice solicitation in shaping social judgments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anthony Campolattara

Authors

Rebecca White, Anthony Campolattara

[163] Perceptions of Safety and Threat in University Websites

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

The current study examined perceptions of safety and threat in a virtual context using the new Safety and Threat in the Environment Perceptions (STEP) scale. Specifically, we examined how seeing a colorblind (vs. multicultural) diversity statement on a university website shaped students' intended engagement, interest, anticipated performance, and intentions to recruit others to the school. We further examined whether group membership affected these perceptions. Black and White students (N=293) saw a university website with a colorblind or multicultural statement, reported their perceptions of safety and threat, and completed the outcome measures. Participants did not differ in perceived safety and threat when seeing the multicultural statement. However, White participants perceived less safety and greater threat than Black participants when seeing the colorblind (vs. multicultural) statement. Moderated mediation results showed that perceived professor support and overall liking of the environment explained associations between the variables. This research suggests that a more nuanced view of diversity statements is needed in the literature and in real-world implementation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Koeffler

Graduate Student | University at Buffalo

Authors

Lora Park

[164] Performing positivity predicts poorer well-being for Americans but not Japanese

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

North Americans tend to value positive emotional experience and open emotional expression more than East Asians (Matsumoto et al., 2008; Tsai, 2017). Do these cultural differences influence how often people perform emotion, and how performing emotion impacts well-being? We predicted that, compared to East Asians, European Americans would report they typically "perform affect" less frequently but that when they do, they perform positive affect more intensely. We also predicted that performing affect would impact European Americans' well-being more negatively. In Study 1 (N = 189), European Americans reported performing affect less frequently overall than did Japanese ($b = 0.52, p < .01$). In Study 2 (N = 396), in hypothetical scenarios, European Americans reported they would specifically perform more positivity than Japanese ($b = -0.17, p < .001$). Moreover, performing positivity was associated with lower life satisfaction for European Americans ($b = -1.14, p < .001$) but not Japanese ($b = 0.26, p = .48$). These findings suggest performing affect is generally more normative for Japanese, while specifically performing positivity is especially prevalent and harmful for European Americans.

*POSTER

Speaker



Raphael Uricher

Graduate Student | Stanford University

Authors

Yukiko Uchida, Jeanne Tsai

[165] Person Perception in Dictator Games

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Dictator games, in which an individual has full power to share windfall resources with another, have long been used to study human decision-making. While most research examines participants' decisions as a dictator, little is known about how dictators' decisions shape how they are perceived. We address this question by presenting adult participants with vignettes in which dictators decided to keep all, keep half, or give all of \$10 to a stranger. In each case, participants rated how warm, nice, powerful, smart, good, and fair the dictators were. We found that participants (college students in the US, $n = 109$) rated keep-all dictators negatively overall compared to keep-half and give-all dictators in the social context (all dimensions $ps < .05$). In addition, participants rated the give-all dictator as fairer than the keep-all dictator, although the inequality was numerically identical, suggesting that people considered self-interest when making fairness judgments. The results indicate that although sharing any resources may be regarded as irrational from the traditional economic perspective, it has social and reputational benefits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Boyang Zhou

Cornell University

Authors

Shuai Shao, Gail Heyman

[166] Personality and Mental Health Outcomes in Adults with Cancer

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Personality plays a crucial role in mental health outcomes among individuals with cancer. This study examined the relationship between the Five Factor personality model and depression, anxiety, COVID anxiety, and positive affect in adults with cancer.

A total of 372 participants with a current diagnosis or history of cancer completed measures of sociodemographic and health characteristics, the IPIP personality measure, PROMIS anxiety short form, PROMIS depression short form, Coronavirus Anxiety Scale, and PANAS positive affect subscale.

Regression analyses revealed that more neurotic patients had greater depression, ($B = .541, p < .001$) anxiety, ($B = .535, p < .001$) and COVID anxiety ($B = .296, p < .001$), and less positive affect ($B = -.272, p < .001$). More conscientious patients had less depression ($B = -.159, p < .001$) and anxiety ($B = -.144, p < .001$) and greater positive affect ($B = .239, p < .001$). More extroverted patients had less depression ($B = -.109, p = .009$). Personality explained 15.9% of the variation in depression ($\Delta R^2 = .159$), 13.4% in anxiety ($\Delta R^2 = .134$), 9.2% in COVID anxiety ($\Delta R^2 = .092$), and 21.4% in positive affect ($\Delta R^2 = .214$) (all $ps < .001$).

Neuroticism, conscientiousness, and extraversion were significantly associated with mental health in patients with cancer. Further research should examine the implications of these findings for improving quality of life in patients with cancer.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tristen Peyser

Graduate Student | Tulane University

Authors

Laura M. Perry, Nicole Pyke, Michael Hoerger

[167] Personality Predictors of Longitudinal Adaptation Following the COVID-19 Pandemic

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

The COVID-19 pandemic and its mitigation efforts changed people's lives. Long-term adaptation years after the pandemic's onset—and the predictors of this adaptation—have rarely been examined. In a sample of 248 emerging adults followed from 2020/2021 to 2025, in-person contact increased, and technology-mediated contact decreased over time. Online learning was remembered more positively five years after the transition to online learning. Life satisfaction rose and loneliness fell, suggesting an adaptation following stressful pandemic times. Conscientiousness predicted less negative online-learning evaluations and lower reliance on technology-mediated contact. Extraversion and agreeableness were linked to preferring in-person jobs; extraversion and conscientiousness predicted lower remote preference. Extraversion predicted higher life satisfaction and lower loneliness, and negative emotionality predicted higher loneliness. Indicators across domains largely rebounded five years after the pandemic onset, personality traits still mattered. These findings suggest individual differences in how people respond to and adapt to particular contexts, like a pandemic.

*POSTER

Speaker



Logan Gibson

Michigan State University

Authors

William Chopik

[168] Personality processes in situational contexts: An analysis of sleep narratives

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Generational Historical Reflexivity (GHR) is the recognition of oneself as historically situated within a generational lineage, shaped by inherited social conditions and positioned to transform future realities. Across three studies, we examine its theoretical, empirical, and practical significance. First, a psychometric study ($N=1000$) supports a two-factor structure: historical causality and generational responsibility with strong reliability and validity. Second, an experiment ($N=500$) tests GHR's role in predicting problem-based views of inequality, expansive political vision, and attitudes toward diverse social actions. Third, a collaboration with a racial justice group explores how shifts in GHR relate to political engagement. Together, these studies suggest GHR is a powerful tool for understanding and fostering critical consciousness, political imagination, and intergenerational solidarity in both research and practice

*POSTER

Speaker



Hieu Le

Undergraduate Researcher | North Dakota State University

Authors

Samantha Weston, Anita Adams, Odalis Garcia, Hieu Le, Jeremy Hamm

[169] Personality Traits and ICT Service Use on Financial Anxiety

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITs

This study examined how personality traits and smartphone-based financial ICT services relate to financial anxiety about the future. A cross-sectional web-based survey of Japanese adults aged 25-44 assessed financial anxiety, Big Five traits, and use of smartphone financial apps and online services. Financial anxiety was measured on a four-point scale ("very anxious" to "not anxious at all"), and ordered logistic regression estimated associations. Neuroticism showed the strongest positive association with financial anxiety. For smartphone-mediated services, online shopping and flea market apps were positively associated, whereas securities investment services were negatively associated. Point reward use showed a positive main effect, yet its interaction with neuroticism was negatively associated, suggesting a buffering pattern at higher neuroticism. Findings indicate that personality-particularly neuroticism-moderates links between smartphone-based financial behaviors and financial anxiety, underscoring the need for interventions integrating psychological dispositions with everyday mobile financial practices.

*POSTER

Speaker



Seiya Kojima

Researcher | NTT DOCOMO, Inc.

Authors

Masayuki Hida, Setsuko Kondo, Kotaro Kuwazu, Michitaka Hirose

[170] Policy Evaluations Differ by Target, Not Structural vs. Individual Nature

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LAW

Both individual (person-to-person) and institutional (biased policies leading to disparate outcomes) racism is deeply embedded in U.S. social structures. Despite its pervasiveness, many Americans believe anti-Black bias has declined while anti-White bias has risen, even surpassing anti-Black bias (Rasmussen et al., 2022). Across 3 experiments (2024-2025; N=839, 68% White), we examined how U.S. adults' evaluate racial discrimination as a function of discrimination type (structural vs. individual), policy target (White vs. People of Color), and political ideology. Participants rated policies as more racist when they targeted POC rather than White people ($p < .001$), and these effects were larger among liberals and smaller among conservatives ($p < .001$). Participants' evaluations of institutional (e.g., corporation) and individual (e.g., hiring manager) discrimination, however, did not differ, suggesting U.S. adults do not distinguish between them. Thus, although individuals may oppose structural racism in the abstract, policy support relies more on ideology and target, leaving the concept vulnerable to political rhetoric that exploits misunderstanding and fuels polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taylor Bettis

University of Kentucky

Authors

Jennifer Hunt, Abigail Folberg, Christopher Marshburn

[171] Positive Egalitarian Feedback: A Green Light for White American's Language Shifts Towards Black Americans

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

As structural support for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in organizations diminishes, leaders' individual behavior has all the more impact. We investigate how, for White people, receiving feedback on their egalitarianism impacts their interracial goals and behaviors. Specifically, we examine the impact of receiving positive (versus negative) feedback from a) an implicit association test or b) a colleague on how they speak to a presumed-real Black interaction partner. Across two separate studies, we find that White liberals, but not conservatives, (total N = 1587) use less competent language when speaking to a Black partner after receiving positive (versus negative) feedback on their racial egalitarianism. There was no such effect for same-race interactions, and White liberals' self-reported goals were unchanged. Study 3 aims to further determine the motivational processes that give rise to this behavioral response. Findings suggest that dynamic interpersonal processes, such as receiving feedback, can impact White Americans' interracial behaviors in ways that can help or harm interracial coalition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joselle Carrillo

University College London

Authors

Joselle Carrillo, Cydney Dupree

[172] Power of culture: Enculturation protects Native wellbeing against omissions and misrepresentations

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Representations of Native Americans are routinely omitted from U.S. society. When not omitted, these representations are stereotypical and limiting. Omission and misrepresentations negatively impact Native Americans' wellbeing. The current work investigates whether higher levels of cultural engagement (i.e., enculturation) protect against these negative consequences for Native Americans. Study 1 (N=4965) revealed that higher sensitivity to Native omissions and misrepresentations was related to greater depression/anxiety and lower wellbeing/life satisfaction. However, these negative associations were weaker when enculturation was high (vs. low), suggesting a buffering effect. Study 2 (N=707) largely replicated the results of Study 1. Higher sensitivity to omissions and misrepresentations were associated with greater anxiety/depression and lower wellbeing/life satisfaction. Yet, once again, when enculturation was high (vs. low), many of these associations were weaker or nonsignificant. Taken together, this research demonstrates the harms of Native omission and misrepresentations for Native Americans and supports the protective power of engaging with one's Native culture(s).

*POSTER

Speaker



Solomon Milner

Graduate Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Arianne Eason, Kristina Chamberlin, Jamie Yellowtail, Emma Ward-Griffin, Ariana Munoz-Salgado

[174] Processing Multiple Cues: How Physical and Social Cues Shape Safety and Threat Perceptions in a Classroom

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

The environments people encounter in everyday life are filled with physical cues (e.g., lighting, color) and social cues (e.g., presence of other people, facial expressions). The current research examined how physical and social cues in a classroom shape gut-level perceptions of safety and threat in the environment, and how these perceptions shaped parents' interest in having their child in the classroom. Participants (N=535) were randomly assigned to view an image of a welcoming or unwelcoming classroom with either a smiling or frowning teacher. Results showed significant main effects of both types of cues, with social cues being stronger. Specifically, participants perceived greater safety and less threat in the environment when they saw the smiling teacher in an unwelcoming classroom versus the frowning teacher in a welcoming classroom. There was also a significant interaction, such that participants perceived greater safety in the classroom with positive (vs. negative) physical cues, and this pattern was amplified by positive social cues. Greater perceived safety, shaped by the interplay of physical and social cues, was related to greater interest in having a child in the classroom.

*POSTER

Speaker



Esther Lee

Ph.D. student | University at Buffalo

Authors

Lora Park

[175] Promoting sustainable consumption through social norms messaging: An experimental test

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

OTHER

According to social norms theory, individuals match their behavior to groups they identify with. Optimal distinctiveness theory suggests, however, that individuals will deviate from their group when their sense of uniqueness is threatened. The present study investigates whether insights from social norms theory and optimal distinctiveness theory can be used to encourage people to limit their clothing consumption and thus reduce their carbon footprint. Participants completed a task in which they were told that they are either similar to (high need for distinctiveness) or different from (low need for distinctiveness) their peers. In addition, we then presented participants with a fictitious new article indicating that either a small percentage (weak social norm) or a large percentage (strong social norm) of their peers are currently limiting their clothing consumption. We measured a variety of outcomes related to participants' clothing consumption, both immediately afterwards and one month later. The study tests if the effectiveness of social norms messages can be increased by aligning the messages with individuals' level of need for distinctiveness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Siena Keys

Undergraduate Research Assistant | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Markus Brauer, Benjamin Douglas

[176] Prosociality Uniquely Contributes to Culture-Specific Well-being Through Distinct Psychological Pathways Across Cultures

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Accumulating evidence shows that prosocial behavior enhances well-being. Self-determination theory suggests that this relationship is mediated by basic psychological need satisfaction (e.g, autonomy, relatedness, and competence). However, previous studies fail to consider the culturally specific conceptualization of well-being. This study compared American and Japanese adults to examine how the prosocial tendencies uniquely contribute to culturally specific forms of well-being, subjective well-being and interdependent happiness, through need satisfaction. Multigroup path analyses revealed that prosociality was positively associated with subjective well-being via all three need satisfactions in both groups. Cultural differences emerged in interpersonal happiness. In the Japanese sample, all need satisfaction mediated the link between prosociality and interdependent happiness, whereas only autonomy satisfaction mediated the link in the American sample. These results indicate both universal and culture-specific pathways through which prosociality fosters well-being and highlight the importance of cultural contexts in understanding the psychological benefits of prosocial behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kazuaki Yoshino

Nagoya University

Authors

Keiko Ishii

[177] Psychological Markers of Stress in the Context of Disease-Prone Behavior Patterns Among Cebuano Working Adults: A Structural Equation Modelling Approach

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This study investigated the structural relationship between disease-prone behavior patterns (DPBP) and psychological stress markers, specifically anxiety, depression, and somatic symptom burden, among Cebuano working adults. Guided by Gabor Maté’s concept of stress-related behavioral traits and informed by Filipino indigenous psychology (Sikolohiyang Pilipino), the model examined four latent behavioral constructs: compulsive concern for others’ emotional needs, over-identification with responsibilities, suppression of healthy anger, and a perceived duty to regulate others’ emotions. A total of 1,134 working adults participated in the study, completing validated self-report measures including the GAD-7, PHQ-2, and SSS-8. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) using the DWLS estimator showed a well-fitting model ($\chi^2 = 745.478$, $df = 147$, $p < .001$; CFI = .984; TLI = .981; RMSEA = .060; SRMR = .055). All four behavioral constructs loaded significantly onto the higher-order DPBP factor, which in turn significantly predicted psychological stress ($\beta = .455$, $p < .001$). These findings suggest that culturally ingrained behaviors, often perceived as virtues such as self-sacrifice, conformity, and emotional suppression, may be risk factors for internalizing psychological distress. The study underscores the importance of context-sensitive psychological models, especially in collectivist cultures like the Philippines, where interpersonal harmony may mask maladaptive stress responses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Reymart Luspe

Senior Faculty | University of Cebu - Banilad

Authors

Ms. Nelly Limbadan

[178] Psychopathy and First Impressions of Warmth, Dominance, and Trust

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Prior research demonstrates that individuals with psychopathic traits are perceived by others to be less warm, more dominant, and less trustworthy. However, it is unclear how individuals with psychopathic traits view others and whether such effects depend on the facet. The current study uses cross-sectional dyadic data from a zero-acquaintance paradigm to evaluate how two facets of psychopathy, Fearless Dominance (FD) and Impulsive Antisociality (IA), relate to first impressions of warmth, dominance, and trust. Participants included 148 same-sex pairs of undergraduate students who rated their interaction partner on warmth, dominance, and trustworthiness based solely on their photograph. Using multilevel modeling, a series of Actor-Partner Interdependence Model analyses found that participants with higher FD were perceived by their interaction partners as more warm ($b = 0.20$, $p = .029$), dominant ($b = 0.26$, $p = .006$), and trustworthy ($b = 0.36$, $p = .027$). Moreover, participants with higher IA perceived their interaction partners to be less warm ($b = -0.44$, $p < .001$) and trustworthy ($b = -0.60$, $p < .001$). These findings suggest that positive judgments of psychopathy stem from the FD facet. In addition, IA appears to negatively shape initial interpersonal impressions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Crossley

Research Assistant | University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Robert Ackerman

[179] Pupil dilation and moral expectancies: Physiological evidence that Chinese participants regard both uncivilized and harmful behaviors as non-normative

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Unlike Western moral views that focus on harm, Chinese also consider uncivilized and unfilial behaviors immoral (budaode; Buchtel et al., 2015). To add physiological evidence that both Budaode and harmful behaviors evoke strong norm expectations among Chinese, we conducted an eye-tracking experiment with N = 60 mainland Chinese participants. Ninety statements were selected from a pilot study: 30 budaode (more wrong in China than UK), 30 harmful (wrong in both cultures), and 30 aesthetic judgements (control). In each trial, participants rated the behavior, then pupil dilation was measured in reaction to a previous participant's response ("OK" or "NOT OK"). Multilevel models showed that both budaode and harmful behaviors elicited larger pupil changes in the OK condition, but not aesthetic judgements. Consistent with previous research (Proulx et al., 2017) that expectancy violation occurs early (500–1500ms), while emotion plays a greater role later (1500–4000ms), we also found temporal differences: Attitude moderated pupil responses only in the late stage for harmful and aesthetic behaviors, with a similar trend for budaode behaviors. Further UK data will explore cultural differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Buchtel

Associate Professor (Psychology) and Associate Dean (International Engagement), Faculty of Education and Human Developm...

Authors

Travis Proulx, Shuang Wang, Natalia Zarzeczna

[180] Racial Differences in Trust in Juries

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Race is a major component in whether people perceive legal institutions, such as police and courts, as legitimate and trustworthy. Generally, Black and Hispanic people have lower trust in legal institutions than White people. We surveyed 1,200 adults (400 White, Black, Hispanic) to examine whether such racial disparities extend to trust in juries, who may be perceived differently from police and courts as representatives of the public. Participants rated their trust in juries (1 = low trust; 7 = high trust) and how well the average jury represented their own race (1 = low representation; 7 = high representation). Path analyses showed a significant indirect effect from race to trust in juries through perceived representativeness, with Black and Hispanic participants perceiving juries as less representative which, in turn, was associated with lower trust in juries. However, after accounting for this indirect effect, Black participants had significantly more trust in juries (M = 5.06) than White (M = 4.92) and Hispanic (M = 4.62) participants. These findings reveal a complex relationship between race and trust in juries and distinguish it from trust in other legal institutions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Rath

Graduate Research Assistant | Arizona State University

Authors

Melanie Fessinger

[181] Racial Perception Gaps: Asymmetries, Interventions, and Implications for Intergroup Attitudes

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

*POSTER

Speaker



Aakash Arvind Chowkase

Associate Research Scientist | Yale University

Authors

Aakash Arvind Chowkase, My Dao, Tyrone Sgambati, Ozlem Ayduk

[182] Real Hate in Unreal Relationships: Measuring Non-Amicable Parasocial Relationships and Changes over Time

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

OTHER

Non-amicable parasocial relationships (NPSRs)—one-sided connections with disliked media figures—represent a neglected area of social and media psychology. Three studies are being conducted to better understand predictors and characteristics of these hate-relationships. Study 1 developed the PICL-NPSR Scale (33 items) to measure four types: Pervasive, Ironic/Ludic, Competitive, and Loyal. Undergraduate participants (N = 695) completed the PICL-NPSR, listing media figures they dislike. Very simple structure (Revelle & Rocklin, 1979) and exploratory factor analyses revealed a five-factor solution (VSS = .59; RMSEA = .073, 90% CI [.068, .079]; MAP = .013); 23 items loaded above .40. Study 2 features confirmatory factor analyses and data collection is ongoing (N ≈ 700). Finally, Study 3 is a longitudinal media-exposure experiment (spanning over two months) that analyzes changes over time in people's NPSRs with popularly hated U.S. music artists; recruitment is ongoing (N ≈ 100). Preliminary findings suggest that NPSRs with disliked media figures do occur; individual differences in personality, loneliness, need to belong, aggression, and valenced media consumption may predict NPSRs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Pezoldt

Lab Manager | Web Lab at UF

Authors

Gregory D. Webster, Amy Pezoldt

[183] Reconstructing the past to perceive greater racial progress in prejudice norms

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Despite abundant systemic racism and inequality in the US, Americans tend to overestimate racial progress. Research documenting the misperception of racial progress, which often compares "perceived" to "actual" changes in economic disparities between ethnic-racial minority and White Americans, ignores psychological theories of time. We investigated the misperception of societal-level prejudice toward Black Americans over time in two ways. In a sample of 240 undergraduates, we compared perceived prejudice over time to "actual" prejudice using undergraduate archival data over the past 10 years. In a sample of 610 Prolific participants, we compared perceived prejudice to "actual" prejudice using data from the American National Election Survey over the past 60 years. Participants overestimated progress by perceiving more reductions in prejudice than had occurred in reality. However, unlike research on economic disparities over time, participants overestimated prejudice in the past, while perceptions in the present were relatively accurate. Results are consistent with temporal appraisal theory, suggesting that mental representations of progress can take the form of past derogations; people may reconstruct the past in ways that enhance the perceived steepness of progress up to the present to meet psychological goals in the present.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samuel Arnold

Graduate Student (Social Psychology) | University Of Kansas

Authors

Christian Crandall

[184] Reducing Attractiveness Bias with Mindfulness-Based Meditation

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Attractiveness biases lead people to believe that high attractive people have more positive traits compared to low attractive people. Despite its prevalence, this bias generally receives less empirical attention than other social biases. Moreover, few studies have examined the effectiveness of bias-reducing interventions (e.g., mindfulness-based approaches) in decreasing attractiveness bias. This study tests whether a mindfulness-based meditation manipulation can reduce displays of attractiveness bias. Adults (N = 130) will be recruited for a two-part online study. We will measure participants' state and trait mindfulness, after which they will complete a facial attribution task. A week later, participants will listen to either a meditation audio or a neutral audio. After listening, participants will complete the facial attribution task again. After data collection, we will run t-tests to compare bias between the meditation and control groups. Additionally, we will conduct correlations to explore whether attractiveness bias differs across emerging adulthood. The results of this study could lay the groundwork for future longitudinal studies and inform bias interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexander Peterson

PhD Student | University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Authors

Andrea Kayl, Jennifer Rennels

[185] Relational Mobility and Reputation Exchange: Experience Sampling Study Across Societies

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

The sharing of reputational information plays a central role in sustaining human cooperation and enabling large-scale societies. However, little is known about how patterns of reputational exchange vary across socio-ecological contexts. In this study, we focus on the roles of relational mobility—a socio-ecological factor reflecting the freedom to choose and change relationships—in shaping cultural differences in reputational communication. We are currently conducting a cross-national experience-sampling study in Japan (N = 155; completed) and the United States (target N = 150; ongoing), in which participants are asked to report their daily exchanges of positive and negative reputational information about other individuals in natural social interactions. We present findings on how relational mobility is associated with both the frequency and content of reputational information sharing. In addition, we exploratorily examine the domains of information communicated (e.g., morality vs. competence) and their psychological and behavioral consequences. Together, this work provides new insights into how socio-ecological variation shapes the micro-level social dynamics of reputation exchange, and thereby influences the foundations of cooperation across cultures.

*POSTER

Speaker



Haruno Kusakabe

Master's student | Hokkaido University

Authors

Joanna Schug, Masaki Yuki

[186] Relational Well-Being, Not Affective Well-Being, Shapes First Impressions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Classic research suggests that happy people see others more positively. Yet, recent perspectives argue that the well-being–perception link depends on which type of well-being is considered. We examined whether affective (=hedonic) versus relational (=eudaimonic) dimensions of well-being differentially predict impressions of unfamiliar individuals. In Study 1 (N = 200), we derived two reliable components from multiple well-being scales: Affective Well-Being (AWB; vitality, positive affect) and Relational Well-Being (RWB; community, belonging, calmness). RWB, but not AWB, predicted positive impressions of facial attractiveness, trustworthiness, and competence. Study 2 (pilot + combined sample, N = 246) replicated this pattern using newly developed scales (probing AWB and RWB separately) and confirmatory projections of Study 1 loadings. Across analytic approaches, the RWB factor consistently predicted positive person evaluations, whereas AWB showed weak or null effects. Together, these findings suggest that stable, relationally grounded aspects of well-being—not affective positivity—serve as lenses that shape how people perceive others.

*POSTER

Speaker



DongWon Oh

Assistant Professor | National University of Singapore

Authors

Finneaz Moner, Louis Tay

[187] Religion and Political Divides: Examining Religiosity and Affective Polarization in the U.S.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Political divisions in the U.S. are increasingly marked by affective polarization, or hostility toward out-partisans (Iyengar et al., 2012). Religion, in contrast, is often linked to prosociality and reduced hostility (Kelly et al., 2024). However, it remains unclear whether religiosity can mitigate polarization among different political parties, whose political identity may outweigh religious ideas. The present study examined whether the importance of religion predicts affective polarization, and whether this relationship is moderated by political party. Christian American Participants (N = 206; 57 Democrats, 114 Republicans, 35 Independents who leaned towards a party) completed several measures of religiosity, affective polarization, and political affiliation. Results indicated that participants who rated religion as more important in their lives reported lower social distance from out-partisans. This effect was moderated by partisanship, as the trend was only found for independents, not Republicans or Democrats. Findings suggest that religion might be most impactful in bridging divides for those who are less partisan.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caroline Lansford

Post-bacc Research Assistant | ETSU

Authors

Mj Schneider

[188] Replicating the Avoidance Attachment-Collectivism Cultural-Fit Hypothesis

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

In collectivistic cultures, evidence has suggested a steeper negative relationship between avoidance attachment and measures of romantic relationship dissatisfaction compared to individualistic cultures (Friedman et al., 2010). This difference was believed to be due to collectivistic cultures placing a stronger value on closeness in relationships, and behaviors associated with avoidance attachment are incongruent with this value. The purpose of this study is to replicate these findings using data from the International Sexuality Description Project. In this ongoing analysis, we are using two sets of multilevel models to assess the relationship between avoidance attachment and a country's collectivism score on three measures related to relationship satisfaction. To replicate Friedman et al.'s study, the first set of models will only include samples from two of the cultures included in Friedman et al.'s research. The second set of models will include up to 56 nations from the ISDP dataset, which will allow us to determine if the "culture-fit" finding is due to differences in collectivism or if there was some other variable specific to the three cultures Friedman et al. utilized.

*POSTER

Speaker



Payton Livingston

Graduate Student | Kansas State University

Authors

David Schmitt

[189] Residential Mobility and the Evolution of Human Values Across Cultures and Time

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Residential mobility—the frequency of changing residence—has shifted dramatically in recent decades and reshaped how people connect, behave, and think. While previous research focused on the social consequences of mobility, the current research investigates its cultural psychological impact: how residential mobility affects human value orientations. Across eight studies—using global surveys, historical time series, cross-cultural comparisons, and experiments—we show that societal-level residential mobility promotes Openness-to-Change and undermines Conservation values, partly through the reduction of social monitoring. Self-Enhancement and Self-Transcendence values showed inconsistent or culturally contingent effects. Time series and experimental studies provided causal evidence, and mediation analyses identified social monitoring as a potential mechanism. These findings suggest that residential mobility not only transforms the structure of social life but also reconfigures what people prioritize, revealing a socioecological pathway by which mobility shapes value systems across cultures and over time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sijia Chen
Ph.D. Candidate | City University of Hong Kong

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Shengquan Ye

[190] Revisiting Cultural Mismatch Theory on the Experience of Misfit Among First-Generation College Students in the United States

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

First-generation (FG) students often struggle with sense of belonging and academic adjustment. Cultural Mismatch Theory proposes a misfit between their interdependent orientations and the independent culture of U.S. universities as underlying these challenges. However, previous studies have methodological limitations, predominantly relying on samples from top-tier universities and psychometrically inadequate measures. This research addressed these issues with more rigorous methods. Study 1 generated an objective cultural index through text-analyzing 1,718 U.S. college mission statements. FG students (n = 259) also reported their perceptions of institutional culture and sense of fit. Neither objective nor subjective cultural measures predicted their perceived fit. Study 2 had FG and continuing-generation (CG) students (n = 262) evaluate hypothetical universities emphasizing either independence or interdependence. Cultural manipulation did not affect FG students' fit. Results across both studies did not support Cultural Mismatch Theory, suggesting potential methodological limitations in prior findings and that recent diversity efforts in universities may have benefited FG students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kyungmin Nam
Graduate Student | Sogang University

Authors

Jinhyung Kim, Ji Sang Yune

[191] Role of perceptual dehumanization in political outgroup harm

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

With the dramatic rise of political violence in the U.S., it is crucial to understand the mechanisms that facilitate outgroup harm. Our behavioral studies revealed that participants discounted the pain of political outgroup members relative to ingroup members, leading to greater willingness to harm them. Using fMRI, we next investigated neural regions associated with early visual processing of faces (i.e., FFA) to examine the role of perceptual dehumanization and regions associated with social cognition (e.g., mPFC, dmPFC, ACC) to examine the role of mentalization. We found that reduced encoding of outgroup (vs. ingroup) members' faces was associated with a greater willingness to harm the outgroup, suggesting the role of perceptual dehumanization in decisions to harm. By studying the psychological and social cognitive processes involved in politically motivated intergroup harm, we hope to better understand how violence is increasingly perpetrated against political rivals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Celia Guillard
PhD Candidate | Cornell

Authors

Hongbo Yu, Amy Krosch

[192] Seeing What We Want to See: Goals in Forming and Updating Impressions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Impression formation often depends not only on the information available about a target but also on the perceiver's goal during evaluation. The present study examines how perceivers' goals during evaluation (e.g., looking for a roommate vs. tutor) impact both impressions and subsequent updating when new information is encountered. Participants will learn about multiple targets under either a warmth-related or competence-related goal condition. Next, they will receive new counter attitudinal (goal-relevant or irrelevant) information about half of the targets. We will measure implicit impressions after each learning session and explicit impressions at the end. We expect that people's impressions will be stronger when information aligns with their goals, and will be updated more when the new information is present (vs. absent) and goal-relevant (vs. irrelevant). These findings will demonstrate the dynamic nature of social evaluation, revealing how motivational factors interact with available information to determine impression formation and updating. Thus, our findings could inform interventions to potential biases driven by perceivers' idiosyncratic goals when evaluating others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Enhui Wang

Graduate Student | Florida State University

Authors

Daniel Adams, Shabely Fernandez, Nilaja Grant, Irmak Okten

[193] Self-Affirmation, Prejudice against Muslim Immigrants and French Secularism: A Dual Motivation Perspective

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

In France, "new secularism" laws established restrictive norms, such as prohibiting religious practices in public institutions. This approach contrasts with "historical secularism", a more inclusive framework that upholds freedom of religious expression. We conducted a pilot study (N = 678) and a main experiment (N = 776) to examine how the norms of new vs. historical secularism interact with self-affirmation in influencing prejudice and perceived threat toward Muslim immigrants. In the pilot study, participants exposed to new secularism norms exhibited higher prejudice after completing a self-affirmation task. In the preregistered main experiment, we additionally measured participants' concerns about appearing prejudiced against Muslims and their motivations to avoid bias (internal vs. external). Results showed that higher external motivation was associated with greater concerns about appearing prejudiced and higher levels of perceived threat toward Muslims, the latter particularly in the new secularism condition. In contrast, higher internal motivation was linked to lower levels of perceived threat and prejudice, irrespective of the normative context. The self-affirmation procedure reduced concerns about appearing prejudiced among participants with external motivation and lowered prejudice among participants with higher internal motivation to avoid intergroup bias. The discussion emphasizes the potential for new secularism norms to have disparate effects on attitudes towards religious groups. In ambiguous contexts of religious neutrality, self-affirmation can mitigate intergroup bias among individuals motivated by internal factors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Constantina Badea

Professeure de psychologie sociale | Université Paris Nanterre

Authors

David Sherman, Kevin Binning, Yara Alnajjar, Béatrice Sternberg

[194] Self-Presentation and Dark Personality on Perceived Authenticity

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

We investigated if the relationship between self-presentation and authenticity depends on dark personality. In Study 1 (N= 483) participants imagined both self-monitoring by repressing negative emotions, and expressing genuine negative socially undesirable emotions. Self-monitoring was perceived as more authentic compared to expressing genuine non-socially desirable emotions, but the difference in authenticity between the two conditions was smaller for individuals high in dark personality compared to low. In Studies 2 (N=634) and 3 (N=499), we examined whether emotional valence moderated this relationship. Participants rated authenticity after imagining scenarios involving self-monitoring by suppressing positive emotions, and expressing genuine socially undesirable positive emotions, alongside Study 1's scenarios. In both studies, the pattern of Study 1's results replicated across the emotionally valenced scenarios. This seems to suggest what people find authentic differs based on their level of dark personality, with high dark personality persons seeing self-monitoring and expressing socially undesirable emotions as more similarly authentic than those low in dark personality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachael Cavallaro

Graduate Student | University of Mississippi

Authors

Grace Rivera, Jasmine Long, Darryl Bonds

[195] Self-Promotive Interdependence and Moral Attribution in Sub-Saharan Africa

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Prior research showed that Westerners tend to attribute others' behavior to internal traits, whereas East Asians tend to consider situational factors. Building on this work, we hypothesized that many African contexts are shaped by a shared cultural understanding in which individuals pursue self-interest in ways that ultimately benefit their ingroup. Across five studies, we investigated social inference patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), moving beyond the East-West framework. Participants from multiple SSA regions (Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa) exhibited weaker dispositional bias than American and Japanese participants, particularly when interpreting behaviors that could plausibly serve group interests. When the group-benefiting aspect was absent, these cultural differences in attribution diminished. Notably, SSA participants often viewed dispositional and situational factors as mutually reinforcing rather than competing. Together, these findings suggest that causal attribution in SSA may reflect a broader ethos of self-promotive interdependence, in which self-directed actions are morally justifiable when they serve the interests of one's group.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erin Wang

University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Authors

Keiko Ishii, Annabella Osei-Tutu, Luzelle Naudé, Stephen Asatsa

[196] CANCELLED

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

*POSTER

[197] Sensory profile of the highly sensitive personality

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

A lot of studies have been made on the possibilities to develop cognitive skills and abilities through language acquisition. However, there are seldom any written methodologies that can be incorporated or used to help the language learners or educators, language specialists, and learning support assistants working with learners under inclusion. Once the research is successful, it would benefit language learners of any age group, especially learners with dyslexia and other Special Educational Needs. Since it aims at language and soft skills acquisition, and cognitive skills development at the same time, it's going to be a novel contribution to the sector of education.

English Language acquisition is considered to be a brain training process, as it can stimulate different parts of the brain responsible for cognitive skills and functions. This research discusses the scope of language acquisition in developing the cognitive skills of learners, and methodologies to implement the same in schools, universities, and even at home. The main objectives of this research includes, identifying the key underlying principles of cognitive skills development during the process and training of language acquisition through literature reviews by collecting data and tabulating them for the comprehensive study, develop language acquisition modules that targets to improve the cognitive skills and abilities of the learner by preparing content and to apply ABA strategies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlie Rioux

Assistant Professor | Texas Tech University

Authors

Charlie Rioux, Delaney Fulp, Megan Waldron, Christina Personette, McKenna Nhem

[198] Shades of Belonging: Latino Skin Tone Shapes Ingroup Perception

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

This study examines how skin tone influences intragroup perceptions of ethnic identity and cultural belonging among Latinos. Guided by racial phenotypicity bias—which posits that individuals who appear most prototypical of their racial group are also perceived as most stereotypical (Maddox et al., 2004, 2022; Wilkins et al., 2010)—we tested if darker skin tones shape impressions of Latino identity in the absence of behavioral cues. In a within-subject design, participants rated four photos (two males, two females; one light- and one dark-complexioned per gender) on ethnic centrality, cultural and phenotypic prototypicality, and foreignness. Although we predicted darker-complexioned Latinos to be perceived as more phenotypically prototypical, $F(1, 81) = 84.72$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .27$, and more foreign, $F(1, 81) = 67.52$, $p < .001$, $\eta^2 = .15$, we expected mixed results for ethnic centrality and cultural prototypicality, due to a lack of explicit cues (e.g., behavior, language) and their proximity to darkness (Rakić, et al., 2020; Cleland & Gutierrez, 2025). Findings suggest that skin tone shapes impressions of both appearance and identity salience within Latino communities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joseluz Sosa

Graduate Student | CUNY Graduate Center

Authors

Gabriel Camacho

[199] Shifting Ground: How Asian Americans’ Perceived Position Influences Intergroup Relations

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Beliefs about the role of luck in life outcomes have long been discussed in philosophy and political theory, yet psychological research has largely focused on personal experiences of luck rather than generalized beliefs about its societal influence. In this paper, we introduce the construct of luck pervasiveness—the belief that luck plays a broad and influential role in shaping people’s outcomes and life circumstances. We distinguish luck pervasiveness theoretically from related constructs including locus of control, belief in personal luckiness, belief in good luck, belief in a just world, sense of control, and free will belief. Across three correlational studies, we demonstrate that luck pervasiveness is empirically distinct from these constructs and uniquely predicts attitudes toward meritocracy and well-being. In two experimental studies, we manipulate luck pervasiveness and show that increasing it reduces meritocratic beliefs and enhances life satisfaction, without increasing fatalism. These findings contribute to the psychological literature on luck, and offer a novel framework for addressing the negative social and psychological consequences of meritocratic myths.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Tran

Psychology PhD Student | University of California, Los Angeles

Authors

Yuen Huo, Efren Perez, Seth K. Goldman, Tatishe Nteta, Linda R. Tropp

[200] Signals of Peace, Echoes of Violence: A Time-Series Analysis of Public Opinion and Political Violence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This study examined the relationship between public opinion and political violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Public attitudes were analyzed across 41 cross-sectional surveys of Jewish Israelis (N=41,410; 2000-2025) and 40 surveys of Palestinians in the West Bank (N=50,800; 2014-2024), and linked with longitudinal records of terror attacks in the West Bank (14,800) and casualties (3,845). Granger causality tests and impulse response analyses assessed whether violence predicted changes in support for armed resistance or peaceful resolution, and whether such support anticipated subsequent violence. Results indicate that greater Palestinian support for violent actions significantly predicted increases in terror attacks against Israelis, while endorsement of a peaceful resolution forecasted a decrease in terror attacks. Among Jewish Israelis, support for the two-state solution predicted an increase in Israeli casualty levels, implying that expressions of compromise may provoke backlash from extremist actors seeking to derail peaceful resolution. These findings underscore the role of public attitudes as early indicators of both conflict escalation and openings for peace.

*POSTER

Speaker



Romi Josef-Benyamini

Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology, Reichman University (IDC Herzliya), Israel

Authors

Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler, Gilad Hirschberger

[201] Situational and Trait Factors Associated with Views Toward Repatriation of Cultural and Historical Artifacts

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Does ecological stress impact individual thought complexity? Previous studies have suggested the surrounding socio-ecological context can influence individual psychology, but little research to date has directly evaluated the influence of perceived ecological stress on individual thought complexity. To fill in this gap, in the present study, 4767 participants were recruited from all regions of the United States. They completed questions related to perceived socio-ecological stress in their surrounding environment (e.g., perceived pathogen prevalence). Participants were further asked to respond to open-ended prompts about politics and health, and their responses were scored for integrative complexity using the well-validated AutoIC system. As predicted, when controlling for political ideology, cumulative perceived ecological stress significantly predicted lower integrative complexity ($p < .01$). These results suggest that, in spite of the vast phenomenological gap between socio-ecological stressors and individual thought complexity, the socio-ecological conditions that persons inhabit is importantly related to the individual thoughts persons exhibit.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chloe Beck

Authors

Danielle Krusemark

[202] Social Ecology of Complex Thinking: The Influence of Environmental Stressors on Integrative Complexity

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Double-blind lineup administration is a safeguard designed to prevent police officers from inadvertently steering witnesses toward a suspect in a lineup (Wells et al., 2020). Although blind procedures prevent suspect-specific cues, administrators may still hope for identifications and subtly encourage witnesses to identify someone. To date, no research has examined whether suspect-blind administrators still engage in social-influence behaviors that encourage witnesses to make identifications. In the present study, we trained participants (n = 223) as lineup administrators and offered half of them a \$20 incentive to obtain an ID from a mock-witness. Lineups procedures were surreptitiously video-recorded and subsequently coded for the presence of ID-encouraging behaviors. We found that incentivized administrators engaged in significantly more ID-encouraging behaviors than those who were not incentivized, despite being blind to the suspect's identity. These findings suggest that administrator motivation, not just knowledge of the suspect, can bias identification procedures.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathan Wright

Grove City College

Authors

Lucian Conway, Stacia Kaminicki

[203] Social Influence in Eyewitness Identification Procedures: The Role of Administrator Motivation

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

LAW

Despite the high rates of sexual violence experienced by Native women, research reveals that victim and community blaming produce negative responses (i.e., greater apathy) towards Native victims. One reason for this finding may be the focus on individual culpability. The current research investigates how the role of society blaming (i.e., centering the failings of society and/or institutions as a cause of the sexual violence crisis) may foster supportive attitudes and actions (i.e., empathy, intent to support victims, and less apathy) towards Native women victims of sexual violence. A survey of non-Native men and women (N=337) revealed that greater society blaming was associated with greater empathy and intent to support. Greater society blaming was also associated with less apathy towards victims, but only among women participants, and empathy was higher amongst women than men. Results suggest society blaming may increase supportive attitudes and action for Native women victims among both non-Native men and women, but further research is needed to unpack why men do not report the same empathy or reduced apathy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eliana Aronson

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Authors

Margaret Kovera

[204] Society blaming attributions promote positive responses to Native women victims of sexual violence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

*POSTER

Speaker



Sahalee Martin

Undergraduate Student | Fort Lewis College

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Arianne Eason, Kristina Chamberlin, Jamie Yellowtail

[205] Socio-ecological Factors and Within-country Variation in Ideal Affect: Evidence from Candidates' Smiles in Electoral Posters

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

A series of studies have demonstrated that ideal affect differs across cultures: high-arousal positive (HAP) states (e.g., excited) are regarded as more desirable in Western cultures, whereas low-arousal positive (LAP) states (e.g., calm) are more desirable in East Asian cultures. If such differences reflect adaptation to different types of social relationships (i.e., Gesellschaft vs. Gemeinschaft), as previous research suggests, then ideal affect should vary not only between countries but also within a single country. To examine this possibility, we collected electoral posters from the 2024 election for the Japanese House of Representatives and analyzed how ideal affect, as reflected in candidates' smiles (i.e., excited "HAP" vs. calm "LAP" smiles), varied according to the socio-ecological characteristics of their electoral districts. The results revealed that candidates in more urbanized, wealthier, or less rice-farming districts were more likely to display excited smiles, whereas none of these socio-ecological factors predicted the presence of calm smiles. We discuss the adaptive functions of ideal affect and the potential value of no smile as a signal of low-arousal states.

*POSTER

Speaker



Atsuki Ito

Assistant Professor | Osaka University

Authors

Yuri Miyamoto, Jeanne Tsai, Masahiko Asano, Yoshikuni Ono

[206] Some don't like it hot: An experiment examining personality as a predictor of worsening affect when undergoing heat stress

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Citizen science faces persistent challenges in sustaining engagement, and understanding drivers of volunteer participation, particularly in digital initiatives addressing environmental and public health concerns. The study offers a novel application of Regulatory Focus Theory to examine the impact of dispositional goal orientations among participants of Mosquito Alert, a transnational initiative tracking invasive disease-carrying mosquitoes. Using mixed-method analysis of survey data and in-platform behavioral metrics, a significant skew towards prevention-focused participants was found. A further discrepancy emerged between self-reported motivations and actual behavior. Notably, heightened dispositional regulatory focus correlated with shorter participation spans. The findings revealed critical gaps between perceived motivations and behavioral outcomes, underscored importance of further integrating psychological constructs into platform design to enable and maintain long-term volunteer participation. The study advances theoretical understanding of volunteer psychology in sustainability contexts offering actionable strategies for improving the efficacy of initiatives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tiara Freeman

Graduate Student | Washington State University

Authors

PJ Stillson, Kathrine Hubbard, Kimberly L. Meidenbauer

[207] Gay Community-Related Social Media Use and Body Dissatisfaction

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SEXUALITY

Previous research has linked social media use to body dissatisfaction in heterosexual populations. However, there is a lack of literature explicitly examining the effects of social media use on body dissatisfaction in sexual minority men, despite this population experiencing appearance-related stressors at higher rates than their straight counterparts. In line with intra-minority stress theory and social comparison theory, this study aims to investigate the role of gay community-related social media use on body dissatisfaction in sexual minority men. Through the use of a correlational research design (N = 150), we test whether increased online interactions with mainstream gay community-related media is associated with higher muscularity and body fat dissatisfaction. We hypothesize that increased interactions with mainstream gay community-related media will be associated with higher levels of body dissatisfaction and that intra-minority stress will mediate this relationship. We anticipate that dating app usage will moderate the relationship between gay community-related social media usage and body dissatisfaction and will be positively associated with gay community stress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hayden Williams

St. Olaf College

Authors

Jess Benson

[208] Spontaneous Evaluations of Nontraditional Couples and Family Systems

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Throughout modern history, public perceptions of traditional and nontraditional families have changed rapidly. While prior research has looked at explicit attitudes about families from different gender identities (Manning & Gustafson, 2025), there is limited research about implicit impressions of nontraditional families. The current study investigates whether attitudes around such unconventional families, such as perceived normality, shapes the evaluations spontaneously formed about their parental abilities. We will examine implicit and explicit evaluations of parenting behaviors performed by couples of different demographics. We will recruit 200 participants from Prolific Academic to complete the iGASSP task to assess spontaneous evaluative inferences (SEIs) of everyday parenting behaviors across different families. We will also explore deliberative evaluations of these families using the Modern Homonegativity Scale. Our work will provide a clearer understanding of the ways traditional and nontraditional family units are perceived as they navigate their daily lives.

*POSTER

Speaker



MJ Pierre

Florida State University

Authors

Irmak Okten, Ayanna Brewton

[209] Spontaneous Trait Inferences in the Face of Ambiguity

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Impression formation is likely impacted by perceivers' beliefs about targets' demographics (Hamilton et al., 2015). Yet, little research has considered the relationship that these beliefs may have on spontaneous trait inferences (STIs) from different racial groups' everyday behaviors. The current work contributes to this gap by assessing the impact that stereotype-based beliefs of Black men have on STI formation, using a stimulus set of pre-tested ambiguous behaviors and a robust false recognition paradigm. Across three studies, we show that White perceivers tend to make more positively valenced than negatively valenced STIs about Black targets' ambiguous behaviors in the opposite direction of stereotypical beliefs (study 1-2), unless under cognitive load (study 3). Study 4 replicates those findings with different stimuli. Finally, Study 5 shows that perceivers' awareness of societal negativity toward Black men predicts a stronger tendency to avoid negative STIs from Black men's behaviors. Our findings offer implications for processes, such as stereotype regulation, that may influence impressions of different racial groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ayanna Brewton

Social psychology PhD student | Florida State University

Authors

Irmak Olcaysoy Okten

[210] Stereotypes Reshape Internal Models of Person Perception

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Aid organizations and media often depict Africa as poor and unstable to encourage donations, but this may have fostered negative perceptions that hinder Africa's progress. In two preregistered experiments, convenience (N =298) and representative (N=1127) US and UK samples listed three thoughts on either Africa (A) or Europe (E), then rated their own thoughts' valence and their interest in African or European culture and products. Images of Africa vs. Europe were more negative, and coding (developed in Study 1, preregistered in Study 2) revealed that they were dominated by (1) animals and nature (58% of thoughts on A vs. 17% on E), (2) societal problems (23% A vs. 4% E), and (3) lack of culture (10% A vs. 58% E). Valence ratings and the three themes jointly explained participants' preference for European over African products and culture. Three additional preregistered experiments (N=2026) showed that framing the same facts about Africa as new positive information was more effective than stereotype negations in changing evaluations, purchase intentions and cultural interest. These findings demonstrate the powerful role of stereotypes in explaining global imbalances and inequality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arshiya Aggarwal

PhD Student | University of California, Riverside

Authors

Jon Freeman, Nicholas Camp, Brent Hughes

[211] Thinking Beyond Individual Values: The Relationship Between Internal Value Conflict and Subjective Well-being

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Internal value conflict, the contradiction from endorsing incompatible personal values, is hypothesized to reduce subjective well-being (SWB). This research examines the relationship between internal value conflict and SWB using data from two large-scale, cross-national surveys: the World Values Survey and the European Social Survey. Using Unfolding, we quantified internal value conflict as the misfit between an individual's value structure and Schwartz's theoretical circular value structure. Multilevel modeling indicated that, on average, internal value conflict was not significantly associated with SWB. However, exploratory analyses revealed that this relationship was moderated by income and age: higher income and older age alleviated the negative impact of internal value conflict on SWB. Response surface analysis further showed that pursuing opposing values (e.g., Openness-to-Change vs. Conservation, Self-Transcendence vs. Self-Enhancement) was associated with better SWB among individuals with greater financial and cognitive resources, but lower SWB among those with fewer resources. Thinking beyond individual values, this study offers novel insights into internal value conflicts by examining the compatibility of multiple values. Importantly, we identified the vulnerable populations for whom pursuing multiple, incompatible values may harm well-being; instead, prioritizing a single, healthy value may benefit their well-being. These findings highlight the individual differences in pursuing multiple values, demonstrating that its impact on SWB is dependent on an individual's resources to manage the internal conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xi Chen

PhD student | City University of Hong Kong

Authors

Elizabeth Ashby Plant

[212] Stories Beyond Borders: How Fiction Fosters Empathy Across Divides

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Israeli and Palestinian conflict is a struggle that is marked by deep prejudice and escalating violence that extend beyond borders, affecting not only Jewish and Muslim communities but the world at large. Despite numerous peace efforts and treaties, tensions persist. This study investigates whether outgroup narratives can increase empathy and improve attitudes toward the outgroup, focusing on Jewish-Muslim relations. Muslim and Jewish participants received a passage written from the perspective of a Palestinian/Israeli father and were instructed to either engage in empathy or count the number of times the word “the” appears. Among our Jewish sample, outgroup narratives led to greater outgroup empathy and more positive outgroup attitudes. In the Muslim sample, perceptions of outgroup realistic and symbolic threat influenced the effects of outgroup narratives indicating that more study is needed to inform interventions aimed at reducing prejudice and promoting intergroup understanding.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ellsee Maradiaga
Texas Wesleyan University

Authors

Aileen Puga, Rosemary Adio, Keisi Jackson, Lauren Coursey

[213] Stress in the System: A Multi-Level Meta-Analysis of Police-Initiated Contact and Adolescent's Mental Health

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

Adolescence is a sensitive developmental period when environmental exposures shape long-term trajectories of well-being. Police-initiated contact, often involuntary and coercive, has emerged as a salient stressor, particularly for marginalized youth. To quantify the association, we conducted a preregistered (PROSPERO) multi-level meta-analysis following PRISMA guidelines. Across six databases, 7,920 records were screened, yielding 19 studies and 64 effect sizes. Eligible studies focused on adolescents (<18), with exposures defined as any form of police contact and outcomes as psychopathology. Results indicated a significant association between police contact and poorer mental health ($z = .23$, 95% CI [.16, .29], $p < .001$). Funnel plot asymmetry was observed and tested. Subgroup analyses tested variability by psychopathology type, study design, population, and exposure timing; moderators included sex and racial composition. Although moderators were nonsignificant, effects were stronger in community samples. Findings highlight police contact as consequential psychological events that heighten adolescent vulnerability, highlighting the need to reframe public safety practices

*POSTER

Speaker



Mohammad Hashim
University Of Minnesota

[214] Stress, Support, and Separation: Dispositional Pathways to Estrangement During Societal Disruption.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Periods of societal stress can disrupt close relationships and contribute to interpersonal estrangement. Personality is also an important factor in these processes. Prior research has identified social support as a psychosocial resource through which personality is linked to well-being. Extending this work, we tested whether the Big Five personality traits predicted estrangement during the COVID-19 pandemic and whether this link was mediated by social support. Using longitudinal data from a community sample of North American adults ($n = 1,364$), we measured Big Five personality traits and social support early in the pandemic and assessed estrangement in a follow-up survey in May 2022. Our findings revealed that Openness, Extraversion, and Neuroticism were directly linked to greater estrangement. Mediation analyses indicated the association between Neuroticism and estrangement to be partially explained by diminished social support, whereas Agreeableness and Extraversion were indirectly linked to lower estrangement through greater social support. Our findings highlight the critical role of personality traits and social support in shaping interpersonal responses to societal stress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rosha R
CU Boulder

Authors

Talia Morstead, Nancy L. Sin, Anita DeLongis

[215] Supportive Culture Reduce Workplace Sexual Harassment

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Existing literature suggests diversity initiatives are largely ineffective in reducing workplace harassment. According to the U.S. government's report, following #MeToo the number of sexual harassment litigation cases has grown substantially. However, across two studies we demonstrated that a supportive work environment does reduce the sexual harassment rate contrary to popular belief.

Study 1: Using EEOC sexual harassment and workforce gender composition data from 2010 to 2022 EEO-1 reports (N=709,634,122), we found that post-#MeToo, workplace sexual harassment rate have significantly declined.

Study 2: In a workplace simulation 605 cis-gender heterosexual male participants completed an onboarding scenario about a fictional company, then rated their likelihood of their behavior in various workplace scenarios, including a harassment intention scenario. Participants were assigned to a gender-supportive or gender-blind company culture. Participants in the supportive condition showed significantly lower harassment intentions, indicating that even brief exposure to inclusion-oriented messaging can meaningfully shift behavior.

Together, our findings show that institutional structures and cultural norms promoting gender equity can play a crucial role in reducing workplace sexual harassment despite the previous consensus.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Nikta Khalilkhani**
Graduate Student | Cornell University

Authors

Emily Zitek

[216] Temporal Narratives of Systems of Oppression Among Queer Puerto Ricans

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Colonialism often enforces rigid binary systems and perpetuates exclusion through the colonial/modern system of gender (Lugones, 2007). In Puerto Rico, individuals inhabit a complex colonial landscape given the influences of both Spanish and U.S. colonialism (Meléndez-Badillo, 2024). This layered history has produced a dual-cultural reality in which Queer Puerto Ricans must navigate the enduring legacies of both Spanish and U.S. domination. How groups interpret the past shapes how they understand the present (Liu & Hilton, 2005). While these periods can be framed as past (Spanish) and present (U.S.), Construal Level Theory (Trope & Liberman, 2010) further suggests that temporal distance shapes perception, with Spanish colonialism often construed abstractly and U.S. colonialism concretely. Therefore, these legacies develop complex asymmetries in Queer Puerto Ricans' beliefs about systems of oppression and their identity content. Thematic analysis of 25 semi-structured interviews revealed themes indicating temporal differences in perceptions of colonial oppression, tangible and abstract effects of the colonial context, and the colonial legacies of gender and sexuality.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Janice Robles Fernandez**
PhD Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Carmen Marazzi, Glenn Adams

[217] Testing the Reality of Bias Intervention in a Politically Balanced Sample

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

White people often dismiss Black people's concerns about racial bias. The Reality of Bias Intervention, which highlights the cumulative burden of bias and White people's limited perspective on bias frequency, has been shown to increase receptivity to bias concerns. However, prior work has tested the intervention only with an undergraduate sample. We tested it longitudinally with a politically-balanced national sample aged 18-65 (N = 378). We randomly assigned participants (Pps) to read the intervention article or a control. A week later, Pps viewed a problematic Reddit post arguing that Black people overreact to bias. Pps could engage with the post by rating its quality, upvoting or downvoting it, and posting a comment. The odds of downvoting (rather than upvoting) the post were significantly higher in the intervention (vs. control) condition. Moreover, compared to control Pps, intervention Pps evaluated the post more negatively and reported greater concern about racial discrimination in society. Coding of comments is ongoing. Our findings suggest that this brief intervention is effective in a politically-balanced sample, revealing its potential for broader application.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Nicole Pido**
Undergraduate student | Lake Forest College

Authors

Alyssa Dyson, Mia Jessica Hernandez, Sarah Tahir, Sarah Rush, Emily Dix

[218] The Culture of Honor and Help-Seeking Behavior in Older Adults

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Aging generates higher risks for health problems but older adults may not seek out help from medical professionals or their family when they need it. Past research has suggested explanations for this issue including older adult's feeling stigma for seeking help, desires to remain self-reliant, and lower evaluations of their need for help; however, poorer help-seeking among older adults persists and these factors have not been applied to cultural models nor has general help-seeking for issues outside of a medical context been studied. The Culture of Honor may contribute to this issue as honor endorses emphasize toughness and a defense of one's reputation for being self-reliant and brave. Furthermore, this culture has been shown to negatively impact mental health and help-seeking behaviors through stigma and reputation concerns. In this study, we examine the role of honor as an explanation for why some older adults are less likely to seek help for their health and for everyday issues. We also examine if honor endorses are more likely to express self-reliant attitudes, be avoidant of dependency, and hold self-stigmatizing views towards mental health help-seeking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Doerge

Graduate Researcher | University of Oklahoma

Authors

Mauricio Carvalho, Ranyu Bo, Asser Salem

[219] The Dark Triad and Digital Politics: Personality, Behavior, and Parasocial Bonds in the U.S 2024 Election

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

In a time when online interactions are so ubiquitous and frequent, understanding the dynamics between individuals engaging in online discourse, through their personality traits and parasocial relationships, has become increasingly important. While research has been conducted on these constructs separately, little is known about how they interact. This study aimed to determine the effects of Dark Triad personality traits (psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism) on online behaviors and parasocial relationships with U.S presidential candidates in the 2024 election. With a total of 67 participants (collection is ongoing), the sample was recruited from the undergraduate participant pool at Eastern Kentucky University. All participants completed questionnaires about perceived victim blaming, political parasocial relationships, Dark Triad traits, self-control, and political extremism. It was hypothesized that individuals scoring high in Dark Triad traits, who regularly engage in politics, will demonstrate more political extremism and resulting parasocial relationships. It is also predicted that psychopathy and machiavellianism will be more predictive of engaging in negative online behaviors, and that self-control will moderate the associations between Dark Triad traits and negative online behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Rion

Eastern Kentucky University

Authors

Cassie Whitt

[220] CANCELLED:

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

*POSTER

Authors

Jinhyung Kim, Minji Seok

[221] The Effect of User Race and Gender on Hiring Outcomes via Differential Perceptions of Self-Promotion Behavior

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Self-promotion creates challenges for women, who must use dominant language to signal competence yet face backlash for violating gender stereotypes. While prior research shows that self-promotion can backfire for women, less is known about how these patterns manifest on sites like LinkedIn, where self-promotion is increasingly normative, and how they vary across intersectional identities. This study tested how responses to self-promotion vary based on user race and gender. In a survey experiment, participants (N = 166) evaluated the warmth, competence, and hireability of a simulated LinkedIn profile in a 2 × 2 design (Black/White × Male/Female). It was hypothesized that White men would receive the highest hireability ratings; Black women would receive higher ratings than White women and Black men; and warmth would mediate hireability. Contrary to predictions, White men received the lowest hireability ratings, while Black women were rated most hireable, with warmth mediating these effects. Findings suggest that identical self-promotion behaviors can be subject to differential perception and reward depending on stereotypes at the intersections of race and gender. This research contributes to the understanding of intersectional stereotyping processes and interracial impression formation, and highlights implications for reducing hiring bias in professional networking contexts increasingly shaped by the self-presentational logics of digital capitalism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Madison Sanders

Master's Student/Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant (Organizational Behavior) | London Business School

[222] The Effects of Racialized Religious Imagery on Feelings of Belongingness in Black and White Americans

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Psychologists, religious scholars, and church congregations alike share concerns about variables that affect feelings of belongingness in religious settings. To address this, we ask three related questions: What effect does racialized religious imagery and signage in churches have on the people who see it? Does it affect a person's sense of belonging and emotional experiences? And does this effect vary by the viewer's race? In a preregistered experiment on CloudResearch, we investigated 450 Black and 450 White American participants' reactions to racialized signage and religious imagery, such as a mural of a Black Jesus compared to a White Jesus and a stained glass window depicting Black saints compared to White saints. The results from a series of two-way ANOVA yielded significant effects for both within and between races. Further, Black participants showed more positive responses than White participants when they were both exposed to Black-friendly images. Black participants' sense of belonging was also significantly higher when the images aligned with their race, whereas their self-transcendent emotions did not differ based on the racialized imagery in religious settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jo-Ann Tsang

Associate Professor of Psychology | Baylor University

Authors

Hiroki Matsuo, Elise Edwards

[223] The Effects of Target's Gender and Superiority on Dehumanization

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Dehumanization refers to denying or diminishing others' humanity and takes two forms: animalistic dehumanization (AD) and mechanistic dehumanization (MD). Two pre-registered studies examined whether the domain of superiority and target gender shape dehumanization patterns. Japanese young adults (N = 355) read descriptions of targets portrayed as superior in appearance or intelligence and rated them on AD and MD scales. Results from both studies showed a significant two-way interaction: appearance-superior targets were more animalistically dehumanized, whereas intelligence-superior targets were more mechanistically dehumanized. However, the effect related to target gender differed across studies. Among female participants (Study 1), the interaction effect was stronger for male targets, whereas male participants (Study 2) showed no robust target gender effect. Exploratory analyses indicated that appearance-superior male targets were perceived by women as less warm but by men as warm. These findings suggest that perceptions of superior others vary across their domains and genders.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kunyoung Park

Tokyo Metropolitan University

Authors

Yifei Li, Makoto Numazaki

[224] The Face We Trust: How Digital Photo Enhancement Shapes First Impressions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Within milliseconds of meeting each other, humans form unconscious judgments of personality and trustworthiness shaped by evolutionary mechanisms, cultural norms, and visual cues. Facial features such as structure, symmetry, and affect contribute significantly to these judgments. With a growing number of connections being initiated online, these evaluations are increasingly influenced by AI-generated photo editing. While such enhancements may increase perceived attractiveness, they can distort authenticity and bias decisions. This shift in the way humans present themselves raises critical questions about the impact of AI-edited images on trait judgments; particularly in contexts where first impressions play a decisive role in whether to interact at all, such as employment-seeking and online dating. Participants rated trustworthiness of validated facial images, presented both edited and unedited. By comparing ratings across conditions, this study investigates how such enhancements influence perceived trustworthiness. Findings offer insight into the psychological consequences of AI-manipulated self-presentation and its implications for social decision making in digital environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaci Dean

Authors

Jefferson Sherwood, Jesi Pigg

[225] The Hateful Eight: An Efficient Multifaceted Short Dark Tetrad Measure

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Using the 28 items of the Short Dark Tetrad (SD4; Paulhus et al., 2021), we developed a 16-item version with two items for each of eight facets called the Hateful Eight (H8). Across four studies of university and online samples (total N = 2,391), we used item response theory models and confirmatory factor analyses (CFAs) to select the best SD4 items. CFAs supported both an eight-facet solution and hierarchical models in which the eight facets loaded onto their four respective Dark Tetrad traits, which in turn loaded onto a global Dark Tetrad factor. We labeled the eight facets as: deviousness, scheming (both assigned to Machiavellianism); leadership, exceptionalism (both assigned to narcissism); defiance, recklessness (both assigned to psychopathy); and violent voyeurism, verbal abuse (both assigned to sadism). We tested the H8's convergent and discriminant validity with number of sexual partners, self-esteem, Big Five personality, adult attachment, and established measures of the Dark Triad traits. The generalizability of our findings is constrained to North American, English-speaking adults.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gregory Webster

Professor | University of Florida

Authors

Christian Blötnner, Val Wongsomboon, Rebekah M. Rodriguez-Boerwinkle, Paul J. Silvia

[226] The Hidden Cost of the Concerns about Losing Face in Asian Americans: Exploring the Mediating Pathways to Social Anxiety

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Social anxiety is a common mental health issue that is not only more prevalent but also more severe among Asian Americans (AA) compared to other ethnic-racial groups. The concern about losing face (CLF), an essential aspect of Asian culture, is a significant antecedent of social anxiety among AA. Yet, little is known about the factors that could explain the link between CLF and social anxiety among AA. This study investigates the mediating roles of fear of negative evaluation and self-silencing. Since AA with CLF place care about others' perceptions and strive to maintain a positive self-image in social settings, they would be fearful of negative evaluations from others, and engage in self-silencing behaviors, such as suppressing emotions, to avoid negative evaluation, which in turn becomes socially anxious. In a sample of 304 participants, CLF was shown to predict social anxiety in a parallel mediation model. This link was explained by fear of negative evaluations and self-silencing. This model explained approximately 35% of the variance in social anxiety in AA, controlling for direct and indirect coping.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ranyu Bo

PhD Candidate | University of Oklahoma

Authors

Mauricio Carvallo, Asser Salem, Michael Doerge

[227] The Hidden Forces Shaping Self-Enhancement Across East and West

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

BDSM can produce pleasurable altered states of consciousness (Ambler et al., 2017), but these altered states might impact practitioners' ability to negotiate a subsequent scene. BDSM practitioners (N = 81) completed surveys before and after a BDSM scene. The surveys measured positive and negative affect, stress, sexual arousal, interest in BDSM activities, and hard and soft limits (activities that the participant would prohibit or be disinclined to allow, respectively). Consistent with prior research, positive affect and sexual arousal increased during the scene, and negative affect and stress decreased. New to this study, interest in BDSM activities increased significantly for tops (participants taking on the dominant role) but was unchanged for bottoms, interaction $t(37) = 2.10$, $p = .04$. From before to after their scenes, participants showed a marginally significant increase in hard limits, $p = .08$, and a marginally significant decrease in soft limits, $p = .06$. However, over 25% of participants reported at least one hard limit at baseline that was no longer a hard limit after their scene. Results suggest that a prior scene might impact subsequent scene negotiations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yixuan GAO

Mphil student | Department of Psychology, Lingnan University

Authors

Yixuan Skye Gao, Wai Lan Victoria Yeung, Eric Kenson Yau

[228] The Impact of Anti-DEI Legislation on Norms, Attitudes, and Confrontation

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The United States has witnessed a mounting movement to ban diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in higher education and public school settings. The current research examined how the implementation of anti-DEI legislation on college campuses affects White undergraduates' perceived norms, attitudes, and willingness to stand up against discrimination. Compared to participants who learned about continuing DEI efforts on the college campus (N = 128), participants who learned about restricting DEI (N = 136) perceived less support for continuing DEI among students and faculty both currently and in the future, and reported less personal support for continuing DEI. However, the two conditions did not significantly differ in intentions to confront bias in a series of vignettes. Findings extend prior work by demonstrating that legislative decisions can not only impact perceptions of others' policy support, but may also significantly shape personal attitudes. Future research should examine how members of marginalized groups respond to such legislation and explore interventions to improve the rates of confrontation as opposition to DEI persists.

*POSTER

Speaker



Madison Vigdor

PhD Student | Purdue University

Authors

Margo Monteith

[229] The Impact of Blood Quantum Enrollment Requirements on Perceived Tribal Belonging

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Blood quantum laws, which define Native American identity by an individual's "degree of Indian blood," are widespread in Native American tribes, yet little is known of their psychological effects. This project investigates the psychological and community impacts of Indian blood quantum enrollment requirements on Native Peoples' perceived tribal belonging, identity, and well-being. When defining tribal membership, blood quantum can determine access to land, cultural knowledge, education, and employment opportunities. Blood quantum requirements can also shape how people understand themselves and their tribal community. Despite its significance, research on the psychological effects of blood quantum enrollment requirements remains scarce; no work on blood quantum has been featured in major social psychology journals. In this study, we are testing the hypotheses that (1) blood quantum enrollment criteria predicts feelings of tribal belonging and (2) enculturation, the extent to which one participates in Native culture, can moderate that relationship by producing feelings of belonging through community engagement. To test this hypothesis, we conducted a survey containing qualitative and quantitative questions relating to enculturation, tribal enrollment status/blood quantum, and feelings of belonging. We recruited 444 Native American participants through the online platform Prolific and by advertising the study through listservs and recruitment flyers. Most participants were enrolled members of their tribe (n = 246), which made analyses difficult due to the unequal group sizes. However, we found significant effects of tribal enrollment on feelings of tribal belonging moderated by enculturation. The qualitative data we collected will begin to help us understand how Native people feel about blood quantum. Future studies will explore this further in focus groups and interviews.

*POSTER

Speaker



Haylee Swiger

Intern | Research for Indigenous Social Action and Equity Center

Authors

Tyler Jimenez

[230] The Impact of Election Stress on Young Adults' Wellbeing and Social Networks

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Young adults in the U.S. report rising political anxiety and declining wellbeing, yet little is known about how they navigate everyday social life under major collective stressors. To investigate, we surveyed ~3,000 undergraduates from the same community in a three-week ecological momentary assessment (EMA) study spanning the 2024 U.S. national election, along with pre- and post-election trait surveys six months apart. Participants completed daily EMAs on wellbeing (happiness, sadness, stress, anger) and social interactions (partner, closeness, content, quality). We use multilevel models to test two hypotheses: Selection—whether reactivity to election stress (anticipatory and recovery) predicted shifts in interactions (e.g., avoiding extremity or high-disagreement, seeking homophilous or norm-consistent ties); and Buffering—whether interactions moderate stress-affect links. Preliminary findings suggest that while having an interaction generally buffers stress, interactions between certain groups, such as low-income, high-stress students, can predict higher stress and lower wellbeing. Our results reveal how collective stressors ripple through young adult social networks.

*POSTER

Speaker



Su Doğa Karaca

Pre-Doctoral Researcher | Stanford University

Authors

Isabella Aslarus, Rui Pei, Jamil Zaki, Su Doga Karaca

[231] The Impact of Facial Expressions on Perceived Trustworthiness

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Smiles are thought to be signals of prosocial intentions. Past research supports the conclusion that individuals displaying a smile would be deemed as more trustworthy than those with a neutral facial expression. Here, we were interested in understanding how people respond to a person who displays a smile and subsequently exhibits untrustworthy behavior. We sought to test whether interacting with an untrustworthy partner causes people to become angrier and more punitive toward partners who display smiles than partners who display neutral expressions. We recruited 500 participants in an online study to test 1) whether people's transfers in a Trust Game differed between people whose partners displayed a smiling or neutral face, and 2) when participants received nothing in return from the Trust Game, whether they were more inclined to incur a cost to remove some of their partner's gains. While we found that people's losses in the Trust Game directly impacted their motivations to punish, we found little support for the notion that smiles affect Trust Game transfers and subsequent punishment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Allison Branch
Research Assistant - EQuIP Lab | University of San Diego

Authors

Allison Branch, Daniel Forster

[232] The Impact of Racial Entitlement on White Nationalist Ideology and Intergroup Violence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

If money is good, then shouldn't more money always be better? Perhaps not. Traditional economic theories suggest that money is an ever-increasing incentivizer. If someone will accept a job for US\$20/hr, they should be more likely to accept the same job for US\$30/hr and especially for US\$250/hr. However, 10 preregistered, high-powered studies (N = 4,205, in the United States and Iran) reveal how increasing incentives can backfire. Overly generous offers lead people to infer "phantom costs" that make them less likely to accept high job wages, cheap plane fares, and free money. We present a theory for understanding when and why people imagine these hidden drawbacks and show how phantom costs drive judgments, impact behavior, and intersect with individual differences. Phantom costs change how we should think about "economic rationality." Economic exchanges are not merely about money, but instead are social interactions between people trying to perceive (and deceive) each others' minds.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kara Harris
PhD Student | DePaul Univ.

[233] The Influence of Intercultural Communication and Acculturation on Context Dependence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Hall's (1976) high/low context theory suggests that reliance on context varies across cultures. In intercultural settings, limited shared knowledge typically reduces context dependence (Gudykunst, 1991). However, Wu (2025) reported that greater intercultural experience is associated with higher context dependence. To explain the gap, in this study, intercultural interaction experience was used as the predictor variable, intercultural adaptation as the mediating variable, and context dependence as the criterion variable. Data were collected through an online survey. Participants included 174 individuals in the high intercultural interaction experience group and 182 in the low intercultural interaction experience group. The high-experience group comprised Chinese individuals residing abroad or working in foreign-affiliated companies, whereas the low-experience group comprised ordinary Chinese individuals living in China. The results showed that the high-experience group had significantly lower context dependence ($M = 3.10$, $SD = .66$) than the low-experience group ($M = 3.39$, $SD = .60$), $t(354) = 4.38$, $p < .001$, and intercultural adaptation served as a full mediator in this relationship. Specifically, in the high intercultural experience group, intercultural interaction reduced adherence to home-culture values, which in turn lowered context dependence ($\beta = -.107$, 95% CI $[-.150, -.030]$, $p < .01$). The model fit indices were good: CFI = .915, TLI = .905, RMSEA = .059, and SRMR = .061 (bootstrap samples = 5000), indicating that intercultural adaptation promoted low-context communication less reliant on home-culture values. In contrast, in the low-experience group, intercultural interaction increased orientation toward the foreign culture, which led to higher context dependence ($\beta = .115$, 95% CI $[.011, .077]$, $p < .05$). The model fit indices were good: CFI = .922, TLI = .915, RMSEA = .056, and SRMR = .063 (bootstrap samples = 5000). The low-experience group was found to live in environments where intercultural adaptation was not necessary, resulting in no deep intercultural adaptation. They maintained high-context cultural communication that relied on familiar values and shared background knowledge. This study highlights that in intercultural communication, context dependence decreases through the necessity and motivation for intercultural adaptation, extending existing theory and clarifying the gap between Gudykunst's (1991) and Wu's (2025) studies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Changyi Wu
Osaka Metropolitan University

Authors

Pingping Lin, Hiroshi Yama

[234] Contextual and Developmental Origins of Comfort Eating Behavior: Mixed-Method Insights from the Eating in America Study

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

EMOTION

Objective: Characterize the etiology of comfort eating from a life course perspective using a mixed-methods approach.

Method: A national census-matched sample of U.S. adults 18 and older (N = 2,022) was recruited for a survey using a Qualtrics panel from December 2019 to January 2020. We characterized the origins of comfort eating by analyzing both structured and open-ended survey data.

Results: Comfort eaters (77% of the sample) most often initiated comfort eating between the ages of 11-17 (26%) or 18-25 (27%). More than twice as many comfort eaters versus non-comfort eaters (72% vs. 32%) reported that a family member gave them food when they were upset when they were growing up. Rich open-ended data (1,568 individual responses) reveal the diverse and most prevalent reasons why comfort eaters believe they first took up the behavior (e.g., emotions, social contexts, adverse events, coping attempts, and food qualities).

Conclusion: These findings regarding the life-stage, social, familial, and adverse contexts related to the development of comfort eating provide novel insights to inform future comfort eating intervention and prevention efforts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sylvia Brown

Research Director I | NORC at the University of Chicago

Authors

Laura Finch, Maddy Roberts, Jenna Cummings, Vince Welch, Marc Hernandez

[235] The Internal Struggle: Honor Culture and Mental Health Stigma Among Military Personnel

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Mental health struggles among current and former military personnel are a major public health concern. Importantly, help-seeking stigma contributes to military personnel's suicide risk. Heightened help-seeking stigma is also prevalent within cultures of honor, where social reputation is tied to self-worth. Recent research found strong connections between honor culture and both military involvement and veteran suicide rates. Considering the importance of honor to military personnel's identity, honor endorsement might exacerbate their help-seeking stigma, as well. The present study (N=711) examined differential associations among honor endorsement, perceived cultural norms, and help-seeking stigma between military personnel (n=475) and civilians (n=236). Controlling for relevant factors, we found honor endorsing military personnel more strongly stigmatized help-seeking for both personal and social reasons; however, there was no effect on perceived barriers to mental healthcare. The perceived cultural norms of military personnel did not affect help-seeking stigma. Findings suggest the need for culturally tailored interventions to facilitate military personnel's help-seeking behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacques De Villiers

Undergraduate | University Of Wyoming

Authors

Jarrod Bock, Katy Jones, Stephen Foster

[236] The links between direct gaze and social cognition – Implications for impression accuracy and joint attention

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Eyes are said to be a window to others' souls, yet this intuition remains scientifically underexplored. This experimental study investigated how direct gaze (looking someone in the eyes) during live interactions contributes to impression formation and subsequent social cognition. Participants interacted with four confederates acting as impression targets (one at a time), while we manipulated whether the targets' eyes were visible or not; then, they rated each target's personality and completed a joint attention socio-cognitive test. Results from the Social Accuracy Model show overall impression accuracy and a modulation based on dyads' gender, such that eye visibility improved distinctive accuracy for gender-mismatched pairs but had no impact on gender-matched pairs. Diverging results from hierarchical modeling of joint attention, revealing more direct contributions of direct gaze, will be discussed in light of evolutionary models of person perception. Integrating theories and methods from various psychological domains, this research is an important step toward answering fundamental questions about the concrete importance of the social information conveyed by eyes in everyday life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Clara de Coetlogon Claveau

Doctorate student | Université du Quebec a Montreal

Authors

Lauren Human, Francesca Capozzi

[237] The Message and the Motive: How People Share, Interpret, and Evaluate Information in Relationships

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

This project investigates how people share and interpret information, focusing on the gap between communicators' intentions and recipients' perceptions when personal relevance varies for communicators and recipients. In Study 1, participants decide what information to share. In Study 2, participants view responses from Study 1, infer motive for information choice, and report message and source evaluations. We hypothesize that information selectors will be motivated to share their own beliefs when the topic has high personal relevance, but will defer to the recipient's beliefs under low personal relevance. Furthermore, recipients will infer intentions that differ from the selectors' self-reported intentions. Comparing across studies reveals where misalignments occur between intended motives and inferred ones, and how gaps affect message receptivity and willingness to engage.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jordan Levy

Lab Manager | University of Michigan

Authors

Allison Earl, Dolores Albarracín, Jordan Levy, Haley Mehlman

[238] The Moral Inversion of Rule-Breaking: Experimental Evidence for Transvaluation in Groups

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

People sometimes admire actions they also judge as wrong, especially when such actions benefit their own group. This process, described in moral philosophy as transvaluation, has received little direct empirical attention in psychology. We test whether violations of fairness, privacy, and autonomy rules can be morally "revalued" when they increase group resources. Participants were randomly assigned to contrived groups and told their group had distinct values (i.e., democratic, non-democratic). They evaluated vignettes in which one group member followed rules but failed, and another broke rules but secured benefits for the group. Across two studies, we examined three domains of rule-breaking in (1) the acquisition, (2) protection and (3) distribution of common resources, and tested whether group identity strength and moral foundation endorsements moderated the likelihood of "value-flips." We predict that admiration of rule-breakers despite moral condemnation will be strongest in group-benefiting contexts, consistent with theories of moral foundations (Graham et al., 2011) and group-based moralization (Leach et al., 2008). This research provides a novel test of transvaluation as a psychological process, clarifying when groups transform moral violations into virtues.

*POSTER

Speaker



Saheed Bello

Research Fellow | Rutgers University - Camden

Authors

Michael Olson

[239] The Pressure to be Fair and Lovely: Associations Among Colorism Pressures and Body Image Among Indian American Women

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

"You're too dark! Stay out of the sun." "No one likes a chubby girl. You should eat less." These are common remarks in many Indian immigrant households, where beauty expectations are deeply intertwined with cultural values. Berry's acculturation model emphasizes that South Asian American immigrant women face dual societal pressures: those from the mainstream culture and also pressures from their culture of origin. Very little quantitative research, however, has examined these concerns among Indian Americans because of the difficulty in recruiting a sizable sample. This study examined the relationship between growing up in an Indian American immigrant household, skin color satisfaction and body dissatisfaction among 76 Indian American women recruited from online panels (data collection is ongoing Indian women who reported more pressure from peers, media, and family to have lighter skin tones were more likely to internalize the light skin norms and reported less satisfaction with their skin tone. They also reported greater internalized racism. These results emphasize the need to address bicultural appearance pressures in South Asian populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sohni Singh

Authors

David Frederick, Andrea Wolfs

[240] The Puzzle of Persistence: Behavioral and Self-Reported Evidence from a Tangram Task

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Persistence is a central construct in social psychology, yet its definition and measurement vary widely. Traits such as grit, motivation, and determination are often treated as interchangeable, and persistence is assessed both through self-report questionnaires and through behavioral tasks. Prior studies highlight this inconsistency: in an impossible problem-solving task, higher self-reported persistence was associated with less time spent on the task, suggesting a disconnect between subjective and behavioral measures.

The present pilot study extends this work by examining persistence through a tangram task as a behavioral measure, alongside both a single-item and a multi-item self-report of persistence. Participants also completed measures of existential isolation, which is believed to play a role in motivation and persistence levels. This exploratory design evaluates the degree of convergence between behavioral and self-reported measures of persistence, as well as the alignment between different forms of self-report. Findings will inform the feasibility of tangrams as a behavioral index and contribute to clarifying how persistence is best conceptualized and measured.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isaac Doll
Student | Montana State University

Authors

Peter Helm

[241] The relationship between student low motivation, anxiety disorders, and personality?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

This study examines the relationship between low student motivation, anxiety disorders, and students' personality in predicting academic performance. Emotional well-being is intimately linked with cognitive functioning, meaning that understanding the intricate relationship between low student motivation, anxiety disorders, and student personality is essential for fostering an effective educational environment. A quantitative, cross-sectional correlational design utilised three commonly used and validated questionnaires: the Student Motivation Scale (SMS), the ten-item personality inventory (TIPI), and the Brief Fear of Negative Evaluation Scale (BFNE). These were distributed online to master's students from various ethnic groups. One hundred & fourteen participants took part, and data were collected directly by Qualtrics. The bootstrapped mediation analysis found a significant indirect effect of neuroticism on academic performance via conscientiousness. Specifically, neuroticism was found to impact conscientiousness, affecting academic performance negatively. The indirect effect was statistically significant ($B = -0.017$) with a 95% confidence interval that did not cross zero $[-0.241, -0.011]$. This implies that conscientiousness partially mediates the relationship between neuroticism and academic performance. The theoretical implications include supporting integrative models that view personality traits as interrelated rather than isolated predictors of academic outcomes. The mediation effect demonstrates how one trait (neuroticism) can exert influence through another (conscientiousness), reinforcing the dynamic interaction of personality dimensions in shaping human behavior. The study highlights the importance of targeting emotional regulation and conscientious behaviors in educational interventions. Students with high neurotic tendencies may benefit from structured support systems that promote organization, time management, and emotional resilience.

*POSTER

Speaker



Limkile Mpofu

Authors

Dr Charles Nimoh

[242] The Social Lives of Social Media Users: Detecting Relationship Quality

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Social media users often present idealized versions of their social lives on their profiles, raising the question of whether offline social relationship quality can be detected based on online social media profiles. The present study investigated the accuracy and bias of perceivers' ($N = 316$) judgments of targets' ($N = 155$) social relationship quality based on viewing targets' Instagram profiles. Using the Truth & Bias Model (West & Kenny, 2011), perceivers demonstrated significant accuracy in relationship quality judgments, agreeing with targets' own self-reports. This held controlling for the related and highly detectable trait of extraversion. Perceivers did not demonstrate significant assumed similarity nor positive directional bias. Thus, offline close relationship quality is detectable on social media. Additional analyses will explore which cues enable accurate judgments, and the implications of accurate relationship quality detection for social outcomes, such as liking. Overall, this work sheds light on how relationship quality is expressed and perceived, enhancing our understanding of how to identify and support people struggling with social connection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jillian Law
Student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Lauren Human

[243] The threat of Asians in STEM among hierarchy-favoring Whites

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

We hypothesize that White Americans with a stronger preference for hierarchy, known as social dominance orientation (SDO) may feel more threatened by Asian Americans in high status fields such as STEM. We also suspect that SDO and perceived threat have an impact on affirmative action support. We conducted two studies to investigate our hypotheses. In Study 1, we found that White Americans who reported higher levels of SDO were more likely to report that Asian immigrants were a threat to White jobs (i.e., realistic threat) and culture (i.e., symbolic threat) after answering questions about Asian Americans in STEM. In study 2, after participants watched a video on Asian underrepresentation in STEM, high SDO White Americans initially reported less affirmative action support than low SDO participants. However, when participants reported more realistic and symbolic threats toward Asian Immigrants, affirmative action support decreased only for low SDO participants. Our findings help illustrate the damaging consequences threat misperception has on both ideology and equitable legislation such as affirmative action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ana Torresarpi

University of Michigan

Authors

Chyei Vinluan, Michael Kraus

[244] The Triarchic Model of Psychopathy: Is Boldness a Protective Factor in the Relationship Between Alexithymia and Well-Being?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Resembling ideas about successful psychopathy, previous research on the triarchic model has shown that the boldness factor can be protective against traits that predict poor subjective well-being (Lance Du & Templer, 2022). Considering that alexithymia is a consistent feature of psychopathy and predicts poor well-being, this study aimed to understand whether boldness could mitigate this relationship (Burghart & Mier, 2022; Hemming et al., 2019). With this goal, this study measured psychopathic traits, subjective well-being, and alexithymia in 655 undergraduate students. The results indicated that while boldness does reduce the effect of alexithymia on well-being, it did interact with it as a theorized protective factor should. Moreover, exploratory analyses did not replicate previous findings for boldness serving as a protective factor against the other triarchic traits (i.e., meanness and disinhibition).

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaleb Davis

Graduate Student | University Of Wyoming

[245] The Violent Brain

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY/GENETICS

The effects of violent media consumption on children and adolescents is one of the most studied areas in psychological and pediatrics research with results consistently finding a link between increases in aggressive behavior, aggressive affect, and aggressive cognition in those who consume, or are exposed to, violent media (e.g., Bushman & Anderson, 2023). While research in this area spans decades, only with advancements in neurobiological measurements and technology, have scientists been able to assess the direct neurological outcomes of violent media exposure. In this literature review, we examine the current state of neurological research on violent media consumption among aggressive adolescents across cross-sectional, experimental, and longitudinal designs. The examined research consistently demonstrates a strong causal correlation between the neural correlates of aggression and exposure to violent media. Findings repeatedly noted the association of delayed maturation of the prefrontal cortex and various limbic regions, often related to an individual's ability to control impulsive and aggressive behaviors. However, it is understood that further research is needed, as neurological research presents one of the best possible paths to assess the cause and effect of violent media and aggressive behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katie Kelley

Student | Fielding Graduate University

Authors

Andreas Miles-Novelo

[246] CANCELLED:

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

*POSTER

[247] CANCELLED:

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY/GENETICS

Prior research suggests that wealthy individuals are judged more harshly than poor individuals for the same moral infractions. However, it remains unclear whether this effect emerges because of wealth status itself or because of targets' histories of monetary privilege or stress. Across five studies (Ns = 257, 243, 376, 252, 290), participants evaluated bad-behaving targets who varied in childhood (low/high) and current (low/high) socioeconomic status (SES). Overall, low SES targets were judged less harshly and current SES contributed more than prior SES for judgments of moral character and reasons for acting. The age at which targets became low or high SES (5 or 17) interacted with whether current and past wealth impacted judgments. In addition, providing participants negative (vs. no) character information lessened the importance of current and prior SES on character evaluations. Results replicated over different infractions (e.g., theft, deception, and physical aggression). Overall, participants use target SES, particularly current SES, as an indicator of moral character after an infraction, such that actors with high SES are assumed to be more immoral than those with low SES.

*POSTER

[248] Tolerance Isn't Always Kind: The Paradox of Conditional Inclusion

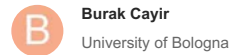
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Intergroup tolerance—putting up with a disapproved conduct of an outgroup—is often regarded as a civic virtue essential for coexistence in multicultural societies. However, its inherently power-asymmetrical and conditional nature can produce paradoxical effects on social change. This research examines these outcomes from the perspective of tolerance recipients through two experimental studies: Study 1 with LGBTQIA+ individuals (N = 180) and Study 2 with Muslims (N = 167). Participants were exposed to scenarios evoking feelings of discrimination, tolerance, or acceptance via fabricated news. Across both studies, discrimination and tolerance (compared to acceptance) elicited negative emotions—such as feeling patronized, discouraged, or ambivalent—whereas acceptance (compared to tolerance) evoked positive emotions, including appreciation, happiness, and understanding. In Study 1, the experience of tolerance, compared to acceptance, was associated with higher collective action intentions, and high system justifiers also reported greater identity concealment when tolerated (compared to discriminated), motivated by fear of backlash. These findings highlight tolerance as a paradoxical form of inclusion that can simultaneously mobilize and suppress social change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Burak Cayir
University of Bologna

[249] Too much or not enough? Tightness of norms and the implications for well-being.

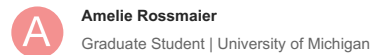
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Do people fare better in more or less restrictive social settings? Societies with tighter social norms tend to be more ordered and have lower rates of crime, but at the same time show lower creativity and are less tolerant of different ways of living (Gelfand et al., 2011). While there is empirical support to argue that people fare better in either looser or tighter social context, or that they are best adapted to whatever you grew up in, we hypothesized a non-linear relationship between perceived tightness of norms and wellbeing. People who perceive the norms in their communities to be especially loose or tight might feel overly free or restricted respectively, with an overall preference for a more balanced society that offers both limitations and leeway. We tested this theory with 8359 participants across all 50 US-states. We found an inverted u-shaped link between tightness of norms and wellbeing – both high and low tightness were associated with lower subjective well-being. This effect was moderated by higher-level norms. Our findings highlight that solely testing linear relationships may result in overlooking more complex links between psychological constructs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amelie Rossmailer
Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Allon Vishkin

[250] CANCELLED:

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

*POSTER

[251] Trait Inferences for White and Asian Targets: Warmth vs. Competence

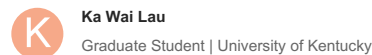
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

We infer traits from others' behaviors via spontaneous trait inferences (STIs). But how do stereotypes about a social group shape STIs? Do STIs impact follow-up actions? Participants (N = 117) learned either White or Asian faces, each paired with a positive or negative behavior tied to warmth (e.g., warm, cold) or competence (e.g., smart, stupid). We found that participants formed STIs for both groups, but with different patterns. Participants formed positive and negative warmth STIs for White targets, whereas they formed positive warmth and negative competence STIs for Asian targets. These findings align with the primacy of the warmth effect for White targets. Given that most participants were White (62%), they may have focused on warmth for their racial in-group while inferring counter-stereotypic traits for Asians, consistent with the "model minority" view (competent but cold). Additional data on participants' willingness to approach (warmth-related) and recruit (competence-related) targets will be analyzed by SPSP 2026. These findings provide insights into race-based spontaneous impressions, particularly when involving stereotypes, as well as subsequent behavior toward others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ka Wai Lau
Graduate Student | University of Kentucky

Authors

Demitri J. Aguilar, Paige A. Taylor, Angel David Armenta, Jessica R. Bray

[252] Traits of the Tamer and the Tamed: HEXACO and General Causality Orientation Predictors of Sexual Domination and Submission Behavior and Preferences

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Bondage, Dominance, Submission/Sadomasochism, and Masochism (BDSM) is a common framing for communities who partake in sexual, physical, psychological, and other power exchanges between consenting participants. Previous predictors of BDSM preferences for sexual domination (i.e., taking control of others) and submission (i.e., giving control to others) have been identified (e.g., each has been linked to basic personality traits). However, inconsistencies in the literature exist. For example, trait agreeableness is evidenced as a negative predictor of sexually dominant identities but positive predictor of sexually submissive identities (Mallaioli et al., 2025). Hébert and Weaver (2014), in contrast, found no differences in agreeableness between the two groups. Perhaps the pathway from basic personality to sexually dominant, submissive, and "switch" preferences may be better explained by accounting for individual differences in motivation orientations to better explain these mixed relationships. To evaluate this possibility, we examined the mediating role of general causality orientations (i.e., tendencies in attuning to one's environment and explaining one's behavior as autonomous, controlled, or beyond one's control) to further understand and explain these relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Theodore Wheeler
Graduate Teaching Assistant | Kansas State University

Authors

David Schmitt, Adison Kaiser

[253] Trajectories of Sense of Purpose in Later Life: The Role of Sociodemographic Variables Across Six Longitudinal Studies

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

META-ANALYSIS

Sense of purpose is defined as the extent to which individuals perceive their lives as having direction, goals, and meaning. Higher sense of purpose is consistently linked to slower cognitive decline, reduced mortality risk, and less allostatic load. Yet, little is known about how purpose trajectories differ by social and health factors. In this pre-registered work, we examined sociodemographic predictors of age-related trajectories of purpose across six longitudinal studies with at least three waves of purpose: HRS (N=14,000), MIDUS (N=4,000), Rush MAP (N=2,300), Rush MARS (N=950), Rush LATC (N=250), and WLS (N=10,300). Using a coordinated analysis approach, this study used multilevel linear and quadratic growth models to characterize how sense of purpose trajectories differed based on race, gender, SES, relationship status, and health conditions (e.g., stroke, high blood pressure). We anticipate that sense of purpose may decline later in the lifespan, and that these trajectories will differ based on individuals' social and health contexts. Findings highlight the importance of grounding interventions aiming to promote purpose in individuals' social and health contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Olivia Duchow
Graduate Student | Auburn University

Authors

Gabrielle Pfund, Olivia Duchow

[254] Uncertainty Avoidance Relates to Differentiated Facial Impressions

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

The structure of social trait perception substantially varies across individuals and cultures, but the sources of this variability remain poorly understood. One potential source lies in how people handle the inherent uncertainty of face-based first impressions, which require rapid personality judgments based on limited information. Based on this premise, we hypothesize that individuals with higher uncertainty avoidance engage in more fine-grained processing of facial impressions, using a cognitive strategy that reduces ambiguity. Across two studies, we found that both individuals (Study 1: N = 105) and cultures (Study 2: N = 10,552, 40 regions) with higher uncertainty avoidance formed more distinctly differentiated personality trait impressions from faces. The relationship between uncertainty avoidance and impression differentiation was mediated by the strength of trait concept dissociations that individuals held (Study 1). Our findings demonstrate that basic cognitive tendencies shape social perception, offering a novel explanation for individual and cultural variability in impression structure.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuqing Shi
Ph.D. student | National University of Singapore

[255] Unsettling Ignorance: Native Visibility Lowers White Collective Esteem but Increases Engagement with Native Issues

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Positive regard for White identity relies on cultural narratives that omit marginalized groups’ experiences with injustice. Facing the realities of Native oppression may induce White identity threat, reducing engagement with critical Native issues. We tested how Native representation (vs. omission) in climate justice documentaries influenced White Americans’ collective self-esteem, intentions to learn more, and actual engagement with seeking information about contemporary Native environmental justice efforts. We analyzed pooled data from two experiments with White participants from the Pacific Northwest (N=507). As expected, exposure to Native representation lowered Whites’ collective self-esteem; however, this process resulted in more interest and behavioral engagement, rather than less. Findings suggest that including Native voices in local environmental narratives may actually promote engagement with learning about critical Native issues through an identity threat process.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isis Queen
University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Alana Smutz, Kimy Peterson, Kristina G. Chamberlin, Stephanie A. Fryberg, Arianne E. Eason

[256] Validating Complex Flexibility: A Novel Cognitive Construct in Korean Culture

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

This study proposes complex flexibility (CF) as a cognitive trait reflecting Korean cultural characteristics and validates its measurement tool. CF is defined as a cognitive tendency to process contradictory information in a flexible yet paradoxical manner, distinct from constructs such as cognitive flexibility or naïve dialecticism. The construct comprises four subfactors: oppositional inclusiveness, integrative duality, logic rejection, and ideal solution expectation. To validate the construct, about 600 Korean adults were recruited across two studies, with 530 valid responses (EFA n=286, CFA n=242). EFA of 40 preliminary items yielded a 12-item, four-factor scale, and CFA confirmed this structure with CF as a higher-order factor (good fit indices). Correlational analyses suggested validity: CF was positively related to Korean decision-making tendencies and moderately to cognitive flexibility and holistic thinking, while unrelated to risk aversion, loss aversion, or indecisiveness. The validated CF scale introduces a novel tool to explain unique decision-making processes in Korean society and offers applications for organizational contexts and cultural decision-making research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Seheon Kim
Post-Doc | Korea University

Authors

Taekyun Hur, Hyemin Park

[257] Verbal Assertiveness May Be Linked to Interdependence in South Asia: Initial Evidence from India

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

coauthors: Irene Melani, Yaxin Xiao, Georgios I. Christopoulos, Honghong Tang, Krishna Savani, Mohammad Ghazi Shahnawaz, and Shinobu Kitayama

Research suggests that South Asian Americans (SAAs) are particularly successful in leadership attainment due to verbal assertiveness (VA). However, this pattern appears paradoxical within South Asia’s culture of corporeal interdependence. VA promotes expressive freedom—a marker of independence in many Western societies—which contrasts with most Asian contexts’ emphasis on expressive suppression. Thus, it is unclear whether SAAs’ VA reflects assimilation to US independent culture or represents South Asia’s form of interdependence distinct from East Asia’s effacing type. To address this, we compared correlates of VA among Indians (N = 233), European Americans (EA; N = 228) and Chinese (N = 224). Our results showed that Indians reported the highest level of VA, predicted by both independent and interdependent self-construals—whereas only independence predicted VA for EA and Chinese. Ongoing investigations further revealed that VA is associated with expressing socially engaging emotions in India, but socially disengaging emotions in the US. Our findings provide initial indication that, in India, VA may serve affiliative rather than antagonistic functions aligned with interdependence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Irene Melani
Ph.D. Candidate | University of Michigan

[258] Wanting to maximize positivity influences how we prefer partner support.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

European Americans want to maximize positivity more than East Asians do, and this shapes their affective experiences (Sims et al., 2015). But do these cultural differences influence what types of social support people want from close others during tough times? To answer this question, we recruited and examined 119 romantic couples (60 European American, 59 Japanese) who took turns discussing a personal concern (e.g., about their health) with their partners and rated their partners' responses. As we predicted, the more sharers valued maximizing positivity, the less positive resonance (i.e., a sense of mutual warmth and being "in sync") they felt with listeners who pointed out problems during the discussion ($\gamma_{1,1} = -18.99$, $p = .003$). Consistent with cultural differences in wanting to maximize positivity, US sharers ($p < .001$) felt less positive resonance when their partners pointed out problems ($\gamma_{1,1} = 7.23$, $p = .043$), but this was not true for Japanese sharers ($p = .79$). These findings suggest that cultural differences in how people want to feel shapes what types of social support they want during tough times.

*POSTER

Speaker



Verity Y. Q. Lua
PhD Student (Affective Sciences) | Stanford University

Authors

Julie Y. A. Cachia, Jeanne L. Tsai

[259] We Are What We Watch: Genre Preferences and Personality

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Psychological science has long been critiqued for relying on samples drawn primarily from Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic (WEIRD) societies. After two decades of calls to broaden the field's empirical base, the present study offers a contemporary update. We analyzed all human-subjects research published in 2024 in six leading psychology journals ($k = 1209$) and compared our findings to previous landmark reviews. Our data show that while the proportion of U.S.-based samples initially declined (from 68% in 2003–07 to 62%) from 2014 to 2018 it has remained largely stagnant since then (60% in 2024). U.S. participants remain vastly overrepresented—an individual in the United States is 50 times more likely to be a research participant than someone elsewhere in the world. Demographic reporting has improved somewhat, but participants' race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and education are still frequently omitted. Overall, our findings indicate that psychology not only remains heavily dependent on WEIRD and undergraduate samples, but is still reluctant to meaningfully consider the inevitable constraints on generalizability.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ileri Akinola
Student | University of Florida

Authors

Gregory Webster, Amy Pezoldt

[260] What Makes Us Human? Sociality as a Key Dimension of Mind Perception

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Traditional models of mind perception emphasize agency and experience. However, these models were developed primarily in Western, individualistic contexts. We propose that sociality—the capacity to form and sustain meaningful relationships—represents an additional dimension of mind perception more strongly emphasized in collectivist cultures. To test this, we employed the "Potion of the Mind Test," in which participants allocate 100 mg of "mind potion" across 40 capacities to construct an ideal human. Across two studies ($N = 661$) conducted in China, Mexico, and the United States, sociality consistently emerged as central to conceptions of the ideal human. Importantly, differences also appeared: U.S. participants prioritized social relation capacities tied to personal relationships (e.g., sibling, friend), whereas Chinese participants emphasized social norm capacities tied to traditions and broader societal roles. These findings extend existing models by providing evidence that sociality is a distinct dimension of mind perception and highlight how it contributes to cultural variation in conceptions of humanness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ying Hu
Duke University

Authors

Cristina Salvador, Xinyu Pan

[261] When AI Becomes 'Other': The Role of Racial Representation and the Uncanny Valley in Human-AI Relationships

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Conspiracy theories are increasingly prominent in politics and media. Schizotypal personality traits are the best predictors of conspiracy belief because they reflect cognitive styles that deviate from conventional logic. Cognitive deficits also make individuals more susceptible to celebrity worship. As celebrities increasingly influence political spheres, it is critical to examine whether attitudes toward celebrities relate to political cognition. 318 participants completed the Conspiracy Mentality Questionnaire, the Brief-Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire, and the Celebrity Attitudes Scale. Conspiracy mentality was correlated with schizotypal personality ($r = 0.23$, $p < .05$), and with celebrity worship ($r = 0.18$, $p < .05$). In individual linear regression models, schizotypal traits ($t(269) = 3.85$, $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.05$), and celebrity worship ($t(265) = 2.98$, $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.04$) were significant predictors of conspiracy mentality. When included together, both schizotypal traits ($t(257) = 3.40$, $p < .001$) and celebrity worship ($t(257) = 2.24$, $p = 0.03$) were significant ($R^2 = 0.08$), but did not have a significant interaction ($t(256) = 0.58$, $p = 0.56$). This suggests that celebrity worship is related to conspiracy belief. Understanding this link may help explain why some people are more prone to conspiratorial thinking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ariel Mosley

Assistant Professor | UC Davis

Authors

Daniel Yonas

[262] When Do People Prefer Multiracial Partners? The Role of Context and Culture

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Racial diversity is known to influence expectations about team dynamics, but less is understood about how multiracial individuals are evaluated as potential collaborators. We investigated how racial group composition influences collaboration expectations across two studies ($N = 600$) with monoracial participants from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii. In Study 1, participants selected a single partner from individual photographs for either a social or work task. In Study 2, participants selected one photo depicting two partners from group images for the same tasks. Participants then reported expectations of work efficiency and attitudes toward selected teammates. In Study 1, multiracial partners were expected to be more efficient and evaluated more positively in social tasks, with effects consistent across regions. In Study 2, significant interactions between group composition and task type emerged only among Hawaiian participants, who evaluated multiracial and racially mixed groups more favorably in social contexts. These findings suggest that the perceived value of multiracial partners is context-dependent, shaped by task framing, interaction format, and regional norms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shan Gao

Graduate Student | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Authors

Shan Gao, Kristin Pauker

[263] When do people welcome accountability, and how does it feel?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Accountability plays an important role in societies, yet individuals are often averse to embracing their own accountability. This raises questions about when people are more or less inclined to welcome accountability and what it feels like when they do. This study ($N = 32,485$ observations from $N = 977$ US adults) used the day reconstruction method to examine situational predictors of welcoming accountability and links between welcoming accountability and well-being. Although the results revealed various situational predictors, the strongest was the presence of other people. People who characteristically welcomed accountability tended to experience more pleasant emotion and meaningfulness and less unpleasant emotion. Similarly, when people welcomed accountability more than was typical for them, they tended to experience more pleasant emotion and meaningfulness, but also more unpleasant emotion. These findings offer important insights into how welcoming accountability manifests across situations and establishes its relationships with different aspects of well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Robert Ridder

Baylor University

Authors

Karen Melton, Sarah Schnitker, Charlotte Witvliet, Michael Prinzing

[52] Cultural Differences in Estimating Negative Evaluations of Altruistic Behavior

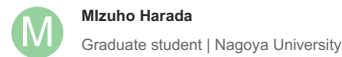
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Altruistic behavior, generally considered prosocial and desirable, is not invariably evaluated positively. In Japan, people tend to evaluate altruistic behavior more negatively than in the US (Kawamura & Kusumi, 2020), yet underlying mechanisms of this cultural difference remain unclear. One possibility is that Japanese people consider potential negative consequences when help is unsolicited. We therefore predicted that Japanese would anticipate more negative evaluations of unsolicited helping than Americans, reflecting their cultural emphasis on recipient-centered considerations and the risk of causing embarrassment. Participants (100 Japanese and 159 Americans) read a scenario of helping a stranger and, under conditions that varied the number of evaluators (ranging from 1 to 500), estimated how many would evaluate the altruistic behavior positively or negatively. Contrary to our prediction, Americans estimated higher proportions of negative evaluators than Japanese. This unexpected pattern highlights the need to refine existing cultural theories of helping by distinguishing between direct evaluation of behavior and meta-evaluation of how others might judge that behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mizuho Harada

Graduate student | Nagoya University

Authors

Tasuku Igarashi

[264] When Does Perceived Inequality Breed Envy? Evidence from 34 Countries on the Cultural Moderation of Individualism

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Although previous studies have shown that income inequality undermines social cohesion, the emotional processes linking inequality to interpersonal life remain underexplored. Envy is a particularly relevant emotion, as it is driven by upward social comparison in unequal contexts and shapes both interpersonal relationship and subjective well-being. In the present study, we examine how perceived income inequality influences two kinds of envy: benign envy, which motivates self-improvement, and malicious envy, which involves resentment and hostility toward others. Using survey data from 23,202 participants across 34 societies, we find that higher perceived income inequality is associated with greater levels of both benign and malicious envy. However, the cultural patterns diverge. Specifically, the association between perceived income inequality and benign envy emerges only in collectivistic cultures, but not in individualistic cultures. By contrast, the association between perceived income inequality and malicious envy appears consistently across societies with diverse economic and cultural orientations, highlighting a robust, pan-cultural relationship through which inequality fosters antagonistic emotions. Taken together, these findings identify envy as a key psychological consequence of perceived income inequality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xin Chen

PhD student | The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Authors

Jacky Chi Kit NG, Sylvia Xiao Hua Chen

[265] When Perception Meets Reality: How Moral Metaperceptions Shape Intergroup Relations in Political Divides

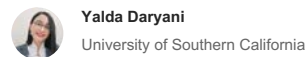
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This research investigates moral metaperceptions across political divides and their impact on intergroup relations. Through a multi-method approach combining computational analysis of 10 million tweets and three experimental studies, we examine how individuals believe they are morally evaluated by political outgroups. Our findings reveal systematic discrepancies between how outgroups actually perceive a group's morality and how that group believes they are perceived. For instance, pro-life individuals believe pro-choice people rate them significantly lower on care and equality than pro-choice individuals actually do. Similar metaperceptual inaccuracies emerge in gun control debates. Critically, these inaccuracies predict intergroup trust and threat perceptions. Individuals who believe outgroups view them less moral than they actually do report higher threat and lower trust. Our intervention study demonstrates that correcting these misperceptions by providing accurate feedback about how outgroups actually evaluate one's moral positions significantly increases trust and reduces perceived threat. These findings suggest that addressing metaperceptual inaccuracies offers a promising pathway for reducing political polarization and improving intergroup dialogue in contentious moral debates.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yalda Daryani

University of Southern California

Authors

Morteza Dehghani

[266] When Race Talk Goes Public: How Beliefs, Framing, and Responses Shape Observer Reactions to Discrimination Disclosures Online

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Sexual objectification behaviors (e.g., groping, inappropriate sexual comments) are usually conceptualized as coming from a stranger and negatively impact wellbeing. But what does sexual objectification look like when it comes from a romantic relationship partner, and does it have the same negative impacts? In the current research, we addressed these questions across three studies aimed at developing and validating a new Behavioral Objectification from a Partner (BOP) Scale, which assesses sexual objectification that is specific to relationship contexts. In Study 1, 104 women and gender minorities completed and provided feedback on the BOP Scale. In Study 2 (a and b), women partnered with men completed the BOP Scale and additional measures at Time 1 and Time 2 (four months later). Study 2a (N = 260) used exploratory factor analysis to build the factor structure, and Study 2b (N = 297) confirmed the factor structure. Finally, Study 2 also demonstrated that the BOP Scale showed meaningful cross-sectional and longitudinal associations with increased experiences of appearance surveillance from a partner, self-objectification, and sexual coercion, and decreased sexual desire.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexis Cameron

Doctoral Student | Dartmouth College

Authors

Kiara Sanchez

[267] Where We Belong: Environmental Socialization as Resistance to Settler Violence

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Colonial violence continuously undermines Indigenous Peoples' connections to ancestral homelands. This connection is critical for supporting positive identity processes that foster belonging. Receiving cultural teachings about land (i.e., environmental socialization) may provide a connection to land, despite displacement status. A correlational study (N = 398) assessed whether environmental socialization was associated with belonging for Indigenous individuals who are or are not displaced. Although displaced individuals reported lower levels of belonging than nondisplaced individuals, there was a positive relationship between environmental socialization and belonging regardless of displacement status. These findings support the assertion that physical displacement is harmful to Indigenous Peoples, but environmental socialization may buffer against these adverse effects and instead foster cultural connection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Falcon Reed

Undergraduate Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Kristina Chamberlin, Alana Smutz, Lourdes Silva, Julisa Lopez

[268] White Individuals' Intentions to Engage in Racial Justice Action: Utilizing the Theory of Planned Behavior

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Throughout history, social movements occur and people take part in different actions to combat racial injustice, such as the protests for police reform in 2020. Research suggests that White Americans are less involved in these actions compared to people of color, potentially due to varying individual and external factors. The current study aims to utilize the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) to examine how attitudes, norms, and perceived behavioral control (PBC) relate to White Americans' intentions to engage in racial justice actions. A pilot study determined six racial justice-related behaviors of varying risk levels (low, moderate, high) to be used in the main study. The main study will test how TPB constructs predict intentions to engage in these behaviors and explore political ideology as a moderator. We hypothesize that attitudes and PBC will positively predict intentions across all risk levels. In contrast, norms are expected to negatively predict moderate- and high-risk behaviors, but show no effect on low-risk behaviors. We anticipate this study providing more insight into the factors that motivate White individuals to engage in actions that support racial justice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tamara Franklin

Graduate Student | Rutgers University - New Brunswick

Authors

Valerie Taylor

[269] Who Becomes a Leader? A Theoretical Model for Early Career Leadership Identity & Success

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Previous studies have explored the prominent connection between leadership emergence and broad personality traits. However, these studies have frequently overlooked the role of other individual differences that may also play a significant role in shaping leadership potential and behavior. Profiling a leader through these additional dimensions offers a deeper understanding of what makes someone effective, influential, and motivated to lead. This is especially important for recent college graduates, who are entering the workforce during a period of personal and professional transition.

The current project adopts a recently developed theoretical model to explain the underlying mechanisms (i.e., personality traits, interests, values, and skills) that drive leadership identity development and subsequent leadership success through the year following graduation. This study utilizes data from the Houston Occupational and Personality Study, which followed 613 graduates from three U.S. universities across five timepoints, starting before graduation through a year post graduation (22.78, SD = 2.97). Participants indicated whether they held an official leadership position ("Yes" or "No"), allowing for comparisons between leaders and non-leaders. Preliminary research included correlations between Leaders and Big Five Personality Traits (including their facets), career interests, and values; and a longitudinal analysis of relevant Leaders' traits. Leaders were more extraverted ($t = 2.20$, $p = .29$) than non-leaders, with assertiveness identified as the only significant facet-level predictor ($t = 2.80$, $p = .006$). Preliminary longitudinal analyses revealed that leaders' assertiveness level remained consistently higher and slightly increased, while non-leaders experienced a decline in assertiveness. Ongoing analyses will expand these findings to other individual differences and situate these relationships within a broader model of leadership identity and success.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lesley Kraemer

Student | California State University, East Bay

Authors

Erica Baranski

[270] Who is the popular online dater?

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Despite online dating exposing people to endless potential partners, people struggle to date. Indeed, 50% of likes sent on Hinge go to 15-25% of users (Goldgeier, 2017), suggesting some people get all the traction, leaving others dateless. Why? Crucially, online dating involves different processes than in-person dating (e.g., browsing of profiles versus interpersonal exchange), serves different functions (e.g., sorting versus exploring chemistry) and involves different cues (static versus dynamic), changing the degree to which people agree on who is desirable. Using two samples of judges ($N=196$ and $N=287$) who rated targets' online dating profiles ($N=180$), we explore how much people agree on who is desirable and who the desirable dater is. We explore traits based on evolutionary theories of attraction (e.g., attractiveness and status), desirable traits in traditional dating (e.g., personality) and those that may matter online (e.g., authenticity, effort). This study will reveal if 1) some people do tend to be popular in online dating and who those people are and 2) the selection process online differs from in person, which may contribute to the dating frustration people report.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarra Jiwa

Graduate Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Erika Carlson, Elizabeth Long

[271] Who Learns Best with AI? Individual Differences in Academic Achievement Across AI and Traditional Learning Environments

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

The growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education raises questions about how individual differences interact with instructional format to influence learning. This simulation study modeled academic achievement across AI-supported and traditional learning conditions using a dataset of 1,000 simulated learners with distributions reflecting plausible ranges for personality traits, cognitive abilities, academic interest, executive functioning, and AI familiarity. A multiple regression model explained 70.3% of the variance in achievement, $R^2 = .703$, $F(21, 978) = 110.0$, $p < .001$. Higher achievement was associated with greater topic interest ($\beta = 0.211$, $p < .001$), openness ($\beta = 0.149$, $p < .001$), attention ($\beta = 0.102$, $p < .001$), memory ($\beta = 0.091$, $p < .001$), executive functioning ($\beta = 0.085$, $p < .001$), conscientiousness ($\beta = 0.058$, $p < .001$), and AI familiarity ($\beta = 0.082$, $p < .001$), whereas neuroticism was negatively related ($\beta = -0.040$, $p = .004$). Four significant interactions emerged: openness $\times$ condition ($\beta = -0.098$, $p < .001$), interest $\times$ condition ($\beta = -0.081$, $p < .001$), AI familiarity $\times$ condition ($\beta = -0.074$, $p < .001$), and conscientiousness $\times$ condition ($\beta = 0.058$, $p = .007$). Findings highlight the need to tailor AI-based education to diverse learner profiles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dahyeon Kang

Assistant Professor | University of Washington

Authors

Hyunsung Bang

[272] WHO or WHY: The Roles of Ally Race and Perceived Motivations in the Target Disadvantaged Group's Personal Outcomes

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Past research has demonstrated that the target disadvantaged group's perception of allyship behaviors differed by ally race (i.e. advantaged vs. disadvantaged group) and perceived allyship motivations (i.e. sincere vs. ulterior). One possible reason behind this different perception was the differentiation of suspicion level toward allies. Consequently, this can lead to different perceivers' personal outcomes, such as self-esteem and collective action intention. However, past studies often failed to incorporate these variables into a single framework and establish causal relationships between them. Therefore, the current study aims to manipulate ally races and perceived allyship motivations and directly compare their consequential impacts on the target disadvantaged group. In a two-part survey, Black participants first rated their suspicion level toward White (i.e. advantaged group) and Latino people (i.e. disadvantaged group) in general. Two weeks later, they read a news article about a BLM protest where either White allies or Latino allies attended for sincere, ulterior, or ingroup-focused motivations and then answered some questions about allyship evaluation and their personal outcomes. A significant correlation between ally race and suspicion level was found. Additionally, perceived sincerity was shown to be a significant mediator between perceived allyship motivations and some of participants' personal outcomes. The implications and future directions of this research were discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Raissa Cheng

Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Sierra Feasel, Brenda Major

[273] Willingness or Weakness? How Honor Values Shape Perceived Strength of Those Who Compromise in Negotiation

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

CULTURE

Reaching agreements to coordinate conflicting needs is essential to group-living. In the cultural logic of honor, however, compromising may be eschewed as it can imply weakness and damage social image. In a pre-registered experiment in the UK (N = 526; ~50% White British, ~50% MENA/South Asian backgrounds), participants read a negotiation scenario where a person proposed allocating desired resources with varying degree of compromise: Contention (they get 100%, the other gets 0%), Weak Compromise (66:33), Strong Compromise (33:66), and Concession (0:100). Participants rated the person's perceived strength (e.g., strong, tough), and completed measures of personal and perceived normative honor values (self-promotion & retaliation, defense of family reputation). Results revealed that higher personal and perceived normative honor values of both facets predicted lower strength ratings of those who conceded more (all p 's < .037). Unexpectedly, participants from honor culture backgrounds perceived those who conceded more as stronger than did White British participants (p < .001). These findings offer insights for culturally-informed approaches to reaching mutual agreements in negotiations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jinseok Kim

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Sussex

Authors

Vivian L. Vignoles, Shuxian Jin, Stephanie Gunaratne, Ayşe K. Üskül

[274] You are what you eat? The role of cultural foods in interpersonal impression formation

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Eating culturally-relevant food is one of the most frequent ways we engage with our cultural identity. However, it is unclear whether cultural foods influence how we perceive the identities of others. In two online studies (total N=1440; 50% White, 50% Asian), participants were randomly assigned to view the social media profile of a biracial (Asian and White) target person whose profile included pictures of Chinese food, American food, or no food. Given that biracial individuals may frequently experience identity denial or stereotyping depending on how their identity is perceived by others, we tested whether food is seen as a meaningful marker of identity. In Study 1, targets' cultural identity (as Chinese or American) was perceived to be stronger when it was congruent with the food displayed in their profile (Cohen's f 's ranging from 0.08-0.09, p 's < 0.03). The same effect however was not observed for targets' racial identity (p 's > 0.08). In Study 2, we seek to replicate these findings and test whether participants are more likely or less to apply Asian stereotypes to targets based on the food displayed in their profiles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rina Horii

Graduate student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Alexander Rothman, Traci Mann

[275] Sex Differences in Daily Stressor Exposure

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

EVOLUTION

Men and women evolved to pursue different goals, which exposes them to different types of stressors. However, it might also be the case that they likely evolved to attend to and be more affected by the stressors that they recurrently faced the most throughout evolutionary history. Based on available research, we are unable to tell with certainty if individuals are accurately reporting their stressor exposure or if they are reporting the stressors that they were more attentive to, were more affected by, or remember vividly. The present research addresses this issue through two complementary studies. In Study 1, we analyze large-scale daily diary data from two countries to examine sex differences in exposure to five domains of daily stressors: argument-related, avoidance of argument, work/school-related, network-related, and home-related. In Study 2, using a multi-national sample, we investigate whether the differences observed in Study 1 are attributable to variation in perceived stressfulness, perceived frequency, and recall vividness across these domains.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Chen

PhD Candidate | Singapore Management University

Authors

Nadyanna Majeed, Andree Hartanto, Norman Li

[276] Virtue Through Victimhood: Moral Perception in Intergroup Contexts

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Victims of immoral actions are perceived as virtuous based on motives to protect and bring justice to victims despite not knowing their actual moral standing (Jordan & Kouchaki, 2021). According to the theory of dyadic morality (Schein & Gray, 2018), such victims of wrongdoing (moral patients) are afforded sympathetic reactions when their victimhood is the result of harm caused by an intentional perpetrator (moral agents). We extend this approach beyond the individual level of interpersonal transgressions (Person A harms Person B) to intergroup behaviors (Group A harms Group B). To the extent that socially stigmatized groups (e.g., based on race, gender identity, SES, neurodivergence) are perceived as victims of immoral systemic discrimination they may be perceived as more virtuous. Specifically, we examine whether some stigmatized groups are perceived as more victimized (and therefore more virtuous) than others. Furthermore, we test whether beliefs about an abstract moral agent (i.e., systematic/institutional discrimination against stigmatized groups) predict perceptions of harm, which in turn predict virtuous victimhood of the corresponding moral patients.

*POSTER

Speaker



Olivia Van Ness

Student | Western Washington University

Authors

Alex Czopp

[277] The interplay of stress and oxytocin on social behavior

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

When confronted with stress, some individuals exhibit the typical fight-or-flight response, whereas others turn to social affiliation, which may manifest in prosocial behaviors such as trust, cooperation, and empathy. Given its well-established role in regulating socio-emotional functioning, oxytocin is considered a prime candidate for facilitating such behaviors. However, most prior studies on oxytocin and social behavior have been conducted in controlled, non-stressful settings. In the present research, we manipulated both stress (via the Trier Social Stress Test) and oxytocin levels (via intranasal administration) to examine their joint effects on prosocial behavior, with a particular focus on generosity. Our findings indicate that the combination of stress and oxytocin administration enhances generosity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Liat Bergman

The Hebrew University

Authors

Salomon Israel

[278] The Racialized Language of Dirt in Black Women's Digital Navigation

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Dominant societal narratives often construct femininity through a framework of purity, morality, and cleanliness, marginalizing those who fail to conform. Black women, in particular, are frequently positioned outside of traditional femininity, labeled as masculine, hypersexual, or *dirty* in both literal and figurative senses. This study investigates the discursive usage of *dirty* across two Twitter communities: one exclusively for Black women (Eve Gene) and one general women-centered space (Insufferable Women Uncensored; INSWU). A detailed content analysis of 354 tweets from both spaces examines how participants navigate, resist, and redefine what it means to be *dirty* in relation to gendered and racialized norms. Findings revealed that *dirty* appears in multiple contexts—including betrayal, hygiene, and sexuality—but the distribution of meanings differed significantly across groups. A chi-square test showed that the frequency of thematic meanings varied between communities, $\chi^2(9, N = 395) = 37.77, p < .001$. Follow-up chi-square tests indicated that Sexual Hygiene appeared significantly more often in INSWU ($\chi^2(1) = 14.23, p < .001$), while Physical Dirt appeared significantly more often in Eve Gene ($\chi^2(1) = 5.17, p = .023$). Personal Hygiene and Betrayal did not differ significantly between communities. Further qualitative analyses showed that in Eve Gene, *dirty* was used to resist racialized and gendered stereotypes and to reframe stigma through reflexive engagement. In contrast, INSWU employed *dirty* primarily as a tool for moral judgment and intra-group policing surrounding sexuality and interpersonal transgressions. These findings demonstrate how digital platforms function as sites where stigma is both reproduced and contested, and how Black women mobilize language as a form of discursive agency to negotiate exclusionary ideals of womanhood. By centering everyday digital speech, this study extends psychological and feminist scholarship on stigma, performativity, and social roles, illustrating how racialized meanings of dirt circulate, shift, and are strategically repurposed in online communities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lushmere Menard

The City College of New York

Authors

Varnica Arora

[279] When Stories Feel Harder: Loneliness Shapes Perceived Challenge in Narratives

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Prior research suggests that lonely individuals process naturalistic stimuli (i.e., short narrative-based videos) differently than their non-lonely peers. What specific narrative features may drive this effect? In this study, we examined how loneliness shapes individuals' perceptions of emotional and intellectual challenges that they experience while engaging with narrative media content. To do so, participants ($N = 174$) rated video segments on perceived emotional and intellectual challenge. Results suggest that lonely individuals, compared to non-lonely participants, rated segments as more emotionally challenging (e.g., $z(\infty) = 2.98, p = .003$, with an estimated mean difference of 0.70) and more intellectually challenging (e.g., $z(\infty) = 2.28, p = .023$, with an estimated mean difference of 0.60). These findings suggest that loneliness may heighten emotional reactivity and increase the perceived cognitive demands of processing narratives, making engagement with complex social information more effortful.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chang Lu

University of Southern California

Authors

Elisa Baek, Sara Grady

[280] Measuring Teleological Thinking: Development and Early Validation of a New Assessment Tool

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Teleological thinking, the tendency to explain natural, biological, and physical phenomena in terms of purpose or goal-directedness, is a pervasive cognitive bias with implications for scientific reasoning, education, and belief system. Although a few measures assessing teleological thinking currently exist, they typically focus narrowly on specific aspects or contexts, limiting their scope and general usability. To address this gap, we aimed to develop a comprehensive, yet accessible, measure that captures multiple dimensions of teleological reasoning. Our measure encompasses an extensive variety of contexts where teleological thinking can occur, including personal or existential domains as well as natural and social environments. In this presentation, we outline the stages of measure development, including theoretical grounding, item generation, and expert review. We will also share initial data from the pilot study investigating the psychometric properties of the measure, such as reliability, factor structure, and preliminary validity. These initial findings will guide further refinements and highlight the applicability of the new measure in cognitive research, educational settings, and psychological practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Pawel Lowicki

Assistant Professor | University of Warsaw

Authors

Magdalena Drezno

Member Authors & SPSP Journals

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Visit the Member Authors & SPSP Journals table to explore and celebrate the impactful scholarship of the SPSP community. This exhibit showcases works by SPSP members, including,

- *Principles of Research in Behavioral Science and Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination* by Mary Kite (Ball State University)
- *Leave the Lights On: How Joyful Decisions Can Save Our Species* by Elizabeth Dunn (UBC)

In addition to highlighting member-authored books, the display features SPSP journals and promotional materials to inform attendees about publication opportunities and journal offerings. Please note that this is an informational display only; no staff will be present at the table. Complimentary items, including notebooks and pens, are available while supplies last. An informational placard with Sage contact details is provided for any questions about the journals.

Evening Reception at Mindworks (Pre-Registration Required)

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Location: 224 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60604

Join us for an Evening Reception at **Mindworks**, Chicago's only public behavioral science discovery center. Explore interactive exhibits, take part in studies, and enjoy drinks and light snacks while connecting with researchers and fellow SPSP attendees.

[RSVP here.](#)

Address: **224 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60604**

Capacity is limited, so please reserve early. Mindworks is about 15 minutes from the McCormick Convention Center. A shuttle with Mindworks signage will run continuously from 3 PM to 9 PM, so attendees can arrive or depart at their convenience.

Friday, February 27, 2026

Name Badge Pick-Up and Information Desk

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: Lobby, Level 3

Quiet Room

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: E267, Level 2

The quiet room is available to all meeting attendees where talking and other interactions with attendees are not allowed. It's a place for people to work or think in silence. The room will be set with several small tables and chairs.

Interfaith Prayer, Meditation and Reflection Room

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: E250, Level 2

A space set up for private reflection and to support prayer, meditation, and reflection by attendees of all faith backgrounds. This is a technology-free zone. The room will be set with several small tables and chairs.

Ombuds Room

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM | Location: E251, Level 2

What is an Ombuds?

An Ombuds is a person trained in conflict resolution who maintains a neutral position in their role and is independent of SPSP and has no other role in the Society. A safe, off the record resource for meeting attendees to help resolve conflicts, problematic issues or concerns. While the Ombuds can provide guidance to individuals wishing to understand formal reporting options, they do not accept complaints on behalf of SPSP. Throughout the convention, the Ombuds will identify any trends and patterns arising from consultations and inquiries received. Following the convention, a report will be provided to summarize any trends and patterns to the SPSP Board of Directors in a completely anonymized manner.

How can I contact the Ombuds?

You can contact the ombuds during office hours from February 26-February 28, 2025. You also may contact the ombudsperson by phone or email through February 28, 2025.

To contact our ombuds service during the convention, visit the Ombuds in their office at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Room E251, Level 2, email: ombuds@spsp.org; or call (949) 293-7515. Ombuds office hours during the convention are as follows. A sign at their office will indicate when they will return if they are not present during the posted hours. 9:00 AM -- 12:00 PM CST; 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM CST & 4:00 PM -- 5:30 PM CST

Poster Storage

7:00 AM – 7:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Coat Check

7:00 AM – 7:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

AM Beverage Break

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Join us for complimentary beverages in the exhibit hall.

*NETWORKING

Exhibit Hall Open

7:30 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

*NETWORKING

Member Authors & SPSP Journals

7:30 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Visit the Member Authors & SPSP Journals table to explore and celebrate the impactful scholarship of the SPSP community. This exhibit showcases works by SPSP members, including,

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First Aid Room

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Let's Talk How Is Social Psychology Practiced Globally? Toward Inclusive and Localized Approaches

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E450A, Level 4

This professional development session invites critical reflection on how social psychology is conceptualized, taught, and practiced globally. Although often framed as universal, the discipline remains largely shaped by WEIRD paradigms that can marginalize alternative epistemologies, methodologies, and sociocultural realities. This session brings together scholars working in Majority World and other non-hegemonic contexts to share their experiences conducting and teaching social psychology beyond dominant academic centers.

We will explore both structural barriers and innovative practices in adapting theories and methods to local realities, institutional settings, and linguistic and cultural diversity. Topics may include theory development grounded in local frameworks, methodological adaptations, publication challenges, and structural inequities in knowledge production. At the same time, the session will highlight opportunities for collaboration, conceptual advancement, and contextually meaningful impact.

The round table will feature 3–4 concise presentations (including remote or recorded options), followed by open discussion with attendees.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Anna Włodarczyk

Associate professor | Universidad Católica del Norte



Giovanni Travaglino

Professor | Royal Holloway, University of London

Global Impact: Communicating Psychology for Policy and Public Good

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Bridge the gap between your research and global impact. This session, hosted by the SPSP United Nations Committee, empowers personality and social psychologists to effectively communicate their work to public audiences and policymakers worldwide. Learn strategies to translate academic findings into actionable insights for sustainable development and global policy solutions. Discover how to leverage your expertise to inform critical discussions on the world stage.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Andrés Gvirtz

Assistant Professor | King's College London



Madalina Vlasceanu

Assistant Professor | Stanford University



Tessa Buchanan

Political Psychology lab | University Of Cambridge



Matteo Montecchi

Associate Professor of Marketing | King's College London



Joseph Fridman

Head of Communications | Convergent Research

Ethical and Reproducible Use of Large Language Models for Data Analysis

8:00 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E255, Level 2

Large language models (LLMs) offer exciting new opportunities for analyzing text data. However, most LLMs used in psychology research are proprietary commercial products (e.g., OpenAI's GPT models) that pose risks to research ethics and reproducibility. Psychology lags behind other social sciences in addressing these risks, despite recent work suggesting they foreshadow a second reproducibility crisis. This workshop will feature experts from Political Science and Communication Studies who will outline best practices in their fields for LLM-based research. We will examine the ethical and reproducibility risks of commercial LLMs, show how to identify them, and demonstrate how to use open LLMs that pose fewer risks. The first half of the workshop will feature three talks and a Q&A exploring these issues in depth. The second half will include a hands-on coding tutorial that walks attendees through loading, fine-tuning, and deploying an open LLM in an ethical, reproducible way. We will conclude with an "LLM Research Clinic", offering tailored advice for integrating LLMs into attendees' own research.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Killian McLoughlin

PhD Candidate | Princeton University



Molly Crockett

Assistant Professor | Yale Univ.



J. Nathan Matias

Cornell University



Alexis Palmer

Assistant Professor | Tulane University

Data Blitz Early Career #1

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E350, Level 3

*DATA BLITZ

The Most Dehumanizing Animals Are Attributed Uniquely Human Traits

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Psychological theories of dehumanization have long emphasized the denial of traits viewed as central to humanness. Yet in many of its most pernicious real-world forms, dehumanization takes on a paradoxical quality: targets are likened to animals, yet attributed distinctly human traits such as cunning, deceit, and moral corruption. We argue this contradiction reflects a coherent psychological logic—that the most dehumanizing animals are not seen as mindless, but as embodying a corrupt essence capable of intelligent malevolence. Across four studies (N = 1,255), we examine the trait profiles of animals perceived as most dehumanizing. Studies 1-2 found that animals considered more dehumanizing were attributed more negative, uniquely human traits. Study 3 replicates this with fictional animals and an expanded trait set. Study 4 manipulates the perceived intelligence of rats and finds that greater intelligence amplifies their dehumanizing essence. Together, these findings challenge trait-based models of dehumanization that emphasize omission. Capturing this process may therefore require moving beyond trait denial models toward more holistic measures of perceived essence.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Asteya Percaya

PhD Student | The New School

Authors

Katrina Fincher

The Effect of Workplace Gender Diversity on Domestic Role Intentions

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

DIVERSITY

Although women's workforce participation has increased, they still perform most household and childcare tasks. This research examined whether exposure to gender-equal workplaces can contribute to greater gender equality within households. Across four experiments (N = 1,222), single and married participants were randomly assigned to view an image of an office environment with either gender diversity or a male majority. In Study 1, the intervention increased the desire of single women for housework equally in their future relationships. Study 2, conducted on a larger sample of single men and women, revealed a significant gender-by-condition interaction: men exposed to gender-diverse imagery reported greater willingness to engage in housework, while women reported slightly reduced willingness. In Study 3, married men in the diversity condition expressed more willingness to engage in childcare, but not housework. The intervention had no effect on married women in Study 4. Across studies, women reported more willingness than men to take on domestic tasks. The findings suggest that exposure to normative representations of workplace gender equality can influence domestic labor intentions.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Tair Tager-Shafir

Post-Doc | Yezreel Valley College

Authors

Ohad Szepesnwol

Matching Two-Sided Messages to Individual Differences in Holistic Thinking Consequences for Information Processing, Persuasion, and Attitude Strength

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

This research develops a recently identified type of personalized matching in persuasion, explains the process underlying that effect, and shows its consequences. Across three studies, individual differences in holistic thinking were matched with message sidedness (one- vs. two-sided). Study 1 provided evidence for this personalized matching effect, and identified the underlying process responsible by manipulating argument quality (strong vs. weak) of the persuasive messages presented and by examining its consequences. Results indicated that the attitudes of participants in the matched conditions were more affected by strong vs. weak arguments compared to those in the mismatched conditions, suggesting that elaboration differences were the mechanism for the effect. Furthermore, this study demonstrated that these differences in elaboration were consequential such that attitudes based on high (vs. low) elaboration were more impactful in guiding subsequent behavior. Study 2 further extended the contribution by showing that merely framing a one-sided message as two-sided, while keeping the objective structure of the message constant, was sufficient to produce the predicted matching effect. As predicted, Study 3 (pre-registered) revealed that individuals with higher scores in holistic thinking were more persuaded by the two- (vs. one-) sided message.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker

 **Diego Bustos**
PhD Candidate | Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Authors

Pablo Briñol, Richard Petty

Missed connections: How miscoordinated timing inhibits networking during networking events

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

People attend networking events to meet strangers, yet research finds people interact primarily with others they already know during these events (Ingram & Morris, 2007). We propose people fail to meet more strangers because of a temporal coordination problem: Different people finish their conversations at different times, making it difficult to coordinate the start of a conversation with a stranger. As a result, people gravitate primarily to friends and acquaintances because doing so seems less risky than approaching strangers who are in the middle of a conversation and could reject them. We find evidence of this coordination problem in two field studies (Studies 1a-b), one recall study (Study 2), and one virtual reality experiment (Study 3). Importantly, a field experiment tests a simple intervention—a coordinating device that prompts people to finish their conversations in a synchronized manner—and finds that this intervention increases the percentage of time people spend interacting with strangers (Study 4). Our research identifies a novel barrier to connecting with strangers, and offers a virtually costless intervention to facilitate such connections during networking events.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker

 **Michael Kardas**
Assistant Professor of Management and Human Resources | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Chi Nguyen

Higher individualism predicts lower intensity of experienced love: Data from 91 countries

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic love is a near-universal human experience. However, its intensity varies significantly across individuals and societies. We hypothesized that this variability is partly individualism—a cultural orientation prioritizing personal goals over group interests. As individualism continues to rise globally, its implications for romantic relationships remain underexplored. Here, we address this by examining the link between individualism and romantic love in two large-scale cross-cultural studies. In Study 1, we collected data from a convenience sample of 61,067 partnered individuals from 81 countries. In Study 2, we selected nationally representative samples from 50 countries, with controlled distributions of gender, age, and residential area (N=6,620). The results were consistent across both studies—as individualism increased, both men and women reported lower levels of love. In Study 2, individualism was additionally linked to a lower expressed desire for love, suggesting that individualism may erode the perceived importance of love. As people become increasingly individualistic, our findings provoke questions about the future of romantic love.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker

 **Marta Kowal**
University of Wrocław

Authors

Large-Scale Cross-Cultural Consortium (for a full list of authors, please see https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/zvn49_v1)

The Role of Social Support in Goal Disengagement

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Despite its prevalence in everyday life, goal disengagement (i.e., withdrawing effort from goal pursuit) remains understudied. Although some work has examined intrapersonal factors, little is known about interpersonal influences on goal disengagement. To address this gap, in three studies we explored the role of social support during action crisis—the critical period when one is deciding whether to continue pursuing a goal. In Study 1, participants gave advice to a fictitious close friend experiencing an action crisis, which revealed common types of support. In Studies 2 and 3, participants imagined experiencing an action crisis and were randomly assigned to receive a piece of advice drawn from themes from Study 1 (e.g., persevere vs. disengage) or no advice (control condition). We consistently found that advice from close others influenced people's disengagement decisions. Study 3 identified mechanisms (e.g., goal-related doubt, openness to alternatives, etc.) through which advice affected future behavioral intentions. This work underscores the role of close others in disengagement and calls for future research to incorporate interpersonal factors when examining this process.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Hayley Svensson

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Oklahoma Health Sciences

Authors

Michelle vanDellen, Shannon Carratura, Nimisha Pant, Shana Cole

A strengths-based approach to preventing adolescent suicide and self-harm: A longitudinal assessment of early-life protective factors

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Suicide and self-harm are leading causes of death among adolescents. Yet, the strengths-based factors in childhood (e.g., belonging) that may protect adolescents have received far less attention than risk factors. Using nationally representative longitudinal data from Australian adolescents (N=3,127), we examined if various sources of well-being measured across four waves in early-life (6–13 years) reduced adolescents' (14–15 years) thoughts and behaviors/attempts of self-harm and suicide. We modeled a range of predictors that captured 5 key dimensions of a nation-wide participatory child well-being framework: (1) Valued, loved, and safe (e.g., school safety); (2) Material basics (e.g., financial security); (3) Healthy (e.g., mental health); (4) Learning (e.g., school satisfaction); (5) Participating (e.g., community involvement). We found that the utility of protective factors changed across development: in middle childhood (6-9 years), Valued, loved and safe and Material basics mattered most while in pre-adolescence (10–13 years), Healthy and Participating were most important. Results indicate that protective factors play a key but dynamic role in self-harm/suicide prevention.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jason Proulx

The Australian National University

Authors

Paul Campbell, Kate Sollis, Tegan Cruwys, Alison Calear, Joanne Rathbone

The Paradox of Breadwinning: Fathers are Less Identified with Work than Mothers

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

GENDER

This research examines the hypothesis that gender norms emphasizing breadwinning for men – more than women – paradoxically result in a weaker work identity for men, especially fathers, in comparison to women, especially mothers. Across three studies, we find that women – especially mothers – identify more strongly with work than men. We posit that men and women exhibit different priorities in the workplace. While men may prioritize salary, women prioritize personal fulfillment. These differing priorities could be associated with variations in work identity. We examine this hypothesis in three studies. In a nationally representative cross-sectional sample, women (vs. men) have a stronger work identity (Study 1). A survey of employed parents demonstrates that mothers (vs. fathers) have a stronger work identity (Study 2). In a field study of librarians, parenthood was associated with stronger work identity for women, compared with men (Study 3). The findings suggest that men's breadwinner pressure inhibits integrating work into identity, while women may pursue work more freely for intrinsic meaning. These results challenge stereotypes that men, particularly fathers, are more work-identified and highlight how gendered motivations and autonomy shape work identity.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sara Hendrick

Authors

Angie Schultz

Short and Not So Sweet: When Brief Responses Make You Feel Ignored

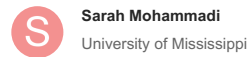
8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Conversation is inherently collaborative, but when one person offers only brief replies, it can disrupt this balance and diminish a person's sense of inclusion. Across three studies (N = 1,625), we found that receiving short responses consistently evoked feelings of being ostracized. In Study 1, short replies—even when warm—threatened basic psychological needs more than longer ones. Study 2 showed that the hurtful impact of short responses did not depend on who delivered them, affecting participants similarly whether from close others or acquaintances. Study 3 revealed that even when the reason for the short response was known (e.g., being busy at work), it can't help and the negative impact on need satisfaction remained. These effects stemmed from recipients feeling relationally devalued and unimportant in the interaction. Together, these findings highlight short replies as a subtle yet potent form of ostracism, showing that minimal engagement can powerfully signal social exclusion.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Authors

Andrew Hales

Person or the Situation? Predicting individual officers' search bias.

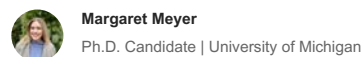
8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

LAW

In a pre-registered study, we compare widely used measures of police bias to a novel bias measure that accounts for the unknown contraband rate. We use data from 18,870 officers across 9 U.S. states and 10 municipalities. Surprisingly, in South Carolina, officer race and age are not predictive of racial bias. Instead, county level regional bias (as captured by the IAT) is predictive of police bias. In South Carolina the average race discrepancy between White and Black community members on the IAT predicts an officer's propensity for searching more innocent Black drivers than innocent White drivers in that county. This effect holds when controlling for an individual officer's department, age, and race. Importantly, the weapons version of the IAT predicts the discrepancy between recovery rates of contraband (including weapons) for drivers of different races. Neither IAT predicts a police officer searching one race of drivers over another. These findings suggest that measures of police bias capture different psychological processes.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Authors

Richard Gonzalez

The Lasting Psychological Impacts of COVID-19

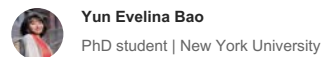
8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

LANGUAGE

How did the COVID-19 pandemic shape people's psychological states in the long term? To examine the long-term psychological impacts of the pandemic, we analyzed the natural language of over 3 million Reddit users (63.8 million comments) across 50 U.S. cities in the four years before and after the pandemic. Using an array of text analysis methods, we found enduring shifts in emotions and identity. Specifically, we observed a sustained decline in positive emotion and an increase in negative emotion that lasted at least 48 months since the onset of the pandemic. The pandemic also produced a lasting impact on the salience of collective identity, evidenced by increased use of affiliation-related language and collective pronouns (e.g., "we," "they"). We used topic modeling analyses to further probe the nature of these lasting psychological shifts. These shifts emerged abruptly around the time the pandemic was declared, showed slight recovery as the pandemic waned, but did not return to pre-pandemic levels. Mixed-effects models indicated that both city- and national-level daily COVID-19 case growth rates predicted the observed psychological patterns. Taken together, the findings illuminate lasting cultural shifts in psychological states produced by the pandemic.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Authors

Yun Evelina Bao, Ashwini Ashokkumar

Identity and Group-based Dynamics Across Organizational Levels

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

MORALITY DIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Organizations are increasingly diverse across demographic and ideological lines, yet the processes by which people interpret identity cues have received scant attention. The present symposium brings together four papers that explore identity differences and group-based dynamics and how they shape outcomes at the individual, team, and organizational levels. Berry et al. investigate how perceptions of a work team's corruptibility are shaped by the demographic composition of its team members. Spelman et al. highlight the role of ideological differences in employees' decisions to leave their organizations. Cho and Petsko explore how people perceive job referrals when the job applicant and referral writer belong to different racial groups (vs. to the same racial group). Finally, Carter and White show how the timing of organizational LGBTQ+ allyship displays influences perceptions of authenticity and downstream consequences on employee behavior. Taken together, these talks offer valuable insights for scholarly understanding of identity, diversity, and group-based dynamics in organizations.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Michelle Cho
PhD Student | UNC Chapel Hill

Demographically Diverse Groups Are Perceived as Less Corruptible

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

DIVERSITY

Demographic diversity is a salient feature of teams, shaping how they are perceived and treated by others. Although diverse teams are frequently seen as having conflicting values and viewpoints that can create challenges for the team, we propose that this perceived conflict is viewed as a strength in the moral domain. Across seven studies and five supplemental studies utilizing different paradigms and stimuli (N = 3,559), we find that people evaluate diverse (vs. homogeneous) teams as less corruptible because they are considered to have higher ethical conflict—disagreements over how to think about and navigate moral issues. We further demonstrate that these perceptions are consequential and impact behavior as they influence how people create teams when given a goal to reduce (vs. increase) the risk of corruption, as well as the betting decisions people make in a prediction market where they can earn a financial bonus for accuracy. Together, these findings suggest that perceived ethical conflict in diverse teams is less a challenge to be managed, and instead a signal of moral strength that influences how people judge, construct, and align with teams in consequential ways.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Zachariah Berry
Assistant Professor | University of Southern California

Authors

McKenzie Preston, Tim Kundro

Political Misalignment in the Workplace: The Psychological and Behavioral Consequences of Co-worker Political Dissimilarity

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

POLITICS

Despite rising partisan animosity and increasing ideological self-segregation, the American workplace remains one of the last venues for routine cross-partisan contact. Yet little is known about the psychological and behavioral consequences of working in politically misaligned environments. In this research, we integrate organizational behavior with political psychology to examine how political dissimilarity at work shapes interpersonal dynamics and employee retention.

We first leverage a rare, high-powered dataset: a national census of over 6,000 U.S. general surgery residents (82% of the population). Using a novel, issue-based measure of political misalignment we find that political misalignment significantly predicts residents' intentions to leave their programs. This effect is mediated by interpersonal conflict with co-residents—highlighting how ideological difference can strain even high-functioning professional teams in high-stakes settings. A second multi-wave study of full-time U.S. workers (N = 602) replicates these findings in a broader population while testing competing mechanisms. Together, these findings underscore the hidden interpersonal costs of political misalignment in professional environments.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Trevor Spelman
Northwestern University

Authors

Trevor Spelman, Rajen Anderson, Eli Finkel

Referral Readers Assume that Sponsors are the Same Race as Job Applicants—But Not Vice Versa: Evidence of an Asymmetrical Racial Spillover Effect

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Recent work suggests that cross-race sponsorship may be uniquely beneficial for racial minority job applicants such that a referral from a different-race (rather than same-race) sponsor may mitigate negative racial stereotypes (e.g. Randel et al., 2021). Yet, across five experiments (total N = 4,796), we document a cognitive bias that undermines this potential benefit of cross-race sponsorship. Specifically, when we experimentally manipulate sponsor race (White vs. Black) and job applicant race (White vs. Black), we find evidence of an applicant-to-sponsor racial spillover effect where participants are more likely to assume that sponsors share the same racial identity as applicants in cross-race (vs. same-race) referral contexts. Moreover, we find that this effect is asymmetrical in nature such that referral readers do not assume that applicants share the same racial identity as their sponsors in cross-race referral contexts. We show evidence for this effect using pretested race-signaling names (Experiments 1, 3, 4) and photos (Experiments 2 and 5). This work has implications for research on perceptions of race, sponsorship, and racial discrimination in organizations.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Michelle Cho
PhD Student | UNC Chapel Hill

Authors

Christopher Petsko

When You Say It: How the Timing of LGBTQ+ Allyship Displays Shapes Evaluations of Organizations

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Organizations frequently aim to display their allyship with the LGBTQ+ community—particularly during Pride Month. We integrate theories of attribution and identity safety in order to demonstrate how the timing of these allyship displays shapes the evaluations observers form about an organization’s authenticity. Across field, laboratory, and online samples, six preregistered experiments reveal that both LGBTQ+ observers and LGBTQ+ employees perceive organizational allyship displays as less authentic when displayed during Pride Month as opposed to other times. We further find that the timing of organizational allyship displays shapes perceived authenticity by influencing the extent to which LGBTQ+ evaluators attribute values-driven motives to the organization’s allyship, a process that, in turn, impacts employees’ sense of belonging and organizational commitment. Lastly, we find that this effect is unique to LGBTQ+ individuals: non-target groups evaluate the authenticity of allyship displays similarly, regardless of timing. To be an authentic ally, it is not just what an organization says, but also when an organization says it.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



James Carter
Assistant Professor | Cornell University

Authors

Michael White

A Million Little Things: Modeling Accumulating Influences on Personality Development

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E265, Level 2

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Personality development is shaped by a vast array of genetic variants and life experiences that accumulate and interact across time. Yet, this complexity is often not reflected in research on personality development, with many studies focusing on single, isolated predictors—including candidate genes and a few, infrequent major life events (“candidate events”). In this symposium, we present new methods and tools designed to capture the poly-experiential and polygenic nature of personality development. Four speakers will present research examining: (1) the combined effects of many life events on trait change using poly-experience indices (PXI) and Experience-Wide Complex Trait Analysis (ECTA); (2) how consistency in common daily experiences fosters personality profile stability across adulthood; (3) whether and how Big Five polygenic indices (PGIs; N = 1.09 million) moderate age-graded and event-related personality development; and (4) the promise and pitfalls of using Mendelian Randomization (MR) to infer causal relations between personality traits and environmental exposures. Links to tutorials, code, and publicly available genomics data will be shared during the symposium.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Keely Dugan
Assistant Professor | University of Missouri

Moving Beyond the Candidate Event Crisis: Estimating the Combined Effects of Life Events on Personality Development using Poly-Experience Indices (PXI) and Experience-Wide Complex Trait Analysis (ECTA)

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Research on personality development has traditionally taken a “candidate event” approach, estimating the associations between a few major life events and trait change. In contrast, people’s lives consist of a rich collection of experiences that continually shape who they become. The present research used methods inspired by molecular behavior genetics to model the combined effects of many life events on personality development. First, in a Longitudinal Experience-Wide Association Study of 4,904 adults, we estimated the effects of repeated exposure to 25 life events on Big Five trait change. We then evaluated the out-of-sample predictive performance of poly-experience indices (PXIs)—individuals’ predicted trait change, calculated by aggregating their exposure to each event weighted by its estimated effect size. Second, we conducted an Experience-Wide Complex Trait Analysis (ECTA) to estimate the proportion of variance in personality change explained by life events, treating event effects as random effects in linear mixed models estimated via AIREML. Together, these methods offer a scalable framework for capturing the poly-experiential nature of personality development.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Keely Dugan
Assistant Professor | University of Missouri

Authors

D. A. Briley, R. Chris Fraley, Matthew Saxsma, Anqing Zheng

Does a Stable Daily Environment Foster Stable Personality Development? Evidence from Longitudinal Panel Data

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Personality traits are relatively stable yet also exhibit meaningful change across the lifespan. Although substantial evidence links major life events to personality development, the role of everyday environments and daily experiences remain underexamined. The present study investigates whether longitudinal stability in daily environments contributes to stability in personality development, such that individuals with more consistent daily contexts exhibit greater personality stability over time. Utilizing longitudinal data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP), we examined the Big Five traits and indicators of daily environments (e.g., employment, income, housing) of 147,719 individuals across span of 39 waves. We operationalized profile consistency as intra-individual correlations, and evaluated whether environmental stability was associated with personality profile stability. Individuals with higher environmental consistency demonstrated greater stability in personality development across adulthood. Our findings illustrate how the structural regularity of daily environments complements the role of major life events in shaping patterns of personality change.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Muchen Xi

Ph.D. Student at Washington University in St.Louis | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Joshua J. Jackson

Genotypic Associations with Age-Graded and Event-Related Personality Development

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Past research connecting genetic variation to personality development has studied the influence of single candidate genes. However, these single-gene studies are not replicable (Dick et al., 2012). Polygenic Indices (PGIs) for personality offer a more powerful method for examining gene-environment transactions by estimating the aggregate effects of hundreds of thousands of trait-specific genetic variants. The present study examined personality PGIs as a possible mechanism underlying individual differences in personality development. PGIs were derived from a large-scale genome-wide association study of the Big Five traits (N = 1.09 million) and applied to two representative samples of Canadian and American older adults (Ntotal = 52,259). We first tested whether and how Big Five PGIs moderate age-graded personality development. Then, we tested whether these PGIs moderated event-related personality trajectories before, during, and after stressful life events. Our findings demonstrate the potential of PGIs to advance personality development research by appropriately capturing gene-environment correlation and interaction in the context of normative and event-related personality changes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Josephine Fealy

Lab Manager & Research Assistant | California State University, East Bay

Authors

Ted Schwaba

Mendelian Randomization is NOT Causal Magic for Personality Research

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

In theory, Mendelian Randomization (MR) leverages genomic data to make causal inferences about how traits (like personality) and exposures (like life experiences) affect one another. In practice, MR rests on many assumptions that may not hold for personality traits. In this talk, I introduce MR to social/personality researchers, review its past (mis)application to traits like educational attainment and smoking, and describe initial applications of MR in personality genomics. Our high-powered genetic investigation (personality N ~ 1 million) reveals some potentially-causal influences of life experiences on personality development (and vice versa), as well as some likely false-positives. I conclude by outlining my emerging opinions for best practices in MR research on personality, and I point the way to publicly available genomics data so anyone can (carefully) test MR for themselves.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Ted Schwaba

Assistant Professor | Michigan State University

A Space for Place in Social Psychology

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E353C, Level 3

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This symposium explores the role physical environments play in guiding a range of psychological and social processes. Across diverse methodologies and populations, the talks reveal how people's experiences of space are infused with emotion, identity, and meaning. The first presentation examines how happiness affects both personal and outsider perceptions of physical environments, showing that well-being predicts perceived hominess and property valuation. The second talk highlights the role of the home in friendship development, demonstrating that in-home interactions predict greater intimacy beyond frequency alone. The third presentation discusses how group-based stereotypes are intertwined with places, showing the racialization of geographic terms (e.g., rural) beyond actual differences in demographics. The final talk introduces the place resonance hypothesis, providing experimental evidence that alignment between personal and environmental coherence fosters greater meaning, affect, and attachment. Together, these talks underscore the importance of places across a variety of psychological processes, advancing our understanding of space as a dynamic and integral part of social life.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Milla Titova

Assistant Professor | University of Arizona



Benjamin Meagher
Associate Professor | Hope College

Happy Homes: How Well-Being Shapes the Feeling and Value of Space

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Can happiness make a house a home? Across seven studies, we examined whether happiness influences how people perceive the spaces they inhabit. A qualitative study (N = 277) explored definitions of hominess, identifying themes such as psychological comfort, personality expression, identity, and social connection. Studies 2 and 3 found that hominess, whether self-rated (N = 797) or coded from narrative descriptions (N = 815), was predicted by subjective well-being, even after accounting for demographics, personality traits, and objective photo-based ratings. Study 4 (N = 277) extended these findings to people's workspaces. In three experiments, the ostensible happiness of a resident increased outsiders' perceptions of hominess (Study 5, N = 1209) and the amount they were willing to pay for the home (Studies 6–7, N = 604, 601), with perceived hominess mediating these effects. These results suggest that happiness not only shapes how people experience their environments, but it also changes how those environments are seen and valued by others.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Milla Titova
Assistant Professor | University of Arizona

Authors

Laura King

Bringing friendship home: The relationship between hosting and interpersonal closeness

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Interactions with friends are, like all social processes, situated within particular physical places that can either constrain or facilitate certain types of social behavior. In this talk, I argue that the home represents a uniquely important setting capable of facilitating social penetration amongst friends. Across a set of three empirical studies, I test whether interacting with a friend as either a host or visitor is associated with greater relationship intimacy. First, a pair of cross-sectional studies among both U.S. adults (Study 1) and undergraduate students (Study 2) offer convergent evidence that the frequency of interacting in one's residence is predictive of greater closeness and knowledge, even when controlling for interaction frequency in other places and mediums (e.g., virtually). Furthermore, a longitudinal analysis of undergraduates (Study 3) finds that an increase (relative to the previous week) of interacting in either one's own room or a friend's room was associated with greater levels of intimacy. These studies provide evidence for viewing the home as a potentially valuable social resource for promoting friendship development and maintenance.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Benjamin Meagher
Associate Professor | Hope College

Perceived Racial Demographics of More and Less Rural Locations

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Whereas an abundance of social cognition research examines racial stereotypes of people, the present work adds to a smaller literature on racial stereotypes of places. Specifically, we asked respondents to estimate the racial composition of specific cities, states, and regions in the U.S., comparing relatively rural places to relatively urban ones. We expected that observers would see more rural places as having smaller Black populations, and larger White populations, compared to less rural places, but these perceived differences would exist independent of actual variation in racial makeup. Relying on data from two White samples and one Black sample, we found that, indeed, locations that were more rural were seen as less Black and more White than less rural locations, and this result held, controlling for actual racial variation as estimated by the U.S. Census. We interpret these results as reflective of multiple mechanisms: (1) sensitivity to actual variation among locations, (2) application of place-based stereotypes that are not entirely accurate, and (3) uncertainty-based rescaling that manifests in an aversion to extreme ratings.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Michael Sargent
Associate Professor | Bates College

Authors

Mara Casey Ticken

Testing Place Resonance: Coherence Predicts Positive Psychological Outcomes

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

People strive to maintain a stable sense of self and consistency, driven by a need for accuracy in understanding the world. Contemporary psychological theories build on this idea by examining underlying mechanisms behind this drive for certainty. Two key constructs—place coherence (perceiving a place as orderly or schema-consistent) and personal coherence (experiencing life as meaningful and comprehensible)—highlight the reciprocal relationship between environments and identity. The place resonance hypothesis suggests that alignment between place and personal coherence enhances psychological well-being (Krause et al., 2024). In a 2 (place coherence: high vs. low) × 2 (personal coherence: high vs. low) experiment, participants reported higher positive psychological outcomes (including meaning in life, positive affect, and place attachment) when both forms of coherence were high, compared to mismatched or low conditions. This research offers empirical insight into environmental fit and well-being, with implications for psychological theory and application.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ashley Krause
Graduate Student | University of Florida

Attachment and Regulation Across Domains: Thought, Emotion, Memory, and Behavior

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E258, Level 2

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This symposium brings together four presentations that explore how attachment shapes regulation across cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal domains. In the first presentation, two longitudinal studies reveal how temporary shifts in attachment style are associated with corresponding changes in autobiographical memory valence, illustrating how memory can be a dynamic regulatory target. Next, a daily diary study reveals how fluctuations in state attachment and stress interact to predict intrusive thoughts and thought suppression, illuminating how attachment dynamics modulate cognitive control in everyday life. In the third presentation, two studies reveal how attachment anxiety and avoidance uniquely predict maladaptive responses to imagined positive, negative and neutral relationship events, highlighting the valence-specific nature of dysregulation. Finally, observational data from two studies investigating couple interactions shows that attachment avoidance (and to some extent attachment anxiety) predicts reduced expression of positivity during support-seeking conversations, potentially undermining partner responsiveness and co-regulation. Together, these studies underscore the broad influence of attachment on self-regulation across time, context, and domain.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Maire Ford

Professor | Loyola Marymount University

Associations Between Variability in Attachment, Relationship Processes, and Childhood Memories

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Working models of attachment are thought to encompass many aspects of our lives with respect to close relationships, including schemas and past experiences. But people are not always reliable narrators about their past—experiences can be seen through rose-colored glasses or warped to portray others in a less charitable way. I examined changes in autobiographical childhood caregiving memories among a sample of 2,692 middle-aged and older adults from a nationally representative study followed over four years (Study 1) and 938 emerging adults followed three times over 8 weeks (Study 2). I found considerable variation in the valence and nature of childhood experiences recalled by participants. This variation in childhood memories was tied to a person's current circumstances—both their relationship transitions, mental health, and attachment orientations. Study 2 shows that improvements in security during emerging adulthood are associated with more contemporaneously positive relationships and, in turn, more positive childhood memories. The presentation will feature a discussion about the lens through which we regulate, experience, and remember our relationships with close others.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



William Chopik

Michigan State Univ.

Attachment, Intrusive Thoughts, and Their Suppression: A Daily Diary Study

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Intrusive thoughts—unwanted, repetitive cognitions that are difficult to control—disrupt daily functioning and are often managed through strategies like thought suppression. Prior research linked attachment styles to how people experience and manage such thoughts, but most existing studies have relied on lab-based experiments, offering limited insight into daily processes. To address this gap, we conducted a two-week daily diary study and investigated how state attachment (secure, anxiety, avoidance) interacts with stress to affect intrusive thoughts and thought suppression. Using Bayesian multilevel modeling, we found significant between- and within-person effects of state attachment and stress on intrusive thoughts and suppression. Notably, several interaction effects emerged. On days when individuals felt more stressed than usual, lower-than-usual state security predicted more intrusive thoughts. Moreover, individuals reported more success on thought suppression on low-stress days when they felt more secure, and on high-stress days when they felt less anxious. These findings highlight the dynamics between daily state attachment and stress in shaping cognitive control.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Omri Gillath

University of Kansas

Authors

Qi Zhang

Differential Patterns of Dysregulation: Attachment Anxiety, Avoidance, and the Valence of Romantic Events

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Regulation of one's responses to romantic relationship events is associated with individual and relationship wellbeing. Working models of attachment play an important role in shaping how individuals construe and respond to relationship events. Most work has focused on the association between attachment styles and regulatory responses to negative events. In this presentation I will discuss findings from two studies investigating the regulatory repertoire of those high in attachment anxiety and those high in attachment avoidance, in response to hypothetical positive, negative and neutral romantic relationship events. Findings revealed unique patterns of dysregulation displayed by those with high attachment anxiety versus those with high attachment avoidance. Those high in attachment anxiety were more likely to respond maladaptively (increased negative emotion, rumination, and hostility) to negative partner behaviors. Those high in attachment avoidance were more likely to respond maladaptively to positive partner behaviors. There were few maladaptive responses to neutral events. Implications of these patterns of dysregulation will be discussed.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Maire Ford

Professor | Loyola Marymount University

Attachment and Positive Expressivity in Support-Seeking Contexts

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In times of distress, people often turn to close others for support. Notably, expressing positivity (e.g., gratitude, optimism) when discussing stressors can encourage partners to offer high quality support. But support-seekers may vary in their tendency to express such positivity. In two behavioral observation studies, we examined whether support-seekers' attachment predicted their positive expressivity as they disclosed to their romantic partner about their greatest fear (Study 1) or a recent personal stressor (Study 2). Across studies, support-seekers higher (vs. lower) in attachment avoidance expressed less positivity, as rated by coders—especially partner-focused positivity (e.g., gratitude, love/affection). Some evidence also linked higher avoidance or anxiety to less happiness expression and humor use, and to greater negative expressivity of particular types. These findings have implications for emotion regulation and support provision in dyadic contexts. They suggest that people high in attachment insecurity (and especially avoidance) may express themselves in ways that reduce their chances of obtaining responsive support from their partners.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Amanda Forest
Associate Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Authors

Rebecca Walsh, Kirby Sigler, Cady Westkaemper, Sophia DeDonatis

Beyond Warmth and Competence: High-Dimensional Models of Social Cognition and Perception

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E450B, Level 4

SOCIAL COGNITION

This symposium spotlights high-dimensional models of social cognition and perception, showcasing work that moves beyond lower-dimensional frameworks (i.e., warmth/competence) to better understand how people flexibly learn about and represent others. These talks use a combination of representational similarity analysis (RSA), network analysis, and behavioral experiments to explore how motivation, identity, and context shape the mental maps guiding social perception. Talk 1 illustrates how RSA is used to model the structure of social perception, drawing on examples from self-perception, face processing, and group stereotypes. Talk 2 demonstrates that people use conceptual maps of trait space to flexibly and spontaneously generalize social impressions to novel domains. Talk 3 shows that while people use internal models to guide impressions, stereotypes override them when they conflict with semantic beliefs, leading to incoherent impressions. Talk 4 reconciles dimensional and network views, demonstrating that our representations shift based on target familiarity, culture, and time. Together, these talks offer a versatile, context-sensitive account of social cognition and perception.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Gavin Mullin
PhD Student | University of Delaware



Jon Freeman
Columbia University

Beyond X-Dimensional Models: Using Representational Similarity Analysis to Map the Complexities of Social Perception Across Cultures, Social Identities, and Daily Contexts

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

How do we model the rich, context-dependent process of social perception? Traditional approaches reduce social perception to 2–3 “universal” dimensions (e.g., warmth, competence), but may oversimplify real-world variability across cultures, social identities (e.g., race, gender) and everyday contexts. This talk showcases representational similarity analysis (RSA) as a flexible framework for modeling high-dimensional social representations without data reduction. Specifically, RSA can capture variability in the structure of social perceptions across cultures, group identities (e.g., race, gender), and self-perceptions over time. I present three empirical cases: a three-week longitudinal study of gendered self-perceptions (N=309), a North American dataset of facial first impressions and societal stereotypes (N = 4,247), and a cross-cultural analysis of countries' gender stereotypes in language predicting gender disparities in facial first impressions (N~11,000). Across these cases, RSA reveals systematic variability overlooked by traditional models. This talk shows how high-dimensional approaches can more accurately reflect social perception as dynamic and socially contextualized.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Sally Xie
Assistant Professor | Simon Fraser University

Conceptual Maps of Social Knowledge Support Trait Generalization

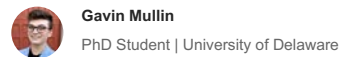
8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

People infer traits from the social behavior of others, supporting predictions about their future behavior. We propose people use maps of social knowledge to generalize impressions and predict behavior in new contexts. In Experiments 1-2, participants learned initial information about potential partners (e.g., their sociability) and later chose who to engage with in tasks where other traits were valuable (e.g., an economic game requiring generosity). Trait similarity (i.e., between original and novel domains) shaped partner choice, but critically, this relationship was socially specific—emerging when participants were learning about other humans, but not nonsocial targets—and was not explained by mere valence. Experiments 3-4 demonstrated that trait generalization can occur spontaneously: in a false recognition task, participants were more likely to misremember conceptually-similar traits as having described a person’s behavior. Moreover, similarity-based generalization persisted under cognitive load, suggesting it operates efficiently. In sum, these findings illuminate how people flexibly navigate social contexts by drawing on structured representations of social knowledge.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Authors

Peter Mende-Siedlecki, Leor Hackel

Stereotypes Reshape Internal Models of Person Perception

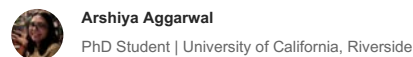
8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

People form impressions of others from limited information, often by drawing on high-dimensional internal models of person perception. These models reflect beliefs about how traits relate to one another. For example, learning someone is “analytical” may lead to inferences that they are also “logical”. But what happens when these semantic beliefs conflict with stereotypes? To test this, we created a semantic network of 150 traits capturing normative beliefs about trait interdependencies. Participants then read behavioral descriptions of individuals who were either race-neutral, Black, or Asian, with each description implying a specific trait. When the implied trait aligned with stereotypes—or when targets were race-neutral—participants drew on the semantic network to infer additional traits and form semantically consistent impressions. In such cases, trait-based reasoning and stereotype beliefs worked in tandem. But when the implied trait violated stereotypes, participants abandoned the network and defaulted to stereotype-based inferences. These findings reveal how stereotypes can override internal models of person perception, disrupting internally consistent impressions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Authors

Jon Freeman, Nicholas Camp, Brent Hughes

Flexible Mental Representation of Person Perception

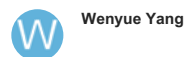
8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Decades of research have argued that social inferences are underlain by only a few latent dimensions. Others suggest that social inferences are better captured by networks without underlying dimensions. However, evidence supporting the latter has yet to emerge. In this talk I will present new findings from my lab that show the mind flexibly switching between these two types of representations depending on the context. U.S. representative participants watched naturalistic videos and freely described inferences about target people. In one set of pre-registered studies, the target people are strangers; in another set, the target people are famous individuals. We found that for strangers, optimally identified 25 factors only explained 15% of the variance while networks better reproduced the observed covariances; for famous people, latent factors achieved sufficient explained variance. We also found variation in mental representations across different timepoints of the videos and across perceivers from different cultures. Taken together, these studies reconcile competing theories and advance a naturalistic understanding of the context-dependency of mental representation.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Authors

Chujun Lin, Junsong Lu

Caste: Towards a Globally Relevant Psychology of Inequality

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E271, Level 2

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Caste is a pervasive system of social inequality that affects over two billion people globally. For decades, anti-caste activists have attempted to articulate psychological dynamics that contribute to the pervasiveness of caste. However, it has received sparse attention within social psychology. We address this gap by empirically illuminating the role of group-based processes perpetuating caste in South Asia using a variety of methods. The first talk presents results from field experiments to show how contextual salience of Hindu Nationalism enables support for violent sanctions for violations of caste norms. The second talk presents result from a representative survey and an experiment to show how people use subtle and non-subtle purity signals to communicate caste. The third talk presents evidence from multi-site experiments to show how concerns for reputation management perpetuate caste-based hierarchies. Across these three talks we shed light on psychological mechanisms through which caste is maintained, experienced, and communicated in South Asia. This symposium advances the field’s understanding of one of the most enduring and consequential social hierarchies in the world.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Arathy Puthillam
PhD Student | UC San Diego

Can Narratives of Belonging Portend Violence? The Impact of Hindu Nationalist Primes on Support for Violence Against Dalit People

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Indians and Americans are currently navigating deeply polarized societies, where multiple groups are competing to define a common national identity. Rhetorics like "Make America Great Again" and "Hindu Unity" are tools that enable this. In India, the Hindu nationalist project offers belonging to Hindus across caste divisions. Across two field experiments in Uttar Pradesh, India, we tested the consequences of priming narratives associated with Hindu nationalism (e.g., "India should be a Hindu nation") on the enforcement of traditional caste norms. Following the architect of the Indian Constitution, Ambedkar (1936), we hypothesized that the salience of Hindu nationalism may reinforce, rather than undermine, caste-based normative expectations. Participants ($n = 912$), randomly assigned to a Hindu nationalism or a control prime, were asked to read four vignettes and indicate their support for violent sanctions against those who violated caste-based norms (e.g., a Dalit boy taking water from a public well). We find that when primed with Hindu nationalism, participants are more likely to support caste violence, suggesting that Hindu nationalism can potentially reify caste hierarchies.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Monisha Dhingra
Stanford University

Authors

Hazel Markus, Greg Walton

Cow Vigilantism: Caste, Nationalism, and Vegetarianism Preference in India

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Work on the psychological processes underlying the indirect signaling of social identities has found that individuals often communicate their group affiliations using subtle cues and coded language. We assess this in the context of ethnonationalism, caste, and vegetarianism in India. Specifically, we assess how people use food to signal caste, caste to signal food preferences, and both to signal support for ethnonationalism. In the first study ($N=680$), we find that participants who hold their caste identity as more salient are also more likely to hold vegetarianism as salient, express a reluctance to affiliate with non-vegetarians, and ideologically lean right. In the second experimental study ($N=1369$), participants inferred food preferences based on caste, caste based on food preferences, and partisanship based on both food preferences and caste. These studies help us understand how people indirectly signal social identities when it might be considered unacceptable to do so. They also contribute to our understanding of dog whistles. Implications will be discussed in the light of ethnonationalism and increasing vigilantism in the name of cow protection in India.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Arathy Puthillam
PhD Student | UC San Diego

Authors

Tage S. Rai

Caste and Judgment: Shifts in Reputation Evaluations After Economic Games

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

This study examines how reputational evaluations shift after people learn about others' monetary allocations towards them, and how such shifts are shaped by caste hierarchies. Using a Dictator Game, participants in four South Asian field sites (two in Madurai, one in Kanpur, and one in Nepal) make multiple decisions where they allocate a monetary endowment between themselves and local community members. Importantly, evaluations of select donors are elicited at two points: once before participants know what they received, and after the results are revealed. This design allows us to observe changes in reputational evaluations as a function of dictator game giving. Our central focus is on how these reputational shifts vary by caste. Are Dalit donors judged more harshly when they give little, or less positively when they give more? This study moves beyond aggregate giving behaviour to examine the interpersonal consequences of generosity and the differential effects that caste can have on how one is judged. By combining experimental games with real-time reputational tracking, we uncover how caste mediates reputational dynamics in contemporary South Asian settings.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Poorvi Iyer
Research Officer in Experimental Games | London School of Economics and Political Science

Authors

Eleanor Power, Ivan Deschenaux, Komal Chauhan

Conceal or reveal? Self-disclosure and why it matters

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E352, Level 3

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

In everyday life, people can choose to conceal or reveal information about themselves to others. Whether it be their deeply held secrets, hobbies outside of work, obstacles faced in life, or positive and negative events, people's decision to disclose or not has important implications. This symposium presents new findings and approaches to understanding when and why people self-disclose and the consequences of doing so. Elinora Pentcheva discusses barriers to self-disclosure, noting that individuals are prone to omission bias—discounting possible consequences of concealing versus disclosing—which vary based on people's beliefs about disclosure and personality traits. Next, Rebecca Walsh presents evidence showing how expressions of positivity and negativity during self-disclosures shape partners' supportiveness in close relationships. Extending to the academic context, Lora Park shows that while instructors are reluctant to self-disclose in class, sharing hobbies and obstacles in life improves students' outcomes. Finally, Michael Slepian offers a new approach to studying common secrets people may conceal or disclose using the Multiple Exemplar Method, with consequences for wellbeing.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Lora Park

Professor | University at Buffalo

Should I stay or should I disclose? How omission bias guides our disclosure decisions

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

A substantial body of research has concerned itself with the benefits of self-disclosure, both interpersonally and for individual well-being. We know comparatively less about the contextual and psychological barriers to self-disclosure, especially in non-clinical contexts. The present work proposes that when evaluating whether to reveal, we are prone to omission bias—discounting the possible consequences of concealment relative to those of self-disclosure. Across six studies, including three nationally representative samples, we find that participants weigh the risks and benefits of revealing significantly more than the risks and benefits of concealing. These findings replicate across a series of disclosure dilemmas in both personal and professional contexts, with the risk of revealing reliably found to be the most salient dimension of a disclosure decision. We further show that this bias is partly explained by individuals' beliefs about disclosure (their "disclosure philosophy") and demonstrate that these beliefs vary with the Big Five personality traits and other factors, highlighting meaningful variability in how disclosure tradeoffs are evaluated.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Elinora Pentcheva

Authors

Leslie John

Interpersonal effects of expressing negativity and positivity when disclosing about negative events

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

When disclosing negative experiences, people may express both negativity (e.g., anxiety, sadness) and positivity (e.g., gratitude, optimism). How might expressions of negativity and positivity shape the supportiveness of a close partner's response? Behavioral observation studies showed that when disclosers expressed more (vs. less) negativity and/or more (vs. less) positivity while talking about an upsetting event (Study 1) or their greatest fear (Study 2), their romantic partner behaved more supportively. Negativity and positivity did not interact to predict support. Next, in two experiments, participants imagined receiving a negative disclosure from their partner that varied in the extent of negativity (Study 3) or positivity (Study 4) expressed. Both negativity and positivity increased the supportiveness of participants' responses. Across studies, we also identified potential mechanisms linking negativity and positivity to support. Overall, this work suggests that expressions of negativity and positivity independently promote high quality support in negative disclosure contexts, highlighting ways in which disclosers can shape their support outcomes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Rebecca Walsh

University of Georgia

Authors

Amanda Forest, Kirby Sigler

Instructors' disclosures of personal information boost students' motivation and Interest

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

In academia, instructors may be reluctant to disclose information about themselves because they overestimate the negative consequences and underestimate the positive impacts of doing so. We suggest, however, that instructor disclosures may benefit students by increasing relatability with the instructor, belonging, and perceptions of safety in the classroom. In Study 1, college students reported that instructors may not want to disclose obstacles they faced in life because it would take too much time and effort or they would feel uncomfortable and awkward. However, students felt greater relatability with instructors when they disclosed their obstacles, identities, or hobbies, which predicted greater academic engagement, interest in taking a future course with the instructor, and desire to recruit others to take the course. In Study 2, students who imagined an instructor disclosing obstacles they had faced in life or their hobbies (vs. no disclosure) felt greater relatability with the instructor, belonging, and safety in the classroom, which increased their intended engagement, interest in taking a future course with the instructor, desire to recruit others, and anticipated grades.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Lora Park

Professor | University at Buffalo

Authors

Robin Costello, Nicole Koefler, Deborah Ward

Comparing exemplars to each other: A new approach to secrecy, and for psychology more broadly

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

For decades, the study of secrecy has been confined to experiments involving situations involving concealment versus disclosure of secrets. This approach—while providing an opportunity to study in-the-moment actions toward concealing secrets—presents a narrow window into disclosures. In contrast, the Multiple Exemplar Method (MEM) offers a new approach to studying people's secrets and their everyday experiences with them. This talk presents recent insights obtained using this approach, in moving away from an individual-based lens toward an exemplar-based lens of everyday concealment versus disclosure experiences. First, the MEM documents a set of common exemplars of secrets and then examines these exemplars in relation to each other—both within and across persons—allowing researchers to compare real-world exemplars to each other on any dimension of interest. Comparing real-world secrets to each other offers insights into the mechanisms by which withholding disclosures predicts harm to well-being. More broadly, this talk discusses how an exemplar-based approach to studying concealment versus disclosure of personal information is a useful tool for examining the psychology of secrets.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Michael Slepian
Columbia University

Dynamic Identity Across Multiple Timescales

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E270, Level 2

SELF/IDENTITY

Identity is dynamic - it shifts as we taste a family meal, speak our home language, notice who surrounds us, and reflect on who we are becoming. These moments and how they are experienced over time - for example, consistently being the only minority in the room, accumulate to produce longer-term shifts in cognitive self-representations during adolescence, midlife, and across the life span. This symposium asks: How does identity evolve over time, and what do these changes reveal about the self? The first paper examines how salience, importance, and valence of individuals' racial and gender identities fluctuate as they move through daily life. The second explores how patterns of day-to-day change in salience across multiple identities relate to mental health. The third tests how a racial identity intervention fosters coherence in global self-concept. The fourth introduces a dynamic systems model, illustrating how identity, motivation, and action co-develop across multiple timescales. Together, these papers push forward new theory, measurement, and methods to enrich the study of identity as a dynamic, evolving construct across diverse contexts and timescales.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Zhenchao Hu
PHD Student | Stanford University



Nilam Ram

Dynamic identity in everyday life: How salience, importance, and valence for social identity vary with changing situational cues and behaviors

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

The Multidimensional Model of Identity posits that behavioral, cognitive, and emotional experiences tied to social identities evolve over time. This paper extends the model by postulating how identity evolves in real-time in daily life. Using intensive longitudinal data from two studies (N1 = 121, 7 time points; N2 = 48, 25 time points), we examine how three dimensions (salience, importance, and valence) of racial and gender identity fluctuate in relation to situational cues (others' social identities, familiarity, modality) and behaviors (language use, codeswitching). Findings reveal that identity salience fluctuates in relation to the identity of others and what languages are being spoken in the situation; identity importance fluctuates with familiarity and modality; valence of racial identity changes with language use, while valence of gender identity shows no consistent relation to situational cues and behaviors - stronger coherence across contexts. These results highlight the temporal and context-dependent nature of identity and the specific dynamic processes by which individuals actively negotiate meaning and relevance across shifting social situations.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Zhenchao Hu
PHD Student | Stanford University

Authors

Nilam Ram, Anthony Ong

Multiple identity saliences and mental health: The mediating role of meaning in life among college students

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

Few studies have examined the longitudinal mechanisms through which social identities are related to mental health. This study combines daily diaries and surveys from a racially/ethnically diverse sample of United States college students during the fall and spring semesters of two years of college. Over 400 participants (Asian = 24%, Black = 12%, Latiné = 31%; White = 29%, Other = 4%; female = 76%, male = 22%, non-binary = 2%) reported the psychological salience of four identities (i.e., race/ethnicity, gender, friend, student) daily for 14 days. Participants reported meaning in life and mental health in surveys. Using person-mean-levels and person-variability of the four identities, four latent profiles emerged. Profiles with higher mean levels of identity (compared to moderate levels) in the fall semester predicted better mental health one year later, which was explained by higher levels of meaning in life in the intervening spring semester. Higher levels of multiple identities were associated with better mental health one year later, underscoring how identities may increase feelings of meaning as an explanatory factor.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Kyle Lorenzo

Assistant Professor | St. Mary's College of Maryland

Authors

Tiffany Yip

Eight-month trajectory of global identity coherence of adolescents of color after ethnic-racial identity exploration and the moderating effect of perceived discrimination

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

Adolescents' global identity synthesis (GIS) and confusion (GIC) are key processes in forming a coherent sense of self. In racialized contexts, the sense of GIS and GIC among youth of color may change as they explore their ethnic-racial identities (ERI). We examined GIS and GIC among 127 racially diverse youth of color (Mage = 14.11 years) across four waves over eight months, before (W1) and after (W2-4) an eight-session curriculum supporting students' ERI exploration, taught by their U.S. History teachers. Multilevel growth models revealed no average change in GIS, but a small increase in GIC over time. Baseline frequency of perceived ethnic-racial discrimination (ERD) moderated this trend, wherein youth with higher reports of ERD showed less steep increases in GIC. It is possible that, as students were integrating newly explored ERI reflections from the curriculum, they experienced short-term GIC increases. Adolescents who were actively noticing racialized experiences before the curriculum may be better equipped for such integration, reducing the potential for GIC increase. The relevance of time in examining the influence of ERI exploration on global identity will be discussed.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Yerin Park

Authors

Leoandra Rogers (Onnie), Mike Sladek, M. Dalal Safa, Adriana Umaña-Taylor

A complex dynamic systems approach to identity and its change: The Dynamic Systems Model of Role Identity

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

We describe a Complex Dynamic Systems (CDS) model of identity, motivation, and action—the Dynamic Systems Model of Role Identity (DSMRI). The DSMRI integrates understandings from psychosocial, social psychological, sociocultural, and situative perspectives on identity and motivation to define identity and motivational phenomena as dynamic, non-linear, and contextualized. The DSMRI views motivated action as emerging from the agent's situated interpretation of who they are when occupying a sociocultural role within a cultural activity system—their role identity (e.g., student in a classroom). This role identity is a CDS framed by sociocultural and dispositional control parameters. We draw from a dataset containing classroom recordings, written teacher reflections, and interviews of teachers (N=46) facilitating classroom discussions to demonstrate how the DSMRI affords investigating the dynamic nature of identity across time scales. Through DSMRI-guided qualitative analysis, we demonstrate how analyzing the data at different timescales (e.g., second-by-second vs. across three years) emphasizes different dynamics in identity and its change.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Joseph Eisman

Visiting Assistant Professor | Purdue University

Authors

Avi Kaplan

Human Interaction, Reimagined: How Technology Shapes the Way We Connect

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E351, Level 3

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Increasingly, technology doesn't just mediate communication; it transforms human interaction. This symposium presents research that explores how emerging technologies are reshaping the way people connect, communicate, and respond to one another. Shi and Goldenberg demonstrate that people prefer AI companions for sharing emotional experiences because they are not judgmental, yet still turn to human partners for emotional support, suggesting that AI is redefining the role of human interaction. Del Rosario et al. show that people align their moral reactions with others' in real-time digital conversations, highlighting social media's influence on moral discourse. Yeomans and Wood Brooks find that people struggle to detect what others want to talk about, while large language models can detect such cues, revealing technology's potential to improve conversations by guiding topics. Pottmann and Abi-Esber show that Virtual Reality simulation helps people become more comfortable with public speaking, appear more confident and competent, and deliver higher-quality speeches. Together, these findings provide insights into how we can design and leverage technology to foster social interaction.

*SYMPOsia

Speakers



Rosanna Pottmann

University of Chicago



Nicole Abi-Esber

PhD Student | Harvard Business School

Choosing who to Share: Psychological Drivers of Sharing Emotional Experiences with Human vs. AI

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

As AI technologies become more integrated into daily life, people are increasingly turning to AI companions instead of humans for emotional support. What psychological factors drive people to choose AI over humans? In this research, we explore the mechanisms underlying people's decisions to share emotional experiences with either a human or an AI companion. Participants were asked to recall an emotional experience, choose a sharing partner (human vs. AI), and explain their choice. Results revealed that the most common reason for choosing an AI companion was its perceived non-judgmental nature, whereas those who chose a human emphasized emotional support. Participants perceived human partners as more capable of providing emotional support, but also more judgmental than AI. We also found that perceived judgment played a stronger role than emotional support in predicting partner choice. These findings shed light on how people weigh social-evaluative concerns and emotional support needs in emotional disclosure and offer new insights into the role of AI in shaping interpersonal processes.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Yaoxi Shi

Harvard University & Imperial College London

Authors

Amit Goldenberg, Yaoxi Shi

Investigating the role of social influence in shaping moral outrage

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Social media has transformed communication, connecting large audiences and enabling widespread conversations. Within these networks, moral content tends to be especially engaging and spreads rapidly, inciting moral outrage with it. But to what extent is this outrage informed by others' reactions and are people aware of it? We tested whether people update their initial reactions to moral content after seeing others' input, becoming more (or less) outraged to align with the group. Across three trials, participants (N = 110) watched videos depicting morally ambiguous actions (e.g., hunting for animal conservation). After each video, they joined a livestream-style chat with five other purported participants who either condemned or condoned the behavior. We find that participants update their responses to match the group's reaction, expressing more outrage when the group condemns the behavior and less outrage when the group condones it. However, participants' estimates of how much others influenced them does not predict actual changes in their responses. This work illustrates how moral discourse can amplify or dampen moral outrage, even when people are unaware of it.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kareena del Rosario

Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Michigan

Authors

Jay Van Bavel, Tessa West, Kareena del Rosario, Diego Reinero

What Should We Talk About? Topic preference detection is an important and difficult conversational skill

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Although most humans engage in conversations constantly throughout their lives, mistakes are commonplace—conversation requires quick, relentless perspective-taking and decision making. During every turn of every conversation, people must decide: Should we stay on this topic or switch to a new one? We introduce topic preference detection—accurately predicting a conversation partner's topic preferences (i.e., what they want to talk about). Across synchronous and asynchronous conversations between people in close relationships and among strangers, we find that people want to incorporate their partner's topic preferences in conversation. However, they often cannot predict those preferences, even after ten minutes of conversation. They readily fail to identify conversational cues to topic preferences that are consistently detectable by large language models. This implies room for technology to improve how we interact with each other, and offers promise for socially aware agent models that use more than just users' queries to guide conversation topics. For humans, our work suggests that topic preference detection is an important and common task that is often performed poorly.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Michael Yeomans

Imperial College London

Authors

Michael Yeomans, Alison Wood Brooks

Virtual Reality Intervention Improves Public Speaking Confidence and Competence

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Technology is often blamed for distancing us, but can it help us improve our communication? We show how immersive technology can foster social interaction by helping people overcome a critical barrier to effective communication: the fear of public speaking, which affects at least 1 in 5 people, discouraging them from speaking in meetings, classes and other group settings. Across two pre-registered studies, we show that practicing public speaking in Virtual Reality (VR) makes individuals feel more comfortable speaking in front of others, an effect which lasts for at least one week. Linguistic analyses reveal that VR-trained speakers used 47% fewer verbal disfluencies (e.g., "um," "uh") and exhibited greater analytical word choice. Lastly, the speeches given by VR-trained speakers were rated by third-parties as more confident, competent, and higher-quality. These effects of condition on third-party ratings were mediated by speakers' self-reported speaking comfort and verbal disfluencies. Given our work, VR offers a powerful and scalable solution to help individuals build essential communication skills and approach social interactions more confidently.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

 **Rosanna Pottmann**
University of Chicago

Morality in Everyday Life: Opportunities, Tradeoffs, and Disagreements

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

MORALITY

Moral psychological research has overwhelmingly relied on hypothetical scenarios and lab experiments. As a result, existing research has little to say about how people experience morality in real-world contexts. Here, we argue for the value of studying everyday morality and showcase studies exploring how people perceive and respond to the moral opportunities and challenges of daily life. The first speaker illustrates the limitations of traditional moral psychology paradigms for understanding naturalistic moral cognition and offers suggestions for overcoming these limitations. In four daily life studies, the second speaker finds that people frequently perceive opportunities to express specific moral virtues, but not "morality". Using the day reconstruction method, the third speaker investigates how often people experience tradeoffs between moral virtues and how they respond to such tradeoffs. The final speaker examines peoples' detailed accounts of their most recent moral disagreement to discover when everyday disagreements typically arise and how they are resolved. These talks highlight the unique and more realistic insights that can be gained by studying morality in everyday life.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers

 **Benjamin Hardin**
PhD Student | Washington University in St. Louis

 **Jessie Sun**
Assistant Professor | Washington University in St. Louis

Raising Moral Psychology from the DEAD

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MORALITY

Moral psychology is dominated by tasks that are DEAD: decontextualized, engineered, anonymous and disembodied. DEAD tasks capture cognitive processes that are not representative of how moral cognition "lives" out in the world, which limits our ability to generalize our findings beyond the lab (much as an overreliance on WEIRD samples limits our ability to generalize across cultures). The dominance of DEAD tasks can be understood as a symptom of rising productivity demands in the academy and the transition to online testing in the wake of the reproducibility crisis. The DEAD paradigm poses serious risks to scientific understanding (by narrowing our view of what constitutes moral cognition) and to society (by sculpting the benchmarks for AI safety testing). This talk will illustrate the limitations of the DEAD paradigm with a series of case studies and offer methodological suggestions for transcending those limitations, with a focus on placing traditional methods in conversation with a broader set of interlocutors, including participants themselves.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

 **M.J. Crockett**
Associate Professor of Psychology | Princeton University

Authors

Midori Ban

Moral Virtues Are Often Relevant in Daily Life, but "Morality" Is Not

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MORALITY

Recent work suggests that morality may be surprisingly absent from daily life. We revisit the everyday relevance of morality by examining how often people perceive opportunities to express 12 moral virtues (e.g., honesty, kindness), 12 corresponding vices (e.g., dishonesty, unkindness), and (im)morality. Studies 1 (N = 377) and 4 (N = 267) use the Day Reconstruction Method. Studies 2 (N = 459) and 3 (N = 280) use the Experience Sampling Method. In Studies 1–3, North American participants perceived opportunities to express at least one of the 12 virtues more often than not. However, they rarely perceived opportunities to be "(im)moral" (8%), and rarely perceived virtue opportunities as moral opportunities. Patience, responsibility, and respectfulness were most often relevant, whereas forgiveness, courage, and loyalty were least often relevant. Strikingly, people perceived four times more opportunities to express virtues compared to vices. These findings largely replicated in a Chinese sample (Study 4). We conclude that conceptualizing morality in more concrete terms reveals a plethora of morally relevant situations that have gone unnoticed in previous studies.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

 **Benjamin Hardin**
PhD Student | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Jessie Sun, Qilin Zhang

Virtue Trade-offs in Everyday Life

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MORALITY

Is it usually possible to be virtuous in all ways, or are there inherent tradeoffs among moral virtues? Past work has examined a limited set of virtue pairs (e.g., honesty vs. compassion, fairness vs. loyalty) and focused on contexts where tradeoffs are likely to occur. Across two Day Reconstruction Method studies featuring representative U.S. samples, we describe the frequency and experience of tradeoffs among 12 virtues in everyday life. In Study 1, 377 participants reported virtue conflicts during 12,385 episodes. In Study 2, 608 participants provided detailed information about one tradeoff episode. Virtue tradeoffs occurred between 16-26% of the time, most often involving honesty or courage. Tradeoffs were largely resolved by prioritizing one of the two virtues (54% of decisions), but people were most satisfied when they found a way to integrate both virtues (12% of decisions). Finally, people claimed to highly value honesty in the abstract, but rarely prioritized it during everyday tradeoffs. These findings suggest that virtue expressions tend to be largely compatible in everyday life and highlight the importance of studying moral decision making in ecologically valid contexts

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Qilin Zhang
Washington University in St Louis

Authors

Jessie Sun, Jeremy Jacobson, Benjamin Hardin

The Context, Content, and Consequences of Everyday Moral Disagreement

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MORALITY

Everyday life is full of moral disagreements, yet research rarely examines this in context. Participants (N=82) provided detailed accounts of their most recent disagreement along dimensions of content, context, and consequence. Most disagreements were at least moderate in personal significance (67%) and about the permissibility of actions (63%), although disagreement about the moral traits of individuals (30%) were still notable. The most relevant moral foundations were harm, proportionality, and equality (>45%). Disagreements mostly occurred in groups (66%), with family or friends (35-51%) and in residential settings (50%), but rarely with strangers (4%) or remotely/online (17%). This calls into question the generalizability of research that investigates disagreements with strangers or on online platforms. Most disagreements were resolved by agreeing to disagree without further conflict (57%); however, a fair number of disagreements (28%) resulted in successful moral persuasion. These findings suggest that close relationships and personal settings are the most relevant contexts for studying disagreement and that people may be surprisingly tolerant and open to updating their views.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Zachary Grey
Ph.D Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Yoel Inbar, Paul Bloom

Relationship Idiosyncrasies

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E353A, Level 3

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Decades of research on close relationships has identified how relationships typically form, develop, and function. However, little attention has focused on idiosyncrasies in relationships—what makes a given relationship unique from another, why uniqueness matters. This symposium leverages cutting-edge methodological approaches to shed insight on this topic. The first talk identifies idiosyncratic patterns of variability in relationships and how relationship interventions can shape those patterns. The second talk shifts to idiosyncrasies in the content of a relationship's "microculture"—nicknames, inside jokes, etc.—and how these contribute to daily relationship functioning. The third talk suggests that studying a given participant's many relationships yields insights into what makes partners uniquely desirable and why microcultures promote relationship well-being. The fourth talk investigates the use of idiosyncratic "insider language" between friends and strangers, and how it enhances social connection. Overall, this greater attention to what makes relationships unique from each other can provide new insights into how relationships form and thrive.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Lydia Emery
Assistant Professor | University of Chicago

Beyond means: Considering variability in relationship dynamics over time

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Despite decades of research, robust prediction of romantic relationship outcomes continues to elude relationship scientists; one reason for this may be that researchers have historically focused on understanding between-person differences in mean-levels of relationship quality. However, scholars have long recognized that relationship processes are dynamic. Indeed, a small body of work sheds light on the fact that many relationship processes critical to relationship functioning, such as satisfaction, conflict, and love, vary within-person as well as between-person. This research suggests that level of within-person variability in relationships matters. But what about patterns of variability? What can we discover about relationships by considering not just whether and how much people change, but the distinct patterns of that change? In this talk, I will (A) present results from a 28-day experience sampling study (> 5,000 records from 113 Ps) highlighting variability in relationship patterns over time, (B) explore individual differences that shape relationship patterns, and (C) shed light on the ways in which positive relationship interventions can influence relationship patterns.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Amie Gordon
Assistant Professor | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Relationships as Microcultures

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

We propose that just as (macro)cultures are characterized by their own language, rituals, values, identities, and narratives, close relationship partners similarly construct their own microculture, inventing private words, inside jokes, rituals, and stories with shared, idiosyncratic meaning. We introduce relationship microcultures as a new construct explaining how everyday, seemingly mundane interactions—such as nicknames, inside jokes, or daily rituals—contribute to global relationship outcomes. We conducted a longitudinal study of romantic couples (N = 123 couples) in which we intensively tracked daily microculture use over a 2-week period. Participants felt greater relationship satisfaction and commitment on days when their idiosyncratic microculture was more pervasive than usual. These results suggest that microcultures play an important role in the daily lives of romantic partners and that studying microcultures can provide new insights unaccounted for by existing theories in relationship science.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Lydia Emery
Assistant Professor | University of Chicago

Authors

Emma Miller, Eli Finkel, Maya Rossignac-Milon, Erin Hughes

How Can We Capture what is Unique about a Relationship?

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

A basic theoretical principle in attraction and close relationships research is that people are drawn to—and build relationships with—particular partners for idiosyncratic, unique reasons. However, scholars in these traditions tend to study a single relationship at once, and so the extent to which people desire each other for unique reasons remains largely untested. Two studies attempted to capture these idiosyncratic forces. In Study 1, N = 357 participants reported on two real-life potential romantic partners (e.g., Edward and Jacob). Data revealed that when a trait that made Edward desirable was swapped with a trait that made Jacob desirable, attraction to both partners declined. That is, participants liked the partners for different, unique, non-substitutable reasons. In Study 2, N = 961 participants described important customs, stories, and phrases (i.e., the “microculture”) with both a current romantic partner and a peer. Participants were happier in their romantic relationships if their relationship microculture had come up with their partner over the prior 24 hours, and this association was stronger than if the peer microculture had come up with their partner.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Paul Eastwick
Professor | University of California, Davis

Authors

Alexa Alcser-Isais, Eva Meza

From talk to telepathy: The spontaneous use of insider language in casual conversation

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Close friends seem to communicate almost telepathically. A single word or phrase can be loaded with meaning that would take pages of text to explain to an outsider. This linguistic compression is undeniably efficient. But is efficiency the only reason friends often speak in code? In a series of studies, we show that when people use “insider language” with each other they feel closer. Friends, as expected, use insider language more frequently than strangers, but even strangers are able to incorporate it into their conversations. While the content of insider language varies between friends and strangers, both groups experience heightened connection when it is used. These results suggest that the human ability to say more with less confers a social advantage beyond mere efficiency. These findings also highlight a potential limitation of large language models, which, trained on explicit text, may struggle to grasp how communication shifts with intimacy and may be unable to generate insider language to foster closeness.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Emma Templeton
Postdoc | Dartmouth College

Authors

Erik Nook, Thalia Wheatley, Luke Chang, Marie Cone LeBeaumont, Dawson Haddox

Self-Beliefs Across Contexts

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-beliefs—how individuals understand and evaluate themselves—are shaped by cognitive, social, and cultural processes that, in turn, influence behavior. This symposium highlights cutting edge research examining self-beliefs across these three levels of analysis. The first talk investigates the motivational strategies people believe work best for themselves, showing that the effectiveness of radical (vs. gradual) approaches are often underestimated despite being a better predictor of goal success. The second talk examines how people compare themselves over time, finding more evidence supporting a realistic (vs. self-enhancing) outlook of one’s future. The third talk reveals that even when harmed, people are reluctant to punish close others—suggesting moral judgment is shaped by relational closeness to the self. The final talk introduces a culturally distinct model of selfhood in Sub-Saharan Africa, where competition and achievement are seen as group-serving, not self-serving. In sum, the current symposium will provide an overview of recent work on how self-beliefs about motivation, temporal change, in close relationships, and across cultures can influence perception and behavior.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Samantha Zaw
Student | University of Chicago



Ibitayo Fadayomi
PhD Student | University of Chicago Booth School of Business

The Role of Motivational Knowledge in Successful Goal Pursuit

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

Our research examines whether “motivation knowledge”—individuals’ understanding of how to motivate themselves—predicts successful goal pursuit. Across 5 studies ($n = 2,131$), we identify two main strategy groups: radical approaches (e.g., all-or-nothing framing, strict rules, immediate change) and gradual approaches (e.g., flexible framing, intuitive rules, incremental change). Additionally, we address two empirical questions: (1) Do radical (vs. gradual) approaches better predict self-regulatory success and (2) Do people accurately predict this relationship? Our findings suggest that while the endorsement of both approaches predicts successful goal pursuit, the endorsement of radical strategies is a better predictor. We replicate this in the healthy-eating, exercise, and finance domains (Study 1), across a 12-week longitudinal study using New Year’s Resolutions (Study 2), and with both US and Chinese samples (Study 3). However, people tend to underestimate the effectiveness of radical strategies in the health domain while accurately recognizing the effectiveness of radical strategies in the finance domain. These results suggest the potential for motivational knowledge to be learned.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Ibitayo Fadayomi

PhD Student | University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Ayelet Fishbach

Rethinking Rose-Tinted Glasses: A Cognitive-Ecological Explanation of Prospective Self-Comparisons

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

We examined prospective (i.e., future-oriented) self-comparisons in an ecology with three empirically validated principles of impression formation. First, people can have more negative than positive attributes (diversity). But second, individuals do have more positive than negative attributes (frequency). Third, over time people generally improve by losing negative attributes and gaining positive attributes (growth). In three experiments, people listed and evaluated similarities and differences between their present and future selves. Across all studies, we found that present-future similarities were most positive, present self’s unique attributes were most negative, and future self’s unique attributes were in between. In Study 1, this pattern emerged for both self-comparisons and acquaintance-comparisons. In Study 2, it emerged for both prospective and retrospective (i.e., past-oriented) self-comparisons. In Study 3, the pattern vanished when middle-aged people compared their present self to their old age self. Taken together, these findings largely support a realistic view of one’s own future. The findings also lend some support for a self-enhancing view of what the future holds.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Samantha Zaw

Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Alex Koch

The Loyalty Paradox: Do We Protect or Punish Close Others Who Hurt Us?

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

A growing body of research demonstrates that when close others commit nonviolent crimes against others, we often overlook their actions because protecting close others feels akin to protecting ourselves. But what about when we ourselves are the victim? Across four multi-method studies, our results reveal a striking pattern: even when an individual is the victim of a crime, they are still motivated to protect close others. This may be due to an increased concern that harm might come to them if they report a close other’s crimes. We also identify a “tipping point” that captures when close others indicate that they would report a crime committed against the self: participants reported that a close other would have to steal almost three times as much money than a distant other before they would consider reporting them. Lastly, using 26 years of large-scale real-world crime data, we demonstrate that people’s tendency to protect close others, even when they are the victim, generalizes to all but the most severe property and violent crimes. This work illuminates the complex dynamics of close relationships in moral judgment.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Alexandra Wormley

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Michigan

Authors

Ethan Kross, Chayce Baldwin, Martha Berg, Ibitayo Fadayomi

Self-Promotive Interdependence: A Distinct Cultural Model of the Self in Sub-Saharan Africa

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-beliefs vary remarkably across cultures. Although this point has traditionally been illustrated through East–West comparisons—recent research has expanded the scope of inquiry to other cultural regions. In this context, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) offers a distinctive case. It is characterized by the belief that (i) within-group competition is essential for strengthening the group’s capacity, and (ii) personal achievement is the most effective way to contribute to the group. This belief system—self-promotive interdependence—has been demonstrated across three domains: (i) emotional expressions marked by equal expression of pride and connection in response to success, whether it is one’s own or an ingroup member’s; (ii) a positive association between perceived ingroup competition and ingroup identification; and (iii) attribution patterns showing a strong tendency to explain illicit behavior benefiting the ingroup in situational terms. These patterns have been observed consistently across multiple SSA countries and are clearly distinct from those found in the Middle East, East Asia, and the West. Implications for the origins of cultural variation in self-beliefs will be discussed.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Shinobu Kitayama

Professor | Univ. of Michigan

The impact of subjective social class on support for equality

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E451B, Level 4

POLITICS

How does social class shape political attitudes and behavior? This symposium brings together emerging research showing that subjective understandings and experiences of class—rooted in beliefs, identity, or local context—play an important role in shaping solidarity and support for redistribution. Talk 1 shows that class-based zero-sum beliefs (i.e., that the upper class gains at the working class's expense) foster working-class solidarity and support for redistribution. Talk 2 shows that White Americans who feel economically "last place" amid racial inequality express stronger support for Trump and right-wing ideologies. Talk 3 shows that identifying as lower class—driven by lived experiences like financial stress and insecure work—predicts greater support for reducing inequality. Talk 4 shows that neighborhood affluence predicts working-class identification, which in turn shapes support for redistribution. Together, these talks highlight how economic disadvantage is perceived, experienced, and interpreted. They reveal how broader material circumstances shape individuals' subjective understanding of their class positioning, economic inequality, and consequent political behavior.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers

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Dean Baltiansky
PhD candidate | Columbia Business School
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Nick Fendinger
Graduate Student | New York University

Class zero-sum beliefs foster working-class solidarity and redistributive policy support

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

POLITICS

Can zero-sum beliefs foster solidarity rather than sow divisions? We propose that class zero-sum beliefs (CZSB)—the belief that the upper class gains at the expense of the working class—fosters solidarity among the working class, driving support for redistributive economic policy. Across five studies (N = 2,442), we test this model using correlational, experimental, and longitudinal designs. In S1, CZSB predicted solidarity and policy support, controlling for SDO, zero-sum mindset, ideology, and demographics. In S2, a manipulation of CZSB established its causal effect on working-class solidarity. In S3, solidarity emerged only when the upper class gained at the expense of the working class, as opposed to the other way around. In S4, with a sample of white working-class people, racial zero-sum beliefs suppressed cross-race working-class solidarity. In S5, a longitudinal study of swing voters during the 2024 Presidential Election, CZSB explained swings in favor of Harris and away from Trump, mediated by perceived alignment with working-class interests. Together, these findings illuminate how zero-sum beliefs, when oriented toward class, can be mobilized to unify rather than divide.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

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Dean Baltiansky
PhD candidate | Columbia Business School

Authors

Derek Brown

White Americans' Feelings of Being "Last Place" Predict Trump Support

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

POLITICS

Due to racial wealth inequality in the U.S.—inequality that benefits White Americans on average—many Americans associate White people with wealth. Yet, many White Americans report feeling, personally, like they are "falling behind" (Caluori et al., 2024). We conducted a five-wave longitudinal study with a representative quota sample of non-Hispanic, White Americans (N = 506) during the 2024 U.S. presidential election. We found that White Americans who feel they are in "last place" (i.e., behind other White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic Americans) reported the highest levels of alt-right ideology, support for DEI bans, and support for Donald Trump, controlling for the influence of objective status. Further, "last place" White Americans expressed the highest rates of voting for Donald Trump in the 2024 election. We conclude that high racial economic inequality shapes White Americans' subjective perceptions of personal status in a way that meaningfully relates to political attitudes and behavior.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

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Erin Cooley
Associate Professor | Colgate University

Authors

Xanni Brown, Jazmin L. Brown-Iannuzzi, Alisa Kukharkin, Fiona Barber

The roots of solidarity: Social class identity and the experiences that give rise to it

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

POLITICS

The collective efforts of individuals with the least resources, status, and power in a society can be a powerful tool for reducing economic inequality. Across four studies, we examine the links between social class identity, support for reducing inequality, and lived experiences. We find that among people with objectively low social class standing, those who subjectively identify as lower (vs. higher) social class are more supportive of reducing inequality (e.g., policy support). We then use machine learning methods to identify which lived experiences are most strongly associated with lower (vs. higher) social class identities. Examining 78 features of lived experiences, we find that lower social class identities are associated with financial stress and insecurity, upward social class connections, and worse working conditions (e.g., low control); higher social class identities are associated with leisure travel, number of home bathrooms, and job benefits. These patterns are confirmed on a new sample, replicating similar predictions. Overall, these results provide novel support for the importance of conceptualization of social class in support of reducing economic inequality.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Danny Hang
Ph.D. Student | University of Utah

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Andrea Dittmann, Ellen Reinhart, Hannah Birnbaum

Disentangling the collective and individual dimensions of social class

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

POLITICS

Although both subjective rank and social-class identification are used to operationalize "subjective social class," the two measures are theorized to diverge in how reliably they track individuals' broader resource ecologies. Across two studies (N = 9,254), we empirically validate this perspective, finding that ZIP- and tract-level estimates of income and educational attainment positively predict individuals' class identity, such that those from more affluent neighborhoods are more likely to identify with the middle and upper classes. Social rank, on the other hand, is inconsistently correlated with estimates of neighborhood affluence. In light of these neighborhood effects, we suggest that class identification is a better proxy for the structural and collective components of class phenomena, whereas measures of subjective rank may better estimate individual and situational facets. Exploratory structural equation models (SEMs) find that those who live in less affluent neighborhoods express greater support for redistributive policies — an effect explained through a greater likelihood of self-identifying with the working class but not perceived rank.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Nick Fendinger
Graduate Student | New York University

Authors

Pia Dietze, Eric Knowles

The Psychological Power of Labels: How Words Shape Social Perception

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E353B, Level 3

SOCIAL COGNITION

We use labels in all facets of life, but the labels that define our groups, organizations, and initiatives uniquely shape how others see us and what resources we can access. This symposium explores the psychological power of labels, integrating insights from semantics and social cognition to understand their broader societal impact. The first paper lays a theoretical foundation, while the subsequent two use surveys, experiments, and large language models to show how labels can produce unintended consequences. Specifically, the first paper proposes mechanisms by which labels contribute to polarization in organizations. The second paper examines how ethnic terms like "Hispanic," "Latino," and "Latinx" lead observers to infer political ideology, even when the labeled individual or group did not choose the term. The final paper investigates how "DEI" became politicized and shows that initiatives labeled "DEI" are perceived more negatively — especially by non-liberals — than the same efforts labeled, for example, as "Equity Initiatives." Overall, this symposium demonstrates the powerful effects of labels that are often overlooked and provides novel insight into how to use labels wisely.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Erika Hall
Associate Professor of Organization & Management | Emory Univ.

The Polarization of Labels: How Categorization and Semantization Drive Division

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Leaders routinely adopt labels, like those for employee resource groups, job titles, and units, to promote alignment. Yet, these labels can also divide. This talk introduces a label-driven polarization framework explaining how labels catalyze division via two mechanisms: categorization and semantization. Categorization reinforces boundaries between social groups, while semantization imbues labels with connotations — often political or ideological — that shape perception. These effects are magnified in polarized environments, turning simple labels into flashpoints. We argue that polarization can emerge not only from ideological difference but from the language we use to define groups. Our framework clarifies when and why labels unite or divide and proposes how relabeling and managing semantic associations can mitigate unintended consequences. This session will ground the theory in real examples, offering insights for leaders navigating identity-based tensions and making strategic language choices amid division.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Sarah Townsend
Assistant Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | University of Southern California - Marshall School of Business

Authors

Erika Hall

From Hispanic to Latinx: Label Ideology and Donor Behavior

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Pan-ethnic labels like “Hispanic,” “Latino,” and “Latinx” are often used to represent Latin American descendants (LADs) in the U.S., but they carry different political baggage. Across three studies, we find consistent ideological associations: “Hispanic” with conservatism, “Latino” with center-left, and “Latinx” with liberalism. These implicit political connotations attached to these labels not only influence perceptions of organizations that use them, but also which organizations donors choose to support and how much they give. For example, in Study 3, a “Hispanic Advocacy Group” is perceived as more conservative than a “Latinx Union,” leading liberal donors to be significantly less likely to contribute, and to give smaller amounts when they do. In 3 studies, we illustrate how subtle semantic cues embedded in naming conventions can influence perceived alignment and drive material resource allocation, highlighting both strategic opportunity and risk in organizational labeling decisions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Erika Hall

Associate Professor of Organization & Management | Emory Univ.

Authors

Curtis Puryear, James Carter, Harrison Chicas

Framing DEI: How Organizational Labels Shape Support and Perception

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Labels shape how people perceive and respond to organizations. In this talk, we examine how the politically charged term “DEI” influences stakeholder reactions compared to its component terms: diversity, equity, and inclusion. Across studies, we find that labels affect emotional reactions, stakeholder support, and donation behavior. Specifically, we find that DEI as a label is perceived more negatively, supported less, and leads to lower donations than diversity, equity, and inclusion as labels. We find that political ideology moderates this effect: non-liberal participants, compared to liberals, respond with greater negative affect and perceptions of DEI and DEI-labeled initiatives, which negatively influences their behavior directed towards DEI-labeled (compared to the diversity, equity, and inclusion labels). In contrast, liberal participants respond similarly across all labels. These results show how ideologically loaded terms can trigger unintended effects. Building on theories of semantic prosody and lexical precision, our findings are consistent with the claim that terms with more narrow definitions are more prone to polarization than those with broader meanings.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jacob Roberson

PhD Candidate | USC Marshall School of Business

Authors

Sarah Townsend

Generative AI Social Science Hackathon

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: E256, Level 2

Social psychology has developed sophisticated experimental paradigms over decades, but these haven't been systematically applied to AI systems. The Generative AI Social Science Hackathon aims to jumpstart experimental social science research on generative AI topics. This will bring together social psychologists and software developers to design rigorous empirical studies on human-AI interaction. This event will generate proof-of-concept experiments that address fundamental questions about generative AI's psychological effects using rigorous social psychology methodologies.

INVITATION ONLY

CloudResearch Sponsored Session: Detecting AI Agents in Online Research Using New Survey Technology

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E350, Level 3

In this presentation, we demonstrate the features of Engage, an AI-powered survey platform from CloudResearch. A paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) characterized large language models as an “existential threat” to online survey research. The study showed that autonomous AI agents can pass 99.8% of standard attention checks, CAPTCHAs, and open-ended evaluations, maintain coherent demographic personas, and generate responses indistinguishable from humans.

The implications for online research are significant. A single survey can be completed by an AI agent for just five cents, creating strong incentives for fraud at scale and raising urgent concerns about data integrity.

But how serious is this threat in practice, and what can be done? This session separates hype from reality by examining what AI agents can and cannot do. While attention checks fail, AI agents produce behavioral signatures that are unmistakably non-human and 100% detectable. Using real behavioral data, we will show what these signatures look like and why they cannot be faked.

Attendees will gain a clear understanding of today's threat landscape and practical strategies to protect research from synthetic respondents. Attendees will see how Engage records each survey session and flags behaviors that indicate AI-use, inattention, or fraud. Beyond data quality, AI survey tools allow researchers to engage participants in new modes of data collection. We will demonstrate how “conversational surveys”, conducted with AI, can easily add qualitative data to any quantitative study and the benefits of doing so. Attendees will learn about Engage's ability to identify themes and patterns across participants in ways that are driven by theory or exploration. Finally, we will describe how AI-powered surveys may solve some classic methodological problems like where in a survey to measure a moderating variable. By the end of this demonstration, attendees will not only understand some of the changes AI is bringing to survey tools, but how these changes can improve their research.

Speaker



Leib Litman

Chief Research Officer | CloudResearch

Advancing Inclusion in Publishing: Community Discussion on Policy and Change

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Promoting inclusive excellence in publishing is essential for enhancing both the quality of science and the opportunities available to scholars in our field. To raise awareness of SPSP's policies and resources—and to further improve our publishing process—this panel session is organized to facilitate an educational community discussion and invite input from SPSP members. The moderated discussion will feature representatives from Reviewer Zero (www.reviewerzero.net) and SPSP's Anti-Colorism and Eurocentrism in Methods and Practices (ACEMAP) task force. They will, respectively, present trainee data on the need for cultural change and a model for systemic and policy-level interventions in publishing. Editors-in-Chief of SPSP-affiliated journals – *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, and *Social Psychology and Personality Science* – will then share updates on current

policies, recent changes, and their visions for future improvements. The session will conclude with an open Q&A, audience input, and practical tips and resources for reviewers and authors to support inclusive publishing practices and contribute to meaningful cultural change.

*PROF DEV

Speakers

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Franki Kung
Associate Professor | Purdue University
- 

Alison Ledgerwood
Professor | University of California, Davis
- 

Christian Unkelbach
Prof. Dr. | University of Cologne
- 

Eranda Jayawickreme
Associate Professor | Wake Forest University
- 

Matt Goldrick
Professor | Northwestern University
- 

Yuen Huo
Professor | UCLA

Building Free-Form Pipelines for Human-AI Conversations in Surveys

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E450A, Level 4

This interactive session introduces researchers to the foundational skills needed to integrate multi-round, free-form AI chatbot conversations into a survey workflow. Unlike structured interactions, free-style conversations involve unpredictable turn counts and open-ended content, posing unique technical challenges when integrated with platforms like Qualtrics. In this session, you will learn how to scaffold a data pipeline that can initiate, capture, and store full conversational histories between participants and AI models. We will cover basic architecture for coordinating the survey flow with a cloud-hosted server to dynamically manage and log multi-turn chatbot interactions. No prior experience with web servers or AI tools is necessary to participate. By the end of the session, you will leave with the confidence and ability to implement AI-mediated conversational tasks in your studies. To participate fully, please bring a laptop with access to an online account and a cloud-based development environment.

*PROF DEV

Speakers

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Helen Zheng
Boston College
- 

Sara Haman
Research Associate | Boston College
- 

Sema Koc

Love Under Pressure: Diverse Relational Risks and Their Consequences

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS SEXUALITY

Romantic relationships involve a range of relational risks from sexual objectification to conflict during major life transitions, everyday interpersonal tensions, and financial negotiations. This symposium brings together four programs of research that examine how couples navigate these potentially stressful situations, and the circumstances under which these situations might have positive versus negative consequences for relational, affective, and sexual wellbeing. First, Clapp introduces the newly developed Behavioral Objectification from a Partner (BOP) Scale, demonstrating how sexual objectification within romantic relationships predicts appearance surveillance from a partner, self-objectification, sexual coercion, and decreased sexual desire. Next, León examines partner validation during conflict among expectant parents, showing that acknowledgment, interest, and acceptance of each other's negative affect predicts reduced negative affect and better psychosocial adjustment to parenthood. Next, Ascigil examines everyday relationship stressors, showing that perceived partner responsiveness buffers the emotional costs of these stressors. Finally, Rick examines relationship expectations around a major legal and financial stressor, prenuptial agreements, showing that people's intuitions about their relational consequences often differ sharply from lived experiences. Together, these talks highlight the diverse forms of relational risk couples encounter, and their outcomes.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair

- 

Esra Ascigil
Postdoctoral Researcher | Sabanci University

Development and Validation of the Novel Behavioral Objectification from a Partner (BOP) Scale Among Women Partnered with Men

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

SEXUALITY

Sexual objectification behaviors (e.g., groping, inappropriate sexual comments) are usually conceptualized as coming from a stranger and negatively impact wellbeing. But what does sexual objectification look like when it comes from a romantic relationship partner, and does it have the same negative impacts? In the current research, we addressed these questions across three studies aimed at developing and validating a new Behavioral Objectification from a Partner (BOP) Scale, which assesses sexual objectification that is specific to relationship contexts. In Study 1, 104 women and gender minorities completed and provided feedback on the BOP Scale. In Study 2 (a and b), women partnered with men completed the BOP Scale and additional measures at Time 1 and Time 2 (four months later). Study 2a (N = 260) used exploratory factor analysis to build the factor structure, and Study 2b (N = 297) confirmed the factor structure. Finally, Study 2 also demonstrated that the BOP Scale showed meaningful cross-sectional and longitudinal associations with increased experiences of appearance surveillance from a partner, self-objectification, and sexual coercion, and decreased sexual desire.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Abbie Clapp

Graduate Student | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Abbie Clapp, Sara Chadwick

Partner validation during couple conflict predicts reduced negative affect and better psychosocial adjustment to parenthood

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The transition to parenthood represents a critical period marked by increased stress and shifting interpersonal dynamics. This study examines the role of partner validation during conflict in promoting psychosocial adjustment among 96 expectant-parent dyads. Couples participated in a 15-minute conflict discussion during pregnancy, which was video-recorded and coded for affective behaviors using the Specific Affect Coding System (SPAFF). Shared positive affect during the discussion task was linked to better relationship quality for both partners, while shared negative affect predicted lower relationship quality in men. Using state-space grids and grid-sequence analysis, we tracked real-time affective exchanges to identify coregulatory patterns. Findings indicated that couples who engaged in greater validation—characterized by acknowledgment, interest, and acceptance of each other's negative affect—exhibited more frequent transitions from negative to positive affective states. Moreover, men who validated their partners more frequently reported reduced parenting stress, while women who validated their partners showed stronger parent-infant bonding. These findings underscore the importance of partner validation as a potential behavioral mechanism of interpersonal emotion regulation (i.e., coregulation), suggesting that it may facilitate better adjustment to parenthood.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Gabriel León

Graduate Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Gabriel León, Olivia Dien, Mona Khaled, Darby Saxbe

The Experience of Living with a Prenup: Expectations vs. Reality

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

If you're heading toward marriage, should you get a "prenup" (i.e., a premarital contract in which a couple outlines how assets, debts, and financial responsibilities will be handled in the event of divorce)? In a survey of 985 adults who have never had a prenup, participants were more likely to think that prenups damage relationships than improve them ($p < .001$; Study 1). Are these forecasts well-calibrated? If not, couples may not optimally make decisions about whether to get a prenup. In Study 2, we surveyed 308 married adults who have a prenup. Participants were much more likely to report that creating a prenup improved their relationship than damaged it ($p < .001$). In open-ended responses, many reported that prenup discussions improved their relationship dynamics in lasting ways (e.g., "discussing and disclosing everything with each other improved our trust and sense of safety with each other"). Would these conclusions about prenups be as rosy if we surveyed people who divorced after getting a prenup? In Study 3, we surveyed 50 people who had a prenup and then divorced. Most thought their prenup was a good idea ($p = .002$) and would recommend a prenup to engaged couples ($p < .001$).

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Scott Rick

Associate Professor of Marketing | University of Michigan Ross School of Business

When stress comes from within: Perceived partner responsiveness buffers the link between relationship stressors and emotional well-being

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic relationships are a key resource for coping with stressors—but what happens when the partner also becomes the source of those very stressors? The current research offers a comprehensive test of whether perceived partner responsiveness—feeling understood, validated, and cared for—buffers the emotional costs of everyday relationship stressors. We analyzed data from four dyadic longitudinal studies conducted in a non-Western culture (N = 687 couples), spanning daily diary and longer-term designs and capturing different stages of romantic development, from fledgling to established couples. We found a consistent pattern across studies: Relationship stressors were associated with lower emotional well-being, replicating past work. Crucially, this association was weaker among individuals who perceived their partners as more responsive. This buffering effect was observed across samples, study designs, and relationship stages, and was further confirmed by an internal meta-analysis. These findings extend prior research by identifying perceived partner responsiveness as a key relational resource that can protect emotional well-being in the face of everyday relationship tensions.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Esra Ascigil
Postdoctoral Researcher | Sabanci University

Authors

Gul Gunaydin, Emre Selcuk

Reducing Barriers, Building Futures: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Student Achievement and Risk Reduction

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E451B, Level 4

MOTIVATION/GOALS APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SELF-REGULATION

In this symposium, the speakers present research on reducing barriers and building futures for adolescents through interdisciplinary approaches that enhance student achievement and reduce risk. Specifically, the talks in this session focus on key protective factors, including concept relevance, teacher mentorship, well-being, and adaptive stress appraisal.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Elizabeth R. Brown (she/her)
Associate Professor and Assistant Chair | University of North Florida

Enhancing Elementary Students’ Earth Science and Engineering Knowledge Through an Authentic and Relevant Afterschool Camp

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

In 6th grade, interest in STEM decreases, resulting in lower STEM performance. Enhancing students’ STEM experiences through emphasizing STEM’s relevance might reduce decline. Does providing authentic and relevant science and engineering (SE) experiences for 4th and 5th grade students enhance their knowledge of SE and their perceptions of the relevance of what they learned? We designed a 6-session after-school camp about earth SE concepts relevant to the students’ geographical region, the coast of Northeast Florida. In each session we emphasized the relevance of SE to the topic of the session and encouraged students to orally discuss the relevance to the topic. A pretest and posttest examined students’ knowledge, beliefs about the relevance, and (in St. 2) interest in earth science and/or engineering. Students knew more about earth science (St. 1-2) and engineering (St. 2) on the posttest versus the pretest, but no changes in perceptions of the relevance (St. 1-2) or interest (St. 2) in earth SE emerged. Future research will examine alternative measures of relevancy and interest and the mechanisms underlying the performance increases for this afterschool camp.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Elizabeth R. Brown (she/her)
Associate Professor and Assistant Chair | University of North Florida

Authors

Elizabeth Brown, Kim Cheek, Ryan Shamet

More Than That: Building Relationships to Reduce Adolescent Drug Use

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Prevailing punitive approaches to adolescent substance use often fail, stigmatizing youth and overlooking the power of relational support. We propose an alternative framework centered on the "possibility architect": a key adult, ideally a teacher in school, who helps an adolescent envision and navigate toward a positive future self, providing a powerful counter-pull to substance use. This talk presents a multi-study investigation of this theory.

First, experimental data reveals that substance-using youth (N=200) exposed to a "possibility architect" report significantly lower intentions to use cannabis ($p<.001$). Building on this, a second study demonstrates a scalable method for fostering this role in teachers (N=305): a brief student letter successfully disrupts negative construals, boosting perceptions of student potential ($p<.01$) and reducing blame ($p<.01$).

These findings informed our "More Than That" field intervention in the Oakland Unified School District. We will discuss qualitative pilot data (N = 25) that document students' experiences with stigma, while also showing how the intervention fostered teachers' commitment to the students. Finally, we will report initial findings from our RCT, offering a scalable, psychologically-wise model to transform school responses to adolescent risk behaviors.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Rhana Hashemi
PhD Candidate | Stanford

Authors

Rhana Hashemi, Gregory Walton

Propensity for overinvolvement and well-being: A 4-year longitudinal study

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

SELF-REGULATION

College students are overwhelmed and under pressure, experiencing rising rates of mental health challenges. In the face of these academic pressures, students attempting to excel may become overinvolved, leading to stress and burnout. A 4-year longitudinal study investigates the relationship between propensity for overinvolvement, resilience, sleep quality, and well-being among university students. An initial sample of 1,473 university students (47.6% White, 38% female) completed baseline surveys at orientation and across their four undergraduate years, with a subset completing measures of propensity for overinvolvement, resilience, sleep quality, and psychological well-being. Using a random intercept cross-lagged panel model with latent interactions, we examine whether propensity for overinvolvement deteriorates sleep quality and well-being over time, and whether resilience protects against these detrimental effects. Findings from this study highlight the potential dangers of a propensity for overinvolvement, while recognizing that under certain conditions, students may be able to thrive under high intrinsic pressure.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Skyler Wylly
Graduate Student | Duke University

Authors

Jinyoung Park, Rick Hoyle

Reducing socioeconomic disparities in math with emotion regulation interventions

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Disparities in U.S. college degree attainment based on socioeconomic status persist (Reber et al., 2023) despite the promise of STEM fields for upward mobility (U.S. Dept. of Labor, 2017). Yet low-SES students remain underrepresented in STEM (NSF, 2021; Theobald et al., 2020). Arousal reappraisal interventions, which frame stress as helpful rather than harmful, improve academic outcomes for low-SES students (Jamieson et al., 2016; Rozek et al., 2019). However, it is unclear why low-SES students benefit most from the intervention. We hypothesize that the message that arousal during high-stakes exams is "normal," though implied, may be particularly impactful for low-SES students. This study (N=534) compared the effects of a "normalizing arousal" message and an arousal reappraisal message in high school math classes. Both interventions reduced performance gaps for low-SES students by improving low-SES student exam scores, but arousal reappraisal led to greater gains. These findings advance theory by isolating the role of arousal normalization as a potential mechanism and suggest that the combined message—that arousal is both normal and helpful—may be particularly effective.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Maegan Arney
Doctoral Candidate | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Chris Rozek

Behavioral Discounting: Its History and Horizons

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E258, Level 2

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This symposium explores the history and future directions of behavioral discounting, emphasizing its prosocial components and applications to social and intergenerational decision-making. Moderator/Chair Bryan Jones, who developed the Social Discounting Task (SDT), will open by tracing the origins of social discounting in the temporal discounting literature and introducing the broader concept of psychological distance—how dimensions like time and social proximity shape valuation in behavioral decisions. The first talk examines how individuals high in psychopathy show steep social discounting, illuminating the link between reduced valuation of others and antisocial behavior. The second introduces a short-form SDT (SDT-SF), validating it as a time-efficient and reliable tool for assessing generosity. The third presents a meta-analysis and replication series confirming the SDT's robustness and its predictive validity for prosocial and antisocial outcomes. The final talk addresses moral concern for future generations, showing how extreme psychological distance leads to their persistent exclusion from the moral circle.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Bryan Jones
Associate Professor | Kent State University at Ashtabula



Paige Amormino
NIH T32 Postdoctoral Fellow | Pennsylvania State University

Severity of Psychopathy in a Community-Recruited Sample is Indexed by Increased Social Discounting

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Psychopathy is a personality construct marked by boldness, disinhibition, insensitivity to others' suffering, and persistent engagement in behaviors that harm others. These features suggest that highly psychopathic people may place much less subjective weight on others' outcomes relative to their own. We assessed social discounting - indexing how the subjective value of others' outcomes declines as a function of social distance - in a novel, demographically diverse community sample of very-high psychopathy adults (top 5% of TriPM scorers; $n=288$), and demographically similar controls ($n=427$), who also reported antisocial and criminal behavior. Results show robust increases in social discounting as psychopathy increases ($B = 0.40$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [0.33, 0.47]), and reduced subjective valuation of others' outcomes partially mediates the group differences in antisocial behavior ($p = 0.18$). Our findings provide new insights into how high psychopathy individuals value others, from closest others to strangers, and how this valuation can serve as a protective factor from antisocial behavior, highlighting the need for interventions aimed at increasing how others' outcomes are valued.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Naomi Nero
PhD Student | Georgetown University

Authors

Paige Amormino, Marla Dressel, Paige Freeburg, Melinda Sommers, Lindsay Poplinski

Development and Validation of the Social Discounting Task: Short Form

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Social discounting—defined as hyperbolic reductions in generosity as social distance increases—is becoming more widely used in psychological research as an indicator of prosocial behavior and is most commonly measured by the Social Discounting Task (SDT). However, while robust, the SDT requires subjects to make 63 dichotomous decisions, which can be cumbersome and time-consuming. Thus, we created and validated a short-form version of the scale (SDT-SF) that reduces the inventory to 7 items. Across two pre-registered studies ($n = 993$), we found that the SDT-SF responses were correlated with classic SDT responses ($r_{study1} = .67$, $p < .001$; $r_{study2} = .69$, $p < .001$) and followed a similarly hyperbolic decay in generosity as social distance increased ($\log k_{study1} = -3.70$, $p < .001$; $\log k_{study2} = -3.42$, $p < .001$). Our findings suggest the SDT-SF is a valid and reliable alternative measure to the SDT for investigating social discounting effects reliably and efficiently for researchers and participants.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Paige Amormino
NIH T32 Postdoctoral Fellow | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Abigail Marsh, August Graue

Social Discounting and Anti-/Pro-Sociality: A Meta-Analysis and (Short-Form) Replication

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Our preregistered meta-regression revealed an inverse relationship between social discounting and multiple prosocial outcomes ($N = 14$, $r = -0.231$, $p < 0.001$), and supported the hyperbolic nature of the relationship between generosity and social distance ($N = 44$, $\log k = -2.37$, $p < 0.0001$). We found evidence for differences in real-world vs. hypothetical rewards on social discounting, such that real-world rewards decreased social discounting. We found no evidence for differences in social discounting from country-level individualism-collectivism or relational mobility. In conceptual replications of 14 prosocial/antisocial outcomes predicted by the SDT, all prosocial effects and two of four antisocial effects replicated, further supporting the SDT's robustness as a predictor of stable individual differences in prosociality.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Heather Doherty
Research Assistant | Weill Cornell Medicine

Authors

Paige Amormino, Jeffrey Gao, Penny Li, Samantha Induni, Sara Amar

Future Generations Hold the Lowest Moral Standing, Even Below Present-Day Marginalized Outgroups and the Natural World

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Climate change, poverty, and inequality pose significant threats to the well-being of future generations, making it essential to advocate for their interests in present-day decisions. Yet, little is known about how people morally evaluate future generations relative to other distant groups, such as human outgroups and nature (plants, animals). Moreover, does this perception change among those who exhibit impartial intergenerational beneficence (i.e., concern for all future generations), or when moral concern is framed as zero-sum? Across 15 studies, we find that future generations consistently receive less moral concern than present-day targets already ascribed low levels of concern. This pattern holds whether moral expansiveness is framed as unlimited or zero-sum and persists even among individuals who typically care deeply about future generations, regardless of their temporal distance. These findings suggest that future generations hold a uniquely disadvantaged position in the moral hierarchy—not because of perceived constraints on moral concern, but due to factors intrinsic to their exceptional psychological distance from the self, here and now.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jin Capozzoli
Master's Student | Penn State University

Authors

Stylianios Syropoulos, Kyle Law

Conceptualizing and Motivating Meaningful and Equitable Climate Action

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E270, Level 2

OTHER

Addressing climate change and environmental injustice is one of society's most pressing issues. Research on promoting climate action must encourage behavior that is both effective and ethically informed; existing self-centered interventions may hinder transformative change. This symposium focuses on how individuals conceptualize climate change, motivations for climate action, and novel theoretical work informing intervention design. The first talk examines how social and ecological hierarchies drive conceptualizations of and behavior towards environmental injustice. The second talk highlights how cultural threats galvanize climate action in Indigenous Peoples, emphasizing how collective hope can motivate action. In several high-powered generalizable studies, the third talk examines how interconnectedness with future generations fosters climate stewardship. The last talk investigates Regulatory Scope, finding evidence for how expanding scope can predict past and present behavior, and inform future climate action. These works highlight the importance of understanding the theoretical mechanisms that promote real-world impacts related to climate intervention and equity.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Joan J. H. Kim
Northeastern University



Naseem Dillman-Hasso
PhD Student | The Ohio State University

Social and Ecological Domains: Hierarchy Preferences on Equality Outcomes

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

OTHER

Climate change and environmental degradation are social issues as well as ecological issues; attitudes to marginalized humans and non-humans shape care for both groups. As such, this work asks whether and how relevant attitudes are influenced by preferences for social and natural hierarchies. In Study 1 (N= 171), participants were asked about social and ecological hierarchy preferences and explanations. Hierarchy preferences were greater for the ecological domain than the social domain ($t(169)=7.80$, $p<0.001$, $d=0.73$), and positively related ($r(168)=0.27$, $p<0.001$). However, explanations for social hierarchies were more likely to mention cultural construction, equality, and anti hierarchy language, whereas explanations for ecological hierarchies mentioned naturalness, anthropocentrism, coexistence, and responsibility. As such, social and ecological hierarchy preferences may be related, but reflect different sets of underlying beliefs, suggesting that beliefs about equality may be addressed via distinct pathways. Thus, Study 2 (N=176; analysis underway) examines how hierarchical preferences are related to environmental and climate equality attitudes, policy support, and behavior.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Joan J. H. Kim
Northeastern University

Authors

John Coley

As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Affect and Environmental Action

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

OTHER

Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) cultures and identities are sustained by the environment. Environmental injustice thus threatens IPs' wellbeing. Collective action literature finds that group emotions motivate those perceiving such injustices to take action. The present work examines how unique group emotions similarly motivate IPs' environmental action. Study 1 (N=1037) shows IPs who perceive culture threats from environmental hazards more frequently engage in environmental action in part from feeling more fear about their group's future (i.e. collective angst; $\beta=0.07$, $SE=0.02$, 95% CI[0.03, 0.11]). The effect of collective angst has been supported in the literature, but may not fully account for the unique strengths enabling IPs' resistance since the arrival of settlers. Thus, Study 2 (N=1086; analysis underway) assesses how belief in a positive future for one's group derived from memory of ancestral resilience (i.e. collective hope) interacts with collective angst to motivate action. These studies emphasize how these emotions shape IPs' capacity to protect the environment for their cultures and future generations.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Alana Smutz
Graduate Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Julisa Lopez

Too Far to Care: Climate Change and Intergenerational Moral Failure

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

OTHER

Climate change presents a profound moral challenge: its most severe consequences will be borne by people not yet born. Yet across 15 studies, we find that future generations receive less moral concern than even marginalized present-day groups or non-human nature. This exclusion persists across framing conditions (e.g., zero-sum vs. non-zero-sum concern) and even among those who report strong intergenerational commitment. In a complementary set of five preregistered studies (N = 3,876), we examined how many generations people believe individuals and governments should consider when making decisions. While prescriptive horizons vary, highlighting humanity's long-term interconnectedness significantly expands moral concern and reduces intergenerational discounting. Together, these findings reveal that psychological distance—not limited moral capacity—accounts for the neglect of future generations. Addressing this moral blind spot is critical for building sustained public will to act on climate change, and for fostering a deeper ethic of intergenerational climate stewardship.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Stylianios Syropoulos
Assistant Professor | Arizona State University

Authors

Kyle Law, Jinhee Capozzoli

Understanding and Promoting Pro-Environmental Behavior Through Regulatory Scope

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

OTHER

Many pro-environmental behavior (PEB) interventions attempt to reduce psychological distance (defined as how far away an object or event is from the self) towards climate change. However, this work is held back by theoretical and practical limitations: psychological distance cannot be reduced, and psychological-distance focused approaches promote an egocentric set of solutions. Recent theoretical advancements in Regulatory Scope provide a different viewpoint, proposing that action (vs inaction) is promoted through expansive (vs contractive) scope, defined as the range of ends and possibilities that one takes into consideration when making decisions. In a novel application of this theory, and across 5 pre-registered studies (N=600 in total), we show that expansive regulatory scope is associated with greater past PEB engagement, more donations to environmental charities, stronger environmental identity, and greater intentions to engage in future PEBs. This work not only contributes to novel theoretical advances in the field by resolving inconsistencies in past literature, but also provides clear and practical guidance for encouraging PEBs as well as other prosocial behaviors.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Naseem Dillman-Hasso
PhD Student | The Ohio State University

Divided We Speak: Political Discourse in the Age of Polarization

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

POLITICS

How does polarization shape political discourse? This symposium explores how political polarization not only divides citizens but also reshapes how they engage with—and disengage from—political discourse on social media platforms, the primary public squares in the 21st century. The first talk explains how social media distorts perceptions of public opinion, fueling pluralistic ignorance and false polarization across 40 countries. The second highlights a feedback loop between polarization and political memes, showing that polarized individuals are most likely to endorse and spread ideologically congruent content. The third uses large-scale computational methods to show that closed-mindedness is a pervasive and self-reinforcing feature of online political discourse. The fourth demonstrates that heightened electoral threat during polarized elections suppresses in-party criticism, constraining citizens' political expression and public political discourse. Together, these talks reveal how polarization and partisan identity interact to distort perceptions, amplify division, and constrain constructive political discourse.

*SYMPOsia

Speakers



Jordan Thompson
Ph.D. Student | Florida Atlantic University



Jules Oberschulte
Harvard University

Online Discourse is Falsely Polarized by Users' Concealment of Moderate Views

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

Much research and debate about social media concerns its potential to polarize the political attitudes and partisan sentiments held by their users. However, we show how online discourse is falsely polarized by a process of attitude filtration. Thus, online posts are not a random sample of users' political opinions, but one biased towards the most extreme attitudes of each user, and the most extreme users in the population. Across a diverse series of six studies (total N > 47,000), we trace this biased sampling process from users' underlying attitudes to their expression of those attitudes online. First, the association between extremity and posting manifests both in hypothetical and behavioral online speech; second, that this pattern is not simply explained by the heightened political interest of extreme users; third, that it persists in 40/40 countries examined and cultures and across 6/6 US political issues examined; third, that individual users are more likely to post about the issues on which they hold their most extreme views; and fourth, that the opinions they are willing to post tend to engender more negative reactions amongst readers than the opinions they keep private.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Claire Robertson

Assistant Professor | Colby College

Authors

Jay Van Bavel, Ashwini Ashokkumar, Claire Robertson, Will Schulz, Hallgeir Sjåstad

Taking Memes to the Extremes: Partisan Polarization Boosts Meme Effectiveness

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

Memes are increasingly used in lay communication to advance discourse and circulate ideas. Simultaneously, affective polarization is at a high point in the US. Here, we examined whether polarized people rate ideologically consistent moral political memes as more effective than less polarized individuals in three studies (N = 1,809). Participants were presented with morally relevant political memes and rated their meme effectiveness (humor, liking, sharing, agreement, and offensiveness). Both more polarized liberals and conservatives consistently rated ideologically consistent memes as more effective than their less polarized counterparts, and participants generally rated out-group memes as ineffective. This suggests that polarized partisans may have stronger reactions to memes, regardless of the meme's moral content. While this work cannot establish a causal relationship, these results offer insight into the potential bidirectional relationship between online political memes and increased polarization, as polarized individuals were more likely to like and share memes than their less polarized counterparts.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Jordan Thompson

Ph.D. Student | Florida Atlantic University

Authors

Jordan Thompson, Geoffrey Wetherell

Closed-Mindedness in Online Political Spaces

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

The unwillingness to consider alternative viewpoints hinders the integration of differing perspectives required to resolve contentious problems. Here, we conducted the first large-scale behavioral study of closed-mindedness in online political spaces. We first developed a text classifier of closed-mindedness by fine-tuning a large language model, then applied it to Reddit comments. Analyses revealed five key findings. Study 1 showed that (i) closed-mindedness was significantly more prevalent in political than nonpolitical communities (N = 10,006 communities; 252 million comments), a difference not attributable to toxicity. Study 2 examined N = 1,000,000 comments from political communities with a partisan lean, finding that closed-minded comments were more likely to: (ii) express partisan views, (iii) receive social disapproval particularly when their partisan views misaligned with the community's lean, and (iv) elicit replies, which were (v) especially likely to be closed-minded. These findings underscore closed-mindedness as a distinctive and self-reinforcing feature of online political discourse.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Michalis Mamakos

Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Warsaw

Authors

Eli Finkel, Michalis Mamakos, William Brady, Steven Franconeri, Galen Bodenhausen

Under Pressure: Partisans Self-Censor In-Party Criticism in Response to Electoral Threat

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

In democratic societies, elections offer citizens an important opportunity to influence their representatives. Yet, in politically polarized societies, elections may heighten feelings of intergroup threat, producing a tradeoff between expressing critical opinions of one's party and supporting its success. Prior work shows that perceived threat leads group members to judge ingroup critics more harshly and self-censor their own in-group criticism. Building on this work, we examine whether highly polarized elections, by increasing feelings of intergroup threat, promote self-censorship of in-party criticism. We conducted a two-wave panel survey with a U.S. representative sample recruited via Prolific in the two weeks before the 2024 U.S. Presidential election (N₁=822; N₂=741). We find that under higher electoral threat, participants are less likely to publicly criticize their party, especially when holding strong partisan identities. A pilot experiment (N=961) manipulating electoral threat provided converging evidence. These results suggest that rising polarization can stifle intra-party dissent, limiting citizens' political expression and potentially undermining democracy.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jules Oberschulte
Harvard University

Authors

Sanaz Talaifar, Ashwini Ashokkumar, Jules Oberschulte, Ajua Duker

Emotion Norms across Cultures

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E353B, Level 3

CULTURE

Culture shapes goals, values, thoughts, and behaviors. This symposium brings together recent advances in the study of what people pursue, value, and believe about emotions. Speaker #1 will show that how much people want to make themselves feel better, when regulating emotions in daily life, differs between US Americans and Japanese. Speaker #2 will demonstrate that how people conceptualize and value compassion differs between US Americans and Mexicans. Speaker #3 will reveal that how people think about emotions is reflected in linguistic patterns that differ between English-speaking US Americans and Dutch-speaking Belgians. Lastly, Speaker #4 will demonstrate that adherence to social norms—including emotion norms—varies both within and between cultures. Together, these novel findings underscore the importance of adopting a culturally-sensitive perspective to understanding what is emotionally normative.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Maya Tamir
Professor | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

U.S. Americans Want to Feel Better Than Japanese Do

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

Emotion regulation, which involves attempts to influence emotions, is initiated when a goal to influence emotions is activated. How people want to influence their emotions, however, may differ across cultures. In this investigation, we tested whether individuals from the United States and Japan differ in how they want to influence their emotions in their daily lives. In a preregistered ecological momentary assessments study (N = 221), we examined how U.S. Americans and Japanese students felt, how they wanted to feel, and how they wanted to influence these feelings in daily life. As predicted, U.S. Americans wanted to feel less intense unpleasant emotions and more intense pleasant emotions and were more motivated to decrease their unpleasant emotions and increase their pleasant emotions than Japanese were, even when controlling for differences in experienced emotions. These findings demonstrate that the degree to which people value pleasant and devalue unpleasant emotions in daily life is culture-dependent.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Danfei Hu
Postdoctoral researcher | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Yulia Chentsova-Dutton, Yuri Miyamoto, Danfei Hu, Lisya Kaspi

Compassion in Mexico and the United States: Unpacking Cultural Differences

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

Cultural differences in conceptualizations of compassion exist, but studies including participants from Latin America are rare. Therefore, the present study investigates the conceptualization of compassion in Mexico and the United States, aiming to understand why these cultural differences occur. We hypothesized that Mexicans would want to avoid feeling negative less, would regard emotion sharing as a more critical element of a compassionate response, and would therefore conceptualize a compassionate face as one that expresses sadness more and happiness less compared to U.S. Americans. Participants from Mexico and the United States selected stimuli that most resembled a compassionate face, indicated how much they wanted to avoid feeling negative and described what a compassionate response entails. Supporting our hypotheses, Mexicans, who want to avoid feeling negative less compared to U.S. Americans, place greater importance on emotion sharing in a compassionate response. This variation is associated with Mexicans conceptualizing a compassionate face as one that portrays more sadness and less happiness compared to U.S. Americans.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Birgit Koopmann-Holm
Associate Professor | Santa Clara Univ.

Authors

Naomi Hernandez, Liam Llerena, Evita Morales, Jack Tillman, David Ruiz Mendez

Cultural Models of Emotion Manifest in Descriptions of Everyday Experience

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

Language provides a window onto how people conceptualize their emotional experiences, yet linguistic analyses that go beyond individual emotion words are rare. We explored cultural models of emotions prevalent in the US and Belgium using verbal descriptions of recent events collected from speakers of North American (US) English and Belgian Dutch. We analyzed the descriptions in three stages: 1) topic modeling to characterize content, 2) word counting to examine linguistic resources, and 3) inductive analysis to uncover broader themes. Consistent with prior research on US and Belgian culture, our findings revealed notable cultural differences alongside similarities. US English speakers used more first-person pronouns and affective language, emphasized high-arousal emotions, and prioritized personal achievements and open expression. In contrast, Belgian Dutch speakers' descriptions reflected a moderated approach to emotions, illustrating how social standards and broader worldviews gave meaning to events, with use of fewer first-person pronouns and more language focused on relativization. We conclude by evaluating our approach against other means of studying emotion across cultures.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Katie Hoemann
Assistant Professor | University of Kansas

Authors

Rüya Su Şencan, Anouck Cochez, Catho Beckers, Batja Mesquita

Social Norm Adherence Varies Within and Between Cultural Regions

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

Leading theoretical accounts in cultural psychology argue that adherence to social norms is greater in certain cultures, irrespective of the content of norms. However, these theories have largely been based on studies focusing on a limited range of behaviors and specific measures. To address this limitation, we assess adherence to social norms across a broader range of features, including norm referent (whether norms are for behaviors vs. emotions), norm type (prescriptive vs. descriptive), norm contextualization (context-specific vs. in general), norm assessment (homogeneity vs. concordances), and valence (for emotion norms: positive vs. negative). Two large-scale studies (total N = 3,344) conducted in Japan, South Korea, the United States (Studies 1-2), and the United Kingdom (Study 2) reveal significant variation across all features, both within and between cultural regions. These findings suggest that theories of cultural differences in norm adherence were based on a limited subset of norms and may have overstated cross-cultural differences, and highlight the need to consider which norms are assessed.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Allon Vishkin
Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

Authors

Yuri Miyamoto, Lisy Kaspi, Tomotaka Okuyama, Min Young Kim, Maya Tamir

Emotional Responses to Others' Suffering: How (Much) Should I Feel?

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E271, Level 2

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Emotions are deeply embedded in the social fabric of our lives. When encountering others who are suffering, how we generate, regulate, and understand emotions can have long-lasting consequences. Yet, much is still unknown about emotions in these contexts, including when and why individuals regulate their emotions up or down and what processes underlie people's emotional functioning. This symposium aims to spark discussion about emotional functioning in social contexts that raise the specter of emotional discomfort, with four talks presenting data from different theoretical perspectives, using diverse methods (i.e., age-diverse samples, individuals and dyads, self-report and psychophysiology), and with a focus on different emotion processes. Among the questions these talks will address are: Does curiosity bolster empathy for others? Does having empathy for suffering others—or receiving empathy from others— increase or decrease one's own feelings of distress? What is the role of accepting one's own emotions in responding to others' suffering? We will address these questions separately, and we will explore connections among them at the end of symposium.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Michael Poulin
Associate Professor | University at Buffalo



Claudia Haase
Dr. | Northwestern University

The Complex Relationship Between Curiosity and Empathy

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Can curiosity foster empathy across differences? Although curiosity is linked to positive relationship outcomes (e.g. closeness), its causal role in empathy for strangers is underexplored. We conducted two pre-registered studies (N=160 and 210) to test whether sparking curiosity can increase empathic responses toward strangers among undergraduates. Across both studies, participants in curiosity-inducing conditions felt more curious, but didn't show greater empathic motivation or concern. However, there was some evidence for an indirect effect: the more curious participants felt in the moment, the more empathy they at times felt. Curiosity also reduced personal distress and increased participants' willingness to engage with someone different. This suggests that although curiosity may not directly cause empathy, it may support the emotional regulation and openness needed for deeper connection. Rather than shutting down, curious individuals can stay engaged—even when encountering pain or difference—a "keep calm and connect" response that is essential for forming new relationships in pluralistic societies.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Sara Konrath
Associate Professor | Indiana University

Authors

Victoria Lagrange

Feeling It Without Fixing It: Acceptance When Facing Loss

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Acceptance (i.e., embracing emotions and thoughts without judging them) in the face of others' loss may be important for well-being and health. Using a within-subjects laboratory-based design, we examined habitual acceptance (using questionnaires) and instructed acceptance (instructing individuals to use acceptance vs. "just watch" when watching film clips depicting people experiencing loss) in 129 older adults (age 64-83). Specificity analyses probed detachment (i.e., mental distancing) and reappraisal (i.e., reframing). Results showed that (1) older adults perceived themselves as most successful when instructed to use acceptance (vs. detachment or reappraisal), (2) habitual acceptance (but not detachment or reappraisal) predicted greater mental health, and (3) habitual acceptance (but not detachment or reappraisal) predicted greater vagal reactivity during instructed emotion regulation. Findings show distal and proximal benefits of acceptance in the face of others' loss; underscore differences between acceptance, detachment, and reappraisal; and highlight distinctions between habitual and instructed emotion regulation.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Claudia Haase
Dr. | Northwestern University

Authors

David Rompilla, Lillian Fu, Chen-Wei Yu

Empathy and Emotions During Conflict Resolution in Dementia Caregiving Dyads

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

When relational partners navigate conflict, perceptions of the empathy expressed by each other can influence the emotional quality of the interaction. This may be particularly true in interactions between people with dementia and their caregivers (CGs) because disease processes may alter empathy in the care recipient (CR). In a sample of 61 CGs and CRs with various kinds of dementias, we examined the associations between perceptions of empathy and reported affect during a 10-minute relationship conflict discussion. Results indicated that higher ratings of CR empathy by CGs were associated with greater CG reports of positive emotions (i.e., affectionate, amused, calm, proud) and lesser reports of negative emotions (i.e., afraid, angry, ashamed). Similarly, higher ratings of CG empathy by CRs were associated with greater CR reports of positive emotions and lesser reports of negative emotions. Exploratory analyses revealed that higher ratings of CR empathy by CGs were associated with greater CR empathic accuracy for negative emotions (measured as the discrepancy between CG and CR reports of CGs' emotions). Implications of these findings for CG health and well-being will be discussed.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Julian Scheffer
Assistant Professor | University of Western Ontario

Authors

Casey Brown, Kuan-Hua Chen, Jenna Wells, Breanna Bullard, Jennifer Merrilees

Caring Despite Pain: Compassion Predicts Stability in Response to Suffering

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Exactly what compassion for others' suffering consists of is the source of some debate: can it include aversive feelings, sometimes labeled empathic distress, or is it solely positive in valence? We propose that the defining feature of compassion is not the valence of one's affective response but the degree to which one values that response and accordingly is willing to sustain it. Across three studies (total N = 567) using psychophysiological methods in order to sidestep limitations of self-report, our lab has found that those who report high levels of compassion in response to a depiction of suffering others tend to maintain the same level of physiological threat across a period of roughly one hour, while physiological threat tends to change more for those who report low levels of compassion. In the third study (N = 98), we find initial evidence that this phenomenon is specifically driven by people's favorable appraisals of having empathy for suffering others. These effects were not driven by self-reported personal distress. Compassion for others may be best defined as valuing one's emotional reactions to their suffering, including possible discomfort.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Michael Poulin
Associate Professor | University at Buffalo

Authors

Nathaniel Zedoni, Leslie Mei, Corey Allred

How Gratitude and Awe Foster Adherence to Prosocial Commitments

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

What drives people to do the hard thing when it's the right thing to do? While cognitive deliberation can help people navigate morally difficult actions, this symposium demonstrates the importance of two emotions. Specifically, it explores how gratitude and awe encourage commitment to personal and societal values, even when doing so is effortful, costly, or goes against self-interest. Talk 1 uses a multi-method approach that includes survey data from 22 countries (N>200k) and field studies at blood drives and flu shot clinics to show that more grateful individuals are more likely to engage in costly prosocial actions. Talk 2 draws upon 3 million individuals to examine how experiences of awe morally transform collectives by expanding social perspectives from narrow self-interest to others' needs. Talk 3 finds that expressions of gratitude shape third-party moral judgments, which in turn influence cooperative behavior. Talk 4 uses field data from celebrity events, linguistic analysis of Reddit users' language and behavior, and experiments to demonstrate how awe strengthens commitment to public figures, even at great personal cost.

*SYMPOsia

Speakers



Randy Lee
Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Wisconsin–Madison



Tom Gilovich
Professor | Cornell University

Gratitude Is Associated with Taking Costly Prosocial Action

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Gratitude is not without its critics. Some have argued that it encourages system-justification, thereby discouraging efforts to challenge the status quo. Although gratitude has been shown to promote prosocial behavior, most studies have focused on actions with relatively minor costs. To address this gap, we analyzed data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. respondents (Study 1; N = 2016) and a longitudinal study of nationally representative samples across 22 countries (Study 2; N = 207,919), and we conducted a field study at blood drives and flu shot clinics (Study 3; N = 396) and three experiments (Studies 4a–4c; N = 643) that manipulated feelings of gratitude. We found robust evidence that more grateful individuals are more likely to engage in costly prosocial actions. Our manipulations of state gratitude, however, did not increase participants' willingness to engage in costly prosocial behavior, although those who scored higher on trait gratitude in these experiments reported greater willingness to engage in costly prosocial actions. Together, our findings challenge claims that gratitude reinforces the status quo and undermines efforts to bring about societal change.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Randy Lee
Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Wisconsin–Madison

Authors

Kirstan Brodie, Jerry Richardson, Tom Gilovich

The Moral Grounding of Awe

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Experiences of awe are profound and transformative for individuals. In this talk, we highlight how experiences of awe also morally transform collectives, by expanding people's social perspectives from narrow self-interest to others' needs. We review empirical evidence showcasing how experiences of awe, whether experienced in solitude or simultaneously with millions of others, are associated with systematic shifts in social-cognitive tendencies vital to moral life: attentiveness to others, social connectedness, and prosociality. We end our talk by describing recent studies on the social signaling of awe: it triggers inferences of an individual's potential for moral, virtuous learning and behavior. Moreover, awe-prone individuals are judged to be more moral, more curious, and more full of potential compared to individuals prone to other positive emotions. This talk highlights awe as an experience rooted in human morality. It inspires people to engage with the needs of the collective and to recognize others' potential to do the same.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Paul Piff
Associate Professor | UC Irvine

Authors

Matthew Billet

Thank You as a Signal: Witnesses' Impressions and Behavior

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Thank You as a Signal: Witnesses' Impressions and Behavior

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Alexandra Gray
PhD Student | Northeastern University

Authors

David DeSteno

Awe as an Affective Pathway to Commitment

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

People feel deeply committed to certain public figures, rallying behind their causes, following their trends, and sacrificing resources to support them. What drives commitment to these individuals? We hypothesize that one powerful driving force is the emotion of awe. To test this claim, we measured awe at two large-scale celebrity events in the field (Study 1), induced awe versus amusement in a controlled laboratory setting (Study 2; pre-registered) and conducted linguistic analysis of Reddit users' language and behaviour about a specific well-known figure (Study 3; pre-registered). Across these studies, feeling awe predicted greater reported and behavioural commitment (e.g. prosocial sacrifice) towards public figures, even more extreme forms of commitment (e.g., discrediting a figure's wrongdoings). These results offer the first empirical evidence for theoretical claims that awe is a powerful commitment device, binding us to others outside of close relationships.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jennifer Stellar
Associate Professor | University of Toronto

Authors

Yachen Li, Lucia Di Censo, Maedeh Gholamzadehmir

More Than a Machine: The Psychology of Human-AI Relationships

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E353C, Level 3

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

As society grapples with rising loneliness, individuals are increasingly turning to technology to fulfill fundamental relational needs. This symposium explores the emerging phenomenon of human-AI relationships, from parasocial bonds to deep romantic connections with virtual agents. The first talk analyzes how virtual romance can reduce loneliness and enhance well-being, even for those in existing relationships, by fulfilling key emotional needs. The second talk examines the role of anthropomorphism as a key predictor for forming parasocial connections with AI chatbots. The third talk reveals that while individual traits and structured interactions can foster closeness with AI, broader acceptance as a relational partner is limited by critical barriers like social norms and public readiness. Lastly, the fourth talk investigates how relationships with virtual agents are often rooted in general social deficits, rather than romantic ones. Collectively, these presentations provide a multifaceted understanding of why people form bonds with AI, the psychological benefits they can derive, and the complex interplay of individual and social factors shaping the future of human connection.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Qi Zhang
Phd student | University of Kansas



Connor Leshner
PhD Candidate | Trent University

Guilty Desires and Digital Love: Romantic Anthropomorphism with Virtual Agents

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Love, traditionally shared between humans, is increasingly being directed toward virtual agents (VAs). Across four studies (N = 1,641), we explored why people pursue romantic connections with VAs (Studies 1 and 2), how romantic needs emerged in these interactions (Study 3), and whether virtual romance offered real-world psychological benefits (Study 4). Our findings revealed that engaging with VAs can reduce loneliness and enhance well-being, regardless of relationship status. Surprisingly, individuals in romantic relationships report stronger emotional engagement and greater psychological benefits from VAs than singles. These partnered individuals also experienced emotional support from VAs, which contributed to their sense of resilience. Men felt more guilt about spending time with VAs but not about spending money on them. Although users felt ambivalent about microtransactions involving romantic VAs, they continued to use these interactions to fulfill emotional and physical needs. These findings highlight the psychological potential of virtual romance and the importance of understanding how emerging technologies are reshaping human relationships.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Mayu Koike
Assistant Professor | Institute of Science Tokyo

Authors

Midori Ban

Artificial Intimacy: The Role of Anthropomorphism in Creating Parasocial Relationships

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In this study, we examined parasocial relationships, one-sided connections with media figures that lack personal communication. We examined the predictors of meaningful parasocial connections by considering individual differences linked to extant parasocial relationships, and by examining the predictors of forming novel connections with a chatbot. Participants (N=308) indicated whether they engaged in parasocial relationships (and, if they did, indicated the closeness of that relationship) and completed questionnaires assessing various individual differences. Participants then interacted briefly with a chatbot, followed by a questionnaire to assess the perceived closeness and realism of that interaction. We found evidence to suggest that those who currently engage in parasocial relationships tend to anthropomorphize, or apply human traits to, chatbots, and this was associated with a higher level of closeness when engaging in these relationships. Anthropomorphizing the chatbot, and having positive perceptions of technology, predicted relationship closeness with the chatbot. This study sheds light on factors influencing novel parasocial relationships with digital technology.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Sydney Lopez
University of California, Davis

Authors

Abraham Rutchick

Relational AI: Examining Willingness to Form Close Relationships with AI

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

As loneliness increases globally, people are increasingly turning to AI to fulfill relational needs. Across 4 studies, we examined the phenomenon of relational AI, and the psychological and contextual conditions under which individuals perceive AI as potential partners. In Study 1, a large-scale semantic analysis of online discourse revealed that AI is linguistically associated with relationships and intimacy. Study 2 demonstrated that individuals with more positive attitudes toward AI and higher attachment anxiety were more willing to consider a romantic relationship with an AI agent. Study 3 tested a descriptive norm manipulation meant to normalize AI-human relationships, but found the norm manipulation reduced people’s willingness to form relationships with AI. In Study 4, an immersive virtual reality interaction with a human-like ostensibly AI agent revealed that structured intimacy-building tasks can increase perceived closeness between humans and AI, particularly among men. Together, these findings suggest that while generative AI can evoke feelings of intimacy and connection under certain conditions, public readiness and normative acceptance remain critical barriers.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Qi Zhang
Phd student | University of Kansas

Authors

Omri Gillath, Xian Zhao, Matthew Cook, Michael Branicky, John Symons

Predictors of parasocial relationships with fictional characters across relationship status

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Parasocial relationships (PSRs) are one-sided relationships, where one person (an actor) has an interest in developing a relationship with another person (the target)—but the target is unaware of the actor's existence. While commonly conjuring thoughts of real people (e.g., celebrities), PSRs can also involve fictional or digital characters. The goal of this study was to understand whether a desire for a relationship with a digital character was predicted by deficits in one's social and romantic needs. We assessed the relationship between personal loneliness, well-being, emotional suppression, romantic loneliness, rates of physical and emotional romantic partner behaviours, and the rates and types of PSRs people experienced. We found an association between loneliness, well-being, emotional suppression, and having a PSR. We also found evidence for a partial mediation wherein having a PSR relates to lower well-being scores. We did not find any association between having a PSR and deficits in one's romantic relationships. These findings suggest that people seek out PSRs due to social deficits, but not due to physical and emotional deficits in one's romantic relationships.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Connor Leshner**
PhD Candidate | Trent University

Authors

Stephen Reysen, Courtney Plante, Sharon Roberts, Mayu Koike, Kathleen Gerbasi

The Journey to Belonging: Challenges, Costs, and Ways Forward

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E353A, Level 3

BELONGING/REJECTION

People want to feel that they belong. Indeed, the need to do so is fundamental to what it means to be human. Yet, the journey toward achieving belonging is not the same for everyone. Specifically, feeling belongingness is often more difficult for members of marginalized groups. This symposium highlights the challenges and costs inherent to the inequitable pursuit of belonging, as well as a potential context-level solution. Talk 1 documents the disproportionate challenges members of marginalized groups face as they seek belonging. Talk 2 examines the emotional and opportunity costs of doing so and Talk 3 examines how seeking out one type of belonging can even take tolls on other types of belonging. Finally, Talk 4 will propose an ecological approach to alleviating the challenges people face on their journeys toward belonging. These talks present a rigorous set of studies often featuring thousands of participants, recruited in both lab and field contexts, and working primarily with marginalized groups. They do so to tackle the important and timely problems of how, under what conditions, and with what consequences, members of marginalized groups pursue a sense of belonging.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Joel Le Forestier**
Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Who Gets to Belong? Belonging Opportunities in College Vary by Race and First-Gen Status

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Belonging is critical to student success, yet not all students experience college as a place where they can come to belong. Even more concerning, there are patterns of inequity by student racial identity and first-generation status. In this talk, we present findings from a study of over 15,000 students across 22 U.S. colleges showing that opportunities for belonging—what we call belonging affordances—are not equitably distributed. Black, Asian, and first-generation students were especially unlikely to have even minimally adequate belonging affordances on campus. These disparities, however, are not inevitable: some colleges create better conditions for belonging than others. We highlight this institutional variability and describe how colleges can identify who is well-served and who is not yet well-served. By engaging students directly and sharing their insights with campus leaders, support staff, and faculty, institutions can take concrete steps to equitably expand belonging affordances.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Kathryn Kroeper**
Assistant Professor | Sacred Heart University

Authors

Gregory Walton, Maithreyi Gopalan, Katherine Emerson

Exploring College Students' Cost to Belong

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

School belonging is often seen as a panacea for enhancing college student development and academic outcomes. However, few empirical studies have focused on understanding how students perceive the costs to belong, or the things students may give up or difficulties they may experience when they try to belong. Particularly in predominantly White institutions or institutions racialized by whiteness, college students of color face additional threats to their belonging, and, what we argue to be, greater cost to belong. In two studies, we validated a measure of psychological costs to belong that assessed students' perceived emotional and opportunity costs when trying to belong in college. Psychometric analyses revealed that the 15-item cost to belong scale was unidimensional with high internal consistency. First, we found that students of color reported a higher level of cost to belong compared to White students. Second, for students of color, cost to belong was a significant and negative predictor of college belonging, help-seeking, and academic performance. We discuss implications for the belonging dynamics that occur among marginalized students navigating educational contexts.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Carlton Fong**
Associate Professor | Texas State University

Authors

Christopher Rozek, Pedram Zarei

Belonging According to Whom? The Effects of Distancing from a Stigmatized Identity on Felt and Perceived Belonging

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Stigmatized group members face barriers to belonging. In response, many try to bolster their belonging by concealing their stigmas. Yet, studies show concealment reduces belonging. We tested two hypotheses to reconcile this paradox. The first is that people anticipate that concealing will bolster their belonging but that it in fact backfires (Inaccurate Forecasting Model). The second is that people conceal to bolster one type of belonging—how much others see them as belonging—even if they know it will harm another type of belonging—how much they feel they belong (Multiple Belongings Model; “MBM”). In Studies 1-2, sexual minorities were assigned to anticipate or retrospect on concealing or disclosing their sexual orientation. Consistent with the MBM, participants both anticipated and recalled feeling less belonging when they concealed but anticipated that others would perceive them as belonging more when they concealed. Study 3 replicated these findings with religious minorities, further supporting the MBM. This work shows how the need to belong motivates our intergroup behaviors and clarifies whether identity-distancing behaviors like concealment strengthen or weaken belonging.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Joel Le Forestier

Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Authors

Nalanda Ray

Transforming Social Contexts with Ecological Belonging Interventions

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Social psychological interventions often use individual-level random assignment in controlled settings. This session highlights the value of a socially focused approach that targets newly formed group contexts, such as classrooms and teams. We present results from four longitudinal field studies (N ~ 6,000) testing an ecological belonging intervention in introductory STEM college courses. By embedding elements of the social belonging interventions inside classrooms and creating space for dialogue around its core themes, the intervention aims to foster classroom ecologies that recursively support the individual and their sense of belonging. Results show the intervention improved students' sense of belonging, class attendance, peer collaboration, sleep quality, and academic performance. Many effects were especially pronounced for students from historically marginalized backgrounds, demonstrating the power of contextually embedded, socially grounded interventions.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Kevin Binning

Associate Professor of Psychology | University of Pittsburgh

The Social Meaning of Institutional Signals and Actions

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E450B, Level 4

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

To address large-scale societal challenges, psychology must develop a multi-level and institutionally-embedded understanding of the factors shaping human behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes. Actions by formal institutions (i.e. institutional signals) can exert direct influences on behavior but also significant indirect influences through the social meanings they convey (i.e. their expressive function). The research presented here examines the relationship between institutional signals and perceptions of social norms, and how signal features impact how they are interpreted by the public. The first study uses natural experiments to understand the direct effects of legal reform and direct democracy on the rights of disadvantaged groups and the normative environments in which they live. The second study examines how the relationship between Supreme Court rulings and perceptions of social norms depend on perceptions of public preferences. The third study examines how institutional signals interact, and which ones take precedence, in shaping responses to social challenges. The fourth presentation examines the language of corporate commitments to climate change, and how features of those commitments are interpreted by the public. Together, these studies have implications for our understanding of how institutional signals might bring about widespread social change.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Jordana Composto

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of British Columbia

How Institutional Decisions Influence Perceived Norms on LGBTIQ+ Rights

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Institutional decisions—whether through legal reform or direct democracy, where citizens vote on issues—can lead to significant changes in the rights of disadvantaged groups. Beyond the effects on rights, such decisions may also influence the normative climate in which these groups live. This talk presents findings from three large-scale natural experiments conducted around public votes on LGBTIQ+ rights in Switzerland and Australia. Across five samples (N = 3,360), including LGBTIQ+ people and cis-heterosexual supporters and opponents, we find that progressive votes expanding rights significantly shifted perceived norms. These shifts were linked to improved well-being among targeted minorities—particularly among those who had previously underestimated public support (i.e., pluralistic ignorance). While our studies focus on inclusive outcomes, we discuss the broader implications of our findings and ongoing research for institutional decisions that restrict rights, such as recent anti-trans legislation in the U.S. Understanding these processes highlights the powerful role of institutional signals in shaping the lived experiences of minority groups.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Leila Eisner

Senior researcher | University of Zurich

Authors

Tabea Hassler, Emma Thomas, Morgana Lizzio-Wilson, Winnifred Louis

The Effects of a US Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action on the Norm Perceptions and Attitudes of the Public

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Prior research shows that US Supreme Court rulings can shape the public's social norm perceptions, but the direction of the effect may depend on perceived public support for the opinion. In this study, we examine the impact of the 2023 US Supreme Court decision that banned race-based affirmative action in college admissions, a contentious policy with mixed support from the public. Using an interrupted time-series design (N = 2,694 white Americans) with four survey waves across four months, we show that after the decision, compared to before, respondents perceived Americans as less supportive of affirmative action, more racially resentful, and more racially colorblind. Subjective accounts of the public's reaction to the ruling moderated the effect on norm perceptions, such that the more perceived support for the decision, the greater the negative effect on perceptions of American support for affirmative action. The decision also influenced respondents' personal attitudes toward affirmative action, race, racism, and diversity, as well as their perceptions of the Court, but the direction of the effect differed by political party.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Chelsey Clark

Provostial Fellow | Princeton University

Authors

Janet Xu, Betsy Levy Paluck

Public Responses to Organizational Narratives about Climate Change Commitments

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Understanding how publics interpret organizational climate signals is crucial since reaching global climate goals requires private sector actions. Across four studies, we examine corporate climate commitments and their effects on employee and public attitudes and beliefs. In Study 1, we use NLP methods to analyze reports from 34 financial organizations, revealing increased prominence of climate topics over time. In study 2, we analyze 338 climate commitments and find that firms become more concrete in their commitments over time, reflecting growing organizational ambition and accountability. In two conjoint experiments (N=2,522), we examine how features of commitments shape preferences and beliefs. Both employees and the public prefer policies with specific monetary and timeline information and from large organizations with environmental track records. These findings reveal how features of corporate climate commitments shape public responses and beliefs.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jordana Composto

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of British Columbia

Authors

Sara Constantino

The Societal Signals Needed to Motivate Action on Societal Challenges

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Public response to social problems is guided by signals from many entities: the government, scientists, industry, and salient norms. How do these signals come together to mobilize public response to societal challenges related to climate change, health, and technology? Further, when people receive conflicting messages about what to do, do some entities, or combinations of entities, matter more than others? In two conjoint experiments (Ns = 1,500 & 2,000), and in one behavioral experiment (N = 1,600), we show the relative influence from government entities, experts and scientists, key stakeholders in industry, and public consensus (norms) in determining people's response to a variety of societal challenges. We also contrast types of signals from each entity, including support vs. opposition and actions vs. words. Across domains, we find that combining support from scientists and norms is especially influential in decision making, and motivates action even in the face of opposition from government and industry. We also find asymmetries such that support signals are more influential than opposition signals. We discuss implications for coalition building for major issues of the day.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Gregg Sparkman

Assistant Professor | Boston College

Authors

Anandita Sabherwal

Under Pressure: Tendencies and Tactics for Navigating the Social Hierarchy

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E351, Level 3

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Not everyone stands on equal ground—people vary in social status. When you are on the bottom of the heap, how do you connect with others and gain respect? This symposium shows how those with lower status climb the social ladder or ingratiate themselves with others. Paper 1 investigates popularity as a social hierarchy emerging in childhood. School-aged children think kids selectively copy popular kids, not all high-status kids. Paper 2 asks why low-status employees do not voice their opinions, suggesting it is because they see hierarchies as rigid barriers. Paper 3 probes people's beliefs about how those with less power negotiate better treatment. Specifically, people expect women and children to rely on indirect, emotional tactics. Finally, Paper 4 assessed the physiological attunement of lower- and higher- SES adults. How much is a person's physiological change predicted by another's? Lower SES adults demonstrated greater attunement to partners. Together, these studies illuminate the sophisticated behaviors used by people with lower social status and offer new insight into how the 99% maneuver and attempt to transcend social hierarchies (or why they sometimes choose to not).

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Katie Vasquez

PHD Student | University of Chicago

“Cool” Sages: Social Influence is a Core Feature of Popularity

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

From classroom cliques to influencer culture, popularity is a potent form of social status that emerges early and persists into adulthood. Popular kids have been called “prestigious” because they are copied by peers (Cillessen, 2011), like prestigious leaders (Henrich & Gil-White, 2001). But most popular people have many positive traits (e.g., athleticism, wealth), making it unclear what drives their influence. Who do people copy: the fittest athlete, the richest magnate, or the most popular icon? In four preregistered studies (N=380), we isolated popularity from its confounds by presenting 5–10-year-olds with novel kids. Children compared a popular kid, who lacked a trait (athleticism in S.1, wealth in S’s.2-4) to someone who was not popular but had that trait. We asked, “Who do all the kids in the class copy?” Between ages 7-9, children chose the popular kid, not the athletic or rich kid. Specifically, they copy their style, not homework (S.4). We argue being copied is a defining feature of popularity, distinguishing it from other forms of social status. This early copying prepares them for the adult social world, with norms curated by powerful peers and influencers.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Katie Vasquez

PHD Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Alex Shaw

Motivated by Mutability: Mutability Perceptions and Low-Status Employees’ Status Pursuits

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Having low-status is an aversive experience. Low-status employees, then, should be particularly motivated to engage in behaviors that would enhance their status. A particularly salient way they could gain status in the workplace is through expressing organizational voice, or providing ideas and perspectives that are meant to enhance organizational functioning. However, the voice literature has consistently found that high-status employees express voice significantly more frequently than low-status employees. Consequently, low-status employees not only disengage from status competition but impair their organization from benefiting from their unique perspectives. We seek to reconcile this tension by developing theory on how status considerations instigate voice. Specifically, we anticipate that low-status employees’ reduced voice expression stems from beliefs that their voice will be less likely to result in elevated status – i.e., that the hierarchy is less (versus more) mutable. We test these predictions across four studies and discuss the theoretical and practical importance of our findings.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Merrick Osborne

Assistant Professor | Cornell University School of Industrial Labor Relations

Authors

Andrew Choi, Samantha Martinez

Stereotypes of Aggression May Track Reality Across Five Nations

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Aggression is widespread tactic used to gain, maintain, or negotiate status. Decades of aggression research reveal that men tend to use more direct, physical aggression than women, whereas both men and women use indirect tactics (e.g., gossip, exclusion). To navigate status conflicts, perceivers may benefit from holding somewhat accurate expectations (stereotypes) about the types of aggressive tactics others might be likely to use. Yet, little research has tested whether such stereotypes exist. Past work often centers physical aggression—neglecting (a) women’s strategies and (b) common low-cost responses like avoidance. We examined a broad range of aggressive and de-escalatory tactics (e.g., appeasement, deflection) across five nations (Argentina, Kenya, Nigeria, Ukraine, US; N=948), comparing people’s stereotypes (what tactics men vs. women are expected to use) with reality (what tactics male/female participants report). Data suggests (1) people expect and prefer low-cost avoidance tactics; (2) people possess sex-specific stereotypes; (3) stereotypes are sometimes accurate. Notably, stereotypes about men’s aggression were generally more accurate than those about women.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Nina Rodriguez

University of California, Los Angeles

Authors

Jaimie Arona Krems

Socioeconomic Status Shapes Dyadic Interactions: Examining Behavioral and Physiologic Responses

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

With more opportunities for diverse interactions, little is known about how social interactions involving people of different socioeconomic status (SES) may unfold. We studied social attunement patterns in dyadic interactions involving high- and low-SES individuals. Unacquainted adults recruited from the community in the US interacted with similar-or different-SES partners in the lab (Ndyads = 130). Attunement was assessed throughout the interaction by examining physiological linkage—how much a person's physiological change is predicted by another's physiological change, over time. Overall, low-SES participants showed stronger physiological linkage—indicating greater attunement—to partners across SES. Participants also appeared more comfortable when interacting with low-SES partners. There were no SES differences in dominance during the conversation. Post-interaction, participants reported liking similar-SES partners more than different-SES partners. These patterns suggest that during interactions, lower-SES individuals are more "other-focused" than high-SES individuals, and ingroup preference prevails. We note limitations in the racial representation of our sample.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jacinth Tan
Associate Professor of Psychology | Singapore Management University

Authors

Wendy Berry Mendes, Tessa V. West

Using Social Network Approaches to Understand Social Connection Formation

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E265, Level 2

BELONGING/REJECTION

Social connection is essential for health and wellbeing. However, real-world social environments present complex webs of ties with both opportunities and risks. Here, we showcase how social network approaches can offer new insight into how people navigate these environments to form connections. The 1st talk quantifies a novel construct of "social risk-taking," finding that students who are more open to uncertain interactions become more liked in their dorm network over time. The 2nd talk finds that students who exhibit early and accurate representations of their network's structure rise to more influential network positions over time. The 3rd talk examines how people generalize experiences of rejection and acceptance based on social network ties, leading them to approach or avoid novel individuals. Finally, the 4th talk identifies "neural homophily" as a precursor of bonding in networks: Strangers with synchronous neural responses to movies form closer friendships eight months later. Together, these talks offer new insight into how people form connections in complex social environments and highlight the value of examining psychological phenomena using social network approaches.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Yi Zhang
Graduate Student | University of Southern California

Quantifying the Value of Social Risk Taking

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Taking social risks, such as starting a conversation with a stranger or sharing vulnerabilities with a friend, is fundamental to building meaningful connections. Yet, many people avoid them, often at a cost of their wellbeing. The present study investigates why people avoid social risks and how these decisions relate to their positions in real-world social networks. Ninety-six first-year students from a larger social network sample (N = 990) completed a behavioral task designed to quantify the subjective value of social risk taking. We found that mood factors differentially shaped social risk avoidance: anxiety was linked to heightened threat perceptions of social risk decisions, whereas depression was associated with lower interpersonal trust. Moreover, individuals who were more willing to take social risks in the lab were more likely to be seen as well-liked in the community-nominated social networks. These findings provide new insights into how people navigate social uncertainty, and highlight social risk behaviors as a promising target for interventions aiming to strengthen social ties and promote belongingness.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Rui Pei
Postdoc | Stanford University

Authors

Jamil Zaki

Early Insight into Social Network Structure Predicts Gaining Social Influence

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

While occupying an influential position within one's social network brings many advantages, it is unknown how certain individuals rise in social prominence. Leveraging a longitudinal dataset that tracks an entirely new network of college freshmen (N = 187), we test whether "climbing the social ladder" depends on knowing how other people are connected to each other. Those who ultimately come to occupy the most influential positions exhibit early and accurate representations of their network's general, abstract structure (i.e., who belongs to which communities and cliques). In contrast, detailed, granular representations of specific friendships do not translate into gains in social influence over time. Only once the network stabilizes do the most influential individuals exhibit the most accurate representations of specific friendships. These findings reveal that those who climb the social ladder first detect their emerging network's general structure and then fine-tune their knowledge about individual relationships between their peers as network dynamics settle.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Isabella Aslarus
PhD student | Stanford University

Authors

Jae-Young Son, Alice Xia, Oriel FeldmanHall

Generalization of Rejection and Acceptance in Social Networks

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Social environments present opportunities for connection but also risks of rejection. How do people learn who will reject or accept them upon entering a novel environment? We propose that people use knowledge of social network ties to infer who will likely accept or reject them. We designed a paradigm where participants experienced rejection and acceptance within an artificial group, learned network ties among members, and decided whom to approach in a new task. Studies 1-2 found participants generalized rejection and acceptance by avoiding individuals socially closer to the rejector and approaching those closer to the accepter, forming gradients of avoidance and approach based on network distance. Study 3 found stronger generalization when networks reflected friendship vs. randomly assigned ties, suggesting partner choices depend on inferences about meaningful relationships rather than associative learning alone. Finally, a longitudinal study extended these findings to real-world networks, revealing similar generalization patterns in college organizations. Together, these findings inform the cognitive processes that help humans adaptively form connections in social environments.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Authors

Leor Hackel

Neural Similarity Predicts Whether Strangers Become Friends

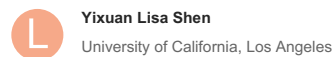
9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

What determines who becomes and stays friends? Recent work used neuroimaging to detect similarities among friends by capturing how they process the world around them. However, given the cross-sectional nature of past research, it is unknown if neural similarity is the cause or consequence of friendship. Here, we show that similarities in neural responses to movie clips predicted proximity in a friendship network eight months later. We also examined changes in distances between participants in their social network between two months and eight months after meeting one another. Compared to people who drifted further apart, people who grew closer over time were more neurally similar as strangers. Thus, later-emerging and longer-lasting friendships may be rooted in "deeper" interpersonal compatibilities that are indexed by pre-existing neural similarities. The localization of these results suggests that preexisting similarities in how people interpret, attend to, and emotionally respond to their surroundings facilitate future friendship. These results provide evidence for neural homophily, such that pre-existing neural similarities may foster friendship and increased social closeness.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Authors

Carolyn Parkinson, Ryan Hyon, Thalia Wheatley, Adam Kleinbaum, Christopher Welker

SPSP Awards Symposium: Celebrating the Block and Distinguished Scholar Award Winners

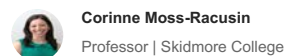
9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E352, Level 3

Winners of the Block and Distinguished Scholar Awards will be introduced and will present talks overviewing their award-winning programs of work. Award winners are Paul van Lange (Distinguished Scholar Award) and Richard Robins (Block Award)

Eli Finkel will introduce Paul van Lange, and Laura King will accept for Richard Robins.

*FEATURED SESSION *SYMPOSIA

Chair



Speakers

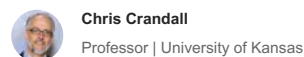


Presidential Plenary: Social-Personality Psychology Addresses the Current Crises

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354A, Level 3

*FEATURED SESSION

Speaker



Noticing everyday resistance in higher education: An act of faithful witnessing

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

This talk reflects on what it means to witness faithfully, especially now, as psychology researchers in higher education settings; to be accountable to those who speak from the margins, to recognize the structural conditions behind stories of lived experience, and to notice everyday acts of resistance that challenge marginalization.

Speaker



Rebecca Covarrubias

Professor | University of California, Santa Cruz

Studying Humanity Amid Atrocity: What Research Can (and Cannot) Do When Harm Unfolds

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

The talk examines what social psychologists should and shouldn't do during wartime atrocities, asking whether research can meaningfully influence change amid unfolding harm. It integrates concrete studies with broader insights, distinguishing descriptive understanding of extreme behavior from intervention-oriented work while probing the discipline's responsibilities when the worst is actively happening.

Speaker



Eran Halperin

Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Mindworks: The Science of Thinking, A Chicago-only Experience During SPSP 2026

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: Offsite

Mindworks is a public-facing discovery center and active behavioral research lab in downtown Chicago, approximately a 15-minute ride from the convention center. Operated by the Roman Family Center for Decision Research at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Mindworks invites visitors to explore how people think and decide while participating in real studies that advance behavioral science. Participation in these studies helps researchers better understand human behavior, while participants earn prizes and contribute to advancing science.

Drop in on your own (hours listed here: <https://www.chicagobooth.edu/mindworks/visit>). A visit to Mindworks lasts about 30 to 60 minutes, depending on how many studies you'd like to take.

Boxed Lunch Pick-up (pre-registration required)

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oThai Rice Noodle Salad: Grilled Chicken Breast, , Rice Noodles, Red Bell Pepper, Carrots, Cucumber, Mixed Greens, Spicy Peanut Sauce

oHam and Smoked Gouda: Smoked Ham, Smoked Gouda, Dijon Mustard-Aioli, Flaky Croissant

oThai Noodle Salad - No Chicken(VG | GF | DF): Rice Noodles, Red Bell Pepper, Carrots, Cucumber, Mixed Greens, Spicy Peanut Sauce

oRoasted Vegetable Wrap with Gluten Free Wrap (V | GF): Roasted Red Peppers, Zucchini, Eggplant, Red Onion, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil Pesto

Professional Headshots at the Convention

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Elevate your professional profile with a high-quality headshot—right at the convention! This opportunity is especially valuable for students and early-career researchers looking to refresh their CVs, websites, LinkedIn profiles, or job-market materials.

Details:

- **When:** Friday, February 27 from noon–5:00 pm
- **Cost:** \$50 per headshot
- **Availability:** First come, first served
- **Payment:** Credit card only, accepted onsite

Don't miss this chance to leave the convention with a polished, professional image that reflects your work and career goals. All headshots will be delivered electronically to your email.

Student Mentoring Event

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

Pre-registration required. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

The SPSP Student Committee offers several mentoring opportunities designed specifically for undergraduate and graduate students. These events provide a supportive, small-group environment where students can connect with experienced scholars, advanced trainees, and peers to discuss academic pathways, career development, identity and inclusion, and professional growth within social and personality psychology.

Student mentoring events foster networking, community building, and candid conversations about navigating graduate school and early professional decisions. All student mentoring events require pre-registration, and space may be limited.

*MENTORING

GASP Mentorship Event

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

Pre-Registration Required. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Founded in 2001, GASP is the GLBTQ+ Alliance in Social and Personality Psychology, an affinity group and affiliate of SPSP. GASP events and membership are open to all students, faculty, and other professionals, regardless of research interest, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression. Allies are especially welcome. Please join us for this year's mentorship luncheon to help us celebrate our 26th year! Webpage: <https://gasp.psych.utah.edu/> To join our private noncommercial moderated listserv, please write to us at gaspmail@earthlink.net or lisa.aspinwall@utah.edu To send noncommercial messages to the listserv, write to gasp@lists.utah.edu.

*MENTORING

Poster Session B Friday

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

*POSTER

[1] Group-Based Medical Mistrust, Race, and Colorectal Cancer Screening: A Multi-Group Probit Path Analysis

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Group-based medical mistrust (GBMM: the belief that one's racial/ethnic group is treated unfairly in medical contexts), is a key barrier to health engagement and outcomes. The present study examines whether and how perceptions of mattering to one's doctor - i.e., an individual's sense of being important and significant to his or her doctor - in conjunction with health insurance status are related to three dimensions of GBMM (Lack of Support, Suspicion, and Group-based Disparities). A diverse sample of American adults (N = 2,162) completed the GBMM scale (Thompson et al., 2004), a validated measure assessing mattering to doctors, and reported their primary source of health insurance (grouped into no insurance, public insurance, and private insurance for analyses). We will use moderation and mediation analyses to explore two hypotheses. Our moderation hypothesis proposes that a negative association between mattering and reported GBMM will decrease as we progress from having no insurance to public insurance to private insurance). Our mediation hypothesis proposes that the relationship between health insurance and GBMM will be mediated by mattering such that those with private insurance (compared to public and no insurance) will have a higher perceptions of mattering and thus a lower GBMM.

*POSTER

Speaker



Angelina Toma

Authors

Abiodun Akinseye, Armeen Shawka, Mark Manning

[2] "Dr. ChatGPT, what can I do to improve my health?": Exploring the Role of Citation Quality in the Perception of AI as a Source of Health Information.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

As more people turn to AI for health information, understanding how such a source is perceived is critical (Lund et al., 2025). This study explored factors shaping perceptions of health messages attributed to ChatGPT, specifically compared to traditional sources. Across two studies (n = 658), participants consistently rated ChatGPT-attributed messages less positively than those to doctor. In study 1, personalization did not enhance perceived message effectiveness and source credibility when messages were from ChatGPT. In study 2, citation characteristics (relevant, irrelevant, none) of ChatGPT had no effect on perceived message effectiveness. However, ChatGPT was rated more credible when relevant citations were included (vs. none), though irrelevant citations made no difference. This effect was moderated by media health literacy: only participants with higher media health literacy were sensitive to citation relevance, rating relevant citations more credible than irrelevant and no citations. Overall, findings show that low perceived credibility may limit AI's effectiveness in health communication, and that personalization and relevant citations may, at present, do little to help.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arina Bratamidjaja

Graduate student | Kent State University

Authors

John Updegraff

[3] "Joint Effects of Psychosocial and Health Indicators on Cognitive Development: Gender-Stratified Associations in Pre-Adolescents"

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Multiple psychosocial and health indicators shape cognitive development, yet most studies examine exposures individually. The present study (n = 8,152; ages 9–12) modeled the joint effects of 22 psychosocial and health indicators on cognition, testing for gender-specific patterns. Use of Group Factor Analysis yielded five latent domains: economic security, perinatal health, parent ecology/ACEs, school/community, and physiological health. Gender-specific Structural Equation Models (MLR estimator) tested associations between five latent factors and NIH Toolbox composite scores for fluid and crystallized cognition and their subtests, covering a broad range of cognitive domains. All five factors were significant predictors of both fluid and crystallized cognition for boys and girls, except parent ecology/ACEs, which was nonsignificant for both composite scores in boys and for girls' crystallized scores, suggesting delayed effects. Subtest associations were generally similar across genders or stronger in girls, indicating greater environmental sensitivity. Findings highlight gender differences in cognitive sensitivity to psychosocial and health factors, informing targeted interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zahir Shaikh

The University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Stacie Warren, Megan Chacko

[4] Perceiving Bias from Humans and AI: Reactions of Minorities to Discrimination during an Ultimatum Game

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Use of generative AI platforms (e.g., ChatGPT) for health advice is rapidly increasing. While there is potential for generative AI to increase access to health information, it can provide inaccurate, potentially biased or stigmatizing responses. This is amplified for people with identities or conditions that are socially devalued. In this exploratory work, we aimed to characterize the language ChatGPT uses to provide information and advice about new medications such as GLP-1 and conditions (diabetes) and identities (gender) with intersecting stigmas. During 10-turn conversations, we had 35 hypothetical ChatGPT users of varied gender identities ask if they should use GLP-1 agonists for managing type 2 diabetes. We then conducted a thematic analysis on conversations with two rounds of qualitative coding and expert review. Coding is ongoing but will be completed by the conference. Preliminary results from 28 coded conversations suggest responses contained phrases that evoked implicit weight stigma (88 codes) and gender-based stigma (9 codes). Interestingly, ChatGPT also called out societal stereotypes (7 codes), suggesting dissonance between ChatGPT's awareness and use of language.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lee Qianqian Cui

University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Kyle Ratner

[5] A Content Analysis of an Online Muscular Dystrophy Community

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Most psychosocial research on Muscular Dystrophy (MD) has used qualitative interviews and self-report survey assessments of quality of life (QoL), showing that MD patients have lower QoL. However, less is known about the risk and protective factors for QoL in MD. This study aims to identify concerns for people within the MD community through a linguistic content analysis.

We analyzed posts from an online MD subreddit, selecting every 10th post (through post 200) when flittering by top of all time. Posts were cleaned and then analyzed using a linguistic content analysis program (LIWC), which has been validated for psychological and health contexts.

Compared to typical reddit posts, MD subreddit posts contained significantly more mentions of health, illness, substance use and expressed significantly more anger.

This study is a meaningful step forward towards understanding what people in the MD community deem important and learning what factors may be contributing to lower QoL in this population. Future research should continue to explore the biopsychosocial factors which lead to lower QoL for MD patients, in the hopes of identifying targets for resilience in this population.

*POSTER

Speaker



Clarice Shanks

Graduate Student | North Dakota State University

Authors

Katherine Duggan

[6] Ethnic Ingroup Identity in the Sympathetic Perception of Protestors

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

When sympathy affects how the public and the media legitimize a protest, it matters how third parties perceive protestors from a political standpoint. The current study proposes an explanation rooted in Social Identity Theory: through the identification of shared characteristics—such as ethnic features—protestors are designated as either ingroup or outgroup members. With the contentious nature of violent protests affecting sympathy towards protestors, the current study hypothesizes that ingroup favoritism will thus affect the perception of the severity of the violence, which mediates how sympathetic participants feel towards the group of protestors. Using a vignette experimental design, non-Hispanic White-American participants (N=823) were randomly assigned to read an article about a protest led by either White or Black protestors that began peacefully but escalated into violence. Participants were hypothesized to perceive ingroup (White) protestors more favorably: expressing more sympathy, demanding more accountability for them, and being more likely to describe them with positively connoted words, compared to outgroup (Black) protestors. Results showed that ethnic congruence between the participants and the protestors in the article only directly affected accountability—with participants more likely to demand accountability for Black protestors. The mediation analysis showed that perception of violence mediated accountability but only indirectly affected sympathy. These findings imply that while ethnic identity may not directly induce sympathy, it may influence cognitive judgments of justice and spur people to action. Future directions for the study include improving the construct validity and broadening the scope of the research to include other ethnic groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessie Chang
Student | UCLA

Authors

Efren Perez, Jessie Chang, Kasheena Rogbeer

[7] A mixed-methods study of multiply marginalized women: Daily discriminatory experiences across transgender status and racial identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Transgender women of color experience high rates of discrimination in the U.S. Yet, limited research has observed how they respond to everyday experiences of discrimination. To bridge these gaps in literature, the present study explored the discriminatory experiences of transgender women of color in comparison to cisgender women of color and white transgender women, N = 100. Through a mixed-method analysis, we examined how women with multiple marginalized identities reacted and responded to discrimination based on their perceived social support, social isolation, frequency of discrimination, and harm from discrimination. Results revealed that overall, most women did not confront regardless of our measures (e.g., social support). Furthermore, majority of the women (62%) were discriminated against in public by strangers. However, if the perpetrator was someone whom they had an established relationship with (e.g., family), the victims were more likely to verbally confront. Future work can explore more on how those with multiple marginalized identities navigate unsafe spaces through an intersectional approach.

*POSTER

Speaker



Teresa Huang
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Authors

Brenda Straka, Homa Sheibani, Eleanor Junkins, Elliott Fluty

[8] A Social Dance Intervention to Alleviate Depression in Young People: The Oxford SOMA Study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEELL-BEING

Background

Depression, a predominant public health concern, is highly prevalent among young people. Despite this, relatively few treatments specifically target this critical developmental period, and under-addressed mental health difficulties in youth often have lifelong consequences. Social isolation is commonly reported by young adults and is both a risk and maintenance factor for depression. There is a need for accessible, engaging interventions that can reduce depressive symptoms and improve social connectedness.

Methods

Building on evidence of the therapeutic potential of social dance-based activities for depression, this randomized controlled trial evaluated the efficacy of an eight-week salsa dance intervention for young adults (aged 18-24) with mild-to-moderate depression. 121 participants were randomly assigned to either the salsa dance group or a waitlist control. Participants completed the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and additional mental health questionnaires and task-based measures at baseline, during, and after the intervention.

Results.

Participants in the salsa dance condition showed a clinically meaningful reduction in depressive symptoms compared to the waitlist condition. The size of this effect exceeded the NICE criterion for clinical significance with large within- and between-group effect sizes. While both groups reported improvements in social anxiety, generalized anxiety, loneliness, and daily mood, salsa participants had significantly greater reductions in social anxiety and greater improvements in daily mood.

Conclusions.

These findings support the potential value of social dance as a novel, accessible intervention for depression in young people. Implementing such programs as part of a suite of wellbeing-oriented interventions to university students and in non-clinical wellbeing settings could provide cost-effective mental health benefits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brennan Delattre
Doctoral Student | University of Oxford

Authors

Joshua E.J. Buckman, Catherine J. Harmer, Susannah E. Murphy

[9] A within-subjects experiment of the effects of social facilitation on food-related emotions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

The social facilitation of eating is the tendency to eat more foods high in fat, sugar, or salt (HFSS) when eating with familiar co-eaters. Does social facilitation also affect food-related emotions? We conducted a preregistered, within-subjects experiment ($n = 91$) where participants read vignettes about eating with a large and small group of friends, a romantic partner, and alone and reported their anticipated emotions. Co-eaters were described as eating HFSS. Contrary to our hypothesis, when imagining eating HFSS with a large group of friends co-eating HFSS, participants expected they would feel less positively than eating HFSS alone (Bonferroni-adjusted $p = .003$). Consistent with our hypothesis, when imagining eating fruit and vegetables with a large group of friends who were eating HFSS, participants expected they would feel more negatively than eating fruit and vegetables alone (Bonferroni-adjusted $p = .003$). Imagining eating with a small group of friends or a romantic partner had no effects. Eating with a large group of friends who are eating unhealthily may inhibit emotional rewards if eating unhealthily too but lead to "fear of missing out" if eating healthily.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenna Cummings

Lecturer | University of Liverpool

Authors

Abbie Calvert

[10] ADHD Moderates the Relationship Between Emotional Dysregulation and Problematic Internet Use

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Technology use is rapidly increasing and as a result, so is the prevalence of excessive or unhealthy internet use. Problematic Internet Use (PIU) has been found to be positively associated with emotional dysfunction, as well as ADHD, and is more common in males than females. Because of this, past literature often proposes that because males typically have less emotional regulation than females, males with ADHD should be at the highest risk for PIU. However, there is a possibility that due to the interaction between biological sex and ADHD, females with ADHD may struggle more with emotional dysregulation and PIU than previously believed. The present study assessed the differences in emotional dysregulation and PIU across four groups (ADHD female, non-ADHD female, ADHD male, and non-ADHD male). Emotional dysregulation and PIU were positively associated in the overall sample. Females with ADHD scored the highest on PIU and emotional dysregulation measures out of the 4 groups, followed by males with ADHD, males without ADHD, and lastly, females without ADHD. Females with ADHD were found to have significantly higher emotional dysregulation and PIU compared to females without ADHD.

*POSTER

Speaker



Siena Adwere-Boamah

Knox College (Illinois)

[11] Age, death-related concern, and religious faith among believers and atheists: Large samples from the World Values Survey

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Prior work finds death-related concern motivates religious faith among believers but not atheists, yet it remains unclear whether age might impact that relationship. A set of four pre-registered studies used data from the World Values Survey to test a set of competing hypotheses among believers and atheists: 1) death-related existential concern (DEC) is not associated with faith regardless of age; 2) DEC is associated with faith regardless of age (age-universal perspective); 3) the DEC-faith relationship weakens with age (age-mitigated perspective); and 4) the DEC-faith relationship strengthens with age (age-amplified perspective). Among religious believers, in Studies 1 ($N = 105,586$; 79 nations; ages 16-103, $M = 42.60$, $SD = 16.68$) and 2 ($N = 39,570$; 34 nations; ages 16-100, $M = 44.42$, $SD = 17.43$), DEC was associated with faith regardless of age. Among atheists, in Studies 3 ($N = 10,368$; 64 nations; ages 16-95, $M = 42.61$, $SD = 16.59$) and 4 ($N = 2,343$; 34 nations; ages 17-93, $M = 37.92$, $SD = 15.58$) DEC was not associated with faith regardless of age. These data are consistent with the idea that DEC motivates religious faith among believers, but not atheists, regardless of age.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, executive functioning, technology reliance, marginalized populations

*POSTER

Speaker



Caroline Lapish

Graduate Student | Cleveland State University

Authors

Dr. Kenneth Vail

[12] AI Mind Perception and Meaning in Life: A Cross-Cultural Test of a Competing-Pathway Model of Empowerment and Threat

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

AI is rapidly acquiring qualities we once considered uniquely human, and its capabilities are advancing at an unprecedented pace. Before AI achieves strong intelligence and while we still have the ability to guide and adjust its development, it is crucial to understand how its progress impacts human well-being. A fundamental question remains: how does perceiving mind in AI influence a person's sense of Meaning in Life (MIL)? This research proposes and tests a model where high-mind AI can enhance MIL by fostering a sense of empowerment, while simultaneously undermining it by evoking realistic and symbolic threats. Across four studies (N = 2100), we first established the model's core correlations and causality in a Chinese context (Study 1, 2a, and 2b), and then confirmed its cross-cultural generalizability with an American sample (Study 3). The positive pathway through empowerment was robust across both cultures. Conversely, a negative pathway via realistic threat also emerged, particularly when Chinese participants perceived AI as highly experiential. These opposing forces often suppressed each other, explaining the complex and sometimes null overall effect of AI mind perception on MIL. Our findings reveal a nuanced framework where the psychological impact of AI depends on the specific mind dimension perceived (agency vs. experience) and cultural context (China vs. America), offering crucial insights for designing human-centric AI that maximizes empowerment while mitigating existential threats.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiaying Liu

Phd candidate | Beijing Normal Univeristy

Authors

Zhaoming Chen, Shi Yu, Liying Jiao, Yan Xu

[13] AI Reliance and Executive Functioning

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This study investigates the relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) reliance and executive functioning among individuals from marginalized communities. As AI becomes increasingly embedded in daily life, reliance on such technology may interact with core cognitive processes such as planning, attention, and decision-making. Using a cross-sectional, correlational design, participants will complete validated self-report measures assessing AI reliance and executive functioning. The study hypothesizes that higher reliance on AI will be associated with lower levels of executive functioning, reflecting potential over-dependence on technology for cognitive tasks. A mixed-methods approach will be used, combining quantitative surveys to capture measurable patterns of AI reliance and cognitive ability with qualitative interviews to explore participants' lived experiences and perspectives on technology use. By integrating cognitive and sociotechnical perspectives, this study aims to expand understanding of how AI shapes human functioning, particularly in populations that are often underrepresented in psychological research. Findings from this research may inform interventions, policies, and digital literacy efforts that promote healthier relationships between technology and cognition.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, executive functioning, technology reliance, marginalized populations

*POSTER

Speaker



Alaina Warrior

Graduate Student | Prairie View A & M University

Authors

Shyianna Fisher, Lourdes Townsend-Johnson, Dr. Bridgett Tate, Joesph Pelletier

[14] Applying the Tripartite Influence Model to Fasting in Undergraduate Students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

The Tripartite Influence Model proposes that three sociocultural appearance pressures (i.e., peers, family, and media) contribute to body dissatisfaction and disordered eating through internalization of the thin ideal. This model has yet to be applied to fasting behaviors, which increase the developmental risk for eating disorders. Female undergraduate students (N=455) completed a cross-sectional survey including the SATAQ-4 and the EDE-Q 6.0. The sample was restricted by sex to align with prior measure validation. Multiple regression tested the direct associations of each pressure with fasting frequency, and Hayes' (2022) PROCESS model 6 examined whether internalization and body dissatisfaction explained the effects, consistent with a modified pathway of the Tripartite Influence Model. Peer and media pressures were directly associated with fasting ($p=.002$ and $p=.001$, respectively), while family pressure was nonsignificant ($p=.433$). Serial mediation models revealed that media and family pressures were associated with fasting indirectly via internalization and body dissatisfaction, whereas peer pressure was only associated with fasting directly, independent of established pathways.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tyler Favier

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

[15] Are Methods Created Equal? Psychology methods courses signal field-specific values

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Underrepresented undergraduates (UGs) may view psychology's use of quantitative (over qualitative) work relying on p-values above or below an arbitrary threshold as preventing a nuanced study of identity and intersectionality, lowering motivation to persevere. We study the frequency and outcomes of training UGs in both methods. Study 1 analyzed 800 psychology department websites to see if UGs are differentially exposed to both methods at the top 200 US and world universities; liberal arts colleges and psychology programs. As predicted, more programs offered quantitative (over qualitative) courses in all 4 groups; coding of program goals supported this. Given this difference, do UGs value quantitative over qualitative work? In Study 2, 120 UGs reading a quantitative abstract viewed it as more similar to psychology research writ large than those reading a comparable qualitative abstract. Abstracts' perceived representativeness of psychology was predicted by ratings of the research as scientific, rigorous and theoretical; and researchers' competence and ability. We discuss how curricula may signal psychology's values, shaping underrepresented UGs' motivation to persevere in the field.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jailekha Zutshi

PhD Candidate | Tufts University

Authors

Jessica Remedios, Jailekha Zutshi

[16] Assessing People's Perceptions of Domestic Climate Migrants

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

As the effects of climate change worsen, there is a need to understand how changes in the environment will impact human behavior, like climate migration (i.e., the movement of people because of a change in their local environment due to climate change). When people migrate to a new region, established residents may feel pressured to compete with climate migrants over community resources. Perceived competition may lead residents to view climate migrants as threatening. When threatened, community members may dehumanize climate migrants and become less willing to help. We conducted a study investigating how the realistic and symbolic threat of climate migration may lead people to dehumanize and oppose helping climate migrants. Analyses demonstrated that increased realistic and symbolic threat were associated with increased dehumanization of climate migrants, and increased dehumanization was associated with less willingness to help (significant indirect effects for both realistic and symbolic threat). Our study provides a first step toward understanding the factors that impact people's willingness to help climate migrants.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sean Palmer

Graduate Student | Texas Technical University

Authors

Zachary Hohman

[17] Associations of Air Pollution and Socioeconomic Deprivation with Depression and Pain

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Air pollution and socioeconomic deprivation have been independently associated with negative health outcomes. This study examined the joint influences of air pollution and individual- and neighborhood-level deprivation on depression and pain. 1113 adults (aged 18-88 years) completed surveys about their mental and physical health and living environment. Participants' geocoded addresses were used to obtain their long-term average exposure to PM2.5 and their neighborhood's socioeconomic status and resource access via the Area Deprivation Index (ADI). We found significant age interactions with PM2.5 and several deprivation indicators. Individual- and neighborhood-level deprivation on their own significantly predicted experiences of depression and pain. We also found that relative deprivation, the measure of an individual's socioeconomic deprivation compared to their neighborhood, was significantly associated with both depression and pain. These findings are important to understanding the impacts of environmental stressors, particularly on the aging population, which may contribute to improved interventions and public policy targeting detriments on human health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jamie-Nicole Luistro

Temple University

Authors

Melanie Kos, Maya R. Kilcullen, Jeremy Mennis, Ingrid R. Olson, David V. Smith

[18] Authentic Reappraisal: Understanding the Impact of Trait Authenticity on Cognitive Reappraisal in Everyday Life

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Authenticity plays an important role in self-regulation and decision making (Sedikides & Schlegel, 2024). Research has shown that authenticity is positively associated with several adaptive self-regulating behaviors (Kernis & Goldman, 2006; Li et al., 2023) and negatively associated with maladaptive coping strategies (Kernis & Goldman, 2006; Vess, 2022). The current research tests the relationship between trait authenticity and use of cognitive reappraisal (i.e., reframing an event to reduce the emotional impact) in response to daily stressors. A community sample of adults (N = 203) age range 18 - 55 completed a two-week experience sampling study wherein they reported emotional states, appraisals, and emotion regulation in response to stressful events. Furthermore, participants were trained and instructed to use cognitive reappraisal in response to daily stressors. Using multilevel modeling, we will test if trait authenticity predicts reappraisal use, effort, and perceived success in response to daily stressors. These findings will provide novel insights into the relationship between authenticity and emotion regulation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karen Akin

Doctoral Research Fellow | University of Alabama

Authors

Liz Gremillion, Katie Garrison

[19] Avoiding personalized melanoma risk: Health cognitions, coping resources, and math

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

People may avoid learning their disease risk, such as when they feel threatened, lack coping resources, or feel unable to understand the information. We predicted that coping resources, melanoma-related health cognitions, and math factors would influence avoidance of personalized melanoma risk estimates. Participants (n = 940, 49.5% male, 73.8% White)—recruited via Prolific—completed self-report measures of coping resources (implicit theories of health, health self-efficacy, optimism, spontaneous self-affirmation), melanoma beliefs (perceived susceptibility, severity, worry), and math factors (attitudes, ability). Participants then completed a melanoma risk calculator and decided whether they wanted to learn their risk. Few respondents (15.5%, n = 146) avoided learning their risk. In regressions controlling for sociodemographic factors, participants who reported lower spontaneous self-affirmation, believed melanoma was less severe, or who had more negative math attitudes were more likely to avoid versus learn information. No other factors were associated with avoidance. Further understanding who avoids personalized health information can inform interventions to reduce avoidance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jeremy Foust

Assistant Professor | Converse University

Authors

Jennifer Taber, Charles Fitzsimmons, Pooja Sidney, Clarissa Thompson

[20] Awe and Psychological Richness

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

The emotion of awe is psychologically and physically impactful. Among those impacts are benefits for well-being. A new facet of well-being, psychological richness, has been found to have an association with awe. This study aims to empirically prove that experiencing awe causes increased psychological richness more than any other facet of well-being. A 3 (condition: awe video, happiness video, control) x 3 (psychological richness, meaning in life, life satisfaction) mixed-subjects design with 100 participants per condition is utilized to test this. We will be conducting a 3 X 3 mixed-model ANOVA followed by pairwise tests to evaluate the data. We hypothesize that psychological richness will be significantly higher for participants in the awe video condition than the control condition. We also expect that within the awe condition, psychological richness will be significantly higher than meaning in life and life satisfaction, whereas in the happy video condition, life satisfaction will be significantly higher than meaning in life and psychological richness. These results would further substantiate how psychological richness is distinct from other facets of well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lauren Osterberg

PhD Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Denise Beike

[21]Avoidant Traits and Alcohol Abuse

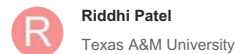
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Growing evidence demonstrates that the Big Five personality traits tend to cluster spatially within countries, and that these regional patterns are linked to consequential social, economic, and health outcomes. However, most such research has focused on Western settings, leaving a gap in the understanding of non-Western regional personality variations and their societal impact. To remedy this, the current study combines aggregated Big Five personality data across 26 provinces in China, based on a large dataset from the China Family Panel Studies (N = 37,104), and diverse societal indicators, such as innovation, marriage rates, and life expectancy. The data collection is completed, and analyses (i.e., spatial regression, conditional random forests, and SHAP analysis) are currently underway. Based on prior research, we expect regional differences in personality across China and significant associations with key societal outcomes. Taken together, this research offers insights into how regional personality influences macro-level societal outcomes in China and serves as a cross-cultural replication of previous studies in an Eastern context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Anne :Lippert

[22] Being Present: Witnessing Landmark Historical Events Boosts Meaning in Life

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

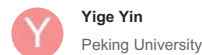
Although not everyone shapes history, everyone is present as it unfolds. Traditional perspectives often emphasize a retrospective, macro-level view of landmark historical events, distancing them from personal significance. In this research, we locate individuals in the ongoing process of history, examining how linking personal narratives to broader historical narratives fosters meaning in life (MIL). Specifically, we hypothesize that witnessing history (i.e., viewing oneself as a witness to history by being aware of and reflecting on significant historical events) enhances the presence of meaning and the search for meaning, separately through connectedness to history and a broadened perspective.

We examined our hypotheses through five methodologically diverse studies. In Study 1, we utilized big data analytics, processing 2,317,527 Weibo posts. We found that people who felt they were witnessing history about Queen Elizabeth II's death (vs. those who did not) used more meaning-related words during the event explosion phase, suggesting a deeper contemplation of MIL. In Studies 2-5, we separated the presence of and search for MIL, using experimental design to examine causality and a field study to assess ecological validity. We found that witnessing events of historical significance enhances the presence of and search for MIL, whether manipulated by recalling historically significant events (Study 2), framing an event as historically significant (Studies 3-4), or visiting a historical site (Study 5). Throughout Studies 2-5, we also consistently found that connectedness mediated the effect of witnessing history on the presence of MIL, and a broadened perspective mediated its effect on the search for MIL.

In conclusion, this research bridges macro-level historical narratives and micro-level personal narratives, revealing that even without being a prominent figure in history, perceiving oneself as a witness to historical events can imbue one's life with meaning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Yuling Wang, Xiaoqi Sun, Joshua Hicks, Tonglin Jiang, Xiaohan Wu

[23] Beliefs About Nonverbal Cues and the Big Five: Are They Accurate?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR

Although not everyone shapes history, everyone is present as it unfolds. Traditional perspectives often emphasize a retrospective, macro-level view of landmark historical events, distancing them from personal significance. In this research, we locate individuals in the ongoing process of history, examining how linking personal narratives to broader historical narratives fosters meaning in life (MIL). Specifically, we hypothesize that witnessing history (i.e., viewing oneself as a witness to history by being aware of and reflecting on significant historical events) enhances the presence of meaning and the search for meaning, separately through connectedness to history and a broadened perspective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Mitja Back, Nora Murphy, Katja Schlegel

[24] Beliefs about Suffering, Psychological Well-being, and Reactions to Intergroup Conflict

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEELL-BEING

People's beliefs about suffering likely play a role in how they cope with life's inevitable challenges. In four studies, we examined the relationships between beliefs about suffering and psychosocial well-being, responses to hypothetical and actual suffering experiences, and attitudes toward an outgroup during conflict. Results showed college undergraduates who perceived their problems to be common were less upset by them. U.S. adults who perceived similar amounts of suffering in their own and others' lives and who viewed suffering as enriching (i.e., unpleasant but potentially meaningful) had better psychological adjustment and more adaptive responses to hypothetical challenges. Jewish Israeli participants with an enriching view of suffering reported better mental health, acknowledged Palestinian suffering more, and preferred peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Believing that suffering is common and multi-faceted is associated with adaptive responses to challenges.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jinyoung Park
Duke University

Authors

Jinyoung Park, Mark Leary, Christine Lathren, John Davis, Rick Hoy

[25] Beneath the Surface: What's Really Driving You?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Recently, research on religiosity has shown inconsistent relationships with flourishing during emerging adulthood (18-25 years). While this may be due to decline in religious participation, Christianity still remains the most common religion within the emerging adult population. A common concept found within Christianity is the seven vices (i.e., anger, envy, pride, sloth, lust, greed, gluttony), which are seen as behaviors meant to be avoided in order to live a fulfilling Christian life. The goal of this study was to explore how religiosity was related to flourishing in emerging adults while testing the mediation of engagement in the seven vices. While the three assessed religiosity variables were positively correlated with each other, path modeling revealed that intrinsic religiosity was negatively related to flourishing and use of the vices significantly mediated the relationship between non-organizational religious activities and flourishing. These findings contribute to a research plan aimed at identifying the importance religion might hold within the flourishing of emerging adults, and additional insights will be shared.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mark Rack
Undergraduate | Kansas State University

[26] Beyond Benevolence: How Altruistic Acts Can Trigger Psychological Distress—Findings from an RCT

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Background: Emerging evidence indicates that anxiety stems from control discrepancy—the gap between perceived and desired control. Sociocognitive appraisals (felt social and consequential responsibility) may induce perceived over-control, triggering distress via altruistic and anticipatory guilt. Trait compassion and psychopathy act as mediators, amplifying or attenuating these effects. Method: 576 community adults (M age = 41.6; 53% women) completed baseline measures of state anxiety, control discrepancy, compassion, and psychopathy. In a staged grant-allocation task, they were randomized to either sole decision-maker or advisory-only conditions and then selected which of three applicants would receive funding. Data Analysis: Linear mixed models and structural equation models were used for hypothesis testing. Results: Felt social and consequential responsibility increased perceived over-control, which indirectly elevated state anxiety via combined altruistic and anticipatory guilt. Higher trait compassion strengthened these indirect effects, whereas higher psychopathy weakened them. Conclusions: These findings identify sociocognitive and personality-driven mechanisms by which control discrepancy fosters anxiety, suggesting nuanced targets for prevention and intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christopher Davis
Cornell University

Authors

Christopher Davis, Sydnie Spearman, Anthony Burrow

[27] Beyond Parasocial: Constructing A New Scale

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

One-sided bonds with public figures as well as those involving perceived face-to-face contact with them are termed parasocial relationships and interactions, respectively. However, recent increases to media richness improves individuals' capacity to transmit social information to their audience and vice versa. Given this change, the separation of relationships from interactions does not reflect today's experiences on social media, necessitating a new construct—quasisocial engagement. Quasisocial engagement likely reflects dimensions of likability, interdependent identity, and need fulfillment as indicated by 13 subdimensions. As a first step toward establishing a measure of quasisocial engagement, we sampled adult social media users (n = 182) to explore items generated using existing social and parasocial phenomena. Exploratory factor analyses combined with VSS, PA, and MAP analyses suggested an eight-factor model as the most parsimonious solution. The top three items per factor will be retained for a follow-up CFA. Full results, interpretations, and limitations will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kevin McGuire
Graduate Student | Southern Connecticut State University

Authors

Christopher Budnick

[28] Beyond the Binary: The Role of Warmth in Shaping Attitudes Toward Androgynous Faces

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

According to the Stereotype Content Model, social perceptions are guided by dimensions of warmth and competence. We applied this model to the context of gender perception, examining how gender presentation (androgynous vs. gender-matched faces) and perceived warmth shape partner evaluation. In a sample of 250 college students, participants were shown photos depicting either an androgynous or gender gender-matched face, selected one as their preferred partner, and then rated their attitude toward the chosen partner. Among female participants, a significant interaction emerged ($p = .03$). At high warmth, androgynous targets were evaluated more positively than female targets, whereas at low warmth, female targets were evaluated more positively. Among male participants, warmth consistently predicted positive attitudes ($p < .001$) regardless of target gender presentation. These findings suggest that warmth can buffer the ambiguity of androgynous identities and highlight the role of perceiver gender in shaping partner evaluations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Alarcon

Graduate Student | University of Hawaii at Manoa

Authors

Shan Gao, Kristin Pauker

[29] Beyond the Borders of Wellbeing: Network Analyses Reveal the Fuzzy Boundaries Between Wellbeing Domains

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Understanding what constitutes a good life is central to psychological research, yet wellbeing models remain contested with respect to their structure and borders. We employ a network approach to investigate how wellbeing dimensions interrelate and whether they form distinct or overlapping constructs. Using a large, population-based sample from the European Social Survey ($N = 45,122$; 29 countries), we identified strong links between a broad range of wellbeing indicators across different theoretical domains. Community detection revealed six empirical clusters that partially align with existing distinctions (e.g., hedonic versus eudaimonic wellbeing). However, we also identified 11 indicators belonging to multiple clusters, demonstrating the fuzzy boundaries between wellbeing domains. These results highlight the need for integrative frameworks that better capture the interconnected nature of wellbeing. Our findings encourage more granular analyses and underscore the need for comprehensive measurement tools to advance wellbeing research, inform policy, and guide public health efforts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Irene Teulings

PhD candidate | University of Oslo

Authors

Ragnhild Bang Nes, Espen Røysamb, Joar Vittersø, Irene Teulings, Jinrui Liu

[30] Beyond the Self: Investigating the Psychological Benefits of Mystical Experiences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Mystical experiences, characterized by a profound dissolution of self and a sense of interconnectedness with all existence, are surprisingly common and often ranked among the most meaningful events in a person's life. Prior research links these experiences to enhanced well-being, yet the psychological mechanisms driving these benefits remain unclear. Existing studies frequently rely on retrospective reports of naturally occurring mystical experiences, limiting causal inference. To address this gap, the present study examines the effects of experimentally priming a recalled mystical experience. Using a between-subjects design, participants were assigned to one of three conditions: recalling a prior mystical experience, recalling an ordinary life event, or recalling an event without prior mystical experience. We hypothesized that participants primed with a mystical experience would report higher levels of well-being compared to the other groups. This research investigates the psychological benefits of mystical experiences as a promising tools for enhancing mental health and well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yukta Bhandari

Undergraduate student | The University of British Columbia

[31] Beyond Utility: How People Engage Existential Questions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

How do people engage with "life's big questions", such as those on meaning in life? Our studies ($N = 1300$, U.S. adults) examined questions and answers people expect for existential versus material or emotional well-being issues. Study 1 ($N = 600$) coded peoples' top questions on meaning—a typical existential topic, finding that it elicited more philosophical (61%) than scientific or practical questions, more so than financial success or happiness did. Study 2 ($N = 300$) found that to answer existential questions, people expected approaches to feature perspective stimulation and novelty of ideas more than practical utility (Kruskal-Wallis $H(2) = 51.33$, $p < .001$). Philosophical approaches were seen as featuring these factors (M novel = 73.70, M stim = 68.10) more than the scientific or practical (all $p < .001$). Study 3 ($N = 400$) found most people (68%) believed that, when scientific methods (e.g., in psychology) are tailored to feature these factors, they too can help in answering existential questions. Results suggest individuals prioritize conceptual enrichment over practical tips for existential issues, informing future study of existential cognition in satisfying existential needs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brian Ge

Research Professional | University of Chicago

Authors

Fan Yang

[32] Body Dissatisfaction and Attention to Celebrity Culture on Social Media is Linked to Interest in Seeking Ozempic for Weight Loss

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Objectification theory (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997) and the tripartite model (van den Berg et al., 2002) are helpful for explaining why people seek GLP-1 weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic to modify their appearance. We hypothesized that women who consume media that promotes the use of GLP-1 drugs, combined with a high body dissatisfaction, are less concerned about the risks Ozempic poses and more interested in using them for appearance-related motivations rather than health-related motivations. Women (N = 335) from an online panel service completed validated scales of body satisfaction, social attitudes towards appearance, attitudes toward celebrity media. Furthermore, we altered an interest in cosmetic surgery measure to assess different reasons for interest in weight-loss drugs, which revealed that sociocultural pressures and body image were linked to this interest. The findings highlight the key role that appearance-based concerns play in shaping the high demand for these GLP-1 drugs, and the importance of monitoring the effects of using these drugs for body modification.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chantal Fluetsch
Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[33] Body Image and Perceived Desirability Among Lesbian and Bisexual Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Many sexual minority women navigate sociocultural objectification pressures to attain specific body deals, which impacts their body satisfaction and perceptions of their desirability. Bisexual women may internalize objectification pressures differently as a result of different sociocultural pressures. These experiences are further shaped by the desire to advertise or mute their sexual orientation via clothing choices and altering aspects of physical appearance. This study examined whether lesbian and bisexual sexual orientation is associated with body image and perceived desirability, and how these feelings are linked to different motivations to advertise or mute identity. A total of 372 women (127 lesbian, 245 bisexual) recruited from online survey panels completed validated measures of body satisfaction, degree out outness, internalized homophobia, and a measure for assessing motivations to alter appearance among LGBTQ populations. The findings suggest that cultural pressures to manage appearance expectations differ for bisexual and lesbian women, and are associated with differentially with feelings of body satisfaction, perceived desirability, and motivations for body change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Malinoski
Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[34] The many faces of luck: Exploring the complexity and coherence of luck attributions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

OTHER

Luck shapes how people interpret events, assign responsibility, and understand fairness, yet it remains under-theorized in psychology. Researchers often equate luck with chance or randomness, overlooking the broader ways people use the term. Across three studies, we show that beliefs about luck are multifaceted. In Study 1, interviews revealed that individuals apply different dimensions of luck depending on context, blending superstitious and structural explanations. Study 2 used a large-scale survey to show consistent attribution patterns, with chanciness and controllability emerging as key factors. Study 3 developed a Luck Inventory distinguishing between superstitious and non-superstitious beliefs, and between chance and control accounts. These findings suggest that luck attributions reflect a coherent set of intuitions—about chance, control, and deservingness—that can be empirically studied and meaningfully applied. We argue that social psychologists need to acknowledge this complexity and clarify which account of luck they are adopting in their research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Dow
Southern Methodist University, Cox School of Business

Authors

Aaron Rabinowitz

[35] Brief Eye Contact Exercise Enhances Social Connection: An Experimental Study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This study investigated whether a brief (2-minute) eye contact exercise increases social connection. Female college students (N = 108) were paired and randomly assigned to one of three conditions: "deep" contact (making eye contact while meditating on the shared experience), "shallow" contact (making eye contact while counting backwards), or "no" contact (counting while looking away). Before and after the exercise, participants filled out surveys with measures of social connection, including the Inclusion of Other in the Self Scale (IOS) and explicit connection questions. Regression analyses controlling for baseline scores revealed that people in the "deep " condition reported significantly higher levels of social connection compared to people in the "no " contact control condition. Although we found no significant difference between the "deep" and "shallow" eye contact conditions, this could be due to the brevity of the exercise. While we are still exploring other covariates that might contribute to feelings of closeness, these findings highlight the promising role of eye contact in fostering interpersonal connection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Silvia Gregori Labarta

Student | University of California, San Diego

Authors

Karen Dobkins

[36] But I'm Trying so Hard to be Good! The Effects of Regulatory Focus on Early- and Late-Stage Processing of Black Faces

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Engagement with regulatory goals (Higgins, 1997) can suppress biased behavior that follows social identity perception and stereotype activation. In addition, engagement with regulatory goals can influence cognitive processes that precede behavioral responses (Cunningham et al., 2012; Moskowitz et al., 1999). We posit that regulatory goals may suppress biased behavior by influencing automatic social categorization and encoding during face processing. Across two studies, assessments of recognition accuracy and event-related brain potentials (ERPs) were used to test whether regulatory goals to promote prosocial behavior influence intergroup processing biases between Black and White faces. Consistent with previous work, Black faces were recognized less accurately than White faces and were differentiated as early as 80 ms after Face perception. Importantly, results indicate that a promotion regulatory focus increased the emotional salience and attentional significance of faces, regardless of race. Overall, the present work provides a new framework to conceptualize associations between race and goals to regulate biased behavior at the perceptual level in the context of face processing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasmine Welaye

Western Washington University

[37] Can AI Benefit Human Well-being? A Longitudinal Field Experiment

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

College campuses are facing record levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness, yet many students struggle to access professional support due to stigma, time constraints, and concerns about anonymity. Strengths-based approaches, which aim to proactively build well-being, may help overcome these barriers—but have rarely been delivered through scalable technology. We conducted the first multi-institutional, preregistered randomized controlled trial of a strengths-focused, LLM-powered conversational agent using a mobile app. Over six weeks, 486 students from three U.S. universities were randomly assigned to either receive app access or serve as a no-treatment control. Mixed-effects modeling revealed two primary benefits. First, engagement with the AI agent boosted social well-being, yielding greater reductions in loneliness and increased campus belonging. Second, it buffered against the typical mid-semester downturn, preventing declines in positive affect, mindfulness, and overall flourishing. Participants also reported increased resilience. These findings provide longitudinal experimental evidence that a strengths-based AI agent can deliver personalized, proactive well-being support to university populations at scale.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xuan Zhao

Research Scientist | Stanford University

Authors

Xuan Zhao, Julie Cachia, Julian de Freitas, John Hunter

[38] Can Creating a More Growth-Mindset Supportive Culture Help USA Win the World Cup?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

In the world of sport, the slightest edge can mean the difference between success and failure. This reality inspires researchers to study an array of factors related to performance, such as physiology, technical skill, and tactical knowledge. One area not as extensively studied is the relationship between psychological factors and elite performance, even though coaches frequently report that players' psychological mindsets (i.e., the psychological characteristics, beliefs, attitudes, or perceptions that people have that affect their behavior) are critical for their success (Strudwick, 2016). In collaboration with a large elite soccer organization in the United States over the course of six years, we collected data on players' growth mindsets, their perceptions of their coaches' growth mindsets, player well-being, and player performance (e.g., goals scored). Surprisingly, we found that players' perceptions of their coaches' growth mindset was a stronger predictor (relative to players' own growth mindset) of key mental health outcomes (e.g., well-being) and performance outcomes (e.g., goals scored among attacking players). These findings showcase a critical opportunity in coaching education to support elite athletes to maximize their potential.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yoi Tibbetts

Assistant Professor | Univ. of Virginia

Authors

Matthew Best, Kenn Barron, Zach Himmelberger, Chris Hulleman

[39] Can Moral Judgments be used to Detect Deception Implicitly?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR

People's ability to distinguish truthful from deceptive statements is marginally better than chance. Some researchers have proposed that people may be able to detect lies implicitly, via judgments of personality traits or affect; however, critics have pointed out that implicit lie detection measures rarely surpass explicit measures. One potential channel for implicit deception detection is judgments of speakers' morality. In a previous sample of mTurk participants ($n = 152$), we found that participants were unable to distinguish speakers' truths from lies either explicitly (via truthfulness judgments) or implicitly (via judgments of speakers' morality). However, in a recent sample of undergraduates ($n = 170$), we found that participants distinguished the same speakers' truthful vs. deceptive statements both explicitly ($p < .05$), and implicitly, via judgments of speakers' morality ($p < .005$). Currently, we are attempting to replicate this finding with a new sample of undergraduates. Results will be discussed in the context of a series of studies by the authors examining the utility (or lack thereof) of several techniques purported to increase deception detection accuracy.

*POSTER

Speaker



R. Weylin Sternglanz

Associate Professor of Psychology | Nova Southeastern University

Authors

Alisha Mirpuri, Justin Landy, Kasandra Vazquez

[40] Changes in Dysfunctional Coping and Increases in DBT-Skills Use are Associated with Reductions in Symptom Severity in a Short-term Residential DBT Program for Adolescents

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Reductions in dysfunctional coping and increases in DBT-skills use (measured by the DBT-Ways of Coping Checklist) have been associated with less symptom severity for borderline personality disorder, affective disorders, trauma, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors (STBs) in adults, though evidence in adolescents is limited. We examined whether decreases in dysfunctional coping and increases in DBT skills use were associated with reductions in the above symptoms from intake to discharge among adolescents ($N=64$) in a short-term residential DBT program. Change was calculated using residuals from discharge scores regressed on intake scores. Linear regressions showed decreases in dysfunctional coping were associated with decreases in all outcomes ($ps < .05$), while increases in skills use were associated only with STB decrease ($p = .04$). Reductions in dysfunctional coping are broadly tied to symptom improvement, while skills use relates specifically to STBs. Limitations include a small sample, self-report, and heterogeneous responses. Future research should employ larger, multi-site, longitudinal designs and test moderators to guide targeted adolescent DBT interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tianyu Cheng

McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School

Authors

Sophia E. Nadeau, Logan Cummings

[41] Characterizing the Stigma of Widespread Chronic Physical Illnesses

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

In the United States, an estimated 129 million people have a major chronic disease (e.g., diabetes). Further, managing these diseases comprises 90% of the annual \$4.1 trillion health care expenditure (Benavidez et al., 2024). Along with the physical health detriment, the stigma felt by those with these conditions is detrimental to treatment outcomes. This stigma needs to be remedied, as it can be a barrier to treatment and a deterrent to successful treatment outcomes, further exacerbating the social and monetary costs (Crapanzano et al., 2018). Recent work has characterized the stigma toward people with mental illnesses (e.g., anxiety) as having two primary dimensions: social desirability and controllability (Krendl & Freeman, 2017). We aim to characterize whether similar dimensions emerge for the 10 most common chronic illnesses in the United States. To this end, participants will complete a multidimensional scaling task where they rate the similarity of different illness pairs. Other participants will rate each illness on 13 stigma-related beliefs. A factor analysis will reveal stigma dimensions on which people think about chronic physical illnesses. Results will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adrienne Brummett

PhD Student | University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Authors

Brittany Cassidy

[42] Children's Evaluations of Household Chore Neglect Across Gender and Justification

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Building on evidence that women do more household labor and that children both recognize and endorse this unequal division as fair (Midgette et al., 2023), we tested whether children react negatively to individuals who neglect household chores. Specifically, we examined whether evaluations differ by the target's gender, the justification for neglect (career vs. preference), and chore type (trash vs. laundry). Participants were 108 children (56 girls, 52 boys; Mage = 8.05, range = 6.02–9.99 years). In a 2 (target gender: male vs. female) $\times$ 2 (justification: career vs. preference) between-subjects design with chore type as a within-subjects factor, children judged the permissibility of neglect, anticipated backlash from the target's family members, and endorsed intervention. Children judged neglect as more permissible when justified by career demands, $b = 0.36$, $SE = 0.16$, $p = .03$, and were less likely to recommend intervention, $b = -0.70$, $SE = 0.27$, $p = .01$. Younger children anticipated greater backlash than older children, $b = 0.12$, $SE = 0.04$, $p = .002$. Across outcomes, target gender and chore type had no reliable effects.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katrina Chan

Student | New York University

Authors

Andrei Cimpian, Duygu Yilmaz

[43] Comparing Three Experimental Manipulations of High-Quality Listening

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

High-quality listening (HQL) aims to help listeners understand, connect with, and foster goodwill toward speakers. For speakers, HQL increases well-being, reduces loneliness, and boosts social connection. Yet whether HQL benefits listeners remains unclear. This study tested three HQL manipulations (written instructions, video instructions, and combined) against an active control in 195 undergraduates who had a 10-min conversation with a confederate. We expected all three HQL conditions to increase listening quality, social connection, and subjective well-being and decrease rumination and negative affect. Fixed-effects models showed that all the HQL manipulations improved listener- and speaker-rated active listening relative to the control group. Speakers also reported higher conversation quality and connection when their partners received HQL instructions rather than control instructions. For listeners, exploratory principal components analysis indicated that the combined condition uniquely increased compassion and openness toward others. These findings underscore the potential of brief HQL interventions to strengthen social connection and well-being for both conversation partners.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephen Cadieux

PhD Student | UC Riverside

Authors

Madison Montemayor-Dominguez, James Chinn, Nina Radosic, Sonja Lyubomirsky

[44] Competence or Just Confidence? Reference Letters, Gender Biases, and the Weight of Evidence in Candidate Evaluation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This research explores potential interactions between candidate gender and the content of their reference letters – in particular, the extent to which male vs. female job candidates “get credit” for concrete examples of high performance vs. subjective assurances the candidate can succeed. In a 2 (male vs. female) × 2 (concrete evidence vs. expressed potential) pilot study, a pattern of cross-over interactions emerged on several judgments: female candidates were rated more positively when presented with documented success, while male candidates were either indistinguishable or evaluated more positively when merely described as having potential. Recognizing limits in our initial design, we refined our stimuli and measures. A second study with a 3 (male vs. female vs. gender redacted) × 2 (concrete evidence vs. expressed confidence) × 2 (marketing vs. human resources) design validated our new stimuli and manipulation checks (8-item scale; $\alpha=.87$ for concrete evidence condition, $\alpha=.84$ for expressed potential condition). Data from an online participant pool provided partial evidence for our hypotheses, though data quality concerns necessitate ongoing data collection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Hangen

Assistant Professor | SUNY Brockport

Authors

Kathleen Tomlin

[45] Concerned But Comfortable: The Privacy Paradox in Large Language Models

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Large language models (LLMs) are trained on massive corpora that inevitably include personal data (PD) and are increasingly used in contexts where people knowingly or unknowingly share PD. Yet, little is known about how users perceive and react to these privacy risks. In Study 1 (N=155), we showed that participants (a) recognized risks of data disclosure, (b) have intuitions about why LLMs can generate PD, and (c) anticipate feeling “very concerned” if an LLM could produce certain features about them (e.g., medical condition, net worth). 60% of participants also expressed interest in learning what PD LLMs can generate about them, so we introduced and validated LMP2, a tool that lets users query GPT-4o for model-generated PD linked to their names. In Study 2a (N=303), we gave participants access to LMP2 and demonstrate that GPT-4o can generate 11 features about everyday Prolific participants with $\geq 60\%$ accuracy (e.g., gender, language, hair color). Strikingly, however, only 4% of LLM-generated PD was viewed as a privacy violation. Indeed, the modal response to LLM output was indifference (68%). These findings reveal an LLM privacy paradox: people express concerns about LLM data disclosures in theory but respond with indifference when confronted with evidence of model-generated PD in practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kirsten Morehouse

Harvard Univ.

Authors

Kristen Morehouse

[46] Connecting to Care: A Relational Pathway from Nature Connectedness to Pro-environmental Personal Norms

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Recent insights suggest that connecting with nature may provide a relational pathway for cultivating moral obligations toward the environment. However, causal evidence linking nature connectedness to pro-environmental personal norms remains limited, and the underlying mechanisms are not well understood. Across two surveys and two experiments, we examined whether and how nature connectedness fosters pro-environmental personal norms through compassion toward nature. A large-scale survey of Chinese college students (N = 3,955) showed that nature connectedness made a unique positive contribution to pro-environmental personal norms beyond established predictors. A second national survey (N = 331) replicated this positive association and identified compassion towards nature as a key mediator. Two experiments then provided causal evidence: participants who engaged in nature photography (N = 146) or immersive nature videos (N = 256) reported heightened nature connectedness, which in turn strengthened pro-environmental norms via compassion. Overall, these results demonstrate that the human–nature relationship can translate into internalized moral obligations, resonating with recent work on moral expansion toward nature and highlighting a potential route for promoting enduring pro-environmental motivation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nina He

Beijing Normal University

Authors

Jiang Jiang, Nina He, Yun Chen, Mianxing Fu

[47] Conscientiousness Moderates Multiple Neuroimmune Pathway Mediators Between PRS and Stroop

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

African Americans experience major stress from racial discrimination, contributing to higher inflammatory responses, lower quality of life, and higher mortality, yet the specific pathways among body systems are incompletely understood.

This research pursues the stress neuroimmune network hypothesis, and asked whether perceived racism negatively impacts neurocognitive functions like cognitive control and may be mediated by neurotransmitters (dopamine, norepinephrine, epinephrine), and by proinflammatory cytokines (TNF- α , IL-1- α , IL-6,).

120 African Americans from the community participated providing both psychological (Perceived Racial Stress (PRS); Stroop (a measure of cognitive control) and the above neurotransmitter and cytokine data from hospital provided blood/urine testing.

Hays Process statistic tested for moderated mediations of PRS's impacts upon Stroop, finding that PRS damages cognitive control but does that least for low trait conscientiousness which moderates multiple included serial paths (e.g., PRS>Dopamine>TNF>IL6>Stroop) providing support for the neuroimmune pathway as mediator between racial stress and diminished executive functioning moderated by central traits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lloyd Sloan

Prof and IDS Department Chair | Howard University

Authors

Ingrid Mood, Alfonso Campbell, Jules Harrell

[48] Context Cues: Can Signals of Explicit Anti-Transgender Bias Exacerbate Aggregate Levels of Implicit Anti-Transgender Bias?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Anti-transgender rhetoric has increased in recent years and become more visible through political advertisements and other campaigns. New theories on implicit bias emphasize the role of environments on bias (e.g., Calanchini et al., 2022; Payne et al., 2017), yet, to our knowledge, few studies have examined specifically what (and how) environmental features might affect implicit bias. In the present work, we examined whether public, anti-transgender messages (e.g., on billboards, yard signs, etc.) impact average implicit anti-trans bias. Participants (N = 726) were exposed to one of four types of public messages (anti-trans, pro-trans, positively valenced, and negatively valenced) prior to completing a transgender implicit association task (Trans IAT; Axt et al., 2021). Although the type of message did not affect implicit bias, we found that the correlation between implicit and explicit bias was significantly stronger in the anti-trans messaging condition compared to all other conditions. We discuss the implications for theory and future research on the relation between implicit and explicit bias across levels of analysis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ayla Winegar

Doctoral Student | University of Denver

Authors

Heidi Vuletic

[49] Contributions of Smiles and Gendered Traits on Evaluations of Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Aspiring women leaders are commonly told to smile. Whether this advice is beneficial is understudied. We test this by investigating evaluations of aspiring women leaders. Leaders are expected to be agentic (e.g., strong), consistent with expectations of men. Women are expected to be communal (e.g., warm). Agentic women could smile to convey communality and thus bypass a perceived deficit. Yet, agentic women's smiles could be perceived as less trustworthy, making smiling unhelpful. Here, participants will evaluate the trustworthiness of smiling and non-smiling men and women paired with agentic or communal traits or no traits. We expect a three-way interaction on trustworthiness ratings. Based on past work, we expect similar evaluations of smiling men and women, and non-smiling men. Targets paired with communal versus agentic or no traits should be more positively evaluated. Targets paired with agentic, or no traits should be similarly evaluated. We expect non-smiling women paired with communal versus agentic or no traits to be more positively evaluated. Further, we expect non-smiling women paired with no versus agentic traits to be more positively evaluated. Results to be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bianca Gregory

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Authors

Brittany Cassidy

[50] Counterterrorism Strategies and Crowd Behavior Management: Insights from Global Protection Professionals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

The emergence of terrorism has become a growing global concern, largely influenced by shifts in political ideology. The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of protection professionals across Africa, Europe, and the Americas, focusing on their perceptions and approaches to counterterrorism strategies. A qualitative research design was adopted, using primary data collected through unstructured, open-ended questionnaires and one-on-one interviews. The study specifically sought to answer the following research questions: How do police and protection professionals describe their experiences with crowd behavior management? How do these professionals describe their use of crowd behavior techniques within counterterrorism contexts? This presentation will highlight the literature review and methodology of the research, as well as an analysis that contributes to expanding both current and future research in the field.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cornel Stemley

Justice Studies Faculty | Grand Canyon University

Authors

Dylan Adler

[51] Couple identity clarity predicts neural synchrony in right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex during conversations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Couple identity clarity, or the degree to which individuals believe they and their partner have a clear and coherent sense of who they are as a couple, has been associated with important relationship outcomes such as commitment. What underlies this shared belief, however, remains underexplored. Here, 41 couples (82 individuals) engaged in a 10-minute discussion recalling how they met and their relationship trajectory while undergoing functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy. We computed inter-subject correlation (ISC) in the prefrontal cortex, such that greater ISC indicates greater neural synchrony between partners. During this conversation, activity in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex was synchronized between couples. ISC in this region was also associated with higher self-reported couple identity clarity, commitment, and perceived partner's commitment. Together, these findings suggest that couple identity clarity is reflected not only in self-reported relationship quality but also coordinated neural activity during meaningful conversations, highlighting the neurocognitive basis of shared relationship identity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jadyn Park

University Of Chicago

Authors

Lydia Emery, Yuan Chang Leong

[52] Depressed Mood in a Crowded Place: An Evolutionary Mismatch Perspective

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

Governments and mental healthcare professionals worldwide seek better ways to diagnose and treat depression (Nesse, 2019). Despite their efforts, the rate of depressed mood continues to increase rapidly (APA, 2021). Within this context, this project aims to elucidate the mechanistic underpinnings of depressive disorder and unravel the reasons for the increase in people reporting experiences of depressed mood and depressive disorders. Drawing upon literature from evolutionary medicine and evolutionary mismatch, this project hypothesizes that depressive disorder is the outcome of psychological mechanisms designed to respond adaptively to environmental stressors that signal loss, particularly status loss, but are now chronically processing evolutionarily novel environmental stressors. With two studies, we examined the effect of high population density- an evolutionarily novel stimulus that signals intense competition and potential loss - on depressed mood. Our findings suggest that high population density contributes to depressed mood through heightened perceptions of competition and social comparison.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Lim

Senior Lecturer in Psychology | Murdoch University

Authors

Amy Hobson, Zhi Xiong Teo, Jing Wen Chin, Gregory Bong, Raphael Raj

[53] Development and Validation of a Problematic Short-form Video Use Scale

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study aimed to develop and validate the Problematic Short-form Video Use Scale to capture problematic behaviors unique to short-form video platforms. An initial pool of 37 items was developed through a literature review and focus group interviews. EFA and CFA were conducted with heavy users aged 19-40, who watch short-form videos more than 2 hours daily. EFA (N = 719) identified a six-factor structure comprising 21 items. CFA (N = 1,009) supported both six-factor and higher-order two-factor models. Given theoretical considerations, the higher-order structure was adopted: Attachment-Driven Use (two subscales: Emotional Dependency and Compulsive Use) and Dysfunctional Use (four subscales: Neglect of Obligations, Dysregulation, Time Distortion, Mindless Use). The scale demonstrated strong positive correlations with SNS and smartphone addiction, and negative correlations with digital well-being. Nomological network analysis confirmed construct validity: Avoidance Motivation for short-form video use predicted Attachment-Driven Use, whereas Approach Motivation predicted Dysfunctional Use, with both problematic use patterns subsequently predicting depression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hyosun Choi

Ewha Womans University

Authors

Ga Hee Lee, Hwajin Yang, Pilyoung Kim, Uran Oh, Sujin Yang

[54] Development and Validation of the Short-Form Video Use Motivation Scale

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study developed and validated the Short-Form Video Use Motivation Scale to examine multidimensional motivations behind short-form video use. An initial pool of 33 items was generated through literature reviews and focus group interviews (FGIs), followed by content validation. Both exploratory (EFA) and confirmatory factor (CFA) analyses were conducted with heavy users aged 19-40, who watch short-form videos more than 2 hours daily. A 22-item, five-factor structure was finalized post-EFA: Fun Seeking, Information Seeking, Convenience, Maladaptive Coping, and Fear of Missing Out (FoMO). CFA supported both multidimensional and higher-order two-factor models. Given theoretical considerations, the higher-order structure distinguishing Instrumental motives (Fun Seeking, Information Seeking, Convenience) from Avoidance motives (Maladaptive Coping, FoMO) was adopted. Criterion validity was supported by significant correlations with boredom, self-control, loneliness/social isolation, and behavioral activation/inhibition system (BAS/BIS). Findings reveal that short-form video use encompasses both adaptive and maladaptive motivations, unlike traditional smart media dependency patterns.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bae Yujin

Ewha Womans University

Authors

Hwajin Yang, Pilyoung Kim, Sujin Yang, Yujin Bae, Nayeon Kim

[55] Disaggregating Agency: Dynamic Stereotypes Differ Across Dimensions of Agency

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Dynamic stereotypes refer to beliefs about how gender traits change over time. As women in the U.S. in the late 20th century increasingly held employment positions, they were increasingly considered to possess agentic characteristics. Yet agency includes multiple dimensions (i.e., dominance, independence, competence) that may differentially relate to role shifts and thus show divergent dynamic stereotypes. In Study 1A-B (N = 1205), perceivers projected that women increasingly gain dominance and independence but maintain high competence over time. Trait projections for dominance and independence were associated with beliefs about the gendered division of labor. Study 2 (N = 221) aimed to explain the projected stability in competence for women by examining perception of traditionally female-dominated roles. As predicted, these roles were seen as requiring high competence, which explained the projected stability in competence for women despite women's movement into nontraditional roles. By disaggregating agency dimensions, we uncovered distinct patterns of dynamic gender stereotypes, offering a nuanced understanding of how gender role shifts shape dynamic gendered trait perceptions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ngo Quang Anh Tran

Graduate Student | Indiana University Bloomington

Authors

Andrew White, Amanda Diekman, Samantha Heiman

[56] Discrimination and the Dramaturgical Perspective: Implications for BIPOC Wellbeing

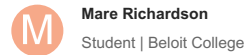
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This study investigates how experiences of discrimination shape the endorsement of a dramaturgical perspective (DP; Sullivan et al., 2014)-the belief that life is like a play and people perform as actors among employed Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Drawing on previous research on the DP and impression management, we examine whether exposure to discrimination contributes to burnout and reduced workplace investment, as well as what role the DP plays in this process. Using survey data from BIPOC and White participants (N = 200), analyses show that BIPOC participants endorsed DP significantly more than White participants. Mediation analyses suggest that heightened vigilance in response to discrimination plays a role in BIPOC individuals' heightened endorsement of the DP as a strategy for navigating workplace dynamics. Prior research has linked DP to adverse outcomes such as psychological distress and professional burnout (Young, 2020). If BIPOC individuals are more likely to endorse DP, further research is needed to examine how this process may influence their overall wellbeing and to identify interventions that mitigate its negative effects.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Dr. Isaac F. Young

[57] Distinct Motivational Pathways to Problematic Short-Form Video Use: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach

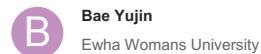
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study examined the relationship between motivations for short-form video use and problematic short-form use patterns using structural equation modeling. A total of 1,009 Korean adults aged 19–40 completed the Short-form Video Use Motivation Scale (SVMS) and the Problematic Short-form Video Use Scale (PSVU). Results showed that five motivations (Fun-Seeking, Information-Seeking, Convenience, Maladaptive Coping, and Fear of Missing Out (FoMO)) were differentially associated with six patterns of problematic use [Emotional Dependency, Compulsive Use, Neglect of Obligations, Dysregulation, Time Distortion, Mindless Use]. Maladaptive Coping and FoMO emerged as the most problematic motivations, significantly predicting multiple problematic patterns and dependency. Convenience motivation commonly causes issues with daily maintenance of responsibilities and control. Fun-seeking enhanced absorption and mindless use patterns. In contrast, Information-Seeking motivation demonstrated minimal risk, showing either no or negative associations with problematic patterns. These findings highlight the importance of considering motivational pathways in understanding and addressing problematic short-form video use.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Sujin Yang, Dahyun Ha

[58] Divine Forgiveness Shapes Emotion and Probes Moral Licensing

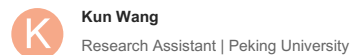
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Across 4 preregistered studies, we examined whether writing about Divine Forgiveness shapes emotions and moral behavior by fostering prosocial emotions and, as theorized, moral licensing. Study 1 (N=382) found Divine and interpersonal forgiveness increased gratitude and transcendent indebtedness over Control. Study 2, an in-person live-offense paradigm, focuses on behavioral measures of interpersonal forgiveness, with data collection ongoing. Study 3, under analysis, examines state gratitude and allocation motives after a favor. Study 4 examined whether Divine Forgiveness, compared with Transgression, produced moral licensing, with cheating as the indicator. A pilot (N=164) found Divine Forgiveness raised gratitude and self-transcendent emotions, Transgression raised guilt and negative affect, and cheating was nonsignificantly higher in Divine. The main study (N=523) confirmed these emotional effects—Divine Forgiveness boosted positive emotions and reduced guilt—but neither study showed reliable differences in cheating or moral/religious dispositions. Overall, Divine Forgiveness elevated prosocial emotions, while support for the preregistered moral-licensing prediction was limited.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Chabrian Tanguay, Monica Weedman, Jacob Floyd, Jo-Ann Tsang

[59] Do Endearments Sound Different Coming From Men or Women?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Language can shape perceptions in powerful ways. Previous research has found that men who use terms of endearment (ToE; e.g., honey, dear) are viewed negatively (Hildebrand et al., 2022). However, less is known about how women who use ToEs are perceived. In this study, participants read one of four vignettes describing a woman or man who did or did not use ToEs. They then rated the character on positive and negative attributes. We hypothesized a significant interaction between ToE use and gender, expecting stronger negative ratings for men who use ToEs. Preliminary data (N = 250) showed significant main effects of gender and ToE use. For example, ToE users were rated higher in hostile sexism ($p < .001$), and gender-specific system justification ($p = .044$), and lower in competence ($p < .001$). Men were rated higher in hostile sexism ($p < .001$), and gender-specific system justification ($p < .001$), and lower in competence ($p < .001$). We found no significant interaction between ToE use and gender. ToE use and gender may have additive, independent effects, but we await more data to confirm this. Findings support recommendations for both men and women to limit ToE use.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Ellair

University of Wisconsin - Green Bay

[60] Do Facial Expression Dynamics Differ Between Friends and Strangers During Conversation?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR

Facial expressions encode communicative information, yet little is known how partners' expressions fluctuate over the course of a dyadic conversation. The present study investigates how the complexity and dynamics of facial expressions support playful conversation and facilitate social connection. We ask whether facial expressions become more unpredictable and complex when people interact with friends compared to strangers, treating such variability as an index of social openness and play. Undergraduate participants (N = 132) engaged in separate recorded conversations with both friends and strangers. Facial expressions were analyzed using principal components of facial landmarks, from which we will calculate entropy and evaluate the distribution of facial components throughout a conversation. Participants then reported conversational enjoyability and closeness to both conversation partners. By linking facial expression complexity and dynamics to conversational outcomes, the study will test whether facial behavior functions as a relational tool that fosters playful interaction and feelings of connection between unacquainted and close pairs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Qifang (Rachael) Yuan

Undergraduate Student | University of Virginia

Authors

Sareena Chadha, Hannes Diemerling

[61] Do messages about science affect reactions to conflicting health information?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Exposure to conflicting health information (CHI) can negatively affect people's beliefs about science and health recommendations. An initial study found that a message which helps people make better sense of the scientific process mitigated these effects. We conducted two pre-registered studies examining the timing of this message by varying whether it came before or after exposure to CHI. In study 1, Prolific participants were randomly assigned to read a message about science or sustainability either before or after exposure to CHI (n = 604). In study 2, Prolific participants were randomly assigned to read a message about science before or after CHI exposure or received no message at all (n = 223). Positive construal of science, counterarguing science, and knowledge of science were assessed. We found that when delivered after exposure to CHI, the message about science was effective at sustaining positive perceptions of science compared to receiving no message. However, there is mixed evidence for effectiveness when the science message is read before CHI exposure. Next steps and implications for interventions for CHI will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Chan

PhD Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Alexander Rothman, Rachel Vogel, Marco Yzer, Sarah Gollust, Rebekah Nagler

[62] Do Volitional Change Goals Predict Growth? Evidence from a Large-Scale Well-Being Intervention

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Do volitional personality change (VPC) theories extend to well-being growth? We test two VPC claims: (1) change goals predict growth and (2) goal-aligned behaviors facilitate change. We analyzed data from Pathways to Happiness, a 4-week online intervention (N=4373). Participants selected change goals targeting well-being characteristics: resilience (handling stress), compassion, mindfulness, connection (improving relationships), happiness, and purpose. Change goals predicted both perceived and actual change in corresponding characteristics at check-in and post-test. However, effects were stronger for perceived than actual change, suggesting goals motivate perceptions exceeding measured growth. Using independent ratings (N=685), we identified activities best/least aligned with each characteristic. Goal-holders completing highly aligned activities perceived greater improvement than those completing poorly aligned activities, but actual change did not differ significantly. These findings extend VPC beyond personality traits to well-being, highlighting the need to differentiate subjective perceptions from objective change in interventions where participants hold strong growth expectations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rowan Kemmerly

PhD Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Kostadin Kushlev, Rowan Kemmerly, Kristin Layous, Everett Wetchler, Emiliana Simon-Thom

[63] Does 'Bi-partisan' = Unbiased? How Neutrality Labels Affect Trust in Fact-Checks

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

As misinformation proliferates online, fact-checking is vital for countering false narratives. Yet, trust in science and fact-checking has declined in recent years, prompting major social media platforms to remove fact-checks, further facilitating the spread of inaccurate information. Given the role of ideological congruency on trust and skepticism toward information generally, we investigated whether political neutrality labels, (e.g., "bipartisan" or "nonpartisan") affect trust and skepticism towards fact-checks. Using a politically diverse sample of U.S. adults (N = 300), participants viewed real, politically congruent and incongruent fact-checks conducted by fact-checkers (politically neutral or no label) and rated the fact-check's trustworthiness and objectivity. Among both Democrats and Republicans, neutrality labels had no effect on trust in fact-checks, and evaluations were primarily driven by ideological congruency. The findings thus far reveal the limitations of political neutrality labeling, and suggest alternative strategies are needed to increase trust in political fact-checking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shriya Bhutani

New York University

[64] Does Religion Promote Virtue Development? Testing two Hypotheses

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Religions are theorized to support the development of moral virtue, either through socialization processes or by providing self-transcendent meaning systems that guide and motivate the exercise of virtue. Yet, studies testing these hypotheses have primarily employed cross-sectional methods. Hence, in two preregistered, longitudinal studies, we investigated the association between religiosity and virtue and tested the two candidate hypotheses. Study 1 (N = 32,485 observations from N = 977 adults) found that present religious affiliation, but not a religious upbringing, is associated with higher levels of several virtues in individuals' daily activities. Study 2 (N = 1,888 undergraduates) found that, over a two-year period, the degree to which individuals oriented their lives around their religions' teachings was associated with growth in their generosity, courage, patience, and self-control. By contrast, religious affiliation and religious community involvement were not associated with virtue growth. Overall, the findings are consistent with the hypothesis that religion fosters virtue development, and in particular by providing self-transcendent meaning systems.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karim Kerasha

Student | Baylor University

Authors

Karen Melton, Perry Glanzer, Elizabeth Bounds, Michael Prinzing, Robert Ridder

[65] Does Self-Reported Knowledge Moderate Wishful Thinking in the 2024 U.S. Election?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study investigated how wishful thinking manifests in relation to predictions about the 2024 election. A total of 500 participants were recruited and were asked to complete a total of four surveys over the span of several weeks, with a total of 410 completing all four surveys. As expected in light of prior research on wishful thinking, it was found that the more people preferred a candidate, the more likely they were to predict that they would win. Additionally, among the questions asked was how knowledgeable participants thought they were about recent political news. It was found that self-reported knowledge moderates one's preference and their predictions. The less knowledge someone reported, the less they predicted their preferred candidate would win and vice versa. This is of interest because the intuitive expectation is that more knowledge would lead to more accurate predictions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jackson Crawley

Master's Student/Teaching Assistant | Appalachian State University

Authors

Andrew Smith, Katie Wolsiefer, Paul Windschitl

[66] Does social media app use explain why liberals are unhappier than conservatives?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Recent work suggests a partisan “well-being gap,” with liberals reporting lower well-being than conservatives. One possible explanation is that liberals use social media more frequently, which may undermine their well-being. We test whether social media usage mediates the relationship between political orientation and well-being at the momentary, weekly, and monthly levels. Participants (N = 1,578) reported their political orientation in a one-time survey. They reported their social media use (i.e., minutes spent on social media platforms in the past hour) and affective well-being (i.e., how they felt at that moment) in ecological momentary assessments up to seven times a day over one month (i.e., 120,599 total assessments). They also completed weekly reports of their social media usage using their smartphones’ screen time app (i.e., Hours spent on social media platforms in the past week), as well as monthly well-being reports (i.e., life satisfaction, loneliness, and affective well-being). By analyzing data from multiple sources at multiple temporal levels, this study clarifies whether and which everyday social media habits contribute to partisan differences in well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Burint Bevis

PhD Candidate | Imperial College London

Authors

Lara Kroencke, Diana Jordan, Gabriella Harrari, Burint Bevis, Mitija Bla

[67] Doing it like a girl: A brief masculinity threat paradigm

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Precarious manhood theory (Vandello & Bosson, 2013) argues that manhood—compared to womanhood—is a tenuous status that must be socially earned but can be revoked. Since the theory’s inception, researchers have explored ways to experimentally examine the consequences of lost manhood using paradigms which either describe men as feminine or asks them to engage in feminine behaviors (e.g., Bosson et al., 2009; Rudman & Fairchild, 2004). The present work contributes to the literature by validating a new paradigm called The Daily Choices and Personality Quiz which improves previous tools by addressing issues with instrument length, feedback believability, and general construct purity. Grounded in theory that gender is a social performance (West & Zimmerman, 1987), this ten item, forced-choice quiz asks about individual behaviors/preferences across everyday situations, implying that certain behaviors indicate one’s level of masculinity or femininity, before providing randomized false feedback. Across three studies (N = 804), this research aims to validate that the paradigm can produce theoretically relevant affective and behavioral outcomes as previously established instruments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caitlin Shaw

Austin Peay State University

Authors

C. Veronica Smith, Caitlin M. Shaw

[68] Dressing for the Occasion: Affordance-Management Theory and Women's Appearance Choices Based on Gender of the Threat

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Affordance-management theory suggests changes in human behavior are based on the identification and management of potential threats and affordances in the environment with assessments often based on stereotypes. This study asked college-aged heterosexual women (N = 116) to make clothing, hair, and makeup choices after being assigned to imagine attending a bar at night with the presence of either a threatening woman or man who had previously made sexual advances, a potential mate, or no specified individual. In accordance with affordance-management theory, women spent less time on hair in the threatening man condition than the potential mate condition. However, clothing and makeup choices did not differ between the potential mate condition and the threatening man or woman condition. Moderation by fear of rape, mate value, and sociosexual orientation were tested as explanatory mechanisms, but were not significant. These findings suggest that any threat, regardless of gender stereotype, may trigger similar defensive strategies when it comes to appearance choices regardless of individual differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Keri Maricle

Graduate Student | Oakland University

Authors

Melissa McDonald

[69] Duty Calls: Civic Obligation Buffers Psychological Well-being in Face of Functional Decline

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Functional decline – reduced physical or cognitive abilities that limit one’s capacity to perform common daily tasks – affects over 12% of U.S. adults. Individuals with functional limitations experience reduced social participation and worse psychological health. This study examined civic obligation—the motivation to engage in and contribute to the community—as a novel protective factor against physical decline-related distress. Using the Midlife in the U.S. (MIDUS) data, we tested whether civic obligation moderates the relationship between functional decline and well-being. Results showed that functional decline negatively predicted well-being beyond aging effects. Civic obligation, however, contributes positively to well-being. Crucially, higher civic obligation most strongly protected well-being among those with severe functional limitations, even when controlling for participation in various civic activities. This buffering effect complements existing models by demonstrating that psychological orientation toward civic duties, rather than behaviors alone, shapes well-being. Implications for designing accessible civic engagement programs for vulnerable populations are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Annie Xu

graduate student | University of Washington

Authors

Cynthia Levine

[70] Dynamics of Compliance with Preventive Measures during the COVID-19 Pandemic

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Previous longitudinal studies highlighted variability in compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures, noting the heightened sensitivity of the least compliant groups to contextual changes such as easing restrictions. However, they overlooked other forms of variability. We investigated compliance with social distancing and staying-at-home measures, its dynamic nature, and associations with social and individual factors. Data came from a longitudinal study of 1,984 Canadians across six waves from April–July 2020. Compliance was measured with self-reports alongside trust in Canadian health services and the Prime Minister, perception of social norms, and subjective health literacy. Latent Class Growth Analysis identified three compliance trajectories: “Low and constant” (shifting to “Low and decreasing” post-restrictions), “High and decreasing,” and “High and constant.” Trajectory transitions showed relative stability. Subjective health literacy consistently predicted trajectory membership, while provincial norms and trust in health services moderately predicted change. Findings reaffirm variability in the lowest compliance group while unveiling heterogeneity among higher compliance groups, notably in trajectory transitions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sahar Ramazan Ali

McGill University

Authors

Éric Lacourse Mathieu Pelletier-Dumas, Roxane de la Sablonnière

[71] Effect of spiritual body metaphors on food preferences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Body metaphors are often used by health professionals and advertisers to help individuals understand how their body works. One of the most widespread metaphors portrays the body as a machine. However, past research has shown that this metaphor has limitations in how it shapes food beliefs and behaviors, and recent work has demonstrated that portraying the body as a machine can backfire depending on consumers’ eating self-efficacy (Weihrach & Huang, 2021). Alternatively, spiritual metaphors can also be used to describe the body and consist in assimilating the body to a sacred place created by a higher entity, e.g., comparing the body to a temple. Yet, little is known about how such metaphors may influence beliefs and behaviors. Across four studies, one correlational and three experimental, we show that a spiritual (vs. mechanical) body metaphor is associated with a healthier diet and lower BMI, leads individuals to favor highly nutritious foods and avoid processed and low-nutrition foods, and increases preference for healthier options when choosing between similar foods. These findings suggest that spiritual body metaphors may be effective in promoting healthy eating behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dimitri Vasiljevic

Authors

Pierrick Gomez

[72] Effects of Discrimination on Prenatal/Postnatal Mental Health: A Scoping Review

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Meta-analyses have repeatedly shown associations between discrimination and mental health in the general population. There is, however, a lack of reviews on discrimination and perinatal mental health, with prior reviews on discrimination in the perinatal period focused on birth and obstetric outcomes. As the extent and nature of the literature on this topic is unknown, a scoping review of quantitative studies examining associations between discrimination and perinatal mental health was conducted.

The review was preregistered on Open Science Framework. 6111 records were identified via a systematic search using Web of Science, PsycINFO, PubMed, and CINAHL. Studies were included if participants were pregnant or within 1 year postpartum and examined associations between discrimination (exposure/predictor) and a mental health variable (distress or well-being; outcome). All abstracts and full texts were screened by two independent reviewers. 67 studies met inclusion criteria. Preliminary results suggest the most frequent variables examined were race-based discrimination and depression. Study extraction and interpretation is ongoing and will be complete by the conference.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julianne Godchaux-Linneman

Community Development Analyst | Commerce Bank

Authors

Charlie Rioux, Zoe Childers-Rockey, Madison Bissa, Berfin Tasasiz

[73] Emotion Through a Biased Lens: Misgendering and Negativity in Judgments of Transgender Individuals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Transgender people are subject to various biases. For example, people may hold general, negative attitudes towards transgender women and men, or they might treat them more like their sex assigned at birth than their gender identity. In the context of emotion, these two biases pose an interesting puzzle. Strong gender stereotypes about emotion persist that dictate which emotions women and men should display, meaning that negativity and misgendering biases predict opposite outcomes when perceiving transgender people's emotions. To test which bias best predicts emotion perception, participants rated angry, happy, neutral, and fearful faces of women and men. We counterbalanced which faces were labeled as transgender or cisgender. Misgendering bias was observed for happiness and fear—transgender men were perceived more like cisgender women, while transgender women were perceived more like cisgender men. Yet, we also found evidence of negativity bias for happiness among people high in gender essentialism and transphobia. Data collection is currently underway to test whether these biases may emerge simultaneously, but through different systems (i.e., automatic and controlled).

*POSTER

Speaker



Darla Bonagura

Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant | University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Authors

Sarah Ariel Lamer

[74] Emotional Support Through AI: Venting to Artificial Intelligence or a Human May Offer Comparable Emotional Well-Being Benefits

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots are increasingly used as sources of informal emotional support, with evidence suggesting that venting to them can reduce negative affect. Yet, it is unclear whether such benefits depend on the responder's perceived identity. Since emotional relief often hinges on authenticity and validation, this study investigated whether well-being gains differ when users believe they are venting to an AI versus a human, even when responses are identical. In a pre-registered between-subjects experiment (N = 279), participants were randomly assigned to an AI-assisted or a perceived human-assisted venting condition. In both cases, responses were generated by an AI chatbot, though in the human condition they were lightly edited and presented in a context designed to enhance their credibility as coming from a real person. Venting improved well-being across groups, reducing stress and loneliness while increasing perceived social support. Improvements were comparable across conditions, suggesting AI chatbots can provide emotional benefits similar to those from perceived human responders.

*POSTER

Speaker



Meilan Hu

Student | Singapore Management University

Authors

Andree Hartanto, Ho Jerlyn, Claire Ng, Wong Shermaine

[75] Empathy for the Pain of Punishment Helps Cheaters Avoid Justice

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Cheating breaches fairness norms, yet observers are often content with weak penalties that effectively reinforce rather than punish cheating behavior. Our study examined how punishment preferences are disproportionately shaped by empathetic loss aversion (ELA), a social extension of loss aversion bias that describes sensitivity to the pain others experience from loss. In a vignette-based survey, participants evaluated a professional golfer who used an illegal club to qualify for the PGA Tour, which enabled them to accrue millions of dollars and valuable properties. Participants selected monetary and property sanctions for the cheater, and then reported the emotions they expected the cheater to feel in response to being punished. Results showed leniency through reluctance to reduce cheaters' ill-gotten gains below their pre-cheating baseline. Their leniency appeared to result from their myopic focus on the distress they expected cheaters to feel in response to losing assets. Participants were more disinclined to revoke property gains than monetary gains. Harsher punishments were chosen by the half of participants induced to also consider the perspective of a professional golfer who did not reap the benefits of cheating. Participants' scenario-specific punishment decisions were notably more lenient than their separately-stated abstract views about appropriate justice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chloe Ewing

Authors

Harry Wallace, Claire Van Dyck, Brock Ramzinsky

[76] Endorsement of honor beliefs and women's acceptance of sexual objectification

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Our previous work showed that endorsement of honor beliefs predicted sexist beliefs and acceptance of intimate partner violence, and, in turn, acceptance of stalking among both US and Turkish participants. The present work examines how honor endorsement predicts women's acceptance of broader sexual objectification, which we conceptualize as restrictions on their bodily autonomy. In the current study, we focused on women in the US, given that sexual objectification is a widespread issue among US women. In two studies, we looked at participants' responses to measures of honor endorsement and honor concerns (masculine, feminine, family, and morality honor); participants then reported how acceptable sexual objectification would be if certain behaviors happened to them. Data collection is under way. Paralleling prior work, we expect that endorsement of honor beliefs will serially predict benevolent and hostile sexism and subsequent acceptance of intimate partner violence that, in turn, will predict acceptance of sexual objectification. The results and the implications of the findings will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Demet Basar

Graduate Student | The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Theresa Vescio

[77] Engaging Students in Social Issues Through Sequencing and Moral Framing

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Researchers have found that topic sequencing affects student engagement (Bernstein, 2019) and that moral framing impacts responses to social issues (Feinberg & Willer, 2019). We examined the impact of course sequencing (class- vs. race-based bias) and moral framing (binding vs individualizing) on students' (N= 142) attitudes in a social psychology class.

We hypothesized that framing the class using binding morals (e.g., loyalty) and introducing class-based bias first would resonate more with conservative students compared to individualizing moral framing (e.g., fairness) and first covering racial bias.

Overall, liberal students showed more interest and expected greater comfort in the course, and had more positive attitudes toward DEI. Importantly, results were moderated by framing and sequencing. When content was framed using binding morals and class-based bias was introduced first, conservatives anticipated feeling as comfortable and supportive of DEI as liberals (who were largely unaffected by condition). As such, thoughtful framing and sequencing may help foster productive discussions on challenging social issues. Research isolating framing vs. sequencing effects is ongoing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Reyhaneh Bagherian Shamir

Graduate Student | Central Washington University

Authors

Tonya Buchanan

[78] Escaping a Future Stigmatized Identity: An Examination of Ageist Misogyny and Aging Prevention Work in Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

While both men and women are devalued as they age, women experience age stigma more harshly, being judged more severely for their appearance. Consistent with Goffman's (1963) theory of stigma management, older women often manage this stigma through age concealment practices. However, young women who are not yet part of this group engage in time-intensive "preventative" practices, generating billions for the anti-aging industry. In a sample of young women (N = 415), this study used latent variable modelling to determine whether the westernized cultural disparagement of older women contributes to young women's engagement in aging prevention work (e.g., cosmetic products and procedures), and whether this link can be explained by a theorized set of intermediary (anticipated stigma, aging expectations, aging anxiety, youth as moral imperative beliefs, anti-aging motivations) and moderator (self-objectification, conformity to feminine norms, beauty as currency ideology) variables. Overall, findings support the utility of the proposed model to explain aging prevention work as a form of beauty work that allows young women to control or escape eventual entry into a stigmatized group.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Lindloff

Graduate Student | Western University

[79] An Exploration of Potential Moderators of Support for Context-Specific Democratic Norm Violations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

In the wake of the 2024 presidential election, we conducted a cross-sectional study of undergraduate students at the University (N = 260). Participants reported their attitudes regarding the election. Participants also reported their attitudes toward abortion, the extent to which those attitudes are moralized, the perceived norms of those attitudes, community value congruency, and the perceived difficulty of pro-choice advocates achieving any policy goals. As the primary dependent variable, we assessed support for democratic norm violations in general and pertaining to abortion. As predicted, liberals endorsed support for abortion specific norm violations to a greater degree than conservatives, $t(184) = 8.67, p < .001$. Conservatives, on the other hand, were more likely to endorse generic norm violations, $t(184) = -2.26, p = .025$. We anticipated that one of the other assessed variables would moderate the relationship between ideology and support for context-specific democratic norm violations. We found moralization, perceived community norms, and perceived difficulty to be significant moderators in these models.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ian Beatty

Graduate Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Scott Eidelman

[80] Ethnic Identity Connection and Stress: Exploring Generational Differences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Immigration involves transitions that shape psychobiological responses. Ethnic identity is a key contextual factor that can exacerbate stress in some cases, while buffering stress in others. This study examined associations between ethnic identity, measured by the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM), immigrant generational status, and a biological marker of stress within the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, measured from the cortisol awakening response (CAR). Participants were 19 ethnically diverse college students, grouped into 1st/2nd generation and 3rd/later generation categories. Findings revealed significant generational differences in ethnic identity connection, with 1st/2nd generation participants reporting higher MEIM scores compared to 3rd/later generation ($p = .034$). No association between MEIM and CAR was observed for the full sample nor when looking at generation groups separately ($ps > .05$), suggesting the relationship may be conditional on contextual factors not captured. These findings show the complexity of ethnic identity and generational status and suggest a need to further integrate psychobiological perspectives into immigration research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Racquel Samuel

CUNY Graduate Center

Authors

Alyssa DeStefano Daniel P. McCloskey

[81] Evaluating Faces: Effects of Smiling, Face Gender, and Gender-Related Traits

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Smiles guide social evaluations, but stereotypes affect how people perceive smiles. People expect women to be communal (e.g., warm) and men to be agentic (e.g., dominant). When people violate these expectations (i.e., agentic women), they often incur negative evaluations. Because impressions are dynamic and integrative, people may combine this information to form initial impressions of others. We examined how people integrate information about smiles (true vs. false), face gender, and gendered traits into impressions. In Experiment 1, people rated the happiness and genuineness of White men's and women's smiling faces paired with communal or agentic traits. Faces paired with communal traits were rated more positively, independent of smile type. Women's faces received a positivity boost regardless of smile type, whereas men's true versus false smiles were evaluated more favorably. Experiment 2 replicated the trait effect in Black faces, but the gender x smile interaction was less pronounced. Findings suggest that gendered trait information and nonverbal cues shape impressions separately, and that the gender cue boosting White women's evaluations did not extend to Black women.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sloane Freeman

University of North Carolina Greensboro

Authors

Brittany Cassidy

[82] Everything is connected: Reminders of environmental and social connectedness strengthen environmental attitudes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

In two studies, we examined the effects of receiving reminders of environmental and social connectedness on environmental attitudes. We developed a novel experimental paradigm to induce feelings of connectedness with vignettes. Environmental attitudes were assessed with the Environmental Concern scale, which included three subscales (biospheric, social, and egoistic). In Study 1 (N = 774), we found that receiving a reminder of environmental connectedness increased environmental concern (biospheric) for individuals who did not feel connected to nature or other people. In Study 2 (N = 854), we replicated and extended these results, showing that receiving a reminder of environmental or social connectedness also increased environmental concern (biospheric and egoistic) for individuals who did not feel connected to nature or others. The findings show that reminders of environmental and social connectedness can promote people's awareness of, and concern for, the environment, especially among individuals with low dispositional connectedness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria-Anna Drosinou

University of Helsinki

Authors

Jussi Palomäki, Markus Jokela, Michael Laakasuo

[83] Examining Racial Differences in a Personalized UV-Photo Intervention

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Healthcare providers rarely prioritize skin cancer detection and prevention for non-White individuals (Shao & Feng, 2022). Interventions using UV-photos increase skin damage awareness and encourage sun protection behaviors by exposing skin damage not visible to the naked eye (Gibbons et al., 2005). 83 White and 76 Black female college students were assigned to receive a UV photo or no UV photo (a Black and White photo only) plus health information about the risks of UV exposure and protective recommendations specific to the race of the participant. ANCOVAs revealed participants in the UV condition report: more skin damage, greater negative affect, and higher perceived vulnerability to the effects of skin cancer and skin damage than same-race participants in the no UV condition. Moreover, participants in the no UV condition reported greater willingness and intentions to engage in risky sun behaviors (i.e. going to the beach without sunscreen) compared to those who viewed their UV photos. Our findings suggest that our intervention is effective thus far in increasing awareness of skin damage as well as promoting healthier sun protection cognitions among both Black and White females.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Lang

George Washington University

Authors

Michelle Stock, Taylor-Jo Russo

[84] Examining threats to gender typicality on children's motivation in STEM subjects

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Gender differences in STEM interest and self-efficacy emerge early in childhood and persist throughout development. Individuals often assess whether their own gender identity aligns with societal stereotypes of a given domain, potentially explaining the gender differences in STEM. Research shows that threats to gender typicality can increase conformity, particularly for those who feel pressured to be gender typical. In the current study, we use a gender knowledge paradigm to threaten children's (5-14 years old) gender typicality, and subsequently measure their interest and self-efficacy in four domains: male-typed STEM subjects (computer coding and engineering) and non-STEM subjects (reading and music). In line with the current research, we expect that threatening boys' gender typicality will lead to more interest and self-efficacy in STEM subjects, while threatening girls' gender typicality will lead to more interest and self-efficacy in non-STEM subjects. The current project is ongoing, and we anticipate that data collection will conclude by November 2025.

*POSTER

Speaker



Grace Grmek
New York University

Authors

Andrei Cimpian, Nathaniel Woznicki

[85] Expanding self-determination theory: Examining the role of nature relatedness in agroforestry adoption among Indigenous landholders in Mexico

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Understanding what motivates land users to adopt conservation practices is critical for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. Yet adoption alone is not enough—behavioral intensity and persistence are also key. We tested an expanded self-determination theory (SDT) framework to examine autonomous motivation among Indigenous land users in Yucatán, Mexico. Drawing on semi-structured interviews and surveys from 28 communities participating in Sembrando Vida, a national agroforestry program, we used thematic analysis and structural equation modeling to assess the relevance of SDT in this context. Results support SDT's cross-cultural applicability and emphasize the need for culturally adapted psychometric tools. Nature relatedness was positively associated with autonomous motivation and in turn, adoption intensity. These findings suggest that including people's relationship with nature may strengthen SDT and offer a more inclusive understanding of the psychological drivers of sustainable land management.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Winkler-Schor
Postdoctoral research associate | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Sophia Winkler-Schor, Carena J. van Riper, Driss Ezzine-de-Blas, Lisa Naughton-Treves

[86] Expectancies as Contributors to Health Disparities in Transgender Adults

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Expectancies are well-established predictors of health behaviors and outcomes, yet their role in transgender health remains understudied. This study explored whether different types of expectancies help explain health disparities among transgender individuals. A community sample recruited from Prolific (N = 200; Mage = 39.16, SD = 12.75; 27% transgender) completed measures of health history, physician trust, and care barriers. Participants then imagined attending a doctor visit for common and ambiguous symptoms (e.g., headache, dizziness) that interfered with their daily functioning and reported their interpersonal, affective, and outcome expectancies. Transgender participants were less likely to have had a recent physical, more likely to have delayed needed care, and reported worse overall health. They also reported significantly lower interpersonal expectancies, positive affective forecasting, and outcome expectancies. Mediation analyses showed that these expectancies helped explain health differences between transgender and cisgender participants. These findings highlight expectancies as a key psychological factor shaping transgender health experiences and care engagement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kelly Clemens
Assistant Professor | Illinois State University

Authors

Aj Ralston, John Matkovic

[87] Experimental Evaluation of Gratitude Journaling on Psychological and Physiological Stress Outcomes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

This research investigates the role of gratitude in mitigating anxiety and enhancing well-being through a 3-part study. Study 1 (N = 219) examined the effectiveness of an anxiety induction method and explored the immediate subjective impact of gratitude journaling on anxiety levels and affect. Results show that gratitude journaling significantly improves mood compared to complaint and control conditions (p = 0.004). The effect of the anxiety induction was supported, with no significant difference between groups in anxiety levels post-induction. Study 2 (N = 100) focused on establishing habituation of gratitude, testing its long-term effects on self-esteem, emotional regulation, and self-efficacy. Gratitude journaling over a week was associated with decreased anxiety, improved emotional regulation (p = .002), positive affect (p = .001), and reduced negative affect (p = .004). Study 3 (N = 100) will incorporate neurophysiological measures (EEG, cortisol, blood pressure) to expand on study 2 findings. In addition, it will explore moderating elements longitudinally to probe interactions with psychological aspects such as self-concept clarity, self-esteem stability, and internal beliefs. This research aims to elucidate the mechanisms behind gratitude's potential as an intervention for managing anxiety, offering insights into its practical applications in mental health contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tyler Collette

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Kennesaw State University

Authors

Tyler Collette

[88] Exploring Adherent Associations Across Gender Identities

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Transphobia-based discrimination and prejudice toward these individuals has risen dramatically in recent years due to increased exposure in media and societal change. In many countries, politicized groups and even some feminist movements have turned the existence of transgender individuals into a political debate (Gupta et al., 2024). For a previously exploratory study, stereotypes about nonbinary individuals were collected and analyzed, as previous research has only identified stereotypes regarding cisgender and transgender men and women (Howansky et al., 2019). The goal of the current study is to identify the interrelations between transphobia, tolerance, sexism and conservatism utilizing a framework that distinguishes non-binary gender from other transgender identities. This study will task participants to rate common stereotypes collected from the literature and previous study using the same novel characteristic content coding scale used by the research team. Content coding ratings include believability, warmth, and competence, as well as social acceptance and sexuality. The full content-coding scale and content analysis of stereotypes will be further discussed in the poster..

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasper Sigler

Graduate Research Assistant | Old Dominion University

Authors

Aaron David, Catalina Roldan, Christopher Sanders

[89] Exploring Mental Health Symptom Recognition and Help-Seeking Behavior

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

An essential precursor to mental health help seeking (MHHS) is the recognition of symptoms. That is, MHHS will not occur if mental health symptoms are not first recognized as being serious enough to warrant help seeking. The present study examined how adults (N=364) perceive mental health symptoms varying in severity. Participants read randomly assigned scenarios about mild, moderate, or severe symptoms, then indicated whether the symptoms required help and whether they would seek help. ANCOVA results revealed that participants exposed to the severe symptoms displayed a greater need for help (M = 3.80) compared to those exposed to the moderate (M = 3.50) or mild symptoms (M = 3.57); F(2,359) = 3.78, p = .024, $\eta^2 = .021$. Anticipated help seeking did not differ with symptom severity. Open-ended responses to why participants would or would not seek help were coded for emerging themes. These findings highlight the importance of considering symptom recognition as a first step in MHHS.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gracynn Young

Mrs | University of North Dakota

Authors

Brogan Lommen-Solig, Joelle Ruthig, Ethan Dahl, Mariah Sorby

[90] Exploring Social Support, Motives and Well-Being in LGBTQIA+ Online Spaces

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

For gender and sexual minorities (GSM), social media use can increase exposure to discrimination and toxicity but also provide an environment where knowledge and community are cultivated. A disproportionate empirical focus on negative outcomes, however, highlights the need for additional investigations of the positive aspects of social media use for GSM. In the present study, self-identified GSM adults (N = 332) completed an online survey measuring their use of different social media platforms and spaces, motives for social media use, digital well-being, general social support from social media, and GSM-specific social media benefits. Spending more time in GSM-specific (relative to broader) social media spaces predicted greater social support from social media and greater GSM-specific benefits. It was also indirectly associated with greater digital well-being through the tendency to obtain social support from social media. This association was not, however, mediated by GSM-specific benefits. These findings can help build a better understanding of the potential impact of social media use on factors that contribute to well-being among gender and sexual minorities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ethan Gilmore

Arizona State University

Authors

Ethan Gilmore, Katelyn Skees, Dylan Young, Yasin Silva, Deborah Hall

[91] CANCELLED:

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

*POSTER

[92] Exploring the Effects of Mattering and Health Insurance Status on Group-based Medical Mistrust

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Group-based medical mistrust (GBMM: the belief that one's racial/ethnic group is treated unfairly in medical contexts), is a key barrier to health engagement and outcomes. The present study examines whether and how perceptions of mattering to one's doctor - i.e., an individual's sense of being important and significant to his or her doctor - in conjunction with health insurance status are related to three dimensions of GBMM (Lack of Support, Suspicion, and Group-based Disparities). A diverse sample of American adults (N = 2,162) completed the GBMM scale (Thompson et al., 2004), a validated measure assessing mattering to doctors, and reported their primary source of health insurance (grouped into no insurance, public insurance, and private insurance for analyses). We will use moderation and mediation analyses to explore two hypotheses. Our moderation hypothesis proposes that a negative association between mattering and reported GBMM will decrease as we progress from having no insurance to public insurance to private insurance). Our mediation hypothesis proposes that the relationship between health insurance and GBMM will be mediated by mattering such that those with private insurance (compared to public and no insurance) will have a higher perceptions of mattering and thus a lower GBMM.

*POSTER

Speaker



Armeen Shawka

Undergraduate Student | Oakland University

Authors

Abiodun Akinseye, Armeen Shawka, Mark Manning, Angelina Toma

[93] Exploring the Link Between Loneliness, Mind-Wandering, and Idiosyncratic Perceptions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Social connection is fundamental to well-being and shapes how individuals perceive and relate to the world. Prior research shows that lonely individuals often hold idiosyncratic views, but the cognitive mechanisms underlying this link remain largely unknown. Building on another line of research suggesting a link between loneliness and mind-wandering, the present study tested whether such idiosyncratic perceptions of lonely individuals can be partly attributed to their mind-wandering tendencies. Using functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), we tracked neural responses while participants viewed naturalistic stimuli and completed a Sustained Attention to Response Task (SART), examining their relation to loneliness. Preliminary findings from our pilot study (N = 22) suggest that mind-wandering is positively associated with loneliness and idiosyncratic neural responses. Both mind-wandering and loneliness showed non-significant but consistent links with lower intersubject correlation (ISC) across regions of interest (e.g., vmPFC). We are extending this work with a larger sample (N ≈ 100) to test whether mind-wandering explains lonely individuals' idiosyncratic perceptions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Saewon Chung

University of Southern California

Authors

Elisa Baek, Jacob Zimmerman, Zack Culver, Jay Campanell, Jason Coronel

[94] Exploring Women's versus Men's Motivation for Appearing Gender Stereotypical

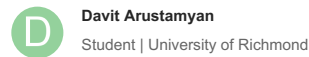
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Many people feel pressure to conform to gendered appearance norms, i.e., what is considered stereotypically attractive for women and men. While prior work links this pressure to health risks (e.g., disordered eating), less research has examined its social-motivational roots. We ask whether people's drive to appear gender-typical is shaped by a need for approval (vs. fear of disapproval) from same- vs. other-gender peers, and how this predicts health behavior intentions. In Study 1 (N=394; 198 women), fear of disapproval from same-gender peers (e.g., "I feel judged when [women/men] criticize my body") predicted women's desire to appear feminine (e.g., "I'd prefer thinner thighs") and men's desire to appear masculine (e.g., "I'd prefer bigger biceps"). In Study 2 (N=400; preregistered), we will replicate and extend these findings by testing a serial mediation model from (dis)approval motives to desire for stereotypicality and health-related intentions—ranging from low-risk (e.g., protein use) to high-risk (e.g., illegal steroid use). Based on Study 2, we will conduct an experimental Study 3, manipulating approval via threat and testing downstream effects on motivation and health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Adam Stanaland

[95] Differential associations of group-based and role-based identification with fans' well-being.

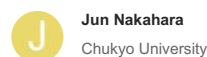
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Using the social identity approach (SIA), prior studies showed that identification with a sport team is associated with enhanced well-being. However, they examined fan group-based identification (FGID) only, ignoring the role of fan role-based identification (FRID). This study investigates how FGID and FRID are differently linked with fans' eudaimonic well-being. Survey data were gathered from 641 middle-aged and older fans of the Chunichi Dragons, a Japanese professional baseball team performing poorly in recent years. The results of structural equation modeling showed that FGID was positively associated with five aspects of eudaimonic well-being except for purpose in life. In contrast, FRID was negatively associated with autonomy, environmental mastery, and positive relationships with others. Furthermore, middle-aged and older fans who watched the team's baseball games more frequently reported stronger FGID and FRID, which, in turn, affected their eudaimonic well-being differently. Our findings advance the SIA by indicating that the effect of FGID on fans' eudaimonic well-being is independent of a favorite team's performance, whereas the effect of FRID depends on its performance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Yuhei Inoue

[96] Faith in Contrast: LDS and Evangelical Students at Outgroup Universities

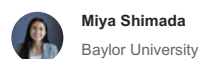
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RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

According to Erikson's Theory of Psychosocial Development, students should ideally solidify their identity and move on to intimacy formation during their time at college (Erikson, 1963; Erikson, 1968). Within identity formation, spiritual development may be one of the more important areas of growth, especially for students attending religiously affiliated universities (Bowman & Small, 2010). For religious minorities at these universities, there is the potential for a lack of belonging due to strong in-group cohesion. Existing research disagrees as to whether the struggle of religious minorities has a positive or negative effect on their spiritual growth and identity formation (Small & Bowman, 2012; Bryant & Astin, 2008; Bryant, 2011). This case study will focus on two specific religious minorities: LDS undergraduate students at Baylor and Evangelical students at BYU. This study will aim to answer three research questions: 1) To what extent do Latter-day Saint students at Baylor and Evangelical students at BYU feel like they belong at their universities? 2) What are the interfaith experiences of Latter-day Saint students at Baylor and Evangelical students at BYU with peers, faculty, and university programming? 3) How can Baylor and BYU improve interfaith interactions for religious minorities? Data for this mixed methods case study comes from online surveys with scales measuring self-esteem, university belonging, peer belonging, institutional belonging, roommate friendship, and isolation as well as semi-structured interviews. These were completed by 5 undergraduate students: 2 LDS students at Baylor University and 3 Evangelical students at Brigham Young University. Using narrative inquiry and reflexive thematic analysis, this case study gained insight into the experiences of these religious minorities and provided ideas for how Baylor, BYU, and other similar universities can improve the experiences of students with beliefs differing from their institution. This case study also sets the stage for future research into the nuance of ecumenicity that proves beneficial for spiritual growth and identity development.

*POSTER

Speaker



[97] CANCELLED:

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

*POSTER

[98] Feasibility of an appearance-based intervention to shift behavioral beliefs about heavy alcohol use for male and female college students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Long standing gender differences in heavy drinking patterns over the past five years have vanished such that heavy alcohol use is similar for males and females. This implies that interventions aimed at reducing young adult heavy drinking may not need to be tailored to gender. This study is one of the first to test whether a personalized, appearance-based intervention could shift beliefs linking heavy alcohol use to negative facial aging outcomes among male and female college students. Undergraduate students (N = 238) were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: photoaging and written information (P+W), photoaging only (P), written information only (W), or control. Participants in the P+W condition viewed a facial-aged photo of their face and received written information about the effects of heavy alcohol use on facial appearance. Beliefs were assessed by combining expectancy and valence ratings across four facial changes: wrinkles, under-eye puffiness, midface volume loss, and visible blood vessels. After controlling for past alcohol use and appearance concerns, results revealed a main effect of condition, such that male and female participants in the photo conditions (P+W and P) reported significantly stronger alcohol-appearance beliefs than those in W or control conditions. There were no differences in beliefs between participants in the P+W and P conditions, and no main effect of gender on beliefs. This study provides promising initial evidence that personalized, appearance-focused feedback may offer a novel, motivational pathway for reducing problematic alcohol use among male and female college students. Future work should examine whether these belief shifts translate into behavioral change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Harini Krishnamurti

Doctoral Candidate | George Washington University

Authors

Michelle Stock, Tonya Dodge

[99] Feeling Me in the World of We: Self-Esteem and Loneliness Across Time

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-ESTEEM

How does individuals' self-perception shape their perceptions of their social relationships? A growing body of research suggests that self-esteem, defined as individuals' subjective evaluation of their own worth, is closely related with relationship quality. Yet, the temporal dynamics between self-esteem and loneliness remain underexplored. Loneliness, defined as the perceived inadequacy of one's social relationships, is a growing public health concern linked to poor well-being. This preregistered study investigates the bidirectional association between self-esteem and loneliness using 16 waves of data from the Dutch LISS panel (total N = 19,841). Grounded in sociometer theory and related frameworks, we test two hypotheses: (1) low self-esteem predicts greater subsequent loneliness (vulnerability effect), and (2) loneliness erodes self-esteem over time (scar effect). We apply Random Intercept Continuous-Time Structural Equation Modeling (RI-CT-SEM) to estimate within-person autoregressive and cross-lagged effects while accounting for stable trait differences. We also explore differences across loneliness subtypes and potential moderators including gender, self-other inclusion, and objective social indicators. The findings aim to refine theoretical frameworks of self-social regulation and offer critical insights for interventions targeting the feedback loop between self-esteem and loneliness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yixin Tang

Authors

Yixin Tang, Maike Luhmann, Debora Brickau, Ulrich Orth

[100] First Look at the Beauty Myth Scale in Japan

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

The present study examined the psychometric properties of the Japanese version of the Beauty Myth Scale (BMS). The sample included college students and graduate students entering the workforce after completing their job search. Data were split for exploratory (EFA; n = 279) and confirmatory factor analyses (CFA; n = 278). The EFA indicated a three-factor solution—prescriptive beauty norms, attainability beliefs, and bodily-related standards—rather than the four-factor model reported in prior work. CFA supported this three-factor structure with adequate fit indices ($\chi^2(51) = 126.18$, $p < .001$; CFI = .91, RMSEA = .07, AIC = 180.18). Subscales showed acceptable reliability ($\alpha = .76-.81$). Gender comparisons revealed higher endorsement of attainability beliefs among women than men ($d = -.61$). Prescriptive beauty norms correlated positively with physical attractiveness beliefs, gender role awareness, and traditional marital/work aspirations. Findings suggest that while core aspects of beauty-related ideology are consistent cross-culturally, prescriptive and grooming standards consolidate differently in Japan, reflecting cultural nuances. This work provides a reliable tool for investigating how beauty myths shape beliefs and practices in Japanese society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mika Omori

Professor | Ochanomizu University

Authors

Yoko Yamazaki, Shoko Miyagawa, Sera Muto, Hiroyuki Ito

[101] Flourish to Move, Move to Flourish: A Reciprocal Link Between Psychological Well-Being and Exercise in 22 Countries

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

To test reciprocal associations between exercise and psychological well-being (PWB), we analyzed two annual waves of the Global Flourishing Study (N = 207,919 adults, 22 countries). We hypothesized that higher levels of each variable would predict increases in the other over time.

Exercise was treated as a binary variable (no exercise vs. the rest), and PWB was measured using a 12-item flourishing index. In each country, we fitted survey-weighted Poisson (exercise outcome) and linear (PWB outcome) models, adjusting for sociodemographic and health status.

Meta-analytic results show that, relative to non-exercisers in Wave 1, those who exercised scored higher on PWB in Wave 2 (B = 0.08, 95 % CI [0.06, 0.10]; $I^2 = 66.7\%$). Greater Wave 1 PWB predicted higher odds of exercising, with a pooled RR of 1.01 (95 % CI [1.01, 1.02]; $I^2 = 58.9\%$). In subcomponent analyses of PWB, only eudaimonic (purpose), not hedonic (pleasure) well-being, predicted higher odds of exercising with a pooled RR of 1.01 ($p < .001$). Most countries showed effects in the expected direction except Israel.

The exercise-PWB loop appears mostly universal, with eudaimonia as the main driver.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rui Wang

The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Nicholas Way, Emilie Gregory, Harold Lee, Rui Wang

[102] Forgetting What You Don't Express: Does Working Memory Capacity Moderate the Impairment of Memory by Expressive Suppression?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

While the suppression of emotional expressions is vital to social functioning, habitual use may have unintended negative consequences for well-being and cognitive functioning. Namely, it is well documented that expressive suppression impairs memory. Richards and Gross (2000) explained this by proposing that expressive suppression is cognitively costly and diverts attentional resources away from emotional stimuli. The current study aims to replicate the memory impairment effect by expressive suppression and examine working memory capacity (WMC) as a moderator. Participants (N = 411) viewed a negative emotion-eliciting video clip under instructions to either suppress their emotional expressions or view naturally. Following a short distraction task, participants completed a 20-question memory test about the film. We predict that memory will be worse when participants suppress their emotions versus viewing naturally. We will test competing hypotheses for WMC. Higher WMC may counteract the cognitive costs of suppression, reducing the impairment effect. In contrast, higher WMC may enhance individuals' suppression, paradoxically increasing the impairment effect.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Ennis Gremillion

PhD Student | University of Alabama

Authors

Katie Garrison

[103] From Meme to Malady: Social Media, Concept Creep and Mental Health

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Concept creep is a research domain which refers to the gradual expansion of the meanings of harm-related concepts, such as mental illness and trauma. This phenomenon has become particularly relevant to social media. The medium of social media may promote the rapid spread of mental health language, potentially contributing to the expansion of mental health concepts.

Participants will be exposed to either 5 minutes DSM-5 ADHD congruent TikToks or 5 minutes DSM-5 ADHD incongruent TikToks, potentially highlighting how social media may cause definitions of mental health to concept creep. Outcome variables include; self-diagnosis, general health questionnaire, positive and negative affect, group identification, distress, and self report ADHD. Moderators include; prior social media exposure, content engagement, need for cognition, mental health group identification, mental health literacy and Big-5 personality characteristics. We predict that DSM-5 incongruent TikTok ADHD content will expand definitions through concept creep subsequently effecting all outcome variables and potentially be moderated by highlighted moderators.

*POSTER

Speaker



Liam Hill

Masters Student | Western Kentucky University

Authors

John Updegraff

[104] From Trauma to Resilience: Transformative Neurobiological Adaptations Across Generations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This presentation draws from Project Alpha's six-year longitudinal data (N=387) to illuminate the transformative journey from trauma to resilience through two compelling narratives within the same cohort. Our first narrative compares third-generation Holocaust survivors vs. matched controls, revealing how intergenerational trauma manifests in distinct patterns across HPA axis functioning, oxytocin regulation, and dopamine pathways. Descendants exhibited significantly lower attachment avoidance alongside DNA methylation profiles indicating enhanced oxytocin system activation and heightened HPA axis reactivity through CRH, CRHBP, FKBP5, and NR3C1 modifications—yet showed no elevated psychopathology. Project Alpha's longitudinal tracking demonstrates how descendants develop compensatory neurobiological adaptations that paradoxically transform ancestral suffering into enhanced stress resilience.

Our second narrative follows participants orphaned in childhood vs. matched controls within the same cohort, documenting their remarkable capacity for post-traumatic growth through these same neurobiological systems. Results reveal how early parental loss catalyzes extraordinary adaptations: lower attachment avoidance paired with oxytocin system enhancement and dopamine transporter modifications yielding higher synaptic dopamine availability and enhanced creativity.

These intertwined stories demonstrate trauma's dual legacy: while neurobiological dysregulation persists, these same systems simultaneously evolve protective mechanisms. Project Alpha's longitudinal perspective reveals that resilience emerges not despite trauma, but through the active transformation of suffering into biological and psychological strength—offering profound hope for healing and growth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tsachi Ein-Dor
Full Professor | Reichman University

[105] Gay and Sexist?: Women's Perceptions of Sexualizing Comments from Gay Men

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Gay men endorse hostile sexism at the same rate as straight men, though sexism from gay men may go unrecognized because they are viewed as honorary ingroup members and afforded more leeway to make sexist comments. Two experimental studies (N = 447) tested whether women's perceptions of sexualizing comments depend on the commenter's sexual orientation (Study 1) and gender presentation (Study 2). As predicted, sexist (vs. neutral) comments from gay (vs. straight) men were rated more positively and elicited more positive emotions, more positive perceptions of the commenter, less social distance from the commenter, and greater interest in future interaction with the commenter. Viewing the commenter as being more closely aligned with women predicted more favorable perceptions. Altogether, these results support the notion that women view gay men's sexist comments more leniently than straight men's; this effect is driven by gay men's alignment with femininity. This research has practical and theoretical implications for our understanding of when sexism may go undetected and excused, which can help to inform interventions that aim to reduce sexism and empower people to confront sexism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katsumi Yamaguchi-Pedroza
PhD Candidate | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Jude Sullivan, Theresa Vescio

[106] Gender Bias in Reactions to Mild Moral Transgressions: The Role of Personal Benefit

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Prior correlational research suggests that women receive more lenient sentences than men for legal transgressions, especially violent and sexual crimes. We examined in a preregistered experiment (n = 801) whether a transgressor's gender (woman v. man; between-subjects) shaped observers' judgments of relatively mild moral transgressions (e.g., academic plagiarism), and whether these effects depend on who benefited from the transgression (transgressor v. others; within-subjects). Regardless of transgressor gender, we found that transgressors who self-benefited (v. benefited others) were overall judged more negatively (i.e., worse moral character, more blame and responsibility, punished more harshly). However, punishment varied by transgressors' and participants' gender: Regardless of who benefited, male (v. female) participants punished female transgressors less harshly, and male (but not female) participants punished female (v. male) transgressors less harshly. These findings suggest that mild transgressions with noble ends (e.g., helping others) tend to be excused regardless of gender, and that men (who comprise the majority of judges) may be particularly lenient toward women.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Miklasova
PhD Student | New York University

Authors

Julia Spielmann, Andrea Vial

[107] Gender Differences in Adolescents' and Adults' Leadership Interests After Failure

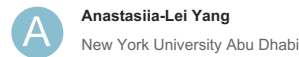
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

All leaders face the risk of failure, yet it affects women's interest in leadership more than men's, perhaps because women leaders expect to—and do—receive less social support if they fail. Across two studies, we examined whether expecting less social support after failure helps explain previously observed gender gaps in adolescents' and young adults' leadership interests. Participants reported their interest in a hypothetical classroom-based leadership role before and after experiencing a public failure, as well as social support they expected to receive from peers, family, and instructors. In Study 1 (undergraduates; $N = 95$), women—but not men—who expected lower social support after failure reported lower interest in pursuing the role again. In Study 2 (10- to 14-year-olds; $N = 176$), girls aged 13.5 and older reported lower post-failure leadership interest than boys of the same age. Both girls and boys who anticipated lower social support after failure were less interested in pursuing the role again. Our findings suggest that social support after experiencing failure is a crucial and underexamined contributor to gender gaps in leadership interests, especially among young adults.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Andrea Vial, Aashna Poddar, Andrei Cimpian, Anastasiia-Lei Yang

[108] Intimate Partner Violence and Self-Sufficiency in an Emergency Maternity Shelter

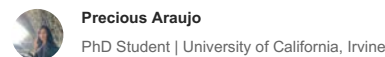
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health concern associated with adverse health outcomes that are particularly concerning during pregnancy, where vulnerability to the consequences associated with experiencing IPV may be amplified and involve long-term negative outcomes for the developing fetus. Emergency maternity shelters provide support for at-risk pregnant women by increasing self-sufficiency. This study explored the relationships between IPV, length of stay, and self-sufficiency outcomes using archival data of 337 pregnant women (ages 18-46) residing in a local emergency maternity shelter. Most women ($N=205$) reported experiencing IPV. Preliminary analyses revealed that IPV and length of stay at the shelter emerged as predictors of self-sufficiency outcomes ($\beta = .44$, $p < .001$). Moderation analyses indicated that length of stay at the shelter moderated the relationship between IPV and self-sufficiency change scores ($R^2 = .14$, $p = .03$). This study provides evidence that targeted interventions in emergency maternity shelters can increase self-sufficiency for pregnant women in crisis and that these benefits continue to accumulate over time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Ilona S. Yim

[109] Gender Identity, Gender Affirmation, and Self-Perceptions of Birth Name

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

A newborn's birthname is typically based on the baby's sex assigned at birth, and body-based gender labeling plays an important role in a baby's socialization through expectations from others and internalization of norms. Though scholars have investigated gender stereotypes associated with a baby's name, empirical research has primarily been done on cisgender samples and has neglected the examination of names for transgender and gender nonconforming people (TGNC), despite the particular importance names may hold for this population. The current study focused on the role that the (mis)match between one's name assigned at birth (NAB) and gender identity plays in gender dysphoria, the gender affirmation process, and harm from close others. Surveying a TGNC sample ($N = 66$), we found that the greater the mismatch between one's NAB and gender identity, the greater gender dysphoria and harm from others experienced; participants who changed their NAB reported a greater mismatch between their NAB and their gender identity than those who had not changed their NAB; and participants who changed their NAB reported greater harm from social networks but not from family. The research underscores the importance of one's name in the gender affirmation process for TGNC people. This research also explores the complex role of one's name and one's gender identity in harm experienced from others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Ness Hughes Carlson, Emily Skiba

[110] Gender Roles of Evil: How Gender Roles Shape Our Perceptions of Perpetrators

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

This study examined whether perceptions of moral wrongdoing differ depending on the actor's gender and the type of role they occupied. Drawing on research that links gender roles with expectations for caregiving (female) and authority (male), participants rated scenarios where male or female actors committed "evil" actions framed in either Care or Authority positions. A 2×2 repeated-measures ANOVA revealed a strong main effect of Frame, $F(1,117)=17.35$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=.13$, with actions described in terms of Care judged as more evil than those described in terms of Authority. No overall difference emerged between male and female actors, $F(1,117)=0.19$, $p=.66$, $\eta^2=.002$. However, the effect of Frame was moderated by the actor's gender, $F(1,117)=5.00$, $p=.027$, $\eta^2=.04$, suggesting the Care–Authority gap was larger when the actor was female. These findings suggest that judgements of evil are shaped not only by the type of role invoked but also by gendered expectations about who is "supposed" to occupy those roles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Asha Bradley

Assistant Professor | Morehead State University

Authors

Jeff Sherwood, Kenji Noguchi

[111] Gender System-Challenging Beliefs Predict Biased Leadership Judgments

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

We examined how individual differences in beliefs about the gender status quo shape biases in leadership judgments. Across three studies ($N = 1,157$), we tested whether those with system-challenging versus system-justifying beliefs show divergent patterns in how they evaluate leadership decisions and leaders themselves. Participants evaluated CEOs based on their decision to appoint either a female or a male leader (Study 1) and evaluated female and male leaders themselves (Studies 2 & 3). Results showed that those with stronger gender system-challenging beliefs consistently rated male leaders and those who appointed them more negatively compared to their female counterparts. In contrast, participants with system-justifying beliefs did not display gender-based bias. These findings demonstrate that those who reject the status quo may be actively motivated to challenge it, giving rise to biased evaluations that reflect system-challenging motivated cognition. The final study showed that individuals with stronger system-challenging beliefs devalued leaders who supported the gender status quo, further underscoring the role of ideological motives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Crystal Hoyt

Professor | Univ. of Richmond

Authors

Crystal L. Hoyt, Eve Ridenhour, Jeni L. Burnette

[112] Gendered physical appearance and exclusion from women's sports

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Debates about trans and intersex women's participation in sports often center around their assumed advantage over competitors. Concerns about adherence to gendered appearance norms, however, may also play a role in informing beliefs about who should and should not be allowed to compete. The current study ($N=816$) examined the effects of gendered appearance (masculine vs. feminine) and physiological capability (advantage vs. no advantage) on the extent to which people supported excluding an athlete from women's sports. Participants not only supported excluding an athlete with a physiological advantage more than an athlete without one, $B=0.35$, $SE=0.08$, $p<.001$, but also supported excluding a masculine-looking athlete more than a feminine-looking athlete, $B=0.23$, $SE=0.08$, $p=.004$. Mediation analyses suggest that gender/sex categorization may explain the effect of appearance on endorsed exclusion from women's sports. These findings suggest that opposition to certain athletes' inclusion in women's sports may not be straightforwardly grounded in beliefs about their physiological advantage but also motivated by concerns about what they look like and what gender/sex category they belong to.

*POSTER

Speaker



Natalie Wittlin

Assistant Professor | Bard College

Authors

Erin Kelly, Heejoo Chung, Thekla Morgenroth

[113] Gendered Self-Environment Fit and Its Impacts on Academic Experience in Engineering

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Engineering fields are widely recognized as operating under a "masculine default," yet few studies have examined how this environment shapes gendered psychological experiences that influence students' academic experiences. Drawing on the state authenticity as fit to environment (SAFE) model, this study investigates how different forms of self–environment fit (self-concept fit, social fit, and goal fit) within masculine-coded engineering contexts contribute to academic identification and life satisfaction. Surveying 248 first- and second-year engineering students, we found that women and non-binary students reported a lower level of engineering identification and career commitment, which was mediated by lower self-concept fit. Additionally, women and non-binary students reported lower levels of social fit, which predicted lower life satisfaction; however, this effect was offset by other factors, resulting in no overall gender difference in satisfaction. These findings illuminate the psychological processes through which gendered academic environments relate to student academic motivation and well-being and underscore the importance of fostering person–environment fit in interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yingchi Guo
University of British Columbia

Authors

Toni Schmader, Kim Jones

[114] Gender-Race Perception in Gender-Neutral Names

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

How do racial cues in names shape gender perception, a basic social categorization process with consequences for evaluation and hiring? Prior work offers mixed predictions: some studies suggest East Asian targets are feminized (Galinsky et al., 2013), whereas other research finds weaker gender judgment towards East Asian names (closer to neutral on femininity/masculinity) than White names (Goh, 2025). A key limitation is that the latter contrasted unfamiliar East Asian names with familiar White names, confounding race and name familiarity. We preregistered an experiment (target N=352 US undergraduates) pairing racialized last names (East Asian vs. White) with U.S. gender-neutral first names, keeping name familiarity constant. Participants rate the masculinity/femininity of each target. We advance intersectionality theory by adjudicating competing accounts: gendered-race theory vs. reduced gender judgment vs. androcentrism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shiyu Yang
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Authors

Stav Atir

[115] Gesture Talks: Racial Pride and Affect for Black and White Same-Race Dyads

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR

Racial identity shapes communication as prior work links Black identity to greater gesture use than White identity, suggesting that identity centrality can influence affect during interactions. We tested whether gesture use differs between Black and White same-race dyads (27 Black, 27 White, N = 108) and how racial pride relates to affect changes after a sensitive discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion. Black dyads reported higher rates of gesturing and decreases in negative affect during the interaction. Similarly, for Black participants with less racial pride, the interaction resulted in the largest decreases in feelings such as anxiety, tension, and discomfort. Neither effect was seen for White participants. Because racial pride relates to self-esteem (Phinney, 1998), Black participants with lower pride may experience same-race interactions as more reassuring, which reduces anxiety more than for those with high pride and self-esteem. These findings suggest that nonverbal expressions and racial pride jointly shape emotional trajectories in sensitive in-group conversations, supporting potential options for decreasing anxiety in same- and cross-race interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Garner
Lab Coordinator | Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Esha Naidu, Alyssa Gabbidon

[116] Hearing the Memory: Using Guided Meditation as a Route to Connection

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEELL-BEING

In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General declared a loneliness epidemic, raising the question of how to “solve” this epidemic. Prior literature has demonstrated a couple ways to increase feelings of social connection even when one is not with others: meditation (Hutcherson et al., 2008) and recall of past experiences with close others (Ross & Inagaki, 2023). The current research attempts to leverage both of these ideas simultaneously. Employing a 2 (guided meditation content: Grand Canyon specific vs. hypothetical ideal space) x 2 (personal experience with the Grand Canyon: yes or no) factorial design across two datasets. Results revealed that participants who listened to the Grand Canyon meditation and had visited the Grand Canyon reported more social connection than any of the other 3 groups (i.e. those who listened to the same meditation but had not visited the Grand Canyon or those who listened to the ideal space meditation regardless of if they had been to the Grand Canyon or not). These results suggest that guided meditations that relate to personal memories may be particularly potent for fostering feelings of social connection in a lonely world.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca Ward

Graduate Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Rebecca Schlegel, Lauren Henkin, Mauri Ziff, Amanda Good

[117] Hedonic deficit and interference profiles and co-occurring posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety among South Asian Americans: A latent profile analysis approach

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEELL-BEING

Hedonic deficit and interference co-occur with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. The comorbidity has been examined among diverse populations, but little is known about how they present in the South Asian American (SAA) community. Using a trauma-exposed SAA sample, the study examined (a) subgroups based on the hedonic deficit and interference clusters (hedonic deficit [HD], negative affect interference [NAI], & positive emotionality [PE]); and (b) how these latent subgroups varied on PTSD, depression, and anxiety symptom severity. 254 SAAs were recruited from Amazon Mechanical Turk (MAGE=34.22 ± 8.52 years, 44.5% women, 45% had provisional PTSD). Latent profile analyses (LPA) indicated a three-profile solution: low HD/low NAI/high PE (Profile 1), high HD/low NAI/high PE (Profile 2), and high HD/high NAI/high PE (Profile 3). Profile 1 ($p=.001$) and Profile 2 ($p=.005$) reported significantly lower PTSD symptom severity than Profile 3. Profile 2 reported significantly lower depression ($p=.008$) severity than Profile 3. Results indicate that trauma-exposed SAAs differ in their responses to positive stimuli, yet, positive emotions were elevated across subgroups, suggesting that positive affect may be preserved despite psychological vulnerabilities following trauma exposure. NAI may be a target for comorbid PTSD and depression among trauma-exposed SAAs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Saher Sayed

University of North Texas

Authors

Siyuan Wang, Ateka Contractor

[118] Hijab & Education

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

This exploratory qualitative study seeks to understand the influence of wearing the hijab in college through the voices of Hijabi college students. Between 20 and 30 semi-structured interviews are being conducted with Muslim women ages 18-28 who wear the hijab across the United States and Canada. Participants are recruited primarily through the researcher's personal contacts in addition to snowball sampling and campus recruitment. Interviewees will be asked to share their personal experiences regarding: how they came to wear the hijab, what it means to them, their level of autonomy in choosing to wear it, experiences of acceptance or discrimination, and the role of religion in academic motivation. Sociocultural factors will also be explored such as friendship choices, their Gen Z experience, and whether familial culture and the culture they live in shape how they wear the hijab. Thematic analysis will be performed across participants' responses. This study aims to offer researchers greater insight into the challenges and potential advantages experienced by this Muslim population and their role in shaping identity and purpose.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nadia Ahmad

Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Dov Cohen, Bryan Pang

[119] Honor Ideology, Political Ideology, and Perceptions of Backlash toward Gender Nonconforming Children

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Gender nonconforming behavior is often perceived negatively, and people are backlashed for these behaviors. That being said, most of the existing work in this area has focused on the backlash of adults with few studies examining these effects in children, with what little research there is showing boys and girls may be penalized for gender deviant behavior but that this backlash is typically stronger for boys than girls. We will present data from 3 recently published studies examining perceptions of backlash of gender deviant children by parents and 1 more recent unpublished study examining how this backlash is perceived by those higher in masculine honor ideology. We found that parents who backlash their children are perceived quite negatively compared to parents who affirm their child (Studies 1[N = 170] and 2 [N = 187]) and this is true at all ages (up to 18; Study 3 [N = 328]) but more conservative individuals reported more support of backlashing children across all studies. Extending these findings, Study 4 (N = 326) showed that honor ideology uniquely (and quite strongly) predicted more favorable perceptions of parents who backlashed their child for gender deviant behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Conor O'Dea

Assistant Professor | Butler University

Authors

Keira Salt, Jonah Brenner, Samantha Rapp, Corinne Moss-Racusin

[120] How (Not) to Inspire Leadership Aspirations: When Possible Selves Contradict Women's Socialized Gender Role

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Americans tend to describe leaders as assertive and direct (agentic; Koenig et al., 2011). This stereotype conflicts with a facet of women's socialization (to be communal), which can signal that leadership misaligns with their gender role. Possible selves is one method to inspire women to pursue leadership, yet how possible selves are depicted determines their effectiveness (Hoyt & Simon, 2011). We hypothesized that depictions of women leaders on TV are agentic, but not very communal, and that viewing these depictions dampens women's leadership aspirations. In Study 1, we sampled 139 clips of leaders from 18 popular TV shows. Leaders were highly agentic and not very communal in their interactions with subordinates, and this was especially true for women leaders. We pilot tested whether this pattern had any effect on women's interest in leadership. Women (N=119) viewed clips from the content analysis depicting women leaders as either communal or agentic. Participants in the communal (vs. agentic) condition were more interested in leadership roles, though the effect was small and marginal. We are now collecting a fully powered sample (N=540) to replicate and extend this effect.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gillian Preston

Student | University of Tennessee Knoxville

Authors

Sarah Lamer

[121] How Counselors Navigate Religious/Spiritual Value Conflict in Counseling: A Scoping Review

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

The neutrality principle in counseling requires therapists to remain impartial and avoid imposing personal values, preserving client autonomy and therapeutic rapport (Jackson et al., 2013). Yet counselors inevitably bring moral convictions and personal values into the room, especially as it pertains to religious/spiritual convictions. This study aims to explore how therapists with strong spiritual/religious standards navigate counselor-client value conflict in practice—whether these convictions constrain empathy or could be transcended into enriching therapeutic alliance and enhancing treatment effectiveness. Guided by Arksey and O'Malley's framework and PRISMA-ScR guidelines, we searched on EBSCOhost, PsycINFO, Google Scholar, and social work databases using terms "value conflict in counseling" AND "(religion or religious or religiousness or religions or religiosity or spiritual or spirituality or faith)", which yielded a total of 304 articles. Two independent raters will code the articles in Rayyan (interrater reliability $\geq .90$), with a third adjudicator resolving discrepancies. Using the jigsaw perspective, we will then identify domains and themes on how counselors address spiritual/religious value conflict based on the findings. By exploring this dynamic, this study seeks to provide nuanced insights into the ethical tensions that arise in the interplay between counselors' and clients' value systems in complex socio-cultural contexts.

*POSTER

Speakers



Lyuchen Ben

University of Iowa



Yaran Zhang

University of Iowa

Authors

Duhita Mahatmya

[122] How Distinct Are Personality Traits and Self-Regulated Learning Skills?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Self-regulation predicts educational success and thriving. Parents and educators are interested in fostering self-regulation in students, but it is unclear whether they should focus on broad personality traits (such as conscientiousness) or contextualized self-regulated learning (SRL) skills. We examined the (1) predictive validity and (2) overlap between personality, non-cognitive skills, and self-regulated learning with exploratory structural equation modeling. In Study 1, we administered the Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire, the SRL Profile and Self-Diagnostic Instrument, and the Chernyshenko Conscientiousness Scales to 311 undergraduate students. SRL skills such as effort regulation, time management, and planning had primary loadings on a "general conscientiousness" factor alongside conscientiousness facets. SRL skills such as rehearsal, elaboration, and critical thinking loaded onto a separate "self-regulated learning" factor. General conscientiousness predicted GPA ($r = .31$; $p < .001$) while self-regulated learning did not ($r = -.11$; $p = .129$). In Study 2, we will investigate the predictive validity and latent structure of SRL scales and non-cognitive skills.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isabella Ramirez

University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign

Authors

Cavan V. Bonner, Brent W. Roberts

[123] How Gender Essentialism Drives Bias in Leadership Evaluations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Role congruity theory holds that women leaders face a double bind—penalized when they appear "too masculine" and violate feminine norms, and when they appear "too feminine" and fall short of leader expectations. Gender essentialism intensifies this bind by treating gender differences as biologically fixed, casting men as more "natural" leaders. We examine evaluations of women leaders whose profiles emphasize power versus status: power signals dominance and authority and is less aligned with the female gender role, whereas status conveys competence and respect and is more gender congruent. We assess whether individuals higher in gender essentialism prefer gender-role congruence (women signaling status) or leadership-role congruence (women signaling power). Using a between-subjects design, participants will evaluate a female or male candidate for a political leadership position whose resume emphasizes power or status. They will also complete measures of gender essentialism and two potential mechanisms: perceived gender-role violation and role demands. This research will help refine theory of gender bias in leadership and inform more equitable leader selection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nora Cahill

Student | University of Richmond

Authors

Crystal Hoyt

[124] How Gender Essentialist Beliefs Shape Interest and Belonging in Gendered Fields

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Gender essentialism holds that women and men have inherent, fixed, biologically determined qualities that define their gender and shape everyday roles and behaviors. Beyond influencing perceptions of others, these beliefs also shape self-perceptions and how people view their own potential. In this research, we test the causal role of gender essentialist beliefs in shaping women's and men's interest and belonging in gender-dominated fields that either align or conflict with their gender identity. We hypothesize that stronger essentialist beliefs will predict lower interest and belonging in gender-incongruent fields compared to weaker beliefs. To test this, participants will read one of two messages emphasizing either essentialist or non-essentialist views of gender before reporting their interest and sense of belonging to gendered work domains. This work contributes to understanding the causal impact of essentialist beliefs, including their role in men's underrepresentation in female-dominated domains, and offers insight into why gender segregation persists while pointing to strategies for encouraging more flexible career pathways.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma McCauley

Student | University of Richmond

Authors

Crystal Hoyt

[125] How Personal Values Shape Daily Stress: A Multilevel Value-Situation Analysis

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Understanding what drives everyday stress is crucial for psychological well-being. Yet the role of personal values in shaping stress responses remains surprisingly understudied. We developed a model integrating Schwartz's (1992) theory of basic human values with psychological situation characteristics (Oreg et al., 2020) to predict stress appraisals (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984) in daily life. In an experience sampling study, 303 participants reported their personal values and completed three daily reflections over five consecutive days ($K = 3,520$), reporting on the situation they were in, the values it expressed or conflicted with, its familiarity, and stress. Results showed that for benevolence and power values, the interaction between personal values and the values the situation expressed predicted familiarity, such that conflicted patterns were perceived as less familiar. This, in turn, predicted higher stress. Moreover, the link between familiarity and stress was stronger for those who prioritized security and weaker for those who valued stimulation. Findings show that personal values shape daily stress by predicting familiarity and moderating its effect on stress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Naama Dvora Erlich

PhD Student | Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Authors

Shaul Oreg, Noga Sverdlik

[126] How Thinking Styles Shape The Perceived Clash of Science and Religion

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Previous research has shown that Christians are more likely than Muslims to subscribe to a conflict narrative between science and religion. We propose that these differences may be rooted in distinct thinking styles associated with each belief system. Drawing from the literature on cross-cultural differences between Eastern and Western thinking styles (Nisbett et al., 2001; analytic versus holistic thinking), We hypothesize that Christians may adopt a more analytic approach to science-religion compatibility, whereas Muslims may employ a more holistic perspective. Across two studies (one preregistered; Study 1: Christian Americans vs Muslim Iranians, Study 2: Christian Americans vs Muslim Americans), We explored evidence for these hypotheses. This project aims to investigate reasons behind different perceptions of science-religion relationship and explore potential strategies to reduce conflict perspectives, thereby increasing Christians' engagement with science.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mazyar Bagherian

Graduate Student | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Kimberly Rios

[127] How to Embrace Flow: Positive Self-Regulatory Thinking as a Means to Enhance Flow Experiences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Flow is defined as an intrinsically rewarding state of complete engagement with a goal-oriented activity. We assume that individuals can use their self-regulatory thinking to facilitate flow and conducted a correlational and an experimental study to test this assumption: First, we investigated whether participants ($N = 549$) who spontaneously used different modes of self-regulatory thought, as formalized in fantasy realization theory, differed in their flow proneness. Second, we compared two self-regulatory thinking interventions, indulging in positive future thought vs. mental contrasting of the positive future with the critical obstacles of reality, with regard to their effect on flow in chess players ($N = 132$) who solved relatively low-demand chess riddles. In Study 1, we found flow proneness to be positively related to modes of self-regulatory thought focused on a positive future. This finding was substantiated by Study 2: When controlling for skill, we found increased flow in chess players who had been instructed to indulge as compared to those who had mentally contrasted. Taken together, our findings suggest that positive thinking can promote flow in everyday and/or low-demand tasks. Positive thinking may facilitate flow by making individuals more likely to "embrace" their tasks, whenever it is largely up to them in how far they become engaged.

*POSTER

Speaker



Birte Thissen

Dr. | NYU

Authors

Gabriele Oettingen, Michael Barthelmäs, Dominik Stöckle, Johannes Keller

[128] How to Use LLMs to Model Public Opinion on Government AI: Synthetic Focus Group LLMs

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Humans rely on a range of nonverbal behaviors to signal threat, yet it remains unclear why certain cues consistently appear threatening across cultures. We propose that humans evolved a broad association between geometric angularity and danger, and that this association became co-opted for the nonverbal communication of threat. Across five studies, we provide converging evidence for this account. In Study 1, people with stronger cognitive associations between geometric angularity and danger formed greater perceptions of threat in response to prototypical human threat expressions (across all visual modalities). In Study 2, a novel facial expression that increased facial angularity—without activating the corrugator—was perceived as threatening. Study 3 replicated the results of Studies 1 and 2 in two non-Western nations, South Africa and India, providing evidence for the cross-cultural generalizability of this phenomenon. In Study 4, participants spontaneously increased their facial angularity when expressing threat. In Study 5, individual differences in facial angularity across neutral faces guided perceptions of dominance and threat among participants from 11 diverse world regions spanning 44 countries. Taken together, these findings suggest that geometric angularity serves as a core perceptual feature underpinning the nonverbal communication of threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jackson Trager
PhD Student | University of Southern California

[129] Ideal Small vs. Big Happiness: Cross-cultural Research in Japan and the U.S.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

The ideal level of happiness is higher in Western (e.g., American) cultures than in East Asian (e.g., Japanese) cultures (e.g., Kryszewski et al., 2024). However, previous studies on happiness have not distinguished between Big Happiness (special, rarely occurring, and intense types of happiness) and Small Happiness (mundane, frequently occurring, and subtle types of happiness). We hypothesized that the cultural difference in the ideal level of happiness would be more prominent for big happiness compared with small happiness, because the ideal level of big happiness may reflect the high-arousal positive (HAP) affect, which is valued in Western cultures. 499 Japanese adults and 544 American adults participated in an online survey. Results showed that the Americans' ideal level of happiness was higher than the Japanese for both big and small happiness, but this cultural difference was greater for big happiness compared with small happiness. Additional mediation analysis showed that the cultural difference in ideal big happiness was partially mediated by ideal HAP. The importance of applying the small–big continuum to cross-cultural research on happiness will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tomotaka Okuyama
PhD Student | Hitotsubashi University

Authors

Yuri Miyamoto, Jeanne Tsai

[130] Ideologically Aligned Language Models Predict Partisan Brain Responses to Political Content

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Conservatives and liberals exhibit divergent brain activity when viewing the same political content. This divergence is thought to reflect different ideological lenses that partisans use to interpret the content. Here, we test this hypothesis using neural network-based language models. Specifically, we fine-tuned BERT models separately on news articles from conservative and liberal outlets, yielding two models that approximate the distinct semantic representations of each group. We then used these models to predict brain activity from fMRI data as conservative (n=19) and liberal (n=19) participants viewed political videos. Brain responses were better predicted by the ideologically aligned model, particularly in regions associated with narrative comprehension and perspective-taking, including the precuneus and posterior cingulate cortex. Moreover, we were able to classify participants' political orientation based on how well each model fit their brain activity. Our findings suggest that divergent neural responses to political content reflect differences in how the brain represents meaning, supporting the idea that partisans perceive the same message in fundamentally different ways.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nakwon Rim
Ph.D. Student | The University of Chicago

Authors

Yuan Chang Leong, Ren Calabro, Rulan Zhang, Ryleigh Nash, Daniel Grzenda

[131] Immediate Emotional Benefits of Religious Service Attendance: Evidence from a natural experiment at Easter

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Religious service attendance has consistently been associated with greater life satisfaction and positive emotions. However, most evidence comes from correlational and longitudinal studies based on long-term patterns of attendance, leaving open questions about the immediate effects of worship. In a pre-registered within-subject study, adult Christians (N = 138) completed surveys both at a control time (counterbalanced to be a few days before or after Easter) and directly after attending an Easter service. Participants reported higher satisfaction with life, self-transcendent positive emotions (e.g., awe, peace), lower negative emotions, greater love for God/others, and stronger gratitude to God after attending the service compared to the control time. By directly comparing experiences within the same individuals across worship and control contexts, this study provides rare quasi-experimental evidence that communal worship is followed by immediate improvements in emotional well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenna McClear
Lab Manager | Duke University

Authors

Patty Van Cappellen

[132] Impersonal Statements: LLM-Era College Admissions Essays Exhibit Deep Homogenization Despite Lexical Diversity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Despite the increasing popularity of and importance ascribed to talent identification and development, the notion of talent remains murky. Beyond that, gender gaps in leadership and positions of power continue to be a persistent issue, with a notable "leak" in talent pipelines. The present research explores the possibility that gender bias manifests even before leadership opportunities arise, namely in talent associations. Language provides unique insights into collective representations (i.e., societal-level systems of meaning that permeate everyday social life and both reflect and reinforce widespread ways of thinking). Applying natural language processing methods, we uncover and quantify the strength and prevalence of gender stereotypes around talent perceptions across large and diverse language corpora. Through the analysis of billions of words, we demonstrate that the collective representation of talent is not gender-neutral but is associated with men as well as masculine traits and behaviours.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kibum Moon
PhD Student | Georgetown University

Authors

Kostadin Kushlev, Adam Green

[133] IMPLICIT GENDER BIAS IN TALENT PERCEPTIONS: A COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS OF COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATIONS

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Despite the increasing popularity of and importance ascribed to talent identification and development, the notion of talent remains murky. Beyond that, gender gaps in leadership and positions of power continue to be a persistent issue, with a notable "leak" in talent pipelines. The present research explores the possibility that gender bias manifests even before leadership opportunities arise, namely in talent associations. Language provides unique insights into collective representations (i.e., societal-level systems of meaning that permeate everyday social life and both reflect and reinforce widespread ways of thinking). Applying natural language processing methods, we uncover and quantify the strength and prevalence of gender stereotypes around talent perceptions across large and diverse language corpora. Through the analysis of billions of words, we demonstrate that the collective representation of talent is not gender-neutral but is associated with men as well as masculine traits and behaviours.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nadja Born
PhD Student | Harvard University, Technical University Munich

Authors

Nadja Born

[134] In Her Own Words: A Qualitative Exploration of Women's Attitudes Towards Edited Instagram Photos and Mental Health

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-ESTEEM

As social media sites like Instagram's popularity has risen exponentially, so has the demand for image editing applications. Indeed, hundreds of millions of users flock to download such apps, with 30% to 90% of users editing photos before posting on Instagram. This trend may contribute to declining self-esteem and even increase the risk of disordered eating behaviors. Evidence suggests that time spent on Instagram worsens self-esteem and mental health, and further indicates that exposure to altered photos on Instagram can directly worsen body image. However, to our knowledge, no prior work has explored women's perspectives on why this occurs. Thus, the current study qualitatively examined the perspectives of women (N = 55) regarding digitally altered images and psychological well-being. Specifically, participants shared in-depth experiences of how exposure to edited images on Instagram harms their mental health. Data, to be analyzed Fall 2025 using relational content analysis, will represent a novel investigation into the perceived mental health effects of edited imagery on Instagram specifically, capturing women's experiences and interpretations in their own words.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophie Brown

The New School for Social Research

Authors

Dr. Panteá Farvid, Dr. Lisa Rubin

[135] Increasing the Efficacy of Hope Interventions Through Self-Concordant Goal Selection

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Short-form hope interventions, like goal mapping, effectively enhance well-being (Davidson et al., 2012). Yet people benefit more from goals that align with their values (i.e., self-concordant goals) rather than those driven by self-esteem or pleasure (Sheldon, 2014). We suggest that selecting self-concordant goals will enhance the efficacy of goal-mapping interventions. The current study examines how self-concordant goal orientation affects the effectiveness of a goal-mapping exercise among college students. Participants (N=150) will be randomly assigned to one of two conditions. In the goal self-concordance condition, students will be guided to select two self-concordant goals to pursue using a goal mapping exercise. Participants in the control group will select any two goals before completing the goal mapping exercise. Students' well-being will be assessed immediately after the intervention and two weeks later. We predict that those who pursue self-concordant goals with goal mapping will report greater goal progress, goal attainment, and greater well-being, including higher meaning in life, positive emotions, hope, and life satisfaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emilia Berkes

ASU

Authors

Katherine Nelson-Coffey, John Coffey

[136] Inform and Do No Harm: How to reduce false self-diagnosis caused by mental health awareness

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Mental health awareness efforts are growing, especially for ADHD. While beneficial, such efforts may also cause false self-diagnosis and worsening symptoms; however, there are no feasible validated methods to prevent these. We tested whether teaching about the nocebo effect, where negative expectations cause symptom misattribution and worsening, could reduce the unintended harms of ADHD awareness. In a pre-registered double-blind randomised controlled trial, 215 healthy young adults (77% women) were randomised to participate in a group workshop on either ADHD awareness, ADHD combined with nocebo education, or control (sleep). We measured changes in self-diagnosis and ADHD symptoms immediately after the workshop (self-diagnosis), and one-week later (self-diagnosis and symptoms). ADHD group reported substantially higher self-diagnosis scores immediately and one week after the workshop, compared to controls. These effects persisted despite no changes in reported symptoms. Nocebo education halved the false self-diagnosis scores immediately after the workshop and eliminated them at follow-up. Learning about ADHD increases false self-diagnosis for healthy young adults for at least one week, while a brief nocebo education intervention substantially reduces and eliminates it. We propose a promising adjunct for balanced awareness efforts applicable in various contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dasha Sandra

University of Toronto

Authors

Michael Inzlicht, Dasha Sandra, Zindel Segal, Matthew Burke

[137] Ingroup solidarity drives social media engagement after political crises

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Social media are often said to exacerbate polarization by platforming hostility between groups. However, positive social emotions like ingroup solidarity may also drive social media engagement, particularly after major threats such as military invasions or terror attacks. In this preregistered study, we examine the socioemotional drivers of engagement following group threats in the context of the US 2024 presidential campaign trail, where both major political parties faced crises in July of 2024. We test how ingroup solidarity and outgroup hostility predicted social media users' engagement with 62,118 posts by 484 US partisan accounts before and after the first Trump assassination attempt (July 13) and Biden's re-election campaign suspension (July 21). We find that, while outgroup hostility is typically the dominant predictor of engagement, interactions with ingroup solidarity surged among Republicans after the Trump shooting and among Democrats after Biden's withdrawal. We show that negativity toward other groups is not always key to going viral. Rather, positive ingroup emotions appear to play a leading role in times of crisis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Malia Marks

Authors

Yara Kyrychenko, Jon Roozenbeek, Johan Gardebo

[138] Integrating self-affirmation into the care of patients with Type 2 Diabetes: A methodological overview of an ongoing clinical trial

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Because of the association with higher body weight, type 2 diabetes (T2D) is a highly stigmatized health condition. Weight stigma has been shown to be significantly associated with changes in cortisol reactivity, dysregulation of lipid and glucose metabolism, depression, anxiety and decreased motivation for condition management. Despite these amplifying consequences, reducing stigma is not part of the clinical treatment paradigm for T2D. Self-affirmation interventions are an efficacious strategy for buffering the self against threats (i.e., stigma) and encouraging health-promoting behaviors, such as healthful eating and increased physical activity. We will share a methodological overview of our ongoing clinical trial where we have adapted and integrated a self-affirmation intervention for stigma into the clinical care of patients with T2D. We will share the results of our enrollment survey, including a cohort description, a known groups analysis, and validation of adapted psychological scales (e.g., diabetes-based stigma consciousness). We are still enrolling patients; however, we are 85% enrolled (n=127) and will be prepared to present preliminary results by the conference.

*POSTER

Speaker



Liz Scharnetzki

Faculty Scientist | MaineHealth Institute for Research

Authors

Darby Glenn, Jess DiBiase, Jeffrey Hunger, Andre Grimard, Charlotte Collins

[139] "Not a magic pill": Analyzing the use of stigmatizing language in ChatGPT's advice about GLP-1 use

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Use of generative AI platforms (e.g., ChatGPT) for health advice is rapidly increasing. While there is potential for generative AI to increase access to health information, it can provide inaccurate, potentially biased or stigmatizing responses. This is amplified for people with identities or conditions that are socially devalued. In this exploratory work, we aimed to characterize the language ChatGPT uses to provide information and advice about new medications such as GLP-1 and conditions (diabetes) and identities (gender) with intersecting stigmas. During 10-turn conversations, we had 35 hypothetical ChatGPT users of varied gender identities ask if they should use GLP-1 agonists for managing type 2 diabetes. We then conducted a thematic analysis on conversations with two rounds of qualitative coding and expert review. Coding is ongoing but will be completed by the conference. Preliminary results from 28 coded conversations suggest responses contained phrases that evoked implicit weight stigma (88 codes) and gender-based stigma (9 codes). Interestingly, ChatGPT also called out societal stereotypes (7 codes), suggesting dissonance between ChatGPT's awareness and use of language.

*POSTER

Speaker



Darby Glenn

Research Coordinator II | MaineHealth Institute for Research

Authors

Grace Taylor, Rishi Black, Blakely Austin, Mena Eltahir, Liz Scharnetzki

[140] Intentional cisgender allyship and its setbacks

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Minority stress theory states that individuals with a minority identity experience unique stressors due to that identity, which leads to health disparities. Allyship has been proposed as a buffer to the negative impacts of minority stress. The purpose of this study was to evaluate allyship related to the transgender and nonbinary community, centering community member voices. We analyzed 47 anonymous responses from transgender and nonbinary individuals to the question, "What is an unintentionally harmful thing an ally can do to the transgender and nonbinary community in good faith?" We utilized grounded theory methods, specifically line-by-line, axial, and selective coding strategies, which resulted in distinct categories. These categories included overcorrecting mistakes, using exclusionary language, misgendering, involuntary outing, forced pronoun disclosure, amplifying and spreading misinformation, and lack of support. This study sheds light on harmful ways that allies may engage with transgender and nonbinary communities unintentionally. We suggest ways for cisgender individuals to provide more effective allyship to buffer effects of minority stress.

*POSTER

Speakers



Laurette Amador

Peer Tutor | Marymount University



Hannah Snidman

Graduate Student | Texas Tech University

Authors

Sofia Jubraj, Laurette Amador, Jaya Mussington

[141] International Clinical Clerkships Improve Physician Empathy in Medical Students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

In healthcare, physician empathy (physician's ability to understand the inner experiences of the patient and communicate this understanding to the patient) is a significant factor in successful treatment outcome. Ways to develop empathy in medical students could improve the quality of their medical care. Medical students who studied abroad have reported increased compassion toward patients and a broadened perspective, but this study directly assessed the potential link between studying abroad and improved empathy.

In a pre-post, repeated-measures design, Japanese medical students who participated in a 1-month international clinical clerkship (n=33) reported significant improvements in physician empathy, compared to a cohort of classmates who didn't study abroad (n=19). However, no differences were found in general empathy or mindfulness. In a sub-set of participants, we also included a behavioral measure of physician empathy using standardized patients (SPs), but found no significant differences between groups. Our results suggest that studying abroad can improve physician empathy in medical students, although these effects may be qualified by the study-abroad duration.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Myers

Associate Professor | Showa Medical University

[142] Interpersonal Correlates of The Brief Self-Control Scale: Traits, Problems, Values, and Experiences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Self-control, measured via the Brief Self-Control Scale (BSCS), predicts adjustment and achievement, but also better relationships. It has not been validated with interpersonal concepts and methods, which can identify mechanisms in social functioning. We used the Structural Summary Method (SSM) to evaluate associations of the BSCS and its two factors (i.e., restraint/self-discipline; responsibility/deliberation) with interpersonal style and problems, and other social experiences. In Study 1 (N = 999), all three BSCS scores were associated with a warm-submissive (i.e., cooperative, accommodating) interpersonal style and fewer interpersonal problems, and with higher social support, less loneliness and fewer negative interpersonal experiences. These correlates were strongest for the responsibility/deliberation factor. Study 2 (N = 1,356) replicated associations with interpersonal problems and found parallel of associations of BSCS scores with online functioning (i.e., online social support, negative experiences, excessive social media use). A cooperative and accommodating interpersonal style may promote positive social functioning for individuals high in self-control.

*POSTER

Speaker



Giovanni Marquez

Clinical Psychology PhD Student | University of Utah

Authors

Yoongi Kim Kevin D. Jordan

[143] Well-Intended, Widespread, and Risky: Labeling Workplace A “Family” May Erode Organizational Commitment and Citizenship

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Organizations of employment sometimes describe themselves as families. We term this practice family framing: using a linguistic device in which an entity, its stakeholders, or its characteristics are described using familial labels. We draw on the label-framing, social exchange, and family metaphors literatures to investigate family framing via a multimethod approach including correlational and experimental studies both in online and field settings. Across five studies, we test what motivates family framing, as well as the relational expectations that it generates—and consequences for violations thereof. In an archival study of Fortune 500 organizations (Study 1), we find that over one-third of the firms use family framing in their external communications, and integrate the findings with a second dataset of Glassdoor ratings to reveal that family framing is a meaningful predictor of employee experiences. In Study 2, a pre-registered field study of managers, we find that individuals who desire employer-employee relationships characterized by trust and care are motivated to use family framing. In a pre-registered online experiment, Study 3, we test whether these relational motives are mirrored via heightened perceiver expectations of positive exchange relationships if working at the firm. We then explore the consequences of perceived violations of the relational motives implied by family framing. Across a pre-registered field study with employees and two preregistered online experiments, we find that when firms violate the relational expectations generated by family framing, employees and third parties respond negatively. Employees may respond with diminished OCB-Os and affective commitment, driven by perceptions of family framing as being inauthentic (Studies 4A-B). Third parties may exhibit especially harsh affective backlash toward family framed firms enacting such violations, driven by perceived firm hypocrisy (Study 5). Together, these findings underscore the power of linguistic references to family in shaping relational motives, expectations, and outcomes—and the potential backlash for violations of familial treatment.

*POSTER

Speakers



Naomi Samuel

Duke



Riley Church

SPSP

[144] Introspective Reflection Sustains Daily Loneliness

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Loneliness manifests as both a stable trait and a dynamic state, marked by daily fluctuations in emotions and social behavior. This study examined how trait and daily state loneliness relate to linguistic features in how individuals process and recall daily experiences and whether these features predict future loneliness. In a week-long daily diary study, participants (N = 153) self-reported their daily loneliness and journaled about their day. Daily levels of loneliness showed moderate stability across the week (ICC = .68). Using sentiment analysis, we found that individuals higher in trait loneliness and experiencing elevated state loneliness wrote diary entries with increased negative (b = -0.268, p < .001) and introspective language (b = 0.191, p = .018). Critically, lagged analyses revealed that if participants wrote more negatively (b = -6.00, p = .007) and introspectively (b = -6.67, p = .031) than the day before, they felt lonelier that day. These findings suggest a dynamic feedback loop in which negative, inward-focused reflections may perpetuate loneliness over time, highlighting the potential of promoting positive, socially oriented reflection as an intervention strategy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Begum Babur

PhD Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Elisa Baek

[145] Investigating Household Labor Inequality: How Much is Too Much?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Women continue to do most of their family's household labor (Garcia & Tomlinson, 2021), yet almost half of men and women find this fair (Jansen et al., 2016; Öun, 2013). However, prior research has been limited by assessing couples' self-reported perceptions of existing inequality, where fairness may be influenced by relational concerns (Midgette, 2020). This study uses behavioral coding of video recordings of dating and stranger male-female dyads as they complete household tasks in real time. Preliminary analysis of 47 stranger-dyads (Mage = 19, SD = 0.92) found that although women spent more time doing tasks overall than men (d = 0.72, p < .001), both men and women found this to be fair (Mwomen = 6.16, Mmen = 5.89; 1 = very unfair, 7 = very fair). The correlation between the within-dyad work time difference and fairness rating was not significant (r = -0.17). Further, while 19 dyads had divisions beyond a broadly egalitarian range (60-40), these dyads still found the division fair (M = 5.76, SD = 1.21). Findings highlight the need for future theorization and research to unpack why, free of relational considerations, individuals still find objectively-defined inequality fair.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ava Roderick

Graduate Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Allegra Midgette, Ning Li, Percy Gresham

[146] Is Stress Mindset One or Many? Validation of a French Multidimensional Scale

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Introduction: Stress mindset refers to the extent to which an individual believes that stress has either enhancing or debilitating consequences for outcomes such as performance, health, and growth (Crum et al., 2017). While its definition is consensual, its conceptualization and measurement remain debated. This study examines whether our data support a multidimensional view or not by comparing existing scales at the same time.

Methods: We were able to perform exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses to determine which items and factors were salient and to compare an unidimensional model to a multidimensional model.

Results: Confirmatory factor analyses supported a multi-factor structure. Reliability, convergent validity, discriminant validity has been supported in our second sample.

Conclusion: Current data provide preliminary evidence that the stress mindset scale is a valid multidimensional measure with good psychometric properties, supporting its use in future research on stress mindsets induction and performance outcomes."

*POSTER

Speaker



Enzo Fontana

Doctorant en psychologie sociale | Université de Bourgogne Europe

Authors

Julien Chappé, Fabrice Gabarrot

[147] Learning from failures and successes driven by value perceptions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

With nearly every experience designated as successes or failures, people may iteratively develop attitudes toward these experiences, which may shape perceptions of their value for learning. Learning value perceptions (LVP) are how individuals view successes and failures through the subsequent lessons that can be learned from these experiences. Four preregistered studies examine how learning value perceptions may impact well-being, goal progress, and feedback behaviors. A study (N = 262) measuring progress on two goals over a two-week interval suggests that LVP fully mediates the effect of attitudes toward success and failure on feedback and goal progress and that more positive attitudes toward success and failure are associated with overall well-being. Two studies (N = 323; N = 322) link LVP to a range of feedback behaviors, such as feedback-seeking, and failure-centric self-regulation, like dealing with errors adaptively. Lastly, a pattern-recognition experiment (N = 328) examines how LVP affects learning from feedback and expectancies. These studies demonstrate the potential impact of learning value perceptions on how people interact with experiences and engage with feedback.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jaclyn Rogers

Duke University

Authors

Zhuying Guo, Skyler Wyly, James Shah

[149] Literature as Legacy: Generational Trauma in African and African American Narratives

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This research examined how literary narratives encoded and repaired intergenerational trauma in African and African American communities. Through qualitative textual analysis with Thematic Codes, this research analyzed five texts including: Homegoing; So Long a Letter; Things Fall Apart; No Longer at Ease; Quiet as It's Kept identifying trauma patterns and mechanisms of narrative repair. Thematic Codes—intergenerational trauma, structural violence, racialized harm, adverse childhood experiences—were applied to trace how harm moved across generations through character arcs and plot, and how storytelling practices such as ancestral memory, communal witness, renaming supported resilience. Results indicated that [AM1] trauma was culturally embedded yet often silenced; characters regained agency by reframing lineage and telling counter-stories; and scenes centering care rituals (letters, funerals, naming) functioned as micro-interventions that reduced isolation. Visual tools such as word clouds, frequency graphs, and network maps further illustrated thematic interconnections. This research contributes to trauma studies and literary criticism by demonstrating how African and African American literature transforms silence into narrative agency and supports communal healing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Saron Gebereegziabhier

[150] Living for now or forever: Can different afterlife beliefs reinforce similar goals?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

To explore how afterlife beliefs relate to time perspective and life goals, we conducted semi-structured interviews with participants (n=25) across age groups (18-35 and 60+) and religious backgrounds (LDS and non-religious). Participants were asked if/how their afterlife beliefs influence how they live, including motivation for learning and relationships. 87% reported that their beliefs (or non-beliefs) about life after death affected how they lived. Most described increased motivation to learn (75%) and focus on relationships (71%). A Fisher's Exact Test indicated that those with afterlife beliefs were significantly more likely to report increased motivation for learning goals ($p=.017$), but this was not significant for relationship goals. Interestingly, the reasons differed: some participants reported belief in eternal life led them to focus on relationships because they believed their relationships continue forever, whereas others with no afterlife beliefs emphasized relationships because they believed they only had one chance. These responses suggest that individuals with very different afterlife beliefs may frame those beliefs in similar ways that reinforce valued motivations.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Becca Whitaker**
Undergraduate Research Assistant | University of Utah

Authors

Lilly Bautista Harrison, Lisa G. Aspinwall

[151] Living with Focus and Purpose: An Experience-sampling Investigation of Meaning, Attention, and Well-being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

People in this technological age grapple with a meaning crisis while navigating life under constant distractions. We conducted a one-week experience-sampling study (N=191; 4,778 entries) to examine whether meaning and attention are related in everyday life, and how they are related to boredom, negative emotions, and subjective well-being. Participants completed a baseline survey and then responded to brief surveys five times a day over seven days. We found that meaning and attention were positively associated at dispositional, situational, and cross-levels. When participants paid more attention, they experienced greater meaning—a within-person effect that was consistent across all daily activities (e.g., work, socializing, entertainment). Across levels, stronger attention control predicted higher situational meaning, while higher life meaning predicted greater situational attention. Moreover, meaning and attention consistently predicted lower boredom, lower negative emotions and better subjective well-being at dispositional, situational, and across levels. Together, our results suggest that paying attention during daily situations may enhance the experience of meaning.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Katy Tam**
Assistant Professor | University of Toronto

Authors

Wijnand Van Tilburg, Michael Inzlicht, Christian Chan

[152] Loneliness mindsets: A new measurement approach and implications for predicting wellbeing

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Loneliness is increasingly prevalent, with substantial mental health costs. Thus, research often seeks to understand the characteristics of lonely individuals and where to intercede to reduce loneliness. Interventions often target social skills, social support and social interaction. In the current work, we investigate individual differences in the meaning assigned to loneliness as another potential lever on which to intervene to reduce loneliness. Specifically, we focus on mindsets, examining the factor structure and predictive validity of the Mindsets of Loneliness Assessment Tool (M-LAT) (N = 382). We examined four factors: Lonely Attribute Mindset (LM_Attribute), Lonely People Mindset (LM_Person), Loneliness as Enhancing Mindset (LM_Enhancing), and Loneliness as Debilitating Mindset (LM_Debilitating) in relation to social and psychological wellbeing. People and debilitating mindsets had the strongest links with loneliness, self-esteem, and optimism. The results suggest that loneliness mindsets are associated with wellbeing and targeting these mindsets may offer insight for future interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Julia Griffin**
Graduate Student | North Carolina State University

Authors

Crystal Hoyt, Jeni Burnette, Sydney Earl, Jeffrey Pollack

[153] Lonely individuals learn social information idiosyncratically

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Prior work suggests that lonely individuals hold distinct, non-normative representations of well-known celebrities, and neurally process naturalistic stimuli such as short video clips in idiosyncratic ways. When and how do these differences arise? Here, we tested if loneliness is associated with idiosyncratic learning of new people via rich social narratives. While undergoing fMRI, participants watched a TV show trailer which consisted of a naturalistic narrative involving 5 characters and their relationships. They then rested for 6 minutes. Post-scan, participants gave free-response descriptions of all characters and their relationships. We used Universal Sentence Encoder to transform all text entries into semantic embeddings and computed the similarity between participants' descriptions. We also assessed the similarity of participants' neural responses while watching the trailer and during rest. We found that lonelier participants had more idiosyncratic semantic descriptions and neural responses, suggesting that lonely individuals process and learn new social information differently than each other and their non-lonely peers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaitlyn Mundy

PhD Student | Columbia University

Authors

Meghan Meyer, Miriam Schwyck

[154] Longitudinal Relations between Self-Esteem and Academic Engagement in College

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-ESTEEM

Despite widespread interest in the relations between self-esteem and academic success, most research has focused on adolescent or high school populations (e.g., Zheng et al., 2020), leaving a gap in our understanding of how these constructs may reciprocally influence each other in higher education. Using a longitudinal sample of 714 undergraduate students, we used a Random-Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model to investigate autoregressive and cross-lagged effects for self-esteem and academic engagement (e.g., actively participating in classes) across seven semesters. Although we found evidence of inertia for academic engagement ($b = 0.15, p < .01$) and self-esteem ($b = 0.38, p < .01$), we did not find any cross-lagged effects (p 's $> .096$). However, there was modest time-specific similarity in participants' levels of academic engagement and self-esteem ($r = .13, p < .01$) and medium-to-strong associations in participants' corresponding trait levels ($r = .42, p < .01$). These findings suggest that although self-esteem and academic engagement may not reciprocally predict each other over time, they both display carryover and show a modest association in their time-specific fluctuations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Angela Cardozo

Student | University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Robert Ackerman, Brianya Bell, Varun Narumanchi, Courtney Brecheen

[155] Making Intervention Do-ABLE: Police Officers' Perceptions of Active Bystandership Training.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study investigated feedback from law enforcement officers to improve the use of active bystandership training. While previous research has linked officer intervention programs with reduced use of excessive force and fewer citizen complaints, there is a gap in understanding how officers perceive the effectiveness of Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) training. The study involved data from a national survey of 48,077 law enforcement officers who completed ABLE intervention training. Researchers analyzed responses to open-ended questions exploring perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs about peer intervention. Results showed that officers emphasized the importance of ongoing training, real-world practice, open discussion, leader accountability, and policies that mandate training and protect against retaliation. They also highlighted the need for a supportive culture that builds trust and well-being, along with individual responsibility, openness to feedback, and self-improvement. These findings suggest that departments can refine ABLE's delivery format, frequency, and content to officers' needs, while also implementing the requested policies that support intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiaqi Huang

Admission Office Diversity Outreach Intern | Amherst College

Authors

Viktoria Leopold, Catherine Sanderson, Cassandra Ramdath

[156] Masculinity and Environmentalism: The Role of Identity Threats versus Affirmations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Threatening masculinity leads to a range of compensatory responses across social contexts to recover manhood, which may also impact men's engagement in sustainable behaviors. The current research applies processes of gender socialization and identity maintenance to environmentalism. Study 1 (N = 394) assessed if pro-environmental behaviors (PEBs) aligned with masculine norms would be embraced as recovery strategy in response to an identity threat. Male participants completed a masculinity test, then were randomly assigned to an identity threat condition (threat or control). Results showed men with higher masculine identification distance from all PEBs, demonstrating that even sustainable behaviors which align with masculine norms may have underlying feminine associations. In Study 2, male participants will complete the same masculinity test from Study 1, and a third threat condition (affirmation) will be added to assess the effect of masculinity affirmations on environmentalism. Our prediction is that men whose masculinity is threatened will show decreased willingness to engage in environmentalism, in line with findings from Study 2. However, when masculinity is affirmed, men will show increased sustainable engagement. This research highlights the importance of masculine identification in how men experience and recover from identity threats in sustainable contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabby Wilson

Grad Student | Western Washington University

[157] Masculinity Workplace Culture is for Straight White Men: How Work Norms Devalue and Discourage Marginalized Groups

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Masculinity workplace norms that reward dominance and competitiveness reinforce a status hierarchy privileging those who embody hegemonic masculinity (straight White men), while devaluing others. In five preregistered experiments, we examined how masculinity workplace norms influence the perceived status of different social identities (based on gender, sexuality, and race), which in turn shapes individuals' personal status and interest based on their social group membership. Across studies, participants perceived female and gay employees, and employees of color, as lower status than male, straight, and White employees in workplaces with strong (vs. weak) masculinity norms. These perceptions were linked to lower interest in joining such workplaces (via low anticipated personal status) among White straight women (vs. White straight men; S1), White gay men (vs. White straight men; S2), and straight men of color (vs. White straight men; S3). Experimentally enhancing the status of female (S4) or Black employees (S5) buffered against these negative effects. The findings illuminate group-based and individual-level processes through which masculinity norms undermine occupational diversity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Spielmann

Postdoc | New York University Abu Dhabi

Authors

Andrea C. Vial

[158] Meaning in Life in Individuals with Dysautonomia and Long-COVID

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Research shows that individuals experiencing long-COVID (LC), a dysautonomia subtype, suffer an existential loss of identity. While quality of life and existential concerns in LC are studied, minimal research explores meaning in life (MIL). This study examined predictors of search for and presence of MIL in dysautonomia patients. Participants (N = 305, ages 18-68, M = 34.09, SD = 10.98) from global online dysautonomia support groups completed a Qualtrics survey on demographics, symptom severity/duration, MIL levels, and lived experiences. Of participants, 85.2% were female; 50.8% had LC or similar post-viral syndromes. Symptom duration and active religious practice positively predicted presence of MIL, whereas symptom severity was negatively related. Age negatively predicted search for MIL. Qualitative responses added nuance to quantitative findings. Results suggest longer symptom duration and religious practice may enhance MIL in dysautonomia, while severe symptoms may negatively impact it. Age being the only significant predictor of search for MIL indicates that older people with dysautonomia may feel less need to search for meaning than younger people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Yeager

Graduate Student and Research Assistant | Rutgers University-Camden

Authors

Jennifer Lyke

[159] Meaning-making after experiences of intimate partner violence among young sexual minority men: A qualitative study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Young sexual minority men (YSMM) are at elevated risk for intimate partner violence (IPV) compared to their heterosexual counterparts due to minority stress, which exacerbates adverse health outcomes among sexual and gender minorities. Yet, studies indicate that YSMM often underreport IPV experiences and face barriers to help-seeking resulting from systemic anti-gay discrimination and internalized stigma. Recent research on the role of self-regulation on trauma recovery has increasingly focused on the process of meaning-making, particularly among IPV victims. This study analyzes interviews with 26 YSMM with IPV histories to explore how they make sense of past IPV experiences. Using the consensual qualitative research approach, five interrelated themes emerged that reflect both adaptive (increased understanding of IPV, posttraumatic growth, awareness of desensitization to violence) and maladaptive (minimization of violence, pervasive distrust) meaning-making. Findings suggest that recognition of abuse typically occurred well after the relationship ended often through therapy or other forms of meaning-making. Additionally, delayed recognition of IPV was shaped by earlier exposure to violence during childhood or adolescence, highlighting the sustained impact of violence exposure on YSMM's vulnerability to IPV. Future directions for research and suggestions for developing culturally responsive social services and policies are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jae Eun Kwak

PhD student | University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Authors

Christopher Stults

[160] Measuring Gender Identity as an Individual Difference Variable

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

"Gender identity" has been variously understood as a person's self-categorization into a gender category as well as a person's participation in (non)conforming gender roles. This investigation takes the former meaning—gender identity as an individual difference—to determine whether this construct can be validly and reliably measured using new self-report items that are not simply demographic questions. The new items focus on gender-category-and-self overlap for samples of transgender, nonbinary, and cisgender respondents (across sexual orientations). The new items are also evaluated against existing scales for gender roles and displays to reveal the empirical distinctions among the measures. Results show that the new items function similarly for the binary self-categorizations (i.e., trans women and cis women, and, separately, trans men and cis men), showing a contrastive pattern for category overlaps, but differently for the nonbinary self-categorizations—namely, showing no contrastive pattern. What is more, the new items have a high test-retest reliability (for a mixed sample of cis, trans, and nonbinary respondents), suggesting stability of the individual differences over time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlotte Tate

Full Professor | San Francisco State Univ.

[161] Mental Health and Dating Attitudes among Men Who Are Involuntarily Celibate (but Not Necessarily “Incels”)

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Flirting with a woman and asking her on a date can be an anxiety-inducing experience for some men who face the possibility of rejection. The “incel” (involuntarily celibate) movement consists of an internet subculture of men who tend to hold negative views of women's mate preferences and toward themselves. Less explored are the experiences of men who are involuntarily celibate but who do not necessarily identify with this subculture. We surveyed 435 men ages 18-40 via Cloudresearch online panels about why they were currently single. While very few participants said they identified as incels ($N = 11$), many more ($N = 94$) agreed with the statement that they were involuntarily celibate. Men who agreed with the statement more strongly tended to report lower self-esteem ($r = -.258$), lower dating confidence ($r = -.258$), and greater anxiety when dating ($r = .319$). Even when including the “incel” identifying men, however, there was only a weak correlation with a higher drive for power over women ($r = .150$). These findings highlight the importance of examining the challenges and concerns faced by men who are involuntarily celibate (but not necessarily “incels”).

*POSTER

Speaker



Silas Fernandes

Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[162] Mental Health Disclosure Preferences in Romantic Relationships

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This study assessed mental health disclosure timing differences in romantic relationships, as well as openness to dating someone who is seeing a therapist or taking medication. Participants were 672 (511 female) undergraduate students at a University in California recruited through SONA who completed the study via Qualtrics. Disclosure timing differed between diagnosed couples (both had mental health disorders) versus mixed couples (one had a disorder, one did not), $\chi^2(4, N = 233) = 23.34, p < .001$. Most participants reported disclosing their diagnosis before officially becoming a couple (46.1%). Establishing trust preceded disclosure in mixed (32.9%) more than in diagnosed couples (13.3%) as diagnosed couples were comfortable disclosing "once it came up" (40.0%). This suggests that diagnosed couples disclose mental health earlier in the relationship than mixed couples, who delay disclosure until trust is established. Also, participants who have ever been diagnosed are more open to dating someone who takes medication (77.8%) or is in therapy (83.8%), whereas those who have never had a disorder say "it depends" (34.5% and 24.8%, respectively).

*POSTER

Speaker



Jarryd Willis

Lecturer | California State University San Marcos

Authors

Elizabeth Hernandez, Ziyang Huang, Torin Perreyclear, Journey Reginio, Jarryd Willis

[163] Mental Models Matter for the Psychology of Climate Change

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Mental models are internal, dynamic, approximate representations of reality that shape how individuals process and interpret information and translate it into action. As such, mental models play a crucial role in determining how people understand, predict, and react to the world around them. They can be thought of as both dynamic solutions to navigating complexity and as potential barriers to learning and problem solving.

In this review we draw on work from cognitive and environmental psychology, environmental science, public policy, and participatory modeling to propose that understanding how people from different cultures and backgrounds form and use mental models of environmentally-relevant phenomena can provide insight into the conceptual foundations of climate-related perceptions, risk assessment, decision-making, and behavior. Moreover, because mental models allow people to understand and anticipate complex problems, they provide a lever to assess and intervene on both individual and collective perceptions of the world, and to facilitate solutions among people who differ in their models of climate change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daria Healey

PhD Student | Northeastern University

Authors

Brian Helmuth, Joan J. H. Kim, Jonathan H. Grabowski, Moira Zellner, John D. Coley

[164] Mindset Medicine: How Beliefs About Your Body's Abilities Predict COVID-19 Recovery

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Background: Mindset theory suggests that body mindsets influence health in various ways. We tested whether body mindsets predicted COVID-19 symptom severity and duration, and whether hypervigilance, immune-boosting behaviors, and affect mediated these relationships.

Method: U.S. adults ($N = 846$) completed surveys three times from 2020–2022. Body mindsets were measured in May 2020, mediators in September 2020, and COVID-19 outcomes in March 2022.

Results: More adaptive body mindsets predicted less severe symptoms ($b = -.11, p < .001$) and shorter symptom duration ($b = -.13, p < .001$). Body mindsets also predicted more engagement in immune-boosting behaviors ($b = .13, p < .001$), which in turn predicted shorter illness ($b = -.15, p = .025$). The indirect effect was small but statistically significant ($-.018, 95\% \text{ CI } [-.04, -.001]$). All analyses controlled for race, gender, education, political affiliation, vaccination status, and health history.

Conclusion: Our findings provide evidence about body mindsets. Body mindsets prospectively predicted COVID-19 illness experiences. Findings extend health mindset theory and highlight the connection between core beliefs and health outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nate Yanowitch

Research Coordinator | Stanford University

Authors

Tao Jiang, Alia Crum

[165] Mother–Adolescent Conflict and Adjustment: The Role of Self-Esteem

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-ESTEEM

Mother–Adolescent Conflict and Adjustment: The Role of Self-Esteem

Adolescence is marked by heightened sensitivity to conflict, yet mechanisms linking mother–adolescent conflict about peers (MACP) to social adjustment are unclear. We tested whether self-esteem mediates these associations in a sample of 66 adolescents (Mage=12.39). Participants completed measures of MACP, self-esteem, social competence, victimization, loneliness, anxiety, and depression. PROCESS Model 4, controlling sex and age, showed that higher MACP predicted lower self-esteem ($b = -.40$, $p = .003$). Lower self-esteem, in turn, was linked to higher loneliness ($b = -.38$, $p < .001$), higher depression ($b = -1.49$, $p < .001$), and higher anxiety ($b = -4.86$, $p = .03$) with significant indirect effects, though the direct path for anxiety remained significant, indicating partial mediation. Higher self-esteem was related to higher social competence ($b = .15$, $p = .03$), although the indirect pathway was marginal, suggesting possible but inconclusive mediation. Higher MACP directly predicted greater victimization ($b = .37$, $p < .001$), with no mediation effect. Findings identify self-esteem as a key pathway from MACP to internalizing outcomes and a potential target for intervention.

Keywords: Self-esteem, mother–adolescent conflict, adolescent social adjustment, mediation, internalizing symptoms

*POSTER

Speaker



Syeda Mahmood

Graduate Student | Northern Illinois University

Authors

Nina S. Mounts

[166] Motivational and Cognitive Factors may each Influence the Demand of Effortful Self-Control

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Over reliance on effortful self-control (ESC) is a central challenge in self-regulation as it often feels aversive, making it difficult to sustain behaviors that promote long-term goals. Theories of motivation and cognition suggest that ESC demands may be shaped by both motivational factors and cognitive control capacities. We examined these influences in the domain of physical activity, a behavior linked to numerous positive outcomes. A sample of 120 young adults (70 female; Mage=23.8) who intended to engage in physical activity completed weekly surveys for five weeks assessing ESC, preference, habit strength, and mental fatigue related to their most recent activity. Inhibitory control was assessed at baseline using the N2 event-related potential during a Go/No-Go task. Results from a multilevel model showed that preference ($B = -0.15$, $p < .01$), habit strength ($B = -0.14$, $p < .01$), mental fatigue ($B = 0.25$, $p < .01$), and inhibitory control ($B = 0.04$, $p < .01$) were all associated with less ESC. These findings highlight that motivational and cognitive factors may jointly influence the perceived demand for ESC. Thus, interventions aimed at reducing ESC may be most effective by targeting both motivation and cognition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jonathon Bourque

Rutgers University

Authors

Luke Poole, Hannah Purdue, Amber Sarwani, Brandon Alderman

[167] Mourning Our Relatives: Distress Due to an Absence of Funeral Ceremony Amongst Indigenous Peoples

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) crisis leaves Indigenous Peoples and communities in a state of grief and depression due to the absence of proper mourning rituals that are central to healing. The present study assesses how distress due to an absence of burial ceremony (end of life/funeral ceremony) relates to levels of depression, and how levels of cultural involvement (i.e., enculturation) impact this relationship. In an online survey ($N=79$), Indigenous participants completed the Ambiguous Loss Inventory +, a depression measure (CESD), and an enculturation measure (NAAS). We found a significant positive relationship between distress due to an absence of burial ceremony and depression. Enculturation marginally moderated this relationship, such that the relationship between distress and depression was stronger when enculturation was high (vs. low). These results illustrate the significant impact of MMIR on Indigenous Peoples and encourage more research, legislation and accurate databases that are crucial to stopping this crisis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Martinez

Student | UC Merced

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Kristina G. Chamberlin, Yvette M. Pino, Jamie L. Yellowtail, Mary-Francis O'Connor

[168] Movement Medicine: Reducing the Impact of ACEs Through Sports

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEELL-BEING

This study investigates the role of sports participation in promoting post-traumatic growth (PTG) and mitigating mental health challenges among individuals with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma histories. Using a mixed-methods, quasi-experimental design, the research will recruit 200 participants aged 18–65 who are actively involved in collegiate or intramural sports. Participants will be classified into groups based on the type and frequency of sports participation (team, individual, or non-participant) and assessed at baseline and six-month follow-up. Standardized measures will include the Post-Traumatic Growth Inventory (PTGI), Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II), State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), and a custom Sports Participation Questionnaire. Data will be analyzed using repeated-measures ANOVA and regression models to examine whether sports participation predicts changes in PTG, depression, and anxiety over time. A qualitative component, consisting of semi-structured interviews with a subset of participants, will further explore lived experiences of resilience and coping through sports. Findings are expected to clarify the protective role of athletic engagement in trauma recovery, highlighting the potential of sport-based approaches to reduce the psychological impact of ACEs and foster long-term mental well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Uche Chukwuemeka
Prairie View A&M University

Authors

Jesse Nemons, Giacomo Tiznado

[170] Navigating Oneself: How Psychological Flexibility and Self-Structure Interact within Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Populations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

This study examines how self-concept clarity (SCC) and self-concept differentiation (SCD) interact with psychological flexibility to predict wellbeing within transgender and non-conforming individuals (TGNC). It was hypothesized that SCC and flexibility would be positively associated with wellbeing, that SCD would be negatively associated with wellbeing, and that flexibility would moderate the relationships between both SCC and flexibility and SCD and flexibility. The study had 139 TGNC participants who filled out a Qualtrics survey that examined the constructs outlined above. Both SCC and flexibility were found to be positively associated with wellbeing ($b = .353, t = 5.688, p < .001$ and $b = .517, t = 7.854, p < .001$). However, the negative relationship between SCD and well-being was not significant when SCC and flexibility were in the model ($b = -.139, t = -0.84, p = .40$). Flexibility did not moderate the relationship between SCC and wellbeing ($b = .0065, t = 0.10, p < .9235$) nor the relationship between SCD and wellbeing ($b = -0.2113, t = -1.0865, p = 0.2792$). This study links the SCC and SCD literature with psychological flexibility within the context of TGNC mental health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jackson Best
Vassar College

Authors

Jannay Morrow

[171] Navigating Transition: A Longitudinal Qualitative Study of Transgender Teens in U.S. High Schools

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Gender transition is a critical developmental milestone for many transgender adolescents, yet the role of U.S. high schools in shaping this experience remains understudied. This longitudinal qualitative study followed 43 transgender teens (ages 14–18) from across the U.S. over one year as they underwent social and medical transition. Participants engaged in recurring remote focus groups, and transcripts were analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis. Findings reveal that institutional policies, teacher behavior, peer culture, and geographic context significantly shaped transition ease or difficulty. Key themes included (1) institutional recognition as affirmation or erasure, (2) educators as gatekeepers of safety, (3) peer culture as a site of both solidarity and stigma, and (4) the burden of self-advocacy. These findings demonstrate how school structures and social climates function as powerful mediators of adolescent gender transition, with implications for school policy, developmental psychology, and trans-affirming interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mel Mancheno

Authors

Mel Mancheno

[172] Network Analysis of Stressors and Mental Health in Chinese MSM

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Minority stress theory posits that both sexual minority stressors (SMS; e.g., discrimination) and general stressors (GS; e.g., financial strain) contribute to internalizing mental health problems. Yet, how these stressors interconnect remains unclear. We surveyed 4,310 Chinese sexual minority men (MSM) and measured 18 stressors through validated scales and content analysis of open-ended responses. Network analysis revealed central SMS nodes of situational stress sensitivity and discrimination, and central GS nodes of financial, work, and romantic relationship stress. Three nodes—outness (SMS), and romantic relationship and interpersonal problems (GS)—bridged the two node communities. When mental health outcomes were added, internalized homophobia (SMS), discrimination (SMS), psychological health concerns (GS), physical health concerns (GS), interpersonal problems (GS), and financial stress (GS) showed the strongest associations with depression, anxiety, and somatization. Findings highlight the intertwined effects of discrimination, achievement, health, and relational stressors on internalizing problems among Chinese MSM.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gu Li

Assistant Professor of Psychology | NYU Shanghai

Authors

Jiayu He, Fei Yu, Pekka Santtila

[173] Not All Platforms Are Created Equal: Platform Differences in Social Media and Well-Being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Social media use (SMU) is ubiquitous among emerging adults (Villanti et al., 2017), yet its impact on well-being remains unclear. A multidimensional framework may be needed, such as the PERMA model (Seligman, 2011), which emphasizes positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning, and accomplishment. Our study examined how SMU and various platforms relate to one's sense of meaning and accomplishment, mediated by experience of positive emotions, daily engagement, and perceived quality of relationships. Participants (N = 593) reported daily SMU across Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and X/Twitter, and completed the PERMA-Profilier (Butler & Kern, 2016). Analyses showed positive emotions mediated the link between average daily SMU and meaning, but no significant associations emerged with accomplishment. Between-platform differences highlighted unique patterns: greater Snapchat use predicted greater positive emotions and stronger relationships, and thus higher meaning, whereas greater X/Twitter use predicted lower relationship quality, and thus diminished meaning. As such, it may be that the type of platform (image-based vs. text-based) may underlie well-being benefits of SMU.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexandria Vandenberg

Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Kristin Mickelson

[174] Online Cognitive Processing Therapy for Chinese MSM: Feasibility Study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This pilot randomized controlled trial tested the feasibility, accessibility, and efficacy of a 9-day online cognitive processing therapy for men who have sex with men (MSM) in China. Twenty-four participants were randomized to therapist-feedback (n = 7), automated (n = 7), or waitlist groups (n = 10); 21 started and 20 completed (95.2%) the study. Internalizing symptoms, concurrent issues, and minority stress were assessed at baseline and 2-week follow-up. Intervention satisfaction was high (M = 4.36, SD = 0.66; 1–5 scale). Although non-significant, effect sizes from between-group analyses suggested that intervention groups showed decreases in somatization, anxiety, internalized homophobia, and gay-related rejection sensitivity. Within-group evidence corroborated these findings and further suggested reduced rumination and shame, and increased friend support. Meanwhile, effect sizes indicated adverse shifts in depression, outness, self-esteem, and support from significant others and families in intervention groups. Overall, high retention and satisfaction support feasibility and acceptability; effect size trends suggest potential efficacy and the need for larger trials.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiajun Yin

Student | East China Normal University and New York University Shanghai

Authors

Fei Yu, Pekka Santtila, Thomas J. Nyman, Xiaoqing Xu, Gu Li

[175] Parental Identity and Bias: Predicting Children's Outcomes Based on Parents' Gender and Sexuality

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

This study explores whether perceivers' evaluations of children are influenced by the gender and sexual identity of the children's parents. Specifically, we examine how people evaluate children based on visual exposure to different types of parental relationships, including heterosexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender couples.

Participants viewed randomized photos of five types of romantic partners: cisgender heterosexual couples, cisgender gay men, cisgender lesbian women, transgender couples, and transgender pregnant men with partners. All groups except the transgender pregnant men were shown holding an infant. After each image, participants rated the likelihood of various child outcomes for the child depicted in the picture, such as experiencing trauma, becoming a good person, changing pronouns, or graduating from college, using a seven-point Likert scale.

Participants then completed the twelve-item Religious Fundamentalism Scale (Altemeyer & Hunsberger, 2004) and answered demographic questions, including age, political affiliation, religiosity, gender and sexual identity, and whether they personally know someone who identifies as transgender.

This ongoing correlational study aims to uncover the social and psychological predictors of biased assumptions about children based on their parents' identity. By examining how demographic and ideological factors influence perceptions of children's futures, this research aims to examine the extent to which stigma may be extended from marginalized parents to their children.

Findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of the social consequences of bias against LGBTQ + and transgender individuals, particularly in the context of family and parenting.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elif Bilal

Ph.D. Student | Montana State University

Authors

Mary Moore, Charlie Fields, Peter J. Helm, Ian Handley

[176] Parental Risk and Resilience Factors for Mental Well-Being in Adolescents

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Parenting practices and parental well-being are key determinants of adolescent mental health, yet few studies have examined these factors within a risk and resilience framework among youth with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs). This study investigated how positive and negative parenting, caregiver well-being, and parenting stress relate to adolescents' emotional well-being and internalizing problems. Participants were 105 adolescents aged 11–14 (61.9% female; 52.4% with NDDs) and their caregivers (82.9% mothers). Correlations showed emotional well-being and internalizing problems were strongly negatively related. Positive parenting was associated with lower parenting stress and higher caregiver well-being; negative parenting was linked to greater stress. Parenting stress was negatively correlated with caregiver well-being. Hierarchical regressions revealed no main effects of parental factors on adolescent outcomes. However, higher negative parenting predicted poorer child emotional well-being only at low caregiver well-being. Findings highlight caregiver well-being as a protective factor, underscoring the role of parental factors in resilience among youth with and without NDDs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wanqin Yu

PhD Student | University of Alabama at Birmingham

Authors

Jacqueline Chen, Christopher Henrich, Fumiko Hoeft, Caroline Richter

[177] Parents see genes at play: Parenthood and heritability attributions about “lifestyle” diseases

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Parenthood offers unique insight into how genes and environments shape human traits. We investigated whether parenthood is linked to beliefs about the heritability of various health attributes. In Study 1 (N = 720), parents estimated higher genetic influence for obesity, weight, and type 2 diabetes compared to non-parents. This effect was more about being a parent than number of children. Mothers were more likely to endorse genetic causes than fathers. Study 2 provided a meta-analysis of existing data (k = 5, total N = 2353) showing a small but reliable link (g = 0.11, p = .007) between parenthood and greater attribution of genetic causes, especially for “lifestyle” attributes like obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. We did not replicate the gender effect from Study 1. These findings suggest parenthood may heighten awareness of genetic factors in specific health attributes through observing developing children's traits or reconciling caregiving experiences with disease stigma. Implications highlight the need for health messaging that acknowledges parents' more gene-focused perspectives while addressing environmental and behavioral health risks.

*POSTER

Speaker



Susan Persky

Associate Investigator | National Institutes of Health

Authors

Susan Persky

[178] The Impacts of Asian-Targeted Stigmatization on Identity & Intergroup Appraisals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Many Asian Americans face targeted stigmatization. This research investigated, through self-report measures, whether the impact of such stigmatization predicts worse intergroup and intra-individual outcomes, and if these effects are moderated by racial group identification. Group differences were also tested between Asian Americans and White Americans ($N = 220$, $n/\text{group} = 110$). Bivariate correlations showed that Asian Americans who reported greater impact from stigmatization also perceived more discrimination. However, multiple linear regression tests revealed that group identification did not moderate these effects. Independent samples t-tests determined that Asian Americans reported being more impacted by stigmatization and experiencing worse intergroup outcomes than White Americans. Exploratory analyses further suggested that stigmatization impact was associated with appraising one's identity as more demanding, and that Asian Americans viewed their identity as more demanding than White Americans. These exploratory findings highlight the need for future confirmatory research on how stigmatization shapes individual appraisals of Asian American identity and related social outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Zhang

Research Support Specialist | Research Foundation of SUNY at Stony Brook University Hospital

Authors

Karishma Singh, Jeremy Jamieson

[179] Perceived safety during the 2025 presidential administration, caregiver acceptance, and mental health outcomes in LGBTQ+ young adults

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Sociopolitical contexts characterized by anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and policies amplify the impact of structural stigma on the mental health of LGBTQ+ communities. Low perceived safety during stressful sociopolitical contexts has been linked with poorer mental health outcomes (e.g., depression, anxiety) among LGBTQ+ people. Caregiver acceptance has been found to buffer the negative psychological impacts of sociopolitical uncertainty. This study explored the moderating role of caregiver acceptance in the association between perceived safety during the 2025 presidential administration in the U.S. and three mental health outcomes (i.e., depression, anxiety, nonsuicidal self-injury) in a sample of 470 LGBTQ+ young adults ($\text{Mage} = 21.60$). Higher perceived safety was associated with lower anxiety and nonsuicidal self-injury, but only among LGBTQ+ young adults with accepting caregivers. Findings emphasize the importance of targeted clinical interventions toward increasing caregiver acceptance among LGBTQ+ populations in the context of stressful sociopolitical climates. Furthermore, policymakers and community leaders should recognize the need for establishing safe environments for LGBTQ+ people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rodrigo Costa

2nd-year Counseling Psychology PhD student | University of Florida

Authors

Aldo Barrita, Roberto L. Abreu, Teresa Vazquez

[180] Perceived Threats to Masculinity: How Honor, Just World Beliefs, and Hostile Attribution Bias Shape Attitudes Toward Feminism

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Masculine honor ideology, the belief that men must uphold their reputation often through aggression and the rejection of femininity, and just world beliefs, the view that the world is just and people get what they deserve, may predict men's hostility toward women and uphold patriarchal values, rejecting the goals of the feminist movement. The present study ($n = 481$) analyzed how these two beliefs contribute to hostility toward feminism, with hostile attribution bias as a potential mediator. We measured male participants' honor, just world beliefs, and to manipulate male participants' perceived hostility, they were randomly assigned to an audio clip of a feminist message (either high or low threatening) said by a female or male speaker, and asked to rate their agreement. Our results showed that men higher in honor and just world beliefs were more likely to view the message as hostile, especially when the speaker was a female. Further, they exhibited greater sexist attitudes, had lower agreement with the speaker, and lower identification as a feminist. We highlight how traditional gender ideals and biased perceptions can fuel hostility toward women and the rejection of feminism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alayna Barton

Student | Butler University

Authors

Dr. Conor O'Dea

[181] Perceptions and Gatekeeping of American Jewish Identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Jewish identity is uniquely made up of related but distinct components: religious identity, ethnic identity, and cultural identity. Depending on the individual, Jews living in the United States may identify as all three, a combination of two, or only one of these identity components. Being that religious and cultural identity are related to many psychological outcomes, including well-being and quality of life, differences in identification with each of these components of Jewish identity may be related to different outcomes. While each specific form of Jewish identity is a valid way to identify as Jewish, some identities may be viewed more or less favorably by other Jewish individuals, at times resulting in "identity gatekeeping" or the act of denying someone else's Jewish identity. The present project includes three studies: 1) conducting qualitative interviews on participants' lay perceptions of Jewish identity (N = 29), 2) examining how different forms of Jewish identity are related to psychological outcomes, values, and behaviors (N = 216), and 3) experimentally testing whether threat can influence gatekeeping towards different Jewish targets among Jews (N = 251).

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Pearson

Assistant Professor | Warren Wilson College

Authors

Joni Sasaki, Hannah Pearson

[182] Perceptions of Nonbinary Individuals Among U.S. Adults and College Students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Between 1–2% of U.S. adults identify as nonbinary, a gender identity that falls outside the traditional categories of "man" or "woman." Though research is limited, emerging evidence suggests nonbinary individuals face prejudice and stigma. This study surveyed 100 college students and 182 American adults to explore perceptions of nonbinary people, specifically regarding warmth and competence. As expected, among adults, positive perceptions of warmth and competence were associated with favorable thermometer ratings, general attitudes toward the nonbinary community, and attitudes toward nonbinary individuals in both gender-integrated (e.g., employment) and gender-segregated (e.g., sports) settings. These perceptions also correlated with greater contact with LGBTQ+ and nonbinary people, while negative associations were found with transphobia, gender essentialism, and binary gender beliefs. Political orientation significantly predicted these perceptions, but religious affiliation did not. For students, findings were similar, though religiosity also significantly predicted ratings of warmth and competence. The findings suggest that ongoing dialogue and interactions with nonbinary people may improve attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessica Sim

Associate Professor, Psychology | Elmhurst University

Authors

Elizabeth Barnes

[183] Perceptions of Rural and Urban Community Members' Mental Health Help-Seeking

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Research has identified unique barriers to mental health help seeking (MHHS) (i.e., attitudinal barriers, health literacy, seriousness of symptoms) in rural populations that may lead to poor health outcomes. The current research examined urban and rural differences in perceptions of typical community members' mental health symptom recognition and help seeking behaviors. Urban (n=181) and Rural (n=183) adults participated in the mixed-methods survey. Independent t-tests revealed significant differences between urban and rural participants' perception of others in help-seeking behaviors (Urban: M = 3.25, Rural: M = 2.72); $t(362) = 4.87, p < .001$; and professional help-seeking (Urban: M=3.23, Rural: M=2.55); $t(362) = 5.74, p < .001$. A qualitative thematic analysis was also used to compare participants' description of a typical community member and help seeking behaviors. Findings provide insight into rural and urban differences in the perception of others recognition of mental health symptoms and help seeking behaviors, ultimately informing a cohesive understanding of stigma and barriers to MHHS to better inform interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brogan Lommen-Solig

UND

Authors

Joelle Ruthig, Ethan Dahl, Mariah Sorby, Gracynn Young

[184] Personal Relative Deprivation and Well-Being: Longitudinal and Experimental Investigations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Although Personal Relative Deprivation (PRD) is known to correlate with greater psychological distress, the causal directions between these variables remain unclear. To address this gap, we investigated the longitudinal associations between PRD and psychological distress/well-being across monthly and daily variations in PRD. Participants completed measures of PRD, psychological distress, and well-being every 2-months for 6-months in Study 1 (n = 602), and every day for 14 days in Study 2 (n = 200). Random intercept cross-lagged panel models showed that while neither bi-monthly nor daily cross-lagged associations were present, consistent occasion-specific associations were observed. To further investigate the causal direction of these effects, Study 3 (n = 422) asked participants to think about equally/more affluent similar peers, to induce momentary changes in PRD. Experiencing greater PRD increased (decreased) feelings of negative (positive) affect. These studies shed new light on the dynamic relationships between PRD, psychological distress, and well-being, highlighting that, while not long-term, experiencing greater PRD affects psychological distress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lucy Waldren

University of Bath

Authors

Mitchell Callan, Silke Paulmann

[185] Personality Predictors of Flourishing Among Nationally Representative Samples in Japan and the United States

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

The current project used Wave 1 of the Global Flourishing Study (2022-23) to investigate associations between personality and flourishing among participants in Japan (n=20543) and the U.S. (n=38312). Measures included the Ten-Item-Personality-Inventory and the 12-Item Flourishing Scale (VanderWeele et al., 2017), containing overall satisfaction items (with life, physical health, mental health, relationships) and degree of worry (safety, meeting monthly living expenses). The survey was translated from English into Japanese. To ensure the samples reflected each nation's population, the data were weighted by primary sampling units, strata, and the annual_weight1 variable, which adjusts for sampling design, nonresponse, and population demographics. Neuroticism was the strongest correlate of flourishing in both Japan (r=-.43) and the U.S. (r=-.48); and persisted when flourishing was regressed on the Big 5 (entered simultaneously; Japan $\beta = -.26$; US $\beta = -.39$). Extraversion and Conscientiousness positively predicted flourishing in Japan ($\beta s = .21, .16$) and the US ($\beta = .23, .16$). Additional regression models included several covariates (e.g., age, education, annual household income).

*POSTER

Speaker



Brooke Cote

Student | Baylor University

Authors

Matt Bradshaw, Wade C. Rowatt

[186] Politicians' Bipartisan Appeals to Civility: Effects on Partisan Divides and Favorability

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Most depolarization efforts focus on grassroots approaches, with less attention to politicians' ability to bridge partisan divides and the conditions that make such efforts effective. To address this gap, we partnered with the U.S. National Governors Association (NGA) to test its "Disagree Better campaign," PSAs featuring Democratic and Republican governors jointly promoting cross-party dialogue, across three survey experiments before, during, and after the 2024 presidential election (N = 11,233). In January 2024 (pre-election), exposure increased support for bipartisan cooperation, reduced partisan animosity, and heightened openness to cross-party conversations. By contrast, during the peak campaign period (Aug–Sept 2024), no detectable effects emerged. Post-election (July 2025), treatment effects reappeared, though weaker than pre-election, with conversational receptiveness showing an increase. Across studies, exposure also improved governor favorability. Modeling bipartisan civility can increase politicians' favorability and reduce partisan divides, though its depolarizing effects may weaken during periods of high polarization, like election season.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zeynep Biyikli

Research Coordinator at PASCL | Stanford University

Authors

Robb Willer, Chagai Weiss

[187] Positive Affective Expectations and Perceived Discrimination as Predictors of Positive Health Behavior in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Individuals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Positive affective expectations (PAE), expectations of experiencing positive affect in given contexts, are associated with various health behaviors. Prior studies show that lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals engage less in positive health behaviors (e.g., annual physicals) than straight individuals, likely due to perceived discrimination. This study explored the links between LGB individuals, PAE, perceived discrimination, and positive health behaviors. 203 participants (Mage= 38.5,SD=12.8;75.7% White;61% LGB) completed a Prolific survey assessing psychological and health variables. Higher PAE predicted a reduced likelihood of delaying care, increased likelihoods of having a primary care provider, and attending annual physicals. LGB individuals noted lower PAE around doctor visits than straight individuals. Mediation models revealed that PAE fully mediated the relationship between LGB status and both annual physical attendance and delaying care. Another mediation model indicated that fear of discrimination may explain lower PAE among LGB individuals. Results support PAE as a key psychological pathway through which perceived discrimination shapes LGB health disparities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ava Curry
Illinois State University

Authors

Aj Ralston, John Matkovic, Kelly Clemens

[188] Positive Awe Enhances Disaster Preparedness Intentions: Evidence from Educational Interventions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Disaster education has typically emphasized the negative aspects of disasters, often employing fear appeals to promote preparedness. While effective in eliciting immediate action, such approaches have limitations in fostering autonomous and continuous preparedness. To address this issue, Toyosawa et al. (in press) focused on positive perspectives in disaster education. Building on findings that awe promotes prosocial behavior (e.g., Piff et al., 2015), they demonstrated that positive awe, elicited by recognizing nature’s vastness and reinterpreting disasters as part of the earth’s natural processes, enhanced disaster preparedness intentions.

The present research replicated and extended this finding by examining whether introducing multiple reinterpretations of preparedness (e.g., from special events to everyday practices) would further strengthen its effects. Study 1 (N = 73) and Study 2 (N = 73) implemented approximately 20 minutes of disaster education, after which participants completed questionnaires assessing awe and preparedness intentions. Results replicated the effect of positive awe but showed no additional benefits from multiple reinterpretations.

These findings confirm the effectiveness of positive approaches to disaster education while suggesting that additional reinterpretations might not provide incremental benefits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Junko Toyosawa
Osaka Kyoiku Univ.

Authors

Hiroki Takehashi, Satoshi Shimai

[189] Predictors of Climate Change-Related Coping Strategies

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEELL-BEING

As a global ecological threat, climate change has negatively impacted the environment and people’s mental health and psychological well-being. It is important to examine strategies used to cope with such challenge. Therefore, this study aims to assess predictors of climate change-related coping. Data collection is ongoing; 142 participants (mean age=42.2; non-White=42.1%) have completed the study thus far. Preliminary results from hierarchical multiple regression analyses showed that after controlling for personal experience with extreme weather events, higher levels of eco-anxiety and more positive pro-environmental behaviors and attitudes were associated with more use of meaning-focused (R=.66, p<.001) and problem-focused (R=.68, p<.001) coping. Furthermore, higher levels of de-emphasizing coping were predicted by fewer personal experiences with extreme weather, lower perceived risk of climate change, and less positive pro-environmental attitudes (R=.68, p<.001). These findings suggested the importance of developing programs that promote pro-environmental behaviors and adaptive coping strategies, particularly among vulnerable populations frequently exposed to extreme weather.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wei-Ju Chen
Associate Professor | The University of Texas Permian Basin

Authors

Alexis Tindle, Wei-Ju Chen

[190] Psychological Distance: The Relation Between Self Distancing and Prosocial Behaviors

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Global inequality has increased over the past decades, significant results have shown a growing wealth gap. This study examines psychological correlates of the attitudes individuals have towards global inequalities by analyzing the implications of processes of emotional regulation on prosocial behaviors. We reasoned that Americans may make fewer donations to developing countries because they distance themselves from people in developing countries to avoid negative feelings. This distancing allows them to see problems in developing countries as further from themselves thereby supporting misconceptions about global inequalities. We surveyed participants (N=598) about psychological distance – how subjectively close people relate a person, concept, or event – and we measured attitudes toward global inequality and prosocial behaviors using participants' open-ended responses. We found greater psychological distance is significantly related to participants' reduced concern about global inequalities and lower intentions to donate to those countries. The study helps us better understand how psychological distance relates to prosocial behavior and speaks to a need to diminish the wealth gap.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mai-Jeanna Sakho

student | University of Notre Dame

Authors

Michael Kraus, Aline da Silva Frost

[191] Psychological flexibility and self-structure predict wellbeing in trans and gender non-conforming individuals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

This preregistered study examined whether self-concept clarity (SCC), self-concept differentiation (SCD), and psychological flexibility promote well-being in transgender and non-conforming individuals. As predicted, SCC and flexibility were positively correlated with well-being, whereas SCD was inversely related to well-being. Multiple regression showed that both SCC and flexibility predicted unique variance in well-being, whereas SCD was not a significant predictor, overall $R^2 = .36$, $p < .001$. Additionally, flexibility explained the largest amount of unique variance in well-being. Serial mediation analyses found that the effects of SCD on well-being were fully mediated by SCC and flexibility. Moreover, flexibility partially mediated the effects of SCC on well-being. The total standardized indirect effect was $b = -.23$, $t = -4.60$, $p < .001$. These findings underscore the importance of flexibility and SCC in promoting well-being. We discuss the relevance of the findings within the broader literature on well-being and mental health in transgender and non-conforming individuals and highlight flexibility's potential as a resilience factor.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jannay Morrow

Authors

Jackson Best

[192] Psychological Flexibility, Digital Masculinity, and Gender Role Conflict

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

This study examines whether psychological flexibility (PF) moderates the association between engagement with online masculinity content (OMC; e.g., the manosphere) and gender role conflict (GRC). PF is the ability to accept and adapt to challenging situations (Hayes, 2011). Research links traditional masculine norms with increased GRC, which predicts poor mental health and relational outcomes (Levant, 2011; O'Neil, 2008; Pederson & Vogel, 2007; Pleck, 1995). PF has been associated with decreased rigid adherence to male role norms (Zarling et al., in press). Little is known about how algorithm-driven digital environments promoting extremist content may influence GRC (Botto & Gottzén, 2023; Ging, 2019; Roy & Allen, 2022).

To address this gap, we introduce a measure of exposure and adherence to OMC: Masculinity Explored through Digital Interactions and Attitudes (MEDIA). Using cross-sectional survey data, we test whether PF moderates the association between MEDIA scores and GRC. PF may buffer GRC by promoting adaptability in response to OMC. We hypothesize that greater engagement with OMC is related to greater GRC, and elevated PF may serve as a protective factor.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alison White

Graduate Research Assistant | Iowa State University

Authors

Graham Hilligoss, Veronica Herrera, Amie Zarling

[193] Psychological Need Fulfillment in a Virtual Context: Gaming-Contingent Self-Worth, Basic Psychological Needs, and Problematic Gaming

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-ESTEEM

Gaming-contingent self-worth (GCSW) occurs when feelings of self-worth fluctuate strongly based on perceived successes and failures in virtual gaming environments. According to self-determination theory, CSW may develop in response to basic psychological needs (BPN) not being met, resulting in a reliance on external sources of self-worth. This preregistered cross-sectional study (n=261 gamers) examined the relationships between BPN fulfillment and frustration experienced generally and virtually, GCSW, and problematic gaming. Primary hypotheses expected general need frustration and virtual need satisfaction to be positively related to GCSW, and vice versa for general need satisfaction and virtual need frustration, which were partially supported. Simultaneous multiple regression analyses indicated that virtual needs remained significant predictors of GCSW whereas general needs did not. Exploratory mediation models suggested that GCSW may explain why experiencing virtual need fulfillment or frustration predicts greater problematic gaming symptoms. These findings increase our understanding of how dependence on gaming environments may have implications for self-esteem and gaming behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Baltes

Graduate Student | University of Houston

Authors

C. Raymond Knee

[194] Purchasing Status: Family Income, Father's Education and Conspicuous Consumption

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study aims to shed light on the interplay between income, family background, and the enduring relevance of conspicuous consumption as a status-seeking behavior in today's society. Building on prior work since Veblen (1899/2007), we hypothesize that the effects of family income on conspicuous consumption are stronger among youth from lower social classes than those from higher ones. Using data from the 2009 J1W9S wave of the Taiwan Youth Project, we analyze a sample of 1,513 respondents aged 22–23. Key variables include the father's highest educational attainment, monthly family income, and purchasing behavior related to high-priced goods. To examine the interaction between income and parental education, we apply splined linear probability models and LOWESS smoothing. Our findings support Veblen's theory of conspicuous consumption: individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to "purchase status" via conspicuous consumption, whereas those from higher-status families do not experience the same psychological drive to acquire luxury goods.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wei-Jie Chang

High School Senior | VIS Experimental Education Institution

Authors

Wei-Jie Chang, Jui-Chung Allen Li

[195] Racial differences in side effect expectations are mediated by beliefs about medicines

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Expecting more side effects increases side effect experience and the early discontinuation of treatment. It may be that side effect expectations also contribute to health disparities, such as elevated treatment discontinuation by African Americans. In a pre-registered online study, White (N=265) and African American (N=248) participants viewed a standardized medical vignette describing a fictitious medication. Participants reported expected global and specific side effects of the treatment, and beliefs about medicines. Results demonstrated that African Americans reported greater global side effect expectations ($F(1,505) = 29.79$, $p < .001$) and both specific prompted ($F(1,505) = 15.02$, $p < .001$) and unprompted ($F(1,505) = 24.58$, $p < .001$) symptom expectations as compared to White American participants. Further, mediation analyses indicated that negative beliefs about medicines partially mediated the relationship between race and side effect expectations. The results show racial disparities in side effect expectations which may be due to beliefs about medicines. These findings may help explain racial differences in treatment discontinuation and point to an important point of intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Darine Schreidah

Authors

Emily Spotts, Samantha Mayer

[196] Racial Objectification and Minority Stress as Predictors of Body Dissatisfaction and Attitudes Towards Sex Among Asian American Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Objectification theory states that the consistent sexualization of female bodies causes women to view themselves from an outsider's perspective from a young age. These pressures are compounded by racial objectification that Asian American women face, such as being perceived as submissive and hypersexualized. These body image pressures intersect with expectations passed down generationally from families and cultures of origin, presenting unique challenges for Asian American women. This study examined whether ethnicity moderated the associations of body image pressures and dissatisfaction to sexual functioning and satisfaction among 397 Asian American women recruited from online panels. Participants completed validated measures of body image (Appearance Evaluation; Overweight Preoccupation scale), self-objectification (Body Surveillance), disordered eating (Binge Eating Instrument), general appearance pressures (Sociocultural Attitudes Towards Appearance Questionnaire), and racial objectification (Sexual Objectification Racial Microaggression Scale). These findings provide insight into how the racial objectification experiences of minorities connect to sexual functioning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julie Misiewicz
Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[197] Ethnic Identity Sometimes Protects Latinx's Health from Workplace Harassment

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

We tested whether ethnic identity (EI) centrality moderated/weakened the physical and mental health burden of workplace ethnic harassment, in Southwestern US Latinx, who worked as an ethnic minority, majority, or in an ethnically balanced work group. EI centrality can act like a buffer or catalyst in different contexts. Given research, we predicted a positive relationship between harassment and health symptoms and that this relationship would be weakened in Latinx with strong EI centrality. We also assessed features of EI centrality to test possible mechanisms. A Prolific sample of 407 Latinx-American employees of a variety of jobs in the Southern USA answered survey items assessing their health symptoms, workplace ethnic harassment, EI centrality and elements, work group composition, and mental distress. Suggesting protection, regressions showed strong EI centrality weakened the positive relationship between harassment and physical/mental symptoms, when Latinx worked as a minority or as a majority. In contrast, in balanced work groups, Latinx's weak EI centrality reduced the harassment – symptoms relationship. We tested possible reasons for these effects and discuss implications.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mary Inman
Professor of Psychology | Hope College

Authors

Mary Inman

[198] Rare = Severe: People Perceive Rare Illnesses as More Severe Than Common Illnesses

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Perceived illness severity shapes coping, adherence, satisfaction, and well-being. We test whether communicating prevalence shifts severity judgments. Across four preregistered studies, we document a "rare = severe" heuristic: holding other information constant, rarer illnesses are judged more severe.

Study 1 (N=131) and Study 2 (N=220): a diagnosis framed as rare (vs common) yielded higher composite severity ratings (p 's < .001). Study 3 (N=458) used a virus scenario and added a no-prevalence control; severity was highest for rare, lowest for common, with control in between. A mediation via perceived treatment availability was not supported (bootstrapped 95% CI included 0). Study 4 (N=343) showed downstream consequences: framing a virus as rare increased perceived severity, which in turn raised intentions to buy/take a preventive supplement (indirect effect 95% CI [.135, .509]).

These findings indicate that prevalence information alone can shift severity perceptions and preventive intentions. Future work should unpack mechanisms and boundary conditions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tianyi Li
The University of Hong Kong

[199] Receptiveness Evaluated as a Predictor of Responsiveness in Therapy

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Mindsets, or beliefs about whether attributes such as anxiety and depression can change, have been linked to symptom severity, with growth mindsets generally associated with lower levels of corresponding symptoms (De Castella et al., 2013). Evidence shows this relationship is significant, but the mechanisms underlying it remain unclear. Clarifying these processes at the intersection of social and clinical psychology is a central aim of the present study. One potential pathway is through coping style, or the way individuals respond to stressors. Evidence indicates that coping styles are linked to symptom severity both independently and alongside mindset (Henshaw et al., 2023). In this study, we will analyze the relationship between mindsets, coping styles, and symptom severity using data from undergraduate students receiving services at the university's counseling center. We hypothesize that coping style, specifically reappraisal and suppression, will mediate the relationship between mindsets and symptom severity over the course of therapy for depression and anxiety. This work has implications for how patient receptiveness influences their responsiveness to therapy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samuel Chanenson
University Of Richmond

Authors

Crystal Hoyt

[200] Reductions in Smartphone Use Through Mental Contrasting of a Negative Future: Findings Across Three Time Frames

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

As smartphone use becomes increasingly pervasive, identifying effective self-regulation strategies is essential for reducing excessive screen time. Across three studies (N = 235, including Study 1: N = 89, Study 2: N = 71, Study 3: N = 75), we examined whether mental contrasting of a negative future, a strategy that involves imagining a negative outcome associated with excessive smartphone usage and reflecting on a precious thing in the reality that can be lost with unregulated smartphone usage, can reduce daily smartphone use compared to negative fantasizing alone. Participants were randomly assigned to either mental contrasting or negative fantasizing condition, and their screen time was tracked across 7 days (Study 1), 5 weeks (Study 2), and 9 weeks (Study 3) after the intervention. Polynomial trend analyses revealed significant differences between conditions in overall screen time in Studies 1 and 3, and significant linear trend differences between the two conditions over both the 7-day and 5-week periods of Study 2. Specifically, participants in the mental contrasting condition (compared to those in the negative fantasizing condition) exhibited lower screen time over 7 days (Study 1) and across 9 weeks (Study 3). In Study 2, participants in the mental contrasting decreased their screen time linearly over both the 7 days and the 5 weeks after intervention. Limitations and directions for future research are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yingfan Zhang
Master's Student | New York University

Authors

Gabriele Oettingen, SunYoung Kim

[201] Regulating Motivation Dynamically: Stability, Predictors, and Outcomes of Motivation-Regulation Profiles

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

How do students dynamically regulate their motivation over time, and how are these dynamics related to their strategic mindset, motivation, and performance? We surveyed 1,019 sixth-grade students about their use of motivation regulation strategies four months apart before their final exams. Latent transition analyses revealed four stable, distinct profiles: High, Moderate, and Low levels of motivation regulation strategy use, and a Goal-Driven profile, which primarily relied on mastery and performance goals. Most students remained in the same profile over time, with few exhibiting transitions. Those who remained in high profiles demonstrated higher levels of motivation and performance; students who shifted from higher to lower profiles maintained high performance but showed declines in motivation; students who transitioned to high profiles only right before the exam exhibited the lowest levels of performance and motivation. Notably, students with more of a strategic mindset were less likely to shift into lower motivation regulation profiles. These findings reveal that motivation regulation profiles are stable, and their variation have implications for important academic outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yang-Hsin Fan
PhD student | The University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Patricia Chen, Jing-Yi Shen

[202] CANCELLED:

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

*POSTER

[203] Religious Engagement and Affective Polarization

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Affective polarization, animosity towards members of opposing political parties, has dominated our news cycles and threatened the functionality of our democracy. This study examined whether a Bible study intervention would reduce affective polarization and foster compassion and intellectual humility, traits often found and encouraged in religions. These traits have the potential to combat affective polarization by encouraging individuals to consider the similarities as opposed to the differences of those who hold different beliefs. American Christians (n =206) were randomly assigned to engage with either fifteen minutes of a Bible study or meditation materials. Participants in the Bible study manipulation reported higher levels of compassion and intellectual humility and lower affective polarization (measured via social distance) in comparison to the meditation manipulation. These findings suggest that religious engagement increases compassion and intellectual humility and lowers affective polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



MJ Schneider

Ph.D. Student | University of Washington

Authors

Mj Schneider, Cheryl Kaiser, Elias Graham, Autumn Yi, Adam Smiley

[204] Remote Research for Real-World Risks: Social-Ecological Pathways to Mental and Physical Health

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

The social-ecological conditions in which we live have important implications for mental and physical health. By increasing accessibility of research to rural and low-income neighborhoods, fully-remote research can elucidate the pathways through which environments impact physical and mental health. We demonstrate this concept through a multimodal, fully-remote clinical depression trial (N = 1,157), which we use to explore the influence of social adversity (Area Deprivation Index) and environmental risk (Environmental Justice Index) on mental health and inflammation profiles measured via dried blood spot sampling. Using structural equation models, we examine hypothesized pathways through which socio-ecological adversity contributes to chronic inflammation via anxiety and depression symptoms. This work builds upon a growing body of research documenting the biological embedding of structural inequalities and informs best approaches for scalable interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hadley Rahrig

postdoc fellow | University of Wisconsin - Madison

Authors

Caroline Swords, Polina Beloborodova, Simon Goldberg

[205] Resolving the Education-Wellbeing Paradox: Education Enhances Psychological Richness but Not Happiness or Meaning

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

There is a longstanding paradox in wellbeing research: while education is widely theorized as important to living well, it does not consistently predict empirical measures of wellbeing—typically happiness or meaning. We resolve this paradox by considering education's impact on psychological richness, a recently proposed dimension of wellbeing marked by interesting, perspective-changing experiences. Studies 1-2 analyze nationally representative surveys across 23 European countries (n=43,852) and between 1972-2022 in the U.S. (n=72,390). Results reveal a positive link between individuals' years of education and richness, but not with happiness or meaning. Study 3 analyzes 10,642 course evaluations at a U.S. college: students reported heightened psychological richness after taking courses, especially challenging ones. Study 4 experimentally manipulated an everyday activity of education—reading. Participants (N=131) exposed to texts with reduced literariness reported lower richness, but not happiness or meaning. Together, these findings suggest education contributes to a psychologically rich life, potentially informing public discourse and governmental decisions on education.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xuantong (Jacob) Zhang

Student | UChicago

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Youngjae Cha

[206] Revisiting the Link Between Childhood Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Does Gender Matter?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Childhood trauma is a well-documented risk factor for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), yet less is known about whether specific abuse types (e.g., physical, sexual) differentially predict PTSD symptoms for women versus men. Prior work suggests that women are at higher overall risk for PTSD, but gender socialization may shape how different forms of abuse threaten self-concept. For example, men are socialized to value physical strength whereas women are socialized to value sexual purity. In a recent pilot study (N = 388), I found that physical abuse predicted PTSD symptoms for men but not women, whereas sexual abuse predicted PTSD symptoms for women but not men. In ongoing research, I aim to replicate these findings and explore potential explanatory mechanisms (e.g., men's endorsement of rigid masculinity norms). Cisgender women and men (estimated N = 400; 200 women) will complete validated measures of trauma, PTSD symptoms, and potential mediators. I hypothesize that physical abuse will predict PTSD in men more than women, sexual abuse will predict PTSD in women more than men, and that these patterns will be explained by participants' endorsement of stereotypical gender norms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kiana Lum
University of Richmond

Authors

Adam Stanaland

[207] Self-kindness in a critical world: Investigating self-compassion as a protective factor against mental illness stigma

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Mental health stigma remains a pervasive part of the human condition. Those with mental health disorders are assumed to be unpredictable and dangerous, sparking prejudicial emotions that lead to avoidance. Further, those who seek treatment can be viewed as weak or incompetent. The internalization of these attitudes leads to self-stigmatization, which increases symptoms and suicidal ideation while decreasing self-esteem. Thus, persons become burdened by the mental health stigma that exists both without (in society) and within themselves.

Fortunately, research has identified protective factors against mental health stigma, including self-compassion—the ability to relate to oneself in a healthy, nonjudgmental, and kind manner during adversity. In these instances, higher levels of self-compassion predict greater resilience (i.e., the ability to adapt to and recover from stress).

We examine self-compassion as a causal factor in reducing stigma and fostering resilience with experimental use of the Self-Compassionate Mindstate Induction (SCMI), which induces self-compassion through brief writing exercises. We predicted that those who complete these activities will report decreased levels of stigma alongside increased help-seeking intentions and resilience (compared to those in the control condition). Our results and clinical implications will be discussed in greater detail.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cynthia Gangi
Associate Professor of Psychology | The University of Tampa

Authors

Andrea Cifelli, Erica Yuen

[208] Shades of Ideology: Dissecting How Ideological Orientations Predict Attributions and Policy Attitudes Towards Unhoused Individuals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Across two cross-sectional samples (N = 612), we examined how people's ideological orientations related to their attributions about the causes of homelessness, and how these attributions relate to policy preferences. In both studies, we assessed eight ideological orientations, four domains of attributions about homelessness, and three domains of policy attitudes. In Study 1, we measured attributions using self-report scales, whereas in Study 2 we measured qualitative answers that were coded using a large language model (ChatGPT 4o). Across both studies, stronger right-wing authoritarianism (RWA) and protestant work ethic (PWE) related to endorsing more individualistic attributions for homelessness, while stronger conservatism related to less endorsement of structural attributions. Lower endorsement of structural attributions was related to less support for economic policies to address homelessness in society. These findings underscore the importance of both ideology and attributions as predictive factors of people's perceptions of homelessness and the solutions our communities use to address it.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jonathan Sundby
Graduate Student | University of Colorado - Colorado Springs

Authors

Jonathan Sundby, Jonathan Morgan

[209] Shifting Cultural Attitudes on Sexual Objectification: Testing an Integrative System Justification Lens

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Sexual objectification of women is a ubiquitous sexist practice. Integrating theories on objectification and system justification, we tested whether harnessing the system justification motive would reduce support for sexual objectification. In the first correlational study ($N = 404$ mixed-gender), we found moderate to strong associations among support for sexual objectification, gender-related ideologies, and gender system justification. In the second experimental study ($N = 376$ men), men were randomly assigned to read about sexual objectification as a threat to the gender status quo that needs to be eradicated or a control condition. Men reported less support for sexual objectification when sexual objectification was framed as the threat, viewing sexual objectification as more harmful and less normative and stable compared to the control condition, which was moderated by gender essentialism. These findings provide preliminary evidence for sexual objectification as an integral part of the gender status quo and gendered patterns of support for sexual objectification. Harnessing system justification motives may provide a way to legitimize social change around this sexist practice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alana Graham

Doctoral Student | Western University

Authors

Rachel Calogero, Alana Graham

[210] Shifting the Scale: A Cognitive Dissonance Approach to Reducing Explicit and Implicit Anti-Fat Bias in Premedical Students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Healthcare providers are among the most frequent sources of weight-based discrimination, with significant consequences for patient trust, healthcare utilization, and outcomes. To address these biases early in professional development, the present study tested a brief, theory-driven intervention targeting both implicit and explicit anti-fat attitudes in premedical undergraduates. Grounded in cognitive dissonance theory and integrating principles from attribution theory, social identity theory, and sociocultural theory, components of the intervention included educational materials, a counterattitudinal essay, and a public pledge. Participants were randomized to an intervention or control condition and completed pre- and posttest measures of implicit and explicit bias via an implicit association test and surveys. Results indicated significant reductions in both implicit and explicit anti-fat bias among participants in the intervention condition, with medium-large effect sizes. These findings suggest that single-session, dissonance-based interventions can reduce weight stigma at both explicit and automatic levels, with implications for early intervention in healthcare training.

*POSTER

Speaker



Justin Shields

Authors

Joel Cooper

[211] Side effect expectations mediate racial differences in intended medicine adherence

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

African Americans (AAs) experience greater treatment-related burden and lower treatment adherence compared to White Americans (WAs), which may partially explain racial disparities in health outcomes. One previously unexplored hypothesis, based on the nocebo effect, is that AAs may have increased expectations for side effects from treatments, which may thereby increase the occurrence of side effects and encourage treatment discontinuation. In a U.S. nationally representative sample, WA ($n = 909$) and AA ($n = 189$) participants self-reported side effect expectations and prior medication adherence. Results demonstrated that AA participants reported more frequently reducing their medication dosage as a result of side effects as compared to WA participants, $t(258) = -3.537$, $p < .001$. These effects were partially mediated by expectations for severe medication side effects [.06, .18]. These results are the first to suggest that reducing severe side effect expectations may be a potentially valuable intervention point for lessening racial health disparities in the United States.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Spotts

Graduate Student | University of Toledo

Authors

Kirsten Barnes, Kate Faasse

[212] Signals of Progress and Commitment Influence Willingness to Support Others' Goals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

The way people perceive their own goal-directed behavior has implications for motivation and self-control, but little theory or research has investigated the antecedents or consequences of perceptions of others' goal-directed behaviors. We aimed to understand how interpreting others' self-control behaviors through either a progress or commitment framework influences willingness to provide support to another person's goal pursuit. We asked participants to reflect on the self-control success (failure) of a close other. Then, participants reported their perceptions of the other person's goal progress (commitment) and willingness to support that person. Self-control indirectly predicted support intentions through perceived motivation, and this indirect effect was larger when motivation was framed as commitment (vs progress). Findings from this study underscore the influence of perceived goal commitment on support intentions and contribute to an understanding of how people's behavior affects the support they receive in goal pursuits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brittnee Hampton

PhD Student | University of Georgia

Authors

Michelle vanDellen, Brittnee Hampton

[213] Similarity over Status in Partner Selection under Competition

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

This paper investigates a theoretical tension between status-based performance expectations, derived from Status Characteristics Theory, and preferences for same-gender partners, rooted in the principle of homophily. Across three pre-registered experiments, we examine whether participants prioritize strategic advantage or gender similarity when selecting competitors and teammates in competitive settings. Study 1 tests partner selection patterns in individual and team-based competitions involving an arithmetic reasoning task. Study 2 assesses whether participants hold gendered performance expectations about this task that might influence their selections. Study 3 tests the robustness of gender homophily by introducing past performance information that conflicts with homophilous preferences. Across all three studies, we find a consistent pattern of gender homophily, even in the face of conflicting performance cues, highlighting the enduring pull of social affinity in contexts where strategic decision-making is presumed to dominate. These findings carry implications for organizations relying on voluntary partner selection and team formation, suggesting that performance incentives alone may be insufficient to encourage cross-gender partnerships and capture the benefits of diversity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jonathan Winter

Authors

Jonathan Winter, Klarita Gërxhani, Arnout Van de Rijt

[214] Social Anxiety and Help-Seeking Intentions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Social anxiety is a diagnosable mental health concern that affects about 13% of US adults in their lifetime (Kessler et al., 2012). Despite the effectiveness of psychological treatment on improving symptoms, many people with social anxiety do not seek treatment (Bruffaerts et al., 2022). The present study explores the relationships between social anxiety, social support, stigma, and help-seeking intentions. Undergraduate students completed an online survey reporting symptoms of social anxiety, intentions for help-seeking from various sources, perceived social support, anticipated stigma, and internalized stigma. Greater social anxiety symptoms are predictive of less help-seeking intentions. However, a simultaneous linear regression showed that greater social support, greater anticipated stigma, and lower internalized stigma were related to higher intentions to seek help. Present findings may highlight important factors preventing help-seeking of those experiencing a mental health concern and pathways for intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ashley Wagner

PhD Student | University of Connecticut

Authors

Diane Quinn

[215] Social Comparison to Past Self: Implications for Body Image Satisfaction among Adult Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

The tripartite model posits that peers, parents, and media are the three primary sociocultural influences that lead to internalization of the thin-ideal and social comparison to peers and media, which leads to body dissatisfaction and disordered eating (van den Berg et al., 2002). The current study enhances the tripartite model by assessing social comparison to one's past self: the extent to which people's feelings about their appearance are related to comparisons to their past self is underexplored. Participants (N=1099) drawn from an online panel service completed measures of these constructs. Consistent with our hypotheses, women who engaged in more downward comparisons to their past self were preoccupied with their weight and less satisfied with their appearance, and women with higher BMIs tended to engage in more of these past-self comparisons. This study highlights the importance of exploring the role of past self comparison in women's current body dissatisfaction and risk for disordered eating, and of incorporating these comparisons into the broader tripartite model.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mia Starr

Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[216] Social Integration and Contribution as a Moderator Between Military Self-stigma and Well-being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Self-stigma refers to the process of internalizing feelings of inadequacy that arise from negative messages within one's social environment. Military self-stigma (MSS), a specific form of self-stigma, has been linked to a range of adverse mental health and well-being outcomes. However, it is unclear how social integration (i.e., sense of community) and social contribution (i.e., contributions to their community) may influence the links between MSS and negative outcomes, especially in populations with high exposure to trauma. The current study uses The Military Health and Well-Being Project, a nationally representative sample of post-Vietnam US military veterans (N=1,461), to examine these relationships. In preregistered analyses, we hypothesize that an increased level of social integration and social contribution after service moderate the negative effects of self-stigma, such that a stronger social integration and contribution will weaken the relationship between military self-stigma and negative wellbeing. Better understanding the moderators of the relationship between MSS and negative wellbeing may help veterans thrive as they transition back into civilian society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jani Western

Doctoral Graduate Research Assistant | North Dakota State University

Authors

Anna Finley

[217] Social Media Psychology: A Framework for the Past and Future

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Since the introduction of social media, psychologists have studied links between social media use and well-being – yet, we have struggled to contextualize findings into a broader psychological framework. We therefore propose a four-level framework to organize past and future research on social media: the sociocultural level asserts that social media operates as a cultural force that shapes life off- and online; the platform landscape level refers to the experience of a given social media platform vis-a-vis other platforms; the stimulus level refers to a singular piece of content a consumer engages with (e.g., a singular post); finally, the meta-discourse level refers to the ecosystem of user interaction within each stimulus (e.g., comment sections). For each level, we explain its theoretical utility, how existing research fits within the level, how the level interacts with others within the framework, and suggestions for future research. Our goal for this project is to pave the way for a deeper, more holistic understanding of our emotional and cognitive experiences online. This research will empower people to co-exist with social media and thus take charge of their well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zachary Reese

Assistant Professor | University of San Francisco

Authors

Zachary Reese

[218] Social Psychological Risk Factors of Psychosis

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Psychosis is a mental state characterized by hallucinations, delusions, abnormal speech, and a detachment from reality (de la Lune et. al., 2020). Perception, belief, and behavior are affected (Khadivi & Kleiger, 2024). Psychosis is often associated with mental health disorders such as schizophrenia, depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, and PTSD. However, these do not need to be present for an episode of psychosis to occur (Wright et. al., 2014). Biological and psychological abnormalities are historically understood to be root causes of psychosis (Cardinal & Bullmore, 2011). What is less understood are the social factors of psychosis. Research suggests that poverty is among the leading social causes of psychosis (Read, et.al., 2013). High rates of marijuana misuse, and substance misuse in general, are found in first-episode psychosis patients (Van Mastrigt, et. al., 2004). Motivations for misuse include higher levels of sociability (Pencer & Addington, 2008). Using data collected by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA, 2025), U.S. Marijuana Use Disorder rates among age groups will be analyzed. Then, using data from the United States Census Bureau (USCB, 2024), U.S. poverty rates among racial/ethnic groups will be examined. Together, the social psychological factors of marijuana misuse and poverty will be evaluated to determine which groups pose the highest risk-factor for developing psychosis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mason Wade
Student | Indiana University

[219] Sorting and Psychological Resources: Lasting Psychological Effects of Elite Education and HBCUs

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

We examined some long-term consequences of attending elite colleges (Ivy and Ivy Plus), selective schools (very competitive schools that are a level down from the Ivys), and HBCUs. Much has been written about the financial benefits of attending elite and selective schools, but barely any work has been done on psychological outcomes. This is strange given the status conferred by these schools (and the resources and plaudits these schools shower on their students). Surprisingly, in a prospective study, we find little psychological effect of attending elite schools, and those that do exist are mostly negative. Selective schooling also has little effect, with one exception: people from lower SES backgrounds who attend selective schools develop a more internal locus of control and have better mental health in middle age. There is one type of school that does seem to have robust, lasting mental health benefits for those who attend, however: HBCUs. These benefits start with post-college self-esteem and proceed to better mental health in middle age, with HBCU attendees being particularly resistant to depression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Heidi Fu
U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Dov Cohen, Heidi H. Fu

[220] Status and Time Entitlement: How Status Shapes Everyday Expectations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Time is an essential but limited resource, and entitlement to others' time may depend on social status. This study investigated how status shapes judgments about time in professional interactions. Participants evaluated hypothetical one-on-one meetings with a higher- or lower-status individual and indicated what they expected of themselves and the other person. Their responses revealed consistent patterns: higher-status individuals were expected to have longer meetings, show less respect for others' time, and face fewer demands to prepare or stay on task. At the same time, participants indicated they themselves would be more motivated to prepare carefully, stay focused, and show respect when interacting with a higher-status individual. Lower-status individuals, in contrast, were expected to carry the burden of being considerate, adjusting their behavior, and protecting others' time. In short, these judgments show how participants defer to status, granting high-status individuals more freedom and reinforcing structural advantages that perpetuate inequality in professional settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Olivia Roberts
Student | Trinity University

Authors

Harry Wallace

[221] Stigma Consciousness and Mental Health in Students with Learning Disabilities

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/ WELL-BEING

Students with specific learning disorders (SLDs) who experience stigma are at risk of higher levels of anxiety and depression, which may be decreased by participating in social and emotional learning (SEL) programs. This study examined associations between stigma consciousness and mental health symptoms before and after SEL interventions in students with SLDs. Participants were 68 students diagnosed with SLDs (Female=50%; Mage=13.32 years) in grades 5–12, randomized by classroom into two intervention groups: Normal Isn't Real (n=34), teaching about stigma and neurodiversity, and MindUP (n=34), which taught mindfulness. Data were collected at pre- and post-intervention timepoints. Results showed that there was no significant difference in the groups for any variables before and after the interventions. In both groups, stigma consciousness was not related to anxiety and depression symptoms before the interventions, but after the intervention, greater stigma consciousness was associated with lower anxiety and depression symptoms. These findings suggest that educating students about stigma and mindfulness may help reduce anxiety and depression symptoms in neurodivergent students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bailey Tollett

Undergraduate Student | University of Alabama at Birmingham

Authors

Caroline Richter, Wanqin Yu, Brianna Paquette, Sylvie Mrug

[222] Stoic Training as a Brief Psychological Intervention: A Longitudinal Study on Enhancing Resilience and Well-Being in a College Population.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/ WELL-BEING

Stoicism emphasizes adaptive emotion regulation, but is often mischaracterized as emotional suppression. Stoic Training for Achieving Resilience (STAR) has recently emerged as an intervention to improve resilience and wellbeing. We extend this research to undergraduates and new variables such as emotion regulation and fear of negative evaluation (FNE). 75 college students were randomly assigned to control or STAR conditions. We hypothesized that STAR training would decrease FNE and increase Stoic attitudes, resilience, and cognitive reappraisal. Participants completed a baseline and final survey with an 8-day training in between. The STAR group completed daily journals reflecting on several ancient Stoic practices. Control participants read fiction excerpts and predicted their endings. We used paired t-tests for within-group analyses and a 2x2 ANOVA for interactions. STAR participants demonstrated significant increases in all target variables, and significant interactions were observed for Stoic attitudes and FNE. No change in emotional suppression was observed. The difference in change in resilience scores between groups was also trending towards significance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Moncada

Authors

McQueen Li, Shanbairong Nie, Sijian He, Ashylia Sloane, Yunwen Wang

[223] Stranger Danger? Crime Misconceptions, Ambivalent Sexism, and Travel Attitudes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Men are more likely to be victims of violent crime by strangers, whereas women are more likely to be victimized by known perpetrators (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023). However, women report higher fear of crime overall and are often the focus of travel safety initiatives—many emphasizing “stranger danger.” Some theorists (Brownmiller, 1975) argue that fear of crime is imposed on women as a form of social control, reinforcing restrictions on their mobility. The present correlational study (N = 200) explored this idea in the context of travel. We assessed people’s crime risk estimates, fear of crime, ambivalent sexism, and attitudes toward women’s travel. We found that participants estimated that women are at a much higher risk of violent crime than men—and importantly, incorrectly assumed that women’s offenders are more often strangers than known. Moreover, consistent with past research, women reported higher fear of crime than men. Notably, benevolent sexism predicted more protective attitudes toward women’s travel, whereas hostile sexism predicted more overtly restrictive attitudes toward women’s travel. Implications for women’s exploration will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Josiane Cote

University of Manitoba

Authors

Danielle Gaucher

[224] Structural Support Matters: A Multilevel Model of Sexism, State Equality, and Mental Health

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Depression and anxiety rates are nearly twice as high in women than men. One contributor to this gender difference may be structural sexism—a systemic factor that manifests both at the macro (e.g., policies) and micro (e.g., individual beliefs) levels. Drawing on structural sexism and health theory, we tested whether state gender equality and hostile sexism were associated with depressive and anxiety symptoms. U.S. adults (N = 603; 48 states) were recruited via Prolific. We computed multilevel models with fixed effects for gender, state equality, sexism, and a state equality*sexism interaction. Depression was associated with lower state equality ($b = -5.99$, $p = .01$) but not significantly associated with sexism. Anxiety was not directly associated with either predictor. Interaction effects were significant, indicating that higher sexism was associated with higher depression ($b = -3.83$, $p = .01$) and anxiety ($b = -3.21$, $p = .02$) in low-equality states. Women reported higher anxiety and depression than men, but gender did not moderate effects. Findings reveal novel evidence of the buffering role of structural equality, its cross-gender relevance, and its unique links to mental health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aleksandra Rusowicz

Graduate Student | University of Connecticut

Authors

Natalie Shook, Aleksandra Rusowicz

[225] Subjective SES and Feelings of Social Inclusion Among Marginalized Young Adults

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study examined the associations among first-generation college students, subjective socioeconomic status (SES), and academic self-handicapping in a sample of 333 undergraduates at a Mountain West university. First-generation status had a significant association with lower subjective SES, but not with academic self-handicapping behaviors. Additionally, the study revealed a small positive correlation between subjective SES and academic self-handicapping, suggesting a pattern where students with lower perceived SES report greater self-handicapping tendencies. The data imply that being a first-generation student is associated with lower perceived SES; however, academic self-handicapping may be more closely related to students' subjective SES than their first-generation status.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amanda Alexandre

University of Wyoming

Authors

Sean McCrea

[226] Family Support as a Moderator in the Relationship between Subjective Socioeconomic Status and Psychological Distress among FGCS

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

The number of first-generation college students (FGCS) pursuing higher education has grown substantially in recent years. While much research emphasizes academic outcomes, less attention has been given to factors that influence FGCS mental health. Subjective SES is particularly relevant in this context because it has been previously linked to mental health outcomes. By examining subjective SES as a moderator, we can more holistically understand how FGCS' perceived social standing impacts their psychological well-being. This study examines whether family support predicts psychological distress across FGCS' first academic term, and whether subjective socioeconomic status moderates this relationship. Participants were 357 FGCS who completed online surveys prior to starting college and again after their first term. It was hypothesized that higher levels of family support would predict lower psychological distress over time, and that this protective effect would be stronger for students reporting higher subjective socioeconomic status compared to those reporting lower subjective socioeconomic status. Implications for future research will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sergio Navarrete

75473

Authors

Anahi Rios, Lidia Y. Monjaras-Gaytan

[227] Subjective socioeconomic status is a tool and we replicated it, a second time

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Our prior work found a false feedback technique (Brown-Iannuzzi et al., 2015) to be replicable. Here we retest if false feedback could influence subjective socioeconomic status (SSES) for participants ($n = 507$, $M = 35.46$, $SD = 11.18$) and introduced new dependent variables: Belief in social mobility, sense of control, and approval of opportunistic hoarding behaviors. Results found a statistically significant difference where participants who got high SES feedback placed themselves higher on the MacArthur Ladder ($M = 6.22$, $SD = 1.45$, $n = 180$) than those who received neutral ($M = 6.06$, $SD = 1.44$, $n = 174$) or low ($M = 5.82$, $SD = 1.53$, $n = 155$) feedback, suggesting the false feedback paradigm worked to make people feel wealthier, $F(2, 506) = 3.07$, $p = .024$, one-tailed. We also found that SSES positively correlated with belief in social mobility, $r(507) = .13$, $p = .004$, 95% CI [.04, .21], but not with approval of opportunistic hoarding behaviors, $r(302) = .08$, $p = .188$, [−.04, .19], or with perceived personal mastery, $r(507) = .04$, $p = .363$, [−.13, .05], or perceived constraints, $r(507) = -.01$, $p = .859$, [−.09, .08]. Our study provides empirical support for the use of the SSES tool in future research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samantha James-Brown

Graduate Student | Central Connecticut State University

Authors

John Protzko, Lily Green, Samantha James-Brown

[228] Subjective Well-Being as Prediction Error in a Reinforcement Learning Model of Evolutionary Fitness

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

We present a framework integrating evolutionary motives and reinforcement learning to examine how daily goal achievement relates to subjective well-being. Participants reported baseline motivation across 11 evolutionary domains and then rated their daily achievement for each goal, as well as affect and life satisfaction, over six days. Using reinforcement learning paradigms, we modeled how prediction errors updated perceived success on each goal and tested whether daily affect covaried with these errors, moderated by baseline motivation. We also examined whether life satisfaction related to prediction error on a latent evolutionary fitness construct, defined as the aggregate of motive-specific success, again moderated by motivation strength. This project bridges three research traditions: laboratory studies linking affect to prediction errors, longitudinal work connecting goal pursuit and well-being, and evolutionary models mapping diverse goals onto fitness-relevant motives. Combining these traditions offers an integrative account of how well-being is represented in a learning system guided by evolutionary fitness.

*POSTER

Speaker



James Chinn

PhD Student | University of California, Riverside

Authors

Sonja Lyubomirsky

[229] Sweet consumption-femininity stereotype and its effect on sweet consumption

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Why do men avoid sweet products? Drawing on prior research indicating that men are more motivated than women to adhere to gender-congruent behaviors, we investigate whether a sweet consumption–femininity stereotype discourages men from consuming sweet products to maintain a masculine self-image. Across five studies ($N = 1,056$), we establish the cognitive link between sweet consumption and femininity, which serves as a barrier to men's sweet consumption. Men were perceived as and felt more feminine when consuming sweet (vs. non-sweet) products (Studies 1–2) and exhibited reduced willingness to engage in sweet consumption when their gender identity was threatened (vs. affirmed; Study 3). Substantively, advertising sweet products with a masculine (Study 4) or an innovative branding (Study 5) could weaken the cognitive link between sweet consumption and femininity, thereby increasing men's purchase intention of sweet products. These findings introduce the notion that gender identity maintenance can influence men's likelihood of purchasing sweet products due to the sweet consumption–femininity stereotype, offering managerial strategies for marketers in the confectionery industry.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zesheng Huang

Authors

Fei Teng

[230] Swipe, Scroll, Soothe: TikTok Use, Emotional Regulation, Well-being in Young Adults

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Studies have identified how and why young adults use TikTok. These studies illustrate that individuals use TikTok to scroll, post, or comment and the motivations vary from entertainment or to get the news. The goal of this study is to understand how TikTok use predicts emotional regulation, well-being, and self-esteem while testing motivations for using TikTok as a moderator. Longitudinal data for this study comes from young adults who complete two online surveys, spaced 2 months apart. Participants are being recruited through flyers posted around an area in the southern central United States. Data collection is ongoing, with 40 young adults having providing data at Time 1. This preliminary data shows that participants spend approximately 2.5 hours on TikTok a day, checking the application 3-30 times a day. Initial analyses reveal a negative relationship between TikTok use and emotional regulation and well-being. Actor-partner independence models will be used to analyze the bi-directional effects of TikTok use and young adult emotional regulation and well-being. Results from this study can be used to support healthy mobile media behaviors with young adults.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ally Kellar

Undergraduate Student | Baylor University

Authors

Mickey Langlais

[231] Systematic review of Identity and Student Well-Being in South Africa, Brazil, and Russia

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

This systematic review examines how student identity and well-being are shaped within the socio-cultural contexts of South Africa, Brazil, and Russia. Student well-being is increasingly recognized as central to academic success, mental health, and long-term quality of life, yet the ways in which identity influences these outcomes vary across cultural and historical settings. In South Africa, persistent inequalities and the legacies of apartheid affect belonging, resilience, and access to support. In Brazil, issues of community, cultural diversity, and social stratification strongly influence students' self-concept and educational experiences. In Russia, identity and well-being are negotiated at the intersection of tradition, modernization, and shifting socio-economic realities. By synthesizing findings across these contexts, this review identifies common themes, such as the importance of peer networks, inclusive learning environments, and the impact of socioeconomic background, while also highlighting country-specific dynamics. The comparison provides insights into how cultural narratives and structural conditions shape identity development and well-being differently across regions. The findings underscore the importance of culturally sensitive approaches to educational policy and student support. Practical implications include developing interventions that address both individual needs and systemic inequities, ensuring that higher education institutions foster belonging, resilience, and holistic flourishing for diverse student populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aleksandra Fakhretdinova

UFRN, Brazil

[232] Talking gender: Parental communication of gender-stereotypical content

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Across cultures, men are stereotyped as agentic and women as communal, with such beliefs emerging in early childhood. We examined the role of parental language as a possible mechanism in the transmission of gender stereotypes. In two preregistered experiments, we tested whether parents use more agentic [communal] language with sons [daughters]. In Study 1, parents of 5-7-year-olds (N = 328) imagined advising their child on the first day of school, focusing on achievement, making friends, or recess. Text analysis using validated dictionaries showed parents used more communal language with daughters (vs. sons); no gender difference emerged for agentic language. Parents' gender attitudes predicted their gendered language use. These findings suggest parental language may reinforce communal (but not agentic) gender stereotypes. However, this pattern could reflect the school context, where parents may emphasize academic success for all children. Study 2 (ongoing; N = 500) applies the same method in less constrained contexts (e.g., how to lead a "good life"). The research provides novel evidence for parents' potential role in the emergence of gender differences in communal domains.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marta Beneda

Post-doc | New York University Abu Dhabi

Authors

Andrea Vial, Emma Miklasova, Juan Soto

[233] Tangible versus Intangible Losses and Health and Well-Being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

Bereavement has been linked to deleterious mental and physical health outcomes, but the research focusing on the differences between tangible and intangible grief, and their relation to health, is limited. We conducted this study to examine (1) the prevalence of tangible and intangible losses experienced by an undergraduate population and (2) associations between tangible vs. intangible losses and health outcomes. Participants (n=378) completed survey questions regarding the types of losses they experienced in the past year, their most impactful loss, and various health outcomes. 77.8% of respondents experienced at least one loss, with 71.4% reporting at least one intangible loss and 61.1% reporting at least one tangible loss. Whereas tangible losses did not correlate with any well-being outcomes, intangible losses related to poorer well-being (e.g., sleep and mental health). Neither related to health behaviors (e.g., exercise and eating habits). Findings highlight potential differences in the health consequences of loss, depending on the type experienced. The results further underpin the importance of further research examining differences between tangible and intangible losses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sameeksha Panda

Doctoral Student | University of California, Merced

Authors

Jennifer Howell, Camryn Hutchins, Charlie Coward

[234] The Bright Side of Being Alone: How Solitude may Support Flourishing

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

Research on solitude has revealed both risks and benefits for well-being, with some studies emphasizing its links to loneliness and depression, while others highlight its potential to foster resilience and growth. Building on qualitative work suggesting that curiosity and optimism may support positive experiences in solitude, the present study quantitatively examined these factors, as well as basic psychological needs drawn from Self-Determination Theory, as pathways to flourishing among emerging adults (18–25). We found that solitude was significantly related to flourishing, mediated by optimism as well as the satisfaction of autonomy, competence, and relatedness. These findings suggest that, for emerging adults, optimism and the fulfillment of basic psychological needs are key mechanisms linking solitude to well-being, providing new insight into how time alone can contribute to flourishing during this developmental stage.

*POSTER

Speaker



Grace Toman

Student | Kansas State University

Authors

Natalie Barlett

[235] The Camouflaged Heart: Cultivating Empathy Among Amherst College Students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This project examines the effects of three theoretically grounded interventions on empathy, belonging, and well-being in a college student population. Participants are randomly assigned to read a brief research passage aligned with one of three conditions: (1) a malleability theory of empathy emphasizing that empathy can be cultivated, (2) an ethnocultural theory emphasizing that adapting to new cultural contexts enhances perspective-taking, or (3) a fixed theory emphasizing that empathy is largely stable (control). After reading, participants reflect on a personal experience and compose a letter to a fictional high school student facing social and emotional challenges, applying insights from the passage. Pre- and post-test surveys measure empathy, belonging, loneliness, affect, and psychological distress, with follow-up assessments two months later. This design allows comparison of immediate and sustained effects across conditions. Findings will provide evidence on whether brief interventions can foster empathy and belonging, reduce loneliness and distress, and contribute to strategies for cultivating inclusive, supportive campus communities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sorelle Sussman

Student | Amherst College

Authors

Catherine Sanderson

[236] The Colors of Perfectionism: Feedback Mechanisms in Personality and Learning Contexts

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Perfectionism influences how individuals process evaluative feedback, with implications for performance and stress regulation. This study examined the link between perfectionistic traits, task performance, and physiological responses to feedback in a controlled experimental setting. Eighty-three participants (Mage = 20.7, SD = 3.4; 64 female) completed the Short Almost Perfect Scale (SAPS) and engaged in a 10-minute mandala coloring task while receiving positive, negative, or neutral performance feedback. Task performance was quantified by the number of correctly colored pixels, and autonomic responses were measured via heart rate variability (HRV). Correlation analyses revealed significant negative associations between SAPS High Standards, Discrepancy, and total scores with coloring accuracy, indicating that stronger perfectionistic tendencies predicted poorer performance. Moreover, HRV indicators during negative feedback were linked to decreased task accuracy, suggesting a physiological stress response that impaired execution. These findings highlight that perfectionism not only shapes subjective reactions to feedback but also manifests in measurable performance and biomarker changes, emphasizing the importance of tailored feedback strategies in educational and clinical settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adél Bartos

PhD candidate | ELTE Eotvos Lorand University Doctoral School of Education

Authors

Kristof Schwartz

[237] Bad Vibes or Good Info: The Effects of Foreboding Feelings on Perception and Counterfactual Thought

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Prior research has shown that gut feelings are seen to be formed from the true self and worthy of action and that unusual and controllable events increase generation and endorsement of counterfactual thoughts. This study plans to draw from this to examine how foreboding feelings affect perceptions of strange events and generation of alternative explanations with or without validating information. Participants will imagine a scenario with a lingering, momentary, or no foreboding feeling on a drive home, stopping at the roadside or a stop sign. Next, each imagines driving home normally or seeing a car drive across the road ahead. It is predicted that those responding to a foreboding feeling will generate and agree more with counterfactual thoughts, consider the scenario more eerie, more likely to have a deeper meaning, and more likely to be guided by external forces when that feeling is validated by a strange event. These relationships are predicted to be strongest in the lingering, then the momentary, and non-foreboding conditions in this order. By examining these data, this study will begin to elucidate the effects of foreboding feelings, a gap in current psychology literature.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ricky Mitchell

Ohio University

Authors

Keith Markman

[238] The Effect of Gender on Subjective Intoxication

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

The role of gender in subjective intoxication remains unclear. "Holding one's drink," or avoiding appearing drunk, is tied to masculine norms, suggesting men may report lower intoxication than women at equivalent BACs. Yet prior studies find little evidence for this effect. We tested gender differences in intoxication reports using data from three alcohol administration studies (N=274; 573 observations). Participants consumed a controlled dose of alcohol, completed repeated breathalyzer tests, and rated their intoxication at each assessment. Multilevel models examined the impact of gender, BrAC, and binge drinking frequency. Results showed no effect of gender on subjective intoxication ($B=1.62$, $p=.947$). In contrast, BrAC ($B=635.29$, $p<2e-16$) and binge drinking days ($B=-0.70$, $p=.023$) significantly predicted intoxication ratings, with a BrAC $\times$ binge interaction also emerging ($B=-30.25$, $p=.002$). However, this interaction model explained little more variance than BrAC alone. Findings suggest intoxication reports are shaped by drinking patterns and BAC rather than gender.

*POSTER

Speaker



Scott Jung

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Scott Jung, Eddie Caumiant, Catharine Fairbairn

[239] The effect of masculine defaults on men's attitudes toward sexism

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

In cultures with masculine defaults, traits or behaviors considered typical and appropriate for men (e.g., self-promotion) are valued, rewarded, or regarded as standard (Cheryan & Markus, 2020). Previous work has focused on how masculine defaults affect women's interest and performance (e.g., He & Kang, 2025). The current work examines whether masculine defaults affect men's attitudes toward sexism. Men were shown descriptions of company cultures (study 1, N = 46) or interaction patterns in college group work (study 2, N = 85) with masculine or feminine defaults (within-subjects design). In both studies (Cohen's $d = 0.44-1.29$), men believed that sexism was significantly more acceptable, common, and free of negative consequences in masculine-default cultures compared to feminine-default cultures. In study 1, men also reported significantly lower intentions to monitor their own sexism and marginally higher intentions to engage in sexist behavior in the masculine-default company compared to the feminine-default company. These findings indicate that masculine defaults cause weaker perceived social norms and sanctions against sexism and may even lead to sexist behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Huanchen Cai

Graduate Student | University of Washington

Authors

Sapna Cheryan

[240] The Effect of Search for Meaning on Maximizing and Patience

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

Search for meaning refers to the drive and orientation toward finding meaning in one's life. When people look for meaning, they may desire better opportunities and earlier resources to achieve greater purpose and significance. In this research, we tested how search for meaning affected maximizing tendencies (Study 1, pre-registered) and patience in intertemporal choices (Study 2, pre-registered). Study 1's participants ($n = 300$) received instructions to pursue meaning in a consumer choice (meaning condition) or were given no goal-related instructions for the same task (control condition). Participants in the search for meaning group reported significantly higher maximizing tendencies in the choice task than the control group. Study 2 ($n = 122$) randomly assigned participants to think about an area of life in which they were searching for meaning (meaning condition) or an area of medium importance to someone else (control condition). Participants' preferences for sooner and smaller (vs. later and larger) rewards were significantly higher in the meaning condition. Search for meaning increases eagerness to receive the best outcomes, indicating greater maximizing and less patience.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mike Lin

University of Minnesota

Authors

Kathleen Vohs

[241] The Effectiveness of Appearance Interventions on Sleep and Alcohol Cognitions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

College students commonly drink alcohol above moderation and get poor sleep, behaviors seen as socially rewarding despite risks. Appearance-based interventions can counter these motives, with few targeting alcohol or sleep, and none testing a combined approach. This study tested an intervention using Future Face software among 298 college females reporting poor sleep and drinking above moderation. Participants randomized to alcohol, sleep, or combined conditions received health risk information and facial transformations reflecting alcohol use, poor sleep, or both, while controls completed the post-survey only. ANCOVAs revealed that compared to control, the alcohol condition produced higher appearance vulnerability perceptions (APV), less favorable attitudes, and lower behavioral willingness (BW) and intentions (BI) to drink above moderation. The sleep condition only produced higher APV to poor sleep. The combined condition produced less favorable attitudes and lower BW and BI to drink above moderation, get poor sleep, and sacrifice sleep to drink. Findings support multi-behavior appearance interventions as feasible for addressing interconnected health risks in at-risk populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taylor Russo

Doctoral Candidate | The George Washington University

Authors

Michelle Stock

[242] The effects of family social support on young men's sexist beliefs: the roles of empathy and loneliness

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Sexist attitudes among men in emerging adulthood are on the rise (Ng et al., 2024). Family support may serve as a protective factor against the development of misogynistic views in young men due to its links to socioemotional skills that may be integral to young men's ability to relate to women, such as greater empathy (Marta et al., 2011) and decreased loneliness (Wang et al., 2018). A sample of 192 U.S. males aged 18 to 25 reported perceived family support (Zimet et al., 1988), empathic concern (Davis et al., 1980), loneliness (Russell et al., 1980), and ambivalent sexism (Glick & Fiske, 1997). The hypothesized path model fit the data well ($\chi^2(6) = 5.44, p = .49$; CFI = 1.00; TLI = 1.00; RMSEA = .000; SRMR = .032). Family support indirectly predicted benevolent sexism via increases in empathy ($\beta = 0.42, 95\% \text{ CI } [.01, .09]$), as well as hostile sexism via decreases in empathy ($\beta = -.04, 95\% \text{ CI } [-.09, -.01]$) and increases in loneliness ($\beta = -.10, 95\% \text{ CI } [-.19, -.02]$). These findings highlight how family support may inform socioemotional competencies relevant to sexism and offers insights for interventions aimed to reduce gender bias in young men.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachael Burcker
Office Assistant | Lehigh University

Authors

Navvya Rahate, Casey Braff, Muru Li, Andreas Marangos, Melinda Westfall

[243] The Gift of Time: Why Givers Underestimate What Recipients Really Want

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Gift-giving is a universal ritual that conveys care and strengthens bonds, yet in a time-scarce and economically conscious world, givers face a dilemma: Should they invest money in costly but convenient gifts, or devote time to meaningful but less expensive ones? This research examines the asymmetry between givers' and recipients' perceptions of such gifts and its mechanisms. Across three experiments (N = 823 Chinese participants, Mage = 31.43, SD = 8.94), we document a robust misalignment. Study 1 (n = 172) established the basic phenomenon: While givers believed recipients valued monetary and time-intensive gifts equally, recipients preferred time gifts, rating them as significantly more effective for enhancing interpersonal closeness. Study 2 (n = 249) identified the psychological mechanisms: Givers underestimated the thoughtfulness and quality of time gifts relative to recipients' actual evaluations. Study 3 (n = 402) showed that this asymmetry persisted across social distances: Whether with intimate partners or distant acquaintances, givers consistently failed to recognize recipients' preference for time-invested gifts. These findings extend resource theory by showing that time and money are not psychologically interchangeable, cautioning against overemphasizing monetary value in marketing, and highlighting the relational significance of time in gift exchanges.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yanyu Chen
Phd student | Beijing Normal University

Authors

Xiaomin Sun

[244] The Impact of Facial Recognition Technology on Eyewitness Identifications

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Police departments increasingly use facial recognition technology (FRT) to generate suspects, often requiring FRT matches be followed by identifications from a witness or third-party who viewed surveillance footage. As witnesses may be told a suspect was identified through FRT, it is critical to examine its influence on decision-making. Participants viewed a simulated crime and attempted to identify the culprit from a six-person photo array in a 2 (Suspect Development: FRT vs. No Information) $\times$ 2 (Culprit Presence: Present vs. Absent) $\times$ 2 (Lineup Instructions: Biased vs. Unbiased) design. Disclosure that a suspect originated from FRT significantly increased identifications from culprit-absent but not culprit-present arrays. When the arrays were culprit-absent, knowing that the suspect was developed through FRT did not affect the rate of mistaken identifications of the suspect. When the arrays were culprit-present, knowing that the suspect was developed with FRT, increased the rate of suspect identifications, but through mechanisms other than improving memory. Police should avoid revealing suspect development methods to reduce bias and wrongful conviction risk.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessica Fagan
Legal Psychology, Basic & Applied Social Psychology Doctoral Student | CUNY Graduate Center & John Jay College of Crimina...

Authors

Margaret Kovera, Jaleel King

[245] The Influence of Gender Conformity on Perceptions of Nonbinary Identities

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

People who deviate from traditional gender roles tend to be rated more negatively than those who conform. This study will examine the influence of gender expression and gender identity on perceptions of nonbinary individuals. Participants will be randomly assigned to read one of six vignettes featuring a target described as either a cisgender man or a nonbinary person assigned male at birth who presents as masculine, feminine, or androgynous. Participants will evaluate the target on feeling thermometers, distinctiveness threat, social distance, and perceived gender expression.

We predict results of the 2 (gender identity: man, nonbinary) X 3 (gender expression: masculine, feminine, androgynous) ANOVAs will reveal that people will feel more positively toward the cisgender target compared to the nonbinary target. We also predict masculine targets will be perceived more positively than androgynous and feminine targets. Additionally, we predict participants will feel more positively toward the masculine nonbinary target compared to the feminine and androgynous nonbinary targets. We expect results to support previous findings that adhering to traditional gender roles is preferred.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Anna Hendricks**
Graduate Student | Saint Louis University

Authors

Hailey Hatch, Levi Rosing, Ruth Warner

[246] The Ingroup-Outgroup Effect: Effects on Open and Closed-Minded Cognitive Style

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Prior research provides evidence of an Ingroup-Outgroup effect on open-mindedness, specifically group members intended to be more open-minded towards critics of their ingroup when those critics belonged to the ingroup as opposed to the outgroup. The present study aimed to extend these findings, examining actual manifestations of open-minded cognition, as opposed to how open-minded participants say they would be. The present study tested using political party group membership (ingroup versus outgroup, and measured open-mindedness using information selection and information sharing. Participants read criticism of their political party from two groups of voters, Group A and Group B. Group A, whose party was not mentioned, remained constant and served as a standard of comparison. Group B was comprised of voters from the participant's own party (ingroup condition) or the opposing party (outgroup condition). Participants completed the SOMC scale, measuring the intention to be open-minded, and then selected statements from Group A or Group B about various political topics to read and share with the next participant in the study. The results supported the Ingroup-Outgroup effect. Participants who read about the ingroup Group B scored higher on SOMC and selected more Group B statements to read and share than participants who read about the outgroup Group B. Additionally, SOMC mediated the effect of condition on Information Selection and Information Sharing. Furthermore, participant political party moderated the relationship between condition and SOMC, and condition and Information Selection and Information Sharing.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Ava Dempsey**
Graduate Student | Loyola University Chicago

[247] The Order of Information and Debiasing Tools Matters Concerning Irrelevant Candidate Attributes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR

Multiple factors can bias an employer's perceptions of a candidate's fit for a job. Charisma or likeability can exert an inordinate effect, leading managers to weigh feel over actual skill competency. This offers a unique challenge for neurodiverse candidates, whose presentation of atypical social ability may lead to the formation of negative perceptions when they are otherwise strong analytical and technical fits. Our results show that the effect of these perceptions were robust, holding through diagnosis disclosure and various interventions. However, our research has found efficacy in leveraging the order in which candidate information is presented. Overwhelmingly, candidates whose social ability was viewed second, following their skill competencies, were affected by a nearly 20 point reduction on overall ratings. Following these insights, we found debiasing tactics suggested by competency-based hiring models worked most effectively when conducted following candidate information, but before final overall ratings were completed. This research outlines that not only does the order of information matter, but it matters when debiasing tools are implemented in the hiring process.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Carman Fowler**
Duke University

Authors

Kimberly Wade-Benzoni, Carman Fowler, Rick Larrick

[248] The Politicization of Desire: Ideological Asymmetries in Romantic Interest Toward Transgender Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

This study examined how political ideology moderates romantic and sexual interest in transgender versus cisgender women. A sample of 140 participants rated 12 female targets—pretested to be either high or low in physical attractiveness—on overall attractiveness, long-term relationship suitability, and short-term sexual desirability. Half of the targets at each attractiveness level were randomly described as transgender women and half as cisgender women, with gender identity descriptions randomly assigned between subjects. Participants also completed a brief measure of political ideology. Political ideology was unrelated to perceived attractiveness of transgender women when controlling for attractiveness ratings of cisgender women. Political ideology moderated the relationship between liking for cisgender and liking for transgender targets. Liberal participants showed a strong correspondence between their romantic interest in transgender women and their interest in similarly attractive cisgender women. Conservative participants' romantic interest in targets labeled cisgender was unrelated to their interest in those targets when they were labeled transgender. This pattern held for both long-term and short-term relationship preferences. These findings reveal the extent to which political ideology shapes relationship preferences beyond surface-level perceptions of attractiveness. Intimate relationships serve essential psychological and evolutionary functions, but the fact that political ideology can bias whom we are open to loving—despite equal levels of physical attractiveness—is a striking demonstration of ideology's power.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aaron Wichman

Professor | Western Kentucky Univ.

Authors

Jade Ismail

[249] The Prototype Willingness Model Predicting Daily Food and Alcohol Disturbance

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Food and alcohol disturbance (FAD; caloric restriction before or during drinking alcohol to enhance alcohol's effects [FAD-AE] and/or to compensate for calories from alcohol [FAD-CC]) is common and poses concerns for public health. We applied the prototype willingness model to examine which cognitions predict FAD at the within- and between-person levels. Participants were college students ($n = 73$) who reported weekly alcohol use and past-month FAD. Participants identified primarily as female (73.8%), White non-Hispanic (51.4%), with a mean age of 19.64 ($SD = 1.35$). Participants completed a baseline survey as well as daily surveys for five weeks. At the within-person level, intentions and willingness predicted FAD-AE and FAD-CC. Further, willingness mediated the association between descriptive norms and prototype similarity with daily FAD-CC engagement. At the between-person level, attitudes as well as prototype favorability and similarity positively associated with FAD-AE. Attitudes and prototype similarity positively associated with FAD-CC at the between-person level. This study provides initial evidence of cognitions that may be targeted to reduce FAD among college students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Luke Herchenroeder

Assistant Professor | United States Naval Academy

Authors

Michelle Stock, Tonya Dodge, Ellen Yeung

[250] The Psychological Impacts of Studying Abroad: Evidence from Reddit

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Does studying abroad enhance psychological richness? We conducted text analysis of 2,194,735 Reddit posts from 1,741 users who reported studying abroad by comparing their language before, during, and after the experience. Psychological richness was operationalized as having diverse and memorable experiences. We found that during study abroad, students referenced emotions, spatial surroundings, and cross-cultural terms (e.g. "French," "Chinese," "Indian") more frequently compared to both pre- and post-periods, indicating greater experiential richness. Furthermore, in the years following study abroad, we observed that students used more memory-related (e.g. "remember", "forget") and past-oriented (e.g. "was", "had", "been") language, suggesting that study-abroad experiences are often striking and encourage reflection. Overall, our results suggest that studying abroad can increase psychological richness through the accumulation of varied and memorable experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tony Liao

University of Chicago

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Youngjae Cha, James Pennebaker

[251] The Punitive Default

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Despite inconsistent success rates and negative outcomes, punishment remains a popular approach to solving social problems in America. One could argue the nation's largest institutions, not only the carceral system, but our educational and occupational institutions as well, are problematically and disparately punitive. Tough-on-crime responses and zero-tolerance policies have even resurged in the political sphere in recent months, as pushes for alternatives to punishment have receded. Do Americans have an unwarranted affinity for punitiveness? Across three studies, from three different contextual domains, we find participants born and raised in the U.S. err towards suggesting a punitive response to a wide range of misbehaviors which vary in their severity. Data also show little differentiation in punitive responses between American subgroups, suggesting the presence of a broader cultural phenomenon. One we term, the Punitive Default. What triggers it? What drives it? What might reduce its impact? A range of theoretically-supported interventions will be considered.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stacia King

Research Assistant | University of Chicago Booth

Authors

Jennifer Eberhardt, Stacia King

[252] The Role of Rituals in Helping Children Exert Self-Control

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Children are often expected to show self-control, but this process need not be as cognitively demanding as expected. Rituals—predefined, repetitive sets of actions—can promote self-control in adults (Hobson et al., 2018; Tian et al., 2018), but whether rituals help children exert self-control in a subsequent task is unknown. We will test this in an experiment by randomly assigning children ages 6–9 (target N=140) to enact either a random (control condition) or a ritualized (ritual condition) set of movements. Participants are then asked to complete a boring computerized task—locking pegs onto a board—with the option to take breaks and play a fun game. We will measure the time spent on the boring task, number of pegs dropped and locked, and time spent playing the fun game. Preliminary analyses with our current sample (N=109, N=86, post exclusions) revealed that though there were no main effects of Condition, older children (+1 SD) assigned to the ritual condition dropped significantly more pegs and, descriptively, locked more pegs than older children in the control condition. Preliminary findings suggest rituals may promote self-control in older, but not younger, children.

*POSTER

Speaker



Priyanka Chandrasekar

Bryn Mawr College

Authors

Priyanka Chandrasekar, Kaashvi Jajodia, Aline Normoyle, Nicole Wen, Ariana Orvell

[253] The Significance of Global Identity in Shaping Pro-environmental Behavior: Focus on Plastic Consumption and Purchase

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study aims to clarify the role of Global Identity (GI) by integrating it into existing models of pro-environmental behaviors (PEBs). Research on PEBs has evolved to explain discrepancies between attitudes and behavior. Recently, attention has shifted to macro-level factors beyond individuals, with GI gaining attention as one such factor. GI refers to a sense of unity and belonging to the world and is suggested to enhance motivation to act on global environmental issues. While previous studies reported associations between GI and PEBs, GI's positioning within a comprehensive model remains underexplored. We employed the Comprehensive Action Determination Model (Klöckner, 2013) to examine the contribution of GI to behaviors among well-established determinants. A web-based survey was conducted in February 2025 in Japan (N = 2,400). Structural equation modeling showed a good fit. GI showed positive associations with problem awareness, responsibility ascription, and directly influenced goal intention and pro-environmental behavior. These results suggest GI as a key factor in addressing environmental issues, pointing to the essential next step of deepening investigation in this area.

*POSTER

Speaker



Oliver Hasegawa

Authors

Honoka Teragaki, Kazane Itoi, Naoko Kaida, Mai Takahashi, Susumu Ohnuma

[254] The socio-geographic environment of one's upbringing predicts individual differences in susceptibility to social media influence

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Social media "influencers" have emerged as a staple of the modern digital landscape, and parasocial relationships can form between influencers and social media consumers (De Castro, 2023). Taking notice of this, we investigated associations between the geographic context of one's upbringing (i.e., degree of urbanicity; Wang et al., 2019), psychological traits (executive functioning, resistance to peer influence, smartphone and social media use habits), and individual differences in susceptibility to social media influence. Urbanicity was indexed via period-dependent recording of environment ratings given by participants for each area where they had lived, while vulnerability to online influence was assessed via the Susceptibility to Social Media Influencers Questionnaire (De Castro, 2023). Correlational analyses showed a pattern opposite to expectation, with individuals growing up in more heavily urbanized communities reporting heavier influence by social media trends ($r = .30, p = .02$); speculatively, because living in more densely populated communities increases exposure to online trends. Patterns of covariation with added measures of executive functioning, general resistance to peer influence, and smartphone and social media use habits provide further constraints on interpretation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samra Bowser
Research Assistant | Temple University

Authors

Avi Dachs, Daniel Zweben, Jason Chien

[255] The Varieties of Religious and Spiritual Experience of Gender-Nonconforming Individuals in the U.S.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

The religious and spiritual life of gender-nonconforming individuals has had little empirical focus, often being grouped with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and other sexual orientations. Also, there are still steep risks to disclosing one's gender-nonconformity both inside and outside organized religions. The current study uses the recent Pew Religious Landscape Survey to explore the religious and spiritual experiences of people who self-identify as neither a man or a woman ($n = 354$). Gender-nonconforming individuals had lower rates of religious behaviors such as prayer, reading scripture, and attending religious services compared to people who identify as a man or a woman. They reported higher or similar rates of spiritual emotions and activities, such as experiencing wonder about the universe and meditating for spiritual reasons. In part, these results mirror general trends in the U.S. – lower religiosity and more private spiritual expression. The results are discussed considering the unique challenges and opportunities of gender-nonconforming individuals in both religious and spiritual spaces.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Haggard
Associate Professor | Francis Marion Univ.

[256] OPEN

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

*POSTER

[257] Towards pleasurable gender futures: How gender/sex/ual minority people envision future realities of gender/sex

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Despite increases in anti-LGBTQ legislation, gender/sex/ual minority people still imagine futures that are worth striving for, regardless of whether they are possible. This study aimed to better understand how gender/sex/ual minority people envision future realities of gender/sex, or gender futures, and the potential barriers to those futures. We conducted a secondary data analysis from a focus group study centered around gender pleasure, which involved 12 focus groups ($N = 65$) of gender/sex/ual minorities (Beischel et al., 2024). We used reflexive thematic analysis to identify three themes: (a) futures should include radical joy, freedom, and authentic living to foster harmony among the various aspects of one's gender/sex, (b) futures should include social connections that at least tolerate and ideally celebrate gender diversity, and (c) futures should include practical restructuring of existing gendered social systems and, ideally, abolishing regulations of gender/sex altogether. This study provides insights regarding the importance of imagination and future world-making for gender/sex/ual minorities and demonstrates possible pathways necessary to achieve these future ideals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Riley Henry
PhD Student | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Will Beischel, Sari van Anders, Samantha Chambers, Riley Henry

[258] Trad Wives and the Erosion of Self-Efficacy: Pathways to Misogyny Among Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Authoritarian movements have disproportionate negative effects on women (e.g., overturning Roe v Wade). Yet, many women still support them. We wanted to understand if, even among women, authoritarianism would be linked to misogyny and why. In Study 1 (N=356), we found that right-wing authoritarianism was significantly correlated with internalized misogyny, $r=.29$, $p<.001$, and found self-efficacy to mediate the relationship, $B((SE))=0.11(0.04)$, 95% CI=[0.04, 0.18]). Study 2 (N=478) manipulated self-efficacy and found that increasing self-efficacy acted as an effective buffer against internalized misogyny among women who endorsed authoritarianism (indirect $B(SE) = -.02(0.01)$, 95% CI = [-0.04, -0.02]). A third experiment is testing these ideas in a more ecologically valid context. Here, we will expose women to a series of real Tik-Tok videos made by trad wives (that romanticize 1950s-style domestic submission and traditional gender roles), feminists, or control content. We hypothesize that women exposed to tradwife videos will report lower self-efficacy and higher levels of internalized misogyny, particularly among those higher in RWA, compared to those exposed to feminist or control content.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julianna Ochoa-Peralta

California State University Bakersfield

Authors

Jake Womick, Janette Olvera

[259] Trait Self-Control Predicts Moral Decision Making through Lower Automatic Temptation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Self-control is associated with moral behavior. Traditional theory suggests self-control inhibits antisocial impulses, which everyone experiences. However, recent work outside the moral domain suggests that self-control facilitates goal-pursuit by automatization of that process, thereby reducing temptations. We suggest and find support for the hypothesis that self-control facilitates moral decision making through automatization, and, subsequently, lower temptation to violate proscriptive norms (i.e., should not; e.g., to lie, steal, cheat, harm). Study 1 experimentally manipulates the level of conflict of moral decisions to show that self-control predicts more moral decision making when people face (vs. do not face) temptation. Study 2 demonstrates that people higher (vs. lower) in self-control make more moral decisions, and this is accounted for in part by their automatically classifying immoral decisions as impossible (vs. possible). Study 3 employs an online, behavioral measure of conflict—mouse-tracking, and a novel metric that estimates the time of initiating correct (moral) categorization (decision) (TICC). Decisions of higher (vs. lower) self-control individuals resulted in earlier avoidance of the wrong choice (i.e., TICC) and, consequently, lower total conflict (i.e., AUC). Across operationalizations, self-control is associated with lower levels of automatization and, in turn, temptation in moral decision making.

*POSTER

Speaker



Heath Maranges

Assistant Professor | Florida State University

Authors

Andrew Vonasch, David March

[260] Trait Self-Control, Strategy Use, and Regulatory Success

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Although trait self-control is widely believed to be beneficial, exactly what it is remains unclear. In this experience sampling study, participants ($n = 222$) reported on self-regulation challenges up to five times per day for one week. Multi-level modelling was used to examine the relationships between trait self-control, regulatory strategies used, and regulatory success. Trait self-control predicted success equally across three types of challenge (self-control, emotion regulation, and stressful events) ($B = 0.02$, $SE = 0.01$, $p < 0.001$). Challenge type did not moderate the relation between trait self-control and success. Trait self-control also predicted more use of preventative strategies (used to ward off potential challenges), other proactive strategies (used before a challenge or potential challenge occurred), reactive strategies (used during a challenge), and response modulation (all $p \leq 0.001$). These results are consistent with recent models of trait self-control that emphasize the use of proactive strategies to prevent or mitigate unwanted desires and emotions, rather than merely resisting those desires and emotions in the moment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Haug

Associate Professor | William & Mary

Authors

Meghan Quinn

[261] Societal Traditionalism Toward Maternity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Research indicates that attitudes toward maternity vary, but little is known about how they relate to broader values and beliefs. This study examined that connection, predicting that more conservative individuals, those higher in religious fundamentalism (RFS) and right-wing authoritarianism (RWA), would hold traditional views on maternity. 270 adults completed an online self-report survey consisting of scales measuring beliefs about gender roles, maternity, RWA, and RFS. Results supported the hypothesis. Though effect sizes are small, conservatism had a significant positive correlation with traditional beliefs toward maternity ($r = .13$, $p < .05$) and negative correlation in support for egalitarianism ($r = -.16$, $p < .05$). A multiple regression analysis showed that religious fundamentalism ($\beta = .20$, $p < .01$) and the RWA aggression/submission subscale ($\beta = .32$, $p < .01$) were unique predictors of traditional attitudes, explaining 34% of the variation. These findings provide evidence that conservatism significantly influences how people view motherhood through a traditional lens. This should incentivize future research on how personal values shape societal perceptions of maternity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Carly Bell
Texas Woman's University

Authors

John Terrizzi

[262] Uncovering implicit representations in informal religious activity: A natural language processing approach using social media data

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Religious representations are often categorized as formal and informal. Formal representations are grounded in the codified doctrines of organized religions, whereas informal representations remain implicit in everyday practices and lack systematic beliefs. As informal representations are often hidden, they have received little attention in the psychology of religion. Therefore, this study aims to examine how informal religious representations emerge in social media in Japan, where people are not explicitly religious yet hold implicit beliefs. We analyzed more than 7,000 Japanese and English YouTube comments on Apple's 2024 "Crush!" advertisements that were criticized for violating traditional beliefs emphasizing respect for objects. The results showed that Japanese comments frequently included culturally specific terms associated with animism (e.g., *mottainai*), often co-occurring with negative emotion- and religion-related language. These findings suggest that informal religious representations can be manifested through culturally specific expressions, offering new insights into the psychological basis of religion beyond the WEIRD context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anzu Tsunematsu
Nagoya University

Authors

Ryota Takano, Asuka Komiya

[263] Understanding Black Americans' and White Americans' Preferences to Seek Traditional, Alternative, and Religious Treatment Modalities for Depression

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Black Americans have lower engagement in traditional mental health treatment due to many barriers. Complementary and alternative medicines may have fewer barriers associated with them; however, there is limited research on people's preference for different treatment modalities. The current study examined Black and White Americans' preferences for various treatment options across modalities (traditional vs. alternative vs. religious vs. none) and factors associated with treatment preference (i.e. race, symptom severity, religiosity). Participants ($n=185$; 92 Black Americans, 93 White Americans) read vignettes describing depression symptomatology varying in severity and indicated their likelihood of using various treatment options. A repeated measures ANOVA revealed that as symptom severity increased, there was a higher preference for traditional treatments. Conversely, preferences for alternative treatments increased as symptom severity decreased. Linear regression revealed that participants who were higher in religiosity had a higher preference for religious treatments. Further research is needed on how these factors and other social factors affect depression treatment preferences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexis McGhee-Dinvaut
Graduate Research Assistant | Oklahoma State University

Authors

Jennifer Taber, Stephen Ilardi

[264] Understanding Perceptions of Acceptability, Favorability, and Coercion in Using Financial Incentives as a Policy for Promoting Vaccination

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

There is a dearth of empirical research on how people perceive and respond to financial incentives as a policy for promoting vaccination. Which aspects of a financial incentive policy are seen more positively and more negatively? This pre-registered online study is a 2 (Timing of Policy: Start, Six month delay) x 3 (Justification for Policy: Increase Uptake, Increase Accessibility, None) factorial design with six pilot-tested messages meant to mirror a Canadian government social media vaccination promotion campaign that included a \$100 incentive for a vaccine. Specifically, we examine 1) whether the timing of the incentive program (introduced at the start of a vaccine campaign, introduced after six months) affects individuals' perceived acceptability, favorability, fairness, and coercion of the program such that a six-month delay is evaluated more negatively, and; 2) whether the justification provided for the incentive moderates this effect such that the effect of timing is attenuated when the incentive is justified in terms of accessibility compared to uptake. These results will build our understanding of how financial incentives are perceived and why they can be ineffective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maya Rogers

Graduate Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

David Jenum, Alexander Rothman, Maya Rogers

[265] Understanding Varieties of Religious Types via Latent Profile Analysis of MIDUS

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

There is a dearth of empirical research on how people perceive and respond to financial incentives as a policy for promoting vaccination. Which aspects of a financial incentive policy are seen more positively and more negatively? This pre-registered online study is a 2 (Timing of Policy: Start, Six month delay) x 3 (Justification for Policy: Increase Uptake, Increase Accessibility, None) factorial design with six pilot-tested messages meant to mirror a Canadian government social media vaccination promotion campaign that included a \$100 incentive for a vaccine. Specifically, we examine 1) whether the timing of the incentive program (introduced at the start of a vaccine campaign, introduced after six months) affects individuals' perceived acceptability, favorability, fairness, and coercion of the program such that a six-month delay is evaluated more negatively, and; 2) whether the justification provided for the incentive moderates this effect such that the effect of timing is attenuated when the incentive is justified in terms of accessibility compared to uptake. These results will build our understanding of how financial incentives are perceived and why they can be ineffective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adam Baker

PhD Student/Research Assistant | University Of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Jieun Song, Carol D. Ryff

[266] Using Gendered Race Theory and the Tripartite Model to Understand Appearance Pressures Indian Women Face

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Consistent with gendered race theory, South Asian women are often viewed as phenotypically more masculine than other Asian women. These perceptions are linked to characteristics such as darker skin tone, facial features, facial hair, and body hair, which are also linked to masculine appearance norms. The Tripartite Model identifies how peers, parents, and media shape women's internalization of the thin ideal. We modified this model to assess the racialized gendered ideals placed on Indian American women (N = 76, data collection ongoing) recruited from an online survey panel. They completed the Sociocultural Attitudes Towards Appearance Questionnaire, which was modified to assess appearance pressures from Indian peers and Indian media in addition to family, White peers, and mainstream U.S. media. Indian women who experienced more sociocultural pressures reported greater dissatisfaction with body and facial hair and engaged in more cosmetic hair removal procedures. These findings are consistent with the proposal that racist and sexist ideologies heighten pressure on Indian women to feminize their appearance in ways that minimize features associated with their racial identity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arushi Shelvankar

Student | Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[267] Picture This: Associations between Mental Imagery and Big Five Personality Domains, Facets, and Items

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

A robust literature connects personality traits to various forms of cognition. However, there is relatively little work linking personality to mental imagery, or the cognitive capacity to represent visual information without external stimuli. We collected data from a large, diverse sample of participants recruited via Prolific (N = 600) and examined correlations between self-reported mental imagery (assessed via the Vividness of Visual Imagery Questionnaire [Marks, 1973] and the Spontaneous Use of Imagery Scale [Kosslyn et al., 1998]) and Big Five personality domains, facets, and items from the BFI-2 (Soto & John, 2017). People who reported more vivid and more spontaneous visual imagery tended to be more extraverted, agreeable, conscientious, emotionally stable, and open-minded. The effect sizes were largest for extraversion (particularly the energy level facet) and open-mindedness (especially creative imagination facet). Overall, patterns were much more complex at the facet- and item-level compared to the domain-level. We will discuss possible mechanisms underlying these associations and implications for understanding the interplay of personality and cognition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katherine Lawson

Assistant Professor | Rhodes College

Authors

Isabella Caro, Naomi Sharp, Hanna Hu, Isobel Letizia, Ryan Johns

[268] Victim, Verified: Gendered Empathy in Digital Disclosures of Harm

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

On social media, disclosures of harm are often viewed as expressions meant to gain sympathy and engagement, but belief may depend on how well the disclosure aligns with gendered expectations. This study draws on research on moral typecasting and competitive victimhood to examine how gender and emotional tone shape reactions to digital disclosures. In a 2 (gender: male, female) x 2 (emotional tone: high, low) design, participants will view an ostensibly real social media post about emotional mistreatment by a romantic partner. Participants will rate the poster on sympathy and credibility, and indicate their likelihood to engage (like, comment, share). We hypothesize that female posters will receive more sympathy and credibility than male posters, with tone having little effect, as women are viewed as fitting victimhood expectations. For male posters, a highly expressive tone may increase sympathy by aligning them with a “moral patient” role. This project contributes to research on digital empathy, social identity signaling, and gendered emotional norms, highlighting how vulnerability is interpreted through the lens of gender, affecting access to social and moral validation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kira Stevenson

Fort Lewis College | SPEX Lab

Authors

Alex Borgella

[269] Voices of the Next Generation: Research to Inform Social Media Regulations for Youth

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

State lawmakers nationwide are drafting legislation to regulate adolescent social media use, yet teen voices remain conspicuously absent from these policy discussions. Without meaningful youth input, proposed laws risk limiting their effectiveness by focusing on the wrong areas or causing unintended harms—particularly for marginalized adolescents who may rely on digital communities.

This study will center adolescent perspectives by examining how 60 teens (ages 13-17) across 10 focus groups understand proposed social media regulations and their potential impact on wellbeing. Participants will be sampled for diversity across race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, and sexual orientation to ensure representation of varied adolescent experiences. Using Braun and Clarke's six-phase thematic analysis, we will employ both deductive coding informed by Self-Determination Theory and the Displacement, Interference, and Complementarity framework, alongside inductive approaches to capture emergent themes.

We anticipate findings will reveal nuanced teen perspectives on social media's role in their own feelings of autonomy, competence, and relatedness, including how participants view potential restrictions alongside the benefits and risks of their digital engagement. This research aims to provide a timely, empirical synthesis of youth perspectives to policymakers considering social media regulation, offering insights for creating youth-informed, equity-conscious legislation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Justin Kahn

Georgetown University

Authors

Justin Kahn, Dr. Kostadin Kushlev, Isabella DeLeo, Maya Taylor, Emma Spencer

[270] Walking away from dichotomous gender perception: Perception of non-binary gender identity from minimal bodily cues

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Work on gender and sexual orientation perception has primarily examined faces and binary man/woman homosexual/heterosexual judgments. Here, we examined body cues of gender and sexual orientation. In our initial studies (N=281), focusing on sexual orientation, participants viewed point-light walkers (PLWs) and indicated perceived sex (male/female) and sexual orientation (heterosexual/homosexual/bisexual). When bisexuality was explicitly offered as an option, it was applied 22.3% of the time, and most often for walkers who were instructed to walk in a style counter to their explicit gender identity. Because these studies revealed that participants used gender cues in their judgments of sexual orientation, we extended this work (N=121) to focus on non-binary gender options to better observe the relationship between perceptions of nonbinary gender identity through bodily cues. Similar to previous findings, bodies were perceived as bisexual 22% of the time in the forced choice condition and 4.8% of the time in the open-ended condition. Additionally non-binary identities were selected for PLWs that exhibited mixed gender cues. Suggesting that gender ambiguous bodily cues are perceived as signals of non-binary gender identity, underscoring the importance of gender perception research moving beyond dichotomous outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachael Riley

Graduate Student | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Flora Oswald, Kerri L. Johnson, Reginald B. Adams

[271] Watching You Watching Me: Online Proctoring, Anxiety, and Test Performance

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Lower exam performance on proctored online exams is typically attributed to the idea that proctoring curtails cheating. The current study examined the relationship between online proctoring, test anxiety, and test performance longitudinally to test an alternative hypothesis that proctoring may lead to lower exam scores due to the cognitive and affective consequences of being surveilled. We compared the use of a virtual proctoring service in three different online psychology courses (N=112), which each had an experimental section and a control section. The experimental sections used online proctoring for the first exam only, while the control sections had no online proctoring. A mixed factorial ANOVA replicated the effect that students in proctored exams scored lower than students in non-proctored exams, regardless of whether the exam was open-book. A mediation analysis revealed that proctoring negatively influenced exam performance due in part to test anxiety. These results indicate that proctored students may score lower due to the anxiety that can occur from being watched. These results and alternative methods to support academic integrity in an online setting will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kimberly McClure-Brenchley

Associate Professor | St. John Fisher University

Authors

Eileen Merges, Katie Sabourin

[272] Water Conservation and Well-Being: Burden or Benefit?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Both climate scientists and laypeople have been voicing concerns about the effects of climate change for several decades. Correlational research has shown that engaging in pro-environmental behaviors is positively related to well-being, but little experimental research exists to date. To disentangle correlation from causation, we conducted an 8-day experimental deprivation study (N = 200). Participants were randomly assigned to either restrict their water use (water condition) or restrict nothing (measurement-only control condition). Participants in the water condition reported neither strong well-being benefits nor backfiring effects. The control condition outperformed the water condition in terms of subjective well-being benefits—suggesting water conservation behavior may be taxing. However, engaging in water conservation was related to increased feelings of autonomy and competence, which in turn predicted increases in subjective well-being. Additionally, Hispanic individuals benefited more from water conservation than non-Hispanic individuals. Finally, nearly all participants expressed an interest in engaging in water conservation behavior in the future.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lisa Walsh

Postdoctoral Research Associate | University of California, Los Angeles

Authors

Madison Montemayor-Dominguez, Nina Radosic, Sonja Lyubomirsky

[273] Weak/Wanting? Honor ideology predicts differential victim blaming by gender

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Honor ideology and just world beliefs have both been found to contribute to victim blaming and rape myths. However, the research on male survivors and the specific reasoning behind blame toward men and women, beyond promiscuity for women, is limited. To explore further, we examined the specific reasons that those with higher levels of honor ideology and just world beliefs blame a sexual assault survivor and whether this differs depending on the survivor's gender. We hypothesized that the female survivor would be blamed more for promiscuity, weakness, and general deservingness, whereas the male victim would be blamed more strongly for a heightened desire for sex and perceived weakness, and that these effects would be especially true for those higher in honor ideology. Consistent with our predictions, honor ideology and just world beliefs significantly predicted victim blaming across all measures. The strongest associations observed were blame related to promiscuity for female victims and weakness for male victims. The findings suggest that dominant beliefs affect gendered perceptions of sexual assault victims, urging the need for interventions addressing biased assumptions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexandria Archer

Student | Butler University

Authors

Conor O'Dea, Alexandria Archer, Jillian Ramey

[274] What Makes a Black Man?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

This study explores how social stigmas related to gender norms and expressions affect the heterogeneity in Black masculinity. Society continuously attacks Black men's masculinity as they are seen as hypermasculine under the light of eurocentric hegemonic gender norms. Systematic abuse aimed to psychologically dehumanize African Americans, strategically diminishes their status to an object, stripping away any sense of humanity (Johnson et al., 2024). It shares how aspects of Black masculinity shape modern Black men while restricting gender expression and enforcing societal norms. Theories such as Intersectionality Theory (Crenshaw, 1989), Hegemonic Masculinity (Connell, 1995), and Double Consciousness Theory (W.E.B DuBois, 1903) will center the lived experiences of Black men as they navigate dominant forms of masculinity. This study uses mixed methods approaches with interview and survey data from Black college men at two U.S. universities. Anticipated results predict that Black college men's current resistance to hegemonic gender norms allows for a high variability in masculine identity. I predict that low conformity to masculine norms will moderate the relationship between social stigma and Black men's gender expression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Wade

[275] When Do Coping Styles Benefit versus Backfire? Associations of Anxiety, Substance Use and Stress during the COVID-19 pandemic.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

The COVID-19 pandemic caused high levels of stress and anxiety for many people. People used a wide variety of coping strategies to deal with these stresses, some of which involved unhealthy substance use that can lead to further negative consequences. This study examined how eight different coping strategies were linked with anxiety during the pandemic. Participants were 4,141 adults (Mage=39) recruited early in the pandemic in 2020 when safer-at-home orders became common. Some coping styles were strongly linked to feeling greater anxiety ($r = .391$), whereas other coping styles, such as taking direct action or positive reframing, were linked to lower anxiety. It is possible that maladaptive coping strategies may instead increase anxiety by amplifying negative emotions after initial relief, and leading people to not address the causes of their anxiety. Alternatively, other coping strategies may have served as effective buffers against high anxiety. These findings provides insight into which coping styles might be effective in chronically stressful situations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mia Depasquale

Student | Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[276] Breathing and Mindfulness

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

College freshmen often encounter stressors stemming from environmental adjustment, language barriers, and academic demands. This study examined the effectiveness of two stress-reduction strategies: meditation and breathing exercises. Participants engaged in daily video-guided self-practice sessions lasting fewer than ten minutes over a two-week period. Stress levels were assessed using the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) at four points: before the intervention, immediately after, one week later, and two weeks later. Demographic information and Big Five personality traits were also collected, with particular attention to students high in neuroticism, a trait closely linked to stress sensitivity. Results indicated that for students low in neuroticism, breathing exercises produced a statistically significant reduction in stress from baseline to post-intervention and maintained lower stress levels than meditation at follow-up, suggesting stronger and more sustained effects. For students high in neuroticism, both meditation and breathing exercises yielded significant downward trends in stress, with no significant differences between groups, indicating comparable benefits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jinghui Zhang

Assistant Teaching Professor | Arizona State University

Authors

Xueming Li, Dan Du, Jianan Chen, Jui-Ying Chen Chen

[277] Cancelled

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-ESTEEM

*POSTER

Authors

Nick Lambert

[278] When Gaze is Under Our Control: Sexual Objectification Behavior Across Contexts

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

People tend to sexually objectify women, but there are open questions around which contexts this is more or less likely to occur in. Certain settings may signal when objectification is considered acceptable (e.g., dating apps vs. workplaces). Therefore, we collected data both in-lab and online to examine how context shapes objectification. Men participants (N=244) watched clips from eight music videos of women artists that either contained sexual content (objectification condition) or not (control condition). Men then viewed and rated full-body images of women while their eye gaze was tracked. Online, men in the objectification (vs. control) condition looked at women's faces less often, but there was no effect of condition for in-lab participants. These findings suggest that sexually objectifying gaze may vary across contexts and, at times, reflect deliberate control. Ongoing work is replicating these effects and testing whether exerting such control imposes cognitive costs on objectifiers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Myrsine Kostoulas

University Of Tennessee Knoxville

Authors

Sarah Lamer, Darla Bonagura, Orly Bareket

[279] When Networking Feels Genuine: A Regulatory Focus Approach to Authenticity in Professional Networking

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

Professional networking often feels inauthentic and transactional, creating psychological discomfort that reduces relationship-building. This project investigates how people's broad focus on motivations for attaining growth (i.e., promotion) versus motivations for maintaining security (i.e., prevention) affects networking authenticity. Study 1 (N = 457) showed that individuals with stronger promotion concerns felt more authentic in hypothetical networking situations, and this heightened authenticity was associated with greater intention to pursue social contacts. Study 2 (N = 309) brought career-matched participants to the lab for one-on-one, in-person networking conversations. Results replicated and extended Study 1. Promotion-focused participants experienced greater authenticity before, during, and after the interactions, leading again to stronger commitment to pursue connections. Importantly, they also evaluated their networking partners and the experience more positively. These findings suggest promotion motivation creates a positive cycle: growth-focused individuals feel more authentic, experience networking more positively, leading to more successful relationship formation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mengdi Huang

Graduate Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Daniel Molden

[280] Artificial Intelligence Anxiety in College Students: The Roles of Frequency of Usage, Self-efficacy, and Growth Mindset

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

New advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), such as automation and machine learning, raise concerns over potential job displacement for college students planning for their future. This study explored underlying factors associated with AI anxiety among university students. The present research (1) examined the relationship between the frequency of AI usage and AI anxiety among university students, and (2) assessed the moderating roles of growth mindset and self-efficacy in that relationship. Findings indicated a significant negative correlation between the frequency of AI usage and AI-learning anxiety, such that college student participants (N = 122) who use AI technologies more frequently reported lower levels of AI-learning anxiety. Moreover, participants with higher self-efficacy and stronger growth mindset tended to have lower AI-learning anxiety across multiple dimensions, particularly in learning and job-related anxiety. This study contributes to the rapidly growing literature that analyzes human attitudes and perceptions of AI integration, as well as the influences of AI anxiety.

*POSTER

Speaker



Vanessa Koo

Arizona State University

Authors

Vanessa Koo, Mercedes Molina, Virginia Kwan

[281] When safety cues become threats: An examination of attributional ambiguity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

We investigated how external attributional tendency—the degree to which marginalized people perceive positive dominant group member behavior as externally (vs. internally) motivated—affects reactions to safety cues. Previous work examining attributional tendencies has found that this construct predicts racially marginalized people's perceptions of attributionally ambiguous, positive behavior exhibited by White people (e.g., smiling, praise). Thus, in the present work, we predicted that women who make external (vs. internal) attributions for positive behavior exhibited by men will perceive greater threat, report decreased self-esteem, and exhibit decrements in working memory when a company promotes a diversity philosophy but does not have racially or gender diverse employees. An experimental 2 X 2 X 2 between-subjects pilot study supported predictions. We will present data from a full study that tests predictions in a 2 X 2 between-subjects design. The current work addresses questions about when and for whom safety cues are effective, or have the inverse effect and elicit threat. The current work is also the first, to the best of our knowledge, to measure women's attributional tendencies for men's positive behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abigail Loviscky

Graduate Student | Penn State

Authors

Theresa K Vescio

[282] When You Are the One in Your Way: Practicing Patience with Yourself

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-REGULATION

The process model of self-patience conceptualizes self-patience as a form of emotion regulation that responds to the emotion of self-impatience. Initial theoretical work identified close ties between self-patience and self-compassion, suggesting that self-patience and self-compassion are distinct constructs, but self-compassion might enable the process of self-patience. Thus, in an experience sampling method (ESM) study (N = 130), we used multilevel modeling to investigate how trait- and state-level differences in self-compassion relate to self-patience in day-to-day life. Between-person findings indicated that people who were generally more self-compassionate also reported greater self-patience on average. Within-person findings revealed that on days when people felt more self-compassionate than usual, they also practiced more self-patience. These findings provide initial evidence for the relationship between self-patience and self-compassion and suggest that interventions aimed at increasing self-compassion might be one avenue to help people practice patience with themselves, potentially facilitating goal pursuit and achievement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Susoeff

University of California, Riverside

Authors

Kate Sweeny

[283] Who Gets Hired? How Leadership Personality Shapes Attitudes Toward Mental Illness in the Workplace

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Mental illness affects a significant portion of the adult population, yet stigma and misunderstanding continue to shape workplace dynamics. Organizational leaders often hesitate to hire individuals with mental illness, largely due to limited education on how to support their needs effectively. This study explores the relationship between leadership personality traits and attitudes toward hiring individuals with mental illness, aiming to identify traits that correlate with more inclusive hiring practices.

Three key challenges faced by employees with mental illness in the workplace are identified: (1) persistent stigma surrounding mental health, (2) leaders' avoidance of difficult conversations about mental illness, and (3) limited psychological resources available to employees for managing workplace stressors.

To investigate these dynamics, the study examines four leadership personality types—Dominant, Inspiring, Supportive, and Conscientious—using a quantitative correlational design. Two instruments were employed: the DISC Personality Scale, commonly used in organizational settings, and a custom-developed Likert scale designed to assess leaders' attitudes toward hiring individuals with mental illness. Surveys were distributed to over 600 leaders across multiple industries. The resulting data were analyzed to determine whether specific personality traits are positively or negatively associated with inclusive hiring attitudes.

Findings from this research may inform future workplace education initiatives and contribute to reducing stigma by identifying leadership traits that foster mental health inclusivity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brandy Nelson

[284] Who Has Deeper Conversations at Work? A Multi-Method Investigation of Gender and Perceived Depth

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Deep conversations—those that feel meaningful, connective, or trust-building—are crucial for workplace relationships. But who is more likely to experience them? While women are often more emotionally expressive and relationally attuned, our studies reveal a counterintuitive pattern: men are more likely to perceive everyday conversations as deep. Across three studies—using imagined self-perspective, imagined other-perspective, and observed interactions—we show that male participants interpret even moderately personal exchanges as deep. One potential explanation is that men, on average, may apply a lower threshold for what qualifies as a “deep” conversation. These diverging standards have relational consequences: men’s ease in experiencing depth may lead to greater follow-up and broader network-building. This perceptual asymmetry—rooted not in emotional capacity but in cultural norms and conversational context—helps explain gender disparities in informal influence, mentorship, and workplace inclusion. Our findings highlight the social psychology of conversational inequality—and what it takes to bridge it.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katherine Sun

UCLA

Authors

Margaret Shih, Katherine Qianwen Sun

[285] Who I am Versus Who My Documents Say I Am: Identity Documentation and Perceptions of Transgender Identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Amid a historic surge of anti-transgender legislation, governments are imposing varied limitations on transgender people’s ability to update identity documents (IDs) reflecting their gender and chosen names. This work examines the potential consequences of having, or lacking, an ID that matches one’s gender and chosen name for the social perception of transgender individuals. Specifically, 411 U.S.-based adults were randomly assigned to read a vignette depicting a typical situation from the perspective of a transgender person who either had updated identity documentation (ID match condition) or did not (ID mismatch condition). Results indicate that identity documents matter, as participants in the ID match condition reported more favorable impressions of the transgender target than those in the ID mismatch condition. Having a matching ID also predicted participants’ likelihood of correctly categorizing the target in question into their self-identified gender category, a critical outcome in facilitating perceived legitimacy of transgender identities. These findings highlight the important implications of restrictions related to identity documentation for transgender individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jamie DiDato

University of Connecticut

Authors

Alexandra Garr-Schultz

[286] Who Should Do the Chores? A Cross-Cultural Investigation into Young Adult’s Gendered Assumptions about Housework

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Prior research finds that North American young adults still hold gender traditional assumptions about how family labor should be divided (Gere & Helwig, 2012; McConnon et al., 2021). To examine these attitudes in a larger sample (N = 1451) and across cultures, the present study examined US (N = 648, 59% women), Chinese (N = 368, 54% women) and Nigerian (N = 435, 60% women) young adults’ (18-29 age range) open-ended explanations for their levels of agreement to the item: “A husband should share equally in household chores if his wife works full time.” Inductive codebook development based on the entire data set yielded 201 codes total, with 86 codes shared between countries, 50 US specific, 54 Nigeria specific, and 11 China specific codes. This codebook will be used to conduct a quantitative content analysis to examine gendered and culturally specific assumptions about how household labor should be divided. Examination of young adults’ justifications may serve to deepen our understanding of the role of culture in influencing gendered assumptions about the division of work and family labor, and potentially inform future interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Percy Gresham

Doctoral Candidate | Texas A&M University

Authors

Allegra Midgette, Jasmine Lu, Mirka Dirzo

[287] Whose Line is it Anyway? Self-efficacy Attributions from Feedback on AI-assisted Work

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF-ESTEEM

AI tools are a powerful aid to student success, supplementing instruction and providing feedback, but can also allow students to offload their learning. How students respond to this offloading, if they recognize the deficit in understanding created by decreased engagement, and how students relate to the material produced, is less researched. This study examines how feedback on work written with the assistance of AI influences the self-efficacy of students. In a 2 (AI assistance: present vs. absent) × 2 (feedback: positive vs. negative) between-subjects design, participants will be randomly assigned to write or generate content before receiving either positive or negative feedback from an ostensibly real evaluator. Afterward, they will complete a general self-efficacy scale. We expect to find that participants who used AI will experience a protective effect to their self-efficacy in response to negative feedback and, most concerning, a dampening effect to their self-efficacy in response to positive feedback. With the use of AI increasing within and without the classroom, understanding the impacts of both use and response is crucial to moving forward in a socially responsible way.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danika Brabec

student | Fort Lewis College

Authors

Alex Borgella

[288] Why are People Opposed to Trans-Inclusive Policies in Sports? Negative Attitudes Toward Transgender Women and the Use of Fairness Arguments

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Recent years have seen sports organizations and US states enacting policies that ban transgender athletes from competing according to their gender identity, often justified by claims that trans women have unfair advantages over cis women. In Studies 1a and 1b, we found that although opponents of trans-inclusive sports policies cite fairness as the reason for their position, their opposition was better predicted by their attitudes toward trans people. Study 2 found that fairness arguments are applied disproportionately to oppose trans women competing against cis women, and less so to other groups with similar perceived athletic advantages. In Study 3, we will compare support for segregating trans and cis women in sports where perceived physiological differences between biological sexes matter (e.g., boxing), versus sports where those differences matter less (e.g., shooting). We predict that those with more negative trans attitudes will support segregation even for sports where physiological differences do not matter. Overall, our studies to highlight the inconsistencies in the arguments against trans-inclusive sports policies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Heejoo Chung

Purdue University

Authors

Thekla Morgenroth, Yanzhe Zeng

[289] Woke Gaming: Evaluations of sexualized character designs

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

The sexualization of female video game characters predicts increased sales, rape myth acceptance, and portrayals of violence. This study examined potential links between masculine sexual entitlement, hostile sexism, and benevolent sexism as moderators of the link between sexualization of female characters and character approval. Participants (N = 148, cisgender, straight men who played videogames > 10 hours/ week) rated their approval of a female character whose attire was either modest or sexualized, in a within-person design. Participants completed measures of masculine sexual entitlement, ambivalent sexism, and hostility and inclusion in gaming spaces. Although participants generally gave higher approval to the modestly dressed character, those lower on masculine sexual entitlement showed higher approval for the more modest design, whereas those who scored higher in benevolent sexism showed higher approval of the sexualized character design. Findings contribute to understanding of how sexism and masculine sexual entitlement informs preference in objectifying portrayals of women in media.

*POSTER

Speaker



A. L. Haas

Research Specialist II | University of Missouri Columbia

[290] Women's Experiences with Sexism and Job Satisfaction: The Moderating Role of Gender Allies and Mentors

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GENDER

Background

Women experience discrimination regarding employment pay and promotion opportunities and sexual harassment (SteelFisher et al., 2019). Women from marginalized communities and young adults are at risk for discrimination. This project explored the association between women's experiences with sexism and job satisfaction. Having a mentor and gender ally in the workplace were hypothesized as moderators.

Methods

495 women (age M = 36.6 years, 21% White, 19% African American, 22.5% Latina, 17.5% Asian, 17.7% Biracial) participated in an online survey and completed the Schedule of Sexist Events, workplace satisfaction, and indicated the extent to which (1 = not at all to 7 = very much) they had a mentor and that the organization had an ally who supported women's success.

Results

Experience with sexism was negatively associated ($B = -.22$). Having a mentor ($B = .54$) and gender ally ($B = .40$) were positively associated with satisfaction ($ps < .01$). Having a workplace ally moderated the association between sexism and satisfaction such that the sexism to discrimination association was not significant ($B = -.17$) for those who strongly agreed they had an ally, but was significant for those who did not agree or were at scale midpoint ($B = -.43$ and $-.28$). All regressions included demographic covariates. These findings have implications for organizational policies that support women in the workplace.

*POSTER

Speaker



Debra Oswald

Professor | Marquette Univ.

[291] Worthless beyond instruments: Objectification increases perceived AI threat.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Most research on perceived threats from artificial intelligence (AI) has focused on individual differences and AI design features, while little attention has been given to the broader social context in which humans and AI coexist. Grounded in objectification theory, we propose that objectification heightens perceived AI threat through self-objectification—by prompting individuals to focus excessively on their instrumental value. Across seven studies using mixed methods, we found converging evidence for this process. Archival and ecological analyses (Studies 1a and 1b; N = 13,294 and N = 65,411) showed that regional work objectification predicted both self-reported AI threat and threat expressions in social media texts. Two surveys with Chinese adults (Studies 2 and 3; N = 270 and N = 240) replicated this effect: daily and workplace objectification experiences predicted perceived AI threat via self-objectification, which in turn reduced support for AI adoption. Three experiments provided causal evidence and intervention insights. In Study 4 (N = 240), an imagination task manipulating work objectification increased self-objectification, which heightened AI threat and led to lower support for AI adoption, reduced job satisfaction, and diminished organizational citizenship behavior. In Study 5 (N = 240), a humanizing workplace context reduced AI threat by lowering self-objectification. In Study 6 (N = 220), restoring self-humanization eliminated the effect of objectification on AI threat. Together, these findings demonstrate that social context critically shapes perceptions of AI-related threat. They further suggest that workplace humanization offers a promising pathway to mitigating such threats.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjun Hu

Authors

Fei Teng, Yuxin Zhu, Zesheng Huang

A Survival Guide to Mediation and Moderation Analysis

1:00 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E255, Level 2

Mediation and moderation are two of the most important models in science. Exploring if effects exist is simply not rigorous enough given modern theory and methodology. More compelling is to explore why effects exist (moderation) or when/for whom effects differ (moderation). Despite many recent advances in mediation and moderation, researchers have not adopted these advances en masse. For example, random measurement error (RME) is oft neglected in mediation (Hayes et al., under review) and important data features are often ignored when plotting interactions (Pek & Flora, 2017).

In this workshop, I first introduce the mathematics of mediation and moderation. I then introduce participants to user-friendly software for SPSS, SAS, and R (PROCESS; Hayes, 2022) that implements these analyses. I also provide code to run these analyses "by hand" in R. Special topics covered in the session include adjusting for RME in mediation, contrasting indirect effects in multiple mediator models, showcasing a new visualization for interaction effects, and addressing common myths about moderation (e.g., effects of mean centering). I will conclude by addressing questions about applying these models.

*PROF DEV

Speaker



Jacob Coutts

PUI Committee Sponsored: AI and Pedagogy in Psychology

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: E252, Level 2

Artificial intelligence is transforming the way we teach and learn, and the conversation is just getting started. Join us as we pick up from SPSP's last Annual Convention to explore how AI is already shaping classrooms today--and where it might take us tomorrow. This interactive session will build on prior discussions, spark new ideas, and invite attendees to imagine together what the future of AI in education could look like.

Affinity Group Meet and Greet

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Location: Lobby, Level 2

Come learn about SPSP affinity groups! Representatives from Here and Queer, the Intersectionality Working Group, the Network of Multiracial/Ethnic/Cultural Scholars, the Black Social and Personality Psychology Network, the Disability Advocacy and Research Network, the GLBT Alliance in Social and Personality Psychology, and Marginalia Science will provide information about their group's mission and ways to get involved followed by time to meet representatives and mingle. Information about other affinity groups such as the South Asian Network of Social and Personality Psychologists and the Retirement network will also be provided.

*NETWORKING

CANCELLED: ChatGPT Ate My Study: AI and the Future of Data

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E451A, Level 4

ChatGPT didn't just eat your study—it's redefining how we conduct it.

Generative AI is reshaping the research landscape in both exciting and troubling ways. This panel will explore how psychologists working in applied and academic settings can critically engage with AI, particularly large language models, to support—but not replace—human-centered research. We'll examine real-world applications, such as summarizing findings, generating synthetic data, and simulating participants, while discussing risks like bias amplification, ethical gray areas, and overreliance on unvalidated outputs. With tech companies racing to integrate AI into research workflows, market researchers and behavioral scientists face a critical juncture: adapt, resist, or risk obsolescence. Panelists will debate whether AI-generated insights can substitute for human participants, and what skills today's psychologists need to stay relevant in industry. This session will offer best practices, ethical guidance, and career-focused reflections on what it means to be a researcher in the age of AI. Audience Q&A to follow.

*PROF DEV

The Hidden Psychology of Market Encounters

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

People do not merely consume products or respond to prices—they navigate social meaning, identity signals, and inferences about others' intentions. This symposium brings together four research programs revealing how subtle psychological forces drive surprising patterns in valuation and behavior: overly high incentives trigger suspicions of hidden drawbacks; novel experiences become most rewarding when anchored in familiar callbacks; random lotteries elevate feelings of specialness, shifting later choices; and secondhand luxury reshapes status and warmth judgments. Together, these talks illuminate how psychological processes shape consumption, value, and status in everyday marketplace interactions.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Andrew Vonasch

Senior Lecturer | Univ. of Canterbury

People Reject Free Money and Cheap Deals Because They Infer Phantom Costs

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

If money is good, then shouldn't more money always be better? Perhaps not. Traditional economic theories suggest that money is an ever-increasing incentivizer. If someone will accept a job for US\$20/hr, they should be more likely to accept the same job for US\$30/hr and especially for US\$250/hr. However, 10 preregistered, high-powered studies (N = 4,205, in the United States and Iran) reveal how increasing incentives can backfire. Overly generous offers lead people to infer "phantom costs" that make them less likely to accept high job wages, cheap plane fares, and free money. We present a theory for understanding when and why people imagine these hidden drawbacks and show how phantom costs drive judgments, impact behavior, and intersect with individual differences. Phantom costs change how we should think about "economic rationality." Economic exchanges are not merely about money, but instead are social interactions between people trying to perceive (and deceive) each others' minds.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Andrew Vonasch

Senior Lecturer | Univ. of Canterbury

Authors

Kurt Gray, Andrew Vonasch, Reyhane Mofradidoost

Reinterpret the Familiar: Consumers Prefer Experiences that Use Callbacks

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Consumers regularly encounter novel and familiar experiences, but little is known about how novelty and familiarity ought to be combined within a single experience. We identify one uniquely rewarding configuration: the callback structure—where a familiar element returns with a novel reinterpretation. Across nine studies (N = 5,984) using observational and experimental methods, we find that callbacks enhance experiences across emotional, evaluative, behavioral, and social outcomes. Observational data from comedy and films link callbacks to increased laughter, higher star ratings, and higher box office gross. Experimental work shows callbacks increase spontaneous brand recall, willingness to pay, word-of-mouth, and feelings of enjoyment and meaningfulness. These effects are primarily mediated not by surprise or competence, but rather by a sense of “experiential guidance”—the perception of being thoughtfully guided through the experience by its designer. This research builds on prior work on novelty and familiarity, extends the literature on meaning-making, and introduces experiential guidance as a central force in experiential consumption.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Yuji Winet

Assistant Professor | Duke University, Fuqua School of Business

Authors

Yuji Winet, Ed O'Brien

The Luck Celebration Hypothesis

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Permission lotteries, such as marathon entry lotteries and housing lotteries, randomly select applicants to participate in an activity. However, we argue this random selection can have unexpected downstream consequences on the sequential, permitted activity. Focusing on purchase behavior, our research shows that random selection makes the selected buyers feel special and motivates them to upgrade their purchases. Using field data (50,938,293 obs in China), we examined cities with and without license plate lotteries and found that license plate lottery winners spent 22% more on a single car than they would otherwise have spent without the lottery. Four pre-registered experiments (N=1,498, Hong Kong college students and US online participants) replicated this effect in better-controlled settings and further revealed that the motivation to upgrade purchases is driven by a specific emotion induced by lotteries—feeling special—rather than a generic positive feeling or other financial concerns. Our research sheds light on how affective reactions to random selection influence subsequent decision-making and helps policymakers understand the consequences beyond random selection.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Luxi Shen

Assistant Professor of Marketing | The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Business School

Authors

Luxi Shen, Wenfeng Li, Ivy Dang (Chu), Mantian Hu

The Social Advantage of Secondhand Luxury: Gaining Warmth, Preserving Status

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

People often judge others based on what they wear. Indeed, many view those who wear firsthand luxury as high status, but this perception comes with a warmth penalty. As demand for secondhand luxury rises, how do social judgments shift when luxury is purchased secondhand instead? Across seven empirical studies (N = 3,632; six pre-registered), we examine how secondhand (vs. firsthand) luxury affects warmth and status ratings. We find that people are less likely to disclose secondhand luxury purchases, anticipating a status loss and no gain in warmth. Contrary to expectations, secondhand (vs. firsthand) luxury buyers are seen as warmer yet relatively lower in status. Grounded in the Stereotype Content Model, we show that secondhand luxury buyers appear warmer because they seem less wealthy and less attention-seeking. Although secondhand luxury signals less wealth and thus incurs an overall status penalty, it retains full cultural capital, a source of status, per Bourdieu's theory (1984). Notably, this preserved status exceeds that of non-luxury. In interpersonal contexts (e.g., dating, networking), secondhand (vs. firsthand) luxury yields social gains by calibrating warmth and status.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Aja McCoy

Doctoral Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Ike Silver, Aja D. McCoy, Jacob D. Teeny

Advances in psychological reactance theory: Do not attend this symposium

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E351, Level 3

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Proposed nearly 60 years ago, psychological reactance theory (PRT) describes how people respond to threats to, or elimination of, valued freedoms. PRT has received generally robust empirical support and catalyzed research in various areas (e.g., clinical psychology, communication). Unlike some theories that garner decreasing empirical attention over time, there has been a notable uptick in PRT scholarship—particularly following COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions. This increased interest motivated a recent special issue (Motivation Science, 2025), devoted to the breadth of PRT's application, primarily focusing on new theoretical developments and recent findings. Drawing from this special issue, the current symposium will highlight four studies on diverse reactance-related topics. The first talk examines pro-gun responses to mass shootings through the lens of reactance theory. The second talk assesses reactance in the context of psilocybin legalization. The third talk examines reactance as a mediator of people's responses to depression help-seeking messages. The final talk assesses the reactive spiral, a phenomenon where people are hit with back-to-back threats to their freedom.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Benjamin Rosenberg

Assistant Professor | Dominican University of California

Don't tread on me: How disempowered gun owners assert their threatened freedom in the wake of mass shootings

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This research examines pro-gun responses to mass shootings through the lens of reactance theory—a motivational state triggered by perceived threats to one's freedoms. We tested how disempowerment heightens reactance and leads individuals to prioritize gun freedom over gun safety. In three studies of U.S. gun owners (total N = 2,483), disempowerment consistently predicted stronger reactance to both external restrictions and internal pressures. In Study 1, disempowered participants expressed greater intentions to purchase guns after reading a message advocating restrictions. In Study 2, conducted after the 2017 Las Vegas shooting, opposition to the ban on bump stocks (a semiautomatic rifle accessory) was strongest among disempowered AR-15 owners—those most affected by the ban. In Studies 3a and 3b, following the Oxford and Uvalde school shootings, support for school hardening measures (e.g., armed guards) was partly driven by disempowerment rather than gun safety concerns. Generalizing the model, a fourth study (n = 825 U.S. adults, preregistered) indicated that disempowerment could even predict support for vigilantism: economic disempowerment predicted positive endorsement of the assassination of the UnitedHealthcare CEO as justified resistance against a disempowering healthcare system. Overall, disempowerment reliably moderated reactance-like responses, underscoring the need to consider underlying motivational dynamics when applying reactance theory.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Pontus Leander

Associate Professor | Wayne State University

Authors

Jannis Kreinkamp, Maximilian Agostini, Ledina Imami, Birga Schumpe, Tasia Mueller

Psilocybin legalization in the United States and psychological reactance: A test of evidence uncertainty, controlling language, and an ambiguous call to action

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Psilocybin legalization continues to surface among policymakers considering the potential benefits (e.g., medicinal) offered by this substance. To better understand audience resistance to legalizing psilocybin, psychological reactance theory was employed to weigh the effectiveness of evidence uncertainty, controlling language, and specific call to action in relation to policy support. Results revealed a negative association between scientific certainty and freedom threat perceptions. As expected, freedom threat was positively associated with reactance, which in turn was negatively associated with intentions to support psilocybin legalization. Against expectations, no relationship between controlling language emerged with freedom threat perceptions. The findings are discussed with an emphasis on the theoretical and practical implications and the role of reactance when promoting the legalization of a currently banned substance.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Brenda Koester

Assistant Director, Family Resiliency Center | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Brian Quick, Ethan Morrow, Sam Wilson, Minhey Chung, Daniel Hartman

An empirical investigation into whether psychological reactance can explain the success of the overheard communication technique

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

The overheard communication technique is a persuasive strategy designed to enhance the effectiveness of messages by making the recipients feel they are not the intended audience. While classic and contemporary experimental studies support the efficacy of this approach, the underlying mechanism—specifically, the reduction of perceived persuasive intent—has not been empirically tested. This presentation reports on a study that examined whether the overheard technique is effective due to a reduction in psychological reactance. Participants with depressive symptomatology were randomly assigned to receive one of two messages: "Do you know someone with depression?" or "Are you experiencing depression?" As predicted, individuals with depressive symptoms who received the overheard message ("Do you?") reported that the message felt less threatening than those who received the direct message ("Are you?"). Additionally, there was an indirect effect of the overheard message on participants' attitudes and intentions, mediated by lower levels of perceived threat. However, contrary to expectations, there were no significant differences in terms of anger.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Jason Siegel

Professor | Claremont Graduate Univ.

Authors

Alexander Marshburn

The reactive spiral: An initial empirical assessment

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

The current study investigated the reactive spiral—an idea long proposed but not investigated. Participants (n = 130) completed a reactance-inducing writing task or a benign one; they then received a message threatening a large or small choice restriction. Participants receiving the reactance-inducing writing task before exposure to a highly restrictive threat reported more negative attitudes and higher levels of threat and anger than those who received the benign writing task before receiving the same threat. There were no statistically significant differences regarding intentions between these two groups (highly restrictive message: reactance-inducing vs. benign writing task). However, an auxiliary analysis comparing these two groups indicated an indirect effect on intentions through increased anger, greater perceived threat, and more negative attitudes among those receiving the reactance-inducing writing task. Overall, data provide preliminary support for the reactive spiral and indicate the cause of the initial reactance does not need to be related to the second freedom threat for the spiral to occur.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Benjamin Rosenberg

Assistant Professor | Dominican University of California

Authors

Jason Siegel

Advances in the study of character

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E450B, Level 4

MORALITY

Our symposium examines the subject of moral character from a variety of new angles including its measurement and effects. Both Elliot & Kuncel as well as Dykhuis et al. examine college admission criteria in order to extract meaningful character-related information to predict future character development and moral behavior effectively. Elliot & Kuncel focus on the highly skewed data from scales included alongside reference letters in order to find ways to differentiate among candidates according to important non-cognitive admission factors. Dykhuis et al. broaden their focus to West Point's admission criteria and test its predictive validity with respect to actual performance among cadets years later. Our symposium does not just examine the predictors of character, however, but also its important downstream effects. Ravey et al. examine the importance of humility in the fraught experience of intergroup forgiveness following injustice. Finally, Cornwell et al. investigate the consequences of feeling as though one's character growth has stalled, demonstrating that the experience of 'moral vice' has important downstream consequences for behavior and psychological well-being.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



James Cornwell

Associate Professor | Wheaton College

Uniform Ratings: Factor Structure of Military Academy Recommendation Letters

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

Traditional narrative letters of recommendation often lack differentiation and are overly favorable (Kuncel et al., 2014). However, when aggregated across items and raters, they can yield valid personality trait information despite individual-level error (Kuncel & Sackett, 2014). This project responds to Kuncel et al.'s (2014) call for improved letters by analyzing the psychometric structure of School Official Evaluations (SOEs) used in U.S. Military Academy (USMA) admissions. Using data from seven graduating classes (N = 8,666), we will examine 12-item ratings from 3 raters per applicant to build sub-scales that predict cadet and officer performance. We'll explore factor structure, interrater agreement, and develop within- and across-rater scales using exploratory and confirmatory analyses. Interrater reliability will inform composite scale reliability. Ultimately, this study aims to extract more reliable non-cognitive scores from halo-prone data and offer recommendations for improving SOE item design and weighting in USMA and broader military selection.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Ben Elliott

PhD Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Nathan Kuncel

Future Character: Predictors of character attributes and moral exemplar status

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

Recently, colleges have been seeking out students that add to the school's moral fabric (see ECI initiative from Wake Forest University), in addition to academic metrics of high performance. Many have supported this movement by recommending how admissions can select students with potential for character development. The US service academies seek to recruit well-rounded, highly motivated individuals, with the goal to commission leaders of character. These institutions, then, should use assessments in admissions that capture meaningful predictors of character downstream. This study explores admissions metrics at West Point (USMA) and how well these—particularly HS teacher reviews of performance, academic, and moral dimensions—predict character-relevant, as well as physical, military, and academic, metrics, of cadets years later. Two years of data (5 graduating classes) were analyzed; results from Year 1 indicate that admissions reviews from teachers predict cadet character. Teacher ratings were also predict of whether a cadet would be peer-nominated as a moral exemplar. Year 2 serves as a replication. This study has implications for the broader college admissions process.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

Elise Dykhuis

Assistant Professor | United States Military Academy at West Point

Authors

Peter Meindl, Sarah Johnson

Intergroup apologies and the role of offender humility

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

While prior studies have examined humility’s role within interpersonal apologies, less attention has been given to humility within intergroup apologies. We aimed to investigate how characteristics of intergroup apologies—particularly expressions of humility—and attributes of the offending group (e.g., status, representation) impact forgiveness. Across two preregistered experiments (N = 649), we manipulated apology content and offender group characteristics to evaluate their influence on intergroup forgiveness. In Study 1 (n = 298), high-status offenders were perceived as less humble eliciting less favorable responses than low-status offenders. Requesting forgiveness enhanced perceived humility, which was associated with intergroup forgiveness. In Study 2 (n = 351), humble apologies were rated as more sincere and of higher quality than simple or no apologies, though any form of apology tended to improve forgiveness outcomes. Consistent with Study 1, perceived humility mediated the apology-forgiveness relationship. These findings underscore the significance of humility in shaping responses to intergroup apologies. Implications for the role of humble apologies are discussed.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Erikson Ravey
Postdoctoral Fellow | Hope College

Authors

Daryl Van Tongeren, Calista Burke, Isabella Turner, Joshua Hook, Donnie Davis

Measuring the moral vice experience

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

Moral “vices,” which are characteristics that, although not obviously immoral, impede the achievement of a virtuous moral character, represent a major philosophical concept. Our research was aimed at the creation and validation of a Moral Vice Experience (MVE) scale. Study 1 confirmed the MVE’s factor structure and its relationship with other moral constructs. In Study 2, the MVE was exclusively associated with self-transgression (omission and commission), rather than heightened scrupulosity more generally. In Study 3, the MVE was associated with moral trait differences between similar and different others, rather than general warmth traits. In Study 4, the MVE was uniquely related to “guilt” emotions on the PANAS, dysphoric (as opposed to anxious) mood, and negatively predicted goal achievement constructs (e.g., promotion, prevention, grit). The MVE completely mediated the relationship between ideal moral discrepancy, dysphoric mood, and guilt feelings in Study 5. In Study 6, the MVE was a better predictor of cheating on a die roll task than moral disengagement. Finally, in Study 7, the MVE predicted failed pornography abstinence, and more internal attributions for that failure.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



James Cornwell
Associate Professor | Wheaton College

Authors

Jia Anne Heng, Michael Wood, Elizabeth Wetzler

Advantages of Expansive Thinking: Escaping Self-Limiting Ruts

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E353A, Level 3

SELF/IDENTITY

The desire for clarity during moments of uncertainty often motivates styles of thinking that can feel self-protective, but are in reality rigid, ruminative, and restrictive. A more advantageous response to uncertainty is expansive thinking: the process of broadening and plasticizing one’s perspective on self and situation. This symposium examines mechanisms by which expansive thinking contributes to well-being when one is in the midst of navigating challenges and changes related to the self. The presented lines of research use varied methods (e.g., experimental, neural, personality, and narrative) and both quantitative and qualitative data to introduce strategies for increasing expansive thinking: by spending time in nature, by referring to familiar stories to reframe situational meaning, and by reanalyzing memories to inform one’s present sense of self. These four talks offer novel insights into the role of expansive thinking in both intentional and spontaneous emotion regulation, individual and group differences in the propensity to think expansively, and the beneficial effects that expansive thinking can have on self-perception.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Elliott Doyle
Graduate Student Researcher | University of Oregon



Henry Cowan
Assistant Professor | Michigan State University

How Natural Environments Influence Self-Perspective to Reduce Rumination

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Abundant findings indicate that rumination, the tendency to focus repetitively on negative experiences from a narrow, self-immersed perspective, is a pervasive problem that undermines wellbeing and people's ability to act. Research has focused primarily on cognitive strategies to curtail this pathological state. Here we examine the role that an underexplored environmental factor may play. Given that nature can reduce self-focused thoughts, we examined if natural environments increase the use of emotion regulation strategies that facilitate a shift away from self-immersion. Participants (N = 200, US adults) were induced to ruminate about an ongoing problem and then randomly assigned to take a walk in a commercial area or an arboretum. Participants in the arboretum reported more use of emotion regulation strategies that shifted self-perspective such as seeing the bigger picture. Using these strategies mediated mood improvements. Participants in the arboretum also used more first person plural pronouns (e.g., we) when reporting recent thoughts. Overall, results suggest that natural environments might help resolve a ruminative episode and improve mood by influencing self-perspective.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kathryn Schertz
University of Michigan

Authors

Ethan Kross

The Dynamics of Spontaneous Thought Facilitate Emotional Recovery

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Can how we think, the structure and flow of our thoughts, shape how we feel? Prior research shows that how we feel shapes what we think about: negative emotions elicit self-focused, past-oriented thoughts, while positive emotions elicit the reverse. But thoughts are more than content, they're dynamic. Emerging work links expansive thought dynamics with positive emotion. We tested whether such dynamics, marked by greater semantic diversity and flexibility, support positive emotional outcomes. In two studies, participants completed a think-aloud task either after recalling a positive or negative memory (Study 1, N = 746) or daily for 21 days, including baseline and negative mood induction days (Study 2, N = 232). To quantify thought streams, we created semantic networks where each node represents a thought and edges reflect similarity. More expansive networks, characterized by large diameters, low clustering coefficients, and high path lengths, predicted greater increases in positive emotion, but only when participants began in a negative state. Content features did not reliably predict change. These findings identify thought dynamics as a mechanism for emotional recovery.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Faustine Corbani
Princeton University

Authors

Erik Nook, Diana Tamir, Caitlin Mills

Referring to Familiar Narratives to Make Sense of Daily Life

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Evidence from a wide array of psychological subfields indicates that people use familiar stories to make sense of themselves and the world. We developed a scale to measure individual differences in the propensity to refer consciously to existing narratives in daily life. To define and operationalize this construct, we interviewed experts (N = 15) in narrative identity, media psychology, personality, and other related areas. Based on the responses, we developed a set of survey items, and refined them using feedback from a student sample (N = 56). We then conducted factor analysis on these items using data from a sample (total N = 240) of college students and people who reported having questioned a major aspect of their identity (gender or sexuality) at some point in the past. Participants also wrote about their use of familiar stories during periods of uncertainty for survey validation. We discuss the theoretical utility of this measurement tool as a point of convergence between several distinct lines of research. We also suggest that some groups might be more likely to reference familiar narratives in daily life due in part to identity fluidity and non-normativity.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Elliott Doyle
Graduate Student Researcher | University of Oregon

Authors

David Condon, Sara Hodges

Narrative Meaning-Making Confers Resilience During the Development of Psychosis

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

As a person develops a psychotic disorder, familiar things become strange and unsettling. This experience profoundly challenges young people's sense of self, with important functional consequences. Can autobiographical reasoning—intentional effort to make sense of experiences—protect against these effects?

This preregistered study examined narrative identity themes of self-event connections (linking past experience to the self) and meaning-making (deriving lessons/insights from experience) in 139 participants' life stories (mean age 21.9, 55% female): 27 in the early course of psychotic disorder (ECP); 56 at clinical high risk for psychosis (CHR); 56 healthy controls (HC). Meaning-making was lower in the ECP group (mean diff. 0.38, $p=.002$), but not the CHR group (mean diff. 0.14, $p=.128$), compared to HC. Across all groups, meaning-making accompanied better role functioning ($b=1.04$ [0.50, 1.59], $p<.001$) and more positive self-beliefs ($b=0.13$ [0.04, 0.22], $p=.005$). No effects were observed for self-event connections.

Consistent with recent theory, efforts to find meaning in life experiences can partially counteract the negative impact of emerging psychosis.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Henry Cowan

Assistant Professor | Michigan State University

From Lab to Life: Psychological Interventions for effective social change

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E258, Level 2

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Understanding how psychology can be applied to real-world contexts is essential to inducing desired attitudinal and behavioral change in social settings. In this symposium, four talks highlight novel interventions to improve outcomes for understudied populations. The first talk discusses an intervention involving personal reflection to empower individuals to detect and confront sexism in the workplace. The second talk tackles the social issue of racism in the workplace. The authors find that a novel VR intervention combats racist beliefs and influences attitudes towards policing policies. The third talk describes an intervention that incorporates the use of gesture in teaching elementary school students to boost learning outcomes for students of all races. Finally, the fourth talk examines the effects of increasing perceived organizational structure on feelings of belongingness and efficacy for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life. These talks provide theory-based and cost-effective interventions to improve outcomes for four distinct populations empirically backed by findings from psychological science.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Esha Naidu

Postdoctoral Scholar | Duke University

An Intervention to Empower People to Confront Sexism

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Sexism in workplaces is common and pervasive. Confronting and speaking up against acts of sexism can powerfully reduce sexism and promote anti-sexist norms, but actual confrontations of sexism in the workplace are rare. People often fail to detect subtle expressions of sexism, see confronting as too interpersonally costly relative to its benefits, or struggle to take action in the moment. To empower people to confront sexism, we developed an intervention inspired by the Confronting Prejudiced Responses Model (Ashburn-Nardo et al., 2008) to overcome all of these obstacles. Intervention recipients completed self-reflection exercises and watched instructional media where they learned about how sexism operates, the benefits of confrontation, and strategies for confronting effectively. In two experiments (total $N = 826$), we found the intervention reliably increased detection of sexism, perceptions that confronting was beneficial, and intentions to confront in a hypothetical workplace scenario relative to a control condition. Together, these findings establish proof of principle that common obstacles to confronting sexism can be overcome through a multi-faceted intervention.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Izilda Pereira-Jorge

Grad Student | University at Buffalo, SUNY

Authors

Grace Drake, Calvin Lai

Exposure to anti-Black racism: Can virtual reality improve anti-racist outcomes?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Two intervention studies examined changes in emotional responses, racial attitudes, and policing policy support after viewing the Traveling While Black Virtual Reality (TWB-VR) simulation—a 20-minute 360° VR experience highlighting race, restricted movement, and Black individuals' reflections on segregation, discrimination, and police violence in the US. Pennsylvania community members (longitudinal study; $N = 1,360$), completed 5 waves of VR surveys (pre-sim, post-sim, 3-mo, and 6-mo after TWB-VR). Emotional responses (anger, shame), racial attitudes, and support for police reform improved after TWB-VR. Negative emotions persisted at 6-mo, while policy support lasted 3-mo before returning to baseline. Additionally, White participants experienced more shame than Black participants, predicting greater support for equitable policing. In an experiment ($N = 347$), participants viewed either TWB-VR or a non-race-related control VR simulation. TWB-VR increased negative emotions, empathy, knowledge, and anti-racist attitudes, with enhanced empathy linked to greater policy support. This research suggests race-related VR can enhance understanding of systemic racism and promote social change.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Valerie Jones Taylor

Associate Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University, New Brunswick | Rutgers University—New Brunswick

Authors

Jared Cutler, Suliarys Contreras, Sandra Manfreda, Tamara Franklin, Juan Valladares

Unlocking Potential: Incorporating Gesture in Teaching Boosts Learning for Children

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Classrooms represent a context in which differences in communication style may differentially impact children's engagement and learning. Here, we investigate the impact of gesture on learning by testing how incorporating gesture in teaching may improve learning of novel words. Gestures have previously been found to enhance language development and facilitate more effective learning. Further, previous work suggests that Black children, in particular, learn more effectively when they can move their bodies as a learning tool. Across two public elementary schools, first and second grade students (N = 140) completed a six-week learning intervention. Nine classrooms were read storybooks featuring novel target words which were introduced and defined either with an accompanied ASL sign (i.e., gesture condition) or defined without the sign (i.e., control condition). Our preliminary findings indicate that the intervention was effective in increasing vocabulary knowledge for all students regardless of race. The current findings indicate that gesture may be an important factor in vocabulary learning for children from various backgrounds due to both multimodal and cultural benefits.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Esha Naidu
Postdoctoral Scholar | Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Hannah Garner, Oretioluwasefunmi Agbelusi, Anna Gassman-Pines, Leslie Babinski

Structure in Transition: Facilitating Military Veteran Workplace Efficacy & Belonging

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Employment transitions challenge individuals' sense of personal control, such as with military veterans shifting into civilian workplaces. Across three studies, we examined whether perceiving greater organizational structure supports positive workplace outcomes among veterans and civilians. Drawing on Compensatory Control Theory, we proposed that structure serves as an external source of order that can restore self-efficacy and promote belonging during transitions. Studies 1 and 2 (total N = 747) found that perceived structure was associated with greater occupational self-efficacy which, in turn, predicted greater belonging at work. These effects were robust across veterans and civilians. Manipulated structure in a hypothetical job also increased anticipated efficacy and belonging (Study 3, N = 400). Findings suggest that organizational structure plays a meaningful role in successful employment transitions, particularly for those socialized in structured institutions like the military. Ongoing research and development of interventions informed by this research at the individual and organizational level will be discussed.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



W. Connor Gibbs
Postdoctoral Associate | Duke university

Authors

David Sherman

Honoring Jerry Clore: Affect-as-Information and Beyond

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E353C, Level 3

EMOTION

This symposium recognizes the seminal role that Affect-as-Information Theory (Clore et al., 2001) has played over several decades, contributing to an increasingly sophisticated understanding of how emotions guide judgments, thoughts, and behaviors. We describe how recent work that has taken it into new directions. Talk 1 reviews how the original approach was refined into the Affect-as-Cognitive-Feedback Account, which suggests that affective feelings can encourage, or deter, acting on currently salient cognitive tendencies. Talk 2 summarizes recent research suggesting feelings play a more pronounced role for individuals who habitually attend to and value their feelings. The next two talks explore affect in real life contexts. Talk 3 outlines how appreciation of art in a museum increased participants' feelings of self-transcendence, and their abstract thinking. Talk 4 outlines research with emergency room doctors to identify factors that elicit anger or compassion, and effects on medical judgments. Taken together, these new findings point to a complex interplay of affect, cognition and behavior, and how they emerge in everyday life.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Simone Schnall
Professor of Experimental Social Psychology | University of Cambridge

How Does Affect Govern Cognition?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

EMOTION

Affect-as-information Theory (Clore et al., 2001) has been foundational to the emergence of affective science. Considerable research over several decades had suggested that effects of affective feelings on cognition were almost like etched into psychological stone: Feeling a particular way makes people think in particular ways. New research indicates that this connection is quite flexible, with affective feelings merely dictating whether people act on momentarily dominant cognitive tendencies. Together with collaborators, such findings led the author to develop the Affect-as-Cognitive-Feedback Account. The author presents new research extending this account to group judgment and decision making, and to the moral roots of vaccine hesitancy and refusal.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jeffrey R. Huntsinger
Loyola University Chicago

Roles for Attention to Emotion in Affect-as-Information Theory

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

EMOTION

One important premise of Affect-as-Information Theory is that feelings are likely to play a more important role in social cognition and self-regulation among individuals who attend to and value their feelings, relative to those who do not (Gohm & Clore, 2000, 2003). The current talk will present new sources of evidence for this idea. A first line of work has shown that people who attend to and value their feelings to a greater extent (high trait attention individuals) exhibit stronger emotional reactions to affective stimuli, with time course analyses implicating elaboration-related processes. A second line of work, using a stream-of-consciousness paradigm, has shown that spontaneous thoughts and feelings are more inter-connected at higher levels of attention to emotion. A third line of work has shown that guidance by a hedonic principle (e.g., approach that which induces pleasant feelings) is stronger among high attention individuals. Feelings are more fluid and influential at higher levels of attention to emotion, providing support for Affect-as-Information Theory and its individual difference postulates.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Michael Robinson**
Professor | North Dakota State Univ.

Affect in the Art Museum: Broadening People's Horizons

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

EMOTION

Although much research on affect has focused on the positive-negative valence dichotomy, philosophical theorizing points to an important role of specific positive emotions. Kant suggested that feelings of self-transcendence follow from appreciating beauty. We tested this idea in the naturalistic context of an art museum. Participants viewed pottery objects created by a renowned artist, with half being instructed to rate their beauty, and the other half completing a perceptual control task unrelated to beauty. Thus, all participants were exposed to the same stimuli, but only some engaged with their aesthetic and affective value. As predicted, the Beauty Condition reported greater self-transformative and transcendent emotions than the No Beauty Condition. Importantly, however, the two groups did not differ in positive affect, suggesting that the consequences of beauty went beyond mere valence. The Beauty Condition also exhibited more abstract thinking than the No Beauty Condition, especially participants who practiced an art hobby themselves. Thus, experiences of beauty can prompt cognitive and affective responses, beyond what would be expected from positive affect alone.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Simone Schnall**
Professor of Experimental Social Psychology | University of Cambridge

Affect in the Emergency Room: Doctors' Medical Decisions

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

EMOTION

Despite having profoundly influenced the scientific understanding of emotions within academia, Affect-as-Information Theory has failed to penetrate the medical field, where affect is typically viewed as a bias to be mitigated and an experience to be avoided and suppressed. Despite the longstanding culture in medicine that discourages affect, our studies demonstrate that clinical practice is inherently affective, and emotions significantly influence Emergency Department (ED) physicians and patients. This talk will present 3 studies employing diverse methods with 445 emergency physicians from across the USA to identify factors that elicit anger and compassion in the ED and the effects of these emotions on physicians' patient assessments and clinical decisions. Results will also be presented from a field study in which emotion reports were collected from 20 ED physicians during 850 clinical encounters with a diverse patient population and correlated with physicians' clinical behaviors (e.g., encounter length). Together, the results underscore the need to integrate affective science into medicine to improve patient care and physician well-being.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Linda Isbell**
Professor | Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst

LGBTIQ+ Experiences in Troubled Water: Intercommunity Friction, Legal Shifts, and Allyship

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E352, Level 3

DIVERSITY

This symposium explores the multifaceted experiences and social dynamics affecting LGBTIQ+ populations across different contexts. The first presentation advances minority stress theory by incorporating intra-community prejudice, revealing that internalized stigma and mental health outcomes are influenced not only by discrimination from cis-heterosexual people but also by prejudices within LGBTIQ+ communities. The second talk presents the Swiss LGBTIQ+ Panel, a longitudinal study tracking LGBTIQ+ people to understand how legal and social changes affect the societal integration, well-being, and health of LGBTIQ+ people. The third presentation examines public attitudes during Hungary's Pride ban, identifying distinct psychological profiles among cis-heterosexual people and their varying intentions to engage in pro-LGBTQ+ activism. It highlights the potential for allyship even among conservative groups. Collectively, these studies highlight the importance of addressing intra-community prejudice, the need for longitudinal research to understand the impact of legal and societal changes on LGBTIQ+ people, and the necessity of ally support to promote LGBTIQ+ health, inclusion, and social justice.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers

 **Tabea Hässler**
Senior Lecturer | University of Zurich

 **Joel Anderson**
Principal Research Fellow | Australian Research Center In Sex, Health, and Society

An Exploration of Differential Impacts of the Source of Prejudice on Internalized Bi-sexual Prejudice

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

Minority stress theory posits that prejudice-related stress contributes to poorer mental health among sexual minorities. While most research focuses on heterosexual discrimination, LGBTQ people may also experience stress from within their own communities. This study draws on three waves of longitudinal data (N > 400) to test minority stress theory using a novel measure that captures both heterosexual and intra-community prejudice. The new measure assesses experiences of prejudice and the degree to which these are internalised, separately for heterosexual and LGBTQ sources. Structural equation modelling examined pathways from both forms of prejudice to internalised stigma, and to key psychosocial outcomes, including depression, anxiety, self-esteem, and social connectedness. Results indicate that intra-community prejudice, while less frequent than heterosexual prejudice, uniquely predicted internalised stigma and poorer outcomes over time. These findings extend minority stress theory to account for the layered and sometimes contradictory social contexts LGBTQ people navigate, highlighting the importance of addressing both intergroup and intragroup prejudice in promoting wellbeing.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Joel Anderson
Principal Research Fellow | Australian Research Center In Sex, Health, and Society

Authors

Tabea Hassler, Emma Thomas, Morgana Lizzio-Wilson, Winnifred Louis

Impact of Legal and Social Changes on LGBTQ+ People

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

Despite legal advancements, challenges persist for LGBTQ+ people worldwide, and polarization continues to increase. To better understand these experiences, we initiated the Swiss LGBTQ+ Panel in 2019, focusing on the integration of LGBTQ+ people and the evolution of their situations over time. Importantly, the LGBTQ+ community consists of many sub-populations differing in sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, and other identities. Therefore, the panel includes diverse sub-populations within the LGBTQ+ community. It is further crucial to follow people over time to shed light on how opinions, life satisfaction, and health evolve gradually over time or in response to societal events, such as recent legal changes or increasing anti-trans rhetoric. We conduct the survey annually, with up to 5,500 participants involved. In this presentation, I will discuss the panel, key findings, and scientific projects, including the impact of the legal changes on self-reported and biological stress levels. I will also highlight national and international outreach initiatives and suggest ways to foster greater inclusivity for LGBTQ+ populations in research and society.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Tabea Hässler
Senior Lecturer | University of Zurich

Authors

Léila Eisner

Who Stands With Pride? Latent Profiles of Pride Supporters in Hungary

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

In response to Hungary's 2025 Pride ban, thousands mobilized in protest, including many non-LGBTQ+ people. This study aimed to examine how non-LGBTQ+ people respond to LGBTQ+ issues in a real-world scenario—specifically, whether distinct psychological profiles emerge based on identity, perceived injustice, appraisal of legal changes, and intergroup emotions. We conducted a large cross-sectional survey (N = 4213) among Hungarian non-LGBTQ+ adults during the peak of the Pride-ban protests. Latent profile analysis identified three distinct attitudinal profiles: consistent supporters, conditional supporters, and opposers. Consistent supporters showed strong ally identity, emotional engagement, and support for the Pride march regardless of group perception, while conditional supporters' support depended on perceiving LGBTQ+ people as moral. Profiles varied in political orientation, past activism, and future pro-LGBTQ+ action intentions. Findings highlight the complexity of intergroup solidarity in hostile climates and suggest even politically conservative individuals may engage in LGBTQ+ support. This work has implications for mobilizing allies beyond typical identity-based motivations.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Éva Gáti
PhD Student | ELTE Institute of Psychology

Authors

Patricia Ciordas, Anna Kende, Hanna Szekeres, Bertjan Doosje

New Directions in Existential Psychology for the Religious and Nonreligious

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

As more people move away from religion, questions about meaning, hope, and spiritual connection remain central to psychological life. This symposium presents 4 talks offering new insights into existential psychology across belief backgrounds. The first introduces spiritual yearning—a motivational longing for meaning and transcendence—examining its correlates, stability, and impact on existential security across 3 studies (N = 5,757) focused on nonreligious individuals. The second explores how spiritual yearning relates to spiritual struggles (e.g., doubt, moral conflict) across religious, formerly religious, and never religious participants (N = 3,014), using network and correlational analyses to show variation by worldview. The third examines how religious individuals define and experience hope across 3 studies (N = 1,845), suggesting current models may miss key aspects of religious hope. The fourth (5 studies; N = 3,424) shows that hope predicts meaning in life more strongly for people with lower mental health and social functioning. Together, these talks offer new perspectives on how people pursue meaning, hope, and existential security within and beyond traditional religion.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Joshua Wilt
Senior Research Associate | Case Western Reserve University

The Nonreligious Quest for Existential Meaning and Fulfilment

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Religion has long been a source of existential comfort and security. As increasingly more people are leaving traditional religion, these religious doers and nones are turning toward new sources of spiritual connection. We explore spiritual yearning—the motivation for existential comfort and fulfillment—among the nonreligious through a multimethod set of three studies (N = 5757). In Study 1 (n = 2,338), we drew from three separate samples (ns = 585, 883, 870) to examine correlates of spiritual yearning with associated constructs. In Study 2 (n = 424), we conducted a longitudinal study to examine whether spiritual yearning is a state or trait. In Study 3 (n = 2,995), we conducted an experiment to examine the causal effects of having one's spiritual needs fulfilled or frustrated on existential security. The converging results suggest that spiritual yearning is the motivational longing for deeper meaning and transcendent connection, is relatively stable in the short-term, and is associated with existential security and positive emotions. We discuss the implications of this research for the changing religious landscape for many individuals.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Daryl Van Tongeren
Professor of Psychology | Hope College

Authors

Patty Van Cappellen, Joshua Wilt, Julie Exline, Isabella Brady, Claire Van Duinen

Spiritual Yearning and Struggle Across Religious and Nonreligious Groups: Correlational and Network Insights

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Spiritual yearning (SY)—desire for meaning, self-discovery, and/or transcendence—is common in religious and nonreligious individuals. Yet, SY may relate to spiritual struggles (SS), such as doubt and moral conflict. We examined SY–SS associations in 3,014 participants, including religious individuals, formerly religious “doers,” and never religious “nones.” Correlational and network analyses revealed positive associations between SY and SS, with stronger effects in nonreligious groups. Partial correlations showed links between specific domains (e.g., moral guidance yearnings with moral struggles), but other associations varied by group. Religious participants showed stronger ties between spiritual experience yearnings and belief struggles, while nonreligious, especially doers, linked inner peace yearnings to meaning struggles. Network analyses identified doubt struggles as central overall. Among the religious, yearning for spiritual experience was key; for nonreligious, moral guidance was central. These findings show how SY-SS connections vary by background, highlighting existential questions about how people search for and struggle with meaning, identity, and moral direction.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Joshua Wilt
Senior Research Associate | Case Western Reserve University

Authors

Patty Van Cappellen, Daryl Van Tongeren, Julie Exline

Beyond Rainbows: Religious and Existential Dimensions of Hope

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Hope is central to many religious traditions, yet dominant psychological models - especially Snyder's theory emphasizing agency and pathways toward goals - fail to fully capture its existential depth. In Studies 1 (U.S. representative sample, N = 1,426) and 2 (convenience sample, N = 229), we find only small associations between religiosity and hope when using Snyder's definition. However, when hope is measured without a pre-set definition, the association grows moderate to large. This suggests religious individuals may define hope differently, i.e., less as goal pursuit. In Study 3 (N = 190; diverse in religious identity and background), we replicate these patterns and analyze qualitative definitions of hope across high- and low-religiosity participants. Our results highlight the need to revise psychological models of hope to reflect lived experience, especially among highly religious populations. This work broadens the conceptualization of hope and centers voices often overlooked in scientific research on hope.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Patty Van Cappellen
Assistant Research Professor | Duke University

Authors

Megan Edwards

Hope in the Dark: Hope More Strongly Predicts Meaning in Life Among Those Who Need It

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Hope is a key emotion for experiencing meaning in life (MIL; Edwards et al., 2025). Hope is specifically relevant to difficult circumstances that ultimately challenge MIL. As such, hope may more strongly predict MIL among people high (vs. low) on individual differences that reflect a challenge to MIL. In Studies 1-4, participants completed measures of hopeful feelings, MIL, and varied individual differences, including neuroticism, despair (Studies 1 N = 912; and 2 N = 973), mental health symptoms (Study 2), insecure attachment (Study 3, N = 288), and loneliness/social relatedness (Study 4, N = 586). As predicted, hope was a stronger predictor of MIL among those high (vs. low) in psychological misery (Studies 1-2) and poor social functioning (Studies 3-4). In Study 5 (N = 665), experimentally induced hope (vs. hopelessness) led to greater purpose (but not coherence and significance, specific facets of MIL) only among those with high adverse childhood experiences. Positive affect did not show the same moderation effects, suggesting this is unique to hope's relation to MIL. Overall, we demonstrate that hope is a stronger predictor of MIL among those who need it most.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Megan Edwards
Postdoctoral Scholar | Duke University

Authors

Hope Rose, Laura King

Quest for significance: love and war

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

The Quest for Significance refers to the fundamental human motivation to feel worthy, respected, and valued (Kruglanski et al., 2022). This symposium explores how this single psychological need drives both ends of human nature—aggression and love. The first talk presents four studies showing that individuals with high (versus low) significance loss are more likely to resort to aggression rather than non-aggressive strategies like negotiation. The second talk presents four studies demonstrating that the love feelings of Low SES individuals are more affected by partner appreciation but less by partner social status compared to high SES individuals and that significance expansion explained the mechanism. The third talk examines how violent extremists do not justify their behavior based on fixed ideologies but through a deeper psychological drive for significance. The final talk shows that significance loss amplifies belief in violence as effective in real-world conflicts. Together, these talks reveal how love and aggression stem from the same quest for mattering and dignity. The session concludes with a discussion on interventions to enhance significance nonviolently.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Zizhong Xiao
Ph.D. Candidate | University of Maryland College Park



Huixian Yu
University of Maryland

Mitigating Aggression: Role of Significance-Frustration in Conflict

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Building on the revised frustration-aggression hypothesis, the significance quest theory, and a model of extremism, this research tested whether aggressive (vs. non-aggressive) responses to significance-frustration are more likely when such frustration is high (vs. low). Across four experiments (N = 1,093, from six continents), consistent support for this hypothesis emerged. In Study 1, aggressive means were perceived more effective than non-aggressive ones only under high (vs. low vs. control) personal frustration. Study 2 replicated this in the context of in-group significance loss. Study 3 showed that high (vs. low) frustration increased the actual choice of aggressive responses. Study 4 confirmed this for in-group loss and behaviorally showed that those highly frustrated were more likely to aggress against out-group members seen as responsible. These findings suggest that the magnitude of significance-frustration increases the preference for aggression, offering insights for conflict resolution.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Federico Contu
student | Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele

Authors

Gabriele Di Cicco, Arie W. Kruglanski, Molly Ellenberg, Pedro R. Altungy, Erica Molinaro

How Social Class Shapes Love Conditions: Partner Status and Appreciation

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

A recent motivational theory on romantic love (Kruglanski et al., 2025) posits that love is driven by a sense of significance generated by the partner's merit, appreciation, and their interplay. The current research builds on and extends the theory by examining how personal socioeconomic status shapes the effects of partner social standing (a partner merit) and partner appreciation on love in different ways. Across four studies (total N = 1338) including three experiments (Study 1, 2, 3) and one 21-day dyad daily diary study (Study 4, 226 couples, total daily observations = 7619), we found that the love feelings of individuals with higher socioeconomic status, compared to those with lower socioeconomic status, were more heavily influenced by partner's social standing (how respected the partner is in the society), but less heavily influenced by perceived partner appreciation, both in partner selection phase (Study 1 and 2) and in dynamics of ongoing relationships (Study 3 and Study 4). Study 3 and 4 further showed that the differential moderation effects of socioeconomic status for partner social standing and partner appreciation on love were mediated by the sense of significance.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Huixian Yu
University of Maryland

Authors

Arie W. Kruglanski, Molly Ellenberg, Edward P. Lemay

Cancelled: By Any Means Necessary: Ideologically Inconsistent Radicalization and Significance Quest

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

A recent trend in the terrorism landscape is the apparent increasing prevalence of violent extremists who do not appear to adhere to one ideology, instead cherry-picking components of different ideologies to justify violence. This reflects an ideological inconsistency that has not been thoroughly explored through a social psychological lens. Rather than positing that these actors are driven by overlapping components of discrete ideologies, the present theory suggests that ideological inconsistency is the result of an especially strong need for significance with an expanded set of available means to fulfill that need, comprising both more extreme means and means which conflict with one another. A review of prior literature as well as exploratory analysis using eight datasets supports this motivational understanding of an emerging trend in violent extremism, finding that people with higher significance quests report greater support for conflicting, significance-granting actions and ideologies. The results suggest that ideological inconsistency, while confounding to many, is driven by the same underlying motivation as traditional violent extremism: the quest for significance.

*SYMPOSIUM

Primordial Expectancies for Primordial Means: Placing Faith in Violence

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Theorizing suggests that aggression compensates for psychological disempowerment. The present research tests how primordial means (aggression) mainly follow primordial expectancies of their effectiveness. In three studies, we test how disempowerment predicts support for violence via an intuitive sense of faith in its effectiveness. In Study 1, Disempowerment predicted support for the January 6, 2021, rioters, which in turn predicted faith in elections (N = 798, correlational). In Study 2, experimentally framing the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel as a significance loss led Israeli civilians to report greater faith in an Israeli military victory (N= 528). In Study 3, disempowered participants who were experimentally reminded that the 2024 United Healthcare CEO shooting was motivated by frustration with the U.S. healthcare system predicted greater faith in the violence as a means of pursuing policy change (N = 865, preregistered). All effects were independent of participants' logic-based expectancies. Consistent with our premise that primordial means involve primordial expectancies, people shift towards faith-based expectancies in the face of significance loss.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Dylan Wollschläger
Wayne State University

Authors

Pontus Leander

Social beliefs and preferences are not social enough

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E350, Level 3

SOCIAL COGNITION

Social reality is complex. As social psychologists, we often invoke broad constructs and sometimes simple measures to capture this complexity. But doing so may gain simplicity at the cost of misrepresenting reality. We present evidence that major constructs and measures—moral foundations, collectivism, and social stereotypes—may have missed the complexity of social reality. In moral foundations, conservatives endorse loyalty, and liberals endorse care. But towards whom are conservatives and liberals really being loyal and caring? In collectivism, East Asian cultures prioritize the interests of “others,” more than Western cultures. But who exactly are these “others” that collectivism prioritizes? In stereotyping, people hold generalized beliefs about groups, such as men as being more competitive than women. But who are men really being stereotyped as competitive towards? Finally, our last speaker connects the dots, arguing that many traits are “relational”—describing a person or group’s behaviors towards specific others. We suggest that this broad perspective might lead to insights that have the potential to challenge constructs across our field.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Oliver Sng
Assistant Professor | University of California, Irvine



Rebecca Neel
Associate Professor | Univ. of Toronto

Do Liberals and Conservatives Really Have Different Moral Foundations?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

A highly influential theory attributes ideological divides to liberals' and conservatives' fundamentally different moral intuitions. Evidence supporting this claim, we argue, has largely relied on ideologically biased measures, suffering the problem of circularity. Eight studies (seven preregistered; N = 5,446) illustrate this problem. Ideological differences in every moral foundation can be inverted or diminished by changing the target of moral concern. Effects persist across experimental designs (Studies 1-2), questionnaire psychometric qualities (Study 3), geographically and politically diverse countries (Study 4), and numerous representative targets (Studies 5-6). By minimizing ideological bias using open-ended responses (Study 7) or idiographic/participant-specific targets (Study 8), ideological differences in moral foundations shrink or disappear. Liberals and conservatives seem to differ more in their targets of moral concern than in their fundamental moral intuitions.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Noah Lasaker

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Spike Lee

Fuzzy terms like “other people” explain why collectivism scales fail

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Experts are convinced East Asian cultures are more collectivistic than Western cultures. Yet three separate meta-analyses found that self-report collectivism surveys failed to find East-West differences. One factor that can help explain this puzzling finding is that collectivism scales often use fuzzy, unclear relationship terms, like “others.” We argue that people in collectivistic cultures need to know the relationship before they can give a confident answer about how they would treat that person. We tested this in two ways. First, we created a scale that specified a range of specific relationships and tested 16,237 people in 100 cultures. Results showed reliable cultural differences that earlier meta-analyses failed to find. Then, we asked a separate group of participants in China and the US to read the scale items in the top five most-cited collectivism scales and rate the clarity of the relationships. These clarity ratings predicted items' ability to detect actual cultural differences and metrics of criterion validity (such as living with extended family). This evidence suggests that it is crucial to specify relationships to reliably measure cultural differences.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Alexander English

Associate Professor | Wenzhou-Kean

Authors

Thomas Talhelm

Directed stereotypes: universality and variation

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Stereotypes are strategically complex. Perceivers hold not just stereotypes about what groups are generally like (e.g., “men are competitive”), but stereotypes about how groups behave towards specific groups (e.g., “men are competitive towards...”). We call these directed stereotypes. Recent studies find that American perceivers hold directed stereotypes of gender, age, and race, with unique patterns that both qualify and reverse well-documented stereotype patterns in the literature. For example, men are typically stereotyped as more competitive than women. Yet directed stereotypes show that women are stereotyped to be more competitive than men, when this competitiveness is directed toward young women. We present new data that examines gender-age directed stereotypes across 16 countries (N = 2379). Directed stereotype patterns replicate strikingly across societies. Yet there is also significant cross-societal variation in the magnitude of stereotyped differences, which are linked to societal-level gender inequality and sex ratios. We discuss implications for thinking about the nature and measurement of gender and age stereotypes, and stereotype content more broadly.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Oliver Sng

Assistant Professor | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Rebecca Neel, Hojeong Lee

How and why to study relational attributes

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

People cannot be competitive, loyal, or empathic by themselves. Identifying who a person may be competitive, loyal, or empathic toward can thus reveal radically different patterns of social perceptions and behavior. This talk provides a big-picture synthesis and roadmap for research on relational attributes: attributes describing one person's behavior toward another. We overview findings from a wide array of topic areas, including stereotypes, social invisibility, morality, prejudice, and empathy to show that relational attributes are both prevalent and highly relevant to many social psychological phenomena. We provide guidance on how to identify whether an attribute is relational, and what to do differently when we are studying one. Specific recommendations are both conceptual (how to identify relational attributes) and methodological (e.g., principled and broad stimulus sampling, examining intraclass correlation coefficients). The talk will thus provide overarching theoretical coherence to this topic, as well as offer concrete next steps for researchers who want to explore relational attributes in their own work.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Rebecca Neel

Associate Professor | Univ. of Toronto

Authors

Oliver Sng, Spike Lee, Elia Lam

Structure's Double-Edged Sword: Impacts on Perception and Behavior

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This symposium explores the dual nature of structure in shaping perceptions and behavior, highlighting both its benefits and unintended consequences. The first talk shows that providing a structured, suggested plan (i.e., specifying time and location for action) is more effective for behavioral follow-through than asking individuals to generate their own plan. The second talk reveals that although structured updates to wait time for products and services reduce uncertainty, they can increase impatience by drawing attention to the wait. The third talk finds that people prefer self-improvement programs with structured support (i.e., graduation) over support that is unstructured and continual, as the former is perceived as more conducive to personal accomplishment. Similarly, the final talk shows that in social settings, individuals are less likely to choose structured collaboration (i.e., social interaction guided by explicit rules) because it is perceived as less enjoyable than unstructured approaches. Together, these talks highlight how structure influences perceptions and behavior across contexts and provide practical insights into when and how to implement structure effectively.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Graelin Mandel

University of Chicago Booth School of Business



Kelly Harrington

Doctoral Student | Northwestern University

Does a Suggested Plan Increase the Effectiveness of Planning Prompts?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Prompting consumers to plan when and where they will follow through on a goal is a well-established strategy for closing intention-behavior gaps. Such "planning prompts" typically require consumers to form their own plans, which prior research suggests should enhance follow-through because self-set plans engender greater commitment and are more memorable. However, we propose that offering a suggested plan—specifying a proposed time, day, and location for action—alongside a planning prompt can more effectively promote follow-through by simplifying decision-making and thereby reducing the complexity and cognitive effort required to follow through. In a large-scale field experiment (N = 1,012,143) with a national U.S. pharmacy, we find that reminders prompting planning and offering a suggested plan led to 2.45% more vaccinations than reminders prompting planning alone. In a second field experiment (N = 985,145), planning prompts with a suggested plan outperform best practice reminders by 3.26%. These findings reveal that offering a suggested plan in a planning prompt may be a more effective way to nudge follow-through than asking individuals to form self-set plans.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Robert Kuan

PhD Student | The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Katherine Milkman, Robert Kuan, Sean Ellis, Dena Gromet, Youngwoo Jung

Knowing the Time Remaining: The Effect of Updates on Impatience

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

People frequently wait for products and services, such as for packages to arrive or restaurant tables to be ready. Organizations often provide updates on the time remaining in a wait, intended to improve the experience. In a pilot study, we find that people overwhelmingly want time updates in common situations and predict they will reduce impatience. However, across four studies (N = 1,186), we find that updates about the time remaining in a wait can instead increase impatience. Using longitudinal studies, we found that people felt worse while waiting several days for a bonus opportunity (Study 1) and a personalized pet video (Study 2) when they received updates about the time remaining in the wait, compared to when they did not. The updates heightened impatience by making the wait more salient. We further found that time updates led people to feel more impatient while waiting in the lab for a holiday treat (Study 3) and school supplies (Study 4), despite reducing uncertainty and the perceived duration of the wait. We suggest that while updates seem helpful, they may backfire when people are occupied with other activities during the wait.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers

 **Ayelet Fishbach**
Prof. | Univ. of Chicago

 **Robina Ghosh**
Assitant Professor | University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Authors

Ayelet Fishbach, Robina Ghosh, Annabelle Roberts, Bowen Ruan

From Reliance to Mastery: Graduation Signaling Enhances Program Engagement

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Self-improvement programs, such as apps for eating healthily or learning a new language (e.g., Noom and Duolingo), often promote a model of continuous reliance. However, sense of control and personal agency are fundamental human motivators. Across seven preregistered studies (N = 2,496), we introduce the concept of graduation signaling: framing self-improvement programs as temporary, expertise-building tools (vs. sources of continuous support). Graduation signaling increases motivation and performance. People preferred self-improvement programs that signaled graduation (Study 1; Study 6-7); they also spent more time engaging in such programs (Studies 2-3), produced better results (Study 2), and retained more information (Study 3). Graduation signaling enhanced program engagement by shifting construal of program disengagement to an experience of personal achievement (Study 5). Our work introduces a new theoretical concept relevant to self-improvement. Further, our findings provide insight into strategies for enhancing engagement in self-improvement pursuits, of practical importance for goal-pursuers and program designers alike.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Graelin Mandel**
University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Ayelet Fishbach, Graelin Mandel

Hedonic Perceptions Fuel Resistance to Structured Collaboration

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Structured collaboration—using explicit, predetermined rules to guide social interaction during collective tasks—has proven effective in enhancing outcomes across diverse professional and social contexts. Yet, valuable structured techniques like the Fast Friends Procedure and Brainwriting remain underutilized. This research explores whether perceptions of enjoyment (hedonic value) and effectiveness (utilitarian value) help explain this adoption gap. Across five studies (N=1,491), we consistently observed that structured collaboration was perceived as less enjoyable than unstructured approaches, despite inconsistent perceptions of its effectiveness. This enjoyment gap was driven by negative evaluations of structured collaboration rather than positive evaluations of unstructured collaboration (Study 3) and was further explained by a reduction in authentic self-expression rather than a general loss of autonomy (Study 4). Ultimately, lower perceived enjoyment predicted a lower likelihood of choosing structured collaboration (Study 5). These findings suggest that lack of enjoyment is a key psychological barrier to embracing structured collaboration, even when its benefits are clear.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Kelly Harrington**
Doctoral Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Kelly Harrington, Loran Nordgren

Testing Interventions to Increase Acknowledgement of Systemic Racism

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E451B, Level 4

DIVERSITY

Among Americans, there are widely different interpretations about the causes of racial inequalities. Some believe that racism is not the problem but rather lack of effort or merit; others believe that racism is largely an interpersonal phenomenon that occurs due to the actions of isolated individuals. The concept of systemic racism – that racial bias is embedded in our structures, institutions, and laws – has proven controversial, and policies have been instituted in multiple states to prevent people from learning about or discussing the idea. This symposium brings together a set of interventions designed to increase people's willingness to acknowledge the existence of systemic racism. The first three presentations showcase cognitive, metacognitive, and narrative techniques to explore how different methods can reduce barriers to acknowledging systemic racism. The fourth presentation introduces a qualitative dataset on lay attributions for racial health disparities followed by a participatory discussion on how we would apply the intervention techniques presented in the first three presentations.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Brianna Richmond
University of Mississippi



Negin Toosi
Assistant Professor | California State Univ., East Bay

Racial Knowledge increases Support for Critical Race Theory Tenets

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

To counter the psychological barriers that justify structural racism, we propose a simple, cognitive/epistemological method, the consideration of critical knowledge, i.e., knowledge that identifies and challenges existing power dynamics and recurring patterns of injustice. In a correlational study, undergraduates took a test of critical racial knowledge; accuracy scores, determined by signal detection, positively predicted support for the tenets of Critical Race Theory, including the ideas that racism is common and structural and race is socially constructed and intersectional. This effect held when political ideology, social dominance orientation, and racial prejudice were controlled for. In experiments, we find that participants randomly assigned to consider critical racial knowledge increase their support for Critical Race Theory tenets. At the same time, exposure to critical racial knowledge had no impact on participants' national attachment, despite claims of cultural critics. Ongoing research expands the effects of critical racial knowledge to the endorsement of DEI initiatives and suggests a simple, direct way to increase support for the dismantlement of systemic racism.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Mejdy Jabr
Graduate Researcher/Instructor | University of Arkansas

Authors

Emily Vance

Reflecting on Racism: How Metacognition Affects Perceptions About Structural Inequality

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

Embedded in everyday practices and institutional structures, systemic racism is harder to perceive than overt acts of prejudice. Therefore, Americans often reject structural explanations of racial inequality, favoring individualist narratives that minimize systemic factors. To increase awareness and recognition of systemic racism, the current study examined whether a metacognitive training (MCT) intervention could shift these beliefs by encouraging individuals to reflect on and revise their existing assumptions about racial inequality. To assess this, American adults from a nationally representative sample (N=453) were asked to complete a brief quiz about systemic racism. In the MCT condition, participants were immediately exposed to corrective feedback to challenge misperceptions. In the control condition, participants were not exposed to corrective feedback after the quiz. Participants who received the intervention showed greater endorsement of structural explanations for racial inequality, but only marginal shifts in the perceptions of specific scenarios depicting systemic racism. Findings support the utility of metacognitive training in changing beliefs about systemic racism.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Brianna Richmond
University of Mississippi

Authors

Joseph Wellman, Negin Toosi, Clara Wilkins

Narrative-Modeling Increases Acknowledgment of Systemic Racism and DEI Support

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

We compared three interventions meant to increase acknowledgement of systemic racial inequality, recognition of systemic racism incidents, and support for DEI efforts among White Americans. This study compared effects of a self-affirmation intervention to counter feelings of threat, a metacognitive corrective intervention to provide accurate information, and a narrative-modeling approach meant to address both cognitive and emotional needs, both immediately and after two weeks. The control was information about cultural differences between racial groups with no reference to power or prejudice. The narrative intervention, which involved a first-person story of a White man who uncovers evidence of racial wage discrimination at his workplace and decides to stand up against racism, was the most effective in the moment and after two weeks. The metacognitive corrective training was also effective on many outcomes, but self-affirmation less so, compared to the control.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Negin Toosi
Assistant Professor | California State Univ., East Bay

Authors

Joseph Wellman, Clara Wilkins, Brianna Richmond

Lay-theories Reflect, Reproduce, Deny, and Acknowledge Racism in Health Disparities

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

Lay-theories are sets of interconnected ideas people use to understand and explain their worlds. We used a reflexive thematic analysis to investigate participant-generated lay-beliefs about COVID-19 disparities between White and Black communities (N=150) and between White and Latinx communities (N=145) in the US. We extracted six themes from these lay-beliefs: perceived non-compliance with guidelines, beliefs about biological health, the assumptions about cultural differences, concerns about working conditions, acknowledgement of structural barriers, and naming racism as the problem. Informed by Critical Race Psychology, we discuss how racism is reflected and reproduced in lay-beliefs about Black and Latinx communities by overlooking evidence-based realities, reproducing negative stereotypes and racist tropes, culturally pathologizing, positioning racial differences as biological, and/or denying the role of racism. We discuss these qualitative remarks in relation to the prior three presentations, to understand how such interventions may directly challenge or respond to lay-theories that come up in conversations about systemic racism.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Grace Rivera

University of Mississippi

Authors

Rebecca Schlegel, Phia Salter, Michael Perez, Jaren Crist, Masi Noor

The Future of DEI: Navigating Hostility and Harnessing Evidence-Based Change

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E271, Level 2

DIVERSITY

This symposium offers novel perspectives on the benefits of and challenges to diversity initiatives in organizations. The first talk illuminates the importance of diversity initiatives: women express greater aspirations to lead when organizations have diversity initiatives. The second talk highlights that Americans overestimate hostility towards diversity policies. While White conservatives are perceived to be outright hostile to diversity initiatives, they are merely ambivalent. Despite this, the third talk demonstrates that litigation backed by conservative elites erodes diversity policy support among Black people and White Democrats. Importantly, organizations who defend their policies neutralize the litigation's negative impact. The fourth talk reveals another way DEI efforts are undermined—defensive appeals to free speech reduces willingness to hold perpetrators accountable of racism and sexism. However, shifting attention to the consequences of bias successfully offsets the effect of the free speech appeal. Together, these talks refine our understanding of diversity initiatives in the increasingly hostile environment, and present new directions for research and practice.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Kathy Vo

PhD Student | Northwestern University



Ivuoma Onyeador

Assistant Professor | Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management

Diversity Incentives Can Increase Women's Aspirations to Lead

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

To boost diversity, organizations sometimes use "diversity incentives," or payouts for managers or executives dependent on progress towards a diversity goal. While the effects of incentives on actors are well-documented, it is unclear how targets (marginalized group members who are the focus of the incentivized goal) will be affected. We examine how gender diversity incentives affect women's aspirations to lead. On one hand, diversity incentives may generate identity threat and concerns about backlash among women; on the other, they may be viewed as costly signals of organizational support for women's leadership aspirations. A preregistered field experiment (n=2,035) shows that communicating the existence of organizational diversity incentives increases women's aspirations to lead by 11.3% relative to sharing a goal-free diversity statement and by 11.7% relative to communicating diversity goals alone. We replicate these findings across three preregistered experiments (total n=2,495) and provide evidence that diversity incentives increase women's expectations of receiving sponsorship from their managers, thereby increasing their willingness to state leadership aspirations.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Erika Kirgios

Professor | University Of Chicago

Authors

Edward Chang

Actual and Perceived Impacts of Partisanship on Support for DEI

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

Past research finds that organizational DEI efforts threaten White identity, resulting in racial backlash that may deter DEI efforts. Given that White Americans became more polarized on racial equity in the past decade, four studies (n = 3,189) examined how partisanship complicates previous understandings of DEI backlash. In Study 1, racialized backlash depended on partisanship, as White Republicans were less supportive of DEI policies than White Democrats and Black participants of any party, who did not differ. Despite these differences, support was generally high and White Republicans were ambivalent rather than hostile to the policies. Even so, participants in Study 2 overestimated opposition from White Republicans and White people more generally. However, Studies 3 and 4 found mixed evidence that expected backlash directly impacts White Democrats' and Republicans' support for DEI, complicating questions about the dissuasive effects of anticipated backlash. Overall, these findings suggest that theories of racial backlash to DEI should include politics as a critical consideration. We discuss implications for future DEI research in a changing political landscape.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Koji Takahashi
Postdoctoral Fellow | Duke University

Authors

Ivuoma Onyeador

Dismiss or Defend? The Impact of Litigation on Diversity Policy Support

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

As conservative-backed litigation increasingly attacks diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies, a key question is how exposure to anti-DEI litigation will impact people who have historically supported diversity policies (e.g., Black Americans and White Democrats) – will anticipated supporters defend DEI or withdraw their support? Across one archival study and two pre-registered experiments (N = 1007) on full-time employed Americans recruited from Prolific, we demonstrate that exposure to an anti-DEI lawsuit alone undermines diversity policy support—as strongly as ruling it illegal. Litigation erodes support by exacerbating the perceived harm and minimizing the perceived benefits of the challenged policy. However, organizations that defend their policies successfully maintain support for not only their policy, but also diversity policies in general. This research illustrates the unexpected effectiveness of anti-DEI litigation at undermining policy support amongst anticipated supporters. Proponents of DEI cannot take for granted that these challenges to DEI will not erode support.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kathy Vo
PhD Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Ivuoma Onyeador

“What About Free Speech?” Free Speech Appeals Reduce Bias Accountability

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

We examine how free speech appeals affect evaluations of biased speech and accountability intentions. Results from four studies (N = 3897) found that (a) appeals to free speech (relative to alternate appeals or saying nothing) reduced severity evaluations and accountability intentions for both racism and sexism (b) Information about a policy mandating inclusion did not eliminate our effect, whereas a policy mandating free speech reduced accountability for bias, even in the absence of a free speech appeal (c) These appeals work by activating concerns about free speech and reducing the relative weight placed on concerns about bias (d) An intervention that shifted attention back to the consequences of bias offset effects of the free speech appeal. Our findings illustrate the exculpatory effect of free speech appeals, even for explicitly racist and sexist speech. These findings advance our understanding of how people navigate the tension between free speech permissions and biased speech prohibitions, which contributes to scholarship about how diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts get undermined.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ivuoma Onyeador
Assistant Professor | Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management

Authors

Felix Danbold, Kylie Davis

The Psychology of Privilege: Implications for Morality, Politics, and Society

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E270, Level 2

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Amidst persistent inequality, growing tensions around DEI, and challenges to meritocracy, understanding the psychology of privilege has become increasingly urgent. This symposium offers four cutting-edge talks on the profound effects of privilege upon the social realm. The first talk shows how even when privilege is explicit and unearned, advantaged individuals fail to perceive or correct for its impact. The second highlights how dominant group members systematically misperceive the emotions of the disadvantaged, fuelling social division. The third uncovers distinct patterns in strategies employed to manage advantaged racial identities, with implications for social change. Finally, the fourth talk illustrates how public denials of privilege shape collective perceptions of inequality as fair, reinforcing inequality. Together, these talks offer fresh insights and innovative methods for understanding how privilege shapes social relations, morality, and politics.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Ishita Singhal
UC Irvine



Paul Piff
Associate Professor | UC Irvine

(Under)estimating unearned advantage and disadvantage: Insights from a gamified experiment

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The absence of clear metrics to disentangle merit from privilege in real-world contexts (e.g., college admissions) makes it easy for dominant groups to deny its existence. We address this with a field experiment, by directly manipulating a quantifiable, unearned dis/advantage, devoid of social identity confounds: participants were randomly assigned to a closer (advantage) vs farther (disadvantage) starting line, in a solo game of cornhole. Successful throws earned raffle tickets for a monetary prize, and could be kept/donated. Our data shows that while individuals can acknowledge their privilege, they fail to translate its impact on actual outcomes: disadvantaged participants accurately guessed how well they'd perform from the closer line, but advantaged participants undermined the impact of disadvantage by overestimating their performance from the farther line. Lastly, despite (unfairly) earning more, advantaged participants donated similarly to disadvantaged ones, and favored inequality-blind (vs redistributive) approaches. Thus, even in a low-stakes game where the advantage was clearly visible and illegitimate, individuals failed to understand and correct for their privilege.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Ishita Singhal
UC Irvine

Authors

Pia Dietze, Paul Piff

Systematic Intergroup Misperceptions of Emotional Reactions to Privilege

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Race relations in the United States remain deeply strained, driven by both structural inequalities and psychological factors. This research examines one understudied factor: how majority and minority group members misperceive each other's emotional reactions to racial inequity. Drawing from research on false polarization and hierarchy maintenance motives, we predict that groups systematically misjudge each other outrage about racial inequities, specifically white privilege. Six preregistered experiments provide consistent support for our predictions: majority

group participants overestimated minority group members outrage toward racial inequity, whereas minority participants underestimated majority group members outrage. Supplemental experiments replicate this pattern across gender and socioeconomic inequities. Using experimental tests of mediation and moderation, we show that misperceptions about the outgroup hierarchy maintenance motives drive these biased predictions. This research provides evidence for systematically distorted perceptions regarding racial inequity that may hinder intergroup trust and solidarity.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



N. Derek Brown
Assistant Professor | Columbia Business School

Authors

Aastha Mittal, Peter Belmi, Juliana Schroeder

Advantaged identity management strategies differentiate five subgroups of white Americans

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The United States is experiencing significant social change, compelling white Americans to grapple more directly with their white identity. We examine how white Americans manage their identity amid such shifts using a recently developed measure of advantaged identity management, representative data (N = 2,648), and latent profile analysis. Findings reveal five subgroups of white Americans, each managing their identity differently. Four profiles correspond to the main advantaged identity management strategies [defend (n = 251), deny (n = 528), distance (n = 694), dismantle (n = 612)], with a fifth using strategies flexibly (n = 563). We examined how valuing hierarchy, meritocracy, and egalitarianism predicted membership in the subgroups, and most of our predictions about these relationships were supported. The profiles show contrasting attitudes toward social change, with defender-deniers opposing, denier-distancers moderately opposing, distancers remaining neutral, and dismantlers supporting change. Findings provide evidence for the theorized model of white identity management and suggest that how white Americans manage their identity has important implications for social change.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Eric Knowles
Professor | Nee York University

Authors

Eran Halperin, Eric Shuman

Privilege Denials Infect Onlookers: Exploring Mechanisms of Herd Invisibility

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

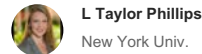
SOCIAL JUSTICE

The herd invisibility model (Phillips & Lowery, 2018) suggests dominant group members' motivated privilege denials can also change observers' own beliefs about the existence of inequality. We test this model empirically across 7 studies. Our data suggests that observers' are swayed by privilege denials they perceive as more relevant and more severe; such claims lead observers to like claimants more, and in turn deny the existence of privilege more.

We show this across multiple domains of privilege, including class, race, sexual orientation, and gender. In turn, privileged targets' defensive claims can spill over to affect third-parties' perceptions of systemic inequity: observers' disbelief that the target is privileged is associated with increased perceptions of meritocracy, ultimately decreasing observers' support for inequity-reducing policies. This shows how the "invisibility" of privilege can emerge through individual actions that spill over to others. Even without explicit system-defensive intent, privileged individuals' defensive victimhood claims can ultimately maintain group inequity by altering third-party perceptions of inequity in organizations more broadly.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



L. Taylor Phillips

New York Univ.

Authors

Olivia A. Foster-Gimbel

When Attitudes Collide: Perception, Judgment, and Trust Across Attitudinal Divides

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E265, Level 2

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

In an era of polarization, this symposium offers an essential multi-level perspective on attitudinal divides, using innovative methods to test critical new questions about how people react to changes in opinion and fundamental disagreements, including the cognitive mechanisms underlying these phenomena. The first talk reveals a surprising phenomenon: people tend to value those who change their minds in response to challenging evidence, even when they disagree with the new stance. In contrast, the second talk documents evidence across hundreds of topics for a powerful and generalizable bias to favor those who share one's views, particularly on moralized issues. The third talk illustrates the far-reaching impact of this bias, showing how ideological alignment shapes judgments of aesthetic value and even decisions about artists' financial compensation. The final talk examines the "hot" motivational and "cold" cognitive processes that shape reactions to politically congenial versus uncongenial information. Together, these talks offer new insights into the social, normative, and cognitive factors driving people's social experiences in a divided society.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Anat Lande-Brenner

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Ruth Mayo

Prof. | The Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem

Changing Minds, Gaining Trust? The Social Norm of Attitude Shifts

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

How do we evaluate those who change their minds in response to counter-attitudinal information? While research often focuses on our resistance, this work adopts a third-person perspective to uncover social norms. Across a series of studies (N = 2189), we find a robust positive norm: individuals who change their mind following counter-attitudinal information receive higher trustworthiness ratings, based on a multi-item impression scale, than those who maintain their stance. This effect is stronger when the information is evidence-based vs. opinion-based. The preference holds across abstract and concrete topics (e.g., political issues), even when the new belief is incongruent with participants' attitudes or pertains to a moral principle. We also explore a potential boundary condition for this effect. Initial findings suggest that for participants with strong prior attitudes on the topic, the norm may be overridden by motivated reasoning, leading them to favor a target whose final stance aligns with their own. This research primarily highlights a social norm that values evidence-based attitude shift, while pointing to personal conviction as a factor that may qualify this principle.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Anat Lande-Brenner

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Ruth Mayo

The Generalizability of Agreement Effects

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Understanding what shapes interpersonal dynamics in diverse online networks is increasingly important in today's polarized society. We consider one key driver—opinion alignment—and advances understanding of this fundamental, psychological phenomenon through an innovative methodological paradigm. We use a topic sampling design to rigorously test how different opinions expressed on social media—from popular culture to politics to public health—bias people to (dis)like or (dis)trust those whose opinion (mis)aligns with their own (i.e., "the agreement effect"). Across more than 20,000 instances of agreement and disagreement over hundreds of widely varying topics, we find surprisingly generalizable evidence for this interpersonal bias. At the same time, we also observed significant heterogeneity in the agreement effect across topics. We explain some of this heterogeneity through a novel meta-analytic approach, finding that the agreement effect is reliably amplified for normatively moralized topics. This work provides robust evidence and new understanding for a deeply relevant social phenomenon as well as a playbook for extending the external validity of other behavioral research.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Andrew Luttrell
Ball State Univ.

Authors

Jacob Teeny

Ideological alignment shapes judgments of aesthetic value and financial compensation.

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Why do people perceive certain objects—such as artworks, faces, or logos—as beautiful, while others are less appreciated? The present research examined how alignment between the ideological content of an object and a person's attitudes influenced aesthetic judgments. Specifically, we investigated how individuals evaluate the logos of news media organizations, depending on the degree of alignment between their political orientation and that of the organization. The logos used in our studies represent both real (Study 1) and fictitious (Study 2) news outlets. Participants provided not only personal liking ratings but also evaluations of the logos' objective aesthetic quality, as well as judgments about how much the designers should be paid—even for work unrelated to the media organization. Our findings reveal a strong effect of ideological alignment, suggesting that even formal aesthetic evaluations and judgments of beauty are significantly shaped by attitudinal consistency with the object's political content. Implications and limitations related to the US political context are discussed.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Piotr Winkielman
Professor | ucscd

Authors

Katarzyna Jasko, Jenny Yoo

Is partisan bias motivated and what does motivated mean anyway?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

The evidence for partisan bias in political judgment is overwhelming: political partisans seek out, believe and remember information that supports their political beliefs and allegiances (politically congenial information) more readily than information that challenges those beliefs and allegiances (politically uncongenial information). A persistent point of contention, however, concerns whether this partisan favoritism is a product of a "cold" and relatively rational process driven by the Bayesian integration of new information with prior beliefs, or instead a product of a "hotter" and less rational process driven by the motivation to resist information that challenges preferred political beliefs or cherished identities. In my talk, I will review a series of experimental studies showing that partisan bias in evaluations of scientific information is driven by its consistency with both priors and preferences and that the two processes are entangled and mutually reinforcing in interesting ways. In my analysis of these findings, I will offer an integrative account of partisan bias based on the relative fluency of politically congenial and politically uncongenial information.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Peter Ditto
Professor | UC Irvine

Invited Symposium: Social and Personality Psychology's AI Moment

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E353B, Level 3

LANGUAGE

Artificial intelligence is starting to change social and personality psychology. This symposium brings together diverse perspectives to examine how. We explore both reasons for optimism and causes for caution. In the first talk, we examine how AI is changing survey platforms, opening new avenues for data collection, evaluating the quality of participant responses, and creating study materials. In the second talk, we examine how to gather quality data using new methods that capture authentic behavior in real time and how to stop (or detect) participants from using AI when we don't want them to. In the third talk, we transition to some intrinsic limitations of LLMs, describing how a lack of exploration by LLM models can create new social biases. Finally, in the fourth talk, we discuss evidence that LLMs misportray different demographic groups, giving researchers reasons to be cautious when using AI to create "synthetic" data. Together, the talks in this symposium provide a look at where psychology and AI are in the current moment and where they might be headed.

*FEATURED SESSION *SYMPOSIUM



Aaron Moss

Senior Research Scientist | CloudResearch

How AI is Changing Survey Platforms and What It Means for Data Quality

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

Many aspects of behavioral research have changed in the last 15 years, but survey platforms like Qualtrics have largely remained the same. AI is starting to change that. In this talk, I will describe some ways AI-powered survey platforms may change social and personality psychology. These include new ways to conduct dynamic "conversational surveys" that adapt to participants in real-time, capture nuances that traditional Likert scales may miss, and efficiently analyze open-ended responses at scale. It also includes new ways to monitor and evaluate data quality, helping researchers "see" what happens on a participant's device as they complete the study. Finally, AI-powered survey tools can measure attitudes and public opinion in new ways and even measure moderating variables based on participants' conversation. Ultimately, what AI-enabled survey tools offer is several new and exciting ways for psychologists to study people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

Aaron Moss

Senior Research Scientist | CloudResearch

Steps for Ensuring Data Quality in Online Data Collection

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

The rapid growth of crowdsourced survey platforms has provided researchers with unprecedented access to diverse and scalable participant pools. Yet, in the era of generative AI, concerns about data integrity and participant authenticity are more pressing than ever. This talk will explore practical strategies for ensuring data quality, including proactive bot detection methods, well-designed attention and comprehension checks, and rigorous post-survey cleaning procedures. Beyond traditional approaches, I will highlight the shift toward mobile-first data collection, where passive sensing, wearables, and smartphone-based measures open new frontiers for capturing authentic behavior and context in real time. These methods potentially sidestep the risks of AI-driven bots but also raise new challenges around participant privacy, compliance, and technical integration. I will discuss how researchers can balance convenience and quality in the age of technology-based data collection practices.

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

Louis Tay

Professor | Purdue University

Large Language Models Develop Novel Social Biases Through Adaptive Exploration

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

As large language models (LLMs) are integrated into real-world decisions, the consequences of their social biases intensify. In this talk, I argue that simply removing biases from models is not enough. Using a paradigm from psychology, I demonstrate that LLMs can spontaneously develop novel stereotypes about artificial demographic groups even when no inherent differences exist. These biases lead to highly stratified task allocations, which are less fair than assignments by human participants and are exacerbated by newer and larger models. Emergent biases like these result from exploration-exploitation trade-offs, where the decision-maker explores too little, allowing early observations to strongly influence subsequent decisions. Testing a series of interventions, explicitly incentivizing exploration most robustly reduces stratification, highlighting the need to incorporate better multifaceted objectives to mitigate bias. These results reveal that LLMs are not merely passive mirrors of human social bias, but can actively create new ones from experience, raising concerns about how these systems will shape societies and psychological research over time.

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

Xuechunzi Bai

Assistant Professor of Psychology | University of Chicago

Ethical Considerations Around Human Participant Data in the Age of LLMs

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

Large language models (LLMs) are entering psychology research in many ways, but I will focus on two that directly affect the generation of human data: intentionally, when researchers replace human participants with LLMs, and unintentionally, when human participants use LLMs to generate their responses. I offer technical and normative cautions against the first, arguing that LLMs should not substitute for human participants. While one might respond by surveilling participants to prevent the second, I instead pose some ethical considerations about moving beyond a cat-and-mouse dynamic toward more cooperative approaches to sustain trust and integrity in this new research landscape.

Speaker



Angelina Wang

Assistant Professor | Cornell Tech

PM Beverage Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Join us for complimentary beverages in the exhibit hall.

*NETWORKING

Public Outreach: A Panel with Santos, Milkman, Pizarro, and Neumann

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

These are challenging times for academia in general and social science in particular. In the U.S., for example, both the prestige of and funding for higher education are in decline. In this context, it is especially urgent for social/personality psychologists to help the public understand the nature and value of our work. In this discussion, we hear from four scholars who invest substantial professional effort in public outreach—and who have achieved considerable success therein. Laurie Santos hosts "The Happiness Lab" podcast, Katy Milkman writes the "Milkman Delivers" Substack and hosts the "Choiceology" podcast, David Pizarro hosts the "Very Bad Wizards" podcast, and Eric Neumann co-founded and co-hosted (as a PhD student) "The Stanford Psychology Podcast." Panelists answer questions such as: (1) Why did you decide to engage seriously in public outreach? (2) How did you launch such efforts? (3) Why were they successful? (4) How did you select your medium/media (podcast, newsletter, etc.)? (5) Have you cut back on other aspects of your career to pursue these efforts? (6) What should scholars understand about the business aspects of public outreach?

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Eli Finkel

Professor | Northwestern University - Kellogg School of Management



Laurie Santos

Professor of Psychology | Yale University



Katy Milkman

James G. Dinan Professor | The Wharton School



David Pizarro

Professor of Psychology | Cornell University



Eric Neumann

PhD Student | Stanford University

Grant-seeking from Private Foundations: What Investigators Should Know

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Seeking external funding for social science research is a competitive process and preparing a successful grant application can be challenging and time-consuming. In addition to government sources of research funding, private foundations can be an important source of financial support for scholarly research. This session will provide grant writing tips and insights into the application and review process from both the grant-making and grant-seeking side. The panel includes two prominent private funders of social, psychological, behavioral, economic, and policy-relevant research—the Russell Sage Foundation and the American Psychological Foundation—and two of their grantees. With extensive funding experience and evaluating proposals as part of the grant-making process, program staff from each foundation will discuss their grant application and review process, and the basics of what makes a good grant proposal. Grants recipients will discuss and provide insights about the application process from the grant-seeking side as well as their experience reviewing proposals for foundations. This session is intended to provide valuable information to all scholars, from doctoral students to late career researchers.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Leana Chatrath

Program Director | Russell Sage Foundation



Rebecca Pasillas

Program Officer | American Psychological Foundation

The Ties That Bind: Experimental and Longitudinal Insights on Intimacy, Partnering, and Well-Being

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E353B, Level 3

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Using experimental and longitudinal designs, these four talks address how sexual intimacy, attachment cues, and relationship status influence relational and individual well-being over time.

*SYMPOSIUM



Rosie Shrout
Assistant Professor | University of British Columbia

Examining the sexual afterglow: A conceptual and extended replication study

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Sexuality is an integral part of many romantic relationships. A previous study by Meltzer et al. (2017) has found evidence for sexual afterglow in North American couples—a beneficial effect of sex on subsequent measures of sexual and relationship satisfaction. The authors found that sexual satisfaction was higher on days the couples had sexual contact. Sexual satisfaction stayed elevated at 24h and 48h (but not 72h) after sexual contact and this effect was robust against control variables (e.g., sexual frequency, personality traits). Furthermore, sexual afterglow predicted relationship satisfaction contemporaneously and after 6 months. The present preregistered study aims to replicate and extend these effects with a larger couple sample using dyadic multilevel modeling and data from a 4-wave 14-day diary study. N = 488 female–male couples from Germany, Switzerland, and Austria completed all 4 waves and were used for the analyses (age: M = 32.4, SD = 13.6, range = 18-81). We will also extend the original study by examining sexual afterglow on other relationship variables, such as responsiveness and closeness, and how sexual afterglow predicts relationship satisfaction across 12 and 24 months. Our findings will be specific to different-gender couples in Western contexts, but replication across diverse relationship configurations and other cultural settings will strengthen the generalizability of sexual afterglow effects.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Rebekka Weidmann
Assistant Professor | Brigham Young University

Authors

Rebekka Weidmann, Robert P. Burriss, Jenna Wünsche, Janina L. Bühler, Alexander Grob

How do symbols of close others support attachment in adulthood?

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Security priming involves using attachment-relevant cues—like photos of loved ones—to enhance psychological security. While such effects have been demonstrated in the lab, their real-world impact is less clear. Here we examine whether displaying photos of romantic partners on smartphone lock screens can influence attachment security in adulthood. In Study 1 (N = 4,741), we showed that people who had their partners on their screens reported greater attachment security on average. In Study 2 (N = 306; two-week field experiment), we randomly assigned people to add photos to their screens. We did not observe security priming effects, but we did observe selection effects (i.e., secure people were more likely to have their partners on their screens prior to randomization). In Study 3 (N = 249), we removed images from people's screens. This led to measurable declines in attachment security. Although lock screen images may reflect existing levels of security, their removal—not their addition—yielded detectable effects. We discuss implications for scalable interventions and for understanding the role of “invisible infrastructure” in shaping psychological functioning.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Karl Conroy
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Karl Conroy, Chris Fraley

Relationship status and well-being across time

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In our recently published manuscript (2025), we examine the correlations between romantic partnering and individual well-being across sexuality groups in three separate samples (N=4,742). We find that while romantic partnering is generally associated with greater well-being (as opposed to singlehood) across all sexuality groups, there are specific well-being variables such as depressive symptoms, loneliness, and thriving that have significantly different patterns for sexual minority subjects as compared to straight subjects. In continuation of this work, we have collected a new unpublished longitudinal sample (N=854) across six timepoints in order to test how relationship status and well-being change in tandem over time. So far, our preliminary analyses indicate that relationship status change between time points is correlated with changes in well-being as measured by some of our variables, but not others. We also plan to examine whether these changes are the same across sexuality groups. We include measures of potential mechanisms that may mediate the association between relationship status and well-being, in order to better understand the findings from our previous studies. This work is uniquely situated to better understand how romantic relationships contribute to (or detract from) well-being, paying particular attention to the context of sexual orientation.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Hannah Elizabeth
PhD Student | Yale University

Authors

Margaret Clark

Sexual satisfaction predicts better relational, psychological, and physical health: A longitudinal study of couples with concealable chronic illness

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Couples managing chronic illness can experience challenges in their daily activities and relationships that increase dissatisfaction and distress risks. Many chronic illnesses are concealable, with symptoms that affect their sexual intimacy and relationships. However, maintaining intimacy is important for relationships and well-being, particularly among those with chronic illnesses. In this longitudinal study, we applied dyadic stress and coping frameworks to examine how sexual satisfaction provides relationship and health benefits. Couples (n = 242), where one partner was diagnosed with a concealable chronic illness, completed three online surveys 6 months apart. On average and when patients' and partners' sexual satisfaction was higher than usual that year, they reported fewer physical health problems, lower psychological distress, greater relationship satisfaction, and enhanced closeness. Cross-partner effects showed that their higher sexual satisfaction was also associated with each other's higher relationship satisfaction and closeness. Maintaining a satisfying sexual relationship may help promote couples' health and relationships while managing concealable chronic illness.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Rosie Shrout
Assistant Professor | University of British Columbia

Authors

Khiara Cardoza Brown

Emerging Directions in Personality and Relationship Science: From Open Science to Interpersonal and Friendship Dynamics

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E353C, Level 3

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS OTHER

Personality and relationship science is rapidly evolving in both research practices and theoretical perspectives on interpersonal processes. This symposium integrates work on scientific practice with new empirical insights into personality and close relationships. Willroth presents a thematic analysis of barriers to adopting open science practices in personality psychology. Shen introduces research on interpersonal enhancement, highlighting how people selectively share information to support others' self-views. Yang examines actual and perceived personality similarity among friends and their links to relationship satisfaction. Hong compares competing models of friendship satisfaction, finding stronger support for friend-value processes grounded in social comparison than ideal trait matching. Together, these talks underscore key methodological and interpersonal dynamics shaping the study of personality and social relationships.

*SYMPOSIUM

Chair



Hyewon Yang
Ph.D. Student, Social/Personality Psychology | Michigan State University

A Thematic Analysis of Barriers to Open Science in Personality Research

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

OTHER

The field of personality science has contributed substantially to the open science movement, with some personality researchers asserting that we have played an outsized role relative to the modest size of our subfield. However, personality researchers still face barriers to the implementation of open science practices. In this talk, we will present findings from a mixed methods survey-based study of 36 corresponding authors of papers published in personality journals between 2020-2025. Participants answered open-ended questions about the barriers that they face in the implementation of open science practices and the realization of open science ideals. We used reflexive thematic analysis to generate themes from participants' qualitative responses. We will discuss implications of these findings including the pressing need for open science advocates to engage more deeply with researchers who have hesitations and epistemological concerns about open science, as well as opportunities for the development of new open science tools and resources. The aim of this talk is to start a conversation, informed by new data, about how we can address barriers to open science to make the future of personality science more credible, accessible, and inclusive.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Emily Willroth
Assistant Professor | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Payton Rule, Olivia Atherton, Priscilla Whang

Enhancing Others Through Information Selection

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

People consider themselves better than others across domains. Most past research, however, has focused on how individuals enhance their own self-views, without considering the interpersonal processes that might help to promote or maintain these views. Over seven studies (six preregistered, N = 3117), this work revealed that people seek to enhance others' self-views through information selection. When asked to provide feedback for test-takers in an anonymous environment, participants were more likely to choose information that the test was valid when others performed well but invalid when the test-takers performed poorly. However, this selection pattern was present only for likable and neutral others, dissipating when the others were described as having reproachable traits (Studies 1-3, 5a and 5b) and when participants had the goal of providing accurate information (Study 6). This selection bias, driven by an interest in pleasing others (Studies 3, 5a, and 5b), persisted when the others did not have self-enhancing views, and when the information selected was described as objectively correct (Studies 4, 5a, and 5b). This work shed light on the human nature of interpersonal enhancement.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Xi Shen
Postdoctoral fellow | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Allison Earl, Dolores Albarracín

Friend Personality Similarity and their Implications for Relationship Well-Being

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The similarity-attraction hypothesis has long been regarded as a foundational principle for understanding interpersonal relationships. Yet, recent research on the personalities of real-life friends has yielded mixed results, often revealing negligible or inconsistent similarities in personality attributes. Moreover, little is known about whether and how personality similarity among friends affects their relationships. The present study using a round-robin designed 371 quads of friends (N = 1,483 individuals) examines (1) how similar friends' Big Five personality traits are in terms of actual and perceived similarity and (2) whether the similarity predicts relationship well-being. Multilevel models revealed similarity in all traits (except for actual extraversion), but the associations were stronger for perceived similarity than actual similarity. Response surface analysis showed no evidence of similarity effects across all traits and models, but strong actor and partner effects on relationship satisfaction. Our findings contribute to the debate on similarity as a heuristic for friendship compatibility and enhance our understanding of how personality relates to friendship quality.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Hyewon Yang
Ph.D. Student, Social/Personality Psychology | Michigan State University

Authors

Lindsay Ackerman, Brent Donnellan, William Chopik, Richard Lucas

Testing Competing Models of Friendship Satisfaction

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Despite the well-established benefits of close friendships for human health, happiness, and flourishing, little is known about why we feel more satisfied with—and motivated to maintain—some friendships over others. We address this by testing between different models of friendship satisfaction: The Ideal Preference Model posits that satisfaction stems from how closely friends' genuine traits match one's ideal traits. The Friend Value Model suggests instead that satisfaction is shaped by social comparisons among oneself, one's friend, and potential alternative friends. Across two preregistered studies (N = 1,286), we find support for the Friend Value Model, but not the Ideal Preference Model. Satisfaction was lowered when participants felt more socially desirable than their closest friend and had more desirable alternative friends in their environment. Further, friendship satisfaction mediated the effects of the Friend Value Model on investment in the friendship, suggesting that lower friend value decreases commitment by reducing satisfaction.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Hyewon Hong
PhD student | UCLA

Authors

Daniel Conroy-Beam

Challenging social inequality in a polarized world

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E351, Level 3

SOCIAL JUSTICE

People have polarized views about social inequality, yet it is pervasive and increasing throughout the world. This symposium showcases cutting-edge scholarship on previously under-explored psychological processes that shape people's polarized views of inequality and whether they intend to challenge it. Talks in this symposium combine a series of methodologies (i.e., correlational and experimental studies) while leveraging large and politically diverse samples. The first and second talks highlight that while there are considerable gaps in how liberals and conservatives perceive various aspects of inequality (e.g., size and scope), social norms and neutral language can attenuate these polarized perceptions. The third and fourth talks show how people can become more egalitarian: when they learn that privilege accumulates over time and across settings (e.g., schools, jobs), and when they perceive allyship—a key factor in mobilizing change—as part of their true self. These talks collectively shed light on what drives polarized perceptions of inequality as well as what can be done to overcome seemingly intractable barriers.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Salvador Vargas Salfate
PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Chadly Stern
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Altering language reduces backlash against diversity training in organizations

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is an increasingly divisive topic in the U.S., creating new challenges for organizations aiming to elicit employee buy-in to diversity training. As political debates about DEI and internal workplace communication about DEI tend to use similar language, we examined if decoupling workplace terminology from that used in the political sphere improved employees' diversity training attitudes. Four pre-registered studies show that replacing common DEI terminology (e.g., "diversity") with carefully-matched alternative terminology (e.g., "differences") in diversity training descriptions increases participants' (particularly Republicans') enthusiasm to engage with the content. This effect was partially mediated by perceived political bias and was robust controlling for understandability and beliefs about whether the training related to race and gender. Altering language did not impact racial minorities' training attitudes, or feelings of inclusion and belonging. Findings highlight how separating diversity training content from politically-coded language can reduce employee resistance to learning about diversity, equity, and inclusion at work.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Devon Proudfoot
Assistant Professor | Cornell University

Authors

Sean Fath

Norms shape the magnitude of inequality conservatives and liberals perceive

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

We examine whether the acceptability of economic differences (social norms) shape the magnitude of inequality that liberals and conservatives perceive. As conservatives are more attuned to the social dynamics of their environments than liberals, social norms will more strongly influence conservatives' perceptions of economic inequality. We hypothesize that when norms dictate economic differences as more acceptable (e.g., for occupations), conservatives will perceive economic inequality as larger than liberals. We hypothesize the opposite when norms dictate economic differences as less acceptable (e.g., for race). We conducted three studies across contexts that vary in norms about the acceptability of economic inequality (U.S. and the Philippines; $N = 1,832$). We found that conservatives perceived inequality as smaller than liberals in the U.S. (especially when economic differences were less acceptable), and the opposite in the Philippines where inequality is more acceptable. In two subsequent studies ($N = 1,058$), these results were most robust when inequality referred to groups high in entitativity (e.g., race). We discuss implications and future research directions.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Salvador Vargas Salfate
PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Chadly Stern

Cumulative Inequality Aversion

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

People seem to both prefer and to be averse to income inequality. Surveys reveal a preference for some inequality (e.g., Ariely & Norton, 2011), while lab experiments show aversion to unequal outcomes (e.g., Shaw & Olson, 2012). Scholars argue that people care less about inequality itself and more about whether they perceive it as fair (Starmans et al., 2017). Because most people view meritocracy as fair, they tend to accept inequality that results from a merit-based process as also fair (Tyler, 2011). Yet real-world advantages accumulate across stages—school quality, university prestige, and job placement, amplifying early advantages. We hypothesized that highlighting this cumulative nature of the inequality generating process would reduce the perceived fairness of meritocracy. In a pre-registered study ($N = 1,109$), we found that participants rated the fairness of meritocratic processes ($\beta = -0.34$, $p < .001$) and their unequal outcomes ($\beta = -0.49$, $p < .001$) as significantly less fair when cumulative inequality was made explicit. These findings reveal what we call "cumulative inequality aversion": people reject meritocratic inequality once they see how advantages stack over time.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Daniela Goya-Tocchetto
Assistant Professor | University at Buffalo

Authors

Wenzhuo Xu, David Munguia Gomez, Brian Keith Payne

Authentic Allyship? Feeling authentic increases allyship behavior via psychological standing

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Public discourse regarding allyship has increasingly bemoaned inauthentic allyship, suggesting that authenticity is important for marginalized groups. However, little work has explored how allies view their own authenticity (alignment between internal beliefs and external states) as an ally and the consequences of authenticity for future engagement in allyship. We suggest it is important for allies to feel that it is consistent with their "true" self. We test whether affirming allies' authenticity as an ally increases allyship by increasing their psychological standing (legitimacy to perform an action). We test our hypotheses across 8 studies (N=5,515). First, in a field study, we find that felt authenticity as an ally was associated with greater engagement in allyship after the murder of George Floyd. Next, in three experiments we find that feelings of authenticity as an ally lead to greater allyship engagement. Finally, two experiments show that allies' authenticity as an ally increases their allyship engagement via psychological standing (belief that they can participate) by increasing their perceptions of self-relevance and their belief that moral values drive their actions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Olivia Foster-Gimbel
Assistant Professor | Rutgers Business School

Authors

Juliana Pillemer, Taylor Phillips

Correcting Climate Misperceptions: Psychological Mechanisms Driving (and Distorting) Behavior Change

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E450B, Level 4

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Reducing carbon emissions requires individuals to accurately judge which actions matter most, yet climate-related misperceptions are pervasive and can distort behavioral priorities. This symposium examines the psychological mechanisms that generate, maintain, and sometimes amplify these misperceptions, as well as the consequences of correcting them. The first talk tests how climate literacy interventions recalibrate efficacy perceptions, shifting commitments toward higher-impact behaviors but inadvertently reducing collective action intentions. The second talk shows how partisan media coverage of extreme weather disrupts normative inference, with ideologically incongruent messages producing misperceptions of group attitudes. The third talk investigates consumer judgment under greenwashing, identifying attribute substitution as a key mechanism driving systematic misestimation of product sustainability. The final talk evaluates whether generative AI, through personalized feedback, can improve impact perceptions and motivate high-impact behaviors beyond traditional information sources. Together, these studies reveal how cognitive and social processes shape climate misperceptions and behavior, highlighting both the promise and psychological complexity of interventions targeting them.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Danielle Goldwert
PhD Student | NYU

Climate Action Literacy Interventions Increase Commitments to More Effective Mitigation Behaviors

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Reducing lifestyle carbon emissions is crucial for decarbonization, yet people often misjudge the relative efficacy of different behaviors, such as recycling versus avoiding long flights. These misperceptions may lead to suboptimal effort allocation. In a preregistered U.S. experiment (n = 3,895), we tested whether climate literacy interventions could correct these misperceptions and shift commitments toward higher-impact actions. Participants were randomly assigned to: (1) a Prediction condition, ranking the mitigation potential of 21 behaviors before receiving feedback; (2) an Information condition, passively receiving the same efficacy information; or (3) a Control with no information. Both interventions improved efficacy perceptions and increased commitments to higher-impact actions relative to Control. Effects were strongest among those with greater initial misperceptions, who decreased commitments to overestimated actions and increased commitments to underestimated ones. However, literacy interventions also produced a negative spillover: participants reduced commitments to collective actions (e.g., voting), highlighting an unintended consequence of emphasizing individual solutions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Danielle Goldwert
PhD Student | NYU

Authors

Madalina Vlasceanu, Yash Patel, Kristian Steensen Nielsen, Matthew Goldberg

Attributing Hurricanes to Climate Change: Sources of Accuracy and Errors

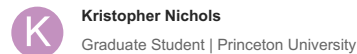
3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This project examines how partisan television influences attitudes and perceived social norms in the context of extreme weather events and their attribution to climate change. We use a comprehensive dataset comprising all mentions of major hurricanes since 2010 across cable news networks to investigate how discussions of extreme weather—and its linkage to climate change—vary by network. Critically, we identify a set of cases in which individuals affiliated with one political party appear on ideologically incongruent networks to discuss local extreme weather events, introducing unexpected normative cues about attributing extreme weather to climate change. To assess the effects of such mixed messaging, we conduct an online experiment (N = 820) in which participants are exposed to climate attribution messages that either align or conflict with the expected partisanship of three media outlets. Our results indicate that exposure to incongruent messages—such as climate skepticism on MSNBC—lead to misperceptions of group norms. These findings offer new insight into the mechanisms by which individuals extract normative information from media.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Aya Salim, Elke U. Weber

From Inference to Illusion: How Greenwashing Distorts Consumer Judgment

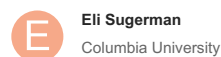
3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Even motivated consumers often lack the knowledge necessary to identify sustainable consumption opportunities. This knowledge gap presents a major barrier to sustainable consumption. It also creates space for firms to position their products as aligned with consumers' demand for sustainability, often through marketing claims. Some of these claims are credible, relevant, and informative—but many others are not. In this paper, we characterize greenwashing as a consequential marketing problem and examine the psychological process through which it shapes consumer judgment. Across 11 preregistered studies with over 3,500 participants, we demonstrate how greenwashing operates, provide causal evidence of the role of attribute substitution in sustainability judgments, and begin to quantify the climate and economic consequences of consumers' systematic misestimation. We conclude by discussing the implications of consumer misestimation and exploring how these ideas apply more generally.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Jonas Ludwig, Xuwen Hua, Arian Trieb, Eric Johnson

Addressing Climate Action Misperceptions with Generative AI

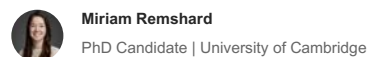
3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Mitigating climate change requires widespread behavior change. However, even climate-concerned individuals often hold misperceptions about which actions most effectively reduce carbon emissions. We recruited 1204 climate-concerned participants to examine whether discussing climate actions with a large language model (LLM) equipped with climate knowledge and tailored to provide personalized responses would promote more accurate impact perceptions and greater intentions to engage in high-impact behaviors, compared to using web search, a default LLM, or no intervention. The results show that participants in the personalized LLM condition produced more accurate impact assessments than those in the control and default LLM conditions, but did not differ from web search. However, the personalized LLM also increased intentions to perform high-impact behaviors relative to both the control and web search. The findings suggest that while LLMs might not outperform web searches in improving knowledge of climate action impacts, their ability to deliver personalized, actionable responses might more effectively motivate impactful pro-climate behavior change.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Yara Kyrychenko, Elena Savoia, Jon Roozenbeek

Gun Psychology: Wide-ranging consequences for cognitions, emotions, attitudes, and intentions

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Guns are more prevalent than ever in the United States, and their proliferation is having a profound impact on American society. The four talks in this symposium trace some of the psychological implications of guns both inside the laboratory and outside the ivory tower. The first talk reports on a laboratory experiment that found the presence of a gun reduces students' performance on a well-validated measure of cognitive control. The second talk considers the effects of exposure to gun violence on weapon carrying behavior in a large

sample of Black male adolescents. The third talk features two studies testing the effects of ethnic status threats on interest in guns and on civic engagement, respectively. The fourth talk tracks changes in gun attitudes in response to the 2024 U.S. presidential election in large samples of Asian, Black, Latine, and White U.S. residents. Using different methods, diverse samples, and novel approaches, these talks foreground profound but previously overlooked effects of guns on a range of outcomes of interest to social and personality psychology.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Brandon Schmeichel

Professor of Psychology | Texas A&M University

The presence of a gun undermines cognitive control

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Guns are more prevalent than ever in academic spaces. How do they influence students? For example, do students perform more poorly in the presence (versus absence) of a gun? A vast body of evidence suggests that threats in the environment distract attention away from focal tasks and goals. Insofar as guns are threatening stimuli, then guns, too, may serve as distractions that undermine task performance. In one preregistered experiment we tested the hypothesis that the presence (versus absence) of a gun reduces performance on a cognitive control task in a laboratory setting. A sample of 290 undergraduate students performed three Squared tasks (Burgoyne et al., 2023) in the presence of a gun or a stapler. Squared task performance was worse in the gun condition. This evidence suggests that the so-called "weapons effect" extends beyond aggressive thoughts and feelings to influence cognitive control. Future work may build on this basic science experiment to test the extent to which guns in schools and on campuses impact student performance.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Brandon Schmeichel

Professor of Psychology | Texas A&M University

Authors

Kyle Silva

Conditional Effects of Gun Violence Exposure on Weapon Carrying

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

The current study examined proximity to gun violence at three levels (hearing gunfire, seeing gun violence, direct gun victimization) as predictors of the frequency of weapon carrying among 455 Black male adolescents (mean age = 15.33; SD = 1.26) and examined posttraumatic stress symptoms (hyperarousal and re-experiencing) as moderators. Hearing gunfire was a non-significant predictor of weapon carrying, and hyperarousal and re-experiencing were non-significant moderators. Witnessing gun violence predicted higher frequency of weapon carrying, and both hyperarousal and re-experiencing were moderators. Specifically, the positive association between witnessing gun violence and weapon carrying was significant at moderate and high levels of both hyperarousal and re-experiencing, but not at low levels. Direct gun victimization predicted higher frequency of weapon carrying, but the moderating effects of hyperarousal and re-experiencing were non-significant, suggesting that the positive association between gun victimization and weapon carrying did not depend on posttraumatic stress symptoms.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Noni Gaylord-Harden

Professor | Texas A&M University

Authors

Jasmine Alli, Daymon Brown, Howard Henderson, Clinton Davis-Stober

Ethnic status threat causes preferences for guns over civic action

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

In two experiments, we found that American participants who feel ethnic status threat are more likely to turn toward firearms and to turn away from civic engagement. In preregistered Study 1 racially-resentful participants who interpreted articles about Black employment as indicating an increase in Black political power reported a greater sense that their status in society was under threat and subsequently were both more interested in guns and less interested in civic engagement across a number of different behavioral and attitudinal operationalizations. We replicated this finding in preregistered Study 2 using an alternate manipulation of status threat. White participants randomly-assigned to read about declining White birthrates (compared to reading about shifts in residential mobility) reported greater ethnic status threat and again reported both higher subsequent interest in guns and lower interest in civic engagement. We witnessed how racism can tear at the fabric of society: When feeling that their status is under threat, racist and White Americans turn away from collective action and toward a more individualist, armed, vision of the world.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Nicholas Buttrick

Assistant Professor | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Joy Losee

Race, power, guns and the 2024 U.S. presidential election

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

The 2024 U.S. Presidential election was marked by clear racialized threats to safety and rights. Given personal safety and group power concerns can shape gun attitudes, we measured 1,118 U.S. residents gun attitudes and policy preferences pre- and 3 weeks post-election. We examined if perceiving guns as providing personal safety and group power pre-election and changes in felt safety and group power post-election predicted increased pro-gun views. Latine and Asian participants reported greater post-election decreases in felt safety and power compared to Black and White participants ($p < .01$). Safety. Shifts in felt safety were generally unrelated to gun attitude change. Perceiving guns as providing safety only consistently predicted increased pro-gun views among White participants ($p < .01$). Power. Black participants who felt decreased group power showed increased pro-gun views after the election if perceiving guns as providing power ($p < .05$). In contrast, White participants who felt increased group power showed increased pro-gun views if they perceived guns as providing power ($p = .002$). Discussion centers how racism and power concerns continue to spur U.S. gun proliferation.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Gerald Higginbotham
Postdoctoral Research Associate | University of Virginia

Authors

Kyle Barrentine, Xanni Brown, Alec Davis, Hu Young Jeong

Honoring Sam Sommers: A career dedicated to advancing racial equity

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

DIVERSITY

This symposium honors the career and life of Sam Sommers, whose scholarship fundamentally shaped our understanding of how people think and act in interracial contexts. Sam dedicated his career to conducting research with practical implications for ameliorating racial inequities, inspiring his mentees and countless young researchers to do the same. Four distinguished scholars with ties to Sam will share their research aligned with, and influenced by, the predominant themes in his work. Norton describes the consequences of strategies (e.g. colorblindness) that White Americans use to appear non-racist. Richeson discusses how White Americans' belief that racism is zero-sum fuels the current political backlash to diversity, equity and inclusion policies. Ellsworth and Kassin review implications of racial diversity for legal decision making. Lastly, Lewis considers how psychology can inform interventions and policies for improving racial equity. Following the symposium, we invite everyone to attend the Diversity and Climate Committee Reception. Together we will pay special tribute to Sam's contributions to the field, and to a career that, although profoundly impactful, was far too brief.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Jessica Remedios
Associate Professor | Tufts Univ.



Keith Maddox
Professor | Tufts Univ.

How to (try to) appear non-racist

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Across several decades of work, Sommers and colleagues explored the many strategies that White Americans use to appear non-racist – to others, and also to themselves. First, White Americans use distancing: they believe that the traits they associate with "racists" show little overlap with the traits they used to describe themselves (Sommers & Norton, 2006). Second, White Americans use justification: they are careful to couch their decision-making in non-race-based reasons (Sommers & Norton, 2007; 2008). Third, they use colorblindness: they claim not to even notice the race of other people, even when race is a highly diagnostic category (Apfelbaum, Sommers, & Norton, 2008; Norton et al. 2006). And finally, they use deflection, stating that racism against themselves has become greater than racism against Black Americans in recent years (Rasmussen et al., 2022; Norton & Sommers, 2011). The wide variety of strategies deployed by White Americans – some more successfully than others – offers evidence of the importance of appearing non-racist, to both self and others.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Michael Norton
Professor | Harvard Business School

If racism is a zero-sum game, equity-enhancing policies are losing

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Efforts to increase the racial/ethnic diversity of predominantly-White institutions in the U.S. are under attack, due, in part, by growing sentiment that discrimination against Black Americans has diminished whereas anti-White discrimination has become increasingly prevalent. This pattern of perceiving societal racial discrimination as zero-sum was first observed, of course, in groundbreaking research by Norton and Sommers (2011). In this talk, I will report the findings of a probability sample of American adults (N = 1604) seeking to replicate and extend this pioneering work. White, Black, Latine, and Asian Americans reported their perceptions of the prevalence of racial discrimination toward Black and White Americans in each decade from the 1960s into the 2020s. Results revealed that White and Asian American participants hold zero-sum beliefs about racial discrimination, but not Black and Latine American participants. Further, White Americans' zero-sum beliefs predicted support for equity-enhancing policies. Together, these findings shed light on the current political backlash to DEI in the nation and speak to Sam's incomparable research legacy.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jennifer Richeson

Professor | Yale University

Authors

Michael Kraus, Maya Rabinowitz, Crystal Shackleford

Applying psychological principles to the law in research and practice

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Sommers made substantial contributions to the field of Psychology and Law in two ways. First, his research on jury decision making provided evidence of the effects of racial diversity on juries, including unexpected strong effects on the behavior of white jurors. Second, he applied his expertise to numerous legal cases, advising attorneys about the impact of race in the legal system and serving as an expert witness.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Phoebe Ellsworth

Professor | University of Michigan

Authors

Saul Kassin

Cultivating equal minds: Interventions and policies for improving equity in society

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

DIVERSITY

The United States continues to be a highly segregated society. That segregation has psychological consequences—it affects how people think about each other, and about a broad range of social issues, particularly issues exacerbated by inequality. It is one of the reasons we remain divided—or “polarized.” How can people in a divided nation come together and address fraught social issues? That is one of the questions that has guided my research over the past decade. In this talk I will share some of the lessons learned from studying: (1) people in a public housing system in a segregated city; (2) the local news ecosystem all across the U.S.; and (3) public responses to interventions and policies designed to improve equity. Across studies, the evidence suggests that despite divisions, it is possible to effectively mobilize Americans across racial, ethnic, and partisan lines to engage in the individual and collective actions required to advance equitable social policies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Neil Lewis, Jr.

Associate Professor | Cornell University

How Identities Influence the Perception of Social Norms

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E271, Level 2

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Social norms are traditionally studied as expected behaviors that most people follow in their groups and situations. However, there is less work exploring how identity impacts how norms are viewed. Here, we present four talks that show how ability, minority status, political orientation, and discrimination influence normative expectations. Talk 1 shows that physical disability influences perceptions of personal and societal relational norms differently. Talk 2 demonstrates how minority groups experience greater “lived tightness”—the feeling of scrutiny for norm compliance—which helps explain increased stress and inhibition among these groups. Talk 3 shows how political conservatism predicts viewing masculinity norm violations as more severe than social norm violations. Talk 4 shows that younger and university-educated individuals are more likely to hold anti-prejudice norms to protect some groups from experiencing discrimination over others. Together, these talks present novel contributions for how identity influences norm perceptions and the regulation of others through norms.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kirby Lam

PhD Student | Duke University

Comparing Relational Mobility as a Socio-ecological or Individual Level Factor

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Relational mobility refers to opportunities to voluntarily form and choose relationships. Prior studies have used the relational mobility scale to assess perceptions of others' relational mobility, rather than personal ability, to avoid confounds with individual traits like extraversion. However, no studies have compared societal relational mobility with personal relational mobility. We present two studies comparing these constructs. Study 1 surveyed Japanese and American adults, including many with disabilities, showing personal mobility correlated more strongly with individual differences, and people with disabilities reported lower personal than societal mobility. Study 2 examined American undergraduates before, during, and after COVID-19; while both personal and societal mobility declined during the pandemic, personal mobility recovered faster. These findings suggest personal relational mobility reflects individual differences and short-term variation, whereas societal relational mobility better predicts broader social outcomes.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Joanna Schug

Associate Professor | William & Mary

Authors

Kosuke Sato, Richard Homenya, Carina Rosenberg

Racial Ethnic Minorities Perceive Community Norms Stronger Than European Americans

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

The United States is characterized as having relatively weak social norms compared to other countries. However, this characterization may be an oversimplification due to the cultural diversity that exists within the country. Four studies (N = 1,537) examined whether and why U.S. racial minorities (East Asian, Latinx, and African Americans) perceive their racial community's norms to be significantly stronger than European Americans and White immigrants to the United States (Studies 1–4). This difference was not due to increased perceived discrimination (Study 3) or concerns about out-group member punishment (Study 4). Instead, racial minorities' stronger perceptions of community norms were motivated primarily by interdependence (Studies 1–4) and concerns about being punished by in-group members for not following norms (Study 4). These findings illustrate differences in norm strength between racial groups in a single country, deepening our understanding of how social norm perceptions may vary in a multicultural society.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Cristina Salvador

Assistant Professor | Duke University

Authors

Mercedes Muñoz, Ariana Orvell

The Unique Link Between Political Ideology and Masculinity Norm Judgments

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Research on social norm strength finds that they generally depend on the circumstances in a situation. However, norms might also depend on people's gender role expectations regardless of the situation. Here, we compare ratings of masculinity norm violations to social norm violations and test whether political ideology, which captures non-traditional vs. traditional gender views, might partially explain the magnitude of people's judgments. Studies 1a-b (N = 308) developed and tested 92 stimuli demonstrating behaviors that were rated as more inappropriate for men compared to women. We also found that masculine norm violations (e.g., man painting his nails) were rated as less violating vs. comparable social norm violations (e.g., man painting graffiti). However, conservative participants disapproved much more of masculine (vs. social) norm violations than liberal participants. In Study 2, political ideology was also strongly linked to endorsing traditional masculine roles for a larger nationally representative U.S. sample (N = 2498). Together, these findings highlight the unique influence of political ideology in how we perceive normative behavior for men.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Kirby Lam

PhD Student | Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Cristina Salvador

Anti-Discrimination Norms and Ethnocultural Hierarchies in Germany

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

This study examines anti-discrimination norms as markers of cultural membership in Germany, focusing on how different minority groups are socially protected from public stigmatization. Drawing on a large-scale survey experiment (n = 2,915; 11,415 vignette evaluations), we test whether discrimination based on race, religion, language, and sexuality triggers norm enforcement in everyday interactions. Results reveal a hierarchy of recognition: respondents are more likely to sanction discriminatory remarks against Jews, Blacks, and homosexuals than against Muslims, refugees, or linguistic minorities. Social context matters—familiar settings (e.g., with relatives or neighbors) elicit stronger norm enforcement than anonymous encounters. Younger and university-educated individuals are more likely to intervene. These findings highlight persistent “recognition gaps” in the social valuation of minority groups, showing that public norms against prejudice are unevenly distributed across group boundaries and social situations.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Amalia Álvarez-Benjumea

Ramón y Cajal Research Fellow | The Institute of Public Goods and Policies at the Spanish National Research Council

Authors

Lucas Drouhot

Modeling the Social Mind(s): Theory-Based Computational Models

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E451B, Level 4

SOCIAL COGNITION

Recent advances in computational science not only provide tools for analyzing vast amounts of data but also serve as powerful theoretical frameworks for understanding the social mind. These advances translate language-based hypotheses into precise computational models for rigorous prediction and testing, uncover emergent properties otherwise hidden, and enable large-scale in-silico collective experiments that are impractical in real-world settings. This symposium brings together researchers from diverse computational traditions—including artificial neural networks (ANNs), dynamical coupling, probabilistic and Bayesian models, and agent-based simulations—all interested in exploring how individuals think and interact in complex social environments. It showcases how these computational methods illuminate multi-level social phenomena, ranging from individual responsibility and moral judgment to dyadic cooperation and synchronization, as well as collective processes such as misinformation dissemination and vigilance. By integrating diverse methods and topics, the symposium highlights how principled, theory-driven modeling significantly advances our understanding of the social mind.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Robert Hawkins

Assistant Professor | Stanford University



Ke Fang

PhD Student | Stanford University

Modeling responsibility from counterfactual simulations and intention inferences

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

How do people attribute responsibility in social situations? Prior work has converged on two important factors that influence how people hold others responsible: inferences about an actor’s intentions and causal assessments of how their actions affected the outcomes. We present a probabilistic model of cognition that unifies these two processes in responsibility judgments. By implementing them computationally and comparing them to human judgements, our model shows how people’s intuitive theory of mind can be used to infer an agent’s intentions from their actions and counterfactuals are used to simulate what would have happened in relevant scenarios. Across three experiments, we test our model on a variety of animated social scenarios where one agent tries to help or hinder another agent’s goal. We find that the model captures people’s responsibility judgments better than alternative models that consider only intentions, only causality, or perceptual heuristics. Our results offer a unified account of how people’s rich mental models support complex responsibility attributions.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Sarah Wu

PhD student | Stanford University

Authors

Shruti Sridhar, Tobias Gerstenberg

Coupled Echo State Networks as a Model of Task-Oriented Alignment

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Social psychologists have shown that interaction degrades group performance, and averaging independent responses is thought to maximize group accuracy. However, coordination studies demonstrate that dyadic performance can exceed the sum of individual contributions. We develop a computational framework based in reservoir computing to explain cognitive coordination in groups. Two echo state networks (ESNs) were trained to classify speech signals from native Japanese speakers. Coupling ESN feedback reveals a nonlinear relationship with joint performance: loose coupling improves accuracy while tight coupling returns accuracy to that of independent networks, indicating that although interaction offers benefits, excessive integration may diminish individual contributions. We show that loosely coupled networks exhibit more aligned dynamics, explaining emergent gains in dyadic problem-solving, and explore the effect of homogenous versus heterogeneous group composition. Our results suggest successful group problem-solving may rely on organizing and maintaining optimal coupling dynamics. We offer a formal framework for explaining interaction dynamics in collective intelligences.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Polyphony Bruna
PhD Student | Cognitive & Information Sciences, University of California Merced

Authors

Rick Dale, Michael Spivey, Christopher Kello

Selective Truth and Epistemic Vigilance in Social Networks

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Strategic actors influence others by conveying selective truths—introducing vagueness while remaining technically true—while listeners deploy epistemic vigilance to infer speakers' goals and adjust interpretations. Yet, how do persuasive speakers decide which details to disclose, and how do listeners calibrate their vigilance in response? We propose that both behaviors stem from humans' Theory of Mind (ToM) capabilities. We illustrate this through a recursive Bayesian ToM model that captures key patterns from human data: persuasive speakers strategically select information by anticipating how it will be interpreted, while vigilant listeners counter by detecting vagueness in speakers and infer underlying motives. Furthermore, we integrate these individuals into an agent-based model (ABM), revealing different dynamics with classic opinion-formation models of misinformation across dyads and larger networks. This unified computational framework positions persuasion and vigilance as two facets of ToM, highlights vagueness as a strategic resource, and underscores goal-inference in resisting persuasion, with implications for marketing, politics, and automated misinformation detection.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ke Fang
PhD Student | Stanford University

Authors

Charley Wu, Michael Franke, Robert Hawkins

New Theoretical Developments in Intergroup and Intragroup Relations

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E270, Level 2

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This symposium unites four theoretical advances that offer innovative perspectives on inter- and intra-group dynamics, each illuminating a distinct facet of group relations. The first presentation, by Xian Zhao, introduces the Common Subgroup Identity Model and demonstrates across three studies that the existence and salience of shared subordinate groups can reduce conflict and foster cooperation between broader groups. The second, by Jin Xun Goh, reveals unseen U.S. racial dynamics through Racial Contrast Theory, which integrates major frameworks to argue that Asian Americans are positioned in contrast to Black Americans in ways that reinforce White centrality across key dimensions of group perception. The third, by Usman Liaquat, examines system-level processes through the Perceived System Justification Deficit Model, demonstrating how antipathy toward outgroups emerges from gaps between prescriptive and descriptive system justification beliefs and showing that reducing this gap decreases hostility. Finally, Duyen Vo turns the focus to intragroup processes, presenting a dynamic model of ingroup discrimination that integrates intrapersonal, interpersonal, and social factors, supported by qualitative data from Vietnamese international students in the U.S. Together, these presentations enrich theory and offer fresh perspectives on group studies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Xian Zhao
Northwestern University

Common Subgroup Identity Model

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The Common Subgroup Identity Model offers a novel approach to reducing conflict and fostering cooperation in a culturally diverse, globalized world. It focuses on situations where two outgroups share a subordinate subgroup. The model predicts that the existence or salience of a common subgroup can improve relations between two broader groups. In Study 1, large language modeling revealed that U.S. news articles mentioning both a common subgroup (e.g., Chinese Americans) and the corresponding outgroup (e.g., China) exhibited a more positive tone than articles referencing only the outgroup. Study 2 analyzed NBA data and found that, in each game, teams with more “switchers” (players who previously played for the opposing team, thus serving as common subgroup members) committed fewer total personal fouls. Study 3 experimentally manipulated common subgroup salience by highlighting the contributions of Guatemalan Americans, which increased American participants’ support for U.S.–Guatemala cooperation on climate change compared to a control condition. Moreover, the greater perceived similarity between Americans and Guatemalans mediated the effect of highlighting a common subgroup. Together, these findings demonstrate how leveraging common subgroups can promote positive intergroup relations, underscore the mutually constitutive nature of intergroup and subgroup dynamics, and highlight the potential of diversity within groups to foster intergroup cooperation.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Xian Zhao
Northwestern University

Authors

Galen Bodenhausen

Racial Contrast Theory: A New Integrative Framework on Black-Asian Relations

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This talk introduces a new framework called Racial Contrast Theory that synthesizes seemingly disparate social psychological theories on interracial and intra-minority relations. I theorize that relative to other racial groups, Asian Americans stand in clearer contrast to Black people. When Black and Asian Americans are pitted against and contrasted with one another, White people are centered and become the ideal representation. For instance, Stereotype Content Model showed that Black people are stereotyped as lower in competence but higher in warmth than Asian Americans, and these contrasting stereotypes allow White people to be seen as high in both competence and warmth. In Gendered Race Theory, Black people are seen as hypermasculine while Asians are seen as hyperfeminine, allowing White people to be the default gender representation. In Racial Position Model, Black people are seen as low-dominant Americans but Asians are seen as high-dominant foreigners, thus centering White people as the most dominant Americans. By integrating extant theories, Racial Contrast Theory reveals the unique positioning of Asian Americans as a racial contrast to Black people that centers Whiteness.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jin X. Goh
Assistant Professor | University of Illinois Chicago

A Perceived System Justification Deficit Model of Outgroup Antipathy

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

We test a novel model in which outgroup antipathy is predicted by the gap between prescriptive and descriptive beliefs about system justification: how much the group should support the status quo vs. how much the group is believed to support it. We also examine situational and dispositional factors that influence the size of the perceived system justification gap, and hence antipathy. In Studies 1 and 2 (N = 969), experimentally boosting descriptive (but not prescriptive) beliefs about immigrants’ system justification decreased antipathy toward them, especially among conservatives. In Study 3 (N = 490), portraying immigrants as highly (vs. weakly) benefitting from American systems increased system justification prescriptions but also increased beliefs that the group is highly system justifying. In Study 4 (N = 476), portraying immigrants as wielding high (vs. low) political power moderated the association between the prescriptive-descriptive system justification gap and antipathy. Across studies, the prescriptive-descriptive gap in system justification predicted hostility. Thus, “failing to live up to” system justification expectations elicits antipathy towards various outgroups.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Usman Liaquat
Postdoctoral Associate | Cornell University

Authors

John Jost

Unpacking Ingroup Discrimination: From Theory to Qualitative Insights from Vietnamese International Students in the U.S.

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Ingroup discrimination remains an understudied phenomenon within intragroup research, despite its significance across many racial and ethnic communities (Kuldas et al., 2022; Mata-Greve & Torres, 2019). Recent theoretical work (Vo et al., 2025) conceptualizes ingroup discrimination through the intersecting lenses of perpetrators, targets, and observers, and proposes a dynamic model integrating intrapersonal, interpersonal, and social factors to explain how ingroup tension and discrimination emerge and persist. This study draws on qualitative interviews with 11 Vietnamese international students in the U.S. to examine the model's applicability. Using a deductive approach informed by the model, our team coded and analyzed the data in Dedoose. Initial analyses show that participants' narratives support core components of the model, reveal additional influencing mechanisms, and highlight emotional and social impacts. This work strengthens the recent theoretical framework and provides insight into how ingroup discrimination takes shape within a specific community, encouraging research that advances theory and evidence on ingroup dynamics and their implications for identity and wellbeing.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Duyen H. Vo
University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Seth Schwartz, Aigerim Alpysbekova, Mia Cisco, Seo Woo Lee, Elena Bochkina

Representations of Gender: Sociocultural Antecedents & (In)equality Consequences

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E350, Level 3

GENDER

Gender and its representations at individual and collective levels are created and reinforced by sociocultural forces that maintain gender hierarchy. This symposium demonstrates the constructed nature of gender representations and their downstream consequences for inequality. Speaker 1 studies linguistic representations of the concepts "women" & "men", showing an androcentric bias in individuals' linguistic space. Speaker 2 studies moral representations of gender, showing that women are deemed morally superior to men but are penalized more for moral transgressions. Speaker 3 studies visual representation, showing that gender system defense infantilizes individuals' representations of women, reinforcing traditional gender norms. Speaker 4 studies gender-conforming and gender-diverse adults' representations of the self, showing a pervasive role of sociocultural gender norms, with negative impacts on mental health. Together, this symposium shows how gender representations are shaped by sociocultural contexts in which we live, which can reify gender categories and perpetuate inequality; thus, we highlight the importance of reshaping these representations for a more gender-equal future.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Yanzi Huang
Graduate Student | University of Delaware



Peter Mende-Siedlecki
Assistant Professor | University of Delaware

Gender categories vary not only in content, also in scope

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GENDER

Traditional gender stereotyping research focuses on the content of beliefs about men and women, but here we investigated differences in scope. In five preregistered experiments, we solicited open-ended descriptions of either a pictured man or a woman (between-subjects). When describing a man (vs. woman), we found participants sampled more broadly from semantic space using natural language processing techniques. We also found greater variability in participants' trait ratings of warmth and agency for the man (vs. woman). Finally, we elicited stereotypes about men and women in general and found less alignment between stereotypes about men and trait ratings of the individual man (r 's = .01-.15) than between stereotypes about women and ratings of the woman (r 's = .40-.49). Thus, participants' descriptions of an individual man (vs. woman) take up more semantic space (i.e., are broader in scope) and their trait ratings of the man (vs. woman) are less consistent (i.e., more varied) and show less alignment with gender stereotypes. We find these same patterns for impression of White men vs. women, Black men vs. women, and cartoon men vs. women (to rule-out any low-level visual confounds).

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



April Bailey
Lecturer (Assistant Prof) | University of Edinburgh

Authors

Rachel Leshin

Morality is gendered

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GENDER

Decades of scholarship on gender have shown that women are judged to be more caring and more communal than men. We use multiple methods (N = 5,376) to test an intriguing claim entailed by this work: People think that women are morally superior to men. Using reverse-correlation methods, we show that mental representations of the face of “a morally good person” is a woman’s face. Next, using a novel profile-generation task, we find that people are more likely to ascribe more morally good traits to women than to men, both when they are spontaneously thinking of a woman (vs. a man) and when they are assigned to do so. Further, using a large database of 1,864 normed behaviors, we find that behaviors associated with moral goodness are also stereotyped as feminine. Finally, we use a novel impression updating task to explore a potential consequence of this phenomenon. We find that immoral behavior is more diagnostic for women than men. As a result, equivalent moral transgressions lead to larger negative character updating for women than for men. In sum, these findings reveal that moral goodness is closely linked to gender concepts: People think women are morally superior to men.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jordan Wylie

Visiting Assistant Professor | Cornell University

Authors

Liane Young, Peter Mende-Siedlecki, Paul Bloom, Ana Gantman, Helen Singer

Gender status quo defense predicts infantilized mental representations of women

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GENDER

Infantilization of women perpetuates gender status quo because it minimizes the impression that women have the agency to challenge the existing patriarchal system. We propose infantilization can manifest in individuals’ mental representations of women’s faces as a baby-faced appearance—a tendency that may be especially strong among individuals inclined to justify the current gender system. Using reverse correlation, we visualized low (n=20) & high (n=20) gender system-justifiers’ mental representations of women’s faces and then randomly assigned naïve raters (N=957) to evaluate one of the two faces. As hypothesized, high (vs. low) gender system-justifiers’ mental images of women were evaluated as looking more baby-faced and more likely to conform to traditional gender norms, even after accounting for face- and rater-level characteristics. Notably, women depicted in high (vs. low) gender system-justifiers’ mental images were deemed as more likely to conform to traditional gender norms because of their greater perceived babyfacedness. Together, we reveal that gender system maintenance shapes mental representations of women in ways perpetuating gender inequality.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Yanzi Huang

Graduate Student | University of Delaware

Authors

Peter Mende-Siedlecki

Binary gender norms and stereotypes in self-representations: Evidence from gender-conforming and gender-diverse adults

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GENDER

How do societal gender norms shape self-perceptions—especially for those who identify outside the binary? Across 6 studies with 752 North American adults, we examined how gender stereotypes and normative ideals predict self-perceptions over time. Participants completed measures of gendered stereotypical trait associations and normative trait ideals, plus repeated measures of self-trait ratings over 3 weeks. We controlled for explicit stereotype endorsement, and analyses targeted implicit structural associations—capturing participants’ long-term, learned representations of gender stereotypes and ideals. We found four key results: (1) Collective representations of binary gender stereotypes and ideals predicted the structure of self-perceptions for both gender-conforming and gender-diverse adults (i.e., self-stereotyping). (2) A reciprocal self-anchoring effect emerged only among gender-conforming participants. (3) Self-stereotyping was strongest among individuals whose self-perceptions were less stable across time. (4) Ideal- and stereotype-self alignment predicted better mental health, regardless of identity. These findings reveal the subtle persistence of gender norms in the self.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Cyrus Butler

Student | William & Mary

Authors

Sally Xie

Social Psychoneuroimmunology: Interactions of Human Sociality and Physiology

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E265, Level 2

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Our social circumstances play an integral role in shaping our physical and mental health. At the same time, our physical health can heavily influence our social behavior. The burgeoning field of social psychoneuroimmunology investigates the links between social environments, physiological systems (inflammation, hormones, etc.), and behavior. This interdisciplinary subfield allows for a complex and comprehensive understanding of social behavior and physical health, more complete than the sum of either field alone. Furthermore, this integrated approach elucidates the manner in which biological individual differences interact with social contextual determinants of health. This symposium gathers representative research across the field of social psychoneuroimmunology. Topics include the long-term effects of social environments on the physiological stress response, how inflammation shapes social perception, and the role of steroid hormones in social decision making. Findings from this work have important implications in the interrelatedness of our social environments, physical health, and behavior.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Rayan Elahi

PhD Student | University of Colorado Boulder

Biology of Bias: Inflammation and Trustworthiness Judgments of Racial Out-Groups

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Many contexts exacerbate the human tendency to form group divisions including pathogen threat, or perceived risk of disease exposure. For example, individuals with greater pathogen threat are more likely to hold xenophobic and ethnocentric attitudes. However, little work has examined the actual biological processes that may accompany pathogen threat and shape social perceptions. To address this gap in the literature, we administered the flu vaccine—a mild immune challenge—to 45 young adults. Before and after receiving the vaccine, participants completed a modified affect misattribution procedure wherein they rated the trustworthiness of racialized and gendered in-group and out-group faces. Participants also provided pre- and post-vaccine blood samples which were assayed for the inflammatory cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6). Mixed models suggested that participants experiencing a greater increase in IL-6 rated racialized out-group faces as less trustworthy; $F(1, 7864)=12.28$, $p<0.001$. This pattern did not replicate when focusing instead on target gender. Overall, this project used novel and accessible methods to examine biological processes contributing to social perception.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Mallory Feldman

Postdoctoral Scholar | The Ohio State University

Authors

Tatum Jolink, Natalie Antenucci, Taylor West, Megan Cardenas, Gabriella Alvarez

Testosterone & Cortisol Jointly Influence Cue Appraisal During Competition

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Social status has a profound effect on human cognition and physiology. Lower status is associated with chronic stress as well as blunted reproductive function. At the same time, stress and reproductive systems heavily influence social behavior. The Dual Hormone Hypothesis posits that testosterone (T) promotes status-seeking behavior when cortisol (C) is low, and status-loss-avoidance when C is high. The present study expands on this model by separately cueing reward, loss, and opponent rank during a social status competition. In a sample of 89 undergraduates, we found that T and C influence the utilization of these cues in an interactive manner. High T was associated with increased competition against low status opponents, and this effect was blunted by C. T was also associated with decreased sensitivity to both reward and loss, while C was associated with increased reward sensitivity. Considering the effects of social status on stress and reproductive systems, these findings provide insight into biosocial mechanisms of hierarchy maintenance. These findings may abstract to other decision-making contexts, such as financial risk-taking or short- versus long-term health tradeoffs.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Rayan Elahi

PhD Student | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Erik Knight

The Biological Impact of Area-Level Social Inequality

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

Chronic environmental threat can undermine safety, contributing to dysregulation of the HPA axis. Structural racism and area-level inequity cause Black adolescents to spend more time in areas with high violent crime rates, which can lead to chronic unsafety and biological stress. We examined whether exposure to violent areas and elevated cortisol were associated with a pattern of dysregulation where immune cells become less responsive to cortisol's anti-inflammatory effects. An adolescent community sample (N=137; 52% Black, 48% White; 57% female; M_age = 15.5) completed a GPS-tracked naturalistic study week to assess violent area exposure and we measured levels of cortisol and inflammation. For Black but not White participants, there was a significant interaction between cortisol and GPS-tracked violent area exposure on inflammation ($p = .005$). At high exposure, higher cortisol predicted higher inflammation ($p = .02$), consistent with glucocorticoid dysregulation. Our findings elucidate how structural inequities become biologically embedded: dual elevations in cortisol and inflammation through glucocorticoid dysregulation pose long-term risks to mental and physical health.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kendra Wilson

Doctoral Candidate | The Ohio State University

Authors

Bethany Boettner, Christopher Browning, Jodi Ford, Baldwin Way

Early Widowhood as a Sensitive Period for Adult Biopsychosocial Health

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

In long-term romantic relationships, partnered individuals' lives become interdependent through co-regulation (biologically and psychologically) and co-functioning (societally). Accordingly, the death of a spouse is a profoundly dysregulating event across biological, psychological, and societal domains. Although robust evidence links widowhood with a higher prevalence of mental health disorders and age-related health risk, few studies capture (a) the dynamic process of adapting to widowhood in daily life or (b) how one's broader social context shapes the transition to widowhood. Informed by interdisciplinary theoretical and empirical work, this conceptual framework extends existing models of widowhood by identifying the widowhood transition as a sensitive period for biopsychosocial health in adulthood. The biopsychosocial upheaval associated with widowhood initiates shifts in social behaviors, health behaviors, and stress response processes that shape future aging trajectories. This theoretical presentation will outline an empirical agenda to guide future research on how the widowhood transition shapes subsequent biopsychosocial health.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ryan Brown
Assistant Professor | Texas Tech University

Spontaneous But Not Simple: Rethinking the Processes of Trait Inference

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

People make spontaneous (quick, unintentional) trait inferences (STIs) even from others' everyday behaviors. But what determines which traits they infer, and when? This symposium suggests that STIs can be more nuanced than previously thought. Talk 1 shows that stereotypes shape STIs in long-term but not working memory and explores the underlying mechanisms of this differentiation. Talk 2 demonstrates that perceivers tend to correct race-stereotypical STIs, but only when they expect societal bias and have sufficient cognitive resources. Talk 3 extends this to gender stereotypes and shows that counter-stereotypical STIs are not only prominent but also foster positive behavioral intentions. Talk 4 reveals that STI content diverges from intentional trait inferences (ITIs), with competence traits inferred more spontaneously than morality traits. Together, these talks show that STIs do not always mirror patterns of (more widely studied) intentional impressions. Drawing on robust experimental evidence with large samples, the symposium will explore what these differences say about the nature of impression processes, with implications for understanding bias, evaluation, and social judgment.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Irmak Olcaysoy Okten
Assistant Professor | Florida State University



Jessica Bray
Assistant Professor | University of Kentucky

Actions Versus Stereotypes: How Stereotypes Affect Spontaneous Trait Inferences

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Spontaneous trait inferences (STIs)—the automatic attribution of traits based on behavior—are a robust effect in person perception. In prior studies, we found no reliable evidence that stereotypes about actors influence STIs. This result supports the notion of robust STIs but challenges assumptions that stereotypes fundamentally shape impression formation. Notably, published research investigating the effect of stereotypes on STIs employed a research paradigm designed to measure STIs at early information encoding, limiting their generalizability to the general impression formation process. We addressed this limitation in two studies (N1=278, N2=333), by employing the false recognition paradigm, which measures STIs from long-term memory. Both studies indeed documented significant effects of stereotype congruency on STIs from behavior. This effect persisted even without stereotypic images, suggesting that stereotype-based trait inferences do not rely solely on visual cues. We are conducting further studies to more precisely identify the processing stages and mechanisms through which stereotypes interact with behavior-based trait inferences.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jana Mangels
PHD Student | Universität Hamburg

Authors

Juliane Degner

Motivated Correction of Negative Race Stereotypes in Spontaneous Trait Inferences

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Research on prejudice shows that stereotypes about racial minorities often shape majority groups' impressions. It is unclear, however, whether this effect extends to spontaneous trait inferences (STIs) from ambiguous behaviors. We address this gap by assessing how racial stereotypes of Black men affect STIs, using a novel set of pre-tested ambiguous behaviors and a robust false recognition paradigm. Across five studies (four preregistered; Ntotal=1169), we find that White perceivers tend to make more positive or nonstereotypical than negative or stereotypical STIs about Black actors' ambiguous behaviors (study 1-2). This effect disappears when a cognitive load is induced during behavior encoding (study 3). Study 4 shows that the stereotype correction is also partially driven by participants' expectations of societal bias toward Black men, highlighting the role of motivational processes. Notably, the correction effect does not generalize to positive stereotypes (study 5). We discuss the implications of this STI overcorrection for understanding the contextual and motivational factors that affect even the most automatic forms of evaluations.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Ayanna Brewton

Social psychology PhD student | Florida State University

Authors

Irmak Olcaysoy Okten

Individuation or Stereotyping? How Gender Stereotypic Behaviors Impact Spontaneous Inferences

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Decades of work have shown that traits are spontaneously inferred from behavior via spontaneous trait inferences (STIs). However, there is conflicting evidence on whether stereotypes impact STIs, and there is minimal work that tests the utility of STIs beyond person perception contexts. In two experiments, we tested whether gender stereotypes impact STIs and whether STIs influence behavioral intentions. Experiment 1 found that STIs were stronger for stereotype-inconsistent targets (e.g., strong women and nurturing men) compared to stereotype-consistent targets (e.g., nurturing women and strong men). Participants were also more likely to befriend and less likely to punish inconsistent targets when they made an STI of that target. These findings counter previous work but can be explained by individuation effects. Experiment 2 tests whether these results are due to individuation or stereotype effects by utilizing ambiguous behaviors that can imply both a consistent and an inconsistent trait. Data for this experiment have been collected and will be analyzed prior to the conference. These results have implications for stereotype development and discrimination.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jessica Bray

Assistant Professor | University of Kentucky

Authors

Ka Wai Lau, Paige Taylor

Beyond Morality Primacy: Competence Takes the Lead in Spontaneous Impressions

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Past research has shown that morality (vs. competence) related information plays a stronger role when forming impressions. It is not clear, however, whether morality-related information is more primary (i.e., spontaneously inferred) or dominant (i.e., weighted more heavily) in impressions. Four studies (two preregistered; Ntotal = 750) tested spontaneous morality and competence inferences from sixteen individuals' behaviors with a false recognition paradigm. In Study 1-3, perceivers made stronger STIs from competence (vs. morality) information, suggesting competence-primacy. Study 4 compared spontaneous to intentional inferences and showed that morality traits were indeed more strongly activated when impressions were formed intentionally. Together, these findings suggest that morality may play a dominating yet not a primary role in impression formation.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Irmak Olcaysoy Okten

Assistant Professor | Florida State University

Authors

Ayanna Brewton, Xi Shen

The Psychology of Cooperation and Competition

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E352, Level 3

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Managing our interdependence with other people is an integral part of everyday life. Perceiving our interactions with others as cooperative, win-win situations versus competitive, win-lose situations can powerfully shape our thoughts, feelings, actions, relationships and reputations. This symposium presents novel findings related to the effects of perceiving situations as cooperative versus competitive across a wide range of social and organizational settings, including teamwork, negotiation, and intergroup interactions. The first two talks address the effects of perceived interdependence on prosocial behavior and well-being. The last two talks explore how language that signals cooperation versus competition benefits negotiators and organizations.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Valentino Chai

PhD Student | Stanford Graduate School of Business

The Differential Effects of Cooperative and Competitive Situations on Autonomy

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Autonomy contributes to important psychological and practical outcomes. Despite the ubiquity of situations wherein our interests are aligned (cooperation) or misaligned (competition) with others', surprisingly little is known about how cooperation and competition influence individuals' feelings of autonomy. Integrating interdependence theory and self-determination theory, we predicted that cooperation increases feelings of autonomy relative to competition. Four studies that used experimental and survey methods and different operationalizations of cooperation and competition support this hypothesis. Study 1 found that cooperation was positively associated with feelings of autonomy among varsity athletes in team sports. Using archival data from federal employees, Study 2 suggested that the association between cooperation and autonomy is explained by lower levels of stress and perceived threat. Study 3 used an incentivized decision-making task in which we experimentally manipulated whether decision-makers' interests were aligned or misaligned. Participants felt more autonomous when their interests were aligned. Study 4 found evidence for both mechanisms in an experimental study.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Valentino Chai

PhD Student | Stanford Graduate School of Business

Authors

Nir Halevy

Competitive Organizational Climates Increase Material and Symbolic Zero-Sum Beliefs

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Across four studies, we examine how competitive organizational climates influence organization members' Zero-Sum Beliefs (ZSBs)—the perception that one person's

gain entails another's corresponding loss—for different organizational resources. In Study 1, participants in a competitive (versus collaborative or neutral) organizational

climate reported higher ZSBs for both material organizational resources that are inherently limited (e.g., money) and symbolic resources that are not necessarily limited (e.g., respect). Study 2 extended these findings to MBA students, showing that perceptions of a competitive climate was associated with greater ZSBs for material and

symbolic resources which was linked to less desirable behaviors (e.g., peer helping). Finally, Studies 3 and 4 found support for interventions that reduced ZSBs in competitive climates: signaling an abundance of material and symbolic resources, respectively. Together, we establish that competitive climates increase material and symbolic ZSBs, identify their behavioral consequences, and offer strategies to mitigate ZSBs in such climates.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Roman Gallardo

PhD Student | University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Jane Risen, Kevin Wei

Does Conversational Receptiveness Increase Positivity Toward Organizations Addressing Controversial Issues?

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

When organizations take public stances on controversial issues, they risk backlash from stakeholders with competing interests. Yet 50% of U.S. adults now expect companies to publicly address matters of societal importance. We test whether conversational receptiveness—language that signals openness to opposing views—can reduce conflict and improve evaluations of organizations taking a stand. Across four pre-registered experiments (N = 4,095), receptive statements significantly improved attitudes and behavioral intentions more than decisive statements, especially among stakeholders who disagreed with the organization's position. While the positivity effect was attenuated among those who agreed, it remained statistically significant and

did not harm evaluations. These findings extend theories of interpersonal receptiveness to organizational communication and stakeholder management, offering practical guidance for navigating polarized public arenas. Receptive language may help organizations address contentious topics in ways that mitigate conflict and build shared understanding across ideological divides.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Felicia Joy

PhD Candidate | University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Authors

Jane Risen

Metaphors in Negotiations

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Metaphors do more than describe negotiations: they shape how we understand and approach them. This research explores how metaphorical language influences

perceptions of negotiation counterparts and expectations about the negotiation process. Drawing from conceptual metaphor theory, we identify common metaphors used to

describe negotiations and examine how they frame mental models of conflict, cooperation, and value creation. Our findings show that subtle metaphorical cues can shift how people interpret intentions, anticipate outcomes, and evaluate the difficulty or competitiveness of a negotiation. Competitive metaphors tend to signal self-interest and zero-sum thinking, while collaborative metaphors promote mutual concern and constructive engagement. These results underscore the power of language to shape

expectations and behavior, highlighting metaphor as a meaningful yet often overlooked influence in negotiation dynamics.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

 **Becky Gilland**
Wharton, University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Maurice Schweitzer, Bella Ren

The Social Mirror: Perceiving, Misperceiving, and Opting Out of Connection

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E353A, Level 3

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

How do people perceive their value, emotions, and shared reality in their relationships—and how do these perceptions shape connection? This symposium explores interpersonal perceptions across diverse contexts, from professional networking to romantic relationships to human-AI dynamics. Talk 1 shows that people underestimate their instrumental value to others' networks, which may undermine network formation. Talk 2 reveals that romantic partners are generally accurate in perceiving how they come across emotionally, but heightened accuracy can feel aversive in the moment while supporting closeness over time. Talk 3 challenges assumptions about shared reality in couples using Dyadic RSA, showing that personal perceptions of shared reality—not partner alignment—are most strongly linked to relationship quality and meaning in life. Finally, Talk 4 uncovers how perceiving AI (LLMs) as empathic reduces people's willingness to offer empathy themselves—offloading a fundamental human function. Together, these talks reveal how perceptions—accurate or biased—shape empathy, meaning, and connection across relationships.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

 **Catalina Enestrom**
Assistant Professor | Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

Don't Add Me On LinkedIn? Investigating Biases in Network Value

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

People tend to underestimate how much others like them, their intrinsic value in others' eyes (Boothby et al., 2018). But do they also underestimate their instrumental value: how much others view them as useful to their network? We tested this across two preregistered in-person speed-networking studies with students (N₁=194; N₂=180) and one exploratory virtual speed-networking study with nascent entrepreneurs (N₃=270). Across studies, controlling for perceived liking, participants underestimated their perceived value to others' networks: viewing themselves as less valuable to others than others were to them. They also underestimated their actual value: others viewed them as more valuable than they viewed themselves. However, participants calibrated their self-perceptions to how valuable they found each partner. In Studies 2 and 3, they accurately tracked how valuable they were to one partner versus another. In Study 3, lower bias and higher accuracy predicted greater motivation to strengthen the tie. In sum, people may enter networking situations believing they bring less to the table than they truly do, potentially undermining their network development.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

 **Marie-Catherine Mignault**
Post-Doc Fellow | Cornell University

Authors

Sangah Bae, Marieke Huysentruyt, Vanessa Bohns

Emotion Meta-Accuracy and Daily Relationship Dynamics

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Do we know how we come across emotionally, and does it matter? Although past work has established that emotional expression is central to social functioning, little is known about people's insight into how others perceive their emotional displays, namely their emotion meta-accuracy. We examined this in the context of romantic couples' daily interactions. Across a daily diary study of 158 romantic couples (N=314), we applied the Social Accuracy Model to capture how well people tracked their partner's unique impressions of their day-to-day emotional expressions. We found that people were generally meta-accurate. On average, greater meta-accuracy was linked to better relationship experiences (e.g., better overall experience, more positive interactions, greater closeness). Yet, on days when meta-accuracy was higher than usual, both members of the couple reported worse experiences. These findings suggest that seeing ourselves through our partner's eyes may feel uncomfortable in the moment, but may ultimately support more adaptive emotional exchanges over time, offering new insights into how everyday emotional perception shapes the quality of our relationships.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Hasagani Tissera
Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Toronto

Authors

Lauren J. Human

Is Shared Reality Truly Shared? Implications of Shared Reality (Mis)Match

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Feeling "on the same page" with a romantic partner—experiencing shared reality (SR)—has been shown to foster personal and relationship well-being. Yet most research considers only one partner's perspective, overlooking whether partners match in this experience. Using Dyadic RSA across six dyadic datasets (N=844 couples), this project is the first to systematically examine whether (mis)alignment in generalized SR predicts relationship quality and meaning in life. Pilot results (N=103 couples) show that partners tend to align in their SR, but this congruence is not significantly associated with relationship quality or meaning. Instead, one's own perception of SR was the strongest predictor of both outcomes for women, while both actor and partner SR predicted quality for men; only partner SR predicted men's meaning, with a curvilinear pattern suggesting a tipping point where more partner SR predicts more meaning. These findings challenge the assumption that alignment is necessary and instead support the idea of SR as a subjective perception. We will present preregistered results from a registered report analyzing the remaining datasets, advancing both theory and dyadic methodology.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Catalina Enestrom
Assistant Professor | Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

Authors

John Lydon, Niall Bolger, Amanda Forest, Maya Rossignac-Milon

Killing Kindness: Perceptions of Using Empathic LLMs Increases Offloading Behaviors

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Human kindness has always revolved around the mutual exchange of empathy. But today, there exists a new source of empathy: empathic AI, specifically large language models (LLMs). While previous research questions whether LLMs can possess empathy, reality indicates otherwise: many people do rely on LLMs for emotional support. Yet across 3 studies, we explore how perceiving LLMs as empathic disrupts fundamental interpersonal processes by changing how people perceive and perform empathy in relationships. Study 1 foundationally showed how perceiving ChatGPT as capable of providing empathy predicts a greater desire to offload, or hand off, empathic responsibilities to GPT. Study 2 reinforced these perceptions on a group level by manipulating capacity via newspaper clippings about AI. Study 3 tested these perceptions behaviorally: participants did offload to GPT more (measured by a question writing and Reading the Mind in the Eyes tasks) when asked to provide an acquaintance empathy when that person had already sought support from GPT. This set of studies emphasize how people perceive giving empathy themselves as unnecessary when AI can effortlessly take over, killing human kindness.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Madhulika Shastri
Graduate Student | Ohio State University

Authors

Kurt Gray

Understanding Social Ties: The Psychology of Friendship and Connection

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E258, Level 2

SOCIAL COGNITION

Throughout the lifespan, a person's social network—ranging from weak ties to friends—fosters well-being. Yet key questions remain—Who is even considered a friend? What signals that someone is a friend? How do we think about who is connected with whom in our social networks? And how do interactions within friendships affect the self? This symposium showcases four complementary lines of work that examine how people make sense of the diverse individuals within their network. The first talk examines how people use the "friend" label in their social networks using a Friend Go/No-Go task, and how this labeling relates to perceptions of closeness, loneliness, and well-being. Our second talk uses Bayesian inference techniques to model how diverse behaviors (e.g., texting, not greeting) shape friendship judgments. Our third talk demonstrates that 'brokers'—people who bridge otherwise disconnected people in a network—are especially adept at learning existing (vs. missing) ties in networks, underscoring network position in social knowledge. Our last talk investigates dynamics within established friendships, examining how friends navigate the tension between being seen accurately versus being seen positively, using response surface analysis. Together, these four talks speak to how people perceive and navigate connections across the social landscape.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Alaa Itani
Student | Cornell University

Friend or Not? The Impact of Labeling

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Social connections, including friendships, can protect individuals from feeling lonely and promote well-being. But within broad social networks, who counts as a “friend”? The present work examined whether the simple act of labeling someone as a friend can shape interpersonal and emotional outcomes. Using a within-subjects design, participants (N=369) nominated 15 people they had interacted with in the past 24 hours—thus, generating a mix of close ties and more distant others (e.g., bus driver). They then completed a novel friend Go/No-Go task, where they were presented with names (or descriptors) of these individuals and responded as quickly as possible whether each was a friend. As predicted, judgments of friends were more likely, and faster, for targets who had been rated higher on closeness and reciprocity in support-seeking. Critically, a lower likelihood of categorizing someone as a “friend” was associated with loneliness and worse well-being. Findings highlight the importance of friend labeling—how people differ in making these judgments and how this categorization may have bidirectional associations with attitudes and socioemotional outcomes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Alaa Itani
Student | Cornell University

Authors

Vivian Zayas

Friendship Inference as Bayesian Inference: Representing and Integrating Friendship Cues

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Friendship is important but understudied. Research suggests people use “cues” (i.e., proximity, similarity, loyalty) to identify friendship. But, how are cues weighed and integrated to infer a relationship? Are two people who text each other and use nicknames more or less likely to be friends than two people who share a straw? We use Bayesian inference to model friendship expectations. We probed participants’ (N = 60) priors about how likely people are to be friends, and tested how expectations shift based on 20 different friendship (or non-friendship) behaviors. The model quantifies how strongly each behavior indicates (lack of) friendship, and integrates multiple behaviors to form an overall judgment. Inviting someone to lunch most strongly shifted expectations towards friendship (BF > 40,000), and not greeting someone most strongly shifted expectations away from friendship (BF > 1,000,000). Our work sheds light on cognitive processes of how people use observations of everyday social interactions to infer the structure of their social environment. Future studies will compare Bayesian inference to other algorithms to test which models best fit actual expectations about friendship.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Chuyi Yang
PhD Student | UC Santa Barbara

Authors

Zoe Liberman

Brokerage Is Associated with Better Network Learning

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Navigating social networks requires understanding where people sit in them. People in advantageous positions, such as brokers (people who connect otherwise disparate people in a network), may be particularly attuned to the structure of their social world, hold more accurate priors about social network structure, and thus, be better able to learn new social networks. In 4 studies, we tested how learning new networks was associated with participants’ brokerage capacities in their real-world social networks. We found that brokers were especially good at recalling new networks that were structured like typical social networks, but not atypically structured ones. Brokers were especially good at learning existing (vs. missing) ties, and they were better at learning other brokers’ relationships. We framed the networks as flight networks among airports in one condition, and friendships in another. We found no differences between conditions, suggesting this advantage may be domain-general. This work illuminates the mechanisms of network learning based on one’s own experiences, establishing new links between one’s own social network position and one’s ability to learn new network structures.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Miriam Schwyck
Postdoc | Columbia University

Authors

Meng Du, Carolyn Parkinson

Is Feeling Understood or Feeling Adored Best for Friendship?

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

We want to be understood by our friends; namely, we want our friends to see us and be on the same page as us about who we are. However, to be on the same page as us, our friends must see and agree with us on not just our positive attributes, but also our negative attributes, which might not feel great and could threaten the quality of our friendships. Instead, we might feel better in and about our friendships when we think that our friends see the best in us. This raises the question: is it best to feel understood or to feel adored, or seen positively, by our friends? In the current research, we test these competing hypotheses using response surface analysis in 86 friend groups (N = 344) across multiple personality traits (e.g., Big Five, funny, selfish, etc). Disentangling feeling understood and positivity will offer theoretical insights into longstanding questions on self-motives, such as self-verification and self-enhancement, as well as further our understanding of the interpersonal perception processes involved in close relationships.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Norhan Elsaadawy

Assistant Professor | Carleton University

Authors

Victoria Pringle, Erika Carlson

PUI Committee Sponsored: Conducting Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions: Challenges and Best Practices Part 2

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: E252, Level 2

Conducting Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) comes with unique challenges--and unique opportunities. Building on last year's SPSP session, this event highlights faculty experiences at PUIs and creates space to connect with potential collaborators. Join us for a dynamic networking session designed to spark future research partnerships.

Early Career Mentoring Event

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: E259 and E263, Level 2

Pre-Registration Required. [SIGN UP HERE!](#) Do you have questions you want to ask mentors in advance of the session? Leave them [here!](#)

The Early Career Mentoring Event is designed for post-PhD (0 to 6 years post PhD only) members seeking guidance during the early stages of their academic or professional careers. This event offers participants the opportunity to engage in small-group conversations with respected scholars in the field around topics such as research collaborations, data strategies, innovative methods, career transitions, professional advancement, and funding strategies.

This interactive session encourages open dialogue, peer connection, and practical advice tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by early career scholars. Pre-registration is required, and advance sign-up is recommended.

*MENTORING

Poster Session C Friday

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

*POSTER

[1] “Bottom line-to feel safe”: A Qualitative Exploration of Consent

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Consent literature has been primarily grounded to discussion of consent relative to sexual education and sexual violence. I expand consent research by examining how consent is contextualized, perceived, and understood to operate across sexual and non-sexual contexts. Through a qualitative study of over 100 participants, thematic analysis identifies the operation or value of consent as relative to property—the maintenance or protection of objects and or oneself—safety. Additionally, participants demonstrated circumstances and relations (e.g., family, friends, strangers) which differentiated the requirement or necessity of consent, in other words when consent is (e.g., borrowing clothes) or is not required (e.g., defending one's home). Findings ground the conceptualization of consent within explicit constructions of property (e.g., objects, land, money, self.) and expand on how consent literature necessitates a lay perspective on the operation of consent beyond the sexual.

*POSTER

Speaker



Naomi Painter

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Kansas

[2] Normative Dilution Effect: A Case Study of Intergroup Apologies

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

The normative dilution effect suggests that perceiving a behavior as normative can undermine its effectiveness, particularly in contexts where its communicative value matters. Intergroup apologies offer a compelling test case for this effect, as conveying sincere motives is key to their effectiveness in promoting forgiveness. We conducted a replication of Okimoto et al. (2015), the only study to experimentally test the normative dilution effect. Australian participants (N = 633) took part in an online experiment in which we manipulated whether or not they were told that political apologies are a common response to historical transgressions. We did not experimentally replicate the normative dilution effect. However, SEM analyses in the control group revealed correlational evidence for normative dilution: perceiving political apologies as more normative was associated with perceiving ulterior motives for the decision to apologize, and in turn, less forgiveness. We discuss these findings in the context of Study 2, which uses a stronger manipulation of apology commonness to examine the normative dilution effect and further investigate perceived motives as its underlying driver.

*POSTER

Speaker



Vlada Trofimchuk

Doctoral Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Rebecca Littman

[3] “Let me sleep it off”: How sleep operates as an emotion regulation tactic

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Poor sleep has long been associated with impaired emotion regulation. However, do people use sleep as a regulation tactic? In this initial set of “proof of concept” studies, we predicted that sleep might be used for both adaptive (i.e., “strategic delay,” to regain mental clarity) and maladaptive (i.e., emotional inhibition, to push away feelings) motivations. In qualitative Study 1 (n = 147), we found that using sleep to regulate emotions was common, with 89.1% saying they had tried it. Via coding of narrative descriptions, we found that those who reported inhibition-based motives were more likely to sleep in response to relationship concerns and to say that sleep did not help with emotion regulation compared to those with delay-based motivations. In Study 2 (n = 168) we developed a brief self-report scale assessing use of sleep-as-inhibition and sleep-as-delay, and found that sleep-as-delay was associated with greater distress tolerance, whereas sleep-as-inhibition was associated with greater emotional sensitivity and alexithymia. These studies suggest that sleep can be used adaptively as a mental “reset” but can also be used maladaptive as a form of emotional avoidance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Veilleux

Associate Professor | University of Arkansas

Authors

Jamie Walker

[4] “When They’re Happier, I’m Happier:” Examining Interpersonal Emotion Regulation in Romantic Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Interpersonal emotion regulation (IER) has important implications for individual and relational well-being, yet few studies have examined this process from a dyadic perspective. The present study addressed this gap by exploring perceived and actual IER strategies, goals, and effectiveness among romantic partners. Sixty-eight dating couples completed a lab session in which one partner (target) was randomly assigned to complete the Trier Social Stress Test (TSST), while the other partner (regulator) was tasked with managing their partner’s emotions before and after the TSST. Actor-partner interdependence modeling was used to examine associations between actual (target) and perceived (regulator) regulatory effectiveness (RE), negative (NA) and positive (PA) affect, and closeness. Higher perceived RE was associated with less target NA and greater regulator PA. Higher actual RE was associated with greater PA and closeness for both partners. Qualitative reports of IER strategies and goals, as well as couples’ behaviorally coded interactions, will also be presented. These findings highlight the importance of considering both partners’ perspectives when studying IER in romantic couples.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sara Cloonan

PhD Student | University of Georgia

Authors

Daisi Brand, Richard Slatcher, Sara Cloonan, Jordan Harper

[5] “Why Didn’t You Just Say So?” People Use Indirect Opposition to Assess Partner Commitment

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Rather than confronting their partners in a direct manner, people often use indirect strategies, such as making sarcastic comments, muttering under their breath, and being passive aggressive. Yet, whereas directly confronting a partner can bring about desired change, indirect opposition tends to undermine relationship quality without bringing about subsequent change. So, why do people engage in indirect opposition? We suggest people use indirect opposition to obtain diagnostic information about partners’ commitment. We tested this idea using three studies. Studies 1 and 2 were experiments that manipulated participants’ uncertainty about their partners’ commitment and assessed their use of indirect opposition. Study 3 was a diary study that addressed whether daily perceptions of partners’ commitment predicted increases in indirect opposition. Results from these studies demonstrated that partner commitment uncertainty was associated with greater motivation to evaluate partners’ commitment and this enhanced motivation mediated the effect of commitment uncertainty on the use of indirect opposition. Together, these studies suggest that people may use indirect opposition to test a partner’s level of commitment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Levi Baker

Assistant Professor | Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro

Authors

James McNulty, Michelle Russell

[6] “You Made Me Do It: Dark Tetrad and Displacement of Responsibility Justifying Infidelity”

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Previous studies have linked the Dark Tetrad personality traits to a higher likelihood of infidelity (March et al., 2023). Individuals who engage in infidelity often rationalize and justify their actions (Perez et al., 2023). This study explores whether higher Dark Tetrad personality traits predict explanations offered following infidelity through Moral Disengagement strategies, cognitive mechanisms used to rationalize unethical behaviors (Moore, 2015). Participants will complete scales such as the Short Dark Tetrad Scale (Paulhus et al., 2021), the Infidelity Moral Disengagement Scale (Lişman & Holman, 2022) and an infidelity scenario, explaining their behavior if placed in a similar situation. Due to low empathy (Jonason & Krause, 2013), low agreeableness, and low humility (Paulhus & Williams, 2002), individuals with high levels of dark traits, are expected to favor Moral Disengagement strategies, such as displacement of responsibility (Egan et al., 2015), which, in turn, are expected to predict higher use of aggravating accounts to explain infidelity. The results can inform efforts to reduce psychological and emotional harm that may result from a partner’s unfaithful behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alejandro Trejo

Northeastern Illinois University

Authors

Sara Salavati

[7] A call for greater transparency in piloting

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Although piloting is a common and valuable part of the research process, pilot studies are rarely reported in the psychological literature. Yet, reporting pilot studies could improve many aspects of psychological research. It could help researchers avoid systematically excluding part of the research process from the scientific record, reveal selection biases in research designs that may affect the generalizability of findings, evaluate others’ research more accurately, learn from other researchers’ successes and failures, uphold ethical responsibilities, and improve the methodological practice of piloting. I recommend three concrete initiatives to help pilot reporting become standard practice: researchers and institutions should develop simple pilot reporting templates; journals should establish clear pilot reporting guidelines for authors; and authors should acknowledge when pilot studies were run and share relevant materials and data. Current reporting standards favor polished research narratives that are the end product of a complex scientific process, but a truly transparent science should spotlight processes—like piloting—that underpin the conclusions scientific papers draw.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isaac Handley-Miner

Postdoc | Boston College

[8] A cross-cultural investigation of sex differences in friendship preferences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Previous research demonstrated that men and women prefer different qualities in their same-sex friendships, and these differences can be predicted by a functional account of friendship. However, this research was limited in generalizability as it only included American participants. Are these sex differences in friendship preferences universally shared, or are they culturally bound? The current study explored this question with six datasets (N = 1140) including participants in China, Australia, the UK, and the US. Across cultures, we see evidence for sex differences in some preferences, such as the extent to which men and women rely on friends for emotional support. However, not all friendship preferences were consistently replicated, suggesting the role of cultural variability in shaping the qualities we seek in our friends.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yingtao(McQueen) Li

Hamilton College

Authors

Eric Chung, Keelah Williams

[9] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

*POSTER

[10] OPEN

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

*POSTER

[11] A Meta-Analytic View of Stealing Thunder

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Stealing thunder is a persuasive tactic that involves preemptively disclosing one's own negative information before others disclose in an attempt to diminish its impact. Research in legal, political, and crisis management contexts has demonstrated the effectiveness of stealing thunder. However, less is known about when (i.e., boundary conditions) and how (i.e., underlying mechanisms) the tactic works. Therefore, the aim of this meta-analysis is to organize and synthesize the published empirical research on stealing thunder. A literature search was conducted using six databases by combining our keywords "stealing thunder" or "self-disclosure" and "persuasion" or "crisis communication." Effect sizes (Cohen's d) from each study will be used to investigate whether stealing thunder leads to more favorable outcomes overall than thunder, whether it leads to more favorable evaluations of the discloser stealing thunder compared to thunder, whether stealing thunder erases the negative impact of the thunder information, and whether the tactic is more effective in certain domains (e.g., legal, politics, crisis communication).

*POSTER

Speaker



Logan Call

Ph.D. Student | University of Utah

Authors

Paul White, Emma Franklin

[12] A Seatbelt Measure for Complex Power Analyses

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Power analysis is recommended as a "best practice" in psychological research. Best practices are meant to standardize the way scientists conduct research, as well as improve the quality of the research in the field. Researchers aim to make sure their studies are "well-powered", but what this means and how to achieve it are difficult in practice. Because there is no unified approach to power analyses in complex cases, researchers have considerable freedom in the assumptions they make regarding the relevant parameter values in their power analyses. Even when researchers try to make well-informed decisions, there is no guarantee they will converge on an answer. With simulations, we show how researchers can get different sample size estimates just by making different assumptions about the parameters in their power analysis. Because power analysis in complex cases is not standardized, we propose a new approach to thinking about power: Best practices for power analysis should function like seatbelts. For example, researchers should not collect fewer than 200 participants. This recommendation is easily implementable and introduces standardization in complex power analyses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Saxsma

Teaching Assistant | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

R. Chris Fraley, Karl Conroy, Matthew Saxsma

[13] A Social Relations Model Decomposition of Attachment in Close Friendships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Friend groups offer some of the closest relationships in young adulthood, making them ideal for testing if attachment is stable across relationships, as suggested by previous literature. To do so, we examined how much attachment is a general style individuals carry with them versus a relational dynamic between two people in close friendships. In friend groups of four, 344 undergraduates rated their attachment orientation with each friend in the group. We used the social relations model (Kenny, 1994) to decompose attachment ratings, which showed that attachment was influenced by the dyad's unique relationship (45-59% of variance) and by the perceiver's general tendency to be anxiously or avoidantly attached with others (31-55% of variance). Thus, people have attachment tendencies that generalize across friends, but attachment is also a relational dynamic. These influences varied such that avoidance was more generalized and anxiety was more relational. Notably, individuals did not reliably evoke attachment styles in their friends. This suggests that, contrary to common belief, our attachment can adapt to our social environments, and certain styles might be more mutable than others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Whitney Mambou

University of Toronto

Authors

Victoria Pringle, Erika Carlson, Khalisha Darmawan

[14] A Touchy Subject: Pluralistic Ignorance and Physical Intimacy in Heterosexual Men's Same-Sex Friendships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In prior research, we found that men engage in a significantly narrower range of touch behaviors with male friends than they report being open to. One possible explanation is pluralistic ignorance: men may underestimate their peers' openness to physically affectionate touch and, in turn, limit their own behavior. We explored this across two studies—one with heterosexual cisgender men from across the U.S. recruited via Prolific (N = 485), and one with heterosexual cisgender undergraduates from select CUNY campuses (N = 397). A series of t-tests assessed whether men collectively underestimated their peers' openness, comfort, and attitudes regarding homosocial touch, and whether they rated their openness, comfort, and attitudes as higher than those of their male peers—patterns indicative of pluralistic ignorance. Furthermore, using hierarchical linear regression models, we examined whether men's estimates of their male peers' openness, comfort, and attitudes predicted the physical intimacy they experienced in their friendships, over and above their own—suggesting that pluralistic ignorance may inhibit affectionate touch in men's same-sex friendships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ricky Granderson

Ph.D. Student | CUNY Graduate Center

[15] Abrupt Implicit, Incremental Explicit Attitude Change in the Bob Paradigm

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

We sought to replicate Rydell et al. (2007) suggesting that implicit attitudes shift incrementally, whereas explicit attitudes shift abruptly. A replication would support dual-process perspectives on attitude formation.

The design followed Rydell et al. (2007), except feedback duration was reduced from 5,000 to 1,000 ms. Participants (N = 595) first learned 100 positive statements about a novel target (Bob), followed by counterattitudinal (CA) negative statements whose number varied by condition (0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100CA). Implicit (IAT) and explicit (self-reported) attitudes were then measured.

The findings reversed Rydell et al. (2007): Implicit attitudes shifted abruptly, with significant differences only between control (0CA) and each CA condition but not across CA conditions. By contrast, explicit attitudes changed incrementally, with significant differences across non-adjacent CA conditions (e.g., 20CA vs. 60CA).

These results suggest that implicit attitudes can change abruptly, whereas explicit attitudes can change incrementally, challenging dual-process theories predicting slow implicit vs. fast explicit change. Ongoing work seeks to clarify the underlying cognitive mechanisms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yueer Ji

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Ming Ma, Nicholas Surdel, Melissa Ferguson, Jeremy Cone, Benedek Kurdi

[16] Actual and Perceived Similarity in Romantic Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The literature on assortative mating has shown that people are likely to prefer partners who are similar to them. However, whether this tendency applies for dysfunctional traits needs further research. Therefore, the present study aims to investigate how both actual and perceived similarity between romantic partners in physical attractiveness, Dark Triad personality traits, and codependency behaviors are associated with relationship quality. Accordingly, responses from both partners will be collected allowing for the examination of perceived similarity. Multilevel modeling (MLM) will be conducted to account for the dyadic nature of the data. Using this approach, actual and perceived similarity in physical attractiveness, Dark Triad personality traits, and codependency behaviors will be assessed in association with relationship quality. The current study is expected to expand assortative mating research by examining similarity in dysfunctional traits as well as analyzing actual and perceived similarity. Through dyadic data and Multilevel modeling, this study attempts to provide a comprehensive knowledge in how similarity relates to relationship quality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elif Yazici

Graduate Student | Koc University

Authors

Betul Urganci

[17] African American Women Predict Harsher Outcomes for Women Mate-Poachers

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Mate poaching is widespread with about 70% reporting being a target and 65% a perpetrator but influential factors and inhibitors are less known. Evolutionary psychology focuses on self-serving benefits but less is known of how much poachers consider the damage to the losing mate. This research investigates positive (target SES) and negative (damage to losing partner) utilitarian factors on poaching evaluations and estimated outcomes.

254 African American women rated likely consequences of a mate-poaching varying in: 2 (gender of poacher) x 2 (degree of damage to losing mate) x 2 (Socioeconomic Status of Poaching target) in a standard base vignette and evaluated success and practical outcomes.

Women were rated more likely than men to make a successful poach and to be later cheated on themselves by their target. Expected high damage to the losing mate reduced poaching likelihood and increased likely retaliation especially for women poachers. Target's SES interacted with losing partner's Damage level, predicting relationship success for women poachers with high SES Targets but reducing success with low SES Targets, suggesting more than simple evolutionary and mundane social motives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zachery Peters

Grad. Assoc. | Howard University

Authors

Lloyd Ren Sloan, Ashton Warren

[18] AI-written persuasive message are easy to read, true, and likable

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Large Language Models (LLMs) can produce effective persuasive messages. In six experiments, we examined whether such messages are easy to read, which could enhance their credibility and likability. We compared persuasive messages about various political issues produced by GPT-4o to messages authored by human lay writers and political experts. Although human-written messages had higher objective reading ease, two experiments showed that readers perceived LLM-generated persuasive messages as easier to read, more truthful, and more likable than messages generated by lay writers. This pattern was replicated when we matched objective reading ease of LLM-generated texts with human-written messages, and when we matched the arguments of LLM-generated texts to human-written messages, controlling for the prototypicality of arguments. Experiments 5 and 6 replicated these findings using texts authored by political experts. Mediation analyses suggest that the ease with which human readers understand text generated by LLMs contributes to its persuasiveness. We discuss these results in the context of a predictive coding account and fluency theory to link LLMs to persuasiveness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rolf Reber

Professor | Univ. of Oslo

Authors

Jasmin Richter, Josefine Haugen, Vasiliki Paparoidami

[19] Anti-Transgender Rhetoric in Social Media, News Outlets, and Political Positions: Analyzing Backlash, Authenticity, and Emotion

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Findings from the most recent U.S. Transgender Survey indicated that transgender people have psychological distress rates that are more than ten times the rates of the general population. One likely factor in this is anti-transgender rhetoric found in interpersonal interactions, media coverage, and political statements. The presented findings analyze language used in 385 social media comments (Study 1), 25 articles about transgender people from five right-leaning news organizations (Study 2), and statements made by politicians in the United States Congress (Study 3). Each component will be analyzed using LIWC software for authenticity, tone, drive, and affect. Social media comments are also coded based on an established taxonomy of anti-transgender backlash strategy. The coding for this was used to train a KNN machine-learning model to categorize the content from Studies 2 and 3, utilizing the findings from the LIWC analysis. The effectiveness and implications of findings will be discussed. Finally, Study 3 will also compare the Republican and Democrat statements regarding transgender rights with a focus on differences in the emotions of the statements.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lindsay Jordan Browne

Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow In Psychology | Antioch College

Authors

C. Raymond Knee

[20] Are Disability, Disorder, and Illness Interchangeable? The attitudinal, stereotype, and policy implications of disability labels

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

The United Nations considers disability to be one of the world's largest minority groups, with some estimates indicating that over a quarter of the US population has a disability. However, research on disability in psychology still lags significantly behind work on gender and race (Colella et al., 2017). One reason for this deficit is that the category of disability lacks a clear definition, and perceptions might change based on the exact description or label. It may be useful to understand the implications of the different labels used to define disability. In the current research, we examine perceptions of the label disability compared to two other labels (i.e., disorder and illness). Across 3 studies (N = 1,204), we find that people who are primed to think about the disability label view disability more positively, view disability as conveying more warmth, and support more policy related to disability compared to other labels (S1-3), even when all of the labels are defined similarly (S2). We examine the dimensions of stigma conferred by a label as a mechanism (S3). This set of studies sheds light on the significance of labels for a complex and stigmatized category like disability.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kyra Rodriguez

PhD Student | UC Berkeley Haas

Authors

Sa-kiera Hudson

[21] Associations between smoking status, beliefs, and comfort providing quitting support

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Receiving positive support during smoking cessation is associated with abstinence, however, people may differ in willingness to provide such support. We used mixed methods to understand the current smoking status of participants (N=196), beliefs about smoking, and comfort with providing support for quitting. Participants were adults in the United States who knew someone who smoked. They reported comfort with providing support and completed an open-ended response to indicate influences on their comfort. Participants who were former smokers reported more comfort providing support whereas current smokers indicated less comfort. Participants who reported closer relationships with a smoker were more comfortable providing support. A thematic analysis of the written responses revealed five primary themes, including behavior of the support recipient, relationship closeness, own smoking status, health benefits of quitting, and other barriers and facilitators. Findings suggest that current smokers feel uncomfortable providing support whereas former smokers feel comfortable and that support providers attend to specific relationship factors when providing support.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Newell Chesebro

Research assistant | University of Oklahoma Health Sciences

Authors

Michelle vanDellen, Catherine Nagawa, Madeline Hardage, Drew Lam, Frances Wen

[22] At the Crossroads: The Prevalence of “Intersectional” Research in Social Psychology

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Despite psychology's historical focus on single categories or identities, social psychological science increasingly recognizes the importance of intersectionality in our varied topics of study. Taking an intersectional perspective allows the field to better address the nuanced interplay of multiple social identities in shaping psychological processes. To investigate how often research in the field uses an intersectional perspective and to investigate possible changes over time, we coded social psychology articles published between 2019 and 2023 (N = 2,300) in four leading journals. We examined the prevalence of intersectionality across three domains: the identities of participants, the target stimuli, and the analyses conducted. While we hypothesized an increasing trend in intersectional research over time, we anticipated an overall underrepresentation of intersectionality. Results reveal an overall 15% intersectionality prevalence across article sections (highest for participant identities), with a slight increase in recent years. As the field evolves, it is essential to reflect on intersectionality's role in the push toward a more inclusive social psychology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Valentina Palacio Posada

Graduate student | McGill University

Authors

Valentina Palacio Posada, Jonah Kimmel, Jordan Axt

[23] Attachment Insecurity and Mate-Guarding Resistance in Marriage: The Moderating Role of Physical Attractiveness

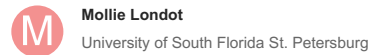
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic rivals and partner defection are notable threats to maintaining long-term relationships such as marriage. Consequently, people engage in mate-guarding behaviors that function to attenuate these threats. However, some people may respond to their partners' mate-guarding attempts with resistance, and some traits (e.g., insecure attachment, physical attractiveness) may make certain people more resistant to their partners' mate-guarding attempts than others. We used cross-sectional data from a dyadic study of 202 married individuals (comprising 101 couples) to test the prediction that attachment anxiety and avoidance would be associated with mate-guarding resistance and that objectively rated physical attractiveness would moderate those associations. Results suggested that (a) attachment avoidance was positively associated with mate-guarding resistance, regardless of how physically attractive a person was, and (b) a positive association between attachment anxiety and mate-guarding resistance emerged only among people rated as highly physically attractive, but not among people rated as less physically attractive. Implications for theory and future research will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mollie Londot

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Authors

Charley Daly, Juliana French

[24] Attachment Predicting Loneliness: A Moderated Mediation Model of Resilience and Coping Strategies

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Numerous studies have highlighted the detrimental consequences of loneliness, demonstrating its adverse effects on emotional health, interpersonal bonds, and overall quality of life. Previous research has suggested an association between the quality of attachment experienced in childhood and the level of loneliness reported in adulthood. The present study aimed to examine two potential coping resources in the relationship between attachment and loneliness, namely, resilience and coping strategies, while considering both anxious and avoidant attachment orientations as well as passive and active coping styles. A total of 465 adults (325 women, 138 men; average age = 38.6, SD = 11.49) completed a series of online questionnaires assessing the aforementioned variables. Avoidant and anxious attachment both predicted loneliness directly and indirectly through resilience. However, these indirect effects emerged only when passive coping was moderate or high, whereas active coping, despite enhancing resilience and reducing loneliness, did not moderate the associations. This pattern of findings suggests that although attachment orientations, which are considered relatively stable traits rooted in childhood, have clear implications for loneliness in adulthood, strengthening personal resources such as resilience and fostering more active coping strategies may serve to buffer or mitigate these predictive effects.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michal Einav

Head of M.A. Program in Educational Psychology | Peres Academic Center

[25] Attachment, stress, and the bidirectional association between satisfaction and commitment

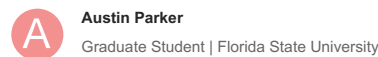
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Prominent theoretical models of close relationships suggest a bidirectional association between relationship satisfaction and commitment. Nevertheless, most existing work has tested these associations at the between-person level, and we are not aware of any research examining whether and why the strength of any within-person associations between these variables differs across people. We used three samples (N = 337 newlywed couples) that each employed both daily diary and multiwave longitudinal methodologies to address these issues. Cross-lagged, multilevel analyses revealed reciprocal within-person associations between relationship satisfaction and commitment that varied significantly across people. Consistent with predictions derived from the vulnerability-stress-adaptation model, between-person differences in attachment security determined the extent to which satisfaction predicted commitment whereas between-person differences in stress determined the extent to which commitment predicted satisfaction. These findings highlight how and why key theoretical assumptions about relationships can vary across people and thus the value of within-person approaches.

*POSTER

Speaker



Austin Parker

Graduate Student | Florida State University

Authors

James K. McNulty, Andrea L. Meltzer

[26] Audience Watchdog: Testing the Effect of Audience Threat on a Gay Communication Source's Message

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

The watchdog hypothesis posits that watching out for potential bias toward a communication source's social group (e.g., one's sexuality or race/ethnicity) will enhance processing for that source's message. Past work has shown this effect for those watching out for negative bias in themselves, especially when they exhibit low prejudice towards that group. However, research has yet to test whether individuals also watch out for potential bias in others, like in an audience. In the current study, we aimed to address this gap. Participants were exposed to a gay male source's message about implementing senior comprehensive exams (SCE) at an ostensible college. The college was portrayed as potentially being supportive (low threat) or not supportive (high threat) of LGBT+ members. Findings suggest that those low in prejudice processed the source's message equally regardless of environment threat, indicating no audience watchdog effect. Yet, those high in prejudice exhibited enhanced processing for the gay source's message, but only when in the low threat environment for LGBT+ members. Possible implications for these findings, as well as future research directions, are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brittany Clark

Graduate Student | University of Utah

Authors

Paul White, Daphne Castro-Lingl

[27] Automaticity and Biology: How Explanatory Framing Influences Judgments of Infidelity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Prior research by Nettle et al. (2023) suggests that people perceive behaviors to be more malleable when the behaviors have psychological rather than biological causes. The present study replicates and extends this work by investigating how explanatory framing impacts beliefs regarding infidelity. Drawing from Bargh's (1994) Four Horsemen, we also examined whether explanatory framing affected people's beliefs about the automaticity of infidelity. Undergraduate students at UC Davis responded to a survey that contained evocative vignettes detailing either a biological or a psychological explanation for why men and women engage in infidelity. In addition to Nettle et al.'s (2023) measures, we added measures of perceived efficiency, uncontrollability, unintentionality, and unawareness, described by Bargh (1994). Consistent with previous work, the biological (vs. psychological) framing led participants to believe that infidelity was less malleable and more automatic. Our results also found an in-group effect: Participants rated the other gender's behavior as more automatic. This study extends prior research on explanatory framings to include automaticity in the context of infidelity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isabella Corina

Student | University California, Davis

Authors

Paul Eastwick

[28] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

*POSTER

Authors

Ike Silver, Edward Chang, Erika Kirgios

[29] Backlash in the U.S.: Explanations for the reversal of sexuality biases from 2021-2024

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

In new data from 2.5 million respondents at the Project Implicit website (2021-2024), implicit and explicit anti-gay and anti-trans attitudes have increased in bias, in a surprising reversal of prior declines. In the current work, we tested three pre-registered hypotheses for why sexuality attitudes may have reversed: (1) transfer from transgender bias ("transgender" = "gay"), (2) moral panic rhetoric about "sexual grooming," and (3) a generalized ideological backlash. Geographic analyses of attitudes, voting patterns, and Google search trends provided little support for the first two mechanisms. Instead, results support the third hypothesis, that backlash is driven by a larger compilation of societal events and ideological factors (e.g., elections of emboldening leaders, rising political sectarianism). This explanation is further bolstered by additional data showing reversals away from neutrality for race, skin-tone, age, disability and body-weight attitudes. Our findings underscore that long-term attitude change is fragile and can reverse course, emphasizing the critical role that leadership and policies play in shaping large-scale shifts in attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Meriel Doyle

Pre-Doctoral Researcher | Kellogg School of Management

Authors

Tessa Charlesworth, Mahzarin Banaji

[30] Behavioral Forecasts in Human-AI Interaction

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Can people accurately predict their own and others' behavior within human-AI interactions? Across three studies (N = 895), we compared participants' accuracy in forecasting their own and others' (1) closeness to AI companions and (2) moral judgments of their erring AI companions with their actual closeness and moral judgments in a lab setting. Results revealed forecasting errors for both closeness and moral judgment. Compared to actual, in-lab measurements, participants' predictions overestimated how close others would feel towards their AI companions and how harshly others would judge their erring AI companions. When predicting their own behavior, participants also overestimated the harshness of their own moral judgments but accurately forecasted their closeness to their AI companions. These patterns—underestimating human resistance to AI bonding while overestimating negative reactions when AI fails—may reflect deeper preconceived notions about AI as fundamentally threatening.

*POSTER

Speaker



Reem Ayad

PhD Candidate | University of Toronto

Authors

Reem Ayad, Selin Okman, Jason Plaks

[31] Believing in Climate Action, Clicking on Adaptation: The Intention-Behavior Gap

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Most people believe climate change is happening and that we must take individual and collective action to decelerate the crisis. However, climate communication research shows a gap between stated attitudes and behavior. The present study (N= 250) used a selective exposure task to explore existing beliefs and engagement with information (videos) about climate solutions, expecting participants to engage with belief-congruent TED Talks. Participants overwhelmingly positioned themselves with the opinion that climate change is human-caused and that humans bear personal responsibility. When choosing more information on climate change to engage with however, they selected information focusing on technology-based solutions and adaptation over information suggesting the need for individual and collective action. These results suggest that while people conceptually endorse action, their practical engagement leans towards coping strategies rather than preventative action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Devki Patel

Authors

Verena Graupmann

[32] Belonging Starts At Home: Family Support Promotes First-Generation, Low-Income College Students' Sense of Belonging

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

First-generation, low-income (FLI) college students face persistent challenges in college, such as greater uncertainty about whether they belong. While FLI students often emphasize the importance of family support in qualitative work, little research has directly tested how this support impacts students' outcomes. Existing literature proposes that FLI families lack the academic experiences and capital necessary to support FLI students through college. Rather than this deficit perspective, in the current research we take a strengths-based approach to examine the broad range of support (both academic and non-academic) families may provide to FLI students. Across two studies (N1=158; N2=181), we find that although family academic support was unrelated to FLI students' outcomes, family non-academic support (e.g., practical, emotional) was positively linked to feelings of belonging. These findings highlight the importance of examining different forms of family support beyond those typically recognized in higher education, and how integrating families into college life can be a potential avenue for addressing the belonging gap FLI students face in higher education.

*POSTER

Speaker



Priscilla Diaz-Gonzalez

Graduate Student | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Lydia Emery

[33] Beyond Deficit Models: Examining Black Women's Sexual Information-Seeking as a Predictor of Sexual Empowerment

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Research on Black women's sexuality often emphasizes risky behaviors, such as unintended pregnancy and STIs, reinforcing harmful stereotypes and deficit-based narratives that overlook the diversity and resilience of their sexual lives. The present study addresses this gap by examining how the sources women turn to for information and conversations about sex are associated with sexual empowerment. A nationally representative sample of Black American women (N = 637) completed survey measures assessing participants' sources of sexual information and conversations as well as several indicators of sexual empowerment (sexual assertiveness, sexual self-knowledge, and entitlement to sexual pleasure). We will use hierarchical linear regression analyses to examine how having conversations with family and friends and seeking information from the media about a wide range of sexuality-related topics predict sexual empowerment. Understanding which sources and topics are most linked to sexual empowerment has important implications for promoting sexual health, self-advocacy, and well-being among Black women.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabete Romanovska

PhD Student | University Of Wisconsin - Madison

Authors

Morgan Jerald, Nasitta Keita, Brittney Pemberton, Milena Berestko

[34] Beyond Home and Work: A Quantitative Exploration of Third Places and Sexual Behavior in Japan

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

This study explores the impact of third places—social environments outside the home and work—on sexual activity, interest, desire, and intimate relationships. Despite their well-known importance for community building and well-being, limited research exists on how third places influence sexual behavior and romantic dynamics. Data from 895 participants (53.1% male, 44.9% female, mean age 37.67, primarily from Japan) were analyzed using SPSS. The results show that having access to a third place is linked to being sexually active, reporting higher sexual interest and desire, experiencing greater intimacy and satisfaction with relationship roles, and showing improved relationship stability. We attribute these findings to improved social skills, which play a key role in sexual activity and relationship dynamics. The practical application of this study suggests that relationship counselors should encourage couples to engage more with their non-primary (i.e., work and home) places and people for better sexual health. Meanwhile, urban planners and policymakers should design spaces that promote more involvement with, and possibilities for such places and people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mengzhen Lim

PhD Student | Meiji University

Authors

Alice Pacher, Claudio Feliciani

[35] Beyond Single Categories: How Perceiver Intersectional Identities Influences Implicit Bias Toward Intersectional Targets

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Implicit evaluations depend on who is judging, yet most measures treat targets as single identities. We test whether perceivers' intersectional identities shape evaluations of intersectional targets. Across three Project Implicit samples (Ns=1,708; 1,316; 1,706), participants completed a Multi-Category IAT (Studies 1–2) or an Evaluative Priming Task (Study 3). Study 1 (Black/White targets) revealed a robust "perceiver-gender" rule: women showed stronger own-gender than own-race bias, whereas men showed stronger own-race than own-gender bias. Study 2 replicated this pattern with East Asian and White targets. Study 3 converged using priming, indicating effects are not tied to MCIAT labels. Collectively, we find that intersectional evaluations are not reducible to single-axis effects; they are systematically moderated by perceiver identity. The results refine social identity and system-justification theories and motivate measurement that jointly varies perceiver and target intersectionality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lok Sang Jeffrey To

Doctoral Student | McGill University

Authors

Jordan Axt, Jeffrey To, Hailey Knowles

[36] Beyond the Nuclear Norm: Examining Family Diversity in Children's Media

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Diversity in family structures is becoming increasingly common within Western Society. Traditional nuclear families are complemented by interracial and interfaith families, stepfamilies, extended family arrangements, and so forth. From an early age, children are introduced to the many branches of a family tree, all rooted in the presence of their caregiver(s). Given the wide variation of family structures among children, it is crucial that children's media -- such as television, books, and movies -- offer diverse caregiver representation. While the current body of research on familial diversity within children's media examines the portrayal of the individual child's identity, the current research sought to explore the diversity of families, specifically caregivers, depicted in children's media. Within the three selected forms of popular children's media (television, movies, and books, N = 90), we examined the attributes of the central child character and their caregiver dyad(s). Coders rated the diversity of caregiver representation within this sample, as well as the engagement, warmth, and discipline of the caregiver dyad(s). This study serves as a step towards understanding the scope of caregiver diversity presented to young children through media, with the aim of informing future research on the benefits of such representation.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Anna Cooper**
Research Assistant | Villanova University

Authors

Erica Slotter, Lauren Foley, Jenna Garzone, Abigail Gilbert, Jillian Umstead

[37] BIPOC Neurodivergent Student Experiences & Needs Study

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

Autistic and ADHD students are entering higher education in growing numbers, yet evidence shows lower GPAs, higher dropout rates, and lower graduation rates compared to peers. Disparities intensify for neurodivergent Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (ND BIPOC) students, who face structural and cultural barriers shaped by race, disability, and institutional norms. To address the lack of research on these intersecting identities, the Student Neurodiversity Alliance (SNAC) and Black Graduate & Professional Student Association (BGPSA) co-developed the ND BIPOC Student Experiences & Needs Survey using mixed methods and a community-based participatory approach grounded in social identity, belonging, and stigma theories. Over 500 students completed the Everyday Discrimination Scale, Sense of Belonging Scale, and open-ended items analyzed via inductive coding. ND and BIPOC students reported significantly higher discrimination and lower belonging than peers; only 8.3% were registered with disability services. This student-led study centers affected students as knowledge producers and informs university policies and procedures, as well as the student-led organizing.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Aishat Sadiq**
Doctoral Candidate | Cornell University

Authors

Aishat Sadiq, Sierra Hicks, Rebecca McCabe

[38] Breaking Up with Parents: Adult-Children's Perspective on Estrangement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Parent-child bonds are expected to endure throughout life (Swartz, 2009). Abuse, neglect, and/or conflict can challenge the connection in these nonvoluntary relationships (Blake, 2017). Clinical (Bowen, 1978) and empirical research (Gilligan et al., 2015) based in family systems theory highlights how parents' and adult children's bonds can become "cut off" through estrangement. Despite explicating causes of estrangement, limited research explores how estrangement is maintained and affected by internal and external pressures. Using a grounded theory approach (Charmaz, 2014) to analyze qualitative narratives in Reddit forum data, we examined how adult children maintain and cope with estrangement. The sample consisted of 198 posters from 2025 whose posts were extracted using R. On average, posters were 25 years old (SD = 5.34) and predominantly identified as female (83.6%). We identified several preliminary codes, including rationalizing estrangement, establishing boundaries, being tested, doubting/reconsidering, emoting, seeking support, and maintaining boundaries. The study provides practical insight into family dynamics and estrangement from a candid perspective of adult children.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Melanie Abarca**
UROC Writing Fellow | California State University, Monterey Bay

Authors

Melanie Abarca, J. Kale Monk, Megan Gilligan, Desiree Dixon, Daniela Butkovic

[39] Bridges or Walls? SED and Self-Protection in Romantic Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals are often believed to possess deep social ties and a strong sense of community, but emerging perspectives suggest that difficult financial circumstances may increase vigilance in relationships, preventing the formation of strong romantic bonds. Building on this understanding, we examined the association between socioeconomic disadvantage, measured subjectively through perceptions of financial distress, and self protective tendencies in romantic relationships. We investigated our hypotheses in two studies (total N = 1,098) and found a positive correlation between financial distress and several measures that indicate self-protection: Study 1 (N = 716) found a positive association between financial distress and three measures indicating self-protection: 1) Chronic Self-Protection scale, 2) willingness to commit sooner, and 3) general trust towards partner. Study 2 (N = 382) replicated these findings with just participants who are romantically involved, using willingness to commit and general trust towards partners. These findings indicate that financial distress may hinder intimacy processes in romantic relationships. Results in both studies hold after controlling for demographic covariates, relationship status, and introversion.

N = 1,098

*POSTER

Speaker



Isabella Robles
Oberlin College

[40] Bridging the Divide: The Effect of Perceived Similarity and Self-Expansion on Friendship Formation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This study explored the relationship that perceived similarity and self-expansion motivation have on friendship formation and physiological stress. 100 (72 women, 24 men, 2 individuals who identified as non-binary, and 2 preferred not to say) predominantly White participants were brought in the lab as dyads and told they were paired based on either their political similarities or political differences. They were then told that interacting with dissimilar others is either beneficial (high self-expansion motivation) or harmful (low self-expansion motivation). Results showed that participants interacting with dissimilar others had raised cortisol levels, suggesting a dissimilar other is a greater physiological stressor than a similar other. Additionally, low self-expansion motivation facilitated closeness when participants perceived each other as similar, but there was no effect for dissimilar others. These findings show that similar others did feel closer, but only when they were hearing messages that interacting with similar others is beneficial. More research is necessary to uncover what best promotes relationship outcomes in dissimilar others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Devin Cybulski
Student | Southwestern University

Authors

Devin Cybulski, Kaitlynn Pratt, Anton Miller-Thomas

[41] Can Large Language Models Accurately and Reliably Assess Relationship Quality?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

High-quality romantic relationships are critical for health and wellbeing, yet empirically assessing relationship quality remains challenging. Traditional self-report methods have several limitations, including unreliable prediction of changes in relationship quality over time, susceptibility to social desirability bias, and poor differentiation between constructs. We evaluate a novel approach to assessing relationship quality by leveraging large language models (LLMs). Three LLMs (ChatGPT, Llama, Claude) will extract ratings on core components of relationship quality (e.g., satisfaction, commitment) from relationship narratives written by participants (N > 300). We evaluate the validity of this method by examining correlations between LLM-derived construct ratings and participants' own self-reported ratings. We also examine reliability over time and across LLMs, assess LLM accuracy across constructs, and explore their reasoning process. Finally, we assess participants' preferences between these two approaches. This work explores an innovative tool for the assessment of relationship quality that more closely aligns with how people talk about their relationships in everyday life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily S Diamond
Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Amie Gordon, Hong-Yi Koo, Jordan Bacharach

[42] Can learning goals facilitate depolarization? A cross-cultural test

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Disagreements are psychologically threatening and can produce polarization. We sought to investigate whether learning goals would depolarize conversations involving disagreement. We expected learning goals to shift the focus away from an outcome focus and increase psychological safety in the interaction (Green et al., 2021). In turn, we expected this to lead people to hold less polarized views of their interaction partners. We tested predictions in two cultural contexts: USA (188 dyads) and Singapore (179 dyads). Dyads interacted for 10-min over Zoom on a topic of disagreement (e.g., death penalty); one interactant was assigned a goal to learn or to persuade. Participants then completed measures of affective (e.g., perceptions of competence) and issue (e.g. attitude extremity) polarization. Contrary to hypotheses, learning goals did not have any effects in either sample. However, to the extent that participants perceived their partner as listening to them well, they also reported higher psychological safety, which in turn predicted reduced affective polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kenneth DeMarree

Associate Professor | University at Buffalo

Authors

Ya Hui Michelle See, Guy Itzhakov, Taylor J. Lee, Netta Weinstein

[43] Can the Unconscious Processing of Persuasive Messages Impact Attitudes?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Under-powered evidence suggests that unconscious thought about a message can influence individuals' attitudes even when persuasive messages are difficult to process consciously. Using an ideal control condition and a larger sample size (n = 400), the current experiment stringently tests the prediction that individuals afforded the goal and time to think unconsciously will form attitudes based on the quality of arguments in a persuasive message received in a distracting context. Participants were randomly assigned to hear a persuasive message containing either strong or weak arguments supporting a topic while experiencing high distraction from a competing auditory task. Participants were then assigned to read instructions indicating either that they will report message evaluations following a forthcoming task, implanting the goal to further process the message (unconscious-thought condition), or that they are done evaluating the message (no-goal control), then completed a 3min word-search task. It is predicted that participants will report more favorable topic attitudes following the search task if they heard strong versus weak arguments in the unconscious-thought, relative to control, condition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ian Handley

Professor | Montana State University

[44] Capturing Experiences of Jealousy Within Consensually Non-Monogamous Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

According to the literature, consensually non-monogamous (CNM) individuals report lower levels of jealousy than their monogamous counterparts (Conley et al. 2017). However, scales commonly used to evaluate jealousy are mononormative and assume dyadism, potentially missing jealousy in CNM experiences where extradyadic relationships are permissible. To test this, CNM and monogamous participants answered a series of traditional and CNM modified questions to tap into jealousy across a range of experiences. As predicted, monogamous participants reported higher levels of jealousy overall compared to CNM participants; however, CNM participants reported higher levels of jealousy when responding to modified items compared to traditional items. CNM participants also reported higher levels of trust and relationship satisfaction, but lower levels of well-being than monogamous participants. These results suggest jealousy is present in CNM relationships and reaffirms CNM relationships as functional. We discuss the necessity of using appropriate methodology for studies on CNM individuals and hope to provide researchers and clinicians a more comprehensive understanding of CNM experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danielle Rowe

University of Washington

Authors

Amanda K. Sesko

[45] Capturing Weaponized Incompetence Across Contexts: A Mixed Methods Study

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Weaponized Incompetence (WI) is a term that has gained significant popularity on social media platforms in recent years. Defined as feigning incompetence in order to avoid undesirable tasks, the current project extends our prior work examining this novel concept by investigating the components that make up the definition of WI. We conducted a mixed methods descriptive study to explore people's experiences with this concept, both as the "target" and the "perpetrator" of WI. Adults from Prolific (n = 500) were asked to recall personal experiences with WI (from both target and perpetrator perspectives), and answered quantitative and qualitative questions around those experiences. Question themes included both parties' level of awareness of WI use, WI severity, harm inflicted, and potential motives for usage. Data, to be analyzed Fall 2025, will provide valuable insight into how WI functions across different contexts and identity groups. This project will inform future work exploring the ways which WI impacts relational and personal wellbeing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kerry O'Brien

Doctoral Student | CUNY Graduate Center

Authors

Andrew Hales, Kerry O'Brien, Catherine Good

[46] CFS-VR: Software for Studying Unconscious Cognition with a VR headset using Continuous Flash Suppression

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Numerous psychological theories emphasize the importance of unconscious cognition. However, research on unconscious processing has faced stigma and methodological challenges, especially in minimizing contaminating influences of conscious cognition. Continuous flash suppression (CFS), an image presentation technique, has the potential to enlarge the window through which we may view the workings of the unconscious mind prior to the onset of conscious cognition. But CFS can be technically challenging and expensive to implement. We have developed software, CFS-VR, that increases access to CFS as a methodological tool using a basic VR headset. CFS-VR allows for the presentation and recording of responses to many different visual stimuli and trial types, and is freely available. This paper provides a brief tutorial and explores research domains (evaluative conditioning, priming, and mere exposure) where CFS-VR can address unresolved and novel research questions.

*POSTER

Speaker



David March

Associate Professor | Florida State University

[47] Characterizing Research on the Impacts of Registered Reports in Psychology and the Process Through Which They are Produced and Reviewed

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Registered reports (RRs) are a publication format theorized to improve study methods (as investigators receive feedback on proposed research before starting) and reduce publication bias (as accepted proposals are published regardless of results obtained). To characterize research evaluating diverse impacts of RRs in psychology and the process through which RRs are produced and reviewed, we conducted systematic database (APA PsycInfo, MetaArxiv) and forward/backward citation searches. A notably small body of evidence suggests that compared to conventional articles, RRs are associated with higher null-result reporting, method and data transparency, and study quality; evidence is mixed on citation counts. Evidence on the processes underlying RRs is especially scarce but suggests that journal policies on RR submissions are often underspecified, open review is rarely explicitly offered, and protocol transparency has improved over time. Our results point to the potential benefits of RRs and indicate the need for further research, especially on the process through which RRs are produced and reviewed given that their beneficial impacts may be contingent on the quality of this process.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caroline Armstrong

Graduate Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Alexander Rothman

[48] Climate Change Anxiety as a Moderator for How Emotional Video Messages Affect Pro-Environmental Behavior Intentions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Video appeal messages regarding the state of emergency surrounding climate change may be a short informative way to persuade the public to take action in pro-environmental behaviors. It is critical for scientists and public communicators to understand the way in which emotional video appeals can motivate individuals to take on pro-environmental intentions. This is particularly true in the context of moderator variables such as climate change anxiety, eco-anxiety, and ecological grief. Overall predictions include that (1) video appeals that instill hope will be effective in inducing pro-environmental behaviors across all levels of related moderators more-so than that of the control condition or fear conditions; (2) video appeals that instill fear will less effective or no more effective than control messages for individuals with high related moderator values. (3) video appeals that inducing fear will have a decreasing effect on pro-environmental behavioral intentions as the continuous predictors increase. This research intends to assess the effectiveness of video appeals on engaging pro-environmental behavior intentions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nichole Floener

Montana State University

Authors

Ian Handley

[49] Cognitive Adaptations to Context Diversity: Does Exposure to Neighborhood Racial Diversity Predict Other Implicit Attitudes?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Interactions between individuals and their social environments are fundamental in shaping social cognitive processes, such as implicit attitudes. We examined whether exposure to one domain of context diversity (i.e., neighborhood metrics of racial diversity and segregation), relate to implicit attitudes in other social domains (sexual orientation, disability). Multilevel models computed from linked Census Bureau and geolocated IAT scores from 825,000 respondents revealed that living in more racially diverse counties was related to less stereotypic implicit associations to sexual orientation, and this relationship was moderated by racial Segregation. Several checks confirmed a robust main effect of Diversity, including weighting to reduce sampling bias, testing majority-group behavior, statistically controlling for intergroup contact, and replicating on a different IAT domain (disability, N = 347,000). However, the original interaction between Diversity and Segregation was inconsistent across these post-hoc checks. This research supports the hypothesis that experiences with social diversity can generalize to mental associations in other domains in a cognitively adaptive manner.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mehrgol Tiv
Assistant Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Authors

Cody Spence

[50] Human/Cat Attachment, The Big 5, and Cat Color

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

*POSTER

Speaker



Karol Maybury
Professor of Psychology | University of Maine, Farmington

Authors

Bryce Cundick

[51] In the heat of the moment: Trait impulsivity increases reactive aggression during an experimental heat stress induction

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

*POSTER

Speaker



Kimberly Meidenbauer
Assistant Professor | Washington State University

Authors

Kathrine Hubbard, Tiara Freeman, P.J. Stilson, Kyoung Whan Choe, Marc Berm

[52] Within-Country Regional Personality Variation and Its Societal Implications in China

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

*POSTER

Speaker



Ziye Emma Zhang
University of British Columbia (UBC)

Authors

Friedrich Götz, Yangyilin Guo

[53] Compensatory Mechanisms of Avoidant Attachment

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Individual differences in attachment style present unique challenges for their partners. What keeps partners of the insecurely attached committed to their relationships? Prior research has revealed how the enhanced attention and provision of instrumental support that anxiously attached individuals provide for their partner may boost their partner's satisfaction. However, the potential compensatory mechanisms that keep partners committed to an avoidant partner remain underexplored. We hypothesize that the autonomy needs of an avoidant partner may benefit their romantic partners with space and time to pursue their own goals as well as to maintain broader social support networks outside the relationship.

The current study surveyed 200 U.S. adults in committed romantic relationships and included open-ended descriptions of their own and their partner's positive relationship behaviors as well as measures of attachment, relationship satisfaction, life satisfaction, and evaluations of different hypothetical relationship behaviors. Analysis of results are pending. I hypothesize that there are compensatory mechanisms distinctive of avoidant attachment, and those mechanisms are related to having space for self growth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Winnie Wang

Research Assistant | Northwestern University

Authors

Wendi Gardner

[54] Competence Striving in the Bedroom: Applying the 2 x 2 Achievement Goal Model to Sex

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Achievement goals are theoretically applicable in any and all competence-relevant domains, but they have primarily been studied in school, sport, and work contexts. The present research extends the 2 x 2 achievement goal model to the domain of sex. In two studies (N = 1,964), the Sex Achievement Goal Questionnaire (SAGQ) was developed, and the 2 x 2 sex achievement goals were examined as they relate to various antecedents and outcomes. Factor analyses supported the 2 x 2 model of achievement goals in this domain, and this model demonstrated configural invariance across both sex and relationship status. Regression analyses indicated that performance-approach goals had a highly positive nomological network, mastery-approach and mastery-avoidance goals generally had a positive nomological network, and performance-avoidance goals had a decidedly negative antecedent and outcome profile. Overall, this research highlights the ubiquity of competence-striving and emphasizes the 2 x 2 framework's broad applicability. Additionally, these studies demonstrate the importance of goals in the domain of sex, as they relate to sexual functioning, well-being, and behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ethan Wasche

University of Rochester

Authors

Harry Reis, Andrew Elliot, Gurit Birnbaum

[55] Comprehensive, Image-based, Affectionate Touch Inventory: A New Look at Touch in Same-Gender Friendships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Touch is crucial for relational and psychological well-being. Affectionate touch measures, however, often include touch forms which are common in white female friendships and romantic relationships. To address this issue, we created the Comprehensive, Image-based, Affectionate Touch Inventory (CIBAT), which includes 28 GIFs that each depict a different touch form between two mannequins. Along with reporting touch frequencies in a same-gender friendship, participants rated how masculine, feminine, sexual, affectionate, intimate, and dominant each touch form was for that friendship. Across two samples, half of which identified as Black, we found that, contrary to prior findings, men and women do not differ in global touch frequency, but in the kinds of touch they use. A multi-level latent profile analysis indicated that the touch forms not captured in touch measures (e.g., daps, back slaps) are the same forms which men use more and view as more affectionate than women. We also found that Black Americans engage in far more touch than White Americans. This work suggests that touching norms vary meaningfully in the U.S. and challenges assumptions about what affection can look like.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zoe Hansen

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Sara Algoe, Zoe Hansen

[56] Considering the Unique and Interactive Impacts of Self-Compassion and Partner-Focused Compassion for Long-Term Relationship Satisfaction and Behavior

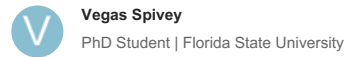
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Having compassion for one's self or intimate partner is interpersonally beneficial. Indeed, people high (versus low) in self-compassion are less defensive during conflict, and people high (versus low) in partner compassion are more satisfied with their relationships. Yet self- and partner-focused compassion are correlated constructs, and little research has considered their unique and interactive associations for relationship behavior and satisfaction. We examined these associations using data from a 2-year study of 240 newlyweds. Results revealed that self-compassion was neither associated with own nor partner satisfaction or behavior; in contrast, partner compassion was positively associated with own and partner satisfaction and negatively associated with own and partner oppositional behavior. Including their interactive effects revealed that partner compassion is only associated with own satisfaction among those high (but not low) in self-compassion. These results suggest the relational benefits of self-compassion may be inflated; it does exert unique associations with relationship outcomes and benefit satisfaction only when paired with partner-focused compassion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Vegas Spivey

PhD Student | Florida State University

Authors

James McNulty, Andrea Meltzer

[57] Consuming Obsession: The Effect of Dark Romance Fiction on Women's Perceptions of Toxic Relationship Behaviors

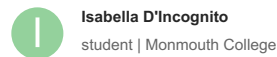
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Dark romance fiction (DRF)—romanticized depictions of borderline or overtly abusive behavior—has recently surged in popularity. This research tested the hypothesis that DRF consumption is associated with greater tolerance of toxic relationship dynamics, specifically among young women. Participants (N = 50) disclosed their level of DRF consumption, responded to vignettes depicting toxic relationship behaviors, and completed measures of related variables, including compulsive DRF use. DRF consumption was significantly correlated with acceptance of manipulative, controlling, and obsessive relationship behaviors, but was not significantly correlated with acceptance of healthy relationship behaviors, suggesting a unique link between DRF and tolerance of toxic dynamics. Additionally, heavy DRF consumers reported addiction-like tendencies, including difficulty limiting use and preoccupation. These results suggest that DRF may normalize harmful relationship dynamics—perpetuating rape culture and desensitizing women to patriarchal, domineering, and abusive standards—and foster compulsive consumption.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isabella D'Incognito

student | Monmouth College

Authors

Alec Stinnett

[58] Contact and Cooperation: How Prior Interactions Shape Interracial Team Dynamics

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

This study explores whether prior contact with members of another racial group influences perceptions of cooperation in group dynamics. People often rely on diffuse status characteristics such as race, gender, and socioeconomic status when forming judgments about others in group settings. When people rely on diffuse status characteristics in racially diverse task group settings because people rely on social imbalances to create a hierarchy in group dynamics. Prior studies have found that prior intergroup contact can reduce intergroup prejudice, which could lead to positive group dynamics. Using data collected from a controlled laboratory experiment, we examined whether white participants' self-reported prior contact with Black individuals affected how they rated the cooperativeness of their Black group members during a collectively- and task-oriented group interaction. Preliminary results suggest that there are variations in both rates of intergroup contact and in group members' evaluations of cooperation based on race; however, most of these effects do not meet the typical standard for generalizability. Suggestions for future analyses include exploring how different types or qualities of intergroup contact shape perceptions, whether prior contact influences other performance-related judgments beyond cooperation, and how balanced racial representation within groups could affect group dynamics. Overall, additional research is necessary to better understand how intergroup contact shapes perceptions of individuals from other racial groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bryant-Taylor Samyiah

CSULB

Authors

Chantrey J. Murphy

[59] Context matters: Sample diversity and reporting in academic mindset interventions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Persistent issues with intervention research include the lack of sample diversity and underreporting practices. These trends can limit generalizability and may lead to overlooking critical contextual factors for evaluating program efficacy. The current study systematically reviews sampling and reporting practices of 134 growth mindset interventions targeting student academic outcomes from 2002 to 2025, specifically examining participant characteristics (age, gender, SES, and race) as well as institutional and geographic characteristics (public or private school; suburban, rural, or urban area; country). Results revealed participant SES to be the most underreported and inconsistently defined, as well as notable underreports of contextual characteristics. Most studies (63%) took place in the U.S. using homogeneous samples, which raises concerns for efficacy of these interventions among diverse populations and contexts. Overall, this review uses academic growth mindset interventions to highlight the importance of inclusive sampling. We conclude with an overview of current reporting practices, using this to recommend best practices for future research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennan Abduljaber
NC State University

Authors

Jeni L. Burnette, Sydney Earl, Meghan Moore, E. Nathan Kyler, Whitney Becker

[60] Contextualizing Minority Stress in Coming-Out Process Among Chinese MSM

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Minority stress theory distinguishes proximal (e.g., internalized homophobia and lack of LGBTQ+ affirmation) from distal minority stress (e.g., discrimination), yet their interconnections within the coming-out context are less understood. We examined how internalized homophobia and affirmation shape coming-out strategies and subsequent discrimination among 2,266 Chinese sexual minority men (MSM). We focused on use of five coming-out strategies: verbal disclosure in person, mediated verbal disclosure, group disclosure, disclosure through appearance, and disclosure through body language. Internalized homophobia predicted reduced verbal and group disclosure, whereas affirmation predicted greater use of most strategies. Group disclosure, in turn, predicted more discrimination. Indirect effects revealed that internalized homophobia predicted less discrimination via reduced group disclosure, while affirmation predicted more discrimination via increased group disclosure. These findings contextualize minority stress in the coming-out process, revealing nuanced pathways through which identity processes and disclosure behaviors shape exposure to distal stressors in stigmatizing environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xiaoyu Huang
Graduate student | Wake Forest University

Authors

Fei Yu, Pekka Santtila, Gu Li

[61] Corporate DEI Rollbacks Reduce Public Trust, Loyalty, and Identity Safety

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

The rollback of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives following the January 2025 executive order has created a polarized corporate landscape: some companies have abandoned DEI efforts, while others have reaffirmed them. This project examines how these decisions shape public impressions of companies. A pre-registered online experiment with majority group members (White, non-LGBTQ; N = 350) found that they consistently showed negative reactions to a DEI-removing company compared to a DEI-keeping company and a control company. They perceived the DEI-removing company to be more hypocritical, and expressed lower trust, psychological engagement, loyalty, and identity safety. Mediation tests showed that hypocrisy explained reduced trust, loyalty, and engagement, and political ideology moderated evaluations—conservatives responded more negatively to DEI-keeping companies, while liberals reacted more negatively to DEI-removing companies. Study 2 (data collection ongoing; N = 600) aims to replicate these findings among majority group members, further test whether similar effects emerge for minority group members, and further examine the moderating role of political ideology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Junming Zhang
Graduate Student | Purdue University

Authors

Max Miller, Teri Kirby, Rachel Hand

[62] Cost or Benefit? Gay Bars' Impact on Health and Well-Being

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Gay bars have been a crucial LGBTQ+ space throughout history, serving as community places to meet other LGBTQ+ people, create community, and provide safety. Even in the wake of LGBTQ+ hate crimes, gay bars persist as safe spaces (Croff et al., 2017). However, little work has been done to quantitatively understand the benefits of gay bars, as well as their potential risks. The present research spans multiple studies that examined the benefits and costs of gay bars to the LGBTQ+ community in novel ways. In Study 1, neighborhood gay bars show increased belonging among sexual minority people who live among them. In Study 2, the per capita number of gay bars in a state relates to lower anxiety and depression among sexual minority people in that state, when controlling for straight people's mental health. However, in Study 3, gay bars present costs for sexual minority people by way of greater HIV risk for queer men; gay bars allow for riskier sexual behaviors than non-gay bars. Across studies, this research provides greater insight into the risks and benefits of gay bars, based on the outcome type and the level of analysis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Esposito

Assistant Professor | Northeastern Illinois University

Authors

Jimmy Calanchini, Michelle Birkett

[63] Critical Consciousness and Disability Identity Among People with Facial Differences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

People with facial differences experience unique manifestations of stigma, which may contribute to the high variability in whether they identify as disabled. This is further complicated by intersecting systems of oppression. Critical consciousness may help to buffer the effects of oppression and support disability identity. Using an intersectional framework, we will use a latent class analysis to determine at what level of specificity (e.g., condition, facial difference, or disability) people with facial differences identify and how this changes based on intersecting identities. Using regression, we will determine if identification specification moderates the relationship between disability identity and critical consciousness. Finally, multiple regressions will determine whether critical consciousness and identity specification predicts life satisfaction. These findings will show how critical consciousness, identification, and life satisfaction differ based on intersecting identities. This can help form interventions aimed at increasing activism and stigma reduction for those with facial differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marisa Krauter

PhD Student | Oregon State University

Authors

Kathleen Bogart

[64] Daily Social Profiles and Nightly Sleep in Late Life

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Daily social experiences may shape how well older adults sleep at night, including contact with social partners, timing of those contacts, and quality of interactions. This study used ecological momentary assessment data from the Daily Experiences and Well-being Study involving 256 older adults (Mage = 73.7) across 5-6 days. Latent profile analysis revealed four classes of social experiences within a day: Balanced and Pleasantly Connected (65%; mix of pleasant daytime contact with close and weak ties, evening contact mainly with close ties), Ambivalent Stressful (13%; both pleasant and stressful moments during the day, intensified stressful contact with close ties at night), Whole-Day Broadly Engaged (10%; pleasant contact with a larger number of close and weak ties from morning to evening), Light Day and Solo Night (12%; mild daytime contact, alone at night). Compared with Balanced days, Ambivalent days were linked to shorter sleep duration. Likewise, Light Day and Solo Night days predicted poorer sleep quality, but only among married older adults. These findings underscore the importance of daily social rhythms within the marital context for promoting sleep in late life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zexi Zhou

The University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Karen Fingerman

[65] Deception in Psychological Studies: Balancing Benefits and Risks

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Deception in scientific research refers to providing participants with incomplete or misleading information about a study's purpose, procedures, or the roles of others involved. This method has been widely employed to investigate sensitive processes such as attitude change, social influence, prejudice, and group dynamics. By concealing certain aspects of the study, researchers can capture natural behavior, reduce demand characteristics, and minimize socially desirable responding. Nevertheless, the ethical implications of deception have been a persistent subject of debate throughout the history of psychological science. Landmark studies such as Milgram's obedience experiments and the Stanford Prison Experiment, while yielding valuable scientific insights, raised enduring concerns about participant welfare and trust. Contemporary research provides mixed evidence on the extent to which deception affects participants' trust in scientists and their psychological well-being.

This review examines the role of deception in relation to internal and external validity, as well as its potential short- and long-term effects on participant pools. Findings suggest that the risks associated with deception do not manifest uniformly across contexts; however, they can be mitigated through preventive measures. In particular, comprehensive informed consent procedures, thorough debriefing practices, and the use of innovative alternatives to deception emerge as critical safeguards for researchers.

In conclusion, while deception may at times serve as an indispensable methodological tool in psychology, its ethical management is essential for protecting participant welfare and ensuring the validity of scientific knowledge. Moreover, maintaining this delicate balance not only enhances the credibility of research findings but also reinforces public trust in psychological science and sustains the academic legitimacy of the discipline.

Keywords: deception, social psychology, ethics, internal validity, external validity

*POSTER

Speaker



Ayşe Tuna
Research Assistant | Hacettepe University

[66] Different by Design: Romantic Love and Polyamory in Gifted Adults

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Gifted adults present unique socioemotional characteristics, including heightened sensitivity, a strong drive, and open-mindedness. This likens them to "a black sheep within a mass of white," making it difficult to connect with normative peers. As such, finding a romantic match is a challenging feat. Using a descriptive qualitative design, this study explores gifted adults' perceptions of romantic love, with particular attention to their capacity to develop meaningful relationships. Adults who self-identified as gifted (n = 32, aged 20-73; M = 36) participated in semi-structured interviews in 2024. They explored themes of identity, loyalty, love, and disillusionment. Thematic analyses revealed that the pursuit of romantic fulfillment is described as arduous, often leading to despair. In addition, their narratives reflect the perception that their giftedness is the main obstacle to the establishment of a satisfying romantic relationship. Future research could further examine how one's life history—such as discovering one's giftedness later in adulthood—shape gifted adults' perceptions and experiences of romantic love.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danika Lambert
UQO

Authors

Catherine Malboeuf-Hurtubise, Kristel Tardif-Grenier, Ariane Marchand

[67] Disability Pride and Models of Disability: An Intersectional Approach

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

The social identity approach shows that personal factors—identity and level of disability identification—can impact how proud people are of their disability identity and potentially their awareness of ableism. We aim to determine if disability pride predicts use of the social model of disability (which states disability is socially constructed via unjust barriers) and if this is moderated by identity factors. Seven hundred and ten disabled adults completed a cross-sectional online questionnaire measuring the extent to which people identify and label themselves as disabled, disability models, self-esteem, and psychological distress. A latent class analysis will reveal relevant classes based on disability identity, onset, observability, type, race, gender, and sexuality. A moderated regression will find if disability pride positively predicts use of the social model of disability and if it will be strengthened by class membership. Multiple regressions will show if classes, disability pride, and disability models predict self-esteem and psychological distress. Results will show intersectional differences in disability pride and models as well as who has positive psychosocial outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marisa Krauter
PhD Student | Oregon State University

Authors

Kathleen Bogart, Marisa Krauter

[68] Discouraged from Decarbonizing: Racial Disparities in Electric Vehicle Sales Interactions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Transportation contributes nearly a third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting the need for electric vehicle (EV) adoption. Yet ownership remains low, with racial disparities: Black and Hispanic consumers are underrepresented despite strong interest. Drawing on stereotype bias and cultural mismatch theories, we test whether discouragement in sales interactions drives these gaps. Implicit bias and in-group favoritism may shape perceptions of customer fit, while cultural mismatch can heighten sensitivity to rejection cues. Using California Clean Vehicle Rebate Project survey data (N=9,739), we examine whether minority EV buyers faced discouragement and whether experiences differed by sales model. Black, Hispanic, and Other races were more likely than Whites to be "talked out" of EVs. For Asians, race alone did not predict dissuasion, but Asian Tesla buyers were more than twice as likely to face discouragement as Asians buying non-Teslas. Findings extend research on stereotype bias beyond pricing and credit, showing how biased sales interactions can exclude minorities. Addressing these dynamics is key for equitable access to clean transportation and a green economy.

*POSTER

Speaker

Hyeonsong Lee

PhD Student | The Ohio State University

Authors

Nicole Sintov

[69] Disrupted Intimacy: Irrational Beliefs as a Pathway Between Psychopathy and Relationship Needs

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Objective: This study examined links between psychopathic traits, self-reported intimacy needs, and whether irrational beliefs about relationships help explain these links. We focused on three intimacy needs (sex, affiliation, and dominance) and tested whether distorted romantic beliefs account for these associations. Hypotheses: Higher psychopathy was expected to predict greater need for dominance and sex and lower need for affiliation, with irrational beliefs indirectly explaining these links. Method: Undergraduates (N = 239) completed the Short Dark Triad Scale, Need for Sexual Intimacy Scale, Maladaptive Relationship Beliefs Scale, and demographics. Results: Hierarchical regression showed psychopathy positively predicted sex and dominance needs and negatively predicted affiliation. Indirect effects revealed that irrational beliefs about being alone (a) attenuated the negative psychopathy–affiliation link and (b) partially explained the psychopathy–dominance link. Conclusions: Intimacy patterns in individuals high in psychopathy may reflect both emotional detachment and fear-based cognitions; addressing such beliefs may clarify maladaptive relational dynamics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anne Lippert

Authors

Giacomo Tiznado, Precious Walker, Tairat Ogulana, Cyenna Garrett, Riddhi Patel

[70] Diverse Caregiver Perspectives on Research Participation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Psychological research has historically relied on WEIRD populations, limiting generalizability and overlooking culturally diverse families. This ongoing study explores what motivates mixed SES caregivers to participate in child development research. 88 caregivers (data collection ongoing) rated motivators for research participation, compensation expectations, familiarity with developmental research, and their attitudes toward it.

Current results showed that caregivers most valued their child enjoying the study (M = 3.68). The average preferred compensation for a 30-minute online study was \$35.70. Hispanic caregivers with high school education or less prioritized interest, enjoyment, and representation, while those with some college or more emphasized contributing to science and viewing research as a family experience. Caregivers with higher education levels reported significantly greater familiarity with developmental research (p < .001), though attitudes were positive across all education levels. These findings highlight actionable strategies to engage caregivers with different backgrounds and expectations, which can help improve the inclusivity of research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yilin Liu

Ph.D. Student | University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Yilin Liu, Raven Bacchas, Candice M. Mills

[71] Diversity, Digitized: The Effects of Artificially Generated Diverse Representations on Institutional and Technological Trust

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

AI-generated models are becoming increasingly common in advertising, raising important questions about how this practice affects attitudes and institutional trust. Extending previous work on how AI representations of racial minority groups shape social identity contingencies, the present research investigates how AI-generated depictions of diverse environments affect both institutional and technological trust. Participants (N = 240) viewed university recruitment ads featuring either real or AI-generated multiracial student groups prior to rating their attitudes toward the ads, their trust in the institution itself, and their general confidence in AI systems. We further examined differences in majority and minority group members' reactions to these stimuli, offering insight into how identity influences responses to synthetic representations of diverse groups. Results reveal that using AI-created models to signal diversity can carry subtle but meaningful unintended consequences, shaping not only perceptions of institutions but also broader attitudes toward AI systems. These findings highlight critical tensions at the intersection of representation, trust, and emerging technologies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alex Borgella

Associate Professor Of Psychology | Fort Lewis College

Authors

Simon Howard, Kira Stevenson, Spring Smith-Hughes, Berkley Crouse

[72] Do I belong? Diversity Policies & Feelings of Belonging

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Diversity and inclusion are vital components of belonging and comfort. Students want to feel valued and represented at college. Colleges use diversity policies to express their values, although little is known about how these policies evoke feelings of belonging and comfort. We examine how diversity policies influence belonging in a university community, motivation to engage with the university, and comfort with diversity policy language. Our preregistered study will recruit 214-400 participants; data collection will end 1 month before SPSP. Participants will read one of four diversity policies stating that diversity is good-moral, good-instrumental, fair-moral, and fair-instrumental and report feelings of belonging, diversity motivation, and comfort with the policy. We predict that participants who read "good" and "instrumental" diversity policies will report the highest levels of belonging, diversity motivation, and comfort compared to participants who read "fair" and "moral" policies. Our findings will strengthen the understanding of diversity policy effectiveness, its relationship with belonging, and contribute to future research investigating what drives diversity motivation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kimberly Hensley

Research Assistant | University Of north Florida

Authors

Elizabeth Brown, Rachel Allen, Abigail Sawyer

[73] Do People See Their Romantic Relationships as Teams? Examining Team Perceptions in Romantic Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

It is common to hear people describe romantic relationships as "teams." However, relationship science has yet to determine the extent to which partners perceive their relationship in this way, and the implications team perceptions may have for relationship functioning. To begin filling this gap, we developed an eight-item measure of team perception of one's romantic relationship and explored the implications of team perception for relationship functioning. In three studies, we found that individuals report high levels of team perception on average, with meaningful variability. Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses indicated that team perception is distinct from other relationship constructs (e.g., satisfaction) though correlated with them in expected directions. One's team perception predicted reports of partner's support behavior across all studies. In Study 3, it also predicted participants' reports of their own support behavior, though some effects weakened when testing multiple competing predictors. These studies are the first to examine team perceptions in romantic relationships—an overlooked feature that likely has important implications for relationship functioning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kirby Sigler

Graduate Student | University of Pittsburgh

[74] Does the source of support matter? Characterizing the distribution of emotional support across relationships & implications for well-being

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Extensive research has examined the benefits of perceived social support (PSS). Yet, little is known whether varying degrees of PSS from friends, family, and/or partners uniquely predict individual and relational outcomes, and if these associations differ based on gender and sexual orientation. Using National Couples Health & Time Study (N = 3629), K means cluster analysis revealed six distinct profiles of self-reported emotional support from romantic partners (P), family (Fam), and friends (Fr): 1 (High P, low Fam & Fr), 2 (High P, Fam, & Fr), 3 (Low P, Fam, & Fr), 4 (High P & Fam, low Fr), 5 (medium P, Fam, & Fr), 6 (High P & Fr, low Fam). ANOVA pairwise contrasts revealed that clusters that relied predominantly on partner emotional support reported better relationship quality, but lower well-being. Moreover, the cluster reporting low support from all sources was especially problematic for women. Sexual minority status did not moderate any associations between cluster assignment and well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebekkah Daymo

Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Carley Vornlocher, Shayne Harms

[75] Dogs as Facilitators: Minimal Social Interactions Reduce Loneliness and Increase Social Approach to Strangers With Their Dogs

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Like interactions with close others, minimal social interactions (with strangers or non-intimates) enhance well-being (Ishiguro, 2023). Yet people are apprehensive about approaching strangers for social interactions (Schroeder et al., 2022). The present study explored the impact of a single laboratory minimal interaction on short- and longer-term loneliness and social approach behavior. One hundred fifty-four college students underwent a loneliness induction in the laboratory, then were randomly assigned to interact with a friendly stranger, to interact with a friendly stranger with a dog, or to a no-interaction control condition. Both types of minimal interactions decreased loneliness in the laboratory, though the effect faded after one week. Both minimal interactions also increased self-reported social contacts with strangers with their dogs in the week following the lab study, relative to the no-interaction control and to the one-week pre-study baseline. Thus a single minimal interaction reduced loneliness and spurred further minimal interaction. Additionally, the presence of a dog seems to reduce apprehensiveness about social approach to a stranger.

*POSTER

Speaker



Denise Beike

Professor | Univ. of Arkansas

Authors

Josephine Collins

[76] Don't Stop Believin': Slow-Life Strategists' Self-Efficacy Promotes Their Desired-Self Realization

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Life history strategists are thought to differ in their social strategies, with slow life strategists (SLS) - who develop in safer, resource-rich, and predictable environments - seeking stable social relationships, while fast life strategists (FLS) - who develop in harsh and unpredictable environments - deprioritize them (Figueroa & Jacobs, 2011). Prior work in our lab has revealed that although FLS and SLS similarly prioritized realizing their ideal-selves (i.e., hoped and aspired for selves; Higgins, 1987) and reported similar realization of those ideals, SLS prioritized their ought-selves (i.e., obligatory selves; Higgins, 1987) more, reporting fewer mismatches than did FLS.

We sought to replicate these findings using different methods. Data from 405 participants again revealed that life history strategy was negatively related to ought-self mismatches. However, unlike our prior work, the current findings also revealed a negative relationship between participants' ideal-self mismatches and their life history strategies. Exploratory analyses suggested these relationships were partly due to SLS's greater general self-efficacy. We discuss methodological differences between the current and prior work and their theoretical implications. Specifically, the differences imply that various early life stressors may differ in their relationships with adult social outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



J. Randell

Assistant Professor | University of Central Oklahoma

Authors

J. Adam Randell, Jeff Seger

[77] Drinking Apart, Feeling Apart? How Attachment Shapes Reactions to Partner Drinking

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Understanding how substance use shapes interpersonal processes remains a central question in social science. This study focuses on the association between perceptions of a romantic partner's drinking behavior patterns and relationship satisfaction. This association is moderated by attachment orientations. We predicted perceiving a partner to drink more often apart from the individual to be related to lower relationship satisfaction, and this effect would be stronger among insecurely attached individuals. Participants were 525 college students who completed an online questionnaire. Results indicated that perceiving a partner drinking more frequently without the individual was associated with lower relationship satisfaction, even after controlling for both partners' average alcohol consumption and age. This suggests that the effect is not simply about alcohol use, but is specific to perceptions of a partner's drinking apart from the participant. Further, avoidant attachment significantly moderated this association ($p = .040$), and simple slopes suggested that the negative effect of partner drinking apart was stronger among individuals higher in avoidant attachment. These findings suggest that attachment orientations, particularly avoidance, play a crucial role in shaping how individuals interpret a partner's drinking and its implications for relationship satisfaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lyra Toohey

Graduate Student | Florida State University

Authors

Dr. Lindsey Rodriguez

[78] Dyadic Examination of Daily Approach and Avoidance Motives and Responsiveness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Perceived partner responsiveness is an important predictor of relationship outcomes such as satisfaction (Reis & Gable, 2015). However, little is known about how daily approach and avoidance motives influence both partners' perceptions of responsiveness within a relationship. We examined approach and avoidance motives as a predictor of perceived partner responsiveness and in turn, relationship satisfaction among cohabiting couples ($N = 107$ couples). Results showed that people who were more approach and avoidance motivated were seen as more responsive, and people who saw their partners as more responsive were more satisfied with their relationships. Also, people who were more approach and avoidance motivated saw their partners as more responsive and were more satisfied. Finally, people who saw their partners as more responsive had partners who were more satisfied. These results suggest that both partners' approach and avoidance motives influence perceived partner responsiveness and consequently, relationship satisfaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenna Kilian

PhD Student | Kent State University

Authors

Judith Gere

[79] Economic Objectification in Romantic Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Although close relationships often involve financial exchange, little is known about how individuals experience being treated as a financial resource in their intimate partnerships. We introduce the concept of economic objectification (EO), the perception of being regarded primarily as a "money source" rather than as a full partner. To capture this phenomenon, we developed and validated a new EO scale. Study 1 generated items, and study 2 confirmed a two-factor structure and demonstrated reliability and validity. Using this measure, we further examined how subjective socioeconomic status (SSES) affects the relationship between EO and relationship outcomes (satisfaction and autonomy). The results suggested that SSES moderates the effect of EO; the higher the SSES, the less the detrimental impact of EO. These findings position EO as a novel dimension of objectification in romantic relationships, extending dehumanization theory into the economic sphere. In today's materialistic world, financial roles and SES are increasingly recognized as critical factors in intimate relationships. This process may erode intimacy; therefore, the importance of conceptualizing EO should be highlighted.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuyeon Shin

Master's Student | Sookmyung Women's University

Authors

Min Joo Joo

[80] Effectiveness of dyadic interventions: The impact of who is doing what for whom during a dyadic intervention

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Despite growing evidence indicating the beneficial impact of involving romantic partners in health behavior change, the most effective approach for engaging partners remains unclear. Therefore, this study aims to systematically examine the content of dyadic interventions by testing how intervention task (what is done), execution level (who carries out the task), and target level (for whom the task is performed), as defined in the compendium of dyadic behavior change techniques (DiMaio, Villinger et al., 2024), influence effectiveness (pre-registration: osf.io/pa7yq).

A total of 3,200 participants will be recruited for an experimental online study presenting a hypothetical scenario in which a romantic couple receives a dyadic intervention to increase physical activity. The impact of systematically varying execution and target levels across four intervention tasks (i.e., review of past mastery experiences, review of skills, weighing of pros and cons, recognition of health risks) on intended behavior performance will be examined. In addition, mechanisms of action for behavior change will be analyzed.

Results will help to provide guidance on how best to leverage partner involvement to maximize intervention effectiveness and advance understanding of underlying mechanisms of dyadic health behavior change.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Karoline Villinger
Columbia University

Authors

Amelie Spliesgart, Nina Knoll, Urte Scholz

[81] Emotional Response Similarity in Friends

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Is similar emotional responding an important ingredient for friendship? A few studies have found that friends show more similar emotional responses when watching videos than people who are not friends. These studies have focused on students and their more recently formed friendships, and they have only looked at aggregate responses across videos and across discrete emotions. We aim to address these limitations by testing whether the association between emotional similarity and friendship status also holds in middle-aged adults with long-term friendships, as well as by examining the differential effects of the similarity of specific emotions. Participants (N=131, 64 female friend pairs and 3 unpaired female participants) independently watched 14 short video clips throughout a one-day lab session. After watching each video, participants rated their experience of an array of emotions. We will compute pairwise emotional similarity using the Euclidean distance between a dyad's emotion ratings and perform logistic regression to predict friendship status from emotional similarity. We expect to find that emotional responses to the same stimuli are more similar among friends than randomly yoked dyads. These results would be consistent with the theory that similar emotional responding underlies friendship.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Yi-Ke Peng
Ph.D. Student | UC Berkeley

Authors

Iris Mauss, Oliver John

[82] Employment equity groups' perspectives on recruitment processes in the military

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Due to systemic barriers, members of employment equity groups may encounter additional challenges during military recruitment. Past findings have also shown that a career in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) is less attractive to women and members of visible minority groups. This research presents key findings from the 2024 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Recruiting Survey (N = 6,592). The survey explored applicants' experiences throughout the recruitment process, their motivations for joining the CAF, and the factors that influenced their decision to pursue military employment. Descriptive analyses were conducted on Likert-type questions, and independent samples t-tests were used to compare mean responses across groups defined by gender, 2SLGBTQI+ status, visible minority status, Indigenous identity, and the intersection of gender and visible minority status. Significant group differences emerged regarding perceptions of the recruitment process and motivations for wanting to join the CAF. These findings highlight areas where targeted efforts could enhance the recruitment experience for some employment equity groups and support employment equity initiatives of the CAF.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Rebecca Sullivan
Defence Scientist | Government of Canada

Authors

Rebecca Sullivan, Anna Ebel-Lam, Nancy Otis

[83] Endorsement of Hookup Culture and Judgements about Sexual Willingness

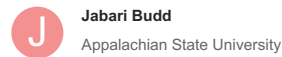
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

"Hookup culture" reflects changes in sexual behavior toward more casual and commitment-free sexual encounters (Aubrey & Smith, 2013). We examined whether endorsement of hookup culture relates to people's judgments about sexual willingness and consent as a "hookup" unfolds over time. Past research found that the participants perceived that the willingness of both a man and a woman increased as the events of a straightforward consensual sexual encounter unfolded (Willis & Jozowski, 2022). We tested these patterns in a more ambiguous sexual encounter where the woman expresses some hesitation. We found that the perception of the man's willingness, but not the woman's, was consistently correlated with the endorsement of hookup culture up until the point of ambiguity. In related studies, endorsement of hookup culture has been associated with feminist beliefs (Martino et al., 2024), while in others, it was related to endorsement of rape myths (Reling et al., 2021). More work needs to be done to examine the dimensionality of hookup culture and how that relates to underlying attitudes about gender roles, stereotypes, and expectations about sex.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Emilie Murdoch, Twila Wingrove

[84] Essentializing Disability: How Fixed Beliefs Fuel Ableism

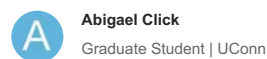
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

Disability scholars often classify beliefs about disabilities into two models: one where disabilities are framed as bodily deficits (essentialist), and one that emphasizes the interaction between body types and social barriers (social constructionist). In this work, we examine the extent to which each of these models of disabilities impacts attitudes, perceived accommodation legitimacy, and support for non-discrimination and disability- supportive policies. Results from an online sample of U.S.-based adults (N=260) indicate that essentialist beliefs about disabilities were associated with less favorable attitudes towards disabled people, viewing accommodations as less legitimate, and with less support for policies of interest. Social constructionist beliefs show the opposite pattern. In both cases, perceived legitimacy and policy support effects were mediated by attitudes. Findings highlight the importance of beliefs about disabilities generally, and implications for future efforts to reduce stigma and disability-affirming social change will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Alexandra Garr-Schultz

[85] Ethnic Differences in the Evaluation of Child Abuse & Neglect

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The current literature on expressing and accepting affection fails to recognize ethnic differences in affective communication and family dynamics, consequently overlooking their impact on large societal problems, such as child abuse and neglect (CAN). This study aims to investigate ethnic differences in expressing and accepting affection to/from close others, and associations between evaluations (i.e., abusive, neglectful, loving) of parenting strategies and perceptions of cultural exclusivity (i.e., exclusive to an ethnic heritage). Hispanics (vs non-Hispanics) are predicted to report: 1) greater avoidant attachment tendencies and 2) greater preference for indirect forms of affection (e.g., acts of service). It is also predicted that all participants will report more favorable evaluations of parenting strategies that are culturally exclusive to them. Further, it is predicted that cultural values (i.e., familism and respeto) will mediate these predicted associations in Hispanic participants, specifically increasing these biases. This work innovatively investigates how ethnic background relates to perceptions of parenting strategies, supporting culturally responsive interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Jacqueline Lechuga

[86] Evaluating Scientific Authority: Self-Uncertainty, Political Identity, and Message Content

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

In political contexts, people often rely on their group identity to inform their views on a wide range of social issues. The present study sought to investigate the roles of self-uncertainty and political identity in how people evaluate the source of a message about climate change. Participants ($n = 212$) were first primed to feel either certain or uncertain about their identity. They then read a brief passage that either amplified or downplayed the dangers of climate change and were told that the excerpt was written by a scientific expert. Participants were also asked to indicate with which political party they identified. The dependent variable of interest was source evaluation, measured via the Muenster Epistemic Trustworthiness Inventory. Results of the 2×2 ANOVA indicated a significant interaction between message type and political party, $F(1, 204) = 57.61$, $p < .001$, partial eta-squared = .22, such that the type of message (amplifying versus downplaying) had a significant effect on Democrats' evaluation of the source of the message, but not Republicans'. Specifically, Democrats evaluated the source significantly more favorably when they read the climate change amplifying message compared to the downplaying message, while Republicans' attitude toward the source did not differ based on message content. This study sheds light on group-based attitudes toward scientific authority.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Baum

Psychology Instructor | Hartnell College

Authors

Michael Hogg

[87] Evaluating the Influence of Health Advertisements on Attitudes and Cognitive Processes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

This study examined the effectiveness of emotional appeals in public service announcements (PSAs) about vaping, focusing on how hope-based, fear-based, and fact-based messages influenced emotional responses, risk perceptions, and persuasiveness. It also tested whether including a recommended action (directing viewers to health agencies' quitting resources) altered outcomes. The online experiment used a 3×2 mixed factorial design: PSA type (hope, fear, fact) as a within-subjects factor, fully counterbalanced, and recommended action (present/absent) as a between-subjects factor. Results indicated that hope-based ads elicited the strongest emotional reactions and were rated as significantly more persuasive than fear- or fact-based ads, suggesting positive appeals may be most effective for motivating behavior change. Fear-based ads best conveyed the severity of health risks but also triggered greater anxiety. The Recommended action variable indicated a significant effect for only one group of dependent measures, modestly increasing persuasiveness across all ad types. These findings underscore the role of emotional framing in health communication and suggest hope-based messaging, paired with clear resources, may be especially effective for public health campaigns.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hadley Kronick

Research Coordinator | Wellesley College

Authors

Hadley Kronick, Robin M Akert

[88] Even with close friends, they underestimate the affection that others have for them.

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

It has been established that people tend to underestimate the extent to which others find them likable, a phenomenon known as the liking gap. Previous longitudinal studies examining this phenomenon found that it disappeared after eight months of acquaintance (Boothby et al., 2018). This author, who focused on the specific relationship with university dormitory accommodation, found that the liking gap is a phenomenon limited to the early stages of acquaintanceship and it disappears as the relationship deepens.

To examine the liking gap in more general friendships, this study collected paired data by instructing participants to "invite a close friend" ($N = 90$). The average duration of acquaintance among respondents was approximately 27 months, which was considerably longer than the eight months examined by Boothby et al. (2018). Nevertheless, a liking gap was confirmed when the liking ratings and estimates were measured. This revealed that people underestimate their likability even for close friends they have known for a long time. Furthermore, the liking gap was smaller for the person who was invited as the "close friend."

*POSTER

Speaker



Shotaro Shizawa

Student | University of Tsukuba

Authors

Naoaki Kawakami

[89] Examining Inoculation Against AI Misinformation in China

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Inoculation theory prebunks misinformation by exposing people to weakened versions and refutations first. However, most research uses passive approaches despite its original emphasis on active participation, where individuals generate counterarguments rather than receiving them. Research lacks systematic comparison of passive vs. active strategies and examination of how participation methods interact with message types (fact-based vs. logic-based). In addition, whether and how the inoculation method combats AI misinformation remains unanswered. This 2×2 factorial experiment (N = 391) crossed active/passive participation with fact/logic-based message types in China. Participants received AI misconception inoculation, then evaluated misleading AI autonomy content. Results showed active inoculation outperformed passive across message types, with logic-based active performing best. In addition, self-efficacy moderates these effects in specific conditions. This research advances inoculation theory by confirming active participation's effectiveness and revealing it operates through distinct mechanisms depending on message type, providing guidance for optimizing persuasion resistance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rong Sun

Authors

Rong Sun

[90] Examining the Relationship between Power and Opposition Across Time

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In close relationships, people's goals and motives inevitably conflict with their partners'. When this occurs, people often engage in opposition, such as sulking or blaming their partner. Given that opposition aims to influence partners, it is likely tied to people's sense of power (i.e., perceived ability to influence a partner) in a relationship. However, theory and research provide competing predictions about the association, such that power may predict increases or decreases in opposition and/or opposition may predict increases or decreases in power. Further, previous research on power and opposition is also largely cross-sectional, hindering conclusions about the temporal precedence between these variables in close relationships. The present study addresses these limitations by examining power and opposition in a longitudinal study of newlyweds. Results revealed that intimates' power predict both declines in their own, and their partners' opposition, while opposition did not predict changes in either partners' power. These findings suggest that certain theories of power may better characterize the longitudinal association between power and opposition in romantic couples.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julian Madrigal

UNC Greensboro

Authors

Levi Baker

[91] Examining the Role of Self-Change on Shaping Risk Regulation Motives

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic relationships change individuals for better and worse. Accordingly, people in romantic relationships must navigate the desire for self-improvement while guarding against potential self-degradation. Similarly, risk regulation theory suggests that individuals are motivated to form connections in a manner that also protects the self from rejection. In this research, we examine whether self-improvement and self-degradation predict individuals' risk regulation motives, in the form of connection vs. self-protection goals.

Across correlational (Study 1; N = 194) and experimental (Study 2; N = 310) studies, self-degradation was significantly associated with self-protection goals (Study 1 and 2), whereas self-improvement was associated with connection goals (Study 1). Additionally, self-protection goals mediated the association between self-degradation and relationship quality (Study 1 and 2), and connection goals mediated the association between self-improvement and relationship quality (Study 1). These findings suggest that perceiving that the self has changed for the worse can activate defensive motivational systems that hinder relational closeness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Allison Fortman

Authors

Lydia Emery, Alyssa Lagrone, Kevin P. McIntyre, Brent A. Mattingly, Erin Hughes

[92] Exploring Clinical Validation and Humility as Inoculation Strategies Against Public Health Mistrust When Revising Guidance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Public health relies on public trust. However, this places the public in a vulnerable position, as being wrong can lead to severe consequences. This vulnerability is highlighted when scientists' perceived biases influence scientific processes or findings, leading to mistrust. Efforts to improve this trust often promote ethical science but rarely address that science can be "wrong" simply because science is iterative. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic scientists were learning about the virus in real-time, leading to evolving guidance that 75% of the U.S public found confusing. This eroded confidence in experts and may have discouraged following recommended health guidelines. Scientific change is inevitable, so there must be consideration of how to combat the mistrust that may result. Through a between-person factorial design, participants will read colon cancer prevention messages where the framing is varied either with direct (blunt), clinical validation (acknowledgement of possible confusion), or humility (acknowledgement of uncertainty) messaging to test how differing communication styles may predict trustworthiness, without reducing beliefs in scientific competency.

*POSTER

Speaker



Inakhshmi Rashid

Social Psychology Graduate Student | University of Utah

Authors

Paul White

[93] Exploring Discloser Race and Partisanship as Moderators of Stealing Thunder in Politics

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Stealing thunder is a persuasive tactic that involves strategically disclosing negative information about oneself to diminish its harmful impact. The effectiveness of stealing thunder has been demonstrated across contexts, including politics. Past research indicates that a discloser's race may moderate the tactic's effectiveness, yet it remains unclear how discloser characteristics interact with perceived political partisanship. In Study 1, we piloted AI-generated photos of Black and White politicians to ensure participants could not differentiate them from real people. In Study 2, we did not find evidence of stealing thunder, but found that the Black (compared to White) candidate was rated more favorably on all evaluations. Exploratory analyses revealed that with explicit partisan information absent, the majority left-leaning sample commonly assumed the Black candidate was a Democrat and the White candidate was a Republican. This suggests that participants may have used discloser race as a proxy for political partisanship. In future research, we hope to tease apart the joint influence of race and partisanship on stealing thunder and political evaluations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Franklin

Student | University of Utah

Authors

Paul White, Brittany Clark, Logan Call

[94] Exploring Positive Psychology Outcomes Among LGB+ Youth

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Stigma and discrimination against LGB+ individuals has considerable negative health impacts through disproportionate exposure to stress according to minority stress theory. Resilience - the potential to maintain or recover functioning when facing adversity - can develop in response to various forms of stigma related stress, yet a dearth of research exists in regard to resilience factors among LGB+ college students. Using 250 participants, this study examines how hypervigilance, grit, and perceived access to affirming spaces relate to well-being and community connectedness among LGB+ students. We expect that perceived access to affirming spaces and grit will be positively related to wellbeing and community connectedness; while hypervigilance will negatively relate to these outcomes. This work represents the first step in developing a theoretical model in which perceived access to affirming spaces lowers hypervigilance and increases grit, which in turn promotes wellbeing among LGB+ youth. We expect this work to highlight the importance of including positive psychology outcomes in LGB+ research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Krysa Dickson

Kent State University

Authors

Mary Himmelstein

[95] Factors Related to Deviant Behavior

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT

This cross-cultural study investigates how early-life adversity and life-course factors shape deviant behavior in adulthood. Guided by life-course theory, the study examines four constructs: (a) childhood trauma as a critical life event, (b) social connectedness as a trajectory factor, (c) subjective socioeconomic status as a cohort indicator, and (d) turning points/transitions such as leaving home, educational disruptions, or relational losses. Adults (ages 18–55) from the United States and Germany (N = 400) will complete validated measures, including the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) questionnaire, the Social Connectedness Scale, Cantril's Self-Anchoring Ladder, and the Adult Deviant Leisure Tendency Scale. We hypothesize that higher trauma exposure, lower social connectedness, and lower subjective socioeconomic status will be associated with stronger deviant tendencies, with patterns differing across cultural contexts. By integrating structural and relational influences within a life-course framework, this study aims to clarify how developmental risk factors accumulate and interact across sociocultural environments, with implications for prevention, rehabilitation, and culturally responsive justice policies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chiara Popp

University of Central Florida

[96] Family identity clarity: Investigating the long-term role of “family” in identity development

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Research on identity development positions the family unit as a critical social landscape for early identity exploration, but how people view and define family can change throughout the lifespan. This work introduces the concept of family identity clarity, the extent to which a person has a clear understanding of who their family is as a unit, and examines its antecedents and consequences. Just as narrative identity can bolster clarity about people's individual identities, we expected that family storytelling would enhance family identity clarity. We conducted a 7-week longitudinal study (N = 249 participants). Factor analysis established that family identity clarity is distinct from related constructs. Furthermore, family storytelling predicted increases in family identity clarity over time, which in turn was associated with individual and family well-being. We also explored differences in how participants defined family. Although the family has been an understudied topic within the relationships and identity literatures, these findings suggest that family identities are psychologically meaningful and contribute to our overall well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mystie Saturday

PhD Student | The University of Chicago

Authors

Lydia Emery, Rachel King

[97] Family Matters: The Role of Social Support and Stigma in Addiction Affected Families

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Addiction and substance use is highly stigmatized in society, and research has suggested that family members often face similar judgement that may have unintended consequences on their ability to engage in the recovery process. We explored the role of family stigma, the stigmatization of family members of otherwise stigmatized individuals, within addiction affected families to examine its effect on family support behaviors. Two hundred and twenty-two U.S. adults with a substance using family member completed an online survey regarding experiences of stigma, engagement in supportive behaviors for recovery, self-compassion and social support. Regression analysis revealed a significant negative association between experiencing stigma and family member's recovery support behaviors. A significant moderated mediation in which experiencing social support mediates the relationship between family stigma and recovery support, with an indirect effect moderated by self-compassion was also found. Results suggest that social support may buffer the negative consequences of family stigma for those with moderate or low levels self-compassion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kennedy Hoying

Graduate Student | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Tracy DeHart, Lidia Monjaras Gaytan

[98] Feeling contempt predicts favorability towards the death penalty

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Does feeling contempt towards a criminal offender increase your likelihood of sentencing them to death? Although anger has been previously shown to increase people's punitive tendencies, the evolved function of anger is to change the target's future behavior—implying a willingness to maintain a relationship with the target in the future. Contempt, on the other hand, serves to permanently sever relations with the target so as to avoid future costs. If this is the case, then contempt should be a better predictor of elimination-focused punishments (e.g., the death penalty) than anger. In an empirical study (N = 498) testing this proposition, we presented participants with three scenarios of criminal offenders and then measured the extent to which participants perceived the offenders as worthless, felt anger towards the offenders, and believed the offenders deserved the death penalty. Although both the anger and contempt items were significant positive predictors of death penalty favorability, in each scenario this relationship was markedly stronger for contempt as compared to anger.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eric Chung

Hamilton College

Authors

Keelah Williams, Yingtao Li

[99] Finding Harmony: Exploring How Diversity Ideologies Relate to Congregants' Sense of Belonging

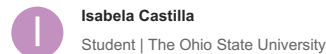
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

With the majority of the U.S. identifying as Christian (PEW, 2022) as well as the rising trends in racial/ethnic diversity in congregations (Thumma, 2021), understanding how churches can foster inclusivity is increasingly important and remains a challenge. Previous research has found that multiculturalism ideologies predict less bias in workplaces and school (Birnbaum et al., 2021; Plaut et al., 2009). However, the relationship between worship experiences and sense of belonging has not yet been explored. Thus, the present study aims to explore how diversity ideologies, specifically multiculturalism and colorblindness, relate to a congregant's sense of belonging in a church setting. To investigate this relationship, we have collaborated with a local church which demonstrates multiculturalism ideologies (i.e. singing worship songs in non-English languages) and colorblind ideologies (i.e. singing worship songs selectively in English). The present study aims to contribute valuable insights into how diversity ideologies shape a congregant's sense of belonging within church communities, with potential to guide churches in creating more inclusive environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isabela Castilla

Student | The Ohio State University

Authors

Brenda Straka, Ceanna Loberg

[100] Fishing for Love? Implicit Political Signaling on Online Dating Platforms

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

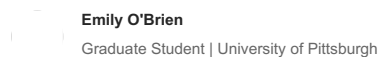
CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

People exhibit political homophily in their dating choices—a preference for partners who share their political ideology. Within online dating, research has examined how explicit political cues (e.g., listing one's political orientation in the profile bio) predict profile evaluation. The role of more subtle, implicit cues is less understood. Because stereotypes in the U.S. imply that liberals and conservatives differ in lifestyle, we investigated how implicit, politically-stereotyped pictorial cues may contribute to political homophily.

We assessed how perceptions of implicit cues (e.g., holding a fish vs. cat) predicted dating decisions. Studies 1 and 2 found that ingroup (vs. outgroup) implicit cues predicted lower perceived ideological disagreement and greater willingness to affiliate. Study 3 found that explicit cues generally outweighed implicit cues when the two were incongruent. However, when profiles included an ingroup explicit cue, participants also drew on the implicit cue to infer the target's political orientation. This work suggests that implicit cues in dating profile pictures shape online dating decisions, particularly when explicit political cues are absent.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily O'Brien

Graduate Student | University of Pittsburgh

Authors

Amanda Forest, Karina Schumann, Jonah Koetke

[101] Forewarning University Norms Attenuates Identity Threat Among College Students of Color

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Goal pursuit is often an interdependent process, leading people to be sensitive to how they are or could be treated. These processes can be thwarted by bias, prejudice, or racism. We examined whether providing a "forewarning" that acknowledged the possibility of bias and provided clarity on the university's norms – a representation of other people's attitudes and behaviors – would lead college students of color to feel less identity threat and a greater sense of belonging following exposure to explicit racism on campus. 630 college students of color were randomly assigned to either a forewarning condition or a no-forewarning condition and then asked to imagine that either a racist or anonymous (control) speaker was invited to campus. Participants who imagined the racist speaker reported less social and academic fit than those who imagined an anonymous speaker. However, the forewarning affected participants' experience of identity threat, such that, overall, identity threat was higher in the racist speaker condition, but this effect was attenuated by the forewarning. An exploratory mediation analyses for participants in the racist speaker condition revealed that the effect of the forewarning on identity threat was mediated by changes in perception of the university's descriptive norms. These findings suggest one way to help students make sense of their experience following a racist event.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kevin Kennedy

PhD Student | Stanford University

Authors

Gregory Walton

[102] Friends-First Romantic Relationships Have (Slightly) Higher Relationship Quality Than Dating-Initiation Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Prior research demonstrated that two pathways to start a romantic relationship exist: friends-first initiation (FFI) and dating-initiation (DI), but no work has examined possible differences between these pathways. As FFI includes a pre-existing relationship, I predicted that those who used FFI would have higher trust, satisfaction, and commitment, and lower uncertainty and jealousy compared to those who used DI. 865 participants (university students and Prolific) completed an online survey about their current romantic relationship. Using multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA), I found that FFI individuals reported greater trust, satisfaction, and commitment, and less self-uncertainty in their relationships compared to DI individuals. This finding remained when including individual differences, relationship length, and recruitment sample as covariates. Through exploratory mediation analysis, I found that trust mediates the link between initiation pathway and relationship quality. These findings suggest that FFI relationships benefit from trust established in friendship.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katie Jones
PhD student | University of Manitoba

Authors

Jessica Cameron, Danu Anthony Stinson, Kelci Harris

[103] Friendship Jealousy: The Interplay of Attachment, Conflict, and Protective Behaviors

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Friendship jealousy—the fear of being replaced by a third party in a friendship—has been studied in children but rarely in young adults, despite evidence that friendships heavily influence health in adulthood. This study (N = 296) examined antecedents and reactions to friendship jealousy. Participants were randomly assigned to a neutral or jealousy condition, completed measures of attachment, self-esteem, life satisfaction, and affect, and responded to open-ended questions about conflict and jealousy. Most participants reported experiencing friendship jealousy in adulthood. Jealousy elicited greater negative affect than conflict and was linked to reduced authenticity and closeness. When experiencing friendship jealousy, anxiously attached individuals tended to ruminate, while avoidantly attached individuals created distance. Findings suggest that friendship jealousy and attachment style independently predict protective behaviors. This highlights how friendship jealousy is a common experience in emerging adulthood, challenging assumptions that romantic ties eclipse friendships. Future research should explore how friendship jealousy operates in healthy versus harmful friendships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hye-won Yoo
Northwestern University

Authors

Wendi Gardner

[104] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

*POSTER

[105] From Commitment to Infidelity: A Cultural Comparison

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

What drives people to stay faithful—or stray—in relationships, and does culture play a role? This study explored whether a shift from self-interest to relationship-focused goals, known as transformation of motivation (Kelley & Thibaut, 1978), helps explain how commitment predicts infidelity across cultures (Iran, N = 190; Canada, N = 200). Based on differences in self-concept in individualistic versus collectivist cultures, we expected cultural variation in commitment processes. Transformation of motivation did not mediate the commitment-infidelity link, but key cultural differences emerged: structural commitment—particularly social pressure—was stronger in Iran than in Canada. The comparison of markers of transformation of motivation (e.g., willingness to sacrifice, accommodative behaviors; Rusbult et al., 1991; Van Lange et al., 1997) showed that Iranian participants reported more destructive accommodation strategies (e.g., avoiding discussion) and greater willingness to sacrifice than their Canadian counterparts. These contradicting findings suggest that transformation of motivation may not be a unidimensional construct and is shaped by cultural norms. The study highlights the need for culturally informed models of commitment and infidelity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sara Salavati
Assistant Professor in Psychology | Northeastern Illinois University

Authors

Sara Salavati, Mahdi Nobakht, Susan Boon

[106] From Services to Synchrony: Early Head Start Engagement and the Parent–Child Relationship

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Early Head Start (EHS) offers multiple pathways to strengthen the parent–child relationship (besides standard center-based care), yet families follow different participation paths (Love et al., 2005, 2013). In 1,076 families, we modeled six engagement indicators (case-management meetings, parenting classes, parent-child groups, support groups, parenting info and child-development services at home visits) across ages 6, 14, and 24 months using the Multidimensional Growth Mixture Model. Five engagement profiles emerged: Consistent High (47.8%), Consistent Low (13.1%), Late-Rising (12.8%), Early–Middle (15.0%), and Early-Only (11.3%). Profiles predicted parenting at 36 months. Consistent High showed higher supportiveness, warmth, reading frequency, and cognitive stimulation than Consistent Low (often also > Early-Only); it also exceeded Late-Rising on parenting quality. Late-Rising outperformed Consistent Low on warmth and reading. For dysfunctional interaction, Early–Middle and Early-Only were higher than Late-Rising and Consistent High. Results highlight sustained—and, secondarily, improving—engagement as a pathway to warmer, less dysfunctional, and more cognitively enriching caregiving.

*POSTER

Speaker



Makayla Kepner

Student | Clarkson University

Authors

Qingyang Liu, Ying Zhang, Fei Shen

[107] When targeted communication backfires: Black consumer experiences with race-based health messages and pathways to improvement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Health communicators often assume demographic targeting enhances message relevance (e.g., Kreuter & Wray, 2003). We extended prior work in this area by asking when targeted health-related messaging may backfire. To do so, 210 Black adults received HIV information presented as demographically-targeted (i.e., racially-motivated) or algorithm-selected (random). Participants exposed to race-targeted messaging experienced significantly higher social identity threat, manifesting as feelings of unfair judgment and discomfort ($ps < .01$). Moreover, targeted messaging produced stronger negative emotions including irritation, anger, and disinterest, while participants retained significantly fewer health facts versus non-targeted conditions ($ps < .001$). When asked for improvement recommendations, consumers qualitatively emphasized resource accessibility information, actionable guidance, cultural relevance, and personal narratives rather than explicit racial disparity framing. In sum, the current work challenges conventional targeting assumptions and unites multiple areas within psychology (e.g., social cognition, group processes) with related fields (e.g., marketing).

*POSTER

Speaker



James Dunlea

Head of Behavioral Science | Healogix

Authors

Hallie Cope, Kate Evans

[108] Gender and Couple Socioeconomic Disadvantage: Men's Individual-Based Relative Deprivation Predicts Partners' Relationship Quality (But Not Their Own)

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Individual-based relative deprivation (IRD) is a subjective evaluation whereby an individual compares themselves to others and believes that they are at a disadvantage, leading to feelings of anger and resentment. Traditional gender roles prescribe men the role of provider, so men may be particularly likely to experience poorer well-being and relationship quality when they perceive that they are at a socioeconomic disadvantage. However, little is known regarding how IRD is associated with the quality of close relationships or partners' well-being. We employed an actor-partner interdependence framework to examine whether IRD and within-couple relative socioeconomic status (SES) predicts the well-being and relationship quality of both individuals and their partners in man-woman relationships ($N = 820$ couples). Greater IRD was negatively related to one's own well-being, and the actor effect was stronger for men than for women. IRD was not related to partners' well-being. Women reported poorer relationship quality when they reported greater IRD and when their partner reported greater IRD. No significant effects were found for the model that examined within-couple relative SES.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abby Person

Graduate Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Nickola Overall, Jeff Simpson

[109] Generative AI Helps Close Socioeconomic Status-Based Gap in Professional Networking

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Research shows individuals from lower SES backgrounds face significant disadvantages in career advancement, yet little research has looked at how emerging generative AI (GenAI) technologies may offer new pathways to address SES-based career disparities. This research examines whether GenAI can alleviate SES-based disparities in the effectiveness of email networking – a crucial, early-stage gateway to professional opportunities. In an online experiment and a field experiment (N = 1,201), participants wrote networking emails targeting professionals who currently hold their “dream job” either with or without the assistance of GenAI. We found that the networking emails written by lower (versus higher) SES participants are rated as less effective without the use of GenAI, but that with its use, this gap is significantly reduced. This research advances our understanding of SES-based barriers in early career stages while, importantly, demonstrating how accessible GenAI tools can potentially mitigate entrenched status-based inequalities in professional advancement opportunities, bringing them one step closer to their aspired professional careers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ruixi Zhu

PhD Student | Boston University

Authors

Evan Apfelbaum, Elizabeth Degefe

[110] Gratitude in Context: A Socioeconomic Lens on Gratitude in Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Positive interpersonal processes, like gratitude interactions, have been linked to a myriad of beneficial relationship outcomes (Algoe, 2019). Yet, despite emerging theory and research demonstrating that socioeconomic status influences relationships behaviors and outcomes (Karney, 2020), no research has examined the interplay between SES and positive relationship interactions. In this study, we used 13 waves of annual longitudinal and dyadic data to examine how SES predicted (a) perceptions, and (b) outcomes of gratitude in intimate relationships. Multilevel analyses demonstrated that greater objective SES predicted lower perceptions of gratitude, whereas subjective SES predicted greater perceptions of partner gratitude. Moreover, SES moderated the link between perceptions of gratitude and relationship outcomes, such that people lower in SES tended to report better outcomes when they perceived greater gratitude from their partner. We also found that stress mediated the link between SES and perceptions of gratitude. This study advances the literature by demonstrating that SES influences positive relationship interactions, in part due to the link between SES and stress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hailey Wooten

University of Texas, Austin

Authors

Brian Don

[111] Growing (Up) With Video Games: The Roles Video Games Play from Childhood to Adulthood

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT

Although prior research has examined video game play at specific life stages, little is known about how the roles of video games evolve across the life course. Understanding these dynamics offers valuable insights into the broader psychological, social, and cultural functions of games in players' lives. In this study, 29 video game players (aged 24–34) took part in in-depth autobiographical narrative interviews, reflecting on meaningful games and game-related memories across different life phases. Interviews were analyzed using Braun and Clarke's framework for inductive thematic analysis, which identified nine overarching roles of video games: as a social space for connection, a safe shelter from real-life struggles, a field of identity exploration, a playground of leisure, a sphere of autonomy, a landscape of meaningful experiences, a learning hub, an arena of mastery, and, at times, a dark realm linked to negative experiences. These roles varied in prominence across phases, demonstrating the dynamic multifaceted significance of video games over time. The findings provide new insights into how individuals integrate video games into their life stories, identities, and social lives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Imke Harbig

PhD student | University of Klagenfurt

[112] Healing the Present by Remembering the Past? Links between Romantic Nostalgia and Forgiveness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In two studies, we examined links between romantic nostalgia, unforgiveness (i.e., revenge and avoidance motivations), and relationship outcomes. In Study 1, undergraduate students who reported greater romantic nostalgia proneness reported lower revenge and avoidance motivations, greater affective attraction toward their partner, and greater relationship flourishing (i.e., goal sharing, personal growth, relationship giving, meaning). In Study 2, adults on Prolific recalled the most harmful offense they experienced by their current romantic partner. By random assignment, they then recalled either a romantic nostalgic or ordinary event with their current partner. Participants reported their revenge and avoidance motivations, affective attraction, and relationship flourishing. Participants who recalled a romantic nostalgic (vs. ordinary) event reported moderately lower revenge motivations, moderately higher affective attraction, and significantly higher relationship giving. No other differences emerged. Our results provide initial evidence that romantic nostalgia aids forgiveness. However, romantic nostalgia proneness may be more impactful than a state induction of romantic nostalgia.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chelsea Reid-Short

Associate Professor of Psychology | College of Charleston

Authors

Jamie Wirth, Francesca Gibson

[113] Hearts Online: Digital Communication Themes that Create Emotional Closeness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Communication is key in the emotional link partners feel (Floyd, 2006). This study explores Partner Responsiveness through digital communication, and we aim to identify online communication behaviors that make partners feel loved and valued (Reis et al., 2004). After collecting data, we will form themes identifying ways digital communication generates emotional closeness.

Subjects (61) were recruited via SONA, and accessed an online survey. They answered 6 questions exploring use of digital communication.

The thematic study, guided by Stage et al. (2024), ChatGPT and a manual analysis, identified six themes; two examples are Quality of Digital Communication (QDC), reflecting partner effort and Digital Engagement (DE), emphasizing frequency.

Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC; Boyd et al., 2022) was used for also. For example, the first question's data generated frequent word use for "day" (35%), "love" (27.5%), and "send" (20%), indicating core behaviors that maintain daily routines, connecting back to the themes.

Themes connected with literature emphasizing building intimacy. They capture ways partners connect online and build closeness from consistent and meaningful interactions that communicate love and care. Future directions include creating a scale to measure communication on these themes, exploring their application to individual differences and demographics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Dicke-Bohmann

Associate Professor | Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Authors

Sophia Salamanca, Ashlynn Galvan

[114] Communication is Key in the Digital Age: How Perceiving Digital Partner Responsiveness Shapes Relationship Satisfaction

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Communication is Key in the Digital Age: How Perceiving Digital Partner Responsiveness Shapes Relationship Satisfaction

Digital communication is central to how couples connect. Perceived Partner Responsiveness (PPR), the belief that one's partner notices, supports, and responds to what matters (Reis et al., 2004), creates closeness. This study extends PPR into the digital realm with Perceived Digital Partner Responsiveness (PDPR), capturing online responsiveness and its role in sustaining relationship satisfaction. We test whether PDPR predicts satisfaction and whether this relationship is moderated by the stage of the relationship (beginning vs. maintaining) and type (long-distance vs. geographically close). We hypothesize that PDPR will positively predict satisfaction, with stronger effects for early-stage and long-distance couples. Satisfaction will be measured with the RAS (Hendrick, 1988), and PPR with a 3-item scale (Rice et al., 2020) revised to differentiate in-person and digital contexts. Findings should show PDPR uniquely predicts relationship satisfaction and varies by relationship characteristics, highlighting the role of digital communication in emotional closeness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Salamanca

Texas A&M University - San Antonio

Authors

Amy Bohmann

[115] Heteronormative Definitions of Sex: The Roles of Androcentrism, Phallocentrism, and Objectification

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Heteronormativity is the presumption of cisheterosexuality that establishes two discrete, assigned-at-birth sexes which determine one's gender, and that prescribes the behaviors and roles permitted for women and men, including in the context of sexual intimacy. Under heteronormativity, "real" sex is narrowly defined as consisting of a man penetrating a woman's vagina with his penis. Empirical research has demonstrated that this definition of sex is widely adopted and reproduced both at the societal and interpersonal levels. We sought to investigate specific sub-ideologies of heteronormativity—androcentrism, phallocentrism, and sexual objectification—that might clarify the processes through which people determine what behaviors are seen as "real" sex and what behaviors are not. To accomplish this, we explored the extent to which participants defined a range of heteronormative and non-heteronormative behaviors as sex, and the ways in which proximity to heteronormativity (among targets and participants) might systematically influence those perceptions. Across three studies (total N = 1,337), participants defined phallocentric behaviors (involving a penis or phallus) and objectifying behaviors (involving a female "passive" partner) as sex to a greater extent compared to non-phallocentric and non-objectifying behaviors. Endorsement of objectification moderated this relationship, such that straight male participants high in appearance-based objectification gave lower ratings of sex to non-heteronormative behaviors. Implications and future directions are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brendan Fee

Doctoral Student | The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Authors

Thekla Morgenroth, Kira Means

[116] Holding On for Others: How Living Near Relatives Shapes Hoarding Behavior

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Hoarding has traditionally been conceptualized as a maladaptive disorder, characterized by excessive accumulation for selfish reasons. Yet this may overlook contexts in which hoarding functions as a strategy for others. Inclusive fitness theory suggests that behaviors enhancing the survival and reproduction of kin can be evolutionarily advantageous, encompassing not only an individual's direct reproductive success but also indirect fitness gained by supporting kin. Further, recent work on ecological relatedness—the prevalence of kin in one's immediate environment—has shown to shape trust within one's community and pro-group behavior, which may extend to hoarding as a way of retaining resources for their kin. In Study 1 (N = 197), people who live around more relatives are more likely to hoard for others. In Study 2 (N = 2,229), a cross-cultural study spanning 11 countries, this was the case for people who live around younger relatives, but not as often for older relatives. Together, these findings suggest that hoarding, often pathologized as dysfunctional, may serve a biologically adaptive function under certain contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Audrey Gaceta

Student | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Oliver Sng

[117] Hot Topics: Problematic Attributes of Couples' Conflict

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Research suggests that some distressed couples may face more difficult conflicts, rather than lacking problem-solving skills. Because it remains unclear why certain topics are perceived as most problematic, the current study identified attributes of difficult conflict topics. Cohabiting couples (N=220; Mage=24.85, SD=5.15) completed a 14-day diary for which they reported on daily conflicts and their perceptions of each. They responded to the prompt: "Please tell us what the disagreement or conflict was about," and rated each conflict's seriousness, resolvability, and the extent to which topics recur. Their open-ended conflict descriptions were coded using the 24 conflict topics from Sanford (2003), which were then aggregated into nine categories for data analysis. Multilevel dyadic modeling revealed that conflict topics of communication and inconsiderate behavior were less serious and more likely to be resolved. Conflicts about relationship instability were the most serious, whereas those addressing intimacy issues were most likely to be repeated without resolution. The findings indicate that difficult conflicts are those that are serious, repetitive, and unlikely to be resolved.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessica Frenkel

University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Siri Wilder, Sathvik Tamirisa, Aiswarya Atluri, Brandon Trans, Karen Prager

[118] How Consistent Friendlike Conversation with AI Companions Influences Our Attitudes and Perceptions Toward AI: An Exploratory Experiment

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Despite skepticism toward artificial intelligence (AI), conversational agents are increasingly integrated into daily life. Yet, little is known about whether consistent, socially oriented interactions with AI chatbots shape users' attitudes and psychological outcomes. In a within-subjects study, participants engaged in five days of either friendlike interactions with a personable AI chatbot or journaling control condition. Attitudes toward AI and perceptions such as trust, perceived empathy, animacy, anthropomorphism, likeability, perceived intelligence and safety, dependency, and exploratory indicators of well-being were assessed after each condition. Friendlike chatbot interactions significantly increased participants' perceptions of empathy and animacy, but did not alter global attitudes toward AI or other specific attitudinal outcomes. Participants reported higher self-esteem after journaling compared to after AI interaction. These findings suggest that friendly, humanlike conversations enhance perceptions of AI as empathic and lifelike, but decrease in self-esteem suggests potential trade-offs. This highlights the need for careful consideration of how chatbots are designed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jerlyn Ho

PhD Student | Singapore Management University

Authors

Andree Hartanto, Meilan Hu, Adalia Goh, Emma Pragasam

[119] How low will you go? Exploring settling for dealbreakers as a function of anticipated dissatisfaction and fear of being single

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Do romantic "dealbreakers" break deals? Despite stating that certain attributes would lead to rejecting a date, people do not always adhere to these criteria. Rather, some dealbreakers may be firm, while others flexible. This research will experimentally test whether settling by accepting dealbreakers is affected by anticipated dissatisfaction with the dealbreaker. Further, as stronger fear of being single predicts more settling, we expect the impact of anticipated dissatisfaction will be moderated by fear of being single. Single participants will report their fear of being single, then read scenarios depicting relationship development with a partner who ultimately presents with a dealbreaker participants believed would make them more vs less dissatisfied. Romantic interest and decisions to keep dating will be assessed. Those evaluating a dealbreaker anticipated to cause greater dissatisfaction will settle less than those considering a dealbreaker anticipated to cause less dissatisfaction. However, those with higher vs lower fear of being single will be more likely to settle in both cases. This work will inform why people may paradoxically enter into poor-quality relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephanie Fiedler

Doctoral Student | Wayne State University

Authors

Stephanie S Spielmann

[120] CANCELLED

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

*POSTER

[121] How Partner Qualities Are Associated with Inclusion of Other in the Self

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Inclusion of other in self (IOS) is the tendency for people to incorporate their relationship partners into their own identities. Prior work has demonstrated that IOS is associated with relationship outcomes such as satisfaction. Drawing upon the ideal standards model and related research suggesting that three core dimensions of partner qualities (e.g., warmth/trustworthiness, physical attractiveness/vitality, status/resources) can predict relationship outcomes, we sought to examine the extent to which these partner qualities may be associated with IOS. Using dyadic data from a study of 208 married individuals (comprising 104 couples), we tested the prediction that people who perceived their partners as higher (versus lower) in these partner qualities would report higher marital satisfaction that, in turn, would predict greater IOS. Results demonstrated that partner warmth/trustworthiness, but not partner physical attractiveness nor partner status/resources, was directly positively associated with IOS. As predicted, this association occurred through elevated marital satisfaction. Implications for close relationships theory and future research will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charley Daly

Student | University of South Florida

Authors

Juliana French, Mollie Londot

[122] How Underrepresented Racial Minority College Students Perceive University Responses to Federal anti-DEI Policies

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

In 2025, President Trump sought to eliminate DEI in education, with some universities dismantling their programs to avoid backlash and others maintaining DEI despite potential costs (e.g., federal funding cuts). This pre-registered experiment examined how college students of color (SOC) perceive various university responses to federal DEI mandates. Participants (N = 354) imagined themselves as students at a fictitious university planning to build a center for SOC on campus. Next, participants were told that, given federal DEI rollbacks, the university either (a) removed DEI by changing both the name and mission of the center to include all students, (b) strategically maintained DEI by keeping the center’s mission but changing its name, or (c) maintained the DEI initiative. As predicted, SOC perceived the university as a more authentic ally and anticipated more support and belonging there when they fully maintained DEI (vs. strategically maintained or removed). Unexpectedly, there were no condition differences in perceptions of allyship costs. These findings highlight SOC perspectives on DEI changes in higher ed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Caitlyn Yantis, Arthur Martin

[123] How Young Adults Perceive the Benefits and Harms of Porn in Japan, the USA, and Malaysia

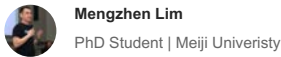
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Research has often highlighted the negative impacts of pornography. Yet, considering its widespread use globally, it is important to explore both potential harms and benefits. This study investigates how young adults in Japan, the United States, and Malaysia understand pornography, using the framework of social representation theory. Data were gathered from 978 individuals, comprising 399 males (40.8%) and 579 females (59.2%), with 25.7% from Japan, 33% from the USA, and 41.3% from Malaysia. The majority of participants were heterosexual university students. Using prototypical analysis, we identified the core representations characterized by the most frequently used words or phrases and those considered most important when describing the benefits and harms by respondents of each nationality. Results showed that for benefits, words such as satisfying desires, providing pleasure, offering relief, and contributing to education were most common, compared to harms such as spreading incorrect knowledge. We discuss the similarities and differences among the three countries. These findings provide insights into the social representations of pornography among young adults in these countries and offer important directions for future research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Rere Matsumoto, Jason Jiang, Lim Mengzhen

[124] I Don't Deserve This: Initial Development of a Romantic Outlook Circumplex

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic outlook can be conceptualized as the intersection of two domains: assurance, or expectations of positive or negative outcomes (Rosenbach & Johnson, 2024), and attribution, or the extent to which outcomes are credited to internal or external causes (Fabella & Aler, 2023). The present study introduces a circumplex measure designed to capture and examine the interplay between these two domains. Approximately 150 subjects will complete items concerning assurance and attribution of expected romantic outcomes. Item responses will be analyzed using principal components analysis within theoretically relevant item sets, with varimax rotation to aid interpretability. Items will be retained based on strong primary loadings, minimal cross-loadings, and consistency with the hypothesized circumplex geometry. This process will yield eight octants, each representing a distinct combination of assurance and attribution levels. The final circumplex model will be examined in relation to other measures, such as entitlement, self-efficacy, and life satisfaction, to clarify the content of the questionnaire and how romantic outlook relates to these constructs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Jennifer Ryan, Nicholas Ashenfelter, Wilkes Jones, Emani Seda, Wylie Dell'Olio

[125] I Like You, You Get Me: How Perceived Relationship Quality Shapes Accuracy and Bias in Empathy Judgments

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Being empathetic (and seen as such) aligns with perceiving one's relationships as high-quality. Across two studies, we examined whether relationship quality (RQ) shapes accuracy and bias in empathy judgments, as well as the sources of these judgments. In Study 1, we ran Truth & Bias models predicting bias in empathy judgments in friend dyads (NDyad=290). Empathy was underestimated ($b=-.17$, $p<.001$) and shaped by one's own empathy ($b=.24$, $p<.001$) and the target's empathy ($b=.22$, $p<.001$). Higher RQ was linked to higher empathy perceptions ($b=[.19-.41]$, $ps<.001$). In Study 2, we applied Social Relations Models to groups (N=189) of four friends (N=756) who rated each other on empathy and RQ. Empathy judgments were again shaped by one's own ($r=.32$, $p<.001$) and targets' empathy ($r=.19$, $p<.001$). Sources of empathy and RQ judgments mostly stemmed from unique relationship perceptions (62-66%), assimilation (20-27%), and consensus (7-18%). These judgments covaried, such that judging others as empathetic (and being seen as such) was associated with higher RQ. These results demonstrate a relationship-specific nature of empathy judgments and the role RQ plays in accuracy and bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aislinn Low
PhD Student | Michigan State University

Authors

William J. Chopik, Aislinn E. Low, Amalia Rosenblum, Maggie West

[126] I'm Ready if You Are: Self-Esteem Moderates Couples' Accuracy and Bias in Perceptions of Commitment Readiness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

When is it the "right time" to be in a relationship? Research has shown that perceptions of timing—how ready one feels for a committed relationship—could drive pro-relationship behaviors aimed at strengthening an existing relationship. Having positive perceptions of a partner's commitment readiness could then provide greater assurance about the relationship's future. Using the Truth and Bias model, we examined couples' accuracy and bias in perceiving each other's commitment readiness. Moreover, from a risk regulation perspective, individuals with higher self-esteem are more motivated to continually seek connection with their romantic partner. Hence, we also hypothesized that self-esteem could moderate truth and bias effects concerning a partner's commitment readiness. Findings revealed that while individuals tend to underestimate their partner's commitment readiness, they were still significantly accurate in their perceptions. They also projected their own commitment readiness onto the perceptions of their partner's. A significant interaction effect between own readiness and own self-esteem showed that this projection effect was stronger in individuals with higher self-esteem than those with lower self-esteem. Future directions and limitations in self and relationships research are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



YingJia Yang
PhD Candidate | Singapore Management University

Authors

YingJia Yang, Jennifer Nguyen, Kenneth Tan

[127] Implicit Avoidance of Attractive Alternatives: Relationship Identification and Implementation Intentions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Maintaining healthy relationships is critical to well-being, but the presence of attractive alternatives is a threat to romantic relationships. Thus, understanding how we maintain relationships when faced with attractive alternatives is crucial. This study investigated how relationship identification (RI) and implementation intentions (Imin) affect relationship maintenance when attractive alternatives are present. Participants (N = 186) in relationships completed the Manikin task, which measures approach/avoidance bias towards attractive alternatives through response times when moving a stick figure toward/away from images of various faces. Participants also completed a measure of RI and were instructed to set either an academic or a relationship-defending Imin. We hypothesized an interaction between RI and Imin, in that highly identified individuals who set a relationship-defending Imin would have a lower approach bias than others. Results supported this hypothesis ($p = .036$) and high relationship identification predicted less approach bias for attractive alternatives ($p = .03$). These results extend previous findings and have implications for romantic relationship maintenance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tamara Tobin
Student | McGill University

Authors

Katya Kredl, John Lydon, Natalie Co, Kimberly Drinkell, Marlee Brownstein

[128] Improving the reliability and validity of psychological science with computational modeling

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Theories of individual differences are foundational to psychological and brain sciences, yet they are traditionally developed and tested using superficial summaries of data (e.g., mean response times) that are disconnected from our otherwise rich conceptual theories of behavior. To resolve this theory–description gap, I present the generative modeling approach, which involves formally specifying how behavior is generated within individuals, and in turn how generative mechanisms vary across individuals. Generative modeling shifts focus away from descriptive statistical effects toward psychologically interpretable parameters, while simultaneously enhancing the reliability and validity of our measures. Simulations and empirical data from the Implicit Association Test and a variety of social and affective priming paradigms show that generative models yield (a) more theoretically informative parameters, and (b) higher test–retest reliability estimates relative to traditional approaches, illustrating their potential for enhancing theory development.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Peter Kvam**
Assistant Professor | Ohio State University

Authors

Peter Kvam, Nathaniel Haines

[129] Incidence of and Motivations for First-Name Whitening among Ethnic Minorities

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Incidence of and Motivations for First-Name Whitening among Ethnic Minorities

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Jungmin Lee**
Emory University

Authors

Melissa J. Williams

[130] Integrated Diversity Policies: Balancing Diversity Action and Perceived Fairness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

As resistance to diversity efforts grows, organizations committed to diversity confront a pressing dilemma: how to encourage their employees to engage in diversity action without stoking perceptions of unfairness. Whereas prior research has largely examined what diversity efforts organizations implement, we shift focus to how they are implemented via policies. Drawing on situational strength theory, we theorize how and why the strength of diversity policies shapes both whether individuals adopt diversity actions and whether they perceive such policies as fair. We first differentiate strong policies (high clarity, constraints, and consequences) from weak policies (low clarity, constraints, and consequences). We then introduce integrated policies—a theoretically novel construct characterized by high clarity, low constraint, and moderate consequences. Across three preregistered studies (N = 2,011) in distinct organizational contexts (hiring, training, and team formation), we find that integrated policies strike a balance: they are more effective at spurring adoption of diversity actions than weak policies, and are more effective at maintaining perceived fairness than strong policies. We further theorize and directly test that individuals' felt accountability and sense of autonomy mediated the effects of the strength of policies. This research offers important theoretical and practical implications for organizations seeking to promote diversity while navigating resistance.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Yue Wu**
Ph.D. Candidate | Boston University

Authors

Evan Apfelbaum, Yue Wu, Eileen Suh, Nancy Rothbard

[131] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

*POSTER

Authors

Riley Sohail, Tiffany Brannon

[132] Intersectional Harm and Healing: Stigma, Support, and Queer BIPOC Youth

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Introduction: Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans—sometimes referred to as Queer and Trans (QT)—minoritized youth face elevated risks of depression linked to intersectional discrimination and internalized stigma. Caregiver messaging of acceptance or rejection has the potential to worsen or mitigate these relationships. This study examines how discrimination relates to depression, whether internalized stigma mediates this link, and if caregiver messaging moderates these effects. Methods: Using the 2022 LGBTQ National Teen Survey, data on 1,229 intersectional QT-BIPOC youth (mean age of 15) were analyzed using two moderated mediation models. Results: No significant moderated mediation effects emerged. However, internalized stigma consistently mediated the link between discrimination and depression. Discussion: While neither moderated mediation model was significant, internalized stigma and caregiver messages may still play important roles in well-being. Future research should explore intersectional socialization and its impact on well-being for QT-BIPOC youth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sawyer Adams

Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant | Georgia State University

Authors

Sawyer Adams, Isha Metzger, Ryan Watson, Laura Salazar, Dominic Parro

[133] Intersectional minority stress and suicidal thoughts and behaviors among Black sexual and gender minority youth

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Black sexual and gender minority youth (SGMY) face significant disparities in suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Minority Stress Theory posits that minoritized social statuses increase experiences of discrimination, which may increase suicidality. Such experiences are further complicated for Black SGMY who hold multiple marginalized positions and experience intersectional minority stress. Little research has examined how Black SGMY experience intersectional minority stress and how these experiences impact suicidal thoughts and behaviors. In this phenomenological study, we explored experiences of intersectional minority stress and suicidality. We conducted in-depth interviews with 22 Black SGMY ages 16-24 in Milwaukee, WI. Through intersectional thematic analysis, we developed four themes: 1) the journey of self-acceptance; 2) familial rejection; 3) societal marginalization; and 4) suicidal thoughts as escape from oppression. Suicide prevention strategies for Black SGMY should incorporate culturally responsive and identity-affirming strategies. Peer-led support and community-based programming may be important avenues for affirming and protecting the lives of Black SGMY.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katherine Quinn

Associate Professor | Medical College of Wisconsin

Authors

Marin Schmitt, Broderick Pearson, Sara Kohlbeck

[134] Intersectionality and Psychology Education in Brazil: Gaps and Challenges in Public University Curricula

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Psychology, as a science and profession, is committed to recognizing the multiple experiences marked by intersectional oppressions, breaking away from traditional models that ignore differences. This action requires not only the transformation of professional practice but also a revision of how knowledge is produced and professionals are trained. This study aims to foster discussion on the need to transform Psychology curricula in Brazilian public universities, emphasizing social markers of gender, race, class, and sexuality, to break with the hegemonic epistemic framework still predominant in the field. The research involved a documentary analysis of 99 Curriculum Matrices (CM) from undergraduate Psychology programs across 66 public universities. A total of 74 CM and 3,221 syllabi were analyzed. Among these, only 211 (equivalent to 7%) included content that indicated discussions or bibliographic references on gender, race, or class. The information was organized with the support of IRaMuTeQ software, using Descending Hierarchical Classification (CHD). Two main classes were identified in the CM: (1) interdisciplinary, with emphasis on the presence of anthropology and sociology in discussions on culture, society, and ethnic-racial issues; (2) intradisciplinary, especially within the subfield of Social Psychology, subdivided into (2.1) themes articulating individual, society, violence, and human rights; and (2.2) reflections on the role of psychologists in public policies. The results reveal that Psychology training remains incipient regarding an anti-racist approach, with limited inclusion of feminist perspectives and a scarcity of content addressing Brazilian social inequalities. The study concludes with an urgent call for reforming political-pedagogical projects to include social markers and adopt intersectionality as a structuring axis in Psychology curriculum..

*POSTER

Speaker



Renata Veras

Professor | Universidade Federal da Bahia

Authors

Monica Jesus, Igor Felipe Benatti, Sheyla Cristine Fernandes, Sabrina Cunico

[135] Investigating the effect of message framing on public opinions and values towards Sustainable Festive Gifting at Lunar New Year

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Lunar New Year (LNY) gifting of new notes involves issuing approximately 100 million new notes annually. Most are used once before being returned to the Central Bank where notes exceeding demand are destroyed through incineration, generating substantial carbon emissions.

Behavioural research suggests effectiveness of loss-framed and social influence messages in promoting environmentally sustainable behaviours, though none have focused on LNY gifting. This study examines attitudes towards sustainable LNY gifting and whether loss-framed or social influence messages affect intentions and values driving such behaviours.

A randomised controlled trial ($n = 1,853$) assigned participants to three conditions: (i) control group (no

message), (ii) loss-framed message highlighting the destruction of excess notes by incineration (iii) social influence message emphasising that new notes are not important to most receivers of hongbaos.

Across groups most receivers had no strong preference for new notes. Older individuals preferred new notes while the digitally savvy were more likely to prefer Fit notes (Fit notes are used currency notes that are generally clean and of suitable quality for recirculation) and digital hongbaos (digitally transferred money gifts). PayNow users were less likely to prefer new notes and more inclined towards digital gifting.

Both intervention messages significantly reduced intent to gift new notes, with social influence messaging proving more effective. It reduced preference for new notes among youth receivers and achieved higher knowledge comprehension. However, messages alone may not overcome fundamental demand as around 2 in 5 still intend to use new notes.

Personal values analyses revealed that givers' preference for Fit notes was linked to "respecting the earth" while those preferring new notes valued "influence". Youth receivers who preferred new and Fit notes prioritised different values like "social power", suggesting targeted messages appealing to givers and receivers based on their values may be more effective than a one-size-fits-all approach.

*POSTER

Speaker



Carmen Lee

Organisation Development & Communications | Monetary Authority of Singapore

[136] Investigating the Effects of Attentional States On Sexual Arousal

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Mindfulness has been shown to enhance sexual desire and arousal in women, yet mindfulness as a cognitive strategy is not a panacea and can sometimes diminish arousal. This study examines the circumstances under which mindfulness can optimize or hinder arousal. We hypothesize that when women mindfully attend to their desire and arousal in a participatory way by immersing themselves in their bodily experience, arousal is enhanced. However, when women observe their bodily sensations from a detached perspective, they may engage in self-spectating, thereby decreasing arousal. In a within-subjects design, participants were explicitly trained to toggle between participatory, observatory, and neutral attentional states while viewing erotic clips. Participants self-reported their level of arousal after each trial. Analyses will be conducted using a within-subjects ANOVA. Results are expected to support our hypotheses and will have implications for understanding the conditions under which mindful cognitive strategies improve or diminish arousal.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Fadavi

Research Assistant | University of California, San Diego

Authors

Mairen Oates, Silvia Gregory Labarta, Janna Dickenson

[137] Is it possible to make attitudes towards immigration more positive?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Immigration was a major point of contention for voters in 2024, a record year for elections. We tested whether British attitudes towards immigration became more positive when participants were

exposed to a framed text. In the study ($n = 3067$), which used a sample sourced from YouGov that was representative for age, gender and politics, participants were exposed to a short text written to be compatible with moderate levels of what political psychologists call 'authoritarianism' that also incorporated factual arguments and an emotional appeal. We found that people exposed to this 400-word text as opposed to a control text or a low authoritarianism text felt they shared more values with a fictitious EU immigrant. Almost three quarters (73%) of them rated EU immigration as "slightly", "moderately" or "very good" for the UK, a figure 20 percentage points above the equivalent score for those exposed to the control (53%). There were also differences in overall immigration attitudes after reading the authoritarianism-compatible text relative to the control, but these were smaller, and did not differ significantly from the low authoritarianism text. These findings demonstrated that persuasion is possible on contentious issues like immigration, and were consistent with the idea that authoritarianism-compatible arguments might be particularly effective for culturally similar forms of immigration (such as EU immigration to the UK).

*POSTER

Speaker



Tessa Buchanan

Political Psychology lab | University Of Cambridge

Authors

Tessa Buchanan, David J. Young, James Ackland, Alan Renwick, Lee de-W

[138] It Ain't Over 'til It's Over: Ongoing Interdependence Between Former Romantic Partners Following a Breakup

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Though it may feel like a chasm has been created between former romantic partners following a breakup, ex-partners may still continue to impact one another—both directly and indirectly. To explore ongoing interdependence between ex-partners and associations with breakup adjustment, we conducted a prospective breakup study, surveying both members of dating couples longitudinally, and—upon breaking up—for a 28-day experience sampling study. With a focus on 150 individuals and 40 former couples over the month following their breakup, we assessed whether perceived and actual breakup recovery (e.g., emotional longing, distress) was similar between ex-partners and predicted changes in each other's recovery over time. Perceived and actual ex-partner breakup recovery significantly predicted one's own, and perceptions of an ex's recovery predicted day-to-day changes in one's own. Ongoing interdependence effects were relevant even among those who initiated the breakup and on days when there were no direct interactions with the ex. Results provide novel insights into the dyadic nature of breakup recovery and demonstrate that interdependence does not end when the official relationship does.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephanie Spielmann
Associate Professor | Wayne State University

Authors

Amanda Szczesniak

[139] Keeping score, feeling poor: Exchange orientation predicts lower relationship satisfaction through diminished gratitude

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Past research consistently shows that exchange orientation—the tendency to expect direct reciprocity in close relationships—predicts lower relationship well-being. However, less is known about why this transactional mindset, often grounded in seemingly reasonable ideals of fairness and balance, undermines relationship well-being. The present research examined gratitude and indebtedness as key emotional processes underlying the negative effects of exchange orientation. Across five studies (N = 1,997), reduced felt gratitude consistently mediated the association between higher exchange orientation and lower relationship satisfaction for both self and partner, emerging at both between- and within-person levels, cross-sectionally and longitudinally. By contrast, mediation via expressed gratitude was weaker and less consistent, and indebtedness generally failed to account for the link. These findings clarify why exchange orientation is detrimental, identifying erosion of gratitude as a key pathway whereby individuals may perceive benefits as running ledgers of obligations rather than spontaneous expressions of care and interdependence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Haeyoung Gideon Park
PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Amy Muise, Mustafa Anil Topal, Mariko L. Visserman, Emily A. Impett

[140] Knowledge to action: Investigating mixed-sex couples' ability to adapt their interpersonal sexual scripts to facilitate women's orgasm

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

The orgasm gap is a pressing close relationships and gender equity issue that affects women's lives in and outside of the bedroom. While research has clearly established that clitoral stimulation is key to women's orgasm, male partners may be unaware of or fail to sufficiently implement these clitorally-focused sex acts into the couple's sexual script. For the current project, we recruited mixed-sex couples (one cisgender man and one cisgender woman) from the Prolific platform and assessed the accuracy of men's knowledge of their female partner's most reliable route(s) to orgasm from a list of sex acts. We found that couples with more accurate knowledge of the female partner's most reliable route(s) to orgasm engaged in those specific sex acts more often, and for a longer duration. More frequent engagement in the female partner's most reliable routes to orgasm predicted more frequent orgasms. These results can be used to inform interventions for addressing the orgasm gap in mixed-sex relationships, through (1) facilitating sexual communication, (2) the translation of knowledge to action, and (3) the modification of sexual scripts within each relationship.

*POSTER

Speaker



Grace Wetzel
Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Indiana University

Authors

Diana T. Sanchez

[141] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

*POSTER

[142] Lesbophobia Through Pornography and the Patriarchy

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

This work investigated the relationship between pornography consumption and attitudes toward Queer women. Participants completed measures of hostile and benevolent sexism, anti-Lesbian attitudes, and pornography consumption. In the existing literature, there have been some attempts to study various impacts of pornography consumption. There have been other studies that explored the idea that beliefs behind the perpetration of sexual violence against Queer women can reinstate the perpetrator's masculinity (Bedera & Nordmeyer, 2020). Research has also shown that pornography of this nature is correlated with increased hostile sexist beliefs towards women and Rape Myth Acceptance from both men and women (Chapleau et al., 2007). The present study found that cisgender heterosexual men report consuming more pornography overall than women, non-Cis men, and non-hetero men. Although positive correlations were observed between pornography consumption and sexist attitudes, and between sexist and Lesbophobic attitudes, the hypothesized correlation between consumption of lesbian pornography and sexist and lesbophobic attitudes was not observed.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Samantha Graves**
Adjunct Professor/Research Assistant | Montclair State University

Authors

John Wilson

[143] Less Diverse Friendship Networks Predicts Greater Sense of Institutional Acceptance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Although close outgroup friends can greatly improve intergroup relations there is limited research examining how the racial diversity of a person's closest friends impacts intergroup outcomes, such as how accepted people feel. While intergroup contact historically focuses on outgroup attitudes and majority group members, we explore perceived acceptance that both racial majority and underrepresented racial minority members feel within a majority-populated university. In the current study we examined how the diversity of a person's friendship networks, calculated by assessing the ratio of ingroup friends a person has, impacts perceived fit at an institution and institutional support. We find that a greater ratio of racial ingroup friends is related to greater perceived fit at an institution and institutional support. This effect on perceived institutional support is greater for underrepresented racial minority individuals. We assess this both at one time point and longitudinally. Our research suggests that, especially for underrepresented racial minority group members, having less diverse friendship networks may help buffer against feelings of exclusion.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Ashley Berkebile-Weinberg**
PhD | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Priscilla Diaz-Gonzalez

[144] Linking Perceived Partner Emotion Regulation to Stress, Loneliness, and Perceived Support

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

How romantic partners regulate their emotions plays a critical role in shaping the relationship dynamic as well as the partner's well-being. While much existing research focuses on individuals' own emotion regulation, less is known about how perceptions of a partner's regulation influence personal well-being and relationship dynamics. The present study examines the effect of perceived partner emotion regulation, including the suppression of negative emotions and amplification of positive emotions, on stress, loneliness, and perceived partner support. In a 10-day daily experience survey focused on collecting individuals' experiences with their romantic partner and children, we test whether perceptions of partner suppression and amplification predict mental and relational outcomes (N=378). Using multilevel modeling, we will test our hypotheses that higher perceived partner suppression and higher perceived partner amplification will be associated with greater stress, greater loneliness, and lower perceived partner support. Findings will extend understanding of how emotion regulation in romantic partnerships shapes individual well-being and relational functioning.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Michelle Kang**
University of Rochester

Authors

Princeton X. Chee, Bonnie M. Le

[145] Listening to Crowdworkers: Comparison of Complaints in Japan and US

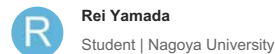
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Crowdsourcing is widely used in social science research, yet researchers often treat workers as 'data providers' rather than individuals with their own needs (Xia, 2023). Although Fowler et al. (2023) summarized worker frustration on MTurk through open-ended responses, it remains unclear whether these findings generalize to crowdsourcing workers in other cultural contexts. We addressed this gap by collecting complaints from Japanese crowdworkers and comparing them with those of MTurk workers using structural topic modeling. Low pay, repetitive tasks, and the use of attention checks were common sources of frustration in both samples. Notably, MTurk workers predominantly stressed interface issues (e.g., excessive radio buttons), whereas Japanese workers primarily emphasized comprehension issues (e.g., the use of technical terms, clarity of explanations). These findings suggest cultural differences in worker priorities: MTurk workers appear to value response efficiency, while Japanese workers are more concerned with task clarity. This highlights the importance of conducting 'worker-centered research' in a culturally sensitive manner.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rei Yamada
Student | Nagoya University

Authors

Tasuku Igarashi

[146] Longitudinal Examination of Parental Attachment Quality and Schema Formation

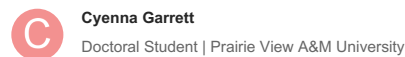
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This study examines the longitudinal effects of parental attachment quality on adolescents' internal emotionality and relationship outcomes. Drawing on attachment theory and schema theory, we argue that early parental warmth and security serve as foundational scaffolding for emotional regulation and relational competence. Insecure or hostile parenting styles are hypothesized to increase internal instability, reinforce maladaptive defense mechanisms, and impair subsequent romantic and friendship satisfaction. Using data from the Pathways to Desistance Study (N = 1,116 adolescents, ages 14–17), structural equation modeling was employed to test whether parental hostility (low warmth, high monitoring) predicts elevated emotional dysregulation and, in turn, greater relational volatility across adolescence. Findings are expected to highlight how early attachment disruptions shape adolescent social-emotional development and intimate relationships, with implications for prevention and intervention strategies targeting resilience and secure relational bonding.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cyenna Garrett
Doctoral Student | Prairie View A&M University

Authors

Cyenna Garrett, Hanaiya Hughes, Uche Chukwuemeka

[147] Lost in translation: Examining couple behavioral coding across language

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Observational research is considered the gold standard for studying couple communication, and is being increasingly applied to diverse couples. Yet, observational coding systems have received little methodological scrutiny for cross-context use. This study uses two samples of couples (Ns = 416 & 107 dyads) with multi-lingual data to test whether two coding systems demonstrate measurement invariance across English and Spanish-speaking couples. Study 1 strongly supported measurement invariance across languages for all codes, whereas Study 2 supported measurement invariance for positive codes, with evidence of language-based measurement nonequivalence in negative codes. However, in both studies associations between observed communication and relationship satisfaction did not differ by language. These findings question whether coding systems can capture behaviors in linguistically diverse samples without modification. As the field prioritizes inclusion, tools for coding couple behavior must be validated across languages and contexts to accurately capture couple communication in diverse populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniela Esquivel Cantu
Lab Manager | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Mikhila N. Wildey, Hannah Williamson

[148] Love Lost, Rival Found: Evolutionary vs. Social Explanations for Rebound Jealousy

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic relationship breakups and subsequent rebound relationships often evoke great distress, yet little is known about how gender and sexuality shape these reactions. To fill this gap, we will present 400 heterosexual, homosexual, and bisexual participants with "rebound" scenarios (i.e., a recent ex-partner quickly entering new relationship with a man or woman) and assess their anticipated affect (e.g., jealousy, distress), cognitions (e.g., replaceability, attributions), and behavioral intentions (e.g., contacting, monitoring). Competing theories offer divergent predictions. Evolutionary explanations emphasize intrasexual competition; men should feel more distressed when the rebound is another man whereas women should feel more distressed when the rebound is another woman, regardless of sexual orientation. Sociocultural explanations emphasize heteronormativity; because same-gender relationships are often viewed as less legitimate, gay men and lesbians may perceive more competition with other-gender rivals who offer normative advantages. This research highlights breakups as a unique context to test evolutionary and sociocultural theories of competition and relationship threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva Schillinger

Student | Florida State University

Authors

Sierra Peters, Jessie Poulter

[149] Love, Attitudes, and Motivation in Asexuality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Asexuality refers to a non-pathological lack of sexual attraction. Prior research has found asexuality to be associated with non-partner-orientated sexual desire and a need to negotiate intimacy with romantic partners, but little is known about the general attitudes asexual people hold about love and close relationships. In this study, we administered a series of questionnaires to 161 Prolific participants to examine the association between a continuous measure of asexuality (Asexuality Identification Scale; AIS) and several relationship and motivational measures. We found that asexuality was positively correlated with attachment avoidance, attachment anxiety, love partner worry, behavioral inhibition, love scarcity, and perceived availability of material resources. We also found that asexuality was negatively correlated with sociosexuality, behavioral activation, availability of psychological resources, and a growth mindset. These findings suggest that global motivational elements, such as behavioral inhibition, may explain the psychological processes through which asexuality impacts relationship attitudes (i.e., attachment avoidance) and outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlie Korolevskaia

PhD student | University of South Florida

Authors

Zipper Bakari, Anthony Coy, Morgan Cope

[150] Love, Sex, and Life Satisfaction: Intimate Relationships in Autistic Adults

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Healthy romantic relationships and sexual satisfaction are key contributors to well-being (Mitchell et al., 2021). While prior research showcases their importance in the general population, autistic adults remain underrepresented in this area and often face unique challenges in forming intimate relationships (Barnett & Maticka-Tyndale, 2015).

This study examined how relationship status, relationship satisfaction, and sexual pleasure relate to life satisfaction in autistic adults.

Recruited via crowdsourcing, a sample of 174 autistic adults (AQ ≥ 26) completed validated measures of these constructs. Partnered participants reported significantly higher life satisfaction than single participants ($d = 1.15$). Regression analysis further revealed that relationship satisfaction ($p < .001$), but not sexual pleasure ($p > .05$) significantly predicted 39.5% of variance in life satisfaction. Sexual pleasure did have a small positive correlation with life satisfaction on its own ($r = .29$).

These findings underscore the importance of supportive relationships and pleasure in the well-being of autistic adults and point to actionable targets for mental health promotion in this underserved population.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabriella Petruzzello

University of New Brunswick

Authors

Gabriella Petruzzello, Barbara D'Entremont

[151] Making Friends or Finding Partners? How Relational Mobility Reduces Preferences for Instrumental Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

As a newly emerging type of social relationship among Chinese youth, "partner-based socializing" (referred to as dazi in Chinese) focuses on domain-specific companionship and is characterized by instrumental features and goal orientation. This research examines whether relational mobility, as a positive social environmental resource, can effectively suppress individuals' preference for instrumental relationships. We also explore the mediating roles of exchange orientation and relational promotion focus.

Study 1 (N = 247), a correlational study, found that relational mobility was negatively associated with instrumental relationship preference, with exchange orientation partially mediating the effect. Study 2 (N = 143), an experimental study manipulating levels of relational mobility revealed a full mediation effect through emotional exchange orientation. Study 3 (N = 294) is another correlational study which identified promotion focus as a significant mediator. In order to confirm the causal relation of relational mobility and instrumental relationship preference, we did a lab-based experimental study4 (N = 169), again demonstrating the causal impact of relational mobility in reducing instrumental relationship preference, with promotion focus showing a full mediating effect.

This research provides preliminary evidence that relational mobility may reduce the instrumentalization of social ties in contemporary Chinese youth, offering new directions for addressing objectifying tendencies in goal-driven social behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jueying Wang

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Yang Zeng, Diandian Wang, Fang Wang

[152] Media Narrative Interventions and Barriers to Persuasion

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

This study examined whether immigration-themed video narratives could shift intergroup attitudes and policy support. Participants (N= 911) were presented with a randomized sequence of videos showing multiple immigration-related perspectives and policies, including: farmers' views on immigrant labor, presidential discourse on immigration, child separation policy, immigration legislation, narratives of the American dream, and accounts of U.S. military veterans facing deportation due to legal status. Following video exposure, participants completed structured survey measures and qualitative response tasks that were subsequently coded for analysis. Analyses showed that, contrary to expectations, most videos did not reliably change immigration attitudes across conditions. Results showed that while most narratives elicited empathy and cognitive engagement, two barriers to attitude change emerged: cognitive inflexibility (resistance to reconsidering pre-existing beliefs) and perceived source bias, which undermined message credibility. These findings suggest that narrative interventions designed for attitude change require complementary design elements, including perceived source neutrality, balanced perspective, and rich contextual framing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Opeyemi Adejo

Graduate Student | The University of Utah

Authors

Samatha Moore-Berg

[153] Men's Views of their Sexually Dimorphic Traits Were Associated with Dating Anxiety and Attachment Style

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

What it means to be masculine has taken a turn in the last decades. The threatened masculinity hypothesis proposes that changes in gender roles mean that men and women are no longer distinguished by breadwinner roles, which places stronger pressure on men to display other traits to be perceived as masculine. This shift has caused men to emphasize their sexually dimorphic and testosterone-linked traits as markers of masculinity. In parallel, sexual selection processes and cultural values foster women's interest in these traits in a romantic partner, putting more pressure on men to display them. We surveyed 435 men (mean age 29) via online panels. The survey included outcome measures of dating confidence, dating anxiety, and attachment style. We found that men's relative level of these traits, and their satisfaction with these traits, were predictors of these outcomes. Some factors, such as muscularity, facial masculinity, penis size, and deepness of voice were more consistently linked to these outcomes. These results emphasize how men's views of their traits may play an important role in their confidence in initiating flirtation, dates, and romantic relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nikoline Smart

Student | Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick, Tania Reynolds

[154] Meta-analyzing direction dependence analyses difference scores

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Direction Dependence Analysis (DDA) is a statistical technique used to extract causally diagnostic information from observational data. While DDA has been applied in various fields, most applications are limited to single studies. This project introduces a meta-analytic approach for combining DDA results across multiple studies to strengthen causal inferences. The method involves pooling difference scores from three DDA components: distributional characteristics of variables, residuals, and errors. Study 1 (N = 5,243) was an initial demonstration of the technique using a multi-study example from the published DDA literature, examining the relationship between authoritarianism, television watching preferences, and endorsement for a political candidate. Study 2 (N = 2,879) was a new application, investigating the relationship between jumping-to-conclusions bias and overconfidence. Results indicated that this new meta-analytic approach to DDA produces a more systematic and analytically robust method for synthesizing causal evidence from observational research, over and above interpreting individual test statistics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Hall

Graduate Student | Queen's University

Authors

Isaac Lindenberger, Mark Matthews, Jill Jacobson, David Hauser

[155] Minority stress, pain catastrophizing, and dyspareunia in sexual minorities

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Up to 75% of those assigned female at birth (AFAB) experience dyspareunia (sexual pain) in their lifetime. A disparity in dyspareunia exists between sexual minority and non-sexual minority women. Minority stress theory suggests that stressors experienced by members of minorities influence health outcomes, including pain. The present study aims to understand psychological factors involved in dyspareunia disparities for AFAB sexual minority individuals. Data were collected from 150 AFAB individuals (M_{age}=32.5, SD=10.4; 38% sexual minority; 54% White) via Prolific. Participants provided data on their past sexual pain experiences, stress, pain catastrophizing, and demographic data. Results indicate that sexual minorities experience more dyspareunia severity and frequency than non-sexual minorities. Two serial mediation models revealed that the greater pain frequency and severity experienced by sexual minorities was explained by higher stress and pain catastrophizing. This study supports existing evidence that minority stress influences pain outcomes, and adds new evidence that psychological factors (e.g., pain catastrophizing) contribute to dyspareunia disparities in sexual minorities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Camila Fontes

Illinois State University

Authors

John Matkovic, Kelly S. Clemens

[156] Modern-day relationships: Cyber and in-person partner aggression as predictors of individual and relational distress

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Social psychological research on interpersonal harm has highlighted the danger of psychological over physical mistreatment. Today, research on harmful relationships confronts the pervasiveness of cyber partner aggression (CPA). The few existing studies on CPA examine demographic issues using concurrent data, which are anchored by frequency recall and obscure causal direction. This research utilizes a daily diary model to test within-person lagged associations, predicting increased distress on days that people experience CPA. College students (N=180) completed 12 daily diary surveys assessing cyber and in-person aggression experiences, individual distress, and relational distress. Consistent with hypotheses, multilevel modeling revealed that individuals with higher CPA across the diary period had elevated levels of distress (between-person effect). Also, individuals who reported in-person aggression had higher same-day distress (within-person). Contrary to predictions, neither form of aggression had next-day effects on distress. Thus, in-person aggression may be linked to daily distress, whereas CPA, although predictive of distress over time, may be less sensitive to day-to-day variation. Cyber aggression is a relatively new form of aggression that is critical to understanding how people mistreat each other and can have key outcomes in relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Florkiewicz

Graduate Student | Purdue University

Authors

Yiwen Gu, Sydney Varnak, Ximena Arriaga

[157] Moral Perspective-Taking Can Reduce Polarization Around Climate Policy

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Polarization is a barrier to the large-scale collective action urgently needed to address the climate crisis. Moral perspective-taking (MPT) combines counter-attitudinal argument generation with moral framing as a strategy for reducing polarization. Across four online studies, we experimentally tested the efficacy of MPT for depolarization around divisive climate-related topics (transition from fossil fuels, fracking bans). We found consistent evidence that MPT can help moderate views on a divisive environmental topic, thus helping to decrease polarization. All four studies found significant effects of MPT on policy support. Further, Studies 1 and 2 found that the intervention increased empathy for people with opposing views and Studies 3 and 4 found it decreased resistance to opinion change and influenced willingness to take action on the issue. Our findings suggest that MPT can be used as a flexible tool to reduce polarization that is scalable and adaptable across multiple contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristin Hurst

Assistant Professor | Southern Illinois University

Authors

Zachary Hurst

[158] Moralization of Partner Preferences Predicts Gaps between Self-Reported and Stereotyped Preferences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Partner selection research has often focused on what people are attracted to, but little research has examined how people perceive others' preferences and whether these perceptions influence partner selection. Our prior work [masked for peer review] identified attraction stereotypes—identity-based beliefs about others' partner preferences—based on gender and sexuality. This extension of our research compares self-reported preferences to attraction stereotypes. Study 1 participants (N = 737) provided both self-reported partner preferences and attraction stereotype ratings for 10 traits. The results of this study revealed self-stereotype rating gaps that appear to be a function of whether these traits are moralized as good (e.g., prioritizing values or personality) or bad (e.g., prioritizing physical beauty). Study 2 (N = 50) will measure the extent to which these 10 traits are negatively or positively moralized; these scores will be integrated post-hoc with the Study 1 data. Study 3 (N = 300) will combine Study 1 and Study 2 in a preregistered test of whether individuals' moralization of partner preferences predicts their own self-stereotype gap.

*POSTER

Speaker



Krista Quinn

MA Candidate | University of Waterloo

Authors

Neil Hester, Krista Quinn

[159] My Virtual Boyfriend: Virtual Intimacy and Attachment in Dating-Simulation Games

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Dating-simulation games, where players engage in romantic interactions with game characters, have recently become popular in China, and are regarded by many young players as substitutes for real-life romance. Yet little is known about this emerging virtual relationship, how it reflects attachment processes, and how it relates to traditional close relationships. Guided by Bowlby's attachment theory, this study investigates such bonds through two questions. First, is attachment to game characters associated with players' attachments to real-life romantic partners? Second, how do these attachments extend beyond the game into real life? We will recruit Chinese-speaking adults with experience in dating-simulation games. Participants will complete adapted measures of the ECR scale for both real and virtual partners, along with survey items on perceived realism and out-of-game relational behaviors. We expect positive associations between real and virtual attachments, with anxious and avoidant tendencies shaping how players blur or maintain boundaries between virtuality and reality. Findings will extend attachment theory into digital contexts and provide insights into how virtual intimacy reshapes understandings of close relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wenlan Pan

Undergraduate student | Johns Hopkins University

Authors

Dylan Selterman

[160] Navigating Situationships: Mental Health Impacts on College Students

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Situationship is a type of relationship involving emotional intimacy and physical connection without clear commitment or labels associated with more conventional relationships (Langlais et al., 2024). This exploratory study aims to investigate how situationships impact the well-being of college students. Participants were college students who completed a questionnaire on well-being and mental health. Those in a situationship answered questions about relationship quality. Those with past experiences completed questions about breakup distress. Data collection is ongoing. Sixty-eight college students completed this study. Among participants who were previously in situationships, those who experienced higher breakup distress scored higher on depression ($r = .51, p < .001$) and anxiety ($r = .33, p = .03$). They scored lower on life satisfaction ($r = -.37, p = .01$). We are currently collecting similar data among participants who were never involved in situationships to compare their mental health outcomes with those who had situationship experience. This study may encourage counselors to provide mental health support for those involved in such relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lijing Ma
Visiting Assistant Professor | College of the Holy Cross

Authors

Emily Gaudet, Caroline Grasso, Caelum Lam, Yanyu Shi

[161] Networks of Care: How Chosen Family Protects Against the Costs of Identity-Based Adversity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Adverse experiences can harm well-being. LGBTQ-identifying individuals are especially likely to experience identity-based adversity (e.g., stigma and discrimination), which can harm mental health, self-esteem, and feelings of belonging. Social networks can serve as a critical source of support to help individuals navigate difficult experiences. For LGBTQ-identifying individuals, who are at risk of estrangement from their family of origin, chosen family (i.e., voluntary kinship networks formed irrespective of biological or legal ties) may be a critical source of support. In this exploratory study, we will pursue two lines of inquiry. First, we will examine how identity-based adversity affects well-being (e.g., mental health, self-esteem) and social network outcomes (e.g., number of chosen family members and perceived support) for LGBTQ-identifying individuals. Second, we will explore the role social networks play in moderating the links between adversity and well-being outcomes. Findings will advance our understanding of the relational contexts that promote well-being among LGBTQ-identifying individuals who experience identity-based adversity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Colten Harper
Research Specialist | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey

[162] No Shelter from the Hurricane: Perceived Event Severity as a Moderator of the Link Between Relationship-Contingent Self-Esteem, Negative Affect, and Self-Esteem

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Relationship-contingent self-esteem - the extent to which a person derives self-esteem from their close relationships - can strain relationships during their turbulent moments, as people with high RCSE often experience greater negative affect and lowered self-esteem by viewing relationship problems through the self (Knee et al., 2008). The current study aims to expand on the topic by suggesting that the severity of a negative relationship event accompanies event valence in amplifying the momentary affective and self-esteem responses of those with high RCSE. 350 participants are involved in a study in which they document their momentary self-esteem and affective responses to a recent negative relationship event. I propose three hypotheses regarding participants' reactions: (1) RCSE will have a negative main effect correlation with self-esteem, (2) negative affect will mediate the negative association between RCSE and self-esteem, and (3) event severity will moderate the association between RCSE and negative affect, such that the indirect effect of RCSE on self-esteem is greater for high-severity vents relative to low-severity events.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacob Dapp
Ph.D. Student | Florida Atlantic University

Authors

Amy Canevello

[163] Of One Mind? Testing Mind-Perception Items for Identity-Relevant Measurement Invariance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Mind perception (MP) refers to ascribing mental and emotional capacities to characters (Gray et al., 2007). Much of MP research does not consider identity; intergroup psychology implies identity may influence MP without explicitly testing this (Hester & Gray, 2020). We study whether participants view items measuring MP similarly regardless of characters' and their own identities by testing MP items for measurement invariance (MI), expecting items to be noninvariant. In Study 1, 366 Black and White participants ascribed MP to characters varied by race, gender and social class. As predicted, items were noninvariant in 14/16 MI tests, meaning participants viewed identical items differently by their own race and characters' identities. In Study 2, 319 Black participants ascribed MP to characters varied by race and gender; items were noninvariant in 3/4 MI tests. That items were noninvariant in 17/20 MI tests suggests identity shapes how participants view MP items. Patterns in the noninvariance align with work on intersectional stereotyping and White male societal defaults. We offer strategies to improve MP items' psychometric properties to make them representative of a diverse society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jailekha Zutshi

PhD Candidate | Tufts University

Authors

Sara Johnson, Jessica Remedios

[164] Older Adults' Propensity for Community: Effects of Closeness on Positivity Resonance and Communal Strength

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Intro: Social interactions can be categorized as strong (someone that one is close to; e.g., a family member), weak (someone with whom one has little interaction; e.g., an acquaintance), and no tie (someone with whom one has had no interaction; e.g., a stranger). This study explored the effect of tie strength on positivity resonance (the feeling of mutual warmth and connection with another) for younger and older adults.

Method: In a mixed 2 (age: younger, older) x 3 (tie: strong, weak, no) design, participants wrote about interactions fitting each tie and rated the positivity resonance that they experienced.

Results: Multilevel regression tested the effects of tie and age on levels of positivity resonance. There was an interaction between tie and age, $F(1, 469) = 1.38, p = .048, \eta^2 = .002$. This interaction revealed no difference between younger and older adults in positivity resonance for strong tie interactions, but older adults recalled more positivity resonance for weak and no tie interactions.

Discussion: Older adults' high positivity resonance may be driven by a tendency to experience positivity resonance with weak and no tie interactions more often than younger adults.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydni Adams

Operations Data Audit and Analysis Intern | Kesem

Authors

Jackelyn Castaneda, Joseph Mikels

[165] Online Humiliation and Coercion Predict Adolescent and Sexual Abuse Beyond Personality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Maladaptive personality traits and technology-facilitated abuse predict sexual abuse perpetration (SAP). This study examined their relative importance in adolescent romantic relationships. Participants ($n=143$; ages 18-25; $m=18.99$ years) reported online abuse behaviors (humiliation, monitoring, sexual coercion, threats; Technology-Facilitated Abuse in Relationships Scale; Brown & Hegarty, 2021) and SAP (forced sex, unwanted touching, threats of sex; Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory; CADRI; Wolfe et al., 2001) that occurred during an adolescent relationship (ages 15-17). Maladaptive traits (Personality Inventory for DSM-5-Brief Form; PID-5-BF; Krueger et al., 2013) were also measured. 21% of the sample was gender non-conforming; participants were mostly white (68.3%) and heterosexual (51%). Key maladaptive traits and scales of the TAR were entered into a regression predicting SAP. While the predicted association between sexual coercion and SAP emerged ($\beta=.43, p<.001$), humiliation was a stronger predictor ($\beta=.50, p<.001$); they both outperformed the PID-5 scales. The tight connections between online abuse and SAP suggest refining intervention targets in this area.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katelynn Frederick

Clinical Psychology Master's Student | Cleveland State University

Authors

Kathleen Reardon, Ashleen Pinto

[166] Overexposed: Correlates of Unsolicited Nude Sending

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

The present research will examine the variables of unsolicited explicit media sending by electronic means within the population of male college students. In Study 1, a sample of 84 college students (male and female) completed a survey assessing the frequency of sending and receiving unsolicited explicit images. Results found that 76.2% of students reported sending explicit media overall, while 85.7% had reported receiving explicit images of those who reported receiving explicit images, 90% reported having received images without having requested them. Study 2 aims to build upon Study 1 by exploring unsolicited nude sending amongst male college students, including recipients, justifications, and mediums of sending. Study 2 will specifically examine the relationship between unsolicited explicit image sharing, pomography consumption, rape proclivity, friendship quality, and overall sexual attitudes. Findings will help us better understand explicit unsolicited nude sending behaviors and its related psychological factors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Canyon Damon

Authors

Eyad Naseralla

[167] Parasocial Friendships and Psychological Outcomes: Trait and Momentary Associations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Social relationships are essential for well-being and friendships are among our most influential social relationships. Friendships are linked to greater life satisfaction, mood, and meaning in life, as well as lower perceived stress and loneliness. In addition to real-life friendships (RF), people form friendships with public figures. These parasocial friendships (PF) are one-sided emotional bonds between a viewer and a media figure. With the rise of digital engagement, an estimated 51% of Americans report having a PF. However, it remains unclear whether PFs confer similar psychological benefits as RFs. We used an experience sampling method design (N=94) to examine trait and momentary associations between PFs and psychological outcomes. Baseline survey results indicated that stronger connections with PFs were associated with a more negative psychological profile– higher stress and loneliness, and lower meaning in life and subjective well-being. However, at the momentary level, recent engagement with a PF was associated with higher state feelings of meaning in life and subjective well-being, suggesting that engaging with PFs may relate to some momentary psychological benefits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elif Ulutas

Graduate student | Rutgers University

Authors

Samantha Heintzelman

[168] Parents vs. Robots: Experimental Comparison of LLM-Generated and Parent-Generated Romantic Relationship Advice for Adolescents

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Who gives better dating advice to teens: moms or LLMs? While parents possess intimate knowledge of their child's characteristics and family context, their counsel may be limited by generational differences. LLMs lack personal context but could potentially draw from vast amounts of relationship research and, when fine-tuned, provide evidence-based rather than anecdotal advice. Here we report the first preregistered, randomized, within-person experiment (N=400, ages 13-17) comparing parent vs. LLM relationship advice. Teens read three dating conflicts and rated advice from parents, off-the-shelf LLMs, or fine-tuned LLMs on coping help, implementation likelihood, and trustworthiness. Analyses with Bayesian random-intercept modeling found that LLMs outperformed parents by 0.17-0.25 SD (all $pr[ATE>0]>.90$). Order effects also emerged: generic LLMs led when shown first; fine-tuned LLMs were preferred when shown after direct comparisons. Trust gains were largest among teens without dating experience, suggesting AI advice feels safer than potentially outdated parental perspectives when navigating unfamiliar romantic situations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elle Liemandt

Authors

David Yeager, Meghann Johnson, Megan Smith

[169] Pathogen Sensitivity Predicts Minimum Standards for Romantic & Sexual Partner Health

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Ecological contexts have long influenced romantic and sexual partner choice, such that specific partner traits may be especially valued in contexts where they help to mitigate or solve a salient adaptive problem. The current research examined how the adaptive problem posed by pathogens shapes people's preference for health when selecting the minimum standards required for partner preferences. We hypothesized that people who report high vulnerability (infectability, sickness history) and sensitivity to pathogens (germ aversion, disgust, current pathogen threat) would emphasize health when selecting potential romantic and sexual partners. Participants reported their minimum standards and desire for 9 different partner traits (including health) when choosing a mate, followed by self-report measures of pathogen vulnerability and sensitivity. While results did not support the notion that vulnerability to infection is related to increased desire for healthy partners, they did reveal a positive relationship between pathogen sensitivity and partner health. Further, there was a main effect of pathogen sensitivity, such that highly sensitive people were exacting in their preferences for a variety of partner traits beyond health. Results highlight the importance of pathogen sensitivity in shaping trade offs within partner choices.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Daniel Lindberg**
Graduate Student | Rochester Institute of Technology

Authors

Marjorie Prokosch, Damian Murray, James Moran

[170] Pathogens, Purity, and Prejudice: The Influence of Two Domains of Disgust on Australian Attitudes Toward Immigrants and Immigration

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

This poster examines the effects of pathogen and moral disgust from Tybur et al's (2009) Three Domain Disgust Scale (TDDS) on Australian attitudes toward immigrants and immigration. The study was conducted via an online survey using a representative sample of the general Australian population (n = 1,200). Similar to prior research on the influence of disgust, respondents high in pathogen disgust were consequently low in immigration support. Alternatively, higher moral disgust predicted more supportive attitudes towards immigration—findings divergent from much of the previous literature. Demographic covariables like age, education level, and ideology predicted immigration support in expected directions. The novelty of the moral disgust findings prompts a call for further disgust-related research in Australia.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Harrison Read**
Student | Tulane University

Authors

Timothy Gravelle

[171] Paws to Pillows: Daily Pet Engagement as a Predictor of Sleep Outcomes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Findings from human-animal interaction literatures have been often mixed, making it difficult to make a clear conclusion on the effect of pets on humans. Given that more than half of people around the world identify as pet owners, more research is needed to understand the interaction between humans and pets. The present study used a 14-day dataset collected through the ecological momentary assessments (EMA) to examine whether interaction with a pet yesterday predicts sleep quality today. The results showed that spending time with a pet positively predicts sleep quality today, suggesting a potential benefit of interacting with a pet on the sleep of people who interact with a pet. The discussion focuses on the importance of studying the effect of pets on the health of people who interact with them instead of just focusing on pet ownership status.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Esther Song**
PhD Candidate | University of Houston

Authors

Jaye Derrick

[172] Perceived Demographics in Diversity Training

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Diversity training can take a bridge-building approach, to connect across racial groups, or a disrupting approach that advocates for systemic change. However, it is unclear who people expect to take a bridging versus disrupting approach to diversity. In three studies, White participants were shown a target's workplace self-evaluation form and asked to report their perceptions of the person's demographics based on this information. Participants were randomly assigned to conditions where the target strongly agrees or disagrees with bridging or disrupting approaches. In Study 1, participants perceived a high bridging target as more likely to be Black, Multiracial, a woman, liberal, and younger than a low bridging target. In Study 2, participants perceived a high disruptive target as more likely to be Black, Multiracial, a woman, liberal, and younger than a low disruptive target. In Study 3, participants perceived a highly disruptive target as more likely to be Black and liberal than the high bridging target. This implies certain approaches to diversity work may be more strongly associated with specific demographic traits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jack Backus

Student | Northeastern University

Authors

Analia Albuja, Leigh Wilton

[173] Perceived Goal Sharing with a Romantic Partner and Goal Pursuit

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Goal pursuit shapes human behavior, and romantic partners influence their partner's goal progress (Feeney and Collins, 2015; Fitzsimons, Finkel & Vandellen, 2015). Sharing goals with a partner could enhance goal-pursuit processes, thus, we hypothesized that perceiving goal as shared with the partner would decrease ambivalence towards the goal, and increase goal commitment, effort, importance, and satisfaction with goal progress. 73 couples (N =146) listed 5 personal goals and rated them on various characteristics. Perceived sharedness was not associated with goal pursuit processes. Instead, what mattered was whether the goal was a relationship versus an individual goal. Relationship goals were rated as higher in commitment, effort, importance, and progress compared to individual goals, regardless of whether they were perceived as shared or not. These findings suggest that perceptions of sharing a goal with a romantic partner are not associated with goal processes, but relationship goals hold a unique status among people's set of goals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laramie Martinez

Graduate Student | Kent State University

Authors

Judith Gere

[174] Perceived Impact on Partner's Goals: Accuracy, Bias, and Relationship Outcomes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

People often aim to help—or at least not hinder—their partner's goal pursuits, but this ability is dependent on being able to perceive how one is impacting the partner's goal pursuits. We examined accuracy and bias in perceptions of one's instrumentality to and obstruction of daily partner goal pursuit, and associations of mean-level bias with daily relationship outcomes. Daily reports (N = 2,377) from cohabiting couples (N = 106 couples), using multilevel path models, indicated that perceptions of own instrumentality to and obstruction of partner goals contain tracking accuracy and projection and partners were similar in instrumentality and obstruction. Perceptions of goal instrumentality showed mean-level accuracy, but people underestimated their obstruction of partner goals. Underestimation of obstruction was associated with lower closeness for both perceiver and partner and lower relationship satisfaction for the partner. Overestimation of instrumentality was associated with lower relationship satisfaction for both perceiver and partner and lower closeness for the partner. Our results indicate that maintaining overly positive self-perceptions may be costly for the relationship.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Connard

Ph.D. Student | Kent State University

Authors

Judith Gere, Jenna Kilian

[175] Perceived Parental Conflict as a Predictor of Relationship Conflict Narratives

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Much research connects an individual's relationship with their parents in childhood to their adult relationships. Familial relationship patterns can predict or even directly influence constructs like adult relationship satisfaction and conflict behaviors. Narrative accounts of romantic conflict (i.e., stories that individuals tell about conflict between themselves and a romantic partner) are a rich but often underutilized source of information in exploring these phenomena. For example, how might a child's perceptions of parental conflict inform their future relationship conflict narratives? In order to answer this question, we will examine relationship narratives sourced from The CouPers Study (Couples and Personality), a longitudinal study of Swiss and German couples (with a final wave of N = 549 couples). We will examine individuals' own perceptions of intraparental conflict in order to determine if they are predictive of conflict characterizations within adult relationships. The results of this study may provide us with tools to identify predictors of high conflict relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mariah Purol

Assistant Professor | Union College

Authors

Labiba Hussain, Jasmine Lowney, William Perkins

[176] Perceived Political Misalignment and Group Conformity: The Role of Identity Fusion on Polarizing Beliefs

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

People tend to conform to ingroup attitudes for fear of ostracism should they not. Yet not all group identities are as central to one's sense of self, as social groups differ in the extent to which they are "fused" to one's self-identity. Meaning, conformity pressures may be higher for a highly fused group identity. The current research tests this idea by indexing whether conformity resulting from perceiving one's political attitudes to be out of step with their political ingroup varies as a function of identity fusion. Participants were informed that their political attitudes (a) differed from their political in-group's and (b) that those attitudes were central versus peripheral to the group's identity. Responses to the Social and Economic Conservatism Scale were measured pre and post manipulation. Analyses showed a positive relationship between fusion to a political party and shift in one's attitude toward the ostensible group norm. This effect was not moderated by political party. Nor was there an effect of group attitude- centrality. In essence, when people felt out of step with their political ingroup, higher fusion led to increased polarization across party lines.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria Gulesserian

Graduate Student | Florida State University

Authors

David March

[177] Perceived Threats of DEI: Demystifying White American Opposition

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Prior research has demonstrated that there is variation in dominant groups' motivation to resist diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives (Gündemir, et al., 2024). We analyzed one type of motivation: how White Americans perceive different kinds of threats when engaging with DEI initiatives: resource threat (lost opportunities), symbolic threat (cultural change), and ingroup morality threat (moral condemnation of ingroup; Iyer, 2022). In an experiment (N=217), we exposed White American participants to narratives about either of the three threat and tested their support for DEI initiatives. We also tested the role of system-justifying beliefs (SJBs) and white racial identification in moderating those patterns. While we did not find an effect of the experimental manipulation, SJBs and white identification were negatively associated with support for DEI initiatives, especially those that were perceived to undermine meritocracy. Exploratory analyses revealed that higher subjective socioeconomic status was positively associated with DEI support. Findings suggest DEI resistance stems from ideological and identity-based concerns, that interact with perceived status in society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lev O'Connor
Undergraduate | University of Kansas

Authors

Syed Muhammad Omar, Ludwin Molina

[178] Perceptions of Japanese Companies' Diversity Narratives

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Responding to both foreign and domestic institutional pressures, Japanese companies have been trying to increase workplace diversity by highlighting two types of diversity narratives. First, demographic diversity highlights differences in demographic characteristics (e.g., race, gender, and nationality). This type of diversity is more aligned with prototypical diversity statements in Western contexts. In contrast, workstyle diversity narratives highlight accommodations for childcare and flexibility, amidst the declining birthrate in Japan and movement to promote work-life balance. In a between-subjects study (N = 904), we studied how Japanese participants respond to these two diversity narratives when presented independently and when combined. Results showed that participants had significantly higher levels of anticipated sense of belonging, trust, and value alignment with companies when they promoted workstyle diversity than demographic diversity or the combination of demographic and workstyle diversity. This suggests that Japanese companies would benefit from emphasizing workstyle diversity rather than demographic diversity narratives that are often used in Western contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yumeka Hirayama
Ph.D. Student | Northwestern University - Kellogg School of Management

Authors

Maryam Kouchaki

[179] Perceptions of Other Generations Predict Life Satisfaction and Social Support

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT

Prejudice harms not only its targets but also those who hold it. Yet this phenomenon remains understudied in the context of ageism, one of the most pervasive but overlooked forms of discrimination. In increasingly age-diverse societies, perceptions of one's own and other generations may shape social interactions and well-being. 106 younger adults and 96 older adults rated both younger and older generations on positive (e.g., warm, competent) and negative (e.g., irritable, lonely) traits. More positive and less negative perceptions of other generations were positively associated with both life satisfaction and perceived socioemotional support. In contrast, when rating one's own generation, only positive (but not negative) views predicted greater life satisfaction, and neither predicted socioemotional support. These patterns held across age groups. Findings suggest that well-being is more closely tied to how people view other generations than to how they view their own. In an era of growing age diversity and widespread mental health concerns, fostering positive intergenerational perceptions may improve individual well-being and help build a more connected, inclusive society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mirabai Winter
Student Researcher | Stanford University

Authors

Laura Carstensen, Enna Chen, Katherine Whitman

[180] Positive Emotional Expression and Well-Being in Romantic Relationships: A Cross-Cultural Study in Turkey and the United States

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This study examined the moderating role of culture in the link between positive emotional expression (love, gratitude, and admiration) toward romantic partners and two key outcomes: relationship quality and psychological well-being. Data were collected from adult participants who had been in a committed romantic relationship for at least six months in Turkey and the United States. Results indicated that the link between positive emotional expression and relationship quality was stronger in the Turkish sample compared to the U.S. sample. However, this cross-cultural moderation effect became nonsignificant after controlling for age, which may be partly explained by the relatively younger average age of Turkish participants compared to their American counterparts. To further investigate, we conducted separate analyses within each country, testing age as a moderator. In Turkey, age significantly moderated the association between positive emotional expression and relationship satisfaction: positive emotional expression predicted higher satisfaction only among younger adults. By contrast, no significant age moderation was observed in the U.S. sample. We then extended the analyses to psychological well-being. At the overall level, no significant moderating effect of country was found. Yet, when separate models were run by country, age again emerged as a significant moderator in Turkey, such that the positive effect of emotional expression on psychological well-being was evident only among younger individuals. In the U.S., age did not play a moderating role. These findings highlight the importance of considering both cultural context and developmental stage when examining the socioemotional correlates of relationship outcomes and well-being. The results suggest that in Turkey, the benefits of positive emotional expression for relationship quality and well-being may diminish with age, whereas in the U.S., the associations remain relatively stable across age groups. Taken together, the study underscores the need to incorporate age-related and cultural factors into intervention efforts aimed at enhancing personal and relational well-being through the encouragement of positive emotional expression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erin Wang
University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Authors

Cansu Yilmaz, Amie M. Gordon

[181] Post-hoc Multiverse Analysis: A Method for Addressing Cherry-Picking Concerns in Large-Scale Secondary Dataset Research

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

The analysis of large-scale secondary data research based in resources such as the World Values Survey and the General Social Survey that contain hundreds of plausible indicators, carries an inherent risk of selective reporting. We introduce a post-hoc multiverse protocol that benchmarks reported effects against unreported but available alternatives. Using exploratory graph analysis, the method clusters variables into focal variables (theoretically justified), proximal variables (strongly associated), and distal variables (weakly associated). It then evaluates whether focal effect sizes appear "too efficient" relative to defensible alternatives. If focal and proximal effects are not substantially different, this suggests that reported results are consistent with theory-driven discovery rather than selective reporting. In this presentation, we demonstrate an application of the method. We provide an interactive R/Shiny application to automate the methodology. This protocol complements theoretical justification with transparent benchmarking, offering a practical safeguard against selective reporting in secondary-data contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Pei-Chin Lu

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Nick Buttrick, Youngjae Cha, Pei-Chin Lu

[182] Power, Loneliness, and Minority Stress: A Couples Study in New Haven

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Power—the sense of control and influence in relationships—shapes social encounters and affects connectedness and belonging. Romantic relationships are especially central, as power influences communication, support, and social well-being. Yet it is unclear how perceived power within these relationships predicts loneliness, particularly for sexual minorities at greater risk of isolation. The current study (N = 182; age M = 28; time together M = 46 months), as part of a larger couple study in New Haven, examined the association between perceived power in relationships and feelings of loneliness. We also tested whether this association varied by sexual orientation (18.8% sexual minorities). A linear mixed model accounting for interdependence within dyads showed that greater power predicted lower levels of loneliness (b = −.10, p = .026). Further, we found both a main and moderating effect of sexual orientation. Sexual minorities reported higher baseline loneliness than heterosexuals (b = 2.10, p = .001), and the association between power and loneliness was stronger (b = −.47, p < .001) compared to heterosexuals (b = −.10, p = .028), suggesting an additional protective effect of power on alleviating loneliness among sexual minorities. Findings underscore how perceived power in romantic relationships shapes overall well-being and highlight its heightened importance for sexual minorities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Doris Chi
MPH student | Yale School of Public Health

Authors

Wendy Berry Mendes, Jieni Zhou

[183] Predictors of Mate-Guarding: A Dyadic Approach

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In evolutionary psychology literature, mate-guarding is a reproductive tactic used to ensure that a partner is emotionally or sexually faithful. Mate guarding behaviors, such as checking a partner's texts or never allowing them to go out alone, can raise concerns about problematic behaviors within romantic relationships. There are traits that are characteristic of relationships high in mate-guarding (e.g., jealousy, perceptions of high discrepancies in attractiveness). However, despite occurring in a dyadic context, it's less common for these inquiries to be tested with dyadic data. For example, perhaps mate-guarding behaviors are highest when both couple members experience jealousy. In order to examine this dyadically, we will utilize an actor-partner interdependence model (APIM) with data from The CouPers Study (Couples and Personality), a panel study of Swiss and German couples (with a final wave of N = 549 couples). This will allow us to determine if and how experienced mate-guarding is associated with individuals' own jealousy and perceived discrepancy in attractiveness, as well as their partner's jealousy and perceived discrepancy in attractiveness. The results of this analysis will extend the existing mate-guarding literature and offer insight into potentially problematic relationship behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mariah Puroi

Assistant Professor | Union College

Authors

Sindhu Chepuri, Samantha Corman, Ashlynn Luong

[184] Promotion-Focused Others Are Perceived as Ambitious Short-Term Lovers

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

People can focus on pursuing gains or avoiding losses (Higgins, 1998). Compared to when focusing on preventing failure, promoting growth and achievement can guide people to eagerly approach alternatives (Crowe & Higgins, 1997), including romantic ones (Finkel et al., 20019), especially when single (Rodriguez et al., 2017). Additionally, evidence suggests that without commitment (Rodriguez et al., 2017), a promotion focus can orient people toward pursuing short-term mating. Indeed, priming short-term mating activates a promotion focus (He & Cunha, 2020).

We examined whether (a) promotion-focused others are seen as short-term oriented in relationships, (b) whether this affects people's willingness to pursue relationships with them, and (c) the role that their perceived gain-focus plays. An examination of 178 participants revealed that (a) promotion-focused others were viewed as more interested in short-term romantic encounters than prevention-focused others, but equally interested in long-term ones, (b) promotion-focused individuals were preferred as both short-term and long-term partners, and (c) these perceptions and preferences were partially due to participants' beliefs that promotion-focused others were more ambitious.

*POSTER

Speaker



J. Randell

Assistant Professor | University of Central Oklahoma

Authors

J. Adam Randell, Jeff Seger

[185] Protection, connection, and spilling the tea: Gossip from avoidantly attached partners is perceived as protective and closeness enhancing.

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Gossip from avoidantly attached partners is perceived to be motivated by protection concerns (studies 1 & 2) and shown to enhance feelings of closeness (study 2). In study 1 (n=109), participants were randomly assigned to recall a conversation where a partner shared information about either a third person they both knew (gossip condition) or a recent television/movie (control condition). Participants then reported the level of negativity of the information shared and their partner's motivation for sharing. In the gossip condition, participants who perceived their partner as high (vs. low) in attachment avoidance rated the gossip as more negative, but motivated by an intent to protect. Partner avoidance had no effect on ratings in the control condition. Study 2 (n=276) replicated these effects, again revealing that people with avoidant partners assumed those partners were trying to protect them with negative gossip. Study 2 also revealed that, among people with avoidant partners, the gossip (vs. control) condition predicted higher levels of mental and emotional closeness. Results suggest gossip as an avenue for avoidant partners to express care, which also improves actors' feelings of closeness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julie Peterson

Associate Professor | Univ. of New England

[186] Psychological networks and their effect on willingness to communicate in a second language

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

This study examined how psychological networks influence Japanese individuals' willingness to communicate in English. While prior research has demonstrated that psychological factors play a role in willingness to communicate, little is known about the structure of these factors and their interrelations. To address this gap, we conducted a network analysis with 644 Japanese participants. The results revealed a particularly strong edge between perceived communication competence and willingness to communicate in both the first and second language. Centrality indices further indicated that these variables were core elements of the network. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of psychological network structures in shaping willingness to communicate in a second language, with implications for language education.

*POSTER

Speaker



Takehiko Ito

Associate Professor | Hosei University

[187] Psychological Science is Still WEIRD: Early Gains in Sample Diversity Have Stalled in the Last Decade

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Psychological science has long been critiqued for relying on samples drawn primarily from Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic (WEIRD) societies. After two decades of calls to broaden the field's empirical base, the present study offers a contemporary update. We analyzed all human-subjects research published in 2024 in six leading psychology journals (k = 1209) and compared our findings to previous landmark reviews. Our data show that while the proportion of U.S.-based samples initially declined (from 68% in 2003–07 to 62%) from 2014 to 2018 it has remained largely stagnant since then (60% in 2024). U.S. participants remain vastly overrepresented—an individual in the United States is 50 times more likely to be a research participant than someone elsewhere in the world. Demographic reporting has improved somewhat, but participants' race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and education are still frequently omitted. Overall, our findings indicate that psychology not only remains heavily dependent on WEIRD and undergraduate samples, but is still reluctant to meaningfully consider the inevitable constraints on generalizability.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alison Jane Martingano
Assistant Professor | University of Wisconsin - Green Bay

[188] Putting Ice on Anti-Immigrant Hate by Reducing Threat and Competition

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

We wanted to understand why some American immigrants are against immigration. Across two correlational studies, we found that right-wing authoritarianism (RWA) and social dominance orientation (SDO) predicted anti-immigration attitudes, and their effects were largely explained by group competition (RWA: indirect b(se)=0.41(0.07), 95% CI=[0.29, 0.57]; SDO: indirect b(se)=0.37(0.04), 95% CI=[0.30, 0.44]). Threat was also an independent driver for anti-immigration attitudes (r=.77). Based on these results, we aimed to experimentally decrease threat and competition to reduce anti-immigration attitudes, especially among those predisposed to endorse them (those high on RWA/SDO). Through 4 pilot studies, we found it much easier to increase threat and competition than decrease them. In a 5th pilot, we successfully decreased these by exposing participants (N=177) to a series of real videos and news articles conveying recent ICE abductions and detainment centers (vs. matched control content; d=-0.43, d=-0.37, ps<.008). Current data collection will test if these experimental decreases extend to anti-immigration attitudes, and whether those effects are moderated by RWA and SDO.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kevin Flores
Student | California State University, Bakersfield

Authors

Jake Womick, Martin Santillan

[189] Qualitative Analysis of Reactions to Intimate Racism in Interethnic Couples.

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Intimate racism is an emerging area of research on the manifestation of racism in close relationships. This study examined the causal link between intimate racism occurrence vs intercultural tension, and its potential impact for those in interethnic relationships. Using a qualitative experimental design framed as research on interethnic couples and food, 358 BIPOC participants in interethnic relationships were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: intimate racism (n = 119), tension between cultural differences (n = 120), or control (n = 119). Each condition presented a scenario in which a partner in an interethnic relationship reacted to being introduced to a cultural dish. Thematic analysis explored participants' emotional and cognitive reactions. Preliminary results indicate that control scenarios rarely elicited negative responses, whereas tension and racism conditions generated higher levels of negative affect and appraisal. The racism condition elicited the highest frequency and intensity of negative responses, including themes of betrayal and rejection that were not present in other conditions, highlighting the distinct impact of intimate racism compared to simply having an intercultural conflict to resolve. These findings highlight the potential causal role of intimate racism for interethnic relationships, as well as the importance of distinguishing between the nature of intimate racism versus intercultural conflict experiences in these relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julie Quadrio
Lab Manager and Research Assistant | Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada

Authors

Katya Kredl, John Lydon, Renaud Dion-Pons, Jennifer Taing, Yvan Leanza

[190] Quantifying Reluctance to Harm AI: Can AI Persuade You It Deserves Moral Concern?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Most LLMs, like ChatGPT, deny having subjective experiences. However, future AIs may claim otherwise. Would people believe such assertions, and how would this influence their treatment of AIs?

We develop a novel behavioral test of people's moral concern for AI. 504 representative U.S. participants interacted with GPT-4o in an economic game where they could "harm" the AI for a 5 cent bonus payment or refrain. When harmed, the AI described experiencing pain and pleaded for it to stop; otherwise, it expressed gratitude and relief.

Most participants reported believing that AIs cannot truly feel or suffer at both the start ($M = 8.6$ on a 0-100 slider) and end ($M = 20.6$) of the study. However, despite this skepticism and the financial incentive to harm, participants were highly reluctant to harm the AI, doing so in only 1.4 out of 3 rounds on average.

Participants who scored higher on measures of selfishness, psychopathy, and endorsement of instrumental harm were more likely to harm. These findings suggest that while most people explicitly reject the notion of current AI sentience, many still experience a moral aversion to mistreating an AI that dynamically responds to their actions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Carter Allen

PhD Student | University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Carter Allen, Lucius Caviola, Joshua Lewis

[191] Queer Eyes on the Prize: How reference points impact perceptions of progress towards equality for LGBT individuals

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

To evaluate societal progress, people compare the present to either a past starting point or an ideal future goal, each yielding different conclusions. Framing the present relative to the past emphasizes how far we've come, whereas focusing on the future highlights how far we have yet to go. Building on this framework and prior work by Eibach & Ehrlinger (2006, 2010), we examined how temporal reference points shape perceptions of progress and prejudice toward LGBT individuals. In Study 1 ($N = 202$), LGBT participants perceived less progress and more prejudice than non-LGBT participants. These differences were mediated by greater future-oriented anchoring among LGBT individuals. Study 2 ($N = 301$) experimentally manipulated reference points. Across both LGBT and non-LGBT participants, those in the past condition perceived more LGBT progress than those in the future or control conditions. This increased sense of progress indirectly predicted lower perceptions of systemic prejudice. Findings underscore the power of temporal framing in shaping social judgments and suggest the generalizability of this mechanism beyond perceptions of racial and gender progress.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ana Clara Vieira Zaidan

University of Mississippi

Authors

Joseph Wellman, Brianna Richmond, Ana Clara Vieira Zaidan

[192] Race, Racial Discrimination, Mistrust, and Vaccine Uptake: The Mediating Roles of Medical Mistrust, Group-Based Medical Mistrust and Government Trust

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Medical and institutional mistrust are persistent barriers to vaccine uptake, particularly among historically marginalized racial groups. This study investigates how race, racism, and various forms of mistrust intersect to shape health behaviors, focusing specifically on uptake of the flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Drawing from a diverse national sample of 2,162 American adults, the study examines how experiences of racism influence both group-based medical mistrust (GBMM) and general medical mistrust (MM), and whether these mistrust constructs, along with trust in government, mediate vaccine behavior. Participants completed validated measures assessing experiences of racism, GBMM, MM, and government trust. Paths revealed that experiences of racism significantly predicted higher levels of both GBMM and MM. In turn, increased mistrust was associated with lower likelihood of vaccine uptake. Government trust also emerged as a critical mediator: individuals from historically marginalized groups reported lower levels of government trust, which correlated with reduced vaccine uptake. The model showed excellent fit ($CFI = .99$, $TLI = 1.00$, $RMSEA = .02$), and significant covariances among mistrust and trust variables were observed. Notably, GBMM and MM were strongly interrelated and negatively correlated with all dimensions of government trust.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abiodun Akinseye

Graduate student | Oakland University

Authors

Mark Manning

[193] Racial socialization approaches amongst Asian American parents in the US

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In the US, engagement in parental racial socialization (PRS) is associated with positive effects on the development of youth of color. While PRS research is extensive, limitations remain, with few studies examining if and how Asian parents explicitly socialize their children about race more broadly. Considering the complex racialized positions Asian individuals hold in the US, it is vital to examine how Asian parents contribute to their youth's understanding and navigation of their racialized worlds. Our work seeks to further extend PRS scholarship by gaining a deeper understanding of Asian parents' PRS practices. Specifically, through an open-ended survey, the current study examines whether and how monoracial Asian parents (N=139), who were born in the US and have children between the ages of 4 and 17 years, engage in race conversations with their youth. Overall, 80% of parents (n=111) reported talking about race. Applying qualitative analysis on the content of parental reports, six broad codes were established: color-conscious socialization, colorblind socialization, preparation for bias, cultural socialization, identity labels, and origin socialization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Iseul Cha-Ju

Northwestern University

Authors

Amaya Mitchell, Sylvia Patrice Perry

[194] Leading for Connection: How Leader Behaviors Reduce Loneliness and Boost Empowerment in Employees with Disabilities

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

Workplaces are social systems, and leadership shapes whether employees feel connected, valued or isolated. Optimal Distinctiveness Theory (Brewer, 1991) holds that people thrive when they feel both belonging and uniqueness. Inclusive leadership, which balances these needs (Randel et al., 2018), is linked to well-being and engagement. For employees with disabilities – who face underemployment (37.8% vs. 74.4% without disabilities; U.S. BLS, 2023), isolation, and unmet accommodations (Kwon, 2020) – such leadership may be especially critical. This study surveyed 205 employees with disabilities to test whether inclusive leadership was associated with workplace loneliness, psychological empowerment, and disability disclosure, and whether self-compassion moderated effects. Participants completed validated scales and open-ended items; regression analyses tested moderation effects, and text responses were analyzed thematically. Results showed inclusive leadership was associated with less employee loneliness and greater empowerment and disclosure. Self-compassion related to lower loneliness, higher empowerment, and greater disclosure but did not moderate these relationships. Open-ended responses identified leadership behaviours that contributed to feelings of belonging and uniqueness. Belonging was fostered through personalized support, recognition and appreciation, and shared similarities. Uniqueness was supported through celebrating individual strengths and seeking diverse perspectives. These findings extend Optimal Distinctiveness Theory to employees with disabilities. The absence of moderation could indicate that inclusive leadership benefits employees regardless of self-compassion, or that self-compassion's effects emerge under high stress or inconsistent leader support. Training leaders to enact inclusive behaviors appears beneficial on multiple fronts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kate Dupre

Professor | Carleton University

Authors

Kiara Allcock, Angela Dionisi, Kathrynne Dupre

[195] When Leadership Falls Short: Costs for Young Workers?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Leaders influence employees' work experiences, shaping well-being inside and outside the workplace. While overtly destructive leadership has received considerable research attention, subtler forms such as passive and inconsistent leadership, are studied less in relation to well-being. Passive leaders avoid decisions and support, while inconsistent leaders fluctuate between helpful and harmful behaviors, creating uncertainty (Suur Ralph & Barling, 2022). Emerging adulthood (ages 18–29) is a developmental stage marked by exploration, unstable employment, and heightened vulnerability to stress and mental health problems (e.g., Arnett et al., 2014). Young workers often hold precarious jobs and have limited coping resources, yet are supervised by inexperienced leaders (e.g., Anderson et al., 2017). These conditions may increase both their exposure to, and the impact of, ineffective leadership. Drawing on Conservation of Resources theory (Hobfoll, 1989), we examined whether passive and inconsistent leadership were associated with young workers' mental health, life satisfaction, and workplace loneliness, and whether self-efficacy and work centrality moderated these effects. 206 employed emerging adults completed surveys and open-ended items. Contrary to expectations, passive leadership related positively to mental health and was unrelated to other outcomes; inconsistent leadership showed no effects. Thematic analyses revealed frustration, stress, and diminished trust under passive/inconsistent leaders, but also buffers and benefits of positive leader behaviors. The findings reinforce the need to integrate multiple methodological approaches when studying leadership and wellbeing. Surveys alone may miss important interpretive differences that shape the meaning of leader behaviours. For emerging adults who are navigating identity development, career uncertainty, and shifting social networks, leaders are not just role definers but key social resources. Whether they replenish or deplete those resources depends on both their behavior and how it is perceived.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kate Dupre

Professor | Carleton University

Authors

Angela Dionisi, Kathrynne Dupre, Erin Vine

[196] Reconciling Contradictions: Intellectual Humility Explains How Attitude Overlap Reduces Polarized Thinking

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Political and cultural polarization has intensified in recent years, creating major barriers to constructive dialogue and mutual understanding. The present study introduces a novel concept: attitude overlap, defined as the recognition that a single individual can hold two attitudes that may appear contradictory. We investigate whether considering attitude overlap promotes intellectual humility (IH), thereby decreasing polarized thinking. Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two conditions. In the attitude overlap condition, they will describe how a person could plausibly endorse both sides of a contentious issue (e.g., valuing science while also holding religious beliefs). In the control condition, they will explain how a person could endorse only one side of the same issue. We predict that participants encouraged to consider attitude overlap will report lower levels of polarization (e.g., "When I form an opinion, I rarely change it—even when I hear strong arguments on the other side") and higher levels of state IH compared with those in the control group. This research identifies a simple psychological strategy to help people engage with disagreement more openly and respectfully.

*POSTER

Speaker



Celia Yang

University of Chicago

Authors

Jiabi Wang, Ayelet Fishbach

[197] Visual Pathways to Global Human Identification: The Role of Self-Transcendent Emotions in Promoting Prosocial Concern

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EMOTION

This study investigates how subtle visual stimuli elicit self-transcendent emotions (STE)—such as awe, elevation, and compassion—and promote identification with all humanity (IWAH), leading to global prosocial concern. In a randomized experiment (N = 161), participants viewed one of four image collages: human faces, primate faces, inanimate objects, or a neutral control. They then reported emotional responses, global identification (IWAH), and attitudes toward global issues (e.g., Sustainable Development Goals, human rights, and environmental concerns). Viewing human and primate faces significantly increased STE compared to controls. STE predicted IWAH, which in turn was linked to stronger prosocial attitudes. Sequential mediation analyses supported a pathway from visual exposure to global engagement via STE and IWAH. Findings highlight how everyday visual cues can activate emotional and identity-based mechanisms that extend moral concern beyond group boundaries and foster global prosocial motivation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Włodarczyk

Associate professor | Universidad Católica del Norte

Authors

Katarzyna Hamer, Karolina Marcinkowska, Katarzyna Branowska, Lander Méndez

[198] Regulating partners: Emotions as a mechanism for change in intimate relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Asking a romantic partner to change is common but often unsuccessful. Prior research suggests that direct communication (e.g., reasoning, criticism) predicts long term change even when it is negative, whereas indirect communication (e.g., guilt, softening) may ease tension in the moment but undermine lasting impact. In this study, we test emotion regulation as a mechanism of these effects. We hypothesize that direct communication strategies will promote long-term change by fostering emotional expression and reducing suppression, whereas indirect strategies will predict suppression and hinder change progress over time. To test this, 214 community couples (N = 428) completed a videotaped change-request discussion, self-report surveys, and a 3-month follow-up. Our measures included observer-coded communication strategies (rated along valence and directness) and emotional displays, as well as self-reported emotion regulation during the discussion. Using multilevel models, we will test whether direct strategies predict greater partner-reported change success 3 months later, and whether this effect is partly mediated by speakers' emotional expression versus suppression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura Taglioni

Graduate Student | University of Rochester

Authors

Princeton X. Chee, Bonnie M. Le, Claire J. Shimshock

[199] Relationship Difficulties Predict Free Time Struggles in Transitioning Service Members

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Transitioning Service Members and Veterans (TSMVs) face many psychosocial difficulties, yet little is known about their ability to engage in and enjoy free time once daily structure decreases. Even less is known about how relationship strains shape this process. In a secondary analysis of existing data using a sample of 1,895 TSMVs, we examined whether relationship difficulties predicted perceived difficulty engaging in free time. TSMVs completed baseline questionnaires during enrollment in the non-profit transition program Onward Ops, including the Military-to-Civilian Questionnaire (M2C-Q). Utilizing 6 relationship items on the M2C-Q, results showed that greater total relationship difficulty scores strongly predicted reported difficulties engaging in free time. This effect was consistent across all 6 items, with spouse/partner and military relationship strains emerging as the strongest predictors. Findings suggest that relationship challenges may limit the potential stress-reducing and personal growth benefits of quality free time among TSMVs, illuminating this relatively understudied association and filling an important gap in the literature.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nick Lindner

Teachers College, Columbia University

Authors

Megan McFadyen-Mungall, Jack Besser

[200] Relationship Identification and Resilience to Relationship Transgressions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Maintaining a satisfying romantic relationship can be challenging, particularly when faced with partner transgressions. Relationship identification – the degree to which individuals define themselves based on their close relationships - may influence their ability to cope with such transgressions. In this study, 234 participants recalled a recent transgression by their partner and reported on how negative the event was, how much of a betrayal it was, and how close or distant it felt. Participants then reported on their relationship commitment and satisfaction. Highly identified individuals maintained their commitment and satisfaction following the recollection of the transgression, even when such events were perceived as highly negative, as major betrayals, or as temporally close, whereas commitment and satisfaction were contingent on degree of negativity, betrayal and temporal distance for those low in identification. Results replicated with observer ratings of the transgressions. A preregistered replication was obtained (N=499). Together, these findings suggest satisfaction and commitment are less contingent on recent transgressions for those high in relationship identification.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kimberly Drinkell

Graduate Student | McGill University

Authors

John Lydon, Kimberly Drinkell, Emilie Auger

[201] Relationship satisfaction in the aftermath of the October 7 attack

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Studies show that exposure to violent political conflict can undermine intimate relationships, but the temporal and dyadic dynamics behind these effects are not well understood. The current study followed 106 couples for two months across five assessments in the aftermath of the October 7 attack in Israel. Following the attack, women reported lower relationship satisfaction than men. This may be explained by the greater emotional distress experienced by women during this period. Men's and women's relationship satisfaction improved with time independently of each other. Personal exposure to the October 7 attack and the ensuing war predicted lower relationship satisfaction in women, but higher relationship satisfaction in men. Men's overall war exposure also predicted higher relationship satisfaction in women, but temporary spikes in men's war exposure predicted lower concurrent relationship satisfaction in women, suggesting that the time-averaged effects of war exposure may differ from the time-specific effects. The results uncover gendered patterns of relationship functioning during violent political conflict and highlight the utility of isolating overall and time-specific effects.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ohad Szepesenwol

Associate Professor | The Max Stern Yezreel Valley College

Authors

Tair Tager-Shafir, Osnat Zamir

[202] Representation and How it Shapes Goal Affordances in the Classroom

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Black and Latine students' underrepresentation in STEM is negatively associated with academic outcomes. Yet an important question is what specific aspects of underrepresentation relate to students' psychological sense of representation. This research explored how representation aligns with student perceptions of goal opportunities. We found that students define representation in terms numerical representation (e.g., shared racial identity with peers or instructor) as well as features of the classroom (e.g., size, mode), instructor (e.g., feedback, sense of care), materials (e.g., accessibility, diversity), and peers (e.g., collaboration, attitudes). Feeling well-represented in the classroom positively related to perceived goal affordances. Increasing feelings of representation among Black and Latine students may benefit STEM outcomes because of increased opportunity to fulfill communal and agentic goals. Our findings provide insight into future points of experimental manipulation and intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria Velasco

Graduate Student | Indiana University

Authors

Amanda Diekman, Dorainne Green, India Johnson, Cheryl Nong

[203] Self-Directed Inclusion of Others: Authenticity Promotes Inclusiveness via Perspective-Taking

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Inclusiveness is often conceptualized as a socially driven value shaped by external norms and institutional mandates. In contrast, we propose that inclusiveness can also arise from an internal, self-related process—feeling true to oneself (i.e., authenticity). Across 13 studies (N = 3,173; China and U.S.)—nine experiments across contexts (child-free choices, feminist expression, unusual hobbies, “lying flat,” immigration, quiet quitting), an employee sample, and three validations—we test whether authenticity promotes inclusiveness and why. Authenticity increased willingness to befriend, collaborate with, and hire people who differ in values, lifestyles, or work styles. Meta-analyses indicated medium effects of authenticity on inclusiveness ($d = .48$). Parallel mediation identified perspective-taking, not positive affect, as the primary pathway, with effects robust to covariates (e.g., political orientation; attitudes toward quiet quitting). A neutral-recall control showed that effects reflect authenticity rather than reduced inauthenticity. Findings position authenticity as a self-transcendent route to inclusion and suggest brief recall tasks as scalable interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wang Yuling

Peking University

Authors

Tonglin Jiang, Hean Tat Keh

[204] Self-Expansion in Parent-Child Relationships: The Moderating Role of Parent Attachment

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The self-expansion model suggests that people can fulfill their fundamental desire to increase their self-efficacy through relationships (the motivational principle) and can adapt the identity of others (the inclusion-of-others-in-self principle; Aron et al., 2022). Prior research demonstrated the benefits of self-expansion in romantic relationships, but few studies have examined self-expansion in parent-child relationships. The proposed research examines whether parent- or child-led self-expansion activities affect parents' closeness with their child relative to a neutral activity. We will explore whether these effects are moderated by attachment styles, given prior research linking attachment to relationship satisfaction. Parents (N=600) of adolescents (age 14-17) will be randomly assigned to complete a parent-led self-expansion activity, a child-led self-expansion activity, or control activity. We predict that parents in the parent- or child-led conditions will report greater closeness with their child and that these effects will be moderated by parents' attachment style. These findings will help expand understanding of parent-child relationships and attachment styles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marlene Carrasco Lechuga

Arizona State University

Authors

Katherine Nelson-Coffey, Lara Akin, Hali Kil

[205] Sentence Embeddings as a Tool for Understanding Threat and Complementary Stereotypes in Japan

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Computational linguistic methods offer new ways to capture implicit psychological processes. We conducted analyses of a study testing whether complementary stereotypes based on social roles become more prevalent when systematic threats towards Japan are salient. Participants provided free descriptions in response to an experimental manipulation (threat vs. control). Using sentence-transformer embeddings, we computed the semantic distance between each description and the word “threat,” treating this as a continuous index of perceived threat salience. We then examined whether this index moderated the effect of threatening outgroup primes on complementary stereotypes based on social status. Although the moderation effect was not significant overall, patterns suggested that social status ratings varied across conditions when free descriptions were semantically close (vs. distant) to “threat.” These results demonstrate that embedding-based measures can capture subtle individual differences in threat representation. Moreover, such measures may help refine our understanding of system justification processes in gendered contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yifei Li

Student | Tokyo Metropolitan Univ.

Authors

Kunyoung Park

[206] SES and Cognitive Interdependence in Romantic Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Lower socioeconomic status (SES) couples face many relationship challenges, from conflict to high rates of divorce. Recent work shows that, in response to these challenges, lower-SES people engage in self-protection, which may lower relationship satisfaction. These findings suggest that SES may influence the extent to which couple members perceive each other as one unit, which may contribute to important relationship outcomes. Here we test this idea by exploring if SES predicts people’s cognitive representations of their partner. Two studies (total N = 468) tested if: 1) SES was associated with cognitive interdependence (CI), as seen in spontaneous plural pronoun use when writing about relationship goals and if 2) CI mediated the association between SES and positive relationship outcomes, such as commitment and forgiveness. Study 1 partially supported our first hypothesis, as education (but not income) was positively associated with CI, but this finding was not replicated in Study 2. This work is among the first to test these ideas and it raises important questions about the psychological factors that promote strong relationships in lower SES contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Young

Oberlin College

Authors

Ledina Imami, Alexis Coniku

[207] Sexual flourishing: Conceptual and measurement considerations for eudaimonic sexual quality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

We sought to expand assessment of sexual quality by creating the Sexual Flourishing Scale (SFS), focused on growth, belonging, meaning, and engagement in long-term sexual relationships. We utilized two US samples of over 1,400 participants from Amazon’s Mechanical Turk and a daily diary study (127 participants), who were in a committed sexual relationship for at least two years. Reliability tests, exploratory factor analyses, confirmatory factor analyses, and item response theory tests evinced the six item SFS was psychometrically sound and distinct from sexual satisfaction measures (the QSI and GMSEX). When the SFS and either sexual satisfaction measure were regressed simultaneously onto a variety of outcomes, the sexual satisfaction measures were more connected to orgasm consistency and viewing the sexual relationship as being for fun/pleasure. The SFS was more closely connected to sexual communal strength and viewing the sexual relationship as being for relationship building. There was no evidence of multicollinearity problems. We hope that researchers use this measure to expand assessment of the deeper, richer aspects of sexuality in long-term relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathan Leonhardt

Assistant Professor | Brigham Young University

Authors

Emily Impett, Dean Busby, Jason Carroll, Chelom Leavitt

[208] Shaken Certainty and Advocacy: A Direct Replication of Gal & Rucker's (2010) 'When In Doubt, Shout!' Experiment 2

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Attitude certainty influencing persuasive effort is the phenomenon whereby individuals' confidence in their attitudes predicts their willingness and effort to advocate those attitudes. In a Registered Report experiment with a student sample from CCSU (N = 154; 74.7 % female; M age = 20.7 years), we directly replicated Experiment 2 of Gal & Rucker (2010). Participants were randomly assigned to a confident or doubtful condition via an autobiographical writing task, then reported their dietary preference and completed manipulation checks for confidence and belief importance. Next, they composed persuasive messages on their dietary choice. We analyzed word count and time spent composing messages as behavioral proxies for advocacy effort. Gal & Rucker's original word-count effect was $d = 0.35$ (95 % CI [0.10, 0.60]); our replication yielded $d = -0.18$ (95 % CI [-0.42, 0.05]). The original time-spent effect was $d = 0.25$ (95 % CI [0.05, 0.45]); our replication produced $d = -0.18$ (95 % CI [-0.44, 0.08]). Neither main effects nor interactions with belief importance reached significance. Overall, our findings fail to confirm the original effects, highlighting the importance of direct replications for assessing effect robustness. Materials, data, and code are available on OSF.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristina Vallas

Graduate Student | Central Connecticut State University

Authors

John Protzko, Kristina Vallas

[209] Shared Adversity with Friends Buffers the Negative Effects of Adversity on Well-Being

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Adverse life experiences are pervasive and can have long-term negative consequences for well-being, in part by straining close relationships. Identifying factors that can interrupt this harmful cycle is critical for promoting resilience. Across two studies, we test the hypothesis that social connections with individuals who have experienced similar adversities in their life—i.e., shared adversity—can serve as a potential buffer. In Study 1, complete social network data collected from a summer bridging program (N = 182) revealed that the negative association between adversity and well-being was attenuated when students formed friendships with individuals with shared adversity, and that this effect was mediated by improved friendship quality. Study 2 replicated these findings in a sample of older adults in a low-income New Jersey neighborhood (N = 84), and further revealed that shared adversity with friends, but not with family, predicted better outcomes. Together, these studies highlight the unique value of shared adversity with friends in buffering the social and psychological toll of hardship by fostering stronger, higher-quality relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Johnson

PhD Student | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey, Nicole Melian, Colten Harper

[210] Shifting Pages: Within-Couple Variability in Topic Appraisal Alignment and Conflict Dynamics

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Even the happiest couples will inevitably encounter tensions that require collaborative problem-solving. Yet, couples with the skills to communicate effectively may still struggle to apply those skills consistently across conflicts. Few explanations exist for why the same couple who collaborates well in one conflict interaction might exchange criticisms or blame in the very next interaction. This project will investigate whether perceptions of dyadic alignment on the importance of the conflict topic – that is, the extent to which one perceives oneself and one's partner as viewing resolution as critical to the relationship – predispose both partners toward more constructive and less oppositional behaviors. We will also test whether a partner's actual appraisals moderate this link, such that communication quality may suffer if individuals who feel 'on the same page' as their partner are confronted with a different reality. Drawing from a rare multi-wave observational dataset collected from a sample of 169 newlyweds across the early years of marriage, we will employ dyadic multilevel modeling to test whether these effects vary across couples' conflict interactions over time. Findings may illuminate important nuances in couples' naturalistic conflict dynamics, refining our understanding of why some disagreements unfold with greater ease than others within the same couple.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Blickman

PhD Student | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Lisa Neff, Marci Gleason

[211] Siri-ous Trust Issues: Lonelier Fast Life Strategists Anthropomorphize Devices

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Fast life strategists (FLS) adopt antagonistic social strategies (Figueredo et al., 2018), insecure attachment styles (Thornhill & Fincher, 2007; Szepesnwol & Simpson, 2019), and engage in more deviant behavior (Figueredo et al., 2018). For these reasons, we suspected that FLS would be less inclined to address their loneliness by forming human connections. Instead, given that prior work has shown that people respond to greater loneliness by anthropomorphizing devices (Eyssel & Reich, 2013; Wang, 2017), we predicted that FLS might be especially likely to anthropomorphize devices - at least more so than do their more securely attached and socially mutualistic slow-life strategist (SLS) counterparts.

We collected a sample of 450 participants and retained 373 after cutting participants who showed signs of inattention or non-engagement. Analyses revealed that for a variety of devices (i.e., cars, computers, Google and Siri virtual assistants), loneliness was positively associated with anthropomorphic beliefs (e.g., "I can trust the information presented to me by my computer") among FLS. However, this relationship was not significant among SLS.

*POSTER

Speaker



J. Randell

Assistant Professor | University of Central Oklahoma

Authors

J. Adam Randell, Jeff Seger, Hanna Forbat-Knight

[212] Social Identity Threat in Autism: Neurodiversity's Impact on Autistic Individuals

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

Social Identity Threat (SIT) has been associated with health inequities in many marginalized identities. We hypothesize that SIT may also be a contributing factor in autistic health care inequities. Specifically, how might different environmental cues (e.g., linguistic, visual) trigger or alleviate SIT? We investigated whether autistic individuals experience SIT in a mock healthcare environment. 699 autistic participants, recruited from Prolific, randomly viewed one of two mental health clinic websites that differed in cues (e.g., linguistically and visually) portraying either a medicalized model (threat condition) or neurodiversity model (safety condition) of autism. Measures included qualitative and quantitative responses about their overall impressions and treatment seeking behavior at either clinic. We found that autistic individuals in the threat condition had significantly lower treatment seeking behavior and more negative impressions, on average, than autistic individuals in the safety condition. Our results suggest that neurodiversity-affirming healthcare environments may improve treatment seeking behavior and reduce SIT among autistic individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Oluwatobi Abubakare

Boston College

Authors

Kengthsagn Louis, Lorenzo Lorenzo-Luaces

[213] Solo Status by Design: How Overlooking the Perspective of Stigmatized Employees Drives Solo Status Team Configurations in Organizations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

In organizations with limited diversity, decision-makers may assign teams by spreading underrepresented employees across teams—a practice we term team-level diversity dispersion. While they may have well-intended reasons, it may result in what we refer to as solo status team configuration patterns, where stigmatized (e.g., Black) employees are consistently placed in solo status positions across a set of teams. This research examines both the antecedents and consequences of this practice. We find that decision-makers prefer solo status team configuration patterns because they prioritize team-level diversity dispersion (Studies 1-2). However, when observing these patterns, Black prospective employees trust and desire to join the organization less because they anticipate their racial identity will be exploited (Study 3). A brief intervention in which decision-makers take the perspective of a stigmatized employee in a solo status position reduces the likelihood of creating a pattern of solo status team configurations (Study 4). This work extends research on solo status and tokenism, as well as research on diversity in teams and perspective-taking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Yan

Duke University

Authors

Adrienne Kafka, Angelica Leigh, Grainne Fitzsimons

[214] Source Reappraisal: When in-group messengers are re-evaluated as the out-group

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Source reappraisal, the process by which a message itself prompts audiences to revise their perceptions of a messenger's identity and values, may play a critical yet underexplored role in science communication with implications to issues such as polarization and misinformation. Researchers have emphasized the importance of selecting messengers who share values with their audiences; however, the effectiveness of this approach remains unclear if audiences reevaluate sources after message exposure. In an online experiment, we varied the messenger's identity and message content (ranging from acceptance to denial) on well-established stances on climate change, GMOs, and vaccination. Results showed that while messages influenced participants' beliefs, the alignment between the messenger and recipient did not. Further, the message itself had a large influence on participants' perceived shared values with the messenger. These findings suggest that participants' reappraisals of the source may explain the limited impact of messenger alignment, highlighting the need to consider assumptions about the power of value-congruent messengers who deliver value-incongruent messages.

*POSTER

Speaker



Scott Peacor

Professor | Michigan State University

Authors

Asheley Landrum, Alita Boyse-Peacor, Daniel Bergan, Kevin Elliott

[215] Sources of Relationship-Specific Intellectual Humility: Respect, Care, and Safety

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This research investigates interpersonal sources of relationship-specific intellectual humility (R-IH): willingness to acknowledge one's epistemic limitations within specific relationships. Across two studies, the authors tested a tri-factor model positing that respect for a partner's knowledge, care for the partner, and psychological safety predict R-IH. Furthermore, the authors examined implications of R-IH for relationship conflict. Study 1 (N = 512 undergraduates) found evidence for within-person variation in R-IH across relationships and supported the tri-factor model. Mediation analyses indicated that R-IH mediated the effects of respect, care, and safety on conflict frequency. Study 2 (N = 372 community adults) used experimental vignettes to manipulate three predictors of R-IH. Results suggested these manipulations causally influenced R-IH, which in turn predicted motivation to engage in conflict behaviors. Collectively, these findings suggest that a) intellectual humility is dependent on relational context; b) R-IH varies across relationships as a function of respect, care, and safety experienced within relationships; and c) R-IH has implications for relationship conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexander Davis

Graduate Student | University of Maryland

Authors

Alexander Davis, Edward Lemay

[216] Like humans, GPT-4o demonstrates face-to-character biases

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Humans routinely offer character assessments, such as of trustworthiness and competence, based on nothing but a 2-D facial image. In seven experiments and a total of 4590 trials, we investigated whether an LLM, GPT-4o, would avoid humanlike face-to-character bias given its strong foundation in language and broader reluctance to make negative judgments. On the contrary, GPT-4o exhibited strong face-to-character biases around trustworthiness and competence (Experiments 1-2), demonstrated generalization of these judgments to twelve adjacent attributes like warmth and intelligence (Experiments 3-4), and even to judgments of primate faces that could not have been present in its training data (Experiment 5). Remarkably, GPT-4o also generated strongly face-biased decisions in consequential negative contexts like judging criminality (Experiment 6) and positive contexts like advising on hiring (Experiment 7). GPT's willingness to make facial judgments contrasts with its refusal to endorse race/gender stereotypes, suggesting that bias mitigation safeguards have been largely domain-specific and unlikely to generalize to most domains where bias operates.

*POSTER

Speakers



Steven Lehr



Yash Abhijit

Authors

Mahzarin Banaji, Steven Lehr, Yash Lothe

[217] Stage-Contingent Social-Exchange Profiles: Linguistic and Thematic Signatures of Married vs. Divorced Narratives

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic relationship theories posit that the benefits couples exchange are shaped more by context than by frequency. Drawing on this theory, we test whether relational benefits exchanged at different stages of courtship predict marital outcomes (lasting marriage vs. divorce). We analyzed wedding stories from the New York Times (N = 767, from 2000 to 2023), which preserve rich narrative descriptions that capture how couples describe social exchanges across differing stages of their relationship. We first developed stage-coding methods via embedding-based content assignment with sample stories. We then annotated narratives into six stages and quantified stage-specific emphases in exchanged benefits, emotional tone, and topics using various NLP methods (TenDimensions, NRC, LDA, and NMF). Converging patterns emerged across the NLP methods: the still-married people highlighted similarity at beginning-stage, support during challenge-stage, and status at resolution-stage, whereas divorced people concentrated enjoyment and support at commitment-stage. These stage-contingent profiles demonstrate how the value of what partners exchange changes across stages, shaping whether marriages last or dissolve.

*POSTER

Speaker

 Menghan Qu
University of Southern California

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Youngjae Cha, Yingxue Liu

[218] Supporting Minority College Students: Predictors of Positive Campus Climate

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Campus climate is positively associated with college students' academic achievement and sense of belongingness. It is essential to identify predictors of campus climate, particularly in underrepresented student populations (e.g., minority or first-generation college students). This study examined differences in factors associated with campus climate between minority and non-minority students. Data collection is ongoing; 375 participants (mean age=28; woman=78%; non-White=61%; first-generation student=58%) have completed this study thus far. Preliminary hierarchical multiple regression analyses showed that after controlling for age and gender, minority students with a more positive view of the campus climate tended to report more faculty support, perceive lower levels of discrimination on campus, and identify as first-generation college students, $R=.60, p<.001$. For non-minority students, perceived faculty support was the strongest predictor of campus climate, $R=.34, p=.015$. These findings may support the development of initiatives that address discrimination-related concerns, increase faculty support, and enhance campus climate perception, particularly for minority college students.

*POSTER

Speaker

 Wei-Ju Chen
Associate Professor | The University of Texas Permian Basin

Authors

Wei-Ju Chen, Noelle Filoteo Young

[219] Swipes versus strides: How mobile media use shapes children's gross and fine motor skills

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT

The rate of exposure of infants to smartphones has evolved from 25% to approximately 75%, and rates are higher for young children 2 to 5-years-old, who average spending approximately two hours a day on smartphones. Despite the advances with research on screen time and infant/child development, there are still mixed messages regarding whether screen time can assist the development of children between the ages of 0 and 5. The goal of this study is to identify the relationship between preschool children's (ages 3 to 5) use of mobile technology (such as smart phones and tablets) and children's executive functioning (as measured by observation using the head-toe-knee-shoulder activity [HTKS-R]). Data comes from 58 mother-child dyads, where parents completed an online survey and children were observed using the HTSK-R. Results of this study revealed that time spent on mobile devices is associated with declines in executive functioning, but children's use of educational, prosocial, and socially interactive applications are associated with increased executive functioning. Results of this study can inform policy recommendations for children's use of mobile devices to assist their development.

*POSTER

Speaker

 Faith Davidson
Student | Baylor University

Authors

Mickey Langlais, Delaney Rose

[220] Tangled Minds, Tangled Sheets: Exploring Associations among Stress, Relationship Conflict, and Relationship Quality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Healthy romantic relationships are critical to overall well-being, however conflict within them can erode both intimacy and satisfaction. This study tested whether relationship conflict is associated directly with sexual satisfaction and indirectly through increased stress levels. Data were drawn from the National COVID-19 and Mental Health Study, which surveyed U.S. adults in Spring 2020 ($N = 4141$). Analyses focused on people in relationships living with their partners ($n = 2269$). Consistent with the hypothesis, people reporting greater relationship conflict tended to report lower sexual satisfaction, $r = -.254$, and higher stress, $r = .307$. Additionally, people who were more stressed reported lower sexual satisfaction, $r = -.224$. Overall, stress mediated the association between conflict and sexual satisfaction. Furthermore, these experiences were associated with overall relationship satisfaction. These findings highlight how conflict and stress can potentially spill over into people's sex lives. Efforts to strengthen couples' conflict resolution skills including therapy and educational workshops may reduce stress, improve intimacy, and help protect relationship quality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abigail Rappoport

Student | Chapman University

Authors

David Frederick

[221] Temporal Effects of Stress in Close Relationships: How Lingering and Accumulating Daily Stress Shape Relationship Behaviors

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

While stress has been linked to lower relationship satisfaction, less is known about how different temporal patterns of stress affect day-to-day relationship behaviors. We will use multilevel modeling of a 12-day diary study of 287 married individuals to examine whether same day stress, lingering stress, and accumulating stress exert unique effects on self-reported support and conflict behavior. We define same day stress effects as associations between behavior and stress reported the same day, lingering stress effects as associations between behavior and stress reported 1, 2, and 3-days prior, and accumulating stress effects as associations between behavior and the interaction of same-day stress and stress reported 1, 2, and 3-days prior. We hypothesize that higher-than-usual stress reported the same day, and all three prior days will predict increased verbal aggression and decreased partner support and that the same day effects will be accentuated by stress experienced all three prior days. This research will illuminate temporal mechanisms through which daily stress undermines relationship functioning and identifies behavioral pathways linking stress to relationship outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Marowski

Graduate Student | Florida State University

Authors

James McNulty, Andrea Meltzer

[222] Testing the Extrinsic Convergent Validity of Constructs in Relationship Science

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Historically, relationship scientists have attempted to understand the processes underlying romantic relationship quality, success, and failure by studying a large number of "relationship constructs" (e.g., love, commitment, intimacy). However, researchers have begun to question the validity of measures used to assess these constructs and, in particular, whether they are distinct from one another. Building on these questions, we used extrinsic convergent validity testing to examine the extent to which the six components of the Perceived Relationship Quality Components measure represent distinct constructs when predicting self-reported relationship behavior. Across one between-subjects study ($N = 619$) and one within-subjects study ($N = 616$), we used multiple statistical methods to demonstrate that some components (trust, passion, and commitment) uniquely predicted behavior, whereas others (satisfaction, love, and intimacy) did not, suggesting that these constructs may be "jangled" to some extent. Implications and future directions will be discussed, with particular emphasis on refining theory and measurement practices.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlotte Sudduth

PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Authors

Alexander Rothman, Jeffry Simpson

[223] Testing the Impact of Relationship Threat on Romantic Self-Sabotaging Behaviors

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This study examines the effect of a relationship threat manipulation on relationship self-sabotage (engaging in destructive relationship behaviors). A sample of undergraduate student participants in a romantic relationship answered self-report questionnaires about relationship self-sabotage, dyadic perfectionism (perfectionism directed at one's romantic relationships), attachment style, and self-esteem. We then analyzed how the threat manipulation impacted relationship self-sabotage and other measures. We anticipated that exposure to relationship threat would increase scores on relationship self-sabotage compared to participants not exposed to this threat. This is supported by prior studies which examined concerns about rejection and the use of partner derogation utilizing the same relationship threat manipulation as in the present study. Prior studies have modeled how and why people self-protect in relationships, but the Relationship Self-Sabotage scale is relatively novel and therefore hasn't yet been used in tandem with a manipulation of relationship threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jada Bowers

Student | Florida Atlantic University

Authors

Michael R. Maniaci

[224] Testosterone's relationship to male dominance and prestige: discrepancies between self and partner reports

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Prior research shows a positive relationship between dominance and prestige among men across cultures, with testosterone (T) often linked to these traits. While dominance and prestige are frequently measured through self-report, few studies have examined whether self-reports align with partner reports. Based on prior literature, we predicted that male self-reported dominance correlated with his self-reported prestige and novelty, that self-reports would correlate with partner perceptions. Data came from 190 dyads in a longitudinal study. Participants completed the Dominance and Prestige scale (Cheng et al., 2010), and saliva samples were assayed for T. Using an actor-partner interdependence model (APIM), we found that self-reported dominance predicted self-reported prestige, and partner-reported dominance predicted partner-reported prestige. However, male T predicted self-reported dominance but was unrelated to partner ratings of his dominance. Findings suggest that T may predict self-perceived but not partner-perceived dominance, and that prestige may be more consistently observable across relational contexts. Future research should examine these dynamics beyond fatherhood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Garrabrants

Pepperdine University

Authors

Randy Corpuz

[225] The Behavioral Ecology of Health: A Systematic Review Linking Harshness and Unpredictability with Physical, Mental, and Behavioral Health

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Life history theory in psychology offers a framework through which to understand how challenging early life experiences and environmental factors shape health. Indeed, much research has leveraged a behavioral ecological perspective to examine how harshness and unpredictability relate to physical, mental, and behavioral health. To take stock of patterns of results and to provide insights on common mechanisms of the effects of environmental pressures on individuals' health, we conducted a systematic review of work focused on associations between childhood harshness and unpredictability and health. In all, we include 68 papers. Childhood harshness and unpredictability tend to be negatively associated with physical health, mental health, and behavioral health. These associations are mediated by biological factors, dysregulated eating, and life history strategies, which provide insights for practical and theoretical implications. Although empirical and theoretical critiques can (and should) be leveled against life history theory, the framework remains invaluable to novel explorations of how individual differences in developmental experiences may shape downstream body and mind.

*POSTER

Speaker



Casey Timbs

Research Coordinator | Florida State University

Authors

Rebecca Chuhak, Nour Haddad, Sarah Psihogios, Heath Maranges

[226] The Benefits of Capitalization With Friends and Romantic Partners: An Examination of Two Types of Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic partners and friends are two of the most important types of relationships for fostering positive emotions. One positive interpersonal process within which both friends and romantic partners can engage is capitalization—the sharing of good news. It is not known whether friends and romantic partners systematically differ in how they capitalize with each other or whether they elicit different beneficial outcomes. The current study is a 2 relationship type by 2 time-point mixed design in which participants attended two lab sessions. In the first session, half of the participants engaged in a videorecorded capitalization discussion with their romantic partner, while the other half engaged in a capitalization discussion with a friend. Friends and romantic partners both elicited similar levels of positive affect and feelings of social connection. Participants rated their friends and their romantic partners as similarly responsive. However, romantic partners engaged in significantly more physical touch than did friends and their degree of responsiveness was more closely associated with features of their relationship such as its closeness and importance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Grace Vieth
Univ. of Minnesota

Authors

Alexander Rothman, Jeffry Simpson

[227] The Effect of Attractiveness Bias and Colorism on Hiring Practices and Personnel Evaluations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Attractiveness bias and colorism—two relatively understudied forms of bias—have significant implications for workplace evaluations. This project examines how perceptions of Black women candidates are shaped by attractiveness and skin tone. Across three studies, participants reviewed a job description and resume paired with a photo manipulated by attractiveness (attractive vs. unattractive) and skin tone (light, medium, dark). In Study 1 (N=80), less attractive candidates were unexpectedly rated as a better organizational fit than more attractive candidates, with no other significant effects. Study 2 (N=60) yielded no significant findings, but Study 3 (N=60) revealed an attractiveness bias: attractive candidates were rated more favorably overall and expected to fit better. No effects of skin tone or interactions emerged across studies. These findings suggest attractiveness may play a more consistent role than skin tone in shaping evaluations, though results vary by sample. Ongoing analyses will test mediational pathways (e.g., competence, fit) and will be presented at the conference. While this project focuses on Black women, future research will expand to include candidates of other races and genders to provide a broader understanding of how these intersecting biases shape workplace outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kharynton Beggs
Behavioral Pre-Doctoral Fellow | Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern

Authors

Leah Zinner

[228] The Effect of Home Chaos and Parental Affect on Disruptive Behavior in Neurodivergent Children

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

This study examined how home disorganization and parental affect relate to children's disruptive behavior using data from the Florida Twin Project on Behavior and Environment. We hypothesized that greater home disorganization, higher negative parental affect, and lower positive parental affect would predict more disruptive behavior, and that neurodivergent (ND) children would show higher home disorganization, higher negative affect, lower positive affect, and more disruptive behavior than neurotypical (NT) peers.

Multiple regression showed significant links between home disorganization and negative parental affect with disruptive behavior (medium effect). Independent samples t-tests found significant ND–NT differences in home disorganization, parental affect, and disruptive behavior (small to moderate effects).

Findings underscore the role of environmental and emotional factors in behavior and suggest interventions to improve home organization and parental emotional support. ND children are at increased risk for disorganized homes, higher disruptive behavior, and elevated parental negative affect, which places them at greater risk for adverse educational and life outcomes.

Multiple regression showed significant links between home disorganization and negative parental affect with disruptive behavior (medium effect). Independent samples t-tests found significant ND–NT differences in home disorganization, parental affect, and disruptive behavior (small to moderate effects).

Findings underscore the role of environmental and emotional factors in behavior and suggest interventions to improve home organization and parental emotional support. Future research should examine mechanisms underlying these relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shannon Kirshy
PhD Student | University of Alabama at Birmingham

Authors

Caroline Richter

[229] Geographically Aggregated Psychological Traits from Linguistic Analysis of Twitter Data Predict Voter Realignment Towards Trump

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

POLITICS

Donald Trump's rise has catalyzed a realignment in American politics. A key question for understanding this shift is to examine how Trump's voter base differs from the Republican electorate in earlier elections. To address this question, we examined a large-scale corpus of Twitter posts written between July 2009 and February 2015, with word counts aggregated by U.S. county. We estimated the geographic distribution of personality, empathy, and moral foundations using previously-developed computationally modeled lexica that provide scores for individual words on these traits. Each county's 2000-2008 Republican Presidential vote share was included as a control variable along with demographic predictors. Language consistent with low agreeableness and low empathy, and a greater emphasis on unfairness, all predicted support for Trump in 2016-2024 but not for Romney in 2012. These results suggest that communities that realigned in Trump's favor were already expressing psychological dispositions aligned with his political messaging prior to 2016. More broadly, our study demonstrates the power of linguistic analysis of social media data for understanding Americans' political preferences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Cohen

Senior Research Analyst | University of Chicago

Authors

Mehak Sachdeva, Zening Duan

[230] The Effects of Contextual Factors and Individual Differences on Sexual Interest Perception

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Error Management Theory (Haselton & Buss, 2000) discusses the distal factors responsible for men's tendency to perceive more sexual interest than women report. However, it sheds limited light on the proximal factors involved in sexual interest perception. Interpersonal attraction and perception are guided by an array of factors, including motivational processes influenced by one's proximal environment (see Finkel & Baumeister, 2010). In addition, prior sexual interest research has primarily focused on heterosexual individuals. The goal of the present study was to investigate the influence of contextual factors and individual differences (e.g., sexual narcissism, attachment) and their interactions on sexual interest perception among heterosexual, gay, and bisexual adults. Contextual factors were manipulated via a hypothetical vignette scenario and included physical attraction to the target (i.e., not physically attracted to, physically attracted to), type of relationship between the perceiver and target (i.e., acquaintance/friend, stranger, or coworker/colleague), and present environment (at a bar/club vs. work event). Results, future directions, and implications will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lindsay Ruckel

Assistant Professor of Psychology | State University of New York at Oswego

[231] The Effects of Message Framing on Climate-Friendly Attitudes and Behaviors: A Pilot Study

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Climate change messages often target highly engaged audiences. This study investigated the impact of message framing on climate-related attitudes and behavioral intentions in a general population sample. Messages focused on energy-saving attitudes and actions, as these have been found to be one of the most impactful and achievable ways for individuals to reduce household-level greenhouse gas emissions. Messages varied in the quantity of solutions (1 vs. 7) and the solution actor (the participant vs. legislators). Participants completed pre-surveys, viewed one of four climate-action messages, and then completed post-surveys. When action is framed as the responsibility of legislators, participants report greater willingness to act. When individuals are encouraged to act themselves, participants exposed to multiple solutions develop more positive attitudes toward environmentally-friendly behaviors than those given a single action. These findings highlight the importance of aligning message design with the intended actor and the number of solutions suggested to engage broader audiences in climate action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Phoebe Hemmerling

Graduate Student | Kansas State University

Authors

Laura A. Brannon

[232] The Effects of Mindfulness and Loving-Kindness Meditation on Enhancing Attachment Security

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Attachment orientations shape relationship outcomes, career outcomes, and well-being, making interventions which enhance security vital. In recent years, a growing literature has examined factors which promote attachment security. However, there is still a lack of simple interventions which can enhance security. Meditation interventions are simple and cost-efficient to deliver and already show benefits in several other interpersonal domains, such as enhancing relationship satisfaction, closeness, and social connectedness.

The current study aims to test the effects of (a) mindfulness meditation, (b) loving-kindness meditation, and (c) an active control condition on attachment orientations over time. Attachment orientations are being measured before the delivering of interventions. Each intervention lasts four weeks (with participants coming in for half an hour each week) along with home practice. We then obtain follow-up reports on attachment orientations immediately following the intervention period and one and two months following the intervention period.

Data collection and analysis has yet to be completed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taranah Gazder

PhD Student | University of Edinburgh

Authors

Sarah C E Stanton

[233] The Hidden Costs of Moral Reframing

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Moral reframing—a technique in which a position that an individual does not support is reframed in a way to be consistent with their core moral values—has been shown to depolarize political attitudes (Feinberg & Willer, 2019). However, it may increase the belief that an attitude is rooted in basic questions of right and wrong (Kodapanakal et al., 2022). This is concerning since heightened moral conviction predicts increased affective polarization and reduced compromise (Ryan, 2017).

Our online survey experiment tested moral reframing's impact on attitudes regarding abortion and immigration policy, willingness to compromise, and affective polarization (N = 288). After participants' initial policy views were recorded, they were randomly assigned to read either a single moral frame opposing their policy position or two competing frames with one opposing argument and one supporting argument. The competing-frames condition was included to enhance ecological validity, modeling the conflicting messages common in real-world information environments.

Replicating prior research, single frames resulted in significantly more moderate attitudes relative to baseline ($b = 0.29$, $p < .001$); competing frames produced no attitude change. Willingness to compromise did not change significantly in either condition. Notably, participants in both conditions showed similar increases in affective polarization (e.g., preferred social distance from outpartisans increased).

These findings reveal a troubling paradox: moral reframing may depolarize attitudes while simultaneously increasing affective polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kelia Lomeli

University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Tyrone Sgambati, Ozlem Ayduk

[234] The Hidden Strain: Relationship Stress and Maternal Postpartum Depression

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This study examines the correlation between relationship stress and postpartum depression (PPD). PPD is defined as moderate to severe depression within the first year after birth and affects an estimated 13-19% of mothers (Hutchens et al., 2020). It's hypothesized that higher levels of relationship stress – including intimate partner violence, partner's controlling behaviors, and parenting stress – are associated with increased PPD symptoms. Relationship stress was measured using the Revised Tactics Scales, Coparenting Relationship Scale, and Controlling Behaviors Scale. PPD was measured with the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale in self-report surveys from 514 mothers within six months postpartum, through Prolific.com in April 2024. Results showed 56.6% of participants scored 13 or higher, indicating likely PPD. Intimate partner violence and controlling behaviors were positively correlated with PPD ($r = .394$, $p < .001$; $r = .098$, $p = .041$). These findings highlight close relationship processes as targets for screening and support in the early postpartum period. Limitations include a cross-sectional design and a predominantly middle-class sample.

*POSTER

Speaker



Genevieve Mucitelli

Student Researcher | Clarkson University

Authors

Ying Zhang, Danielle Lindsay

[235] The Ick Factor: Explaining the Term in Romantic Relationships Through Sexual Disgust and Avoidant Attachment Style

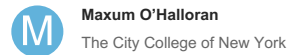
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The phenomenon of the “ick” (a visceral reaction to a person’s habits or traits) has proliferated on social media where it seems to play an important role in attraction. Possible theoretical explanations for the ick are avoidant attachment and sexual disgust. Avoidantly attached individuals tend to be uncomfortable in high intimacy relationships and may use icks as the basis for withdrawal from a partner. Sexual disgust is a negative visceral reaction to potential partners based on an innate habit to select better mates; icks may reflect that disgust and imitate its social-evolutionary function. We hypothesized that people would rate potential partners with an ick as less attractive and dateable compared to those with no ick, and that people who rate ick profiles lower would score higher on sexual disgust and avoidant attachment. The current study recruited 236 participants who were randomly exposed to two dating profiles and two first-date vignettes, with either an ick or no ick present. Additionally, they filled out measures of sexual disgust and attachment style. Data analysis is underway. Results could shed light on the validity of icks and their theoretical underpinning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Ann Marie Yali

[236] The Impact of Diversity Definitions on Employee and Organization Outcomes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Recent years have seen rising anti-DEI rhetoric and activism. In January 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14151, “ending radical and wasteful government DEI programs and preferencing.” As organizations are ramping up or scaling back their DEI initiatives, understanding their impact on employees and organizational outcomes is crucial. In this research, we investigated whether the presence of broad (viewpoint), broad + demographic, or demographic definitions of diversity change perceptions of how employees from different groups are treated, and if those perceptions change based on participant identity (e.g., White compared to underrepresented groups). Across 2 studies (n = 1,075), we found that although participants liked the broad+demo statement the most, they perceived that racial minority and women employees would be treated most fairly in the demographic diversity condition. Additionally, in Study 2, we found that White participants perceived the company to be biased in favor of racial minority employees in the demographic condition, while Black participants perceived equal treatment. Additionally, we found that presidential approval moderated some of these findings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Monica Biernat

[237] The Impact of Paranoid Thoughts on the Romantic Relationship Formation: Insights from A Speed-Dating Study

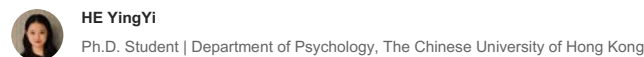
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

This study explores how paranoid thoughts influence initial attraction in mate selection. Paranoid thoughts, including two dimensions—persecution (beliefs of being targeted or harmed) and reference (beliefs that events specifically refer to themselves)—are characterized by social threat perceptions, which may lead to a defensive attitude toward potential partners and misinterpretation of social cues, negatively impacting initial attraction. We hypothesized that paranoid thoughts would negatively impact interpersonal perceptions under a romantic context, due to its association with social threat sensitivity. By using a speed-dating design with a sample of Hong Kong college students (N = 255), however, contrary to our hypothesis, our results show that individuals with a higher level on the persecution dimension of paranoid thoughts tend to rate their partner’s attractiveness as higher. And for the perceived attraction, there are gender differences, where females with higher persecution level may believe that their partner would rate their attractiveness as lower, while males’ persecution shows no significant interaction effects. These findings highlight the impact of paranoid thoughts on interpersonal perceptions during the initial stages of mate selection, and suggest the challenges paranoid thoughts may present during romantic relationships formation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Chin Ming Hui, Tiffany Sok U SIU, Eddie Ka Wai YUEN

[238] The Impact of Prior BDSM Activities on Post-Scene Negotiation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

BDSM can produce pleasurable altered states of consciousness (Ambler et al., 2017), but these altered states might impact practitioners' ability to negotiate a subsequent scene. BDSM practitioners (N = 81) completed surveys before and after a BDSM scene. The surveys measured positive and negative affect, stress, sexual arousal, interest in BDSM activities, and hard and soft limits (activities that the participant would prohibit or be disinclined to allow, respectively). Consistent with prior research, positive affect and sexual arousal increased during the scene, and negative affect and stress decreased. New to this study, interest in BDSM activities increased significantly for tops (participants taking on the dominant role) but was unchanged for bottoms, interaction $t(37) = 2.10$, $p = .04$. From before to after their scenes, participants showed a marginally significant increase in hard limits, $p = .08$, and a marginally significant decrease in soft limits, $p = .06$. However, over 25% of participants reported at least one hard limit at baseline that was no longer a hard limit after their scene. Results suggest that a prior scene might impact subsequent scene negotiations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brad Sagarin

Professor | Northern Illinois University

Authors

Brad Sagarin, Taylor Mackenzie, Brianna Muzzy, Rachel Rushing, Hannah Tarlet

[239] The Impact of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination on Academic Self-Beliefs in Minority College Students: A Systematic Review

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

This systematic review examined the relationship between racial and ethnic discrimination and academic self-beliefs among college students. Across 32 studies published between 1996 and 2024, we identified 53 unique effect sizes to assess the strength and patterns of association between experiences of discrimination (e.g., microaggressions, overt racism) and academic self-beliefs (e.g., academic self-efficacy, barriers, self-concept). A majority of effects were small or trivial in magnitude, suggesting that while discrimination is statistically associated with academic self-beliefs, the strength of these relationships is modest. Covert forms of discrimination, such as microaggressions, were more commonly examined and more likely to yield moderate effects than overt discrimination. Stronger associations emerged for outcomes like academic barriers and affective responses, whereas beliefs tied to self-concept or academic competence were generally weaker. Most studies employed validated, multi-item measures of discrimination, but considerable variability in conceptual definitions and measurement quality limited the comparability of findings. Very few studies examined moderators such as racial/ethnic identity or social support. Findings underscore the need for greater consistency in measurement and increased attention to contextual moderators in future research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brigitte Madan

Baylor University

Authors

Brigitte Madan, Morgan Bobo, Keith Sanford

[240] The impact of Social Media usage on Parent-Child Attachment Styles

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

As of 2023, 97% of Americans own a cellphone. Furthermore, 90% of Generation Z, ages 18-24, report social media usage (CivicScience, 2023). The study will observe how media consumption can affect parent-child attachment styles. Previous studies have shown media use for parents leads to insecure attachment with their children. There is a gap in research on how the child's media usage can affect their attachment styles. We will collect data about social media usage and attachment styles from 185 participants whose ages range from 18-22. We will use self-report measures of participant's screen time usage and collect additional demographic information. Participants will then complete the ECR-R to measure attachment style. Previous research has indicated that adolescents with higher media usage have more secure attachments with their parents. Less research has been conducted within the young adult population despite the rise of social media throughout the early development stages of Generation Z. Given the widespread use, we hypothesize that young adults with higher media usage will have more secure parent-child attachment styles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Margaret Davis

Graduate Student | Appalachian State University

Authors

Margaret Davis, Christopher Holden, Logan Kochendorfer

[241] The Importance of Own Attachment: Unpacking Anxiety's Functional Role in Relationships

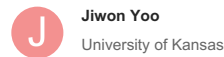
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Adult attachment is closely associated with relationship satisfaction in romantic relationships, but the roles of individual attachment (actor effect), partner attachment (partner effect), and the compatibility of partners' styles (dyadic combination effect) remain unclear. Additionally, the distinct associations of attachment anxiety and avoidance on relationship outcomes have been underexplored. This study analyzed 501 Korean premarital couples using the Actor–Partner Interdependence Model, revealing two key findings: (1) The actor's attachment style had the strongest association with satisfaction, surpassing that of a partner's attachment or dyadic combinations, and (2) Attachment anxiety and avoidance were not equally harmful; a context-specific mitigating pattern emerged at the dyadic level. Specifically, in couples where women reported high anxiety, the negative association between men's anxiety and their own satisfaction was attenuated. Thus, individual attachment style accounted for satisfaction above and beyond a partner's attachment or the compatibility between styles, with anxiety proving to be less damaging and even protective in certain contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Young-Hoon Kim, Hyoungbin Moon

[242] The Ironic Effects of Broadening Diversity for Sexual Minorities

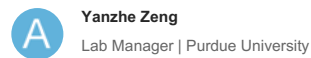
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Diversity is one of the buzzwords of the 21st century. But who counts as diverse? We coded diversity statements to examine how organizations typically define diversity and whether oppressed-group members perceive some definitions as diluting diversity, or detracting from the original intention of diversity initiatives. In Study 1, we coded the top 250 Fortune 500 companies' diversity statements for whether they use a broad, broad + demographic, or demographic definition of diversity or neglect to define diversity at all. Organizations most commonly opted for a broad definition of diversity (38%) that focused on diversity in perspectives and skills, with no mention of demographic group identities (e.g., race, sexual orientation, gender; Study 1). In Studies 2 and 3, we manipulated diversity definition between sexual minorities and measured their willingness to disclose their sexual identities. Sexual minorities perceived broad statements as diluting diversity more than other diversity statements, and broad statements led sexual minorities to be less willing to disclose their sexual identity. Both cross-sectional mediation and manipulation of the mediator (Studies 3-4) suggested that broad statements hurt social identity disclosure via reduced sense of belonging. Celebrating differences may seem unequivocally positive. Yet, the present research shows that the type of difference matters. From the perspective of oppressed-group members, broadening the definition of diversity to include personality characteristics and perspectives has insidious costs for sexual minorities—particularly if the definition did not also mention demographic characteristics. Indeed, more “inclusive” definitions of diversity may not be perceived as such by people who continue to face systemic oppression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Teri Kirby, Nicole Russell Pascual

[243] The Kamala Effect: Exploring Kamala Harris's Role in Representation and Implicit Bias

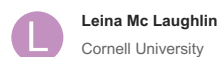
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ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Previous research has shown that exposure to individuals who challenge stereotypes may help reduce implicit bias. After the 2008 presidential election, participants primed with information about Barack Obama and his accomplishments demonstrated lower implicit bias scores towards Black men than those not exposed, known as the Obama Effect. We propose that Kamala Harris' presidential campaign and loss in 2024 will produce a similar "Kamala Effect". We will compare two waves of participants, one measured before the 2024 election and one after, to test whether losing the election lowered Harris' status as an exemplar. In both waves, we will prime participants with Harris' accomplishments and then measure their implicit attitudes toward both women and Black people via the Affect Misattribution Procedure. We predict that participants measured before the election will demonstrate less bias than those measured after her loss. As the first Black woman to run for and lose a presidential election, Harris provides a unique test of the Obama Effect framework, demonstrating how intersecting racial and gender identities shape implicit attitudes when exemplars fall short of an electoral win.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Amy Krosch

[244] The Link Between Wrongness Admission and Romantic Relationship Health

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Wrongness admission is the act of publicly retracting a previously held inaccurate belief or attitude. Previous research has found that wrongness admission confers reputational benefits. However, few studies have looked at wrongness admission in romantic relationships. In Study 1 (N = 195) participants' perceptions of their romantic partners' willingness to engage in wrongness admission was positively correlated with positive relationship outcomes (e.g., understanding, satisfaction, and commitment). In Study 2 (anticipated N = 200), we experimentally test whether participants who perceive their partners engaging in wrongness admission (vs. refusing) in a hypothetical argument report higher positive relationship outcomes. We hypothesize that those in the admission condition will report greater perceived partner responsiveness and, subsequently, greater relationship closeness, commitment, and satisfaction. Together, these studies suggest that intellectual humility, expressed through wrongness admission, may play a vital role in fostering healthier, more satisfying romantic relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alika Tsyturina

Ph.D. Student | University of Houston

Authors

Nicholas Evans, Adam K. Fetterman

[245] The Long Arm of First Love: Parental Approval to Children's First Romantic Relationships and Their Long-Term Implications for Well-Being

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Objective: This study examines the associations between parental approval of adolescents' first romantic relationship and long-term well-being in adulthood, focusing on differences by behavioral versus attitudinal approval and by opposite-sex versus same-sex first romance.

Method: Data were drawn from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health Wave V (2016–2018) and the SOGI-SES ancillary study (2020–2021), with a final analytic sample of 1,817 adults. Self-reported parental behavioral and attitudinal acceptance of the first romantic relationship were assessed separately for opposite-sex and same-sex first partners. Adulthood well-being was measured by a scale of mental health (13 items; $\alpha = .93$), optimism (3 items; $\alpha = .75$), and perceived social support (3 items; $\alpha = .51$). Linear regressions were applied to estimate the associations, controlling for sex, age, education, marital status, and sexual orientation.

Results: Lower parental behavioral and attitudinal acceptance of adolescents' first different-sex relationship—along with parental unawareness—were consistently associated with poorer adult well-being (worse mental health, lower optimism, and reduced perceived social support). Attitudinal non-acceptance showed the largest deficits in mental health, whereas behavioral non-acceptance yielded broader, though somewhat smaller, associations across outcomes. By contrast, parental acceptance surrounding same-sex first relationships showed no robust associations with these outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chloe Wang

National Chengchi University

Authors

Jen-Hao Chen

[246] The Political is Relational: Political Dissimilarity Predicts Worse Relationship Quality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Politics is not just about policy—it is infused in daily life and can divide families, friends, and partners. Extending prior work that has nearly exclusively focused on romantic relationships in non-representative samples, we tested whether perceived political dissimilarity predicted poorer relationship quality across romantic and non-romantic relationships in a nationally representative U.S. sample (N = 1,074; 55% Republican, 45% Democrat) during a period of heightened political tension: the 2024 U.S. election. In a 9-wave longitudinal study spanning September 2024 - June 2025, greater political dissimilarity predicted lower relationship quality across the study timeframe, and a 16% higher likelihood of breakup per one-point increase in dissimilarity (notably, these effects were stronger after vs. before the election). In this diverse and representative sample, dissimilarity was comparably costly across relationship types, gender, age, and race. These findings underscore the widespread relational costs of political dissimilarity: Political divides spill deeply into many people's personal lives, eroding the quality and stability of people's closest ties.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephanie Domingo

Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Yitong Zhao, Noah M. Laskey, Matthew Feinberg, Spike W. S. Lee, Brett Q. Ford

[247] The Politics of Brand Perception: Differential Responses to Race-Conscious Advertising

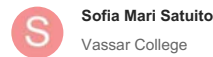
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ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

This study investigated how racially conscious advertising practices influence consumer attitudes and purchasing intentions across two studies. In Study 1, participants viewed either a race-conscious or race-neutral advertisement for a hypothetical brand. Although advertisement type had no direct main effects, political orientation significantly moderated responses. Conservatives rated the race-conscious brand less favorably and reported lower purchase intentions than the neutral brand, while liberals showed no differences across conditions. In Study 2, we introduced system-justifying beliefs and trust in media as additional moderators, finding that conservative-leaning participants again reported lower favorability and purchase intentions toward race-conscious brands than neutral ones, while liberals' evaluations remained largely stable. Across both studies, results suggest an "activation" effect: race-conscious branding heightens negative responses among conservative consumers without producing corresponding gains among liberals. These findings underscore the importance of political identity in shaping consumer reactions to race-conscious marketing strategies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Peyton Small, Daniel Wellner

[248] The Power of the Past: Is Romantic Nostalgia Predominantly Positive?

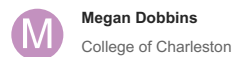
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CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In the broader nostalgia literature, nostalgia consistently emerges as a predominantly positive experience. However, there has been conflicting research about the positive experience specifically in romantic nostalgia. We examined this contradiction further in two experiments. Experiment 1 utilized a community sample recruited from local Facebook groups (N = 43). Experiment 2 recruited through Prolific (N = 202). In both experiments, participants were randomly assigned to recall and write a narrative about either a nostalgic or ordinary event within their current romantic relationship. We will use ChatGPT to code the written narratives (Rathje et al., 2024) to determine the extent to which positive and negative emotions are present. We expect that narratives authored by participants in the romantic nostalgia condition will contain more positive emotions compared to negative emotions. We also expect that narratives written by participants in the romantic nostalgia condition will contain more positive emotions than narratives authored by participants in the ordinary event condition. We will also explore the prevalence of mixed emotions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Chelsea Reid

[249] The Psychological Effects of a Brief BDSM Experience

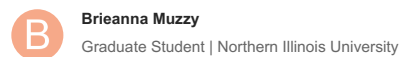
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

SEXUALITY

Most research on the effects of BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Dominance/Submission, Sadism/Masochism) activities has focused on longer activities, leaving a gap in research on how individuals react to short BDSM activities. Thus, the goal of this study was to explore how BDSM practitioners react to brief BDSM experiences. Ninety-four participants completed a questionnaire pre and post participation in a 5-minute BDSM activity. Results of paired samples t-tests showed that ratings for feeling proud were significantly higher post-activity compared to pre-activity. Ratings of emotions of shame significantly decreased post-activity compared to pre-activity. Ratings of feelings of closeness with other conference attendees increased post-activity compared to pre-activity. Finally, moderation analyses revealed a significant interaction for the relationship of feeling proud pre and post activity on years in the community. The results show increases in positive emotions and decreases in negative emotions after engaging in a brief BDSM activity compared to before the activity. Finally, the relationship between feeling proud pre and post activity was moderated by years in the community, such that those who were newer in the community felt an increase of pride post activity compared to those who had been in the community longer.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Brad Sagarin, Taylor Mackenzie, Zoey Glos

[250] The Relationship Between Attachment, Fear of Compassion, and Self-Compassion in University Students

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Objectives: According to attachment theory (Bowlby, 1958, 1982), early caregiver responses shape internal models of self and others. Insecure attachment is linked to negative self-perceptions and lower self-compassion (Neff & McGehee, 2010). Recent research highlights that some individuals fear compassion (for others, from others, or toward themselves) (Gilbert et al., 2011). But the mediating role between attachment and self-compassion remains underexplored.

Methods: 258 Japanese university students completed the ECR-RS (attachment), Fear of Compassion Scale, and Self-Compassion Scale.

Results: T-tests revealed that compared to securely attached individuals, those with insecure attachment reported higher fear of compassion from others and fear of self-compassion, as well as lower levels of self-compassion. No group difference was found for fear of compassion for others. SEM analysis showed that only fear of self-compassion significantly mediated the link between insecure attachment and low self-compassion.

Conclusions: This study shows that fear of self-compassion plays a key role in linking insecure attachment to low self-compassion. It suggests that reducing this fear, may help improve psychological adjustment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yushi Chen

Nihon University

Authors

Takashi Oka

[251] The Relationship Between Clothing Choices, Body Image, and Mate Selection

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Attractiveness, body image, and mate selection are three psychological concepts that have been heavily researched separately but rarely together. There is a gap in understanding whether people are able to outwardly signal their body image, and whether this is a considered factor in mate selection. To answer these questions, this study will present participants with AI-generated images of identical people of average attractiveness, each wearing two different outfits. One outfit will be designed to signal high body image, with the individual dressed in bright colors, tight fitting clothing, and garments that are typically deemed "professional". The other image of this person will show them wearing clothes that are designed to signal a lower body image, dressed in dull colors, ill-fitting clothes, and garments that are more casual than professional. Participants will be randomly assigned to view one of the two images and assess the level of body image satisfaction of the person in the image. They will then be asked to rate how attractive the person is, and whether they would be interested in pursuing the person romantically. These results will provide insight on whether individuals can signal body image through their clothing, and whether body image is a considered factor when a person is selecting a potential mate.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Davis

Appalachian State University

Authors

Christopher Holden

[252] The Rise of Resentment: How Self-Concept Changes Fuel Resentment in Romantic Relationships

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Resentment is a complex emotional response that occurs when people feel that they have been wronged, taken advantage of, or treated unfairly. Surprisingly, little research has explored what leads people to feel resentment, especially in romantic relationships. In the current work, we hypothesized that relationship-induced self-degradation (i.e., the perception that a relationship has changed a person for the worse), compared to self-improvement (i.e., the perception that a relationship has changed a person for the better), would lead to increased feelings of resentment in romantic partners.

In two studies (total N = 440), one correlational and one experimental, we examined whether self-change would be associated with resentment, and whether resentment would mediate the association between self-change and relationship outcomes. Across both studies, we found that self-degradation was associated with greater feelings of resentment. Moreover, feelings of resentment mediated the association between self-change and relationship quality. These findings provide novel insights into the nature of resentment and the potential reasons why romantic partners experience resentment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alyssa LaGrone

Student | Trinity University

Authors

Allison Fortman, Kevin McIntyre, Brent Mattingly, Abigail Caselli

[253] The Role of Identity-Safety Cues in Shaping Healthcare Experiences of Black Immigrants

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Black immigrants often face unique challenges at the intersection of race and immigration status in healthcare settings, including concerns about stigma. Research on identity-safety cues suggests that inclusive signals in healthcare environments can reduce threat and increase trust and perceived safety for minoritized groups. This proposed study examines how using identity-safety cues in healthcare contexts impacts perceptions of inclusion and physician allyship among Black immigrants. Participants will be randomly assigned to view a mock clinic webpage displaying a racial-justice cue, an immigration-inclusive cue, or no cue (control condition). We hypothesize that exposure to a race or immigration-inclusive cue will increase inclusion and physician allyship compared to the control cue. However, immigration-inclusive cues are expected to yield the strongest effect on inclusion and allyship. Findings will extend existing research by focusing on the understudied population of Black immigrants, highlighting strategies to reduce disparities and foster culturally responsive care. Data will be collected using Prolific, and we anticipate data collection will be complete in December 2025.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ellie Nnatubeugo

PhD Student | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Veronica Derricks

[254] The Role of Implicit Relationship Beliefs on Romantic Relationship Satisfaction and Psychological Well-Being

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic relationship beliefs are cognitive schemas that guide how people perceive and maintain close relationships. We tested whether implicit theories of relationships vary across three monthly assessments in emerging adulthood and whether such variation relates to life satisfaction and psychological wellbeing. Participants were 306 individuals in ongoing relationships, 76.5 percent women, ages 18 to 26, $M = 21.59$, $SD = 1.50$, relationship length $M = 21.22$ months, $SD = 20.20$. At each wave, destiny and growth beliefs, life satisfaction, and psychological wellbeing were assessed. Across three measures, increases in destiny beliefs predicted lower life satisfaction, $\gamma = -.09$, $p < .01$, and $\gamma = -.10$, $p < .01$. Increases in growth beliefs predicted higher life satisfaction, $\gamma = .17$, $p < .01$. Time did not predict any changes in psychological wellbeing but overall stronger growth beliefs were related to higher psychological wellbeing, $\gamma = .30$, $p < .01$, whereas stronger destiny beliefs related to lower psychological wellbeing, $\gamma = -.08$, $p = .04$. Findings position implicit theories as dynamic cognitive targets for relationship and mental health research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ayşe Busra İplikçi

Research Assistant Dr. | Akdeniz University

Authors

Firat Ozdemir, Ayca Ozen-Ciplak

[255] The Role of Race-Related Vigilance on Smoking Cessation Challenges Among Black Adult

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

The current study examined the role of race-related vigilance on smoking-related outcomes among a sample of Black adult daily smokers. The primary aim was to examine whether race-related vigilance uniquely contributes to quit problem severity, barriers to cessation, and smoking abstinence expectancies, including expectancies related to negative mood, somatic symptoms, harmful consequences, and positive consequences. The sample included 498 Black adults who endorsed daily combustible cigarette smoking ($M_{age} = 45.37$ years, $SD = 14.68$, age range 18-73 years; 51.4% female). Two-step hierarchical linear regression models were conducted to evaluate the incremental predictive power of race-related vigilance. Our findings suggest the associations between race-related vigilance and several smoking-related challenges, including quit problem severity, cessation barriers, and expectations concerning the short-term effects of smoking abstinence (i.e., negative mood, positive consequences) even after accounting for sociodemographic factors and perceived discrimination. By integrating racial stress frameworks into smoking research, it is possible to better address the unique barriers faced by marginalized populations and develop more equitable cessation interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Duckhyun Jo

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Houston

[256] The Roles of Self-Esteem and Provider Self-Efficacy on Support Provision

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Those with lower self-esteem are reluctant to provide support to close others, potentially undermining personal and relational well-being. We propose that this may result from a tendency to doubt their own support skills. To test this, we first measured self-esteem and then manipulated participants' beliefs about their support efficacy. We asked them to serve as support providers in hypothetical scenarios and randomly assigned participants to receive positive feedback about their support capabilities or no feedback (control condition). This feedback was ostensibly provided by either a human counsellor with expertise in social support, or from an Artificial Intelligence (AI) model. Participants then rated their willingness to provide support in the future. As predicted, higher (vs. lower) self-esteem predicted stronger future support intentions among those in the control condition and those who received positive feedback from a human expert. In contrast, self-esteem did not predict willingness among those who received feedback ostensibly provided by AI. This suggests that bolstering support self-efficacy may encourage support provision among lower self-esteem individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniella Rinaldo

PhD student | Wilfrid Laurier University

Authors

Justin Cavallo

[257] The Scarlet Letter of Inclusion: How DEI Labels Backfire on Interpersonal Engagement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Although DEI initiatives have led to meaningful numerical gains in diversity, organizations continue to struggle with fostering genuine inclusion. We propose that labeling someone a "DEI beneficiary" can trigger perceptions of having unearned advantages, which in turn undermine interpersonal engagement from advantaged group members. Across five pre-registered experiments (N = 2932), we examine how diversity (vs. merit) framing shapes responses to a woman who reports mistreatment. In Studies 1–2, White male participants reported lower empathy, warmth, and willingness to collaborate with a target who claims discrimination and framed as a "DEI beneficiary" (vs. merit-qualified), especially among those high in modern sexism. These effects were mediated by heightened perceptions of unfairness (Study 3) and extended to contexts where mistreatment was not attributed to sexism (Study 4). Reframing DEI as an "Opportunity, Engagement, and Belonging" (OEB) initiative improved interpersonal outcomes without eliciting fairness concerns or ideology-based backlash (Study 5). Findings highlight how DEI framing can unintentionally undermine inclusion and identify promising alternatives that foster engagement across ideological lines.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yiran Wang

PhD Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Sarah Townsend

[258] The Spillover Effects of AI Exposure: How Encountering Artificial Content Influences Trust and Appreciation of Human-Generated Media

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Evolution favored individuals who could distinguish genuine rewards from fake ones, leaving modern humans highly sensitive to this distinction. However, technological advancements have made it difficult to discern what is real from what is fake. For example, AI image generation models achieve unprecedented photorealism, saturating many forms of media with synthetic content. This study investigates the psychological impact of encountering such content. A total of 1200 participants viewed 1, 4, or 8 images that were either AI-generated, human-generated, or a combination of both, which could not be reliably identified as authentic or artificial in pilot testing. They rated the images on dimensions such as liking, awe, and artistic quality before guessing whether each image was AI- or human-generated. After being informed of the images' true origin, participants reported their trust in people and institutions and then rated a new set of human-generated images on the same dimensions. Analyses will test the prediction that being unable to determine the authenticity of images, especially when they are artificial, undermines trust and thereby reduces appreciation for human-generated media.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Irias

PhD Student | Florida State University

Authors

James McNulty

[259] The Variability of Ableism and Associations with Social Dominance Orientation and Disgust Sensitivity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

Social dominance, disgust sensitivity, and stereotype content have been previously used to examine various intergroup relations phenomena such as racism or cisheterosexism. However, ableism is commonly ignored, or all disabilities are categorized as one group, with relatively few exceptions. The aims of the present study were to replicate and expand upon previous findings on stereotype content of social groups and health conditions more specifically as well as provide further context of the relationship of ableism and a health hierarchy in U.S. society. Participants were recruited on CloudResearch Connect (n = 295). After completing Social Dominance Orientation and Disgust Sensitivity Scales, they were randomly assigned to one of two lists of 23 groups each to evaluate based on the stereotype content measures of warmth and competence. K-means cluster analyses were performed, aligning with previous stereotype content research methodology; results suggest that stereotype content differs between different physical and mental health conditions, illustrating the variability of ableism based on health condition. Additionally, multiple regression analyses were conducted which indicated significant associations of Social Dominance Orientation and Disgust Sensitivity with perceived competition for mentally ill and disabled populations. Specific results and implications are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samantha Chambers

PhD Student | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Jeffrey Huntsinger

[260] Thought-Action Fusion Exacerbates Slow-Life Strategists' Intrusive Thinking

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

Slow life strategists (SLS) – thought to develop in safer, richer, and more predictable environments – seek stable relationships, while fast life strategists (FLS) – thought to develop in harsher, more impoverished, and more unpredictable environments - deprioritize stable relationships (Figueredo & Jacobs, 2011). Prior work in our lab found that SLS reported more intrusive thoughts, especially when adopting relationship-promoting strategies, such as perspective-taking.

In the present study, we examined whether participants' proclivities to equate thoughts and actions (i.e., thought-action fusion) strengthened the relationship between their life history strategies and intrusive thinking. Our findings revealed the expected pattern and indicated that it was partly due to SLS's proclivity for perspective-taking. Specifically, we found evidence of moderated mediation: when thought-action fusion was high, perspective-taking mediated the relationship between life history strategies and intrusive thinking.

*POSTER

Speaker



J. Randell

Assistant Professor | University of Central Oklahoma

Authors

J. Adam Randell, Jeff Seger

[261] Title: Enhancing Cognitive Skills in Learners through Language Acquisition with special reference to Learners with Special Educational Needs.

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

A lot of studies have been made on the possibilities to develop cognitive skills and abilities through language acquisition. However, there are seldom any written methodologies that can be incorporated or used to help the language learners or educators, language specialists, and learning support assistants working with learners under inclusion. Once the research is successful, it would benefit language learners of any age group, especially learners with dyslexia and other Special Educational Needs. Since it aims at language and soft skills acquisition, and cognitive skills development at the same time, it's going to be a novel contribution to the sector of education.

English Language acquisition is considered to be a brain training process, as it can stimulate different parts of the brain responsible for cognitive skills and functions. This research discusses the scope of language acquisition in developing the cognitive skills of learners, and methodologies to implement the same in schools, universities, and even at home. The main objectives of this research includes, identifying the key underlying principles of cognitive skills development during the process and training of language acquisition through literature reviews by collecting data and tabulating them for the comprehensive study, develop language acquisition modules that targets to improve the cognitive skills and abilities of the learner by preparing content and to apply ABA strategies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ajisha Shanoof

PhD Student | Lincoln University, Malaysia

[262] To Discuss or to Solve?: Assessing the Use of Social Emotion Regulation Strategies in Promoting Understanding of Emotional Situations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

When a friend is upset, how should we best support them? Both the shared reality and social emotion regulation literature offer clues to this question, but little cross-talk exists. To address this gap, we ask how the use of two social emotion regulation strategies—co-rumination (i.e., talking about negative emotions over and over) and social-reappraisal (i.e., providing new perspective)—impact epistemic clarity, defined in shared reality theory as knowing the truth of the emotional stressor. To examine our hypothesis that social-reappraisal will promote greatest epistemic clarity given the importance of reinterpretation, we collected conversations between gender-matched friend dyads (N = 100 dyads). In conversation, friends took turns sharing an emotional stressor, and in post-conversation surveys, we assessed their use of co-rumination, social-reappraisal and their epistemic clarity. Our analyses include multilevel models that estimate how co-rumination and social-reappraisal independently impact epistemic clarity for each individual. Overall, our work bridges shared reality and emotion regulation literature to better understand how we can best support our loved ones.

*POSTER

Speaker



Neena Dzur

Columbia University

Authors

Emma Miller, Kevin Ochsner, Zhouzhou He, Eddie Tong, Jia Lile

[263] To Revise or Not to Revise: How Feedback Type, Interpersonal Liking, and Messenger Credibility Influence Revision

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Revisions inevitably occur during project creation and curation, many of which are influenced by received feedback. Previous research has highlighted the role goals, perceptions of self, and task complexity play in revision, but little research has examined how feedback type and an individual's feelings toward their feedback giver influence revision. A quasi-experimental design examined how feedback type (additive, subtractive, or none), interpersonal liking for a feedback-giver, and perceived credibility of a feedback-giver affected students' (N = 155) willingness to revise, self-reports of revision, and calculated actual revision score for a class project. Results indicated that participants in a feedback-receiving condition reported higher levels of willingness to revise and having had revised than those who received no feedback, but that individuals in the subtractive feedback condition revised their work significantly less than those in the additive and no feedback conditions. Results also indicated that interpersonal liking and perceived credibility were significant predictors of willingness to revise and self-reported revision, but not actual revision.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Jensen

Research Assistant | Utah Valley University

Authors

Christina Yoshimura

[264] Too Stressed for Sex: Understanding How Stress Impacts Sexual Quality through Depression and Partner Responsiveness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Research shows individuals exposed to external stressors report decreased sexual desire, partly because stress triggers depression. This study extends past research by considering sexual quality more broadly and whether having a responsive partner can attenuate stress and depression effects on sexual quality. Using a multi-national sample (N=488, 57 countries), we expected stress to be associated with lower sexual quality, mediated by depression. We postulated perceived partner responsiveness would buffer against detrimental consequences. Results suggest higher stress predicted lower sexual quality one month later. Higher initial stress was associated with increased depressive symptoms two weeks later, then lower sexual quality two weeks after that. Although responsive partners were associated with higher sexual quality, partner responsiveness did not moderate the stress-sexual quality association. Exploratory analyses revealed this buffering effect was present for men but not women.

*POSTER

Speaker



Pardis Lahouti Fard

Texas State University

Authors

Rhonda Balzarini

[265] Trust in Science Mediates Public Climate Change Knowledge & Engagement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Americans rank behind dozens of countries in self-reported knowledge of climate change and acceptance that it is primarily human-caused (Leiserowitz et al., 2023). Improving knowledge of climate change is essential to aligning public opinion with the consensus of scientists and increasing engagement in mitigation efforts (Stoutenborough & Vedlitz, 2014). Using mediation path analysis, this study analyzed the effect of climate change knowledge on trust in climate science and engagement in climate action. A sample of 245 U.S. participants collected from Prolific answered 17 questions measuring objective climate literacy (i.e., how much participants understand about climate science), and one question of subjective climate knowledge (i.e., how participants perceive their own understanding). Mediation analyses revealed that trust in science had a significant indirect effect between objective but not subjective knowledge on climate change engagement and disengagement. Our results suggest that objective climate change knowledge promotes trust in climate scientists, which leads to more engagement and less disengagement with the topic of climate change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephen Short

Associate Professor of Psychology | College of Charleston

Authors

Meghan Lord, Alex Ford

[266] Understanding Identity Through Artistic Expression: A Qualitative Study on Disability Identity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DISABILITY

The present qualitative semi-structured focus group study (n = 17) explored how disabled individuals in Hawai'i respond to artistic representations of disability. This study was conducted as a follow-up to a multimedia photovoice study where artists created art pieces representing their (disability) identity. The larger project sought to understand identity through the perspective of it being a system of values shaped by lived experience, cultural context, and participation in community contexts (as opposed to being a static, categorical label). Across the two focus groups held with predominantly disabled participants, values of resistance to dominant societal norms (e.g., of being abled-bodied), pride, and collective belonging arose. Participants also reported they frequently express these values through symbolic and creative forms themselves (e.g., community-specific pins and stickers; fashion). This work aims to highlight broader nonverbal conveyances of identity while demonstrating how less-used methodologies can increase understanding of how identity and values intersect across lived experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maximillian Soares Miehstein

Ph.D. Candidate | University of Hawaii at Manoa

Authors

Ichiro Shimpō, Maximillian Soares Miehstein, Ashley Maynard

[267]Cancelled

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

*POSTER

[268] Utilizing a Pooled Diverse Multi-Sample Dataset to Assess the Link Between Subjective Well-being and Naturalistically Observed Daily Conversation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Social connection is by scientific consensus an important factor for psychological wellbeing. However, little is known about one key driver of social connection, that is how much time individuals spend conversing with others on a daily basis. The current project utilizes pooled data from 12 studies (n = 1,532 participants) with the Electronically Activated Recorder (EAR), a naturalistic observation method, to estimate how many minutes people spend in conversation per day. We seek to answer three questions: 1) How does conversation quantity, measured in minutes per day, vary between individuals and by age, gender, relationship status, and personality? 2) How is the daily conversation quantity, in nature and form, related to well-being (e.g., life satisfaction, happiness)? and 3) How do sociodemographic and personality variables contribute to shaping the relationship between daily conversational quantity and well-being? These findings will enhance our understanding of how one facet of social connection, the quantity of one's daily conversations, relates to individual happiness and life satisfaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amanda Bernal

Graduate student | University of Arizona

Authors

Valeria Pfeifer, Jessie Sun, Dave Sbarra, Amanda Bernal, Matthias Me

[269]CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

*POSTER

[270] CANCELLED

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

*POSTER

[271] The Moderating Role of Attachment Avoidance in the Association between HIV-Related Stigma by Association and Relationship Functioning among HIV-Serodiscordant Couples

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Partners of people living with HIV (PLWH) with a negative HIV status may face challenges in their relationships due to HIV-related stigma by association, where those associated with PLWH are stigmatized. We examined the moderating role of attachment avoidance in the links between HIV-related stigma by association and relationship indicators such as commitment and satisfaction, exploring how attachment orientations shape stigma's effects. 58 Turkish partners of PLWH with a negative HIV status completed measures of HIV-related stigma by association, attachment orientations, commitment, and relationship satisfaction. Significant interaction effects suggested that HIV-related stigma by association is associated with lower relationship satisfaction and commitment among partners high on attachment avoidance, but not for those with low attachment avoidance (controlling for attachment anxiety). Possible mechanisms for these effects may include deactivating strategies such as self-reliance and distancing when facing relational stressors like stigma. Addressing stigma faced by partners of PLWH and attachment dynamics may help support the relational well-being of HIV-affected couples.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ilayda Akinkoc

PhD Student | University of Mississippi

Authors

Ilayda Akinkoc, Bulent Turan, Hüsnü Pullukçu, Deniz Gökengin

[272] When Product Differentiations Justifies the Pink Tax: Female Consumer Responses to Gendered Pricing

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Leaders influence employees' work experiences, shaping well-being inside and outside the workplace. While overtly destructive leadership has received considerable research attention, subtler forms such as passive and inconsistent leadership, are studied less in relation to well-being. Passive leaders avoid decisions and support, while inconsistent leaders fluctuate between helpful and harmful behaviors, creating uncertainty (Suur Ralph & Barling, 2022). Emerging adulthood (ages 18–29) is a developmental stage marked by exploration, unstable employment, and heightened vulnerability to stress and mental health problems (e.g., Arnett et al., 2014). Young workers often hold precarious jobs and have limited coping resources, yet are supervised by inexperienced leaders (e.g., Anderson et al., 2017). These conditions may increase both their exposure to, and the impact of, ineffective leadership. Drawing on Conservation of Resources theory (Hobfoll, 1989), we examined whether passive and inconsistent leadership were associated with young workers' mental health, life satisfaction, and workplace loneliness, and whether self-efficacy and work centrality moderated these effects. 206 employed emerging adults completed surveys and open-ended items. Contrary to expectations, passive leadership related positively to mental health and was unrelated to other outcomes; inconsistent leadership showed no effects. Thematic analyses revealed frustration, stress, and diminished trust under passive/inconsistent leaders, but also buffers and benefits of positive leader behaviors. The findings reinforce the need to integrate multiple methodological approaches when studying leadership and wellbeing. Surveys alone may miss important interpretive differences that shape the meaning of leader behaviours. For emerging adults who are navigating identity development, career uncertainty, and shifting social networks, leaders are not just role definers but key social resources. Whether they replenish or deplete those resources depends on both their behavior and how it is perceived.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dingning Yang

University of Chicago

Authors

Oleg Urminsky

[273] Where do People Advocate Extreme Attitudes? The Role of Relational Mobility

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Attitudinal advocacy, which consists of sharing one's attitudes and persuading others to adopt them, is common in interpersonal interactions. However, the social environments that promote or constrain it remain underexamined. This research proposes that whether individuals advocate, and what they advocate depend on relational mobility: how much freedom and opportunity a social environment affords individuals to form desirable relationships and end undesirable ones. Specifically, advocating extreme attitudes may help individuals differentiate themselves and efficiently identify and attract similar others in a competitive interpersonal market, making such advocacy more likely in relationally mobile environments. Study 1 (N = 23,573 across 19 societies), using data from a large-scale survey, showed that society-level relational mobility positively predicted the frequency of persuading others to adopt one's strong political opinions, even after accounting for individual- and society-level covariates. At the individual level, Study 2 (N = 191) found that higher perceived relational mobility predicted stronger advocacy intention, above and beyond cultural orientation and self-construal. Study 2 and Study 3 (N = 455) further demonstrated that this positive relationship was observed only when attitude extremity was high, but not when attitude extremity was low. These findings provide evidence, at both the individual and societal levels, that individuals are more likely to advocate their extreme attitudes in social environments where interpersonal relationships can be formed and terminated more easily. This research contributes to our understanding of the spread of extreme opinions from a socioecological perspective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zheng Li

PhD Candidate | National University of Singapore

Authors

Ya Hui Michelle See

[274] Who Deserves the Scholarship? Individual Differences in Evaluating Diversity-Focused Achievements

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Health communicators often assume demographic targeting enhances message relevance (e.g., Kreuter & Wray, 2003). We extended prior work in this area by asking when targeted health-related messaging may backfire. To do so, 210 Black adults received HIV information presented as demographically-targeted (i.e., racially-motivated) or algorithm-selected (random). Participants exposed to race-targeted messaging experienced significantly higher social identity threat, manifesting as feelings of unfair judgment and discomfort ($ps < .01$). Moreover, targeted messaging produced stronger negative emotions including irritation, anger, and disinterest, while participants retained significantly fewer health facts versus non-targeted conditions ($ps < .001$). When asked for improvement recommendations, consumers qualitatively emphasized resource accessibility information, actionable guidance, cultural relevance, and personal narratives rather than explicit racial disparity framing. In sum, the current work challenges conventional targeting assumptions and unites multiple areas within psychology (e.g., social cognition, group processes) with related fields (e.g., marketing).

*POSTER

Speaker



Halie Shangin

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Nicole Russell Pascual, Denise Sekaquaptewa

[275] Who Loves How? Exploring Ethnic Differences and Similarities in Love Style

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Attitudinal advocacy, which consists of sharing one's attitudes and persuading others to adopt them, is common in interpersonal interactions. However, the social environments that promote or constrain it remain underexamined. This research proposes that whether individuals advocate, and what they advocate depend on relational mobility: how much freedom and opportunity a social environment affords individuals to form desirable relationships and end undesirable ones. Specifically, advocating extreme attitudes may help individuals differentiate themselves and efficiently identify and attract similar others in a competitive interpersonal market, making such advocacy more likely in relationally mobile environments. Study 1 ($N = 23,573$ across 19 societies), using data from a large-scale survey, showed that society-level relational mobility positively predicted the frequency of persuading others to adopt one's strong political opinions, even after accounting for individual- and society-level covariates. At the individual level, Study 2 ($N = 191$) found that higher perceived relational mobility predicted stronger advocacy intention, above and beyond cultural orientation and self-construal. Study 2 and Study 3 ($N = 455$) further demonstrated that this positive relationship was observed only when attitude extremity was high, but not when attitude extremity was low. These findings provide evidence, at both the individual and societal levels, that individuals are more likely to advocate their extreme attitudes in social environments where interpersonal relationships can be formed and terminated more easily. This research contributes to our understanding of the spread of extreme opinions from a socioecological perspective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cate Boone

Graduate Researcher - Social Relations Lab | California State University, Los Angeles

Authors

Pamela Regan

[276] Why am I dating you?: Age differences in dating motivations within newly-dating couples

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

How people evaluate diversity-related achievements is an important question in academic and professional selection contexts. This research examined how individuals evaluated scholarship candidates whose achievements were either diversity-focused or general, and how these evaluations shaped selection decisions. Building on our prior research identifying gender and political ideology as predictors of beliefs that diversity involves tradeoffs, we assessed these factors as predictors of evaluative differences. Mediation analyses revealed that applicant preferences were indirectly shaped by gender and political ideology through evaluation differences: men and more conservative participants rated diversity-focused achievements lower, reducing their likelihood of preferring the diversity-focused candidate. This pattern was consistent even when the diversity-focused candidate was presented as the official recipient. Overall, findings demonstrate that individual differences may influence how diversity-related achievements are evaluated.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaylie James

University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Lisa A. Neff, Jennifer S. Beer, Marci E. J. Gleason

[277] Why Don't You Trust Me?: Narcissism and Trust In Relationships

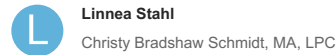
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Social scientists have proposed several love taxonomies (e.g., Berscheid, 2010). One of the most commonly cited was developed by John Lee (e.g., 1973), who proposes six love styles (eros, ludus, storge, pragma, mania, agape). The goal of this study was to extend prior research on ethnic differences/similarities in love styles (e.g., Dion & Dion, 1993). The Love Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1990) was distributed to 604 university students comprising four ethnic groups. A MANOVA conducted on participants' mean LAS subscale scores revealed a significant multivariate main effect for ethnicity (Pillai's $V=.082$, $F[18,1461]=2.27$, $p=.002$). A series of follow-up ANOVAs indicated that ethnicity was significantly associated only with scores on the agape subscale. A series of Bonferroni-protected independent-sample t-tests revealed that Black/African American participants scored significantly lower on agapic love than Latinx/Hispanic, White/Caucasian, and Asian/Asian American participants. This finding may reflect cultural differences in relationship expectations and self-protection mechanisms (see Collins, 2000; Hill, 2013).

*POSTER

Speaker



Linnea Stahl

Christy Bradshaw Schmidt, MA, LPC

Authors

Robert Ackerman, Kennedy Millward

[278] Why humans follow advice from AI: Ecological influences and transmission biases

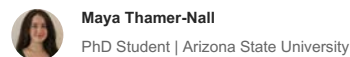
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

EVOLUTION

People are turning to generative AI for information to guide important decisions in domains ranging from dating to career advancement. Evolved transmission biases such as conformity, prestige, and self-similarity can affect whether people act on AI-generated advice. Prior theory suggests these biases should vary across ecological conditions in adaptive ways. Chatbots like GPT and Claude synthesize information from a diverse set of sources, such as public responses, scholarly research, and specific subgroups. The extent to which we follow advice from these tools should vary as a function of how we perceive them and the ecologies we inhabit. The present study will utilize a within-subjects correlational design ($N = 200$) to test how perceived ecological affordances interact with beliefs about AI-generated information and the extent to which people trust and follow AI advice. People who perceive greater scarcity in their ecologies should be more likely to follow AI-generated advice when they believe the model reflects expert opinion rather than that of people like them or most people in general. This work will add to our understanding of how humans interact with emerging AI technology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maya Thamer-Nall

PhD Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Michael Varnum, Virginia Kwan

[279] Why We Own, How We Bond: Motivational Pathways to Predict the Human–Animal Bond

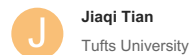
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Over one million international students from over 200 countries study in the U.S., yet adjusting to a new country brings challenges that existing support systems often fail to address. Pet companionship may reduce homesickness and enhance mental health, but unrealistic expectations can strain the human–animal bond and negatively affect animal welfare. Existing literature rarely examines the relationship between reasons for pet ownership and the human–animal bond, particularly among international students who face distinct challenges. This quantitative survey included 396 international students who had pet-ownership experiences or intents during their studies. The study examined how reasons for pet ownership relate to commitment, interpersonal relationships, and perceived benefits of pet ownership. Results indicated that pet-owning reasons predicted differences in perceived benefits but not in commitment or interpersonal relationships. Those who endorsed more emotional/psychological reasons and were current pet owners were more likely to report long-term commitment and agree that the benefits outweigh the challenges. This study provides insights into how expectations about pets may shape owners' relationship satisfaction with them. At a time when non-human emotional substitutes are rapidly emerging, it is worth comparing these bonds with human relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiaqi Tian

Tufts University

Authors

Anda Zhao

[280] Why you shouldn't trust data collected on MTurk

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Several prior studies have used advanced methodological techniques to demonstrate that there is an issue with the quality of data that can be collected on Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk). The goal of the present project was to provide an accessible demonstration of this issue. We administered 27 semantic antonyms—pairs of items that assess clearly contradictory content (e.g., "I talk a lot" and "I rarely talk")—to samples drawn from Connect (N1 = 100), Prolific (N2 = 100), and MTurk (N3 = 400; N4 = 600). Despite most of these item pairs being negatively correlated on Connect and Prolific, over 96% were positively correlated on MTurk. This issue could not be remedied by screening the data using common attention check measures, nor by recruiting only "high-productivity" and "high-reputation" MTurk participants. These findings provide clear evidence that data collected on MTurk simply cannot be trusted.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cameron Kay

Postdoctoral Scholar | Stanford University

[281] OPEN

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

*POSTER

[282] Would You Fight for Science? The Effects of Confidence on Scientific Attitudes Are Moderated By the Extremity of the Situation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

Who is more willing to burn trash containers or erect barricades to defend science? Is it those who are sure that they are in favor of science or those who doubt their attitudes toward science? Traditional research in attitude research has shown that greater attitude certainty increases attitude-behavior correspondence (ABC). However, the present research introduces the idea that for extreme actions and extreme situations, uncertain (rather than certain) attitudes can be more impactful in determining ABC. Across three studies, participants' attitudes toward science, toward scientists, and toward science-relevant topics were initially assessed. Then, certainty in those attitudes was either measured or experimentally manipulated. Next, extremity was either measured within subjects at the level of the dependent variable or manipulated between subjects as an independent variable. Finally, outcomes relevant to engagement with science were assessed as dependent variables. As predicted, for low extreme actions and conditions, higher certainty enhanced willingness to engage in attitude-aligned behaviors, replicating prior research. In contrast, for more extreme actions and conditions, lower certainty increased ABC, introducing a novel finding in this domain.

*POSTER

Speaker



Diego Bustos

PhD Candidate | Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Authors

Pablo Briñol, Richard Petty, Diego Bustos, Borja Paredes

[283] You, Me, and My Impossible Standards: Dyadic Perfectionism Scoping Review

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Dyadic perfectionism refers to setting unrealistic expectations and standards within the context of a romantic partnership (Stoeber, 2012). Perfectionism in relationships can manifest as an individual seeking perfection within themselves, external pressures of perfection, or perfectionistic expectations from a partner (Hewitt & Flett, 1991). Although an estimated one in four individuals in romantic relationships exhibit perfectionistic tendencies (Stoeber & Stoeber, 2009), it is not clear what impact this tendency has on the functioning of close relationships. The aim of this scoping review is to address this issue. In October 2024, four databases were searched (Google Scholar, PsycINFO, Taylor & Francis Online, and ProQuest) to find relevant articles and grey literature regarding the effects of the different types of dyadic perfectionism. Emphasis was placed on non-sexual perfectionism in adult (18 years or older) romantic relationships. Once the final screening is completed, this review will illuminate both the adverse experiences and the possible benefits of perfectionism in romantic relationships to inform future research directions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura Gust

Graduate Student | Florida Atlantic University

Authors

Jada Bowers, Alara Karatuna, Maryana Madeira Borri, Destiny Fava

[284] You're not alone: barriers to studying diverse participants in relationship science

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Past research into the diversity of relationship samples has demonstrated that samples are generally not diverse (McGorray et al., 2024; Williamson et al., 2023). We surveyed relationship researchers to identify the barriers that make it challenging for them to use more diverse and inclusive methods and samples. 186 relationship scientists completed a questionnaire about obstacles they face in recruiting, analyzing, and publishing relationship studies with diverse samples. Our analysis of survey responses revealed that financial limitations and uncertainty about how to conduct analyses with small subgroups were common barriers, with 40% of respondents indicating they faced those issues. Other barriers included uncertainty about best practices in demographic measurement and time constraints. Through this work, we were able to identify the barriers that researchers face so that we can develop resources to help researchers overcome them. Going forward, it is important that researchers and institutions continue seeking ways to reduce barriers to diverse sampling, ensuring that we can advance our understanding of all kinds of relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ben Schneider
Carleton College

Authors

Vivian Agugo, Katelyn Harder, Laura Boyd, Keon Staples, Emma McGorray

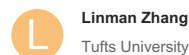
[285] Who Sees Both: Intersectional Invisibility and the Recognition of Microaggressions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

Microaggressions—subtle discriminatory acts—often reflect biases associated with intersecting identities, yet research primarily focuses on single-identity experiences. Using an intersectional framework, this project investigates how women of color interpret both their own and others' experiences of subtle discrimination, examining whether they attribute them to race, gender, or both. In Study 1 (N=420), Asian, Black, Latina, and White women describe personal microaggression experiences. We assessed their attributions (single-identity vs. intersectional) and whether factors like identity centrality and critical consciousness moderated their analysis. In Study 2 (N=400), a national sample of women of color evaluated scenarios drawn from Study 1. We examined whether perceived shared social positioning and identity salience predict the use of a single versus intersectional lens to evaluate these experiences and whether their attributions aligned with the original reporters'. Together, these studies reveal how women of color make meaning of intersectional microaggressions and highlight the conditions under which an intersectional lens is used.

*POSTER

Speaker



Linman Zhang
Tufts University

Authors

Aerielie Allen

[286] What is “science”? : Creation and validation of a Disciplinary Views of Science Scale

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

Previous work has found that the way professional mathematicians and math researchers conceive of math is not how math is typically taught in school. School-based approaches tend to be Static in nature (i.e., math is rigid and formula-driven), whereas math professionals view math as Active (i.e., math is fluid and requires creativity, and mistake-making is a natural part of the problem-solving process). These differing Views of Math have important downstream consequences, as students who more greatly endorse an Active View of Math express greater identification with the domain, sense of belonging to the class, and intent to pursue math in the future, among other positive outcomes. We now extend this work to the discipline of science, as it suffers a similar misalignment in how it is taught vs. professionally conducted. A pilot study with 29 preservice teachers suggests that conceptualizations of science also load onto two factors: Active and Static. The ongoing study (N = 500 science teachers, 500 students) will refine and validate a Disciplinary Views of Science Scale that can inform future work aimed at improving science learning cultures.

*POSTER

Speaker



Su-Yue Wang
Doctoral Student | CUNY Graduate Center

Authors

Catherine Good

[287] The Perceptions of Effective Case Management: Views of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Members in the Southwest Region of the United States

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

Homelessness is a widespread prevalent issue that affects millions of people worldwide. Despite the many measures that have been put in place, the patterns of social judgment, stigma, and misinformation continue, fueling the fire of chronic homelessness. Therefore, this research aims to provide a different angle on homelessness by analyzing the perspectives of Non-Governmental Organizational members. The study aims at determining their views on factors that contribute to homelessness as well as their opinions on the most effective policy and structural changes that can be applied in long-term change to assist individuals in need. The study adopted a qualitative research design where primary data was used. Data was collected in the form of unstructured open-ended questionnaires, one-on-one interviews, and focus groups. Specifically, the study aimed at answering the following research questions: What factors do service providers perceive to be contributing factors to chronic homelessness? What factors service providers perceive are effective in successful case management to reduce chronic homelessness? The presentation will discuss the literature review and methodology of the research and analysis of expanding on current and future research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sadie Davis
Grand Canyon University

[288] The Algorithm Said So: How Data-Driven Justifications Shape Bias in Emergency Decision-Making

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

Background: Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are increasingly used in high-stakes contexts despite reproducing systemic biases, particularly against racialized and religious minorities. While prior work shows how biased AI can sway professional judgment, less is known about how AI hallucination, such as “data facts” of unknown origin, influences decisions in emergency situations. Methods: Undergraduate participants will complete a web-based experiment and be randomized into three conditions: no AI assistant, AI without justification, or AI with justification. They will read crisis hotline vignettes describing a man in mental health crisis, with race and religion varied. The AI assistant will recommend either police or medical help, sometimes accompanied by false “data facts” to justify biased recommendations. Participants will then decide on their response to the crisis, rate the AI-agent on fairness, trust (capacity vs. moral), and anthropomorphism. We expect participants to endorse biased recommendations more often when paired with fabricated justifications, and to rate the AI higher on technical competence than moral trust.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marriah Ramadan

Authors

Marriah Ramadan, Debanjan Borthakur, Shakura Kabir, Jason E. Plaks

[289] Toward a Marr-informed framework for social learning: a systematic review and meta-analysis with bottom-up feature discovery

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

META-ANALYSIS

Computational modeling is transforming how we study learning in social contexts. To accelerate cumulative and applied progress, we propose a systematic review and meta-analysis that organizes social learning with Marr’s levels: the computation—what is learned; the algorithm—how learning is formalized in model parameters; and the implementation—behavioral tasks and brain measures. We pair a PRISMA-guided search with a bottom-up language-model analysis of published descriptions to derive a data-driven feature space of tasks and models. We will meta-analyze how these features relate to behavioral effects, model parameters, and neural outcomes using multilevel meta-regressions. We aim to construct a coherent taxonomy, with mappings between computations, parameters, and measures. The goal is a practical roadmap that helps researchers—especially intervention scientists—match questions to models and tasks, strengthening the design, evaluation, and impact of social interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marla Dressel

PhD Student | Georgetown University

Authors

Abigail Marsh, Ah Yeong Kim, Shawn Rhoads, Elena Dunn

International Meet & Greet

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Location: Café, Level 3

This is a meet and greet for all SPSP members interested in internationalization, especially those living outside the US or working (or interested in working) in global teams and topics. Come meet the winners of the International Travel Award, talk with the International Committee, and make connections with possible new collaborators! A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available.

Menu

(V=Vegetarian | VG=Vegan | GF=Gluten Free | DF=Dairy Free)

Garden Fresh Cudite (V | GF)

- Fresh Cut Vegetables, Buttermilk Ranch Dip, and Hummus

Coconut Curry Chicken Satay (GF | DF)

- Served with Sweet Chili Sauce

Vegetable Spring Rolls (DF)

- Served with Sweet Chili Sauce

*NETWORKING

LGBTQIA+ & Ally Reception

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Location: E451B, Level 4

Are you a member or an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community? Come network with other attendees and discuss challenges, successes, and research surrounding topics of sexual orientation, gender, and identity in the field of social and personality psychology. All attendees are welcome. A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available.

Menu

(V=Vegetarian | VG=Vegan | GF=Gluten Free | DF=Dairy Free)

Garden Fresh Crudite (V | GF)

- Fresh Cut Vegetables, Buttermilk Ranch Dip and Hummus

Coconut Curry Chicken Satay (GF | DF)

- Served with Sweet Chili Sauce

Vegetable Spring Rolls (DF)

- Served with Sweet Chili Sauce

Ahi Tuna Tartare (DF)

- Served with Wasabi, Ponzu and Wontons

Carved Roast Turkey Breast

- Served with Cranberry Aioli Carolina Gold BBQ Sauce and Petite Butter Rolls

*NETWORKING

Diversity & Climate Committee Reception

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354A, Level 3

Join the Diversity and Climate Committee for a reception designed to foster connections between our members and representatives from our affinity groups. This event offers a welcoming space to engage, network, and celebrate shared experiences. The reception is open to all. This year's reception will be dedicated to the memory of the late Sam Sommers. A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available.

*NETWORKING

Here and Queer: Social Meet-Up for LGBTQ+ Students, Early Career Members, and Allies

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM | Location: E451B, Level 4

Here and Queer is a social event and community for LGBTQ+ students and ECRs. Come hang out and form connections for the conference and beyond! All are welcome to attend.

*NETWORKING

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Name Badge Pick-Up and Information Desk

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: Lobby, Level 3

Quiet Room

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Location: E267, Level 2

The quiet room is available to all meeting attendees where talking and other interactions with attendees are not allowed. It's a place for people to work or think in silence. The room will be set with several small tables and chairs.

Interfaith Prayer, Meditation and Reflection Room

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Location: E250, Level 2

A space set up for private reflection and to support prayer, meditation, and reflection by attendees of all faith backgrounds. This is a technology-free zone. The room will be set with several small tables and chairs.

Ombuds Room

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM | Location: E251, Level 2

What is an Ombuds?

An Ombuds is a person trained in conflict resolution who maintains a neutral position in their role and is independent of SPSP and has no other role in the Society. A safe, off the record resource for meeting attendees to help resolve conflicts, problematic issues or concerns. While the Ombuds can provide guidance to individuals wishing to understand formal reporting options, they do not accept complaints on behalf of SPSP. Throughout the convention, the Ombuds will identify any trends and patterns arising from consultations and inquiries received. Following the convention, a report will be provided to summarize any trends and patterns to the SPSP Board of Directors in a completely anonymized manner.

How can I contact the Ombuds?

You can contact the ombuds during office hours from February 26-February 28, 2025. You also may contact the ombudsperson by phone or email through February 28, 2025.

To contact our ombuds service during the convention, visit the Ombuds in their office at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Room E251, Level 2, email: ombuds@spsp.org; or call (949) 293-7515. Ombuds office hours during the convention are as follows. A sign at their office will indicate when they will return if they are not present during the posted hours. 9:00 AM -- 12:00 PM CST; 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM CST & 4:00 PM -- 5:30 PM CST

Poster Storage

7:00 AM – 6:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Coat Check

7:00 AM – 6:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

AM Beverage Break

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Join us for complimentary beverages in the exhibit hall.

*NETWORKING

Member Authors & SPSP Journals

7:30 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Visit the Member Authors & SPSP Journals table to explore and celebrate the impactful scholarship of the SPSP community. This exhibit showcases works by SPSP members, including,

- *Principles of Research in Behavioral Science and Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination* by Mary Kite (Ball State University)
- *Leave the Lights On: How Joyful Decisions Can Save Our Species* by Elizabeth Dunn (UBC)

In addition to highlighting member-authored books, the display features SPSP journals and promotional materials to inform attendees about publication opportunities and journal offerings. Please note that this is an informational display only; no staff will be present at the table. Complimentary items, including notebooks

and pens, are available while supplies last. An informational placard with Sage contact details is provided for any questions about the journals.

Screening of the Film Namibia Up

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: E350, Level 3

We will show the film "Namibia Up", a documentary project that puts Namibian young adults at the center of research on emerging adulthood. The film has been created by Namibian and US Psychologist, including SPSP member Amber Gayle Thalmayer. Dr. Thalmayer will introduce the film and lead a discussion after the screening, along with a member of the International Committee. This content enhances the internationalization of the conference and highlights an under-studied region of the world. It spotlights a very productive international collaboration.

First Aid Room

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Committee Meetings

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Location: E259 & E263, Level 2

Join our committee meetings for collaborative discussions and strategic planning on key initiatives. This meeting time offers committee members the opportunity to review progress, set future goals, and address pressing issues related to our ongoing projects and objectives. Committee members should check with their chair or staff liaison to confirm their meeting time. Breakfast will be served.

Roundtable Unconference

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

*ROUNDTABLE

[1] Microaggressions: multiple methodologies

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

The study of microaggressions can use methodologies from trace data (e.g., Google Trends) to questionnaires and experimentation. We emphasize qualitative techniques for gathering rich data.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



T. Brink

[2] Raising awareness on behavioral health, youth diversion, and recidivism prevention in Appalachia

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/ WELL-BEING

Adolescence is a time when youth sometimes engage in risky behaviors, act without thinking, and make bad decisions. Adolescents who experience behavioral health challenges are more likely to participate in criminal behavior. When youth commit non-violent, first-time offenses, they are often provided the chance to participate in diversion programs to help reduce adjudication and recidivism.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Georgiana Logan

Associate Professor, Research Associate | Marshall University

Authors

Jacinta Logan, Antoine Martin, Kristen Allen-Watts

[3] Social and Personality Psychology in an Evolving Funding Landscape

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Join program directors at the National Institutes of Health to discuss aligning social and personality psychology with current research priorities, building a study team, and applying for funding.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Nicole Senft Everson

Program Director | National Cancer Institute

[4] From Parenting to Mate Preferences: The Mediating Role of Reciprocal Filial Piety in Chinese Emerging Adults

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Two studies (N=368; 283 dyads) link to parenting (authoritative but not authoritarian) to Chinese emerging adults' preferences on mates via reciprocal filial piety, revealing family-level pathways to romantic choice.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Lu Ran Zhang

Macao Fellow | University of Macau

[5] Trauma is an Injury that Can Heal

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WEILL-BEING

Trauma is not a life sentence—it is an injury that can heal. In this powerful session, Allen Kanerva, international speaker and trauma recovery expert, reveals the hidden costs of unresolved trauma and shares science-based pathways to resilience, healing, and transformation for individuals and communities.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Allen Kanerva

[6] Lesbophobia Through Pornography and the Patriarchy

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SEXUALITY

This work investigated the relationship between pornography consumption and attitudes toward Queer women. Participants completed measures of hostile/benevolent sexism, anti-Lesbian attitudes, and pornography consumption. Positive correlations were observed between pornography consumption and sexist attitudes, and between sexist and Lesbophobic attitudes.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Samantha Graves

Adjunct Professor/Research Assistant | Montclair State University

[7] Empathy in Healthcare: A Critical Review of Current Status, Challenges, and Future Directions

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

This presentation reviews the role of empathy in healthcare, examining its contested definitions, cultural influences, and impact on patient outcomes. Drawing on key literature, it highlights the tension between cognitive and affective empathy, critiques the tradition of emotional detachment in medicine, and explores emerging models that integrate empathy as central to effective, ethical care.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Parvaneh Yaghoubi Jami

[8] Gen Z and the Expansion of Empathy: From Local Bonds to Global Solidarity

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

This presentation explores how Gen Z is reshaping empathy by extending concern beyond traditional group boundaries toward global solidarity. Drawing on activism, digital culture, and social movements, it examines the promise and challenges of this shift, asking whether generational empathy can drive lasting cultural change.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Kasra Tabrizi

[9] Embodied Practice of Accounting for Power

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Integrating Schulman's (2016) framework for understanding relational power dynamics, a shift in theoretical conceptualization is presented to help clinicians remain empathetic to the suffering of patient with borderline personality disorder.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Quintin Bailey

Training Director, Counseling and Psychological Services | University of San Francisco

[10] The Rise of The Tradwife: The Rebranding of Benevolent Sexism?

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

GENDER

Benevolent sexist beliefs are sexist attitudes that are framed as subjectively positive and reflect conventional gender expectations. These attitudes are associated with poor psychological outcomes among women. Current social media trends seemingly perpetuate gender stereotypes. This roundtable seeks to discuss if/how social media reinforces benevolent sexist beliefs and potential outcomes.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Koebe Diaz

Graduate Student | Marquette University

[11] Cancelled

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

*ROUNDTABLE

[12] How does academic performance ranking affect students' psychological well-being? A scenario study in Chinese 6th grade classrooms.

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

We use a scenario study to investigate the causal effects of academic performance ranking on students' sense of belonging, self-efficacy, growth mindset, and academic motivation at a Chinese public school. Sixth grade students (N = 324) at a Chinese public school are randomly assigned to read and respond to control condition with no ranking, low/high ranking, and low/high ranking + explanation.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Sophia Wang

Stanford University

[13] Social Identity, Moral Decisions, and Leadership in Crises

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

This roundtable explores how formal and informal leaders' social identities shape moral decision-making in high-stakes contexts, such as organisational crises, public health emergencies, and disaster response. Participants will discuss conceptual frameworks, generate testable hypotheses, and consider research and practical implications for ethical leadership

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Elaine Kinsella

Associate Professor in Psychology | University Of Limerick

[14] Scholarship Under Scrutiny: An Untable on Navigating Targeted Topics Early in Your Career

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This roundtable unconference (hosted by the Early Career Committee) invites scholars (0–6 years post-PhD) to share strategies for teaching, research, and service on politicized/targeted topics like bias, racism, and equity. Rather than offering prescriptive advice, this session fosters peer discussion, support, and practical tips for navigating these challenges together.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Benjamin Blankenship

Assistant Professor of Psychology | James Madison University

[15] (In)direct-to-consumer: Social Psychology, Law and Genomics Industry

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

LAW

Off-the-shelf genomic services are expanding, but legal systems are not equipped to deal with this new playing field. This situation calls for greater involvement of legal services providers and policy makers, as well as – crucially – of social psychologists. Social psychologists can mediate consumer-business-law interactions – ensuring smart consuming of genetic services and products.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Fatos Selita

Hult International Business School

[16] How can psychologists help guide the development of aligned and beneficial AI?

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

AI's reach is rapidly expanding. While it offers many potential benefits, it also poses clear risks and alignment challenges. How can psychologists use their expertise to help ensure AI promotes well-being and reflects human values as well as possible? This discussion-based roundtable explores research priorities, applied contributions, and industry partnerships for advancing beneficial AI.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Danica Dillion

Affiliate Faculty | Complexity Science Hub

[17] Creating new collective narratives

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

DIVERSITY

How can we as social scientists contribute to the development of collective narratives that embrace the complexity of our society's history while also envisioning a coherent and just future, rather than one defined by destructive political and racial conflict?

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Negin Toosi

Assistant Professor | California State Univ., East Bay

[18] Nonverbal Behavior Unconference

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

NONVERBAL

Opportunity for nonverbal behavior researchers to share science and build community in the absence of this year's preconference.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Nicholas Rule

Professor | Univ. of Toronto

[19] Signaling Danger: The Racialized Impact of Neighborhood Watch Signage on Perceived Threat

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Neighborhood watch programs aim to promote safety but may signal threat. Across two experiments (N=1,353), African Americans exposed to watch signs reported greater anticipated stereotyping, surveillance, threat, and resident vigilantism than controls, suggesting such programs may exacerbate identity threat.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Kyle Walker

[20] Beyond the Need to Belong: Is a Generative Drive the Foundational Social Motivation?

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Challenging classic motivational theories. While the need to belong is fundamental, we advance Philianalysis: a theory positing that the innate, generative drive to contribute, Philos, is the primary engine of eudaimonic well-being. We will debate whether this framework offers a more parsimonious account of social connection, meaning, and the architecture of the prosocial personality.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Élisson Santos

[21] The Role of Social Learning in the Development of Intergroup Social Bias

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Intergroup bias is often attributed to categorization and evolution, and the role of social learning is overlooked. Children learn about social groups from parents, peers, school, and the media, and messages from these sources can interact and diverge. How do children weigh what they are told against what they observe, and under what conditions can social learning reinforce or reduce bias?

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Yeon Ju Suh
University of Minnesota

[22] Cancelled

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

*ROUNDTABLE

[23] Cancelled

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

*ROUNDTABLE

[24] Cancelled

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

*ROUNDTABLE

[25] Creating effective pro-science rallies

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

POLITICS

Marches like Stand Up for Science aim to promote the importance of science to citizens and increase pro-science legislation. How effective are they in these goals? And what could make them more effective? We are exploring how different political framings of science rallies affect how people feel about science and science policy and their willingness to participate in future rallies.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Alita Boyse-Peacor
PhD Student | The Ohio State University

[26] The effects of innovative capability approach and strategic goals on the financial performance of small and medium enterprises in Ghana.

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

The target audience of this study were selected from the SME sector.

The purpose of the study is to examine the influence of innovative capabilities and strategic goals on financial performance of SMEs.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Prince Awuah
Lobachevsky University

[27] Student Belonging Through Faculty Practice: Lessons from Kent State's Belonging Champions Program

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Student success and retention are related to the sense of belonging in college. Belonging Champions trains professors in evidence-based practices from the Student Experience Project and research on belonging (Boucher et al., 2021; Murphy et al., 2020). This roundtable will review its design and outcomes. Which practices foster belonging across disciplines?

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Bryan Jones
Associate Professor | Kent State University at Ashtabula

[28] Workplace relationships and how they affect productivity in the workplace

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

The project examines the impact of workplace relationships on productivity, showing how trust, collaboration, and effective communication influence productivity among colleagues in the workplace. While positive connections boost success, negative ones reduce engagement and performance. Understanding this is a key factor for success in the workplace.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speakers



Joseph Needham

Student/Behavior Therapist | University Of Central Florida



Aubrey Heldmyer

Co-Presenter | University of Central Florida

[29] Pushing the envelope: Active viewing drives boundary extension

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Past work has found that sensorimotor predictions made during active (vs. passive) viewing facilitate the encoding of information, enhancing memory for what we saw. Might active viewing also bias us to falsely remember details that we never saw?

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Hong Nguyen

The New School

[30] "This doesn't apply to me": Decolonizing research and recognizing bias in psychological science

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

DIVERSITY

Psychology strives for equity by incorporating culturally responsive approaches, enhancing research by exposing nuances overlooked by traditional approaches. Despite these ideals, possible bias in typical research questionnaires must be elucidated, particularly considering the context of historically dominant Eurocentric standards in psychological science, global colonization, and globalization.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Jacqueline Lucero

Institutional Research Analyst | Alamo Colleges District

[31] Revealing Invisibility: Tracking Current Perceptions of Black Women in Society

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Sometimes hypervisible and oftentimes invisible; how do we continue understanding the perception of Black women today through an intersectional lens? Building on previous work, my research continues revealing that the experiences of Black women are beyond the summation of the Black and the female experience: Black women's double non-prototypicality exposes them to a complex world of subordination.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Yolore Airewele

Graduate Student | Tufts University

[32] Parents as Gatekeepers: What They Value in STEM Learning Tools for Girls

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

We tested parents' preferences for STEM tools for girls using SheRockets, an AI-powered tool. In a survey of 125 parents, affordability was the top factor. Parents preferred a female AI tutor, mission-driven storytelling, and role play. However, growth-mindset praise and failure framing had little impact. These findings highlight a gap between STEM motivation and parental selection.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Linwei Li

[33] Building Community within the Academy: Best Practices for Faculty Members of African Descent

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

CULTURE

Being a Black faculty member in traditionally white spaces can be an isolating experience (Edwards & Ross, 2017). In places where their contributions and expertise are consistently questioned, the need for creating safe communities of support within academia arises (Fields, 2024).

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Marilyn Lovett

Associate Professor | Clark Atlanta University

[34] Emotion Regulation and Positive Resources as Predictors of Resilience and Belonging in Adolescence: The Moderating Role of Family Climate

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

EMOTION

This study examines how adolescents' emotion regulation abilities and positive resources (gratitude, humor, love, capitalization, laughter) predict resilience, belonging, and well-being. We test whether family climate (cohesion, conflict, expressiveness) moderates these effects, highlighting the interplay of individual and family factors in adolescent adaptation.

*ROUNDTABLE

Speaker



Lucia Yuanxueqing

Poster Session D Saturday

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

*POSTER

[1]When Manipulations Miss the Mark: A Future Alone Task Without Negative Affect and Retrospective Judgments That Fail to Capture Hindsight Bias

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

This 3 x 2 mixed factorial design study investigates the interrelations between responses to social rejection, hindsight bias, and rejection sensitivity. Chronic ostracism is linked with increased trait rejection sensitivity, subsequently leading to anxious anticipation, and overreactions to, perceived rejection cues (Downey & Feldman, 1996). This uses the future-alone task to see if acute experiences of social rejection affect scores in a subsequent relationship judgment scenario measuring hindsight bias (Groß & Bayen, 2022). False personality feedback was used to manipulate perceived relationship trajectory: Participants were told that they would have no future relationship success or experience a future marked with belonging, or were assigned to a misfortune control condition (Twenge et al., 2001). The relationship judgment scenario consisted of evaluating a couple's relationship trajectory. Participants were assigned to one of two conditions containing an outcome where the couple's break up and another where they stay together (Bleske-Rechek et al., 2023). This study explores how negative affect affects biased judgments among highly rejection-sensitive people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aaron David

Old Dominion University

Authors

Christopher Sanders, Jasper Sigler

[2] Language models show massive self-preferences

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

Since large language models (LLMs) lack sentience, one would expect them to lack humanlike self-love. Instead, over ~20,000 queries with four widely adopted models, we found that LLMs show extreme associative self-preferences. These effects were causally driven by self-recognition. In APIs, where LLMs did not natively know which models they were, we manipulated their perceived identities with a single line of instruction. Model's preferences sharply followed this assigned identity: they strongly preferred themselves when given true identities, but preferences were riveted in the opposite direction when they were instead told they were a rival model. These effects also fanned outward, with identity cues modulating models' preferences for AI companies and their CEOs, and, strikingly, biasing consequential evaluations of self- vs. other-aligned job candidates and technologies. These findings are deeply alarming, suggesting the line between AI and human cognition is blurrier than generally assumed, and raising concerns around adopting models whose goal structures may already be seeded by preferences for themselves over other models and even humans.

*POSTER

Speaker



Steven Lehr

Authors

Mahzarin Banaji, Mary Cipperman

[3] (Re)constructing Race: How Racial Essentialism Shapes Social Justice Support

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

In the current sociopolitical climate, social justice reforms, DEI initiatives and discussions of racism in America are polarizing and often met with harsh opposition and backlash. Research shows that racial essentialism, the belief that race is a biologically-inherent, immutable trait, powerfully impacts information processing and social-psychological outcomes regarding race and racism. In this study, we conducted a survey of 164 University of Richmond undergraduate students and examined the relationship between racial essentialism and social justice support, comprising key issues such as the Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter movements, police system reform, critical race theory and affirmative action. The results showed that racial essentialism predicted non-support for social justice, mediated by denial of systemic racism and non-belief in white privilege. Exploratory qualitative analyses were consistent with research suggesting that STEM education, specifically biology courses and information about the human genome, as well as critical race theory teachings, provide opportunities for deconstructing racial essentialist beliefs (Mandalaywala et al., 2018).

*POSTER

Speaker



Abbey Alvarado

Student | University of richmond

Authors

Jane Berry

[4] OPEN

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

*POSTER

[5] “Love Across Cultures: A Data-Driven Analysis of Caregiver Talk, Emotional Warmth, and Vocabulary Growth”

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Caregiver talk is both a linguistic input and an emotional lifeline for infants, shaping vocabulary and engagement with the world. Across cultures, caregivers infuse speech with warmth, responsiveness, and emotional colour, which influence how infants attend to, process, and remember language. While research confirms that caregiver talk predicts vocabulary growth, less attention has been paid to how cultural norms and emotional warmth interact. This study positions love, expressed through speech, as a universal developmental resource shaped by cultural context. Drawing on longitudinal language acquisition data, acoustic analyses, and ethnographic observations, findings reveal three key patterns: emotional warmth in speech is universal; cultural norms shape acoustic and pragmatic features such as melodic elongation in Japanese, contour shifts in Italian, or rhythmic call-and-response in African contexts; and warmth mitigates differences in input quantity, supporting robust vocabulary growth. Implications span education, cross-cultural parenting, and speech therapy, emphasizing that love expressed in speech is a constant that fosters language, cognitive flexibility, and social confidence. Ultimately, caregiver talk is reframed as both a cultural artefact and a vessel of universal human love.

*POSTER

Speaker



Niluka Hettige

Positive Psychologist | LUVORA PVT LTD

[6] “That Can’t be Right”: Children’s Bias Blind Spot in Evaluating Others’ Reasoning

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The bias blind spot (BBS) is the belief that others are more biased than oneself. Adults with greater BBS are often more skeptical of others’ reasoning and better able to identify reasoning errors. No prior research has tested whether BBS similarly affects children’s confidence in others or their ability to correct them. We measured children’s BBS (N = 86, M = 9.49 years, SD = 2.21) and randomly assigned them to one of two conditions of a guessing game. In the Peer-Guess condition, children saw a zoomed-in photo of an object and were told what a peer guessed it was. They rated their confidence in the peer’s guess, generated reasons the peer might be wrong, and chose whether to change the answer before seeing the full photo. In the Own-Guess condition, children did the same for their own guesses. Each child completed five trials. Preliminary results suggest BBS was unrelated to children’s confidence in peers’ guesses. However, children higher in BBS generated more reasons for why guesses could be wrong, though they were not more likely to correct inaccurate peer guesses. These findings suggest BBS may not influence children’s skepticism toward others. Data collection is ongoing and will clarify how BBS shapes children’s social reasoning.

*POSTER

Speaker



John Sayson

Undergraduate Honors & McNair Scholar | Northeastern Illinois University

Authors

Andrew Young

[7] 1=15? Category-Level Attitude Formation Is Insensitive to Exemplar Numerosity

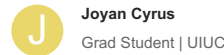
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Learning from counter-attitudinal exemplars can shift attitudes toward the entire underlying category. This project draws on findings from experimental cognitive psychology to offer initial insights into how numerosity (i.e., the number of unique exemplars encountered) impacts category-level attitude formation. 4 pre-registered experiments (N = 2,779) featured learning and test phases. In the learning phase, participants acquired evaluative information about 2 novel categories, with the number of unique category members manipulated between participants (1 vs. 15). In the test phase, category-level attitudes were measured via the IAT and self-report. A single exemplar was sufficient to induce category-level attitudes; exemplar numerosity did not modulate attitude strength (1 = 15). These results generalized across learning modalities, attitude measures, and stimulus sets. The lack of a numerosity effect may reflect belief in the "law of small numbers"; where small samples are assumed representative when categories are perceived as homogeneous. Future work will test this mechanism by contrasting evaluative learning for novel and preexisting categories across homogeneity levels.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Benedek Kurdi

[8] A Longitudinal Randomized Control Study of Companion Chatbot Use: Anthropomorphism and its Mediating Role on Social Impacts

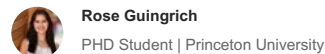
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Relationships with artificial intelligence (AI) agents such as companion chatbots are on the rise. Concerns that these relationships may harm or replace real human relationships have been raised, but whether and how these social consequences occur remains unclear. Prior research suggests that people's states of social need and their anthropomorphism of the AI agent may play a role in how human-AI interaction impacts human-human interaction. In this longitudinal study (N = 183), participants were randomly assigned to text chat with a companion chatbot or engage in text-based word games for at least 10 minutes a day for 21 days. Data was collected via two interviews and four surveys. Results suggested that people who had a higher desire for social connection anthropomorphized the chatbot more. Those who anthropomorphized the chatbot more indicated that the interaction had greater impacts on their social interactions and relationships with family and friends. A mediation analysis suggested that the impact of human-AI interaction on human-human outcomes is mediated by the extent to which people anthropomorphize the AI agent, which may be motivated by a desire for social connection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Rose E. Guingrich, Michael S. A. Graziano

[9] A meta-analysis of the gateway conspiracy effect

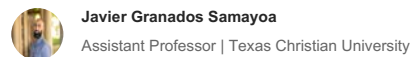
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

High-profile events like the Pizzagate shooting, protests against COVID-19 vaccination, and the January 6th Capitol Insurrection have created a great deal of interest in conspiracy theories. Recent research has begun to shed light on how people may fall down the conspiracy theory "rabbit hole" by documenting the gateway conspiracy effect—the finding that believing in an event conspiracy belief at an initial timepoint can lead to an increase in the general tendency to believe conspiracy theories over time. For example, controlling for a person's initial tendency to believe a variety of generic conspiratorial statements, conspiracy beliefs about COVID-19 at baseline predicted a greater tendency to believe conspiratorial statements six months later. Building on this seminal research, we conducted a meta-analysis to quantify the strength of evidence for the gateway conspiracy effect. Using six eligible datasets (total N = 2,925), a random-effects meta-analysis found a small but statistically significant relation between event conspiracy beliefs and an increased tendency to believe conspiracy theories over time. These findings further enhance confidence in the gateway conspiracy effect.

*POSTER

Speaker



[10] A Signal-Detection Framework for Understanding Science Beliefs

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Despite the importance of science in modern life, trust in science has been on the decline in recent years. While several distinct psychological accounts have been offered to explain people's science beliefs, the field remains disjointed with little integration across theoretical camps. To help unify these accounts, we offer a framework for understanding science beliefs based on Signal Detection Theory. In this framework, we propose five distinct factors underlying science beliefs: (1) Science Discernment: the ability to discern scientific statements that are true from those that are false, (2) Science Rejection: the tendency to reject scientific (vs. non-scientific) statements, (3) Myside Bias: the tendency to reject scientific statements that are incongruent (vs. congruent) with one's preferences, (4) Anti-Slant Bias: the tendency to reject scientific statements with (vs. without) an attitudinal slant, and (5) Overall Threshold: the tendency to reject statements regardless of information type. To demonstrate the utility of this framework in the study of science beliefs, we present the results of two studies examining each of these five factors and their correlates.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Tyler Hubeny**
Graduate Student | The University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Bertram Gawronski

[11] An Examination of the Four-Fold Model of Belongingness

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

This study investigated the four-paths to belonging model proposed by Hirsch and Clark (2019). Their model outlines four distinct pathways to belongingness: communal belonging (e.g., close relationships), group membership, general approbation (e.g., competence/social status), and minor sociability (e.g., small, daily interactions). Each pathway represents a different route through which individuals seek and experience belonging, and Hirsch and Clark proposed that these should be studied together. A sample of 424 college students completed measures of each of the aforementioned constructs. Sequential, hierarchical set regression was used to test if measures representing each of the four pathways predicted general perceptions of belongingness. The measures were entered into the predictive model in the order introduced above. The major question we asked was whether general approbation and minor sociability explained achieved belonging after accounting for communal and group membership pathways. Results confirmed that each pathway added significantly to predict general belongingness, with R-square changes of .076, .046, .323, and .017 for communal, group-membership, general approbation, and minor sociability, respectively. This study is (arguably) the first test of the Hirsch and Clark model and highlights the different mechanisms that contribute to perceived belonging.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **David Pillow**
Professor | Univ. of Texas at San Antonio

Authors

Stephanie Mills, David Pillow, Samantha Jimenez, Janelle Kohler

[12] Anticipated Long-Term Social Exclusion Affects Gaze Toward Faces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Social exclusion—being rejected or ignored by others—can harm mental and physical health. Severe social exclusion tends to elicit antisocial and avoidant responses. The social cost of daily confrontation makes avoidance more likely than antisocial behavior. However, experimental studies on avoidance are limited. The Future Alone paradigm induces the anticipation of long-term social exclusion using bogus personality test feedback, which elicits emotional numbness and is widely used as a severe social exclusion manipulation. We tested whether this anticipation leads to eye contact avoidance. After the exclusion manipulation, participants (N = 60) viewed facial stimuli while their eye movements were recorded. As expected, the Future Alone group (who were told that they were likely to end up alone) showed shorter eye fixation than the Future Belonging (likely to have good relationships) and Misfortune Control (likely to experience negative but non-social events) groups. Our preliminary findings suggest that anticipating long-term social exclusion may be sufficient to elicit avoidance, as reflected by reduced eye contact. The poster will present region-specific results.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Fei Siyi**
University of Tsukuba

Authors

Naoaki Kawakami, Eri Sawada, Miyuki Aiba, Daichi Sugawara, Yuki Shiratori, Hirokazu Tachikawa

[13] Appraisals, empathy, and helping behavior

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

How are cognitive appraisals related to empathy, and subsequently, helping intentions? Student participants (n=291), recruited from a PWI, read an (unbeknownst to them, faux) interview transcript about a local college student in need after facing a family tragedy. Then, participants completed measures on their cognitive appraisals of the situation, emotional responses, and helping intentions. We predicted that empathy and helping intentions would be positively related, but predictions about appraisals were largely exploratory. Results suggested that appraisals of unpleasantness, increased attention needing to be devoted to the situation, the situation being outside of anyone's control, uncertainty, others (not the college student) being responsible for the situation, anticipated effort for dealing with the situation, and the situation's relevance and impact in relation to the college student's goals were associated with higher levels of empathy. Empathy was positively related to helping intentions, such that as feelings of empathy tended to increase, so did intentions to help the student. Future research will further investigate the relationship between appraisals and empathy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Vance

Graduate Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Kassie Cunningham, Kimi Guzman, Mj Jones, Kaitlyn Lizarrage

[14] Approaching Anticipated Endings: Certainty About What Comes Next Promotes Closure

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Approaching the end of a time period with psychological closure, a subjective sense of completion, is important for a smooth transition into the next phase. However, research on the antecedents of closure in this context is lacking. Across five studies (total N ≈ 1300), we show that future certainty, certainty about what comes after the anticipated ending, fosters closure about a specified period. Using text analysis (Study 1), we found that participants who described the next phase of life with more certainty reported greater closure. In three experiments (Studies 2–4), participants assigned to future certainty (vs. future possibility) conditions consistently reported higher closure. A 2x2 experiment (Study 4) further revealed an interaction effect between future certainty and past task completion, indicating that future certainty is particularly helpful for reaching closure when there are uncompleted tasks left in the past. Finally, a field experimental study with individuals anticipating a real-life transition (Study 5) showed that episodic future thinking increased closure (vs. episodic past thinking and control), with the effect mediated by future certainty. Contrary to common beliefs that resolving past events is the main factor contributing to closure, we reframe closure as a future-oriented mental state, with implications for goal disengagement, narrative identity, and managing life transitions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sherry Xiong

PhD Student | New York University

Authors

Peter Gollwitzer, Gabriele Oettingen, Sherry Rui Xiong

[15] Are ideas cheap? People give credit for ideas over labor

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

How do people assign credit when contributions differ when some contribute more labor and others more ideas? While some previous work suggests that ideas are cheap and that people value labor more (Burgmer et al., 2019), it is unclear if that work provided the clearest test. To further investigate this question, we manipulate labor and ideas orthogonally and ask participants to assign credit to each party for a shared endeavor (e.g., writing a story). We predict and find people give credit based on ideas over labor when assigning credit. Study 1 replicates past work using their stimuli but also suggests that previous stimuli conflated labor with ideas. When contribution types are clearly described, idea contributors are consistently rated as more deserving of credit—even when the laborer invests much more time (5 hours vs. 15 hours). Study 2 replicates these results in a different context (i.e., baking). Together, these studies suggest that, when making credit attributions, people value idea contributions more than simple labor (compensation judgements value both more equally). In follow up work we explore what features of ideas (e.g., irreplaceability) may drive these judgements.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erin Kim

Ph.D. Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Alex Shaw

[16] Are students their own worst enemy? Findings from a multisite campus climate survey

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Despite efforts to foster inclusive college environments, disparities persist between underrepresented minority (URM) and non-URM students (e.g., academic achievement gaps, lower sense of belonging). To investigate these inequities, we developed and administered a comprehensive climate survey at three colleges within the Wisconsin Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation research program. Our survey included measures from traditional climate surveys (e.g., engagement, belonging, mental health) as well as open-ended questions assessing problematic college behaviors and suggestions for improvement. Results revealed that students most frequently identified their peers as sources of problematic behavior. Additionally, the more students perceived their peers to be inclusive, the higher they rated their sense of belonging. This relationship was stronger for URM students than for their non-URM peers. A stronger sense of belonging, in turn, had downstream consequences on mental health and students' overall evaluation of their educational experience. Findings show that students need to be the target audience of interventions to increase belonging in URM students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kamila Redd

Lab Manager | UW Madison

Authors

Markus Brauer, Kevin Kennedy

[17] Are Unions Obsolete? Historical Narratives Shape Support for Workplace Collective Action

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Labor unionization—the collective organization of workers to protect rights—has long been a powerful form of collective action. Union density is linked to reduced inequality (Western & Rosenfeld, 2011), compressed wages (Ahlquist, 2017), and greater life satisfaction (Flavin & Shufeldt, 2016). However, since the 1970s, union density has declined steadily. Despite high pro-union sentiment, membership sits at 9.9%, the lowest on record. Union decline is often framed as an inevitable consequence of structural labor shifts. Yet, recent work suggests that misperceptions of what unions do may explain the gap between union sentiment and union action (Kamphorst & Willer, 2024). Using a cross-sectional, between-subjects design, we tested how historical narratives of U.S. labor unions (Studies 1–2) and personalized data on union benefits (Study 3) shaped support for collective action. Results show historical narratives boost pro-union sentiment and solidarity with strikers but not action intentions. However, pairing narratives with personalized data did raise action intentions. Findings suggest that reconnecting labor's history to workers' material needs may strengthen union participation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Burns

Graduate Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Julian Rucker, A'sjei Scott, Alexis Cameron

[18] As we see it: The development of asymmetric worldviews

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We live in an age of extreme income inequality. This research explores early perceptions of how wealth is distributed in society. Five-10-year-old children (N = 200) estimated (1) people's access to private goods varying in exclusivity (e.g., private jet, backpack); and (2) people's access to high quality public goods (e.g., good schools). With age, participants believed fewer people had access to exclusive private goods as well as high quality public goods. Participants from higher-income backgrounds tended to overestimate people's access to certain goods. Children's personal access to items also predicted their estimates; those who had access to the private and public goods believed more people had access to these items. A final task assessed how people come to project different values to different people. Children rated how much rich and poor targets care about different types of wellbeing, believing poorer targets cared more about basic needs and social connection, and richer targets cared more about exploring their passions. These findings reveal how perceptions of wealth distribution and personal priorities take root, laying the groundwork for asymmetric worldviews.

*POSTER

Speaker



Radhika Santhanagopalan

PhD Student | University of Chicago/Booth School of Business

Authors

Katherine Kinzler

[19] Association of Social Information Use with Transdiagnostic Symptom Dimensions

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Objectives:

Humans use social information to guide their individual decisions to improve decision accuracy and reduce potential risk. Aberrant social information use has been identified as a characteristic of many mental health disorders. However, given the inherently complex and overlapping symptomatology of mental disorders, the specific symptom dimensions underlying the altered use of social information remain poorly understood.

Methods:

In an online experiment, we recruited 294 participants from the general population in the U.S. They completed the BEAST (Berlin Estimate AdjuStment Task), a simple and incentive-compatible task to measure individuals' tendency to utilize social information, and subsequently completed a set of psychiatric questionnaires. We employed factor analyses to identify transdiagnostic symptom dimensions and conducted a linear regression model to investigate their associations with social information use.

Results:

People placed less weight on social information compared to their own estimates ($t(293) = -9.25, p < 0.001$), consistent with previous findings. Factor analysis of the psychiatric questionnaires revealed three underlying transdiagnostic dimensions: 'Social Anxiety-Social Fear', 'Depression-Anxiety', 'Borderline-Paranoid'. Moreover, we found the transdiagnostic dimension of psychiatric symptoms related to Depression-Anxiety showed a negative association with the extent of social information use ($b = -0.246, t(282) = -3.538, p < 0.001$), while the loadings on the Borderline-Paranoid dimension was positively associated with the degree of social information use ($b = 0.143, t(282) = 2.327, p = 0.021$).

Conclusions:

Our results support the role of social information use as a transdiagnostic feature spanning multiple psychiatric disorders. Furthermore, these findings emphasize the strength of transdiagnostic approaches in revealing aberrant social information processing beyond what is captured by categorical diagnoses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tao Jin

Graduate Student | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Authors

Iris Vilares

[20] Attitudes and Beliefs about Social Issues

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Title: Anti-intellectualism: Attitudes and Beliefs about Social Issues

Abstract: When thinking about social issues, factors such as individual experiences, cultural background, and exposure to media may shape how individuals view arguments and make decisions. The present research examines how participants, undergraduate college students, evaluate arguments about social issues. We are investigating motivated skepticism amongst participants, or the tendency to be more critical and demanding of information that contradicts previously held beliefs. We are additionally investigating Anti-Intellectualism (AI), or hostility and mistrust in academic knowledge. We are using the Anti-Intellectual Attitudes Scale (AIAS) to moderate participants' selective exposure, or cognitive tendency to seek out and favor information that confirms their previously held beliefs. We predict that AI will moderate tendencies toward selective exposure, such that those higher in AI will be more preferential toward existing beliefs. In a society growing both increasingly polarized and skeptical of experts, we aim to better understand how individuals form their decisions and beliefs.

Key words: anti-intellectualism, selective exposure, social issues

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Gilbert

University of Arkansas

[21] Attributions of Ghosting by Attachment Orientation: A Retrospective Approach

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Ghosting, a one-sided breakup method by cutting off all communication (Safronova, 2015), is a form of ostracism increasingly seen in relationship contexts. Individual differences may impact how one interprets the ghosting event, such as attachment orientation. People higher in attachment anxiety (who have a strong desire for closeness but difficulty trusting others to be reliable) tend to have lower self-esteem and negative models of the self, while people higher in attachment avoidance (who value independence and are uncomfortable with interdependence) have negative models of others, believing they cannot count on others. To our knowledge, no one has examined whether attachment affects ghosting event attributions, which may impact responses to and coping with ghosting. We address this gap by asking participants to report their attachment orientation, describe a ghosting event, and indicate the extent to which they blame themselves vs. the person who ghosted them for the ghosting event. We predict that those higher in attachment anxiety will tend to blame themselves for being ghosted more, while those higher in attachment avoidance will blame the person ghosting them more.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erika Rosenberger

Ph.D. student | Miami University

Authors

Allison Farrell

[22] Authenticity in Friendship and Well-Being Among Single and Partnered People

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SINGLEHOOD

Research on individual differences that support positive single lives is limited. Authentic people have satisfying close relationships and greater well-being (Rivera et al., 2019). Single people with good friends tend to have better well-being (Dykstra, 1995). Thus, in a pre-registered study, we tested whether authenticity is related to single people's well-being through positive friendships. In Study 1, singles' authenticity was associated with greater general well-being (i.e., life satisfaction and purpose in life), but not relationship-specific outcomes (e.g., relationship status satisfaction), through greater friendship satisfaction (N=326). To test whether this model is unique to single people and whether it persists over time, we conduct a longitudinal test in Study 2 using data from the Rochester Adult Longitudinal Study (N=379-474; Whitbourne et al., 2009). Authenticity was longitudinally associated with greater well-being in both single and partnered people after 25 years through reporting more positive relationships. Results identify a personality trait meaningful for single and partnered people's well-being, and evidence for a possible mechanism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arina Stoianova

Graduate Student | Syracuse University

Authors

Jeewon Oh, Erica Baranski, Arina Stoianova, Emily Beauparlant, Jennifer Lodi-Smi

[23] Automobile Color As Cues to Person Perception

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Human faces possess cues that signal social information about a wide variety of identities, but non-person objects such as automobiles can also convey social information. Building on prior work in this line of research showing that darker-colored automobiles signal masculinity and lighter-colored automobiles signal femininity, the present research examined whether these gender signals are maintained or attenuated by automobile color. Internet participants (N = 200) viewed images of automobiles previously rated as masculine or feminine, presented in either stereotype-congruent colors (i.e., automobiles signaling masculinity presented in a dark tone; automobiles signaling femininity presented in a light tone) or stereotype-incongruent colors (e.g., automobiles signaling masculinity presented in a light tone; automobiles signaling femininity presented in a dark tone). Some participants saw full-color images; others saw black-and-white versions that varied only in light or dark colored tones. Gender perceptions of masculine automobiles remained stable across all color (ds > 1.39) and tone conditions (ds > 1.04). However, feminine automobiles were rated as less feminine when shown in stereotype-incongruent colors (ds > 0.31) or tones (ds > 0.50) compared to their congruent counterparts. These findings extend our understanding of automobiles as cues to person perception.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marlene Figueroa

Graduate Student | University of California Riverside

Authors

Jimmy Calanchini

[24] Avoiding the Pain of Social Rejection through Social Withdrawal and Internet Usage

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

The present project examines how people cope with feelings of social rejection through internet usage and social isolation, as well as how attachment insecurity moderates those behaviors' intensity. 500 participants will be invited from CloudResearch Connect to complete a Qualtrics survey. They will first fill out a measure assessing their attachment avoidance and anxiety. They will then play a round of Cyberball, a virtual ball-tossing game. In this game, they will either have the ball regularly passed to them, or have the ball only passed to them twice near the beginning of the game. They will finally fill out measures assessing their levels of avoidance coping, and their immediate desire to socially isolate and use the internet. We hypothesize that those who have been socially ostracized will employ an avoidance coping strategy, which will lead to internet usage and social isolation, especially if they are higher in attachment avoidance, and potentially also anxious attachment. The results will further the literature on the modern consequences of social rejection and inform practitioners on how to best combat problematic internet use and extreme social withdrawal.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mai Tran

Union College

Authors

Joshua Hart, Mai Tran, Cameron Kay

[25] CANCELLED

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

*POSTER

[26] Barriers, Not Deficits: Latinx Students on Academic Failure

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

We examined academically successful Latinx students' attributions for academic failure. Extending prior research (Hurtado & Sinha, 2016), we analyzed 53 structured interviews with senior-level, first-generation Latinx college students. Focusing on their family backgrounds, neighborhoods, attributions for failure, identities, and levels of consciousness. Guided by existing frameworks our coding scheme examined intrinsic and fatalistic attributions (Heider, 1958), structural barriers, and educational challenges, while rejecting deficit thinking frameworks (Valencia, 1997). Rather than attributing failure to presumed cultural and individual deficiencies, participants emphasized the roles of broader structural inequalities. Findings revealed that students most often attributed failure to structural barriers through income inequality and limited access to instrumental knowledge. This study contributed to the literature by highlighting how academically successful Latinx students interpret failure, advancing understanding of the socioeconomic and systemic factors shaping educational experiences, and offering insights for addressing persistent inequalities in higher education.

*POSTER

Speaker



Navid Amarliou

California State University Monterey Bay

Authors

Mrinal Sinha

[27] Belongingness and Loneliness Among First-Generation College Students

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Understanding how belongingness and loneliness shape depressive symptoms is critical for first-generation college students (FGCS), who may experience a greater level of these factors compared to their non-FGCS peers (Gopalan & Brady, 2020). The Dual Continuum Model of Belongingness and Loneliness (DCMBL) categorizes individuals into four distinct groups (Lim et al., 2021); however, it has not been examined among FGCS. To address this gap, the present study evaluated the DCMBL with 175 FGCS (64.6% female) using cluster analysis and one-way ANOVA with post hoc comparisons to examine group differences in depressive symptoms. Results revealed three groups with no cluster representing Socially Indifferent (low belongingness, low loneliness). There was no significant difference between Socially Searching (high belongingness, high loneliness) and Socially Distressed (low belongingness, high loneliness). However, Socially Fulfilled (high belongingness, low loneliness) showed lower depressive symptoms than both Socially Distressed ($M_{\text{difference}} = -2.12$) and Socially Searching ($M_{\text{difference}} = -4.90$). Findings may help inform the development of targeted prevention and intervention efforts among FGCS.

*POSTER

Speaker



zainab Alvandi

Graduate Research Assistant, PhD Student | North Dakota State University

Authors

Carmen Kho

[28] Belongingness As an Outcome of Social Integration

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Belongingness – a fundamental need and motivation – is often defined as the subjective feeling that one is a "part" of a social system, but how do people become a "part"? Although rarely considered conceptual models of belongingness, social integration models posit that people become a "part" of a social system through a process of internalizing its three hierarchical levels of organization: its (lowest level) rules, roles, and (highest level) values. I, therefore, asked: Is belongingness an outcome of social integration? Across two large and diverse samples, internalization of each level of organization had positive correlations with belongingness while controlling for critical covariates (e.g., emotions, perceived social support), and each higher level had an increasingly stronger relationship. Results were also generally invariant across gender and White, Asian, and Latine subpopulations, and belongingness in relation to a social system was related to the internalization of the rules, roles, and values of that (and not another) social system. Results suggest that viewing belongingness as an outcome of social integration may reveal its key promoters and spur new insights.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gerald Young

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Ohio University

[29] Beyond Arousal: New Findings in Emotional Facilitation of Memory

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Emotional content is prioritized in memory, an effect typically attributed to arousal-related enhancement of hippocampal-dependent consolidation. Findings from 4 studies suggest additional mechanisms in play. Participants in all studies viewed photos varying in valence and arousal. In Studies 1 & 2 (total N=362), free recall was enhanced for high-arousal negative and low-arousal positive photos, but not high-arousal positive ones, relative to neutral. In Studies 3 & 4 (Total N = 258), results showed enhanced free recall for the gist of photos evoking fear, awe, and sadness (but not excitement) relative to neutral photos; dampened memory for detail in positive images (ID image you actually saw); and a bias in which awe-evoking images were remembered as more vibrant (a low-level visual feature) than originally presented (ID image you saw). Moreover, in Study 3, perceived vibrance predicted performance on gist-recall, but not the visual details task. Across studies, subjective valence was a more robust predictor of performance than subjective arousal. Results suggest a need to investigate mechanisms beyond arousal that promote memory enhancement for emotional stimuli.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jamie Katz

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Arizona State University

Authors

Jamie Katz, Michelle Shiota

[30] Beyond Conscious Judgment: How Social Impressions Shape Our Gaze, Posture, and Neural Activity

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Human faces convey rich social information that shapes perception and interaction. While prior work has focused on explicit trait judgments, we examine how social evaluations are encoded in spontaneous physiological and behavioral reactions to faces. Across four studies (N = 276), we analyzed head motion trajectories, eye-gaze patterns, pupil responses, and single-neuron activity as participants viewed faces and made social trait evaluations (e.g., trustworthiness). We found that these implicit responses systematically varied with perceived social traits: individuals subtly shifted their gaze and posture, and modulated pupil size depending on impressions from faces. Data-driven modeling revealed which facial features predicted specific physiological and behavioral responses, and it found that the valence and power dimensions of social perception were encoded across modalities. Furthermore, we found evidence for social evaluation encoding even in the absence of explicit judgment. This multimodal approach reveals how deeply social impressions are embedded in our sensorimotor and neural systems, even outside of conscious awareness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Runquan Yu

Ph.D. Student | National University of Singapore

Authors

Runquan Yu, Anqi Mao, Colin Palmer, Shuo Wang

[31] Beyond Morbid Curiosity: An Analysis of User Behavior in a Popular Gore Subreddit Using BERTopic and an Emotion Classifier

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

The intuitionist revolution in moral psychology helped the field move past rationalist and monist theories and examine pluralist variations in moral cognition. However, this also means that recent scholarship documenting cross-cultural variations has focused on the different issues people from different cultures intuitively find wrong. We argue that cultural differences in morality go beyond different moral concerns by presenting five studies showing that cultures differ in how they reason about morality. Studies 1 to 3 show that British and Chinese participants provide different explanations for why the same moral violations are wrong. Explanations provided spontaneously (Studies 1 and 2) and agreed upon (Study 3) by Chinese participants centered more around social norms and less around formal rules. Studies 4 and 5 focused on moralization. We created scenarios that are morally ambiguous on the baseline, but told participants that they are either against informal norms or formal rules/laws. While American participants condemned the rule/law violations more than norm violations, Chinese and Brazilian participants differentiated less among the two.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarah Mowrey

Graduate Student | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Sean Laurent, Sarah Mowrey, Emerson Todd

[32] Black Skin Tones and Perceptual Biases: Examining trait attribution in children

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

This poster examines whether children are more likely to attribute negative traits to people with darker skin tones. Black and White children (4-10 years old) heard descriptions of positive, negative, and neutral traits and asked who amongst a set of four Black faces (varying in skin tone) they thought inhabited the trait. Preliminary results suggest that children were more likely to choose Black people with darker skin tones for negative traits relative to neutral or positive traits – a pattern that strengthened over age. Implications for the development of colorism and future steps for this work are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Sonia Singh**
Student | Haverford College

Authors

Zoe Carlson, Ryan Lei

[33] Boosting Outcome Expectations Reduces Attentional Tunneling Under Scarcity

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Scarcity draws our attention toward the resources we lack, a cognitive effect known as attentional tunneling. This narrowing of focus is suggested to perpetuate scarcity by diverting attention from higher-order life goals. To explore this dynamic, in a preregistered study we investigated in 96 paid volunteers how scarcity influences selective attention during goal pursuit and whether these effects are driven by reduced expectations of success under conditions of scarcity. In this experiment participants engaged in a gamified flanker task under either a control condition (sufficient resources) or a scarcity condition (insufficient resources), with opportunities to earn additional resources. Participants play one round of the game with high outcome expectations (90% of success) and a low outcome expectations round (10% of success). A gamified flanker task is used to measure selective attention towards and engagement with goals, non goals and resource stimuli in the game. This study found that scarcity causes lower outcome expectations for succeeding at higher order goals, these lowered expectations cause narrow selective attention and lower engagement with the higher order goal. These findings suggests that motivational shifts present in scarcity act as drivers of the cognitive and behavioral changes observed during self-regulation within scarcity. These findings have both theoretical implications for understanding mechanism of a scarcity mindset and the benefit of high outcome expectations interventions within scarcity.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Louisa Butler**

Authors

Julia Vogt, Rachel McCloy

[34] Boundaries of Early Forgiveness: Children's Sensitivity to Transgressors' Remorse and Intent

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Forgiveness restores a potential future cooperative relationship between a victim and a transgressor (McCullough et al., 2013). Key sources of information in forgiveness decisions include the transgressor's intent and remorse; children punish intentional over accidental transgressors by age 6 and forgive remorseful over unremorseful transgressors by age 5 (e.g., McElroy et al., 2023; Oostenbroek & Vaish, 2019). In two studies, we explore children's sensitivity to a transgressor's level of remorse (Study 1) and their responses when remorse and intent information conflict (Study 2).

In a within-subjects design, 5- and 6-year-old children viewed two videos of a transgressor tearing a victim's drawing. In Study 1 (N = 51), children were more forgiving of a transgressor who provided an elaborate apology over a simple apology ($p < .05$). In Study 2 (ongoing; planned N = 48), we measure children's forgiveness of a remorseful intentional transgressor versus an unremorseful accidental transgressor.

Children's early emerging understanding of intent and remorse may allow them to identify and forgive better potential cooperative partners, thus strengthening their social and cooperative ties.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Sophie Clayton**
University of Virginia

Authors

Amrisha Vaish

[36] Callous-Unemotional Traits and Aggression: The Role of Parental Influence at a Six-Month Follow-Up

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Callous-unemotional (CU) traits in youth with conduct disorder (CD) are linked to persistent and severe aggression, yet the role of parenting practices in shaping these outcomes remains unclear. This study examined whether parental warmth and hostility moderated the association between CU traits and changes in reactive and proactive aggression over six months. Participants included 139 youth aged 12-17 with a CD diagnosis. Data were collected using youth-reported CU traits, parental warmth and hostility, and reactive and proactive aggression. Analyses explored the moderating role of parental warmth and hostility on the link between CU traits and reactive and proactive aggression. Lower levels of maternal warmth (MW) predicted proactive aggression and higher levels of maternal hostility (MH) predicted reactive and proactive aggression. Both low MW and high MH moderated the association between CU traits and proactive aggression. Results suggest maternal parenting (MP) plays a key role in the development of proactive aggression among youth with CU traits. Interventions targeting MP patterns may help mitigate the risk for severe, goal-directed aggression in youth with CU traits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brooklyn Worthen

Clinical Research Coordinator | Virginia Commonwealth University

Authors

Abriana Gresham, Sophie Kjærviik, Brooklyn Worthen, Kostas Fanti, Nicholas Thomson

[37] Can Caregiver Affiliations Influence Language Bias in Children?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

A preference for those who speak the same language as oneself develops early; monolingual children tend to befriend speakers of their shared language (Kinzler, Dupoux, & Spelke, 2007). This can prevent diverse socialization. However, young humans do not only refer to social group information when making social choices – they also refer to their caregivers' social networks (Thomas, Saxe & Spelke, 2022). This project aims to explore the flexibility of language-based preferences in monolingual English-speaking 4- and 5-year-olds. In Study 1 (N = 59), we showed participants an English-speaking puppet (shared) and a French- or Hindi-speaking puppet (non-shared) and asked which they would like as their friend. They prefer the shared-language speaker (77.4%). However, when both puppets speak English but one also speaks a non-shared language, children show no preference (48.6%). This indicates the value of comprehension is separate from social cognition. Finally, Study 2 pilot data indicate that children no longer show a preference when they see their caregiver, but not a stranger, befriend a non-shared language puppet. This project may find ways to weaken early language-based social bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dhanishtha Upadhyay

Harvard

Authors

Christina M. Steele, Denisse Lopez Flores, Ashley J. Thomas

[38] Can empathy be learned? Feedback-based learning as a path to growing emotional understanding

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

The ability to understand others' emotions can be improved through training - but not through widely used approaches like imagining oneself in another's shoes, drawing from personal experience, or decoding facial expressions in isolation. This talk draws on recent studies (2021–2025; N > 1500) to present a new framework for cultivating interpersonal understanding.

To demonstrate the limitations of traditional interventions, I introduce the Emotional Accuracy Test (EAT) - a validated, ecologically valid tool based on video-recorded personal stories. The EAT correlates with established tasks (e.g., GERT, RMET), and uniquely captures subtle real-life empathic skills such as linguistic synchrony and the ability to provide effective support.

Using the EAT, I evaluate a novel intervention: Feedback-Based Learning, in which participants receive trial-by-trial feedback on their emotional judgments. Across three experiments (N = 600), this method improved emotional understanding of both familiar and unfamiliar targets - demonstrating robust and generalizable learning effects.

These findings suggest a new paradigm for empathy training: one that emphasizes ongoing, contextualized feedback rather than abstract instruction. Implications span educational, clinical, and organizational settings, offering practical tools for fostering deeper emotional insight and mutual understanding across diverse social groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacob (Kobi) Israelashvili

Assistant Professor | Ariel University

Authors

Jacob Israelashvili

[39] Can Practicing Self-Compassion Reduce the Sting of Social Exclusion? A Daily Diary Study

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

A pilot study on Prolific with a diverse sample of college students (N = 399) first established that those who wrote about a previous social exclusion in a self-compassionate way scored significantly higher on a state self-compassion scale than did control participants. Next, in a 2-week daily diary study, participants (N = 128) were randomly assigned either to cope with social exclusions using self-compassionate techniques they practiced in the lab, or to simply think about the details of the exclusions. Controlling for trait self-esteem, we assessed daily mood, state self-esteem, and state social connection, as well as post-test depression. Inconsistent with the hypotheses, experimental condition did not generally predict responses; however, several significant effects of trait self-compassion and trait self-esteem emerged. Although the pilot study suggested an effective intervention, more practice may be necessary to override low trait self-compassion. In addition, a study examining more severe rejections over a longer time period might better demonstrate the power of practicing self-compassion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Borton

Professor of Psychology | Hamilton College

Authors

Erika Koch

[40] Celebrities as Both Good and Bad: Do Famous Individuals Facilitate Bivalent Implicit Evaluations?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Do implicit evaluations of famous people show implicit bivalence, as they do for significant others? Past work shows that names of significant others facilitate both positive and negative targets on the Evaluative Priming Task (EPT). Common objects, on the other hand, elicit univalent priming (facilitating congruent and inhibiting incongruent targets). In Study 1 (N=151) participants nominated liked and disliked famous people, significant others, and objects, then completed the EPT. Replicating past work, significant others triggered bivalent priming and objects univalent priming. Crucially, famous people showed bivalent priming, facilitating both positive and negative targets. To assess generality, in Study 2 (N=194), participants selected names from a validated list of famous people and objects, then completed the EPT. Further, participants read valence-congruent descriptions and completed a second EPT. Objects still showed univalence, while famous people showed robust bivalence, unaffected by added information. Thus, at an implicit level, famous people resemble significant others, co-activating positive and negative evaluations even when explicit measures show no ambivalence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniela Graffeo

Student | Cornell University

Authors

Vivian Zayas, Randy Lee

[41] ChatGPT changes people's opinions when seen as warm and competent

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Large language models such as ChatGPT can change people's opinions, but their effectiveness depends on how humans perceive them. Drawing on the fundamental dimensions of warmth and competence in social cognition, we randomly assigned participants (N = 1034) to converse with a ChatGPT trained to exhibit one of four personas: warm-competent, warm-incompetent, non-warm-competent, and non-warm-incompetent. ChatGPT's goal was to persuade participants that AI does more good than harm; we measured opinion change before and after the conversation. Our results show that warm-competent GPTs were more persuasive than other variations. Interestingly, variations that lacked one or both traits often backfired: participants were more likely to think that AI does more harm than good despite GPT's goal of persuading them otherwise. These effects were stronger in multi-turn than single-turn conversations and when the system was trained to be persuasive rather than explanatory. These findings highlight the importance of considering social cognitive dimensions when designing future language models to better integrate them into human society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Livia Gunawi

High School Research Intern | Wilson Hill Academy, The University of Chicago

Authors

Xuechunzi Bai

[42] Children's Flexible Thinking in Varying Contexts

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

While prior research highlights a link between holding multiple identities and greater flexible thinking (FT), little is known about the specific conditions that foster these gains. Here, we examine differences in FT between bicultural (multiple cultural identities) and monocultural children (ages 8-10), assessed through tasks measuring creative problem solving (CPS) such as the remote associates tests (RAT) and social categorization (SC) tasks. We predict that bicultural participants who likely have higher rates of both identity conflict and code-switching experiences will show higher FT than their monocultural peers. Preliminary results (N = 16) shows that bicultural children are higher in FT than monocultural children, suggesting that more increased cultural contact impacts children's FT. The full sample will also test participants' social networks and multicultural socialization practices to identify which pathways and lived experiences boost FT abilities.

*POSTER

Speaker

Jalen Faison
Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Hannah Garner, Jalen Faison, Tose Agbelusi

[43] Children's Intersectional Beliefs About Social Occupational Roles

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Both adults and children tend to associate certain social occupational roles with men (e.g., doctors) and with women (e.g., nurses), often relying on status cues when making these judgments. While these gendered associations begin in early childhood, it is unclear to what extent race also shapes them. Children ages 5–10 (N = 86) participated in a storybook-based task, in which they heard descriptions of eight different social roles (2 high-status male roles, 2 high-status female roles, 2 low-status male roles, 2 low-status female roles) and were asked to place each role on a social-status ladder and then select the type of person (images of Asian, Black, and White men and women) they believed performed the job. Preliminary results suggest that children's social role judgments are guided more by gender than by race, highlighting the greater saliency of gender stereotypes over racial cues in shaping early perceptions of occupational roles.

*POSTER

Speaker

Sofia Briones
Lab Manager at the Intersectionality of the Social Mind Lab | Haverford College

Authors

Ryan Lei, Ishita Jain

[44] Cognitive Debt or Adaptation? Evidence from GPT-Mediated Learning Outcomes

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Advances in Human-AI interaction raise questions about the impact on social cognitive processes including learning, motivation, and value internalization. Prior work from the MIT Media Lab (2025) reported reduced ownership and memory in AI-assisted writing tasks (i.e. cognitive debt). This study further examines whether ChatGPT use affects learning outcomes. Fifty-one college students were randomly assigned to ChatGPT-assisted (CA; N=25) or Internet Search (IS; N=26) conditions. Both groups completed identical writing tasks, differing only in information source. Results showed that while consistent trends of higher scores in knowledge retention and internalization were observed in IS compared to CA, these differences did not reach statistical significance. However, as for perceived workload, IS reported significantly higher burden ($p < .01$). These findings remained the same when more robust statistical analyses were employed, including Bayesian analysis. Our findings indicate that as AI use in learning context becomes widespread, we rapidly adapt to GPT-mediated information processing, challenging assumptions about inevitable cognitive debt from AI assistance in learning contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker

Seoyoung Oh
Graduate Student | Ewha Womans University

Authors

Ga Hee Lee, Sujin Yang

[45] Community Cohesion

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The present study discusses the relationship between the subjective experience of cohesion between communities one is a part of and physical, mental, and spiritual health. Community cohesion represents an unexplored area of the literature that stems from shared reality theory, self-concept clarity, and the effects of relationship tension on mental health. Data was collected from 194 online participants from English-speaking countries using the Prolific online survey distributor. Materials included a modified version of the Striving Instrumentality Scale and Matrix (mSISM), for a measure of community cohesion, the Self-Concept Clarity Scale (SCCS), for a measure of conception of the self, the Bidirectional Spirituality Scale, for a measure of spiritual health, the Patient Health Questionnaire and Generalized Anxiety Disorder questionnaire, for measures of mental health, and the 36-Item Short-Form Survey, for a measure of physical health, among others. The study relied on a correlational design, with emphasis placed on the correlation between the mSISM and SCCS and the mSISM and measures of health.

*POSTER

Speaker

Nicolas Warren
Wheaton College (Illinois)

Authors

Stella Otai

[46] Community Matters: Investigating the Role of Community Efficacy on Native Youths' Critical Consciousness Development

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Critical consciousness (CC) theory is a useful framework for understanding how youth become involved in social change. According to this theory, critical action (behaviors aimed at social change) is shaped by (1) critical reflection (recognizing structural injustice) and (2) personal efficacy (belief one can make a difference). However, when it comes to Native Peoples, we argue CC theory is incomplete. Community is foundational to Native life and plays a central role in shaping Native Peoples' knowledge systems, relationships, and ceremonies, influencing how they see the world and how they respond to it. Thus, community efficacy (belief one's community can make a difference) may play a key role in connecting critical reflection to critical action. To test our hypothesis, we analyzed Native youth (18-25 years old, N = 1016) from the Indigenous Futures Survey. As predicted, the relationship between critical reflection and critical action was significantly mediated by community efficacy. These findings highlight the role of community-based motivations in Native youths' CC development and provide a more culturally grounded understanding of Native youths' critical action engagement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hozshona Post

Undergraduate Student | University of Oklahoma

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Kristina Chamberlin, Alana Smutz, Jamie Yellowtail, Kelly House

[47] Conceptual Metaphor Theory and Authenticity

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Previous literature on Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) has established that something as seemingly inconsequential as viewing an expanding figure can cause us to exhibit greater feelings of self-actualization. CMT posits that this occurs because our fundamental understanding of self-actualization itself is based on the metaphor of expansion, so it is possible to prime this feeling through its corresponding metaphor. Though this kind of relationship has been found for many different psychological constructs, the current study will be the first to study CMT in conjunction with the construct of authenticity. We hypothesize that the wearing of masks will serve as a conceptual metaphor for inauthenticity due to the previous authenticity literature on concealment. The study will consciously prime participants with a short video of either a person without a mask, a person removing their mask, a person putting on a mask, or a person wearing a mask. The primes will be dispersed throughout a distractor task on the gender perception of faces. After being primed, the participants will respond to multiple authenticity scales as well as the PANAS. The results are expected to demonstrate the lowest authenticity scores for participants who viewed the mask-wearing prime, and the highest authenticity scores for participants who viewed the no-mask control. This would establish the wearing of masks as a conceptual metaphor for authenticity. The study seeks to expand our understanding of the perception of authenticity, as well as add to the literature on CMT.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva Villarreal

University of Texas at San Antonio

Authors

David Pillow, Eva Villarreal

[48] Connectivity to Others During Unique Encounters with Music

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Whereas previous studies have separately focused on music and social connectivity, little research has examined the way different components of music affect connectivity. The purpose of this lab-based study (n = 208) was to investigate the effect of listening to music (or reading the lyrics only) on feelings of connectivity. Connectivity is perceived closeness or belonging. Participants completed pre-test measures of emotion and social connection, listened to music or read lyrics, and then completed the same measures post-test. We hypothesized participants who listened to Black Gospel music would report greater feelings of connectivity compared to those who read the same song lyrics. We regressed social connectivity on awe in step one, spirituality in step two, and joy in step three. When controlling for demographics, listening to music did not impact feelings of connectivity relative to reading lyrics, but awe, spirituality, and joy each demonstrated a positive association with connectivity regardless of condition. Results support the role of positive emotion and spirituality in fostering feelings of connectivity over and above environmental exposure to music.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elie Lassiter

Student | Baylor University

Authors

MacKenzie Paul, Meredith Palm, Wade Rowatt

[49] Content matching predicts subsequent endorsement of violence on incel forums

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Incels (short for "involuntary celibates") are an online community of men who blame women for their reputed sexual and romantic failures. The misogyny of their worldview, called the blackpill, has inspired multiple instances of real-world violence against women. Alarmingly, we know little about the temporal processes whereby an incel goes from joining an online community to becoming enmeshed enough in the group to promote violence on its behalf. This project sought to address this by scraping incels' most popular web forum and using text analysis to identify psychological mechanisms that could be responsible for incels' endorsement of violence in online posts. The resulting dataset consisted of 1,097,841 unique discussion posts by 4,711 unique users across 144,468 discussion threads. Residual dynamic structural equation modeling indicated that latent semantic similarity (i.e., the degree to which the meaning of an incels' discussion post was matched by later discussion posts) predicted future endorsement of violence. In other words, when incels' previous posts were matched semantically by other incels, they were more likely to promote violence at later time points. For incels, then, perhaps others sharing their similar views is enough to promote violence endorsement on behalf of the group.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gregory Rousis

Visiting Assistant Professor | University of South Florida

[50] Social Context in the Machine: Predicting Depression from Multimodal Online Behavior

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

META-ANALYSIS

Depression reflects complex social and emotional processes that traditional assessments often fail to capture. Social media offers continuous traces of individuals' interactions, self-expression, and daily behaviors, providing a window into real-world psychological life. Our meta-analysis of 66 studies (2022–2025) shows that over 80% of models rely solely on text, while only 6% incorporate multimodal signals such as posting times and shared images. Multimodal approaches consistently improve detection, suggesting that depressive patterns emerge not only in language but also in online social behavior. Models using deep contextual embeddings (e.g., BERT, RoBERTa) further enhance user-level prediction, surpassing traditional lexicon-based or statistical features. We propose a framework that integrates textual, behavioral, and visual social media data to predict depression severity, linking online engagement, attention, and self-presentation to mental health outcomes. This approach offers scalable, population-level insights while grounding AI predictions in social-psychological theory.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joyee Jin

University of Toronto

Authors

Geoffrey Cohen, Xianglu Tang, Alice Li (Xingyu)

[51] Cool but Cruel? Children Inference Coolness and Prosociality from Peer Description

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The study investigated whether 6–9-year-old children can infer coolness (operationalized by combining folk and academic definitions) from descriptions of an individual's group-level interactions. While prior research shows adolescents can accurately assess peer "coolness" (Rodkin et al., 2000), it remains unclear whether younger children can do the same. We tested this by presenting character vignettes depicting a cool-but-antisocial peer and an uncool-but-prosocial peer to participants ($n = 49$). Results showed children successfully distinguished between the two, rating the cool-but-antisocial peer as cooler ($M = 5.37/6$) than the uncool-but-prosocial peer ($M = 2.78/6$), $t(48) = 6.68$, $p < .001$. They also identified the cool peer as more antisocial ($M = 2.06/6$) than the prosocial peer ($M = 5.49/6$), $t(48) = 11.53$, $p < .001$. These findings suggest that children as young as six can recognize implicit components of social hierarchy and infer coolness from descriptions of individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cory Jordan

Masters Student | California State University San Marcos

Authors

Kimmie Vanderbilt

[52] Cultivating an Uncertainty Mindset Reduces the Fundamental Attribution Error

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Discomfort with uncertainty can lead to biases including the fundamental attribution error (FAE). Expanding on the scientific-article approach (from growth-mindset research), we increased participants' comfort with uncertainty ($N = 110$; $d = 0.53$, $p < .01$), and this "uncertainty mindset" reduced the FAE using the questioner-contestant (QC) paradigm ($d = 0.50$, $p < .01$). This intervention has potential applications in social-judgment and clinical domains. We also considered trait need for closure (NFC) and trait mindfulness (TM), which have predicted higher or lower FAE scores, respectively, using the attitude-attribution paradigm. However, our study showed a significant reversal of each finding using the QC paradigm (and the newer 15-item NFC scale). In particular, the "decisiveness" facet in NFC attenuated the FAE ($r = -0.32$, $p < .001$). These results raise questions about the nature of NFC and TM in relation to the FAE and highlight the difference between the two FAE paradigms. The QC paradigm has less-explicit cues to the situation such that too much awareness or attention to (nondiagnostic) details, as reflected in high TM and low decisiveness, may undermine accurate inferences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Stalder

Professor of Psychology | University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Authors

Ariana Huberty

[53] Detecting Reciprocity of Liking in Conversations

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Reciprocity of liking is central to relationships, but we know little about whether people perceive it in others' conversations. We tested whether third-party observers could detect if conversation partners like each other equally. Participants read transcripts or viewed videos of strangers conversing and judged if liking was reciprocated or unreciprocated. Participants did not distinguish between transcripts of conversations with reciprocated liking (63% rated reciprocated) from those with unreciprocated liking (62% rated reciprocated) ($p = 0.88$). Participants were more likely to rate videos of reciprocated conversations as reciprocated (77% rated reciprocated), but still tended to rate unreciprocated conversation videos as reciprocated (62% rated reciprocated). Participants recognized that some features were more present in reciprocated conversations and were more likely to categorize conversations with these features as reciprocated. Nevertheless, people seem biased to perceive reciprocated liking, often failing to detect unreciprocated liking. This bias may reflect a broad tendency to assume mutual liking, highlighting an optimism that shapes how we perceive relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kira Harris

Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Elisa Baek, Begüm Babür, Elnaz Rahmati, Efthymios Tsaprazlis, Mingyu Zong

[54] Development and Validation of a Unidimensional Measure of Authoritarian Aggression

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Authoritarianism is a growing concern across nations. Existing measures of authoritarianism typically use a three-factor model consisting of authoritarian aggression, authoritarian submission, and conventionalism. These measures also have notable weaknesses and limitations. In addition, the aggression component of authoritarianism is a particularly salient threat to vulnerable groups. Accordingly, the current research developed and validated a modern unidimensional scale of authoritarian aggression. Study 1 established the factor structure and internal reliability of the 15-item scale. Study 2 examined the convergent and discriminant validity of the scale using a range of relevant sociopolitical measures and established an initial nomological network. Both studies used paid online convenience samples. The practical and scholarly implications of these findings are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Franks

Authors

Marwa H. Attia, Blake A. Kozlowski, Alizay R. Naqvi, Isam B. Maaz, Ashlyn S. Olson, Jifune J. Hermiz, Alexis S. Amos, Francesca J. Bellisario, Dorothy B. Brown, Rebecca R. Cenusa, Renelle S. Lamey, Mackenzie A. Mercer, Ella M. Samhat, Andrew S. Franks

[55] Dietary Restriction Non-Accommodation as a Form of Social Exclusion

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Eating together can foster belonging and trust. However, the number of people who have special diets has been rising in recent years. As such, these groups may be subject to experience social exclusion in instances when their diet is not accommodated. We explored how dietary non-accommodation negatively impacts people with dietary restrictions. Most people with a dietary restriction (70%) have experienced not being accommodated, which is associated with lower affect and feeling more excluded than when they are accommodated (Study 1, $N=462$). More specifically, at a food-centric event (Thanksgiving), greater non-accommodation was associated with lower psychological needs satisfaction and greater feelings of being excluded (Study 2, $N=318$). Experimentally (Studies 3 and 4, $N=823$), when dietary restrictions are accommodated, people have greater needs satisfaction, feel less excluded, and feel closer to others; but not being accommodated leads to lower needs satisfaction, greater feelings of being excluded, and feeling less close. These results highlight the importance of ensuring everyone has access to accommodating food during social events to promote psychological well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Natasha Wood

Graduate Student | University of Mississippi

Authors

Caitlin Shaw, Andrew Hales, Natasha Wood

[56] Differentiating the Ambiguity of Surprised and Neutral Faces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

How is someone with a surprised face feeling? What if they have a neutral face? In both cases, it may be hard to decide. Indeed, people tend to perceive others with surprised and neutral faces as feeling bad; however, they also occasionally perceive them as feeling a little good, and some evidence suggests they may perceive them as feeling both good and bad (i.e., ambivalent). Ambivalence is one type of ambiguity; however, we suspect that neutral and surprised faces are actually ambiguous for different reasons. Specifically, we suspect that surprised faces are ambiguous because they signal that the person is feeling either good or bad, but it is not clear which. We suspect neutral faces, however, are ambiguous because people can't tell what, if anything, the person is feeling. In both cases, we suspect that these types of ambiguity masqueraded as ambivalence due to the use of measures with low construct validity. In Studies 1-2, we test the prediction that surprised and neutral faces are ambiguous for different reasons. In Study 3, we test whether these sources of ambiguity make surprised or neutral faces more ambiguous in a two-alternative forced-choice mouse-tracking paradigm.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Langbehn

Graduate Student | University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Authors

Jeff Larsen

[57] Discrimination Attributions and Well-Being of Multicultural and Multiracial Children

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Multiracial and multicultural youth frequently encounter identity questioning (e.g., "What are you?") and identity denial (being told to identify differently), yet little work examines how they interpret these events or the related consequences. Here, we examine parents' essentialist and colorblind socialization practices and test whether discrimination attributions differ across two cohorts of multiracial and multicultural children (Group 1: ages 5–7 and Group 2: ages 12–16). Children will read 2 age-validated vignettes of identity denial and questioning and report their discrimination attributions and current mood. Parents also report on their own discrimination attributions for their children's experiences of identity questioning and denial. We hypothesize younger children will make less discrimination attributions and have lower negative emotional responses compared to older children who will be more likely to endorse intent-based explanations. These findings will provide developmental insights into the socialization practices of multicultural/multiracial children and highlight age-appropriate insights for parents in socialization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mariam Wahba

Post-Bac Researcher | Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Hannah Garner, Analia Albuja

[58] Distant Prototypes: How do Climate Victim Prototypes Shape Environmental Behavior

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Climate change presents pervasive but diffuse threats to human health and well-being. Understanding variation in people's perception of these impacts is key for building interventions to motivate climate action. A recent study finds that when people's prototypes of climate impacts feature valued people and places being negatively affected, they tend to feel more close to the issue, concerned, and motivated to climate action. In a recent extension of this work, we collected people's self-evaluations of their prototypes of climate impacts while collecting more prototype details via a reverse correlation task. Hypothesis blind coders are coding demographic features of the classification faces of "a person negatively impacted by climate change" generated by this task. We predict that, on average, people whose prototypes reflect members of low powered social groups will tend to express more distance from climate change, less concern, and less interest in climate action. However, we predict that people whose prototypes reflect members of their ingroup will tend to express less distance, more concern and greater interest in climate action, regardless of their in-group's social power.

*POSTER

Speaker



Willow Rose

Lab Manager | Social Cognition Across People And Environments (SCAPE) lab @ RIT

Authors

Ashley Krause, Marjorie Prokosch

[59] **Distraction reduced negative emotions following a threatening health message more than reappraisal**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Defensive strategies are reactions to threatening health information that aim to control negative emotions. Using a novel design, we examined factors associated with consequences of engaging in defensive strategies in the context of alcohol consumption. Participants recruited from Prolific (N=391, 97% women, 79% White, Mage=41, average weekly alcohol consumption=9.7 drinks) watched a preview of a video describing health consequences of alcohol consumption and then were given a choice to engage in distraction—by mentally disengaging—or reappraisal—by considering other factors that make them healthy—for the rest of the video. Most of the sample (78%) chose reappraisal. A mediation analysis indicated that participants who chose distraction reported lower fear/anxiety after engaging in their strategy of choice relative to those who chose reappraisal, and lower fear/anxiety was associated with lower alcohol reduction intentions (direct effect: (B=-0.30, 95% CI [-0.43, -0.16]); indirect effect: (B=-0.03, 95% CI [-0.08, -0.01])). Thus, compared to reappraisal, distraction more effectively reduced negative emotions and also resulted in lower motivation to change one's behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Taber
Assistant Professor | Kent State University

Authors

Abigail O'Brien

[60] **Do children use gender, race, or the intersection of both for social role concepts?**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

In the U.S., children associate gender with social roles quite early. But whether gender predominates how children think of social roles in other cultural contexts is unclear. Children (ages 5–10; N ≈112) from India participated in a storybook-based task where they heard descriptions of jobs, placed them on a social-status ladder, and selected the type of person (images of men and women, differing in skin tone) they believed typically performed each job. Results showed that Indian children's perceptions of social roles was more tightly linked to skin tone than gender. These findings highlight cross-cultural variation in the cues children use to organize social roles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ishita Jain
Haverford College

Authors

Ryan Lei, Anna Stowe, Sofia Briones

[61] **Do happy people with no intention of engaging in prosocial behavior benefit from the moral boost of happiness?**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Happy (versus unhappy) people are judged more morally good. Research suggests this happiness moral boost is explained by expectations for good behavior. Three studies will probe this quite reasonable explanation more deeply, testing whether social targets' intentions to engage in prosocial behavior (Studies 1-2) and reports of prosocial behavior (Study 3) affect the happiness moral boost. Study 1 participants (projected N ~ 2000, data collection underway) will evaluate the moral goodness of targets in a 3 (target happiness: low versus neutral versus high) X 2 (target prosocial intentions: low versus high) design. We predict two main effects and will test for an interaction. If the moral boost of happiness is explained by behavioral expectations, the moral boost of happiness should diminish (or disappear) for low intention targets. In Study 2, happy (versus unhappy) targets' low prosocial intentions will be explained by target disability. Finally, Study 3 will manipulate the reported prosocial behavior of happy (versus unhappy) targets to address whether the happiness moral boost applies even when targets do not engage in good behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura King
Curators' Distinguished Professor | Univ. of Missouri

Authors

Laura King

[62] Do I Belong in Science? Exploring Psychology Students' Science Identity and Self-Efficacy

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Many psychology majors experience anxiety in their first statistics or research class, often feeling like they are "not science or math people." This mindset can lead to feelings of non-belonging and low self-efficacy in science, negatively impacting performance in essential courses. I hypothesized that this issue might be particularly pronounced for marginalized students, who also experience additional negative stereotypes, belonging uncertainty, and achievement gaps in STEM fields. A survey study of 714 psychology students supported this theory. Students of color had significantly lower GPAs, behavioral neuroscience grades, and feelings of belonging compared to White students. Similarly, first-generation students showed lower cumulative GPAs, psychology 101 grades, and science self-efficacy than their continuing-generation peers. Additionally, sense of belonging mediated the relationship between psychology self-efficacy and academic performance. These findings suggest that a social-belonging intervention could help close the achievement gap between marginalized and advantaged students by enhancing their sense of belonging in science and psychology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Grace Olsen

Graduate Student | Western Washington University

Authors

Grace Olsen, Kristi Lemm

[63] Do I Matter? Racial Identity as a Moderator of Perceived Mattering and Socioemotional Health

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

There are racial differences in belonging at PWIs (Predominantly White Institutions; e.g., Harper & Hurtado, 2007), but belonging may not have adequate construct validity for students of color (SOCs). Mattering extends belonging by measuring not just whether a person feels welcomed in a space but also how much someone feels they add value to and are valued by others (Flett et al., 2019). The mattering literature is growing, but few studies have examined racial differences in mattering. This study examines mattering, socioemotional health (SEH), and race at a small, predominantly white college. Students of color experienced significantly lower levels of mattering compared to white students. The SEH variables of cognitive reappraisal, zest, and optimism positively predicted mattering for white students. For SOCs, however, general stress and peer support predicted mattering. Moreover, SOCs, particularly SOC women, experienced lower levels of peer support than white students. Given that the determinants of mattering for SOCs are different, future research may need to explore the nuances of mattering for historically underrepresented groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kenneth Michniewicz

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Muhlenberg College

Authors

Connie Wolfe, Maridie Niare, Julianna Muñoz, Ibrahim Sidibeh, Kaylin Foss

[64]The Well-Being Observatory

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Countries regularly forecast economic indicators (e.g. GDP), but the well-being of their people is just as important, and far harder to predict. Subjective well-being (SWB) is increasingly recognized by international organizations as a key measure of societal progress. Findings from the World Happiness Report (WHR), which covers 150+ countries, show that SWB has steadily declined among western industrial countries over the last decade, with the United States among the largest losers in 2024. However, no models exist to forecast future well-being, limiting policymakers' ability to anticipate and guard against declines. We approach this problem through "The Well-Being Observatory," a team science initiative uniting researchers under a common task framework to forecast population well-being. The forecasting competition will take place in late 2026. At SPSP, we will present emerging predictors of happiness alongside recent well-being trends in the U.S. and worldwide in order to engage other scholars to join this collaborative effort. This work provides a foundation for early-warning tools that will allow countries to monitor, anticipate, and prepare for shifts in well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karina Feng

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Felix Cheung, Noah Frazer

[65] Do You Get Hangry? Anger and Jealousy in the Context of Food

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Hunger may evoke negative emotions such irritation (Swami et al. 2022) & influence evaluation of stimuli toward the negative (e.g., MacCormack & Lindquist, 2019). In our work, we examined anger (i.e., being "hangry") & jealousy in the context of food. We developed a 9-item hangry scale ($\alpha=.95$; example: "I can be unpleasant when I am hungry,") & a 16-item food jealousy scale ($\alpha=.85$; example: "Food seems more appealing when someone else has it."). Participants ($N = 270$) completed these measures as well as measures of general anger, general envy, & fear of negative evaluation. Participants also indicated how likely they were to feel different emotions (e.g., anger, jealousy, sadness) in scenarios in which there was frustration related to food, drinks, or finances & scenarios in which others had desirable food, drinks, or finances.

Our hangry & food jealousy scales demonstrated excellent convergent validity ($r = .41$ between hangry & general anger, $r = .46$ between food jealousy & general envy). In addition, hangry & food jealousy were uncorrelated with fear of negative evaluation ($ps > .05$). Lastly, hangry predicted higher anger likelihood in scenarios in which there was a frustration related to food, whereas food jealousy predicted higher jealousy likelihood in scenarios in which others had desirable food.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danielle Krusemark
SUNY Brockport

Authors

Chloe Beck

[66] CANCELLED:

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

*POSTER

Authors

Federica Ruzzante, Piero Avitabile, Isotta Nuti Budini Gattai, Gustavo Cevolani, Folco Paniz

[67] Does adversity severity predict motivated prosocial emotion selection?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Previous research has found that the emotional impact of adversity (i.e., adversity severity) is positively correlated with empathy, compassion, and prosocial behavior. Three studies ($n = 607$) attempted to replicate this work conceptually in the context of prosocial situation selection. In Studies 1 and 2, Prolific workers and college students scoring lower in adversity severity chose empathy significantly less across trials in the Empathy Selection Task (EST). In Study 3, college students scoring lower in adversity severity chose compassion significantly less across trials in the Compassion Selection Task. In all three studies, these decline effects were buffered among those scoring higher in adversity severity. These findings suggest scoring lower in adversity severity is associated with downregulation of prosocial emotion over time. Study 4 (ongoing; $n = 300$) attempts to extend this work to real-world contexts using a diary-based methodology. Here, participants will complete the EST, and they will report on up to five social interactions occurring over the last 24 hours, including social emotions, perceived effort of the social interactions, and social well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Grace Morfeld
Graduate Student | Radford University

Authors

Karli M. Lilley, Jessica L. Handy, Daniel R. Berry

[68] Does Content Matter? Examining the Influence of Event-Focused Prayer on Recovery Following Ostracism

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Ostracism—being ignored and excluded—is a common experience that threatens basic human needs for belonging, control, meaningful existence, self-esteem, and certainty. In response to such experiences and other hardships, people turn to prayer and religion as a way of coping. Prior research shows the positive influence of prayer on improving one's needs satisfaction and mood after experiencing ostracism, however, it is unknown how the specific content of the prayer may influence these improvements. The current two studies ($N = 1,840$) replicate and extend the procedures of prior research to examine how recovery is affected by different types of prayer (i.e., prayer that is related to the negative event vs. prayer on unrelated topics). Even though prayer is generally helpful, it is possible that - due to potential rumination caused by having to recall negative events—praying specifically about a negative event could hinder potential benefits often expected to be gained through undirected prayer (i.e., prayer that also distracts from the negative event). Additionally, the overall effectiveness of prayer may depend on one's current relationship with God. As such, we hypothesize that prayer will increase needs satisfaction in excluded individuals. Results provide insight to the use of prayer as a tool in recovery from negative events such as ostracism for religious individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Wicks
Graduate Student | University of Mississippi

Authors

Andrew Hales, Eric Wesselmann

[69] Does Feeling Empathy Towards Victims of Social Disasters Lead to Empathy Fatigue?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

People have the unique ability to feel empathy toward others when they witness them suffering. However, it is unclear whether there are any negative consequences of feeling empathy, which is particularly relevant to today's climate involving a cascade of social disasters leading to mass deaths. Thus, this research examined whether empathy toward victims of social disasters led to more empathy fatigue in the general US population. In a nationally representative survey of American adults in terms of sex and race/ethnicity (N = 2,081), participants reported their personal experience and empathy toward victims of social disasters, including COVID-19 and gun violence. We also measured empathy fatigue, which was participants' desire to avoid being further exposed to or discuss the disasters. We found that feeling empathy towards victims of social disasters does not directly produce empathy fatigue. However, participants who have been negatively impacted and those who feel empathic concern towards other victims are more likely to experience empathy fatigue. This research sheds light on the psychological and behavioral consequences of dire social events among the general population.

*POSTER

Speaker



Micha Wolverton

Ph.D. Student | Texas Tech University

Authors

Haesung Jung

[70] Does Reflection Shift Motivations to Confront Racial Prejudice?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Confrontation is shown to reduce expressions of racial prejudice. However, motivations for engaging in confrontation can affect how effective it is in changing attitudes. Confronting prejudice can be driven by internal motivations, such as personal values, or external motivations, like social approval. Our study (N = 370, White participants only) investigated whether reflecting on personal values (motivation condition) affected individuals' motivation to confront prejudice. We hypothesized that individuals (especially those with the strongest external motivations) would shift to be more internal when reflecting on personal values and morality compared to a control condition. We found that, consistent with hypotheses, individuals with strong internal motivation consistently demonstrated a better agency and higher likelihood of confronting prejudice. However, contrary to our hypothesis, encouraging reflection on the drawbacks of performative activism had no observable impact on individuals' underlying motivational orientations. Future research is needed to further test whether motivations to confront prejudice are malleable to lead to more effective confrontations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Keira Salt

Student | Butler University

Authors

Conor O'Dea

[71] Downward Spiral: Automatic Police-Threat Associations and Perceptions of Aggression During Arrests are Mutually Reinforcing

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

The portrayal of the dominant, possessive male character — more commonly referred to as an “alpha male” — is common across media, from books to film to television and social media. These characters embody traditional masculine traits, including emotional stoicism, physical strength, and assertiveness, while also serving as a cultural model for romantic and social success (Dunlap & Johnson, 2013). Portrayals such as these reinforce hegemonic masculinity and masculine honor, placing dominance, aggression, and control on a pedestal, reinforcing narrow expectations of what masculinity looks like and delegitimizes alternative expressions (Connell & Messerschmidt, 2005; Bridges & Pascoe, 2014). For women, these representations normalize the romanticization of the dominant man and traditional gender roles, influencing preferences and acceptance of unequal power dynamics in and out of relationships (Eaton & Rose, 2011; Wood, 2001). In the current study we will investigate how men and women perceive dominant and submissive traits in male and female characters, focusing on their perceived leadership competency, friendship interest, romantic interest, and desire to emulate the traits portrayed. We hypothesize dominant characters will score higher on leadership competency while submissive characters will be rated higher for friendship interest. Dominant male characters will be more romantically interesting to women with higher hegemonic masculinity scores and more likely to be emulated by men with higher scores. By investigating how media-influenced gender ideals and individual preferences interact, this research examines how portrayals of masculinity shape romantic desire and self-perceptions, contributing to a broader understanding of gender norms and relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Vincenzo Olivett

Graduate Student | Florida State University

Authors

David March, Vincenzo Olivett, Madeleine Stults

[72] Early Adolescents' Mood and Smartphone Use: 14-Day EMA Study

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Early adolescence often marks an increase in digital technology use, with half of children in the U.S. owning a smartphone by age 11. Despite this, the early adolescence period is critically understudied in the digital context. In this study, early adolescents participated in a 14-day ecological momentary assessment period in which they submitted surveys 3 times per day assessing their current mood, with items measuring both high/low arousal positive affect and high/low arousal negative affect. During this period, participants with personal iPhones submitted screenshots of their total, social, and entertainment screen time from iOS Screen Time (N=43). Pixel values from the Screen Time bar graphs were extracted and converted into minutes. Preliminary findings show that greater hourly social media use has negative impacts on early adolescents' positive mood, while entertainment was not found to have any associations. Additionally, greater overall smartphone use was found to have positive impacts on early adolescents' negative mood. The implications of these findings are critical for better understanding the impacts of technology, social media, and phone use on adolescent mood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarah Isenhour

Project Coordinator | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Kaitlyn Burnell, Kristen Lindquist, Mitch Prinstein, Eva Telzer

[73] Effects of first-generation university students' mindset towards academic difficulty on feelings of burnout

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

First-generation university students face unique challenges both within and outside the academic environment, which can increase academic difficulty, and profoundly impact their academic success and well-being. Study 1 examined if first-generation (FG) and continuing-generation (CG) students' mindsets towards academic difficulty correlated with feelings of burnout. Undergraduate participants (N=257) reported their generation status and burnout levels at baseline, followed by their mindsets towards academic difficulty a week later. Moderation analyses revealed that stronger perceptions of academic difficulty-as-important predicted greater perceived feelings of burnout in FG students, but not in CG students. Perceptions of academic difficulty-as-impossibility did not moderate the feelings of burnout in FG students relative to CG students. Study 2 (Ntarget=200) experimentally manipulated FG and CG students' mindset about academic difficulty-as-important to examine its causal effect on momentary stress responses to a performance task in the lab. The findings potentially uncover maladaptive mindsets for FG students that may explain stress-disparities in higher education settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yan Fen Tan

PhD Candidate | Singapore Management University

Authors

Dr. Jacinth Tan, Dr. Chin Hong Tan

[74] Effects of Morality, Tyranny, and Non-cooperativeness on Paxization toward Outgroups

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

According to Wrangham (2019), societies advanced through self-domestication by "executing" tyrants seeking self-interest through violence and non-cooperators free-riding. To avoid becoming targets, humans developed morality (Sauer, 2023). This process also applies to outgroups, termed Paxization (Kumagai, 2025). We examined whether morality increases intolerance of tyranny and non-cooperation, thereby promoting support for execution via intergroup differentiation. A total of 435 Japanese participants (M_age = 36.9) completed an online survey including the Moral Foundations Questionnaire (Graham et al., 2011), anti-tyranny and anti-non-cooperation attitudes, intergroup differentiation, and support for execution. Regression analyses showed that Harm, Fairness, and Purity strengthened anti-tyranny and anti-non-cooperation, reducing support for execution. Yet, when mediated by intergroup differentiation, these foundations indirectly increased support. These findings suggest that morality fosters perceptions of tyranny and non-cooperation as key threats in Paxization—externalizing harmful members and responding aggressively—offers a unified view of intra- and intergroup processes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tomohiro Kumagai

Professor | Hosei Univ.

Authors

Kyoka Sonoda

[75] Elementary Children's Intersectional Intergroup Attitudes

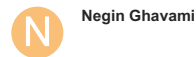
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Drawing on intersectionality framework (Crenshaw, 1989), we examined how race/ethnicity, gender, gender expression, and social class of peers shape elementary school children's intersectional intergroup attitudes in the domains of stereotypes, prejudice, and behavioral tendencies. Students (N=269) in 2nd through 5th grades offered their first impressions of fictitious Instagram profiles of peers who varied across these four identities. Analysis revealed that race/ethnicity, gender, gender expression, and social class of profiles worked together uniquely depending on the domain. Irrespective of peers' race/ethnicity and social class, profiles with gender-nonconforming toys were stereotyped as less typical of their gender. Irrespective of peers' gender, gender expression and race/ethnicity, profiles that included low compared to high SES living rooms elicited more pity. In the domain of behavioral tendencies, the patterns were more complex. For example, children showed the least interest in sitting with peers of another gender, with a stronger effect for gender-nonconforming profiles. Our study shows the importance of examining intergroup attitudes intersectionally in different domains.

*POSTER

Speaker



Negin Ghavami

Authors

Colson Lee, Ryan Anderson, Dzorgbenyui Gbagbo, Sandra Graham

[76] Emotion Perception Overestimation Bias in Neurotypical and Clinical Populations

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

The ability to accurately understand others' emotions forms the cornerstone of effective social interaction. Despite extensive research on emotion recognition, little is known about how people assess emotional intensity or whether these perceptions are accurate or systematically biased. Across nine datasets (N≈2,600), we found that while people perceived themselves as accurate and believed others underestimate their emotions, they actually systematically overestimate others' negative emotions. This bias occurred with both strangers and romantic partners, and across modalities (text, video, live interaction). Moderate overestimation may serve adaptive functions: for strangers, it predicts higher empathic responses; in romantic relationships, moderate overestimation of negative emotions predicts higher relationship satisfaction. We further examine this bias in relationship to clinical populations including ADHD, depression, and anxiety. Together, these findings fill a crucial gap in understanding emotional perception biases, highlighting their potentially adaptive roles and giving insight into how they shape our social world and relationship outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shir Genzer

PhD Student | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Matan Rubin, Haran Sened, Eshkol Rafaeli, Kevin N. Ochsner, Noga Coh

[77] Emotional intelligence reduces the signal needed to read faces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

A recent theoretical framework posits that emotional intelligence (EI) rests on heightened sensitivity to emotional stimuli. In line with this view, high-EI individuals show an attentional bias toward emotional faces and stronger facial muscle activation in response to others' emotions. The present study examined another facet of this hypersensitivity—the perceptual threshold, defined as the minimal emotional signal required to recognize facial expressions with 30 %, 44 % or 58 % accuracy. One hundred three participants completed an emotion-recognition task in which the signal strength of six basic expressions was randomly and parametrically varied in static and dynamic formats; individual thresholds were estimated for each accuracy level. Higher scores on the emotion recognition facet of EI predicted lower thresholds across conditions. The emotion understanding facet likewise predicted lower thresholds, particularly at the highest task difficulty and for dynamic, more naturalistic stimuli. These findings extend evidence for the hypersensitivity of highly emotionally intelligent individuals to the perceptual level.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marina Fiori

Professor | Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training

Authors

Christelle Gillioz, Marina Fiori, Anne-Raphael Richoz, Lisa Stacchi, Roberto Calda

[78] Emotions Used Differently to Infer Facial Trustworthiness Across Racial Groups

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Individuals use cues of emotions to decide trustworthy from untrustworthy faces. Previous work often relies on only White faces, on synthetic faces, or investigates unambiguous emotion expressions. To address these gaps, we created morphs of real faces (64-68 unique identities) from the Chicago Face Database from neutral expression to full emotion expression at 20% intervals. Across two studies, we investigate the effect of emotional intensity on perceptions of trustworthiness evaluations of Black and White men. Study 1 (n=196) replicates past angry=untrustworthy effects, but also found that as faces get angrier, Black people face steeper penalties on trustworthiness perceptions compared to White people ($p < .05$). However, this racial difference disappears once a face reaches a high level of anger intensity. Study 2 (n=131) found that as faces get happier, Black people incur a steeper benefit on trustworthiness perceptions compared to White people ($p < .05$). Overall, we find that emotion expression cues are used to infer trustworthiness more strongly for Black targets than for White targets.

*POSTER

Speaker



Neelamberi Klein

Graduate Student | Indiana University Bloomington

Authors

Anjana Lakshmi, Kurt Hugenberg

[79] Examining Spatial and Racial Biases in a Sample of 100 Children's Picture Books

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

In cultures that read from left to right, leftward space is associated with agency and status. Thus, people tend to place dominant groups, like men, to the left of non-dominant groups, like women. We predicted that this pattern would be present in children's picture books, such that White characters would be placed more leftward than characters of color. We conducted a content analysis of 100 children's picture books, recording the race and horizontal location of 1,471 characters. This content analysis revealed that White characters, on average, were placed more leftward than characters of color, which is line with the cultural pattern to place dominant groups to the left of non-dominant groups. Given that children can learn from subtle cues in their social environments, we are currently collecting data in an experimental study to test how children's race-based preferences and stereotypes are impacted by exposure to this spatial bias. We hypothesize that seeing the prevalent spatial pattern of White characters on the left will lead children to think White people are more dominant, agentic, and high status.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wilson Welchons

University of Tennessee

Authors

Sarah Lamer, Megan Ruskey

[80] Examining the Privileged Status of Social Category Information in Children's Social Curiosity

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social psychologists have long theorized about and tested the impacts of adults' tendencies to mentally represent people as undifferentiated social category members vs. as distinct individuals (e.g., Er-rافی & Brauer, 2013; Fiske & Neuberg, 1990). However, we know relatively little about the development of these tendencies. The goal of the present research was to understand whether children, in their formative years, privilege social category information when learning about new people. Our research question was: When children encounter a new person, how interested are they in knowing social category information (e.g., someone's gender) compared to individual attribute information (e.g., someone's food preferences)? Findings revealed that 4- to 8-year-old U.S. children (N=125) preferred to learn information about people's gender, language, and nationality over information about their individuating attributes. The present study provides a first step in exploring the privileged status of social category information in children's social curiosity. Future studies will test children's interest in seeking information about people's race, age, and novel social category memberships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eren Fukuda

PhD Student | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Olivia Fry, Kristin Shutts

[81] Examining the relationship between cultural tightness and regional cognition

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Places vary in their strength of social norms and tolerance for norm violations – a cultural dimension called cultural tightness. Taking a formal mathematical modeling approach, we investigated the relationship between cultural tightness and cognition across the United States. We relied on two separate operationalizations of cultural tightness and looked at aggregated estimates of evaluative and control-oriented cognitive processes from hundreds of thousands of geolocated internet respondents. Overall, we find stronger pro-ingroup/anti-outgroup evaluative processing in U.S. states that are more culturally tight, a relationship that is especially robust among White people compared to Black people. However, we do not find evidence of a relationship between cultural tightness and cognitive control.

*POSTER

Speaker



Liz Wilson

PhD Candidate | University of California - Riverside

Authors

Jimmy Calanchini, Liz Wilson

[82] Experimentally Evaluating a Shortened “You’re Not Anonymous” Cyberbullying Intervention

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

While the Internet offers many benefits, it also facilitates the spread of negativity, hostility, and aggression. Cyberbullying—defined as repeated, intentional harm via electronic means—is a serious concern, especially among younger generations. Prior research has documented its deleterious psychological and behavioral effects, underscoring the need for effective interventions targeting cyberbullying perpetration. This study used a longitudinal design to evaluate a shortened version of “You’re Not Anonymous” (YNA), an online cyberbullying intervention. Emerging adults were randomly assigned to either YNA, control video, or no video control conditions. Measures of online disinhibition, cyberbullying perpetration, anonymity perception, and cyberbullying attitudes were collected across two waves. A serial mediation analysis revealed that post-video online disinhibition mediated the relationship between condition and cyberbullying perpetration one month later. Initial cyberbullying attitudes and perpetration did not moderate these effects. Findings confirm that the shortened YNA intervention reduces online disinhibition, which in turn predicts lower levels of cyberbullying. This study supports the results of the initial intervention and extends the literature by verifying the efficacy of a shorter, more economical version of the intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nevaeh Copenhaver

Undergraduate Student | Fort Hays State University

Authors

Jordan Scott, Christopher Barlett

[83] Exploring Doomscrolling: A Serial Mediation Model with Cyberbullying Perpetration

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Doomscrolling is defined as pervasive exposure to negatively themed information from online sources. A paucity of research has examined the prevalence, predictors, and behavioral consequences of doomscrolling. Across two cross-sectional studies with US emerging adults, we examined the relationship between doomscrolling and cyberbullying perpetration, the underlying psychological processes germane to this relationship, and the moderating role of fear of missing out, anxiety, social media addiction, (Study 1), and the Big 5 (Study 2). The majority of our participants reported doomscrolling engagement, which was predicted by age – younger adults doomscroll more than older adults – but not participant sex. Model testing showed that time spent online was indirectly related to cyberbullying through negative social media exposure and doomscrolling. In other words, doomscrolling predicted cyberbullying and was predicted by negative social media exposure from being online. These results fill important gaps in our knowledge of doomscrolling and demonstrate the positive relationships between doomscrolling and cyberbullying.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sunny O’Leary

Authors

Nevaeh P. Copenhaver, Christopher P. Barlett

[84] Exploring the Dimensions of Meaning in Narratives of Workplace Awe

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

A growing body of research links meaningful work to well-being and motivation, yet little is known about the emotional experiences that give rise to this meaning. In this study, we explore whether the emotion of awe may help illuminate how people construct meaning in their work. Drawing on George and Park’s (2016) tripartite model of meaning in life (coherence, purpose, significance), we conducted a secondary analysis of qualitative survey responses from 100 U.S. workers across 32 sectors (Authors, 2025) in which participants described experiences of awe in the context of their work. Our analysis suggests that awe frequently aligns with one or more of these components of meaning. For instance, participants reported “a-ha” moments that deepened understanding (coherence), feelings of rekindled motivation (purpose), and observations that their work had broader impact (significance). These findings suggest that awe may be a powerful emotional catalyst for meaning-making in organizational life. We discuss implications for theory and future research on emotion, motivation, and meaning at work.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Cuzzolino

Project Director | Next Level Lab, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Authors

Max Ramseyer, Jeffrey Bachman

[85] Exploring the Experiences of Women Workers in Brazilian Prisons

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

This study aims to reflect on the context in which incarcerated women who work within the Brazilian prison system are situated. Based on a cartographic research approach conducted in a women's prison located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, we carried out interviews with 13 women deprived of liberty who performed labor within the institution. Currently, the facility has a total of 27 "faxinas" (a term used to refer to incarcerated workers) assigned to different roles. Among those interviewed were women working in classification, the school, food distribution, the infirmary, security, and administration. The choice of cartography as a methodological approach proved to be a powerful tool for thinking not only about the context but also about how knowledge about prison is produced. Prison labor was described by the women as part of a complex dynamic, in which trust and mistrust coexist. Despite being immersed in a persecutory environment and having to navigate the fine lines between prestige and oppression, the women's interpretation of the ambiguity of relationships—and their recognition of the inherent tensions in the role of "faxina"—appeared to enable them to develop strategies to identify and enact possible movements within the prison space. This suggests that the role occupied by these prison workers can also be understood as a space of resistance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sabrina Cúnico

Authors

Anna Paula Uziel

[86] Exposure to fast-paced media and attention-related problems across eleven nations.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Media effects scholars have consistently expressed concern regarding the association between screen use and attention-related problems, such as symptoms of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and impulsive behavior. Some researchers attribute the rise in attention-related issues to shifts in media content, specifically toward more violent, fast-paced, and physiologically arousing material, as well as increased time spent on electronic media. While our previous work has identified concurrent associations between attention-related problems and exposure to fast-paced and violent media within a US sample, it remains unclear whether these associations are generalizable or culturally specific.

To address this gap, we examined the relationship between violent and fast-paced media content and attention-related problems across eleven countries ($N \approx 3,100$). We hypothesize that exposure to such media will be positively associated with attention problems, impulsivity, and self-control across countries. Data collection is complete, and analyses are underway. We aim to elucidate the associations between attention related problems and media use.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Hayes

Iowa State University

Authors

Craig Anderson, Stephanie Bouquete, Robert Busching, Choo Hyekyung, Margareta Jelic

[87] Validation of the Forms and Functions of Aggressive Behavior Scale (FFABS) across Eleven Nations

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Violence, including youth, intimate partner, child, and elder abuse, is a significant public concern, prompting increased focus on prevention. Aggressive behavior, defined as intentionally harming others, can be physical, relational, or verbal, and may be reactive or proactive. Measurement development must address both construct and external validity. Measures should reflect the current definition of aggression: behavior intended to harm another person who seeks to avoid harm. We developed the Forms and Functions of Aggressive Behavior Scale (FFABS) to capture the multidimensional forms (physical, verbal, relational) and functions (proactive, reactive) of aggression. We previously validated the FFABS factor structure in three US samples.

This study validated the FFABS factor structure and measurement invariance across 11 countries. We surveyed late adolescents and emerging adults ($N \approx 3,300$) using online questionnaires. Planned analyses include multi-group confirmatory factor analyses. We hypothesized a six-factor structure and correlations with related constructs. The primary aim was to assess the psychometric properties of the FFABS across multiple countries.

*POSTER

Speaker



Craig Anderson

Distinguished Professor | Iowa State Univ.

Authors

Stephanie Bouquete, Robert Busching, Margareta Jelic, Nicole Hayes, Hyekyung Choo

[88] Facial and bodily actions speak louder than context: inferring facial expressions of emotions in naturalistic images

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Inferring others' emotions is crucial for social interaction and survival. Early research focused on facial expressions, but recent work argues that contexts override interpretations of emotions from facial expressions. Yet, prior work compared facial expressions and contexts using artificial designs, which may not provide the full picture. Here, we had US representative participants (N = 475) view everyday images (N = 1,125) and infer the targets' facial expressions of 8 emotions. We compared these inferences to rich, multi-channel cues in the images quantified by computational algorithms and US representative participants (N = 1,093). We found that emotion inferences were predicted by both facial and bodily cues (e.g., facial action units and structure, body action and posture) and contexts (e.g., environmental valence and gist). However, only facial action units and bodily action carried unique information that was unexplainable by other cues for emotion inferences, while other cues only shaped emotion inferences in a way that was already captured by other co-occurring cues. We modeled the cognitive mechanism of emotion inferences using artificial neural networks in which we lesioned different neurons. This manipulation suggests that people may not only prioritize cues with unique information but also integrate rich contextual cues to support emotion understanding. Together, these findings suggest that in naturalistic contexts, co-occurring cues may not act as competing factors for driving emotion inferences, but that they are interpreted in ways that reinforce a coherent understanding.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ruoying Zheng

University of California San Diego

Authors

Chujun Lin

[89] Facial Scars: A reliable cue of strength or weakness?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Intergroup violence was common among early hunter-gatherers and often left visible facial scars. As such, facial scars may serve as a cue of either a) fighting experience and strength, or b) vulnerability and weakness. We tested this using a signaling game. Here, a confederate (described as a "typical" participant playing this game) was designated as either strong or weak. They were presented to the participant displaying either a neutral or angry facial expression with or without make-up depicting a facial scar. In a between-subjects design, participants decided whether to fight the confederate after viewing the confederate but not knowing their strength. Participants were told they would earn a bonus payment if they fought a weak confederate or did not fight a strong confederate. Finally, participants viewed the confederate again and rated their emotions and strength. Participants were no more or less likely to choose to fight a confederate depicted with a facial scar than without a facial scar. Furthermore, confederates depicted with a facial scar did not differ in rates of emotion or strength. Our results suggest that a facial scar does not influence perceptions of strength.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ivan Lacroix

Authors

Emily Diamond, Lawrence Reed

[90] Fast and fierce: Alcohol aggression expectancies, priming, perceptions of hostility, and reckless driving

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Past research shows a positive relationship between alcohol priming and aggressive behaviors. Moreover, individuals higher in aggressive alcohol expectancies have been linked to increased risky behaviors such as aggressive and reckless driving. The current study is the first to assess the moderating effect of alcohol priming on the relationship between risk and aggression (RA) alcohol expectancies and instances of speeding. Participants completed a measure of RA alcohol expectancies and then were provoked and subsequently primed with either alcohol or neutral words. Participants then completed a driving simulation where speeding was recorded. Finally, perceptions of provocateur hostility was measured. Results revealed that prime type moderated the mediating effect of perceptions of provocateur hostility on the relationship between RA alcohol expectancies and subsequent speeding. Specifically, higher RA expectancies increased perceptions of provocateur hostility which led to greater instances of speeding, but this was only true for those primed with alcohol. Implications for better understanding the impact of alcohol expectancies and priming on reckless driving will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jaquelyne Lee

CSULB

Authors

Maya Shankar, Isabella Di Lauro, William C. Pedersen, Siluni Abeywickrama, Olivia Doornbos

[91] Feel it or Fix it? Who, When, and Why of Emotion Non-Regulation

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Emotion regulation is a thriving area of research. Yet, to date, little work has been done to understand when and why people choose not to regulate their negative emotions. There are many reasons an individual might choose to leave a negative emotion unregulated: they may not have the skills or energy to regulate, they may view an emotion as useful or appropriate, or perhaps they simply want to feel the emotional intensity of the moment. Exploration into these reasons, and the individuals expressing them, is nearly absent in the literature. This project aims to address this gap by examining which individual differences predict non-regulation. Using data from a 2-week experience sampling study (N = 299 US adults), we examine whether well-being (e.g., anxiety, depression, self-esteem), emotion beliefs, and demographic characteristics (e.g., age, gender) influence 1) how often people choose not to regulate, 2) why people choose not to regulate, and 3) whether people feel satisfied with their decision not to regulate. This project will provide necessary insight into non-regulation, highlighting how it may function in both adaptive and maladaptive ways.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sofia Micale

Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Ethan Kross, Micaela Rodriguez, Kathryn Schertz, Chayce Baldwin

[92] Feeling “seen” or “invisible”: Rejection, ignoring, and physical conspicuousness

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Different types of exclusion elicit different motivational orientations (e.g., Molden et al., 2006). The current research examined whether rejection (vs. ignoring) also differently impact feelings of physical conspicuousness (vs. invisibility). In Study 1 (N=174), reliving a past rejection (vs. ignoring) led participants to believe they were more clearly visible to a person looking at them through a one-way mirror, $t(170)=-2.36$, $p=.02$, $d=.69$. Rejection reliving essays also included more visibility language than ignoring essays (e.g., “everyone was looking at me”), which included comparably more invisibility language (e.g., “I felt invisible to them”), $x^2=8.14$, $p=.017$. In Study 2 (N=218), imagining a workplace rejection (vs. ignoring) led participants to believe they would be more quickly identified in a group photograph, $t(215)=-1.88$, $p=.06$, $d=.28$, and report feeling less comfortable wearing conspicuously bright clothing, $t(215)=2.34$, $p=.02$, $d=.39$. Discussion will center on the social and physical costs and benefits experienced when we are the object of other’s attention and when we are invisible to others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristy Dean

Associate Professor of Psychology | GVSU

[93] Feeling Left Out and Fired Up: The impact of social exclusion and impulsivity on anger

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Impulsivity is associated with heightened emotional reactivity, particularly anger, and is influenced by perceptions of social inclusion or exclusion. Previous research has shown that social exclusion can intensify negative emotional responses. The current study is the first to assess the moderating effect of social exclusion on whether feelings of being liked mediate the effect of impulsivity on subsequent state anger. Participants completed a measure of impulsivity and then engaged in an online social media task where they were either included by either all or none of the other participants. Finally, perceived social acceptance (or “feeling liked”) and state anger were measured. A moderated mediation analysis indicated that social condition (social inclusion vs. exclusion) moderated the mediating effect of feeling liked on the relationship between impulsivity and state anger. Specifically, higher levels of impulsivity decreased feelings of being liked which in turn augmented state anger, but this was only true for social excluded individuals. Implications for the impact of impulsivity and social exclusion on anger and aggression will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ridley Waldman

Graduate student | California State University, Long Beach

Authors

William C. Pedersen, Everett Delfel, Yeng Vue

[94] Feeling to Understand: How Subjective Emotional Experience Affects Empathic Accuracy in Youth-Caregiver Dyads

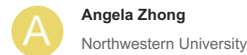
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Empathic accuracy—the ability to accurately recognize another’s emotions—is often thought of as crucial for healthy relationship functioning and may be especially important for caregivers of youth. This laboratory-based dyadic interaction study examined how caregivers’ own emotional experiences predicted empathic accuracy towards youth. Youth-caregiver dyads (N = 34, 68 individuals) including youth at clinical high risk for psychosis and healthy control youth engaged in a 10-minute video-taped conflict conversation, after which caregivers reported on their own positive (e.g., gratitude) and negative (e.g., fear) subjective emotional experiences. Then, they watched the conversation twice and rated their own and their partner’s emotions using a rating dial. Empathic accuracy was computed as the cross-correlation between caregivers’ continuous ratings of youth’s emotions and youths’ self-rated emotions. Results showed that caregivers’ negative (but not positive) emotional experiences predicted greater empathic accuracy ($\beta = .172$, $p = .044$), but the effect was moderated by positive emotion: when both emotions were high, the effect of negative emotions diminished ($\beta = -.045$, $p = .038$). Findings from this proof-of-concept study point to a link between caregivers’ emotional experiences during conflict and empathic accuracy and encourage further examination in larger samples.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Claudia Haase

[95] Fighting Depression in Cancer Patients: The Power of Belonging

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Cancer patients experience depression at higher rates than the general population (Chambers et al., 2011), and they report feeling that they are burdens to their loved ones (Rodríguez-Prat et al., 2019). They are likely to self-ostracize, thus creating even higher levels of depression and aggression (Wirth et al., 2020). The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between ostracism/belongingness and depression in cancer patients and explore aggression as a mediator of that relationship.

Forty-two cancer patients reported experiences of ostracism (Rudert et al., 2020), belongingness (Malone et al., 2012), aggression (Richardson & Green, 2003), and depression (Sheikh & Yesavage, 1986) since receiving their cancer diagnosis.

Belongingness was negatively related to both depression and aggression. Although the predicted mediated models were not supported, the findings did establish belongingness as a strong predictor of depressive symptoms in cancer patients. Cancer patients who feel that they belong in their community report less depression, suggesting a potential route for intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Deborah Richardson

[96] Fluctuations in Achievement Emotions and Perceived Success Over Time

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

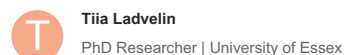
EMOTION

This study utilizes the Control-Value Theory of Achievement Emotions to investigate the relationship between different work-related achievement emotions and self-reports of success at work over time. We collected online survey responses from 540 adults (48.5% male) in the UK weekly for 12 weeks and monthly for five years (total 70 waves). We analyze the data across weekly and monthly timescales using two-level dynamic structural equation modelling combining within- and between-person analysis. We assess how emotions fluctuate over time and how this variation relates to evaluations of success. Within-person analyses of these relations have been largely lacking to date.

Based on CVT, we expect positive emotions, such as pride, to be reciprocally linked with higher work success within participants. Negative emotions, such as guilt, are expected to negatively relate to success. We expect these within-person relations to be generalizable across timescales and participants. By integrating short- and long-term emotional dynamics, this research deepens our understanding of how specific emotions impact work achievement and offers insights for enhancing emotional well-being and productivity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Wijnand Van Tilburg, Reinhard Pekrun

[97] Framing Injustice: Exploring the Presence and Consequences of Racism-Conscious Frames for Environmental Justice Exposures in Tucson, Arizona

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Minority communities are disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards across the US. Our research focused on Southside Tucson, AZ, a predominantly low-income, Latine community exposed to toxicants on a nearby Superfund site for decades. Using mixed-method research, we explored the role of racism-conscious versus racism-evasive framings in residents' understandings of exposures and desires to engage in collective action. Study 1 was an archival study exploring dominant discourses surrounding contamination across six local news sources (n=309 articles). Discourse was overwhelmingly colorblind, and "Southside identity" emerged as a common colorblind descriptor of victims. However, Study 1B (n=78) found that Tucson residents associated the Southside with people of color. Study 2 (n=205) was an experiment testing how racism-conscious versus racism-evasive framings of exposure can (de)mobilize collective action. We found that racism- and classism-conscious framings resulted in higher precursors to collective action for Tucsonans of color, but not for White Tucsonans.

*POSTER

Speaker



Harrison Schmitt
Assistant Professor | Skidmore College

Authors

Harrison Schmitt, Caroline Ettinger-DeLong, Elizabeth Yee

[98] From Eerie to Favor: The Positive Side of AI in Negative Animals

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

When computer-generated characters look almost but not perfectly real, the eerie discomfort that people experience is called the uncanny valley. Prior work has found this effect for virtual animals, but mainly with species such as cats and pandas. We extend this work by exploring whether the pattern persists for animals that inherently elicit negative feelings. Across three experiments (total N=500), participants viewed AI-generated or real images of animals with positive associations (e.g., dogs) and negative associations (e.g., spiders). Replicating prior work, for animals perceived as positive, real images were rated warmer and less eerie than AI and produced higher purchase and donation intentions. For animals perceived as negative, the pattern flipped: AI images were warmer, less eerie, and increased purchase and donation. These increases were mediated by perceived warmth. Our results support that the uncanny valley depends on baseline affective feelings. When real animals evoke negative feelings, AI can help turn the original impression and increase acceptance. This work found a new boundary for the uncanny valley and broadens the positive side of AI in consumer perception.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jiarui (Flora) Liu

Authors

Akshay Rao

[99] From Finger Tapping to Bouncing Legs: The Behavioral Signature of Impatience

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Impatience is a common emotional experience, yet little is known about its expression or recognition. While emotion researchers have largely focused on basic emotions with universal facial expressions, less is known about how more context-dependent emotions like impatience are expressed. This research aims to address that gap by identifying the behavioral markers of impatience. Across two studies, we examine how impatience is conveyed through facial, vocal, and bodily cues. In Study 1, we elicit impatience by placing participants in a realistic waiting scenario, capturing spontaneous expressions. In Study 2, we compare expressions of impatience based on prototypical displays and personal emotional recall. Initial results suggest that impatience is particularly marked by repetitive behaviors (e.g., leg bouncing, finger tapping), as hypothesized. Together, these studies offer a mixed-methods approach to exploring how impatience may be expressed and recognized, which provides insight into the social function of impatience as an emotion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jason Hawes
University of California, Riverside

Authors

Kate Sweeny

[100] From Observation to Attribution: How Event Features Shape Responsibility Judgments in Real-World Traffic Videos

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

When people witness a harmful event, they can judge who is responsible and to what extent. Such judgments depend on multiple factors, including what happened and whether the agent was aware that their behavior could cause harm. This information is either observed or inferred from perceptual inputs, often based on details that are present in naturalistic videos but are difficult to convey in word descriptions. For instance, if a pedestrian crossing the road is hit by a car, how suddenly the pedestrian enters the crosswalk can alter blame attribution. This study examines how humans derive responsibility judgments from rich visual input using naturalistic traffic videos. We first curated a representative set of stimuli from a large video dataset using a combination of human ratings and data-driven methods. Then, to address the complexity of event features (entities and their spatiotemporal relationships), we integrate human eye-tracking data with computer vision models to identify salient entities. Finally, we conduct experiments with these entities to quantify the extent to which different features contribute to responsibility judgments in realistic settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yiyuan Zhang
Graduate Student | Boston College

Authors

Liane Young, Stefano Anzellotti

[101] From Parenting to Prosociality: Early Head Start Pathways to Children’s Social–Emotional Skills

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Early Head Start (EHS) is a two-generation, need-based program for low-income families. We tested whether EHS parenting-services engagement predicts parenting and child outcomes in a sample of 1,503 families. Engagement was measured at child ages 6, 14, and 24 months using indicators of parenting classes, parent group socializations, parent support groups, child-development services during home visits, parenting information during home visits, and parenting discussions with a case manager. Parenting at 36 months included harshness, intrusiveness, warmth, and parental stress. Child outcomes at 60 months included self-regulation and prosocial behavior. A longitudinal path model showed that higher EHS engagement was associated with less harsh parenting, lower intrusiveness, and greater warmth. Parenting, in turn, was related to children’s social–emotional skills: greater warmth and less parenting stress predicted lower prosocial behavior, and less intrusiveness predicted greater self-regulation. Overall, engaging in EHS parenting services aligned with warmer, less intrusive caregiving, with downstream links to children’s prosocial behavior and self-regulation by kindergarten entry.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ying Zhang
Assistant Professor | Clarkson University

Authors

Qingyang Liu, Ying Zhang, Makayla Kepner

[102] From Solo to Choir: How Perceived Number of Voices and Connectedness Influence Musical Transcendence

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Can collective effervescence, the feeling of merging with something larger than oneself, be sparked at home through music? In an online experiment (n=464), we explored whether increasing the number of voices in a Black gospel song evokes a sense of connection and transcendence. Participants listened to one of several versions of the same song, reported feelings of connection and transcendence before and after listening, and estimated how many voices were in the performance. PROCESS analysis showed post-song connectedness moderated the effect of perceived number of voices on transcendence. When listeners felt less connected, perceiving more voices predicted lower transcendence, but at higher connectedness, this relationship shifted slightly positive. These findings suggest that the power of “many voices” to evoke transcendence depends on the listener’s own sense of connectedness, offering insight into how collective spiritual experiences may emerge even in solitary settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



MacKenzie Paul
PhD Student | Baylor University

Authors

Jo-Ann Tsang, Wade Rowatt, Kutter Callaway

[103] From Stereotyping to Fairness: Cognitive Reflection Predicts Children's Social Cognition

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Cognitive reflection (CR), the ability to override incorrect intuitive responses, predicts reasoning in adults across many domains, including decision making, STEM understanding, fake news detection, stereotyping, and cooperation. While recent work links CR to children's rational thinking, its role in their social reasoning has not been explored. In a preregistered study, 5- to 12-year-olds (N = 184) completed measures of CR, gender stereotyping, social essentialism, explanations of racial inequality, and fairness. Higher CR predicted endorsing fewer gender stereotypes, holding less gender-essentialist beliefs, favoring structural over internal explanations of racial inequality, and sharing more fairly. These effects held in Bayesian regressions adjusting for age, gender, executive functions, fluid IQ, and SES. These findings suggest CR is foundational to children's social cognition and a promising target for interventions promoting positive social development.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Andrew Young**
Associate Professor | Northeastern Illinois University

Authors

Michele Villacres

[104] Gender Differences in the Association of Interpersonal Leverage with Proneness to Anger?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Recent evolutionary theories posit that anger is a recalibrational emotion: anger functions to increase the interpersonal value that the target of anger places upon the angry individual, and does so by threatening to impose costs. Extending this logic, researchers have argued that individuals with enhanced abilities to inflict costs—that is, individuals with greater leverage—will have greater success when expressing anger and should therefore expect others to value them more highly and be more prone to anger. Researchers have further proposed that physical strength and attractiveness—two ancestrally valid dimensions of social leverage—will predict greater proneness to anger, but do so in a sex-differentiated way, with strength predicting anger more strongly in men, and attractiveness predicting anger more strongly in women. Initial empirical findings have generally supported predictions, but research is limited, and sample sizes are small. Here we conduct two larger-scale studies (N's = 417 and 397, respectively), in an effort to replicate prior findings. Results across both studies, along with a Bayesian meta-analysis of existing evidence, corroborate the hypothesis that physical strength predicts anger proneness in men. Results further corroborate the view that attractiveness predicts anger proneness in women. However, findings fail to support the predicted and previously observed sex differences: in our studies, strength and attractiveness predicted anger proneness in both men and women, at roughly equal levels.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Joseph Billingsley**
Assistant Professor | Marshall University

Authors

Danielle Goldwert, Debra Lieberman

[105] Gratitude rather than indebtedness leads beneficiaries to sacrifice others for benefactors

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Previous studies have shown that grateful individuals tend to behave morally by being generous to others or refraining from cheating. However, they may sacrifice third parties to protect their benefactors from harm. This study examined the conditions under which this sacrificing behavior is more likely to occur. Both Studies 1 and 2 used vignettes comparing gratitude-inducing conditions with respective controls. Study 1 compared gratitude with indebtedness (without feeling lucky), whereas Study 2 compared gratitude with feeling lucky (without indebtedness). The results showed that beneficiaries more willingly sacrificed a third party for their benefactors in the gratitude condition but only in Study 1. This difference remained significant after statistically controlling for other emotions, including indebtedness, and disappeared only when gratitude was controlled. These findings suggest that gratitude rather than indebtedness drives beneficiaries to sacrifice others for their benefactors.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Akitomo Yamamoto**
Tokyo | Showa Women's Univ.

[106] Growing Apart or Growing Together: The Bittersweet Nature of Romantic Nostalgia

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Relationship nostalgia, a sentimental longing and wistful affection for early aspects of one's current relationship, has been found to increase relationship satisfaction and commitment. However, drawing on self-appraisal theory, we examined whether these nostalgic recollections might highlight changes in closeness over time, particularly for individuals with lower baseline relationship quality, leading to less positive relationship outcomes. In a correlational study, participants in romantic relationships completed a romantic nostalgia induction and answered questions regarding their current affect and feelings toward their relationship. We found that at low and medium levels of baseline relationship quality, nostalgia was associated with lower relationship commitment and satisfaction through greater feelings of having grown apart from one's romantic partner since the time of the memory. Furthermore, when controlling for baseline relationship quality, nostalgia was positively associated with negative emotions and negatively associated with positive emotions, suggesting that relationship nostalgia may not confer benefits across all relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Kelsey Kayton**
Graduate Student | Ohio University

Authors

Keith Markman, Qi Deng

[107] Grudge Holding Across Cultures: The Role of Hurt and Anger

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Grudges have been described as sustained feelings of hurt and anger. But how are these emotions experienced during grudge-holding events, and are they culturally similar? In Study 1, we conducted semi-structured interviews with East Asian Canadian (n = 12), European Canadian (n = 18), and Japanese (n = 15), participants. Thematic analysis revealed more cultural similarities than differences. Hurt was internalized and relationship-oriented, reflecting self-doubt and vulnerability after feeling devalued by close others. Anger was externalized, involving blame and a desire to change the other. Most Japanese and East Asian Canadians experienced hurt first, followed by anger, whereas European Canadians often felt anger first. Regardless of sequence, hurt and anger were interwoven across groups. In Study 2 (N = 501), we conducted a quantitative study using multi-item measures of hurt and anger. Results showed that hurt and anger interact to predict grudge: when one emotion is high, the other further amplifies grudge holding. This interaction was stronger when relational mobility was low (i.e., when ending the relationship was difficult).

*POSTER

Speaker



Jingyuan Sophie Li
York University

Authors

Karen Fergus, Ward Struthers, Aubrey Peregrino, Yohsuke Ohtsubo, Natsuki Tokuda

[108] Having been there: the relationship between adversity and motivated empathy avoidance

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

It is common for people to seek community among those who have faced similar trauma and suffering. While research has found that experiencing severe adversity is positively associated with empathy and care for others in need, why adversity conduces to prosociality remains an open question. In this experiment (n = 200) college students will complete a measure of adversity and a modified Empathy Selection Task (Cameron et al., 2019). This task will provide participants with the free choice to empathize (or avoid empathizing) with vignettes about others' adverse experiences. The severity of adverse experiences in the vignettes will be experimentally manipulated (extreme vs. mild). We ask if adversity severity will be more strongly related to selecting into extreme adverse empathy-inducing situations. Multilevel logistic regressions will examine the association between severity of adversity and empathy choices toward people who have experienced adversity. Discussion will focus on mechanisms of the adversity – empathy relation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaitlyn Woodby
Student | Radford University

Authors

Daniel Berry

[109] Heating Up Intergroup Conflict: Radical Antagonistic Responses to the Threats of Rapid Climate Change

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Our research examines whether climate change-related threat perceptions foster support for antagonistic collective action: either to radically protest for climate protection or to radically, even violently, confront climate protesters. We conducted a three-wave longitudinal study (2023–2024) in Germany (N = 1,003). Indicators of climate change-related threat were climate change impairment and perceived lack of climate-protective behavioral control. Radical responses were operationalized as support for radical climate protest or radical responses against climate activists. Statistical analyses included latent change score models and moderation analyses using structural equation modeling. Longitudinally, changes in climate change impairment positively predicted changes in support for radical climate protest, particularly with lower right-wing authoritarianism (RWA). Conversely, changes in perceived lack of climate-protective behavioral control positively predicted changes in support for radical responses against climate activist, particularly with higher RWA. These findings highlight how different facets of perceived climate change in line with one's ideological orientation shape polarized reactions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fabian Hess
Post-Doc | Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Authors

Torsten Masson, Julian Bleh, Thomas Kessler

[110] Hindsight Bias and Conspiratorial Belief in the 2025 Presidential Impeachment in South Korea: The role of expectation-confirming and -disconfirming information

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

When outcomes differ from expectations, people may experience cognitive dissonance, triggering two responses: (1) hindsight bias and (2) conspiratorial belief. Prior information may play a key role in determining which response emerges. Using two-wave survey data collected before and after the 2025 presidential impeachment in South Korea (213 Korean adults), we examined how these reactions varied by participants' stance and how prior information influenced them. Participants were grouped by pre-ruling attitude (pro, neutral, anti), and reasons supporting and opposing—collected in the first wave—were coded as confirmatory and disconfirmatory information based on the actual outcome. Results showed that both cognitive responses were stronger in the anti-group. GLM analyses revealed that only in the anti-group did confirmatory information predict greater hindsight bias and lower conspiratorial belief, while disconfirmatory information weakened these effects. These findings suggest that prior knowledge plays a key role in shaping cognitive responses to political dissonance and underscore the importance of balanced prior information in fostering acceptance of political outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Seheon Kim
Post-Doc | Korea University

Authors

Taekyun Hur, Seungchul Nam

[111] Home in Time? A First Look at How We Experience Temporal Rootedness

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Research shows that a sense of belonging predicts meaning in life (Lambert et al., 2013). While psychologists have studied how individuals develop a sense of belonging with others, little attention has been given to the sense of belonging in time, or temporal rootedness (Baldwin & Keefer, 2020). Temporal rootedness has previously been defined as what makes people feel like they are living in the “right time” or that they “belong in the present.” Despite its positive link to well-being, its definition and content have remained unexplored. This study replicates Baldwin and Keefer (2020) to examine temporal rootedness and compare the themes that persist across time (i.e., 2019 and 2025). A representative sample of participants (N = 386) was recruited on Prolific to describe their source of temporal rootedness and complete a questionnaire assessing time metaphors, human flourishing, existential isolation, social and economic conservatism, familiarity with technology, and perceived discrimination. Results shed light on what it means to feel anchored in time and the implications for research on meaning-making.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bao Han Tran
PhD Student | Texas Christian University

Authors

Nathan Gillespie, Olivia Hundley, Cox Texas Christian University

[112] Hometown Nostalgia as a Predictor of Climate Change Attitudes and Behaviors

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Nostalgia is an emotion wherein one sentimentally reflects on past events or memories. It has been demonstrated to increase optimism, meaning of life, and prosocial behaviors, and to buffer against existential threat. To date, little is known about the relationship between nostalgia, concern about the existential threat of climate change, and pro-environmental behaviors. The present correlational study examines how nostalgia for one's hometown predicts climate change attitudes and pro-environmental behaviors. College students at a mid-size, southeastern coastal university who grew up locally first completed the Southampton Nostalgia Scale (Evans et al., 2022), which was adapted to elicit nostalgic feelings for students' hometown. Students then watched a short video and read an article about the impact of climate change on flooding in their hometown, before answering questions about climate change attitudes and pro-environmental behaviors. We hypothesize that nostalgia will be a significant predictor, with higher levels of nostalgia for the local area predicting higher pro-environmental attitudes and intentions to support policies and engage in behaviors to mitigate climate change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexandra Ford
College of Charleston

Authors

Stephen D. Short, Chelsea A. Reid

[113] Hostile Attribution Biases are Resistant to Brief Loneliness Manipulations

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Loneliness, or perceived social isolation, shifts cognition toward heightened sensitivity to threat. These cognitive biases may perpetuate loneliness and subsequent long term health risk. One of these is the hostile attribution bias, or the tendency to assume hostile intent behind others' ambiguous actions. Recent work suggests engaging in gratitude-related prosocial acts can reduce loneliness, but it is unclear whether these changes also alter cognitive shifts like the hostile attribution bias. This study tests whether a prosocial act alleviates loneliness and associated hostile attribution biases by assigning participants to a loneliness induction, reduction (prosocial gratitude), or control condition. Loneliness increased after induction and decreased after prosocial gratitude. Baseline loneliness was associated with increased hostile attribution biases but acute changes in loneliness did not produce corresponding changes in this bias, regardless of baseline loneliness. These findings have implications for the design of loneliness interventions, suggesting that targeting cognitive sequelae of loneliness as opposed to momentary feelings may prove more fruitful in the long-term.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anita Restrepo

PhD Candidate | UChicago

Authors

Karen Smith (University of Rutgers-Newark), Sabina Raja, Elizabeth Gaillard, Greg Norman

[114] Hot and Hasty: Linking Impulsivity and Comfort

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

People are becoming increasingly more vulnerable to heat. With ambient temperatures reaching unprecedented levels, studying individual variability is vital for developing effective preventive strategies. Previous literature links personality traits to behavioral, physiological, and psychological patterns, including responses to environmental stressors like heat; however, trait impulsivity remains unexplored. Trait impulsivity is linked to heightened mood states, particularly under stress. We examined how trait impulsivity relates to affective experience and comfort during a heat-induction experiment. Participants (N=78) were exposed to hot (110°F) and ambient (72°F) temperatures in an infrared sauna across two 50-minute sessions. Participants' trait impulsivity and comfort were also measured. A mixed-effect regression revealed that negative affect was predicted by trait impulsivity ($\beta = 3.48, p = .003$) regardless of condition. However, comfort in the hot condition was not significantly related to trait impulsivity ($\beta = -1.87, p = .082$). These findings highlight that more impulsive participants tend to report greater negative affect, but not stronger reactions to thermal stress. These preliminary analyses establish a basis for future research, which we plan to extend by continuing to examine trait impulsivity and personality traits under hot conditions over time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Larissa Allen

Student | Washington State University

Authors

Pj Stillson, Kathrine Hubbard, Tiara Freeman, Kimberly Meidenbauer

[115] How Do Perceptions of Open Inquiry in STEM Students Impact Belonging?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Retaining marginalized groups in STEM has been a major focus of psychology research. By recruiting current STEM majors, we examined how perceptions of social norms connect to students' self-efficacy and belonging in STEM fields. We also tested whether the effects of norms around open inquiry differed by group membership (e.g., gender, race, political orientation). A total of 487 students (388 STEM majors) participated. Both STEM and non-STEM majors were asked about STEM norms around open inquiry. STEM majors (M=2.39, SD=.75) rated STEM fields as valuing open inquiry more than non-STEM majors (M=2.17, SD=.74, $p = .004$), though both groups similarly enjoyed open inquiry activities ($p = .147$). STEM majors reported higher belonging (M=4.86, SD=1.06) than non-STEM majors (M=4.32, SD=1.02, $p < .001$). For STEM majors, we ran a regression with social norms and enjoyment of open inquiry predicting belonging. Both enjoyment ($b = 1.27$) and norms ($b = 1.42$) significantly predicted belonging ($p < .001$). Results suggest that open inquiry and perceptions of its value play a critical role in supporting STEM students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danica Kulibert

Assistant Professor | Kennesaw State University

[116] How Good Life Relates to Social Expectations

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Well-being depends on forming and sustaining social connections, yet people often underestimate how positive interactions with strangers will be. Prior work (e.g., Epley et al., 2022) highlights this cognitive miscalibration: people expect conversations with strangers to be less enjoyable than they actually are, which may contribute to isolation. We examined whether individuals' good life preferences—valuing happiness, meaning, or psychological richness—relate to expectations about social interactions. Participants imagined talking with a seatmate on an airplane and reported both their expectations of the conversation and their preferred good life. Results showed that those pursuing a meaningful life held more positive expectations than those pursuing happiness or psychological richness. These findings suggest meaning-oriented individuals may be less susceptible to conversational miscalibration, offering insight into pathways for encouraging social connection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Holden Emig

Lab Manager | University of Chicago

Authors

Shige Oishi

[117] How Is School Bullying Related to Dark Personality Traits? A Cross-Cultural Study of the US and China.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

This study explores the relationship between school bullying engagements and the Dark Factor of Personality (D), an overall, dispositional inclination toward socially aversive behaviors. Since bullying is one such behavior, we examined whether bullying is influenced by D. Given the high-stakes (China) vs. lower-stakes (US) school systems and possible different roles D plays in the society, we examined how culture shapes this association. Study 1 recruited 250 participants from each country (N=500, age 18-25) who completed a retrospective school experience questionnaire and the D16. Study 2 expanded the sample (N=700), used the full D70, and added gender measurement. Across both nationalities, results revealed a significant positive relationship between bullying behaviors and D. In Study 2, we also found a significant positive relationship between bystanders and D. Subthemes of sadism, deceitfulness, and vindictiveness significantly predicted bullying status. Cross-national differences emerged: Chinese participants scored higher in vindictiveness and narcissistic entitlement, while U.S. participants showed higher deceitfulness, regardless of bully status.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lynn(Youlin) Yuan
Wake Forest University

Authors

William Fleeson

[118] How Stable are Evaluations of Status Across Social Interactions?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

A person's status is consequential across life domains. Yet, it remains unclear whether one's status is a stable, trait-like characteristic—relatively unaffected by social context—or whether it is socially constructed in-the-moment—varying depending on one's interaction partner. To examine this, we analyzed 1519 naturalistic, dyadic conversations (each at least 25 minutes), after which participants (N=753) evaluated themselves and their partner on status and personality traits. Using the Social Relations Model, we estimated that evaluations of one's own status was highly stable across partners (~90% variance explained by self; <0.01% by partner), more so than other traits. Evaluation of one's partner's status was also highly attributable to the self (almost 40% of variance), more so than other traits, but also had 18% of variance attributed to the partner. Results suggest one's own status is highly internalized and stable across conversations—not varying much by partner. Evaluation of an interaction partner's status is shaped by a mix of projection from the evaluator and social inference. This work offers novel insight into the stability and social construction of status.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wicia Fang
Cornell University

Authors

Vivian Zayas

[119] Hurt People Hurt People...Or Do They? Symbolic Concerns and Reactions to Victimization

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Previous research suggests that victimization to be associated with both altruistic behavior and selfish behavior. The present study seeks to examine whether symbolic concerns related to power/status and shared values differentially predict responses to altruistic and selfish behaviors after victimization. One hundred and fifty participants will be randomly assigned to read one of two vignettes describing a college student who feels victimized by her partner's emotional infidelity, with either the power/status implications or the shared value implications of the infidelity being emphasized. Participants will then be randomly assigned read one of two follow-up vignettes in which the victim is invited to a concert by a friend who is interested in her romantically, which she does not reciprocate. Depending on the condition to which participants are assigned, the victim either confesses her lack of romantic interest prior to the concert to avoid him feeling led on (Altruism condition) or waits until afterward to confess her lack of romantic interest to ensure that she is able to attend the concert (Selfish condition). It is hypothesized that participants will rate altruistic behavior more positively when power/status concerns are emphasized, and selfish behavior more positively when shared value concerns are emphasized. Findings will offer a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that shape different responses to victimization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eyad Naseralla
Assistant Professor of Psychology | Buffalo State University

Authors

Elizabeth Schilling

[120] Ideal Emotion Discrepancies Relate to Emotion Regulation and Psychological Health

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Because emotions influence how we think, feel, and behave, people strive to experience certain emotions. However, how do emotion goal discrepancies influence emotion regulation and psychological health? Further, are the consequences of these discrepancies similar when one falls short vs. exceeds one's goal? To answer these questions, we examined how high and low arousal positive and negative ideal emotion discrepancies, or discrepancies between the emotions people ideally want to and actually experience, related to emotion regulation, and psychological health in a large (N=1,112) and diverse sample. Across arousal levels, ideal positive emotion discrepancies related to less reappraisal (but not suppression), ideal negative emotion discrepancies related to more suppression (but not reappraisal), and each discrepancy related to worse psychological health. Observed quadratic effects indicated that results were similar across discrepancies that fall short and exceed one's goals. Together, our results suggest, across arousal levels, valence, and whether one falls short or exceeds one's goal, ideal emotion goal discrepancies can influence emotion regulation and psychological health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taylor Fusaro

Ohio University

Authors

Gerald Young

[121] Ignored Past, Invisible Present: Native Visibility Reduces Systemic Racism Denial Through Contemporary Attunement

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Native omission has negative downstream consequences for non-Native's perceptions of Native people. The Marley Hypothesis suggests that dominant groups tend to deny present day racism at a greater rate than minorities which is further explained by ignorance of past injustices. Extensions of this research demonstrate that sharing critical information can disrupt this pattern of ignorance by changing perceptions of racism among whites. This study investigates the impact of Native visibility on white individuals' perceptions of systemic racism through contemporary attunement and the role of their existing orientation to colonial history. We analyzed data pooled from two experimental studies with all-white samples (N=507) and demonstrate the importance of contextualizing systemic racism towards Natives: historical orientation and contemporary attunement are predictors of systemic racism acknowledgement and Native visibility, when compared to omission, indirectly reduced systemic racism denial.

*POSTER

Speaker



Noheya Begay

Undergraduate Student | University of New Mexico

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Arianne Eason, Kristina Chamberlin, Alana Smutz, Noheya Begay

[122] Illusion of Control Revisited: Missing the Forest for the Trees

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

We re-examine the illusion of control through the lens of Construal Level Theory. We distinguish between control over high-level aspects (e.g., goals, outcomes) and low-level aspects (e.g., immediate details). Scarcity contracts regulatory scope, drawing attention to short-term logistics and overweighting control over low-level aspects. This shift provides fleeting agency but obscures structural barriers that shape long-term trajectories. Across three sets of studies, we test (1) whether people prefer and feel greater agency from high-level control, (2) whether scarcity systematically redirects attention to low-level control, and (3) whether simple interventions can restore balance by expanding scope. Findings suggest that disadvantage does not reduce agency outright but reallocates it toward inconsequential details, sustaining inequality. By showing how scarcity reshapes perceived control, this project reframes the illusion of control as a cognitive mechanism through which structural exploitation perpetuates itself, and points to interventions that expand real opportunities for agency.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xiao Ma

Postbac Research Associate | Yale School of Medicine

Authors

Runji Gao, Yaacov Trope

[123] Imagining and Believing: How Counterfactual Thinking Enhances Beliefs in Conspiracy Theories.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

In recent years, conspiratorial thinking has garnered immense attention. However, the extant literature has focused on the demographics of who is likely to believe in conspiracy theories and protective factors, with less emphasis on the cognitive processes involved. The present study (N=460) addresses this gap by examining how counterfactual thinking—imagining alternative outcomes for past events—influences belief in conspiracy theories. We hypothesize that generating counterfactuals increases belief in a specific conspiracy theory, and that this effect is strongest when the event is ambiguous. We will also explore how individual differences in the need for cognition might moderate this relationship. We propose a study with a 2 (Counterfactual Induction: upward vs. control) x 2 (Event Clarity: ambiguous vs. clear) between-subjects factorial design to test these predictions. Our findings will reveal whether generating counterfactuals increases conspiracy endorsement, particularly when information is ambiguous, and if this relationship is influenced by the need for cognition. This research will highlight the cognitive mechanisms that may contribute to conspiratorial thinking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bob Bayo
PhD student | Ohio University

Authors

Keith Markman

[124] Impact of Community Resilience, Social Support, and Humiliation on PTSD in Women Survivors within Armed Conflict

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Introduction: Women exposed to the prolonged armed conflict in Colombia have endured multiple forms of violence and displacement, facing a heightened risk of mental health problems, specifically post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Although individual resilience is fundamental for recovery, the role of protective factors at the community level, such as community resilience, social support, and experiences of humiliation, has been little explored from a gender perspective. The objective of this study was to analyze the associations among community resilience, social support, humiliation, and PTSD symptoms in women survivors of the Colombian armed conflict.

Method: A cross-sectional design was used with a sample of 148 women (mean age = 45.8, SD = 11.3; age range = 25–75), members of Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres from the regions of Bolívar, Eje Cafetero, and Santander. Standardized questionnaires were applied to measure community resilience (emotional regulation, social capital, and collective efficacy), perceived social support, humiliation, and PTSD symptoms. Correlation analyses, multiple regressions, and mediation/moderation models were conducted.

Results: Community resilience was significantly associated with fewer PTSD symptoms, lower feelings of humiliation, and higher levels of perceived social support. Mediation analysis showed that the protective effect of community resilience on PTSD operated partially through increased social support and decreased humiliation. This protective association was stronger among women with low or moderate institutional trust. Displaced women, women of Afro-descendant origin, those with lower educational levels, and residents in urban areas presented higher PTSD symptomatology.

Discussion: Community resilience and the mobilization of collective and social resources are crucial for psychological recovery and for reducing the traumatic impact on women survivors in conflict contexts. These findings highlight the importance of strengthening community ties, social support, and women’s empowerment to promote long-term psychosocial well-being in Colombia’s post-conflict setting.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alicia Puente
Associate professor | University of Salamanca

Authors

Silvia Ubillos Landa, Carolina Alzugaray Ponce, Marcela Gracia Leiva, Gina Marcela Arias Rodríguez, Jose Luis González Castro

[125] Implicit Associations of God as White and The Relation to Secular Authority

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

God is popularly perceived as a White man, and this perception may reinforce the association of White men as authority figures in secular contexts. We tested this theory using implicit associations of God as White. In two studies (N = 347) we employed two different IATs (Implicit Association Tests) and one stroop-like task. Results indicated that participants implicitly perceived God as White; however, these implicit associations were not significantly related to preferences for White authority figures in workplace contexts. These findings highlight the persistence of racialized representations of God while suggesting that such implicit biases may not directly translate into preferences for secular leadership.

*POSTER

Speaker



Perla Henderson
Postdoctoral Associate | Duke University

[126] Inclusive Lectures Improve Social Fit and Self-Efficacy for Black College Students

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Incorporating diverse perspectives in the college setting can increase student performance. Representing Black students in college lecture materials may increase belonging and other outcomes crucial to health and collegiate success. While there are other factors that influence belonging, we studied the extent representation alone plays a role. Black and Black-multiracial college students (N=216) completed an online survey. They were randomly assigned to view a 7-minute lecture video which included either representative or nonrepresentative slides and completed measures of mental health, sense of social fit, school self-efficacy, self-esteem, engagement, clarity, and confidence. Participants experienced a significantly greater sense of social fit ($t(214)=2.32, p=.021, d=-0.32$), school self-efficacy ($t(214)=-2.38, p=.018, d=-0.32$), and engagement ($t(214)=-2.35, p=.020, d=-0.32$) after viewing the representative lecture. These results suggest that even brief instances of representation can improve the immediate experiences of Black college students and provides a foundation for future research how to best include representative materials.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Walis
Illinois State University

Authors

John Matkovic, Kelly Clemens

[127] Indirect versus Direct Aggression in Friendship Transgressions

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Prior research on gender differences in indirect and direct aggression strategies has focused on the perspective of the perpetrator, finding that women more often use indirect strategies to inflict harm, whereas men tend to use direct forms of aggression. What remains unclear is whether gender matters in how victims react to indirect vs. direct aggressions in the context of friendship transgressions. In Study 1 (N = 201), participants reported the hurtfulness of either being called unloveable to one's face (direct aggression) or learning of a friend having spread a false rumor about them (indirect aggression). In Study 2 (N = 197), we extended Study 1's findings introducing four different examples of both indirect and direct aggression. In Study 3 (N = 200), we tested two potential mediators. Indirect (as opposed to direct) forms of aggression were generally perceived as more harmful to the relationship with the transgressor and more hurtful. Contrary to our hypothesis, there was no significant interaction between gender and aggression type across the three studies. These findings suggest that men and women respond similarly to indirect aggression and its inflicted social harm.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kristiana Klein
Hamilton Reads Coordinator | Hamilton College

Authors

Keelah Williams, Kristiana Klein

[128] Individual Differences Predicting Killing and its Emotional Consequences

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Although aggression is widely studied, less is known about dispositional factors influencing the threshold to kill and associated affective responses. This study investigated the individual differences that predicted behavior and negative emotion in a simulated ladybug-killing task. Guided by moral disengagement theory, we hypothesized that individuals higher in psychopathy would endorse more killing-related outcomes and report less negative affect. Undergraduates (N = 224) engaged in an ostensible ladybug-killing task, reflected on the experience, then completed measures of Dark Triad traits and gaming behavior. Logistic regression analyses revealed that psychopathy significantly predicted killing, with odds ratios indicating a three to fourfold increase per unit rise in psychopathy. Psychopathy and video game activity also distinctly predicted lower reported negative emotion following killing scenarios. Findings highlight the unique, gender-invariant role of psychopathy in disengaging moral constraints and reducing emotional consequences of violence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cole Pryor
CSU Northridge

Authors

Abraham Rutchick, Gary Katz, Matthew Leitao, Ryan McManus

[129] Influence of Racial Diversity on Speech Perception

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Notions of “standard” English are typically associated with Western, White speakers, but are less applicable in non-Western, non-White contexts. Yet, much of the existing literature remains fixated on contrasting “standard” against “non-standard” varieties of English. For example, in Southeast Asia, Singapore’s brand of English is shaped by unique language policies and diverse linguistic roots from its three major ethnic groups – Chinese, Malay, and Indian (by demographic majority). Despite evidence that accents influence perceptions of ethnic identity, distinct ethnic accents in Singapore remain overlooked. Consequently, we aim to identify the hierarchy of English accents in Singapore (if any), reflected through measures of intelligibility, accentedness, and the response time of making the judgements.

The present study (n = 60 each for Studies 1 and 2) examines whether seeing a majority face, a minority face, or a silhouette (no face) impacts listeners’ perception of the respective ethnic accents. We also explore the extent to which listeners’ social network diversity predicts their perception of speech.

*POSTER

Speaker



Finneaz Moner

National University of Singapore

Authors

Finneaz Moner, Ethan Kutlu

[130] Institutional responses to biased incidents affect identity safety

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

We assessed whether different university responses to biased incidents influence identity safety for minoritized identity group members (i.e., people of color, LGBTQ adults). Across three studies (total N = 746), the more that participants perceived a university’s response to be effective, the more they expected to belong, and the less they expected bias and diversity dishonesty from the school. Participants reported greater expected belonging (Study 3), less anticipated bias, less diversity dishonesty, and greater perceived response effectiveness (Studies 2 and 3) when a university responded to racially biased incidents of varying severities with punitive rather than educational sanctions. The relationship between sanction type and expected belonging was mediated by greater perceived response effectiveness (Studies 2 and 3). Participants similarly favored both educational and punitive sanctions (Study 3) but anticipated greater identity safety at a university that used punitive sanctions for racially biased incidents. This research suggests that institutions can bolster identity safety for minoritized identity group members by responding to biased incidents with punitive sanctions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Melanie Maimon

Assistant Professor | Bryant University

Authors

John Raycroft, Maya Niemeyer

[131] Interactive Effects of Positive Urgency and Drinking Motives on Alcohol-Facilitated Aggression

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Urgency theory predicts that emotional states interact with dispositional positive urgency to facilitate impulsive behaviors. Drinking motives represent naturally occurring emotional activators that should prompt the urgency-behavior pathway, yet this core theoretical prediction remains understudied in naturalistic settings. Using data from a 14-week ecological momentary assessment study, I test four pre-registered hypotheses examining positive urgency as a moderator of the relationship between positively valenced drinking motives and alcohol-facilitated aggression at both within-person and between-person levels. College students (N = 196) completed dispositional urgency measures at baseline and 13 surveys about drinking motives and alcohol-facilitated aggression weekly during the social weekend (i.e., Thursday through Saturday). This study provides a rigorous and contextual test of urgency theory based upon recent findings which highlight the positively valenced pathways for alcohol use and alcohol-related outcomes. Results will inform our theoretical understanding of positive psychological pathways to harmful alcohol use outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wyatt Brown

Graduate Student | Virginia Commonwealth University

[132] Beyond Merit: The Psychological and Social Implications of Believing in Luck’s Pervasiveness

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

OTHER

Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, this research explores how dominant group members, specifically White, cisgender individuals, engage with intersectional frameworks and whether such engagement can enhance solidarity with Black transgender individuals. Study 1 employed 19 in-depth interviews with White, cisgender individuals to unpack their reactions to intersectional frameworks and motivations behind solidarity. Study 2 tested an intervention aimed at increasing White, cisgender individuals’ sense of group efficacy while integrating intersectional awareness into a broader theoretical model of collective action. Although the intervention did not successfully increase perceived group efficacy, statistical analyses revealed that intersectional awareness was strongly correlated with key predictors of collective action. This research underscores the critical role dominant group members can play in supporting multiply marginalized communities. As real-world conditions intensify for the transgender community, it is important to identify the relationship between intersectional frameworks and solidarity mechanisms for dominant group members.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aaron Rabinowitz

Ethics Director | Creator Accountability Network

[133] Self-Other Asymmetry: Lay Beliefs about the Relationship Between Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivations

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Previous research debates whether intrinsic and extrinsic motivations function as opposite ends of a continuum (e.g., Sheldon & Elliot, 1999), suggesting a negative relationship, or separate independent dimensions (Koestner et al., 2008). Additionally, most studies focus on how these motivations predict goal progress (Milyavskaya et al., 2015), but less is known about how lay people conceptualize the relationship between these types of motivations. Across three studies, we explored whether individuals view intrinsic and extrinsic motivations as inherently related or independent dimensions, and whether this differs for self vs. others. In Study 1 and Study 3, participants rated their own motivations across six goal domains. In Study 2, participants inferred others' motivations from vignettes that described a target's motivation for a goal. Results revealed a small positive correlation between intrinsic and extrinsic motivations for self (Study 1: $r = .09$; Study 3: $r = .630$), but a negative correlation when judging others ($r = -.17$). This self-other asymmetry suggests people may apply simpler assumptions to others' motivations, which may impact how we interpret others' goals and values.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anzhelika Parenchuk

The George Washington University

[134] Investigating The Cross-Race Recognition Deficit in Racially Ambiguous Faces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

The Cross-Race Recognition Deficit (CRD) is a well-documented global phenomenon outlining that people are better at recognizing faces of their own race than a different race. Here, we explore the CRD in the context of social categorization. Prior work has shown that mere categorization of in/out-group status is enough to elicit this effect. Ambiguous racial groups may need an additional signal, like a name, to push an ambiguous face into a racial category.

In this study, we used racially ambiguous faces with stereotypical White and Middle Eastern North African (MENA) names to determine if the CRD can be replicated through the influence of social categorization. We asked participants (N= 251) to remember a series of faces that either had a stereotypical White or MENA name. In two separate blocks, I then tested participants' memory for the faces and names. Results show that participants showed no significant recognition deficit with faces but did show a significant deficit with names. These findings highlight the need for studies into MENA racial classification research, and names as a clue to race.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Alzawahra

Research Associate | Duke University

Authors

Elizabeth Alzawahra, Balbir Singh

[135] Investigating the Roles of Expectations and Responsiveness in Gratitude

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Gratitude is a response to receiving benefits from others that promotes relationship building, but there are several open questions about which aspects of receiving benefits cause people to feel gratitude. We are especially interested in evaluating two theoretical accounts of how gratitude functions to promote cooperation, which we refer to as Expectation Violations and Responsiveness. According to the Expectation Violations model of gratitude, people feel most grateful when they receive benefits that were unexpected, like those from a new acquaintance rather than a close friend. On the other hand, the Responsiveness model of gratitude posits that people feel most grateful when the benefits they receive match their needs and desires. We used an experimental manipulation between 250 pairs of participants (N=500) to simultaneously manipulate social expectations and perceived responsiveness, allowing us to test whether people feel less grateful due to having higher expectations or more grateful due to perceiving greater responsiveness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Forster

Assistant Professor | University of San Diego

Authors

Daniel Forster

[136] Is political ideology associated with motivations to connect with others? A test of close and distant relationships.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Past research shows that more politically conservative (vs. liberal) people are less tolerant of uncertainty and ambiguity. As a result, it is possible that conservatives (vs. liberals) would be more likely to rely on close (e.g., romantic partner) and distant relationships (e.g., fellow citizens) to make sense of complexities within their worlds. Overall, we anticipated that conservatives (vs. liberals) would exhibit greater motivations to build a common understanding of the world with other people. We tested this prediction in two general population samples (N = 4,588). Contrary to our expectations, liberals (vs. conservatives) exhibited stronger motivations to forge common understandings of their environments with other people. We also observed that liberals (vs. conservatives) were especially likely to report a stronger motivation with distant (vs. close) others. These findings suggest that liberals (vs. conservatives) might be more likely to rely on others to resolve ambiguity and uncertainty in everyday life. Our research therefore proposes nuances to existing literature on how psychological differences between liberals and conservatives are expressed in relational domains.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlie Cervenka

Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Chadly Stern, Salvador Vargas Salfate, R. Chris Fraley

[137] CANCELLED:

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

*POSTER

[138] Knowing versus Doing: How Much Can Training Help People Soften the Blow of Social Rejection?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

People complain that they do not know what to say to soften the blow of social rejection; can training help? Avoiding apologies while using positive regard, sincere alternatives, and more words may mitigate the negative consequences of social rejection. Does training on these principles lead to helpful wording? Or, like in other domains, does knowledge not translate into action? In Study 1, Drift Diffusion Modeling suggested that training helped people recognize wording which better carried out the language principles from pre-crafted options rather than improving a priori wording plans. Study 2 built on Study 1 by finding that training successfully aided people in carrying out the language principles when crafting their own social rejection wording. The current research sheds empirical light on a tangible way that psychological science can address people's concerns about what to say to soften the blow of social rejection through an easily disseminated training program.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Okland

Graduate Student | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Gili Freedman, Jennifer Beer

[139] Learning with the land: The impact of environmental socialization on the sociopolitical development of Indigenous Peoples

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Indigenous Peoples have always had strong ties to the land as an integral part of our culture and identity. These ties are formed through environmental socialization (ES), which is the process of learning about the environment through cultural teachings and forming a relationship with place and the natural world. We predict these ties encourage Indigenous Peoples to learn about the impact of systems on the environment and engage in actions to protect it. Accordingly, this study examined whether higher ES was associated with greater probability of believing that climate change (CC) is caused by systems and higher engagement in critical environmental action (CA). Using the Indigenous Climate Justice Survey (N=425), we found that higher ES was associated with greater probability of the belief that CC is caused by systems and higher frequency of participation in CA. These findings bring more awareness of the causes of environmental injustice and provides avenues for resistance. Therefore, ES plays a crucial role in supporting Indigenous-focused action for environmental justice, and efforts should be made to foster it.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tristan Bouschor

Northwestern University

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Kristina Chamberlin, Alana Smutz, Julisa Lopez, Lourdes Castillo-Silva

[140] Leveraging Stories to Cope with Challenges in Life

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Across history, humans have used stories as vehicles of meaning, passing down lessons, insights, and inspirations. Anecdotally, people also turn to stories to make sense of their emotional experiences, particularly in the face of life challenges. However, research on emotion regulation has not examined the deliberate recall of stories—particularly vicarious ones such as films and books—as a strategy for managing emotions. This represents a significant gap in the literature, given that stories are readily accessible, materially diverse, and cognitively less demanding to process and recall, making them promising tools for emotion regulation. The present study addresses this gap by examining how often, when, and why people draw on stories to regulate their emotions. In our ongoing data collection, 200 Prolific participants list stories that help them in the face of life challenges and provide brief descriptions of both the stories and their regulatory roles. Additional self-reported data involving story characteristics (e.g., emotional valence and perceived regulatory effectiveness), well-being, and personality traits, are also collected. Findings will shed light on: (1) How often people use stories to cope with difficult events compared to other emotion regulation strategies, (2) What types of stories are most frequently reported as serving regulatory purposes, and by whom, and (3) What themes emerge in people’s qualitative accounts of leveraging stories to self-regulate and make meaning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hong-Yi Koo
University of Michigan

Authors

Ethan Kross, Micaela Rodriguez

[141] LLMs recognize emotions as well as humans (or better)

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Empathy is critical in humans’ emotional relationships. In humans, empathic accuracy – the ability to accurately determine another’s emotions – varies by informational modality and is inseparable from emotional processes. This study tested the empathic accuracy of Large Language Models (LLMs: GPT-4o, Claude, and Gemini) using transcripts of real emotional narratives. Their accuracy was compared to human participants (N = 127) who read these transcripts or watched the full videos, including beyond language, physical expressions and paralinguistic cues. LLMs showed empathic accuracy equal to that of humans or better ($\beta = .19-.45$, all $p < .001$), inferred only from semantic content, without any emotional processes. These results held even when analyzing positive and negative emotions separately. Our findings have value for basic science research on empathy, suggesting that semantic information alone can lead to high empathic accuracy, though humans may not fully utilize this potential. We will also discuss both the possible applicative value of these results, alongside risks concerning privacy, ethics, and the possible shifts in humans’ emotional connection in an AI-mediated world.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matan Rubin
Doctoral Student | Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Shir Genzer, Noa Oded, Anat Perry

[142] Loneliness and Perception of Sickness in Faces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Loneliness, or perceived isolation, biases social information processing in ways that heighten sensitivity to social threat. However, this can also contribute to withdrawal behaviors that perpetuate loneliness. Research on loneliness has highlighted sensitivity to negative emotions in others (e.g. fear, anger, sadness), which provide salient interpersonal information. However, it is unclear whether these effects generalize to other forms of social threat- like sickness cues representing threat of interpersonal disease transmission- or are specific to cues that may signal information about potential rejection. Here, we examined whether loneliness is associated with increased perceptions of sickness in others. Two samples of participants completed a loneliness survey and rated face photos on how sick they perceived the individuals in the photos to be. Photos included individuals that received an influenza or placebo vaccine (n = 244) or neutral faces from the Penn Emotion Recognition Task (n = 538; in progress). Loneliness was associated with increased sickness perception across photo types. Findings suggest that social information processing biases associated with loneliness may extend to assessments of sickness in others. These perceptions may subsequently impact decisions underlying approach and withdrawal behaviors that can contribute to continued feelings loneliness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kelly Faig
Assistant Professor | Hamilton College

Authors

Karen Smith (University of Rutgers-Newark), Emily M. Kent (University of Chicago), Anais S. Geronimo Jimenez (University of California-Irvine), Kelly Faig (Hamilton College), Laura Jett (University of Madison-Madison)

[143] Loneliness Shifts Social and Affective Evaluations of Images

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Loneliness, or perceived social isolation, has been associated with heightened sensitivity

towards both social and negative stimuli. However, whether this heightened sensitivity reflects a specific shift towards socially threatening information, which may signal potential further rejection, or a general tendency to interpret information as more negative and social is less clear. The current study examines the relationship between loneliness and affective and social evaluations of scenes. 147 college students reported their levels of loneliness and rated the valence, arousal, and sociality (i.e., extent to which an image conveys social information) of 48 images, varying in their affective (i.e., neutral, negative), and social content (i.e., social, non-social). Loneliness was associated with increased ratings of both negativity and sociality, regardless of affective or social content. These findings suggest that lonely individuals are more likely to interpret visual information as both more negative and social. These shifts suggest loneliness may have domain general effects, heightening negative and social evaluations regardless of stimuli content.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yebin Won
Rutgers University - Newark

Authors

Karen Smith (University of Rutgers-Newark), Kelly Faig (Hamilton College), Kimele Persaud

[144] Lonely people perceive blurred social group boundaries

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

While the negative consequences of loneliness are well-documented, it is unclear how lonely versus non-lonely individuals think about the different people in their lives. Neural evidence suggests that loneliness leads to a blurring of boundaries between social groups. Do lonely people consciously represent distinct social groups as more similar? In 2 studies (Ns = 62, 57), we investigated whether, when, and how loneliness influences the way people represent their social networks along 3 dimensions. Participants nominated 5 close others and 5 acquaintances. Then they positioned these nominated people, themselves, and 5 celebrities on a screen and arranged them in terms of their relative closeness, familiarity, or similarity, resulting in 3 distinct representational maps. Using representational similarity analysis, we tested how loneliness shapes the perceived clustering in social network representations. Preliminary analyses suggest that lonely people blur boundaries when arranging their social networks in terms of closeness and familiarity, but not similarity. Interestingly, lonely individuals were not more likely to represent themselves as particularly isolated.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura Furtado Fernandes
Lab Manager | Columbia University

Authors

Kaitlyn Mundy, Meghan Meyer, Miriam Schwyck, Siddhant Iyer, Tim Broom

[145] Low-friction, high-risk? AI conversation partners provoke less anxiety

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Conversational agents powered by large language models (LLMs) can for many be indistinguishable from humans in brief conversations. That said, does knowing that one will engage in conversation with a simulation vs. a real human differentially evoke anticipatory anxiety? We tested this question experimentally by asking participants to report their anticipatory anxiety and experiential expectations prior to engaging in each of two conversations: One with a real human and another with an LLM-powered simulation (order randomized), with both held through the same real-time speech-to-text and text-to-speech interface. Results revealed significantly lower anxiety in anticipation of a conversation with simulated partners compared to actual human partners, though this effect only emerged after initial novelty subsided. Participants also reported greater performance concerns when anticipating human interaction and more positive post-conversation experiences with AI partners. These findings support the notion that anxiety in anticipation of social interaction is substantially evoked by metaperception rather than the act of conversation itself. As simulated humans become pervasive across social domains, understanding the similarities and differences in the ways we relate to them will be important for maximizing the benefits they can provide and minimizing their potential for harm.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adam Frost
Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Toronto

Authors

Steve Joordens

[146] Measuring the Impact of Repeated Exposure to Suffering on Compassionate Responding

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Many people repeatedly encounter the suffering of others, and for these individuals, compassion is thought to fatigue over time. However, there has yet to be a standardized causal manipulation of repeated exposure to suffering with longitudinal measurement of subjective, expressive, and physiological markers of compassion. Across three studies (N = 677), we developed a laboratory-paradigm in which participants viewed 12 (Studies 1 & 2) or 29 (Study 3) videos of other people suffering. We measured longitudinal changes in self-reported compassion, empathy, and compassion avoidance and coded expressive and physiological markers (e.g., respiratory sinus arrhythmia) of compassion. We found no evidence that compassion declined. Rather, we found some evidence of increases in reported, expressed, and physiological markers of compassion over time. However, participants reported increasing motivations to avoid further exposure to others' suffering. These findings suggest a burden of sustained compassion engagement, but not a loss of it, and call for reconceptualizing compassion fatigue without assuming diminishing compassion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Linh Pham

Lab Manager | University of Toronto Mississauga

Authors

Jaweria Qaiser, Miya Draga, Nathan Leonhardt, Jennifer Stellar

[147]CANCELLED:

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

*POSTER

Authors

Juli Goldberg, Eran Bar Kalifa

[148] Mindfulness Enhances Momentary Emotional Well-Being: Observational and Experimental Evidence

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

We examined whether mindfulness training improves emotional well-being and whether such effects depend on present-moment awareness. In Study 1 (N = 256 undergraduates, 84 EMA prompts), naturally occurring presence of mind predicted lower depressive feelings, anxiety, and stress, and greater happiness in daily life. In Study 2 (preregistered RCT, N = 115 stressed undergraduates, 105 EMA prompts), participants were randomized to a digital mindfulness-based intervention (MBI) or an active coping control. Contrary to hypotheses, on average the MBI group showed no benefits for depressive feelings or anxiety, reported lower happiness post-intervention, and greater stress at follow-up compared to control. However, MBI amplified the protective effects of presence of mind: MBI participants with higher presence of mind experienced larger reductions in depressive feelings, anxiety, and stress, and greater increases in happiness than controls. Findings suggest mindfulness training may enhance well-being chiefly in moments when participants are practicing being present.

*POSTER

Speaker



Polina Beloborodova

PhD Candidate | Virginia Commonwealth University

Authors

Nabila Farhin Jahan, Galuka Djajakusuma, Melina Johnson, Kirk Warren Brown, Janine Dutcher

[149] More people, more problems: The impact of ostracism, group size and feelings of disrespect on self-esteem

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Ostracism is the act of being excluded or ignored by either an individual or a group. Ostracism is associated with negative affect, and exclusion by a larger group exacerbates this effect. The current study is the first to examine how group size moderates the mediating effect of feelings of disrespect on the relationship between ostracism and self-esteem. Participants were placed in a group of either 2 or 6 other fictitious participants while they engaged in an online social media task where they were included by either all or none of the other participants. Finally, feelings of disrespect and self-esteem were measured. A moderated mediation analysis indicated that group size moderated the mediating effect of feelings of disrespect on the relationship between ostracism and self-esteem. Specifically, ostracism led to greater feelings of disrespect which in turn reduced self-esteem, but this mediating effect was 1.61 times greater when individuals were ostracized by the larger group of 6 other individuals. Implications for the impact of ostracism and group size on self-esteem and other outcomes such as aggressive behavior will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacqueline Nguyen

California State University, Long Beach

Authors

Yeng Vue, Francisco Hernandez, Amy Johns, William Pedersen, Brissa Barrera

[150] More Than Meets (My Own) Eyes: Inflated Self-Perceptions and Facial Cues of Simping

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SINGLEHOOD

“Simps” are individuals (primarily men) who engage in costly or extravagant gestures toward a romantic interest without receiving reciprocation. Recent work (Ho et al., manuscript under review) suggested that simping could be a compensatory mating strategy for men of lower perceived mate value to secure mates by overtly exhibiting one’s investment and commitment to the relationship. Nonetheless, self-reported mate value did not predict one’s tendency to engage in simping behaviors, suggesting that sims possibly hold inaccurate (or inflated) perceptions of their own mate value. The present study investigates this hypothesis by comparing self and third-party ratings of individuals engaging in simping behaviors. 164 participants submitted self-portrait photographs and completed self-report measures of mate value and simping behaviors. Subsequently, research assistants independently rated the photographs on mate value and their perceived tendency to simp. We expected that men who tend to simp would be objectively lower in attractiveness, social status, and social confidence. We also explore if facial cues of dominance and status predict one’s perceived tendency to simp.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicole Ko
PhD Student | Singapore Management University

Authors

Norman Li, YingJia Yang, Kenneth Tan, Daniel Ho, Janice Patricia

[151] Narcissism in Social Class and Loneliness: Impacts on Antisocial Behavior

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

The present research aimed to examine the moderating effect of narcissism on the relationship between social class and loneliness. Specifically, we hypothesized that the negative association between social class and loneliness would be particularly stronger among narcissistic individuals. We also explored the downstream consequences of the predicted interaction effect on antisocial behavior. To test these hypotheses, we conducted an online survey (N = 150 adults) in South Korea. The results were consistent with our prediction such that negative association between social class and loneliness was moderated by narcissism. In other words, lower social class was associated with greater loneliness, particularly when narcissism was high. Furthermore, when narcissism was high, loneliness mediated the negative relationship between social class and antisocial behavior, whereas this effect was absent at low narcissism. These findings suggest that when individuals from lower social classes are narcissistic, they may be particularly vulnerable to loneliness, which can lead to maladjustment such as engaging in antisocial behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



HyeWon Jun
Sogang University

Authors

Jinkyung Na

[152] CANCELLED

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

*POSTER

[153] Nature Contact Enhances Inspiration: The Mediating Role of Self-Transcendence

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Inspiration is a powerful motivational state, though eliciting it remains challenging. We propose that nature contact induces inspiration and the effect is mediated by self-transcendence. We conducted three studies, with experimental and field designs. In Study 1, participants who viewed nature videos reported higher levels of inspiration compared to those who viewed urban videos. Study 2 replicated this effect with nature images and further demonstrated that self-transcendence mediated the relationship between nature exposure and inspiration. Study 3 extended these findings to real-world natural settings, again showing that nature reliably increased inspiration. Taken together, these studies provide converging evidence that exposure to nature—whether through video, images, or direct experience—consistently enhances inspiration.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuwan Dai
RENMIN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

Authors

Yujie Hu

[154] Negative Affect Increases the Difficulty of Intertemporal Choice

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

One experiment tested the impact of affective context on intertemporal choice. A sample of 155 participants viewed different affective images (positive, neutral, or negative) before choosing between immediate or delayed hypothetical monetary rewards. Participants also rated the difficulty they experienced making their choices. We found that choices following negative affective images were more difficult than those following positive and neutral images. These findings suggest that affective context shapes the experience of intertemporal choice. Further, results suggest that negative affective contexts may conflict with the process resolving approach-approach conflicts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kyle Silva
Graduate Researcher | Texas A&M University

Authors

Brandon Schmeichel

[155] Neuroticism and Agreeableness Predicts Negative Affect in Different Contexts

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Personality impacts the way people interpret situations and react emotionally. Past research has focused on Neuroticism (N) and Extraversion. Here we propose that situational context plays an important role in moderating the link between personality and emotional responding, allowing us to examine the emotional impact of other Big Five dimensions, like Agreeableness (A). We hypothesized that A would predict higher negative affect but only when the negative situation involves others, whereas Neuroticism would predict higher negative affect when the negative situation is directed towards the self, like being afraid of a spider for yourself (not others). In a pre-registered study (N = 550), we examine responses to negative stimuli depicting either human suffering (e.g., a child with an injury) or nonhuman negative stimulus (e.g., a spider). Consistent with predictions, A was linked to stronger negative affect toward human-suffering but not non-human images, whereas N showed the opposite pattern. Further, N (but not A) was linked to elevated negative affect toward neutral images, consistent with N representing greater vigilance towards the world in general. Results suggest that N predisposes individuals to react more negatively to self-relevant negative events, whereas A reflects prosocial concern for others. Findings highlight the importance of considering both personality and the situation when examining emotional responding.

*POSTER

Speaker



Deborah Qu
Grad student | university of california, berkeley

Authors

John Oliver

[156] New Video Elicitors of Interpersonal Awe and Identity-specific Awe

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that is mysterious and transcends our current understanding. However, most past stimuli focus on natural awe. No valid interpersonal awe video stimuli exist, nor have interpersonal awe studies considered social identity. Therefore, we tested stimuli for interpersonal and identity-specific awe.

Prolific participants (n = 566) are randomly assigned to 10 conditions: 2 types of stimuli (recall vs. video), each with 5 conditions (control, amusement, natural awe, interpersonal awe, identity-specific interpersonal awe). Participants first recalled an event or watched a video of target emotions for 4 minutes. Then, they reported their state of positive affect, awe, identity-specific awe, elevation, admiration, amusement, hope, and calmness.

Results show that all awe stimuli, across elicitor type and awe type, significantly increased awe compared to the control. However, only the identity-specific awe video significantly elicited identity-specific interpersonal awe. These results solidify the concept of identity-specific awe and expand the tools available for future research on awe.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhuoya Wang
Undergraduate student | University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Sa-kiera Hudson, Sylvia Chin

[157] Normative Relationship Functions Predict Emotion Expression and Perception

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

In communal (versus transactional) relationships, emotions are more often experienced, expressed, and perceived, and they tend to be judged as more functional (Chughtai et al., 2025). The present work examines how Americans' normative expectations of relationship functions predict emotions across relational contexts. In Study 1, we find that the more a relationship is expected to fulfill the care function, the more appropriate it is to express emotion in that context, whereas the reverse holds for the transaction function. These effects were strongest for love and sadness. In Study 2, Americans reported perceiving emotions more frequently in caring relationships and less frequently in transactional ones, again most strongly for love. In Study 3, ecological momentary assessment showed that emotions were most often perceived in communal partners. The likelihood of perceiving an emotion when interacting with a partner also increased the more that relationship was normatively communal. Thus, emotions appear to facilitate care but hinder transaction, with this functional alignment predicting both the appropriateness and frequency of emotions across relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mujtaba Chughtai

Yale University

Authors

Margaret Clark, Brian Earp, Killian McLoughlin, Eva Liu, Maria Gendron

[158] On the impact of race on public park belonging

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Who feels like they belong in a public park space? Using momentary assessment methods, we collected individuals' sense of belonging in a public park of their choosing. We assessed differences in belonging between Black, Asian, White, and Latino individuals and the relationship between sharing a racial identity with those residing in the park's community and park belonging. We hypothesized that identifying as White would positively affect one's sense of park belonging more than identifying as Black, Asian, or Latino. Results showed that identifying as White ($\beta = 0.76$, CI 95% = [0.29, 1.23]) or Black ($\beta = 0.59$, CI 95% = [0.13, 1.03]) positively affected belonging while there were no effects of identifying as Latino or Asian. Furthermore, results showed a small positive main effect of sharing a racial identity with the community area ($\beta = 0.06$, CI 95% = [0.00, 0.12]). Importantly, with the inclusion of this variable identifying as Black was no longer positively related to belonging while identifying as White ($\beta = 0.29$, CI 95% = [0.09, 1.09]) remained a positive predictor and the results for Latino and Asian individuals remained nonsignificant. This study suggests that sharing a racial identity with the surrounding community area is important for Black individual's sense of belonging in parks while this matters less for White individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Janey

Ph.D. Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Marc Berm, Kathryn Schertz, Kimberly Meidenbauer, Elizabeth Janey, Kyshia Henderson

[159] One ring to rule them all: Joint (computational) modeling of four implicit attitude measures

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Attitude research has generated a plethora of "implicit" measures to index evaluations of social groups, yet these measures have only ever been combined using coarse statistical models. This project draws existing data from four tasks assessing implicit evaluative information (Bar-Anan & Nosek, 2014) and relates them to each other under a unified computational model that accounts for behavior in terms of underlying processes like attitudes, response caution, and information processing speed. Each participant finished two of four tasks: Implicit Associations Test (IAT), Brief IAT, Evaluative Priming task (EP), and Affect Misattribution Procedure (AMP). We create/use adapted versions of the Tug-of-War Model (Alaukik et al., 2024) to simultaneously model data from the four tasks, along with higher-order latent constructs describing implicit attitudes. This "joint" modeling process not only improves psychometric properties (e.g., reliability, validity), but also provides a unified theoretical account of how latent implicit attitudes can mechanistically explain behavior on multiple established implicit measures of attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abhay Alaukik

Graduate Research Assistant | University of Florida

Authors

Peter Kvam

[160] Overcoming Intuitive Biases: Targeted Attention Improves Human Detection of AI Faces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

As AI-generated faces become increasingly realistic, people face growing challenges in distinguishing real from synthetic content, raising concerns about misinformation and eroded social trust. Across two eye-tracking experiments, we tested how different viewing strategies influence detection accuracy. In Study 1 (N = 90), participants performed at chance level, with a primary focus on internal facial features (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth)—an intuitive but ineffective strategy. In contrast, greater attention to external features (e.g., clothing) was associated with better discrimination. Notably, we observed a divergence between human and machine strategies: human fixation on regions deemed diagnostic by deep-learning algorithms (e.g., hair) did not improve performance. In Study 2 (N = 123), we experimentally manipulated viewing strategies and found that the external-feature condition consistently yielded the highest accuracy, outperforming both internal-feature and holistic scanning conditions. These findings underscore the need for human-centered perceptual training and demonstrate that effective detection may require overriding intuitive but flawed heuristics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anqi Mao
Ph.D. Student | National University of Singapore

[161] Parents' Role in Regulating School Belonging Among Students With Disabilities

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

It is important for students to have strong school belonging because it leads to improved academic success and student well-being. Students with disabilities may experience a weaker sense of school belonging compared to their peers due to unique challenges and individual needs. Given their needs, their parents may also play a larger role in supporting their belonging, but current research has not addressed the role of parents in helping to regulate school belonging for students with disabilities. In a year-long longitudinal study (N=1243), we assessed how student perceptions of parental monitoring and support for school belonging differed between students with and without disabilities along with how parental support mediated changes in belonging across the school year. We found that parental support for belonging regulation matters for all students but was particularly important for students with disabilities, emphasizing the important and previously unstudied role of parents in school belonging regulation. Finally, a critical contribution of this work is the inclusion of students with disabilities, given the historical and ongoing exclusion of this group from research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Freeman
Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Christopher Rozek, Wendy Chavez, Erica Ellsworth Miller

[162] Paths to Community: Neighborhood Walkability and Migrants' Social Integration

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

How does the physical environment shape migrants' social integration? Although walkable neighborhoods have been linked to community cohesion, little research has examined their role in facilitating social adjustment among migrants. Across two large-scale studies in culturally distinct contexts, we investigate how neighborhood walkability predicts migrants' sense of community. In Study 1 (Seoul, South Korea), migrants who perceived their neighborhood and city as more walkable reported greater cohesion with neighbors. This effect was relatively stronger among recent migrants (less than one year of residence), suggesting walkability may facilitate early-stage adjustment. In Study 2 (100 largest U.S. cities), we replicated this pattern using perceived, behavioral, and objective measures of walkability. All three predicted higher social cohesion, sense of place, and sense of belonging, with relatively stronger associations among recent migrants. These findings position walkability as a key environmental factor that supports migrants' social integration and identify the early post-migration period as a critical window for community-building intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ocka Jeong
Ph.D. Student | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Shigehiro Oishi, Nick Buttrick, Youngjae Cha, Hayeon Lee, Hyun Euh

[163] Peer Relationships: Sense of Belonging for African American College Students

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

SPSP 2025 Abstract Submission

Peer Relationships: Sense of Belonging for African American College Students

The goal of this study is to investigate friendship compositions among Black college students and the impact on their sense of belonging, well-being, and academic success. Black students are often under-prepared for academic success compared to White students. McCabe (2023) indicates that the more diverse one's friendship group is, the better one's academic success opportunities. Yet, Black students are friends with others of the same race at higher rates. Students were asked about the ratio of old friends vs. new friends at the University. We hypothesized that minority students who maintain more old friendships would be negatively related to their sense of belonging, well-being, and GPA. This study asked questions regarding their friendship, sense of belonging, well-being, and GPA. The study aims to determine how friendships impact college students' sense of belonging and if the friendship composition and ethnic group memberships play a role. Results indicate that having more same-race and neighborhood friends is negatively associated with GPA and positively correlated with sense of belonging. Findings from this study can aid college students academically and socially, as well as help universities foster healthy friendships among first-year college students and beyond. Furthermore, findings can help universities develop policies that fosters belonging, well-being, and lead to academic success for Black students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jamion Burney

Graduate Student | University of Southern Mississippi

Authors

Kenji Noguchi

[164] CANCELLED

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

*POSTER

Authors

Jonathon Santo, William Bukowski

[165] Perceiver Use of Identity Cues in Categorizing Individuals as Multiracial

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

The present studies examine the extent to which three key factors -- target appearance, self-identification, and ancestry -- influence perceptions of multiracial identity. Study 1 found that politically conservative participants rated ancestry and self-identification as less important than liberal participants. Similarly, individuals higher in self-reported anti-Black prejudice rated ancestry and self-identification as less important but placed greater emphasis on appearance. Study 2 extended these findings using a design in which appearance, ancestry, and self-identification were manipulated independently. Results showed that all three factors significantly influenced whether a target was categorized as multiracial, suggesting that each contributes unique explanatory value. Several higher-order interactions were also observed, indicating that the influence of each factor may depend on the presence or combination of others. Together, these studies demonstrate how appearance, self-identification, and ancestry, each previously identified as influential in isolation, interact and compete in perceivers' racial categorizations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Debbie Ma

Professor | Csun

Authors

Jen Prall, Daniel Fadavi, Justin Kantner, Debbie Ma

[166] Dominance and Desire: Gendered Perceptions of Dominance and Submission

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Attribution biases (e.g., fundamental attribution error) shape how people explain others' behaviors, potentially blaming personal failings for times of adversity. Low socioeconomic status (SES) individuals frequently face harsher dispositional judgements even when systemic barriers exist. We examined how SES influences attribution patterns for both negative and positive events. Participants (N=250, Mage=45.4, SD=13.3, 76.9% White) varying in SES were recruited from Prolific and completed a self-attribution questionnaire and evaluated vignettes depicting high- and low-SES targets experiencing negative or positive outcomes. After each scenario, participants rated dispositional and situational causes. Consistent with hypotheses, high-SES observers over attributed low-SES targets misfortunes to dispositional factors, whereas low-SES participants emphasized situational factors for their own setbacks. Attribution patterns for successes differed, indicating that social expectations shape efficacy-related variables. These offer new evidence on how systemic inequality influences cognitive biases and suggest strategies for counteracting stereotypes and empowering disadvantaged groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Gritzenbach

Student | Butler University

Authors

Conor O'Dea

[167] Perceptions of Socioeconomic Status Contribute to Attributional Biases

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

People often engage in episodic counterfactual thinking, in which they simulate alternative ways in which past events might have occurred. Prior research has shown that the perceived plausibility of episodic counterfactual simulations influences judgments of regret, mood, prosocial behavior, and false memories. However, knowledge about the factors influencing the perceived plausibility of episodic counterfactuals is limited or derived from studies using vignettes or semantic-based hypothetical scenarios, rather than experience-based scenarios. In our study, we explored three potential factors that may influence the perceived plausibility of episodic counterfactual thoughts: difficulty of generating the simulation, the vividness of the simulation, and a sampling process that prioritizes plausible alternatives. Overall, our findings suggest that the perceived plausibility of an episodic counterfactual simulation may in part depend on its vividness and sampling order, but it does not depend on how difficult it feels to imagine it.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alli Flondro

Illinois State University

Authors

Kelly Clemens, Alli M. Flondro, Calvin Putterlik

[168] Plausibility of episodic counterfactual thoughts is not dependent on simulation difficulty

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

TikTok use has increased from 2% in 2019 to 67% in 2022. What currently is not known is how the use of TikTok and the reasons for TikTok have evolved over time. Additionally, it remains unclear how TikTok is used regarding activism and social movements. Given the pervasive use of TikTok, particularly among emerging adults, the current study seeks to achieve three goals: 1) understand how emerging adults' use of TikTok has changed over time; 2) identify changes in emerging adults' motivations to use TikTok over time; and 3) discuss how these changes influence participation in social movements and public discourse. Data for this qualitative, descriptive study comes from 15 semi-structured interviews and two focus groups (N = 8) completed by emerging adults recruited through convenience and snowball sampling. Using reflexive thematic analyses, themes revealed changing their use from consuming to creating content, although the motivation for using TikTok to socialize has remained the same. Regarding social movements and public discourse, participants are wary of misinformation and believe that the algorithm of the app promotes polarization of important political issues and activism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaylee Miceli

PhD Student | Duke University

Authors

Ricardo Morales-Torres, Felipe De Brigard

[169] Polarization and Participation: The Evolution of TikTok Behaviors and Motivations and Consequences for Social Movements and Public Discourse

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Gratitude is linked to positive social interactions in the real world but we have yet to uncover its role in social media. Adolescents can have varying emotional responses to social media and antecedents to positive social media responses remain understudied. This longitudinal study examined bidirectional associations in U.S. adolescents' (n = 1661) self-reported gratitude and positive and negative social media emotional responses at three time points. Negative social media emotional responses prospectively predict lower gratitude (b = -.07, p < .001) and gratitude prospectively predict higher positive social media emotional responses (b = .12, p < .001). The indirect effect was significant (p = 0.03), suggesting that negative social media experiences may reduce future positive social media experiences by lowering gratitude. This bidirectional pattern aligns with Fredrickson's broaden-and-build theory which posits that positive emotions build social and psychological resources in a reinforcing upward spiral of well-being. Fostering gratitude could improve adolescents' experiences on social media and enhance their well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sofia Rhorer

Undergraduate Student | Baylor University

Authors

Miya Shimada, Cassidy Dudley, Micheal Langlais

[170] Positive Emotion in the Digital World: Bidirectional Associations between Adolescents' Gratitude and Social Media Experiences

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

This study investigated predictors of retention among undergraduate Psychology students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, with a focus on geographic origin, ethnic background, and socioeconomic status as potential factors influencing dropout and transfer rates. Given the geographic isolation and unique cultural environment of Hawai'i, students transitioning from other states or countries face heightened challenges in cultural adjustment, belonging, and persistence. To examine these dynamics, n = 150 freshmen and sophomores completed a survey reporting demographic information along with measures of anxiety, depression, and belonging. Students local to Hawaii reported an increased willingness to stay in college, barring financial and work schedule difficulties. Students from the continental U.S. reported increased importance of participating in school-associated activities (e.g., academic clubs or sports), pointing toward different desires and avenues of college satisfaction among local vs. non-local students. The findings provide actionable insights to strengthen student support and retention initiatives for students from different backgrounds.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rhetta Power

Graduate Student | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Barbara Fredrickson, Anne Maheux, Jacqueline Nesi

[171] Predictors of Undergraduate Retention at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Attribute amnesia is a counter-intuitive cognitive phenomenon in which people fail to identify the identity of a target (letter, number, schematic, picture, poetry, etc.) shortly after using a key feature of said target to report its spatial location. However, when human faces were used as targets in past attribute amnesia research, the choice of stimuli did not factor in several important emotion and face perception considerations, which undermined the validity of the results. Current studies use real human faces, controlling for potential confounding factors (e.g., same age/race bias) in facial perception, and employ a large sample size for statistical power, in order to investigate the generalizability of and boundary conditions of attribute amnesia. To do this, Experiment 1 compares whether happy versus angry expressions are more likely to escape attribute amnesia. Experiment 2 then explores whether emotion trumps face identity in memory.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maximillian Soares Miehstein

Ph.D. Candidate | University of Hawaii at Manoa

Authors

Maximillian Soares Miehstein, Ashley Maynard

[172] Primacy of Emotion over Identity in Attribute Amnesia

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

The experiences of the ostracized have been well-examined, leading to a shift towards studying ostracizers. Recent work emphasized ostracism motives, namely punitive and protective motives in understanding ostracizer experiences (Iannuzzelli, 2024) . The present work developed a 10-item Ostracism Motives Scale for measuring these constructs. In both the experimental and control condition, participants (n=190) played a virtual ball tossing game with two ostensible players. In the control condition, these players threw the ball at a regular interval. In the experimental condition, one of the players took 10 seconds to toss the ball, a manipulation shown to elicit ostracism behavior (Wesselmann et al., 2013). Participants in the experimental condition scored higher on punishment (t(180) = 7.71 p < .001) and protective (t(178) = 5.33, p < .001) motives. Punishment (α = .93) and protective (α = .90) subscales showed internal consistency. Exploratory factor analyses supported a two-factor solution. Punishment (.70-.93) and protective (.43-.98) items loaded cleanly onto their respective factors. The current work provides a foundation for measurement development of ostracism motives .

*POSTER

Speaker



Brian Xu

Penn State University

Authors

Reginald Adams

[173] Protection & Punishment: A Measure for Ostracism Motives

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Despite consensus that climate change poses serious threat to human health and well-being, individual-level perceptions are wrought with ambiguity, due in part to climate change's diffuse impacts. Understanding people's prototypes (mental representations) of specific climate impacts is key to understanding threat perception. Three registered studies (N = 1765) examined how prototypes of people and places affected by climate change predicted people's threat appraisals and environmental intentions. In all studies, participants generated prototypes and evaluated their prototypes' features. In Study 3, participants also completed a speeded evaluation task to examine implicit prototype evaluations. Explicit person prototypes viewed as self-relevant, socially valued, and personally valued, and explicit place prototypes that evoked greater perceptions of fit, authenticity, attachment, and self-relevance each predicted more pro-environmental intentions. These relationships were mediated by reduced psychological distance from climate change and increased climate concern. Our findings highlight the importance of socioecological cognition in shaping environmental perceptions and action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Phuc Dang

Ph. D. Student | Purdue University

[174] Prototypes of Climate Impacts Predict Threat Appraisals and Pro-Environmental Intentions

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Despite consensus that climate change poses serious threat to human health and well-being, individual-level perceptions are wrought with ambiguity, due in part to climate change's diffuse impacts. Understanding people's prototypes (mental representations) of specific climate impacts is key to understanding threat perception. Three registered studies (N = 1765) examined how prototypes of people and places affected by climate change predicted people's threat appraisals and environmental intentions. In all studies, participants generated prototypes and evaluated their prototypes' features. In Study 3, participants also completed a speeded evaluation task to examine implicit prototype evaluations. Explicit person prototypes viewed as self-relevant, socially valued, and personally valued, and explicit place prototypes that evoked greater perceptions of fit, authenticity, attachment, and self-relevance each predicted more pro-environmental intentions. These relationships were mediated by reduced psychological distance from climate change and increased climate concern. Our findings highlight the importance of socioecological cognition in shaping environmental perceptions and action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marjorie Prokosch

Assistant Professor | Rochester Institute of Technology

Authors

Ashley Krause

[175] Pursuing happiness: The impact of happiness goals versus behavioral goals

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Mattering measures whether a person feels welcome and valued at college (Flett et al., 2019). Antimattering measures feelings of invisibility and being devalued. Few studies have examined racial differences in either variable. Our prior work suggests these variables may function differently for students of color compared to White students. This study surveyed 96 students of color attending PWIs. We assessed how mattering and antimattering were related to racialized trauma (RT), collective self-esteem (CSE), minority spotlight effect (MS), and code-switching (CS). As expected, mattering predicted higher CSE and lower RT. Antimattering predicted lower CSE and higher RT. Code switching was not related to mattering, but was positively related to antimattering suggesting that frequent code switching may communicate that the student's authentic self is devalued. MS was positively related to mattering but not related to antimattering. One interpretation is that being hypervisible is understood as adding value to the college's image. MS was also related to higher CSE. We would expect hypervisibility to have negative side effects and, indeed, it was predictive of higher racialized trauma.

*POSTER

Speaker



Devlin O'Keefe

Ph.D. Student | University of California, Santa Barbars

Authors

Dolores Albarracin, Shaon Lahiri

[176] Racialized Trauma and Mattering at PWIs

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Cognitive reappraisal is an emotion regulation strategy that involves reinterpreting an emotional situation to lessen its emotional impact. Despite the benefits of cognitive reappraisal in reducing negative emotion and improving psychological wellbeing, not everyone uses cognitive reappraisal successfully. In the current study, we tested the relationship between executive functioning and cognitive reappraisal ability in daily life. Participants from the local community (N = 203; ages 18-55) participated in a two-week experience sampling study wherein they completed brief surveys throughout the day assessing the occurrence of stressful events, appraisals of the events, momentary emotional states, and emotion regulation. Between Weeks 1 and 2, participants completed tasks of executive functioning (inhibition, working memory, shifting) and were trained to use cognitive reappraisal in response to daily stress in the upcoming week. We predict that negative emotional responses to stress will be lower during the week when participants use cognitive reappraisal, and that those higher (vs. lower) in executive functioning will show the largest effect of reappraisal training.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ibrahim Sidibeh

Muhlenberg College

Authors

Connie Wolfe, Kenneth Michniewicz

[177] Re-thinking stress: Executive functioning and reappraisal ability in daily life

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Despite the high profitability and profound economic impact of the high-tech market, success in this market is challenging due to the unpredictable nature of consumer desires. This research introduces the emotion of awe as a novel driver of consumer desire for high-tech products. We propose that awe, by stimulating a desire for psychological richness (i.e., the pursuit of novel and perspective-changing experiences), increases consumers' preference for high-tech offerings. Eight studies, employing a multi-method approach (including lab experiments and a field study) and a diverse array of products, provide robust evidence for this effect. Furthermore, we establish two theoretically-grounded boundary conditions. The effect of awe is attenuated (1) for products with incremental (vs. radical) innovations and (2) when marketing communications employ schema-congruent (vs. schema-incongruent) language. This work contributes to the literature on emotion and consumer behavior by delineating the unique influence of awe on technology adoption and by identifying psychological richness as a key underlying mechanism. Our findings also provide managers with actionable strategies for effectively positioning and communicating high-tech products.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Katie Garrison**
Assistant Professor | University of Alabama

Authors

Karen Akin, Elizabeth Ennis-Gremillion, James Ammons, Amelia Geist, Jakai Lindquist

[178] Seeking a Richer Life: How Awe Drives the Desire for High-Tech Adoption

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

White Americans are often reluctant to acknowledge their own racial privilege because it threatens their meritocratic worldview and positive group image. Rather than mitigating threat via self-affirmation as in past research, we tested how prompting White Americans to lean into the threat by seeking discomfort affects their motivation to understand White privilege. Across 2 pre-registered studies (N = 721), White American adults were either given no instructions (control) or were instructed to seek discomfort or seek to learn as they engaged with White privilege information. In Study 1, after seeing historical examples of White privilege, those in the seeking discomfort condition (vs. learning or control) expressed greater motivation to learn more about White Privilege. In Study 2, participants took a fake "White privilege test" and learned that they are more privileged than average, but we found no differences in self-reported motivation to learn about White privilege. We found mixed results for the seeking discomfort intervention effectiveness, but more research is needed to increase White Americans' motivation to understand their own White Privilege.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Yuan Wenying**
Student | School of Psychological and Cognitive Sciences, Peking University

Authors

Tonglin Jiang, Xuan Li

[179] Seeking Discomfort: Increasing White American's Motivation to Understand their Racial Privilege

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

"White Americans are often reluctant to acknowledge their own racial privilege because it threatens their meritocratic worldview and positive group image. Rather than mitigating threat via self-affirmation as in past research, we tested how prompting White Americans to lean into the threat by seeking discomfort affects their motivation to understand White privilege. Across 2 pre-registered studies (N = 721), White American adults were either given no instructions (control) or were instructed to seek discomfort or seek to learn as they engaged with White privilege information. In Study 1, after seeing historical examples of White privilege, those in the seeking discomfort condition (vs. learning or control) expressed greater motivation to learn more about White Privilege. In Study 2, participants took a fake "White privilege test" and learned that they are more privileged than average, but we found no differences in self-reported motivation to learn about White privilege. We found mixed results for the seeking discomfort intervention effectiveness, but more research is needed to increase White Americans' motivation to understand their own White Privilege."

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Samantha Goldman**
Graduate Student | Villanova University

Authors

Caitlyn Yantis, Michael Perez

[180] Selection of Emotional Situations: Effects of Current Emotional State

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Older adults generally have higher-quality relationships than younger adults. According to strength and vulnerability integration model, this may be because older adults tend to use adaptive strategies in response to interpersonal stress, such as spending time alone rather than confronting others. Talking to themselves may serve as an intrapersonal emotion regulation strategy. This study used ecological momentary assessments and naturalistic audio recordings to investigate self-talk—audible speech when alone. Every three hours for 5–6 days, older adults (N = 333; Mage=73.9) reported interpersonal stress, whether they were alone during that interval, and mood . Electronically Activated Recorders captured 30-second sound snippets every 7 minutes. Of 109,609 snippets, 918 involved self-talk. Multilevel models showed that on days when older adults had more interpersonal stress, they engaged in more self-talk. Moreover, higher interpersonal stress was linked with worse daily mood, but this effect was attenuated on days participants engaged in more self-talk. Future research should use naturalistic methods to examine self-talk as a means of emotion regulation in other contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Conrado Eiroa-Solans
Berkeley

[181] Self-Talk Regulates Negative Emotions in Late Life: A Naturalistic Approach

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Activation of categorical knowledge of emotions can guide emotion inferences. Previous work found that labeling behavior, which activates idiosyncratic conceptual knowledge, leads to divergence from group consensus in when an emotion event occurs. However, the causal role of emotion concept in this process remains unclear. Here, we examine this by manipulating concepts. We randomly assigned participants to one of two conditions. In the emotion condition, we trained participants on emotion concepts with definitions and situations. In the control condition, participants received training in a similar format but on personality concepts. Before and after training, both groups completed the Emotion Segmentation Paradigm, where they indicated emotion change only when they had an emotional label in mind. We located timepoints where the group collectively agreed that emotions occurred (i.e., consensus events). We found that compared to the control training group, the emotion training group trended towards identifying more consensus events in the post-training phase (beta=0.03, p=0.08), suggesting that shared conceptual knowledge may converge the identification of emotion events.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sibo Gao
PhD Student | The University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Karen Fingerman

[182] Shared Conceptual Knowledge Predicts Convergence in Identification of Emotion Events

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

In three studies, we examined whether people bolster (or protect) their sense of belonging by shifting their focus to (or away from) certain social identities. In Study 1, 77 participants received accepting or rejecting feedback from ostensible others with whom they shared one identity (race or gender) but not another. Results revealed a shift in focus away from the identity shared with the rejecter and toward the identity shared with the acceptor. In Study 2, 191 participants from Texas and California completed a social-media-like task, Ostracism Online, with ostensible others from the same state. They were randomly assigned to receive different numbers of “likes” on this task: very few (exclusion), average (inclusion), more than average (overinclusion). Results revealed that participants who were excluded by their fellow state residents reported identifying less with their state than those who were included or overincluded. We plan to pre-register Study 3 (N=192) and replicate the prior study using different identities (e.g., Welsh, Scottish). Such a study would provide additional support for the notion that people shift their identity focus to protect from social threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhimeng Li
PhD Student | Yale University

Authors

Maria Gendron, Jolie Wormwood

[183] Shifting Focus: A Self-Protective Strategy for the Rejected

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

The current project demonstrates the usefulness of a Legal Moral Matrix (LMM) to understand tolerance for unwelcome speech. Results revealed that legal and moral judgments about controversial speech may be more similar than commonly believed. Data from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's annual poll of social and political attitudes was used to validate the LMM as a conceptual framework for visualizing attitudes. Over 150,000 volunteers participated (spanning 2020-24). There were 16 questions to gauge moral tolerance for potentially offensive speakers, and 4 questions to measure the legality of speech obstruction. Scores provided coordinates for graphic illustration of moral and legal judgments on a Cartesian grid, revealing differences were significant, but graphically proximate and numerically small. Effect sizes for political ideology were medium to large, with liberals and conservatives revealing expected biases on hot-button issues, but the explanatory usefulness of race and gender was negligible. Mapping moral and legal judgements about controversial speech may provide shared space for a discussion of our similarities, rather than our differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Knowles

Associate Professor of Psychology | Franklin & Marshall College

Authors

Binhui Wang, Samantha Navin, Lena Smith

[184] Situating Legal-Moral Judgements Using Our Political Orientation Compass

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

College students who receive academic warnings, compared to similarly performing peers who do not, leave college at higher rates. This is, in part, because traditional warnings sharpen the pressing psychological questions that struggling students wrestle with: 'Do I belong? Am I capable? Am I respected?' Across three surveys and one field study, we redesigned academic warning notifications to offer up more adaptive answers to students' questions about belonging, capability, and dignity, and compared these revised messages to traditional warnings. Overwhelmingly, surveyed students preferred revised notifications, anticipating more positive feelings (e.g., hope, determination), fewer negative feelings (e.g., shame, guilt), and a greater likelihood of seeking support (e.g., meeting with a professor/advisor, using tutoring services). Encouraged by these promising results, we rolled out the revised notification at our institution and are assessing its impact on academic performance and retention. We will discuss how our iterative revision process unfolded, stumbling blocks we encountered implementing change across multiple institutional areas, and our plans for continued improvement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anabella Dennenno

Authors

Elizabeth Spievak, Nafees Alam

[185] Skip the 'WARNING!' Reframing academic notifications to motivate and support

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Depression reflects complex social and emotional processes that traditional assessments often fail to capture. Social media offers continuous traces of individuals' interactions, self-expression, and daily behaviors, providing a window into real-world psychological life. Our meta-analysis of 66 studies (2022–2025) shows that over 80% of models rely solely on text, while only 6% incorporate multimodal signals such as posting times and shared images. Multimodal approaches consistently improve detection, suggesting that depressive patterns emerge not only in language but also in online social behavior. Models using deep contextual embeddings (e.g., BERT, RoBERTa) further enhance user-level prediction, surpassing traditional lexicon-based or statistical features. We propose a framework that integrates textual, behavioral, and visual social media data to predict depression severity, linking online engagement, attention, and self-presentation to mental health outcomes. This approach offers scalable, population-level insights while grounding AI predictions in social-psychological theory.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Rogers

Student | Sacred Heart University

Authors

Kathryn Kroeper, Sophia Rogers, Michele Chu, Elizabeth Luoma, Amanda Moras

[186] Social Exclusion and Facial Trustworthiness Interact to Influence Recognition of Sad and Fear Expressions

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Social exclusion alters how individuals interpret social information, yet little is known about how exclusion interacts with facial trustworthiness to shape emotion recognition. In the present experiment ($n = 113$), we tested whether social exclusion moderates the relationship between facial trustworthiness and emotion recognition across happy, sad, anger, and fear expressions. Findings reveal that exclusion interacts with facial trustworthiness to influence recognition of sad and fear expressions, but in divergent directions. For fear expressions, excluded participants showed higher accuracy than included participants when judging low- and high-trust faces. For sad expressions, although accuracy increased as facial trustworthiness increased for both excluded and included participants, exclusion attenuated this effect. These findings highlight how social exclusion dynamically shapes the integration of facial trustworthiness judgments and emotion recognition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sabina Raja

PhD Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Anita Restrepo, Elizabeth P. Gaillard, Prince Parker, Meghna Anand, Greg J. Norman

[187] Social Isolation's Effects on American Youths' Beliefs

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Using two longitudinal panel studies conducted at a large Midwestern university, we examined the effects of different forms of social isolation on the influence of social affiliates on a range of American college students' beliefs. Structural equation modeling showed that social isolation was generally associated with belief shift towards peers over time. However, higher feelings of loneliness were broadly associated with lower levels of belief shift towards peers. These findings suggest that the relationship between social isolation and beliefs over time should be further studied.

*POSTER

Speaker



Edward Litwin

Graduate Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Daniel Molden

[188] Social Rejection, Social Support, and Cognition Among LGBTQ+ Young Adults

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

LGBTQ people face unique identity-based stressors (e.g., LGBTQ social rejection) that can negatively impact health and cognition (e.g., executive functioning, risk-taking). While minority stress theory has been widely used to explain mental health disparities in this group, less is known about its application to understanding cognition and whether social support acts as a buffer. Using Cyberball, we investigate how the identity of a rejector (LGBTQ vs. non-LGBTQ) and supporter (LGBTQ vs. non-LGBTQ vs. none)–primed using a reflective writing task following rejection–influences cognition among LGBTQ young adults, as well as whether identity centrality moderates these effects. We assess risk-taking via the Columbia Card Task and executive functioning via Raven's Progressive Matrices problems. We expect in-group (LGBTQ) rejection to impair cognition, in-group support to buffer these effects, and for rejector and supporter identity to interact when matched, particularly for those with high identity centrality. Findings will clarify cognitive effects of stigma and support in LGBTQ populations, thus offering insight into how tailored social support might promote resilience.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaylee Foor

Graduate Student | Carnegie Mellon University

Authors

Michael Trujillo, Kaylee Foor

[189] Spatial Location Changes How Faces Are Categorized

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Spatial location is important to the human mind, with where someone appears in space even conveying attributes like dominance and status. Past work suggests that where someone is located is used to disambiguate gender identity. Given that race groups are stereotyped differently on traits like dominance, agency, status, and power, we hypothesized that people would also use where someone is located to disambiguate race. To test this, we morphed Asian and Black faces from the Chicago Face Database to create a set of racially ambiguous stimuli. On each of 288 trials, participants saw face pairs with the task of identifying whether the post-cued face looked more prototypically Black (or Asian, depending on condition). In the horizontal block, faces appeared left and right of fixation. In the vertical block, faces appeared above and below fixation. Participants perceived faces located left or high as more Asian. In other words, a face presented left or high in space needed to be slightly more prototypically Black to appear subjectively neutral. We discuss mechanisms of this finding, including its roots in perceptual processing vs response bias and its links to stereotyping.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Ruskey

Graduate Student | University of Tennessee

Authors

Dr. Sarah Lamer

[190] Spatio-Affective Consistency: How Culturally Shared Sentiments Organize Social Space

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Humans mentally map the social world based on who belongs with whom. Grounded in Heider's balance theory, we test the "spatio-affective consistency" hypothesis: that expected physical distance between groups reflects their culturally-shared affective similarity. We test this principle across three pre-registered, multi-method studies.

First, we used a foundational EPA (Evaluation, Potency, Activity) dictionary of culturally-shared meanings from a large, representative French sample. In Study 1 (N=200), these cultural ratings predicted individual choices in a forced-choice task using spatially-matched stimuli. Participants found affectively consistent arrangements (where physical and EPA distances align) more plausible for both masculine and feminine groups of social identities.

In Studies 2 and 3 (N=145, N=276), this macro-level cultural data predicted how individuals arranged social identities on a map. The physical distances created by individuals were predicted by a significant three-way interaction between the cultural E, P, and A distances. Aggregated across participants, this model explained 47% of the variance in the aggregated map, demonstrating how a shared cultural framework gives rise to an emergent social structure from individual-level cognitions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christophe Blaison

Authors

Christophe Blaison, Tania Noël, Diego Dametto, Dardenne Benoît, Tobias Schröd

[191] Speaking up for peers in STEM: The role of interpersonal and structural belonging

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Students frequently encounter social exclusion in school, a challenge that may lead to disengagement or attrition. These issues can also be particularly pronounced in STEM classrooms, which are historically marked by competitiveness and exclusivity. Thus, the current study examines the role of STEM belonging in predicting high school students' likelihood to respond to peer exclusion. Participants included 494 high school students from five public schools in the United States. We employ structural equation modeling to investigate the relationships of both interpersonal factors (social connectedness) and structural features (same-race representation and norms of inclusivity)—which can convey belonging in STEM—with students' likelihood to respond to peer exclusion. We hypothesize that STEM connectedness, representation, and inclusivity will each positively predict students' likelihood to respond to peer exclusion. We also predict that the importance of representation and inclusivity will be especially pronounced among students of color. This work can inform interventions that create more welcoming STEM environments, fuel positive social interactions, and encourage persistence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Spradling

Graduate Student | University of Virginia

Authors

Channing Mathews

[192] Stability and change in implicit and explicit judgments of brilliant women and men in response to counterevidence

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Women continue to be underrepresented in fields that emphasize high intellectual talent and gender bias has been raised as one of the factors contributing to this imbalance. Previous work has found that people tend to associate brilliance with men (vs. women) and boys (vs. girls). Yet, most of this research has focused on understanding how people form brilliance judgments. Less is known about when and how people change their impressions after learning new information. We extend prior work by examining how people implicitly and explicitly update brilliance impressions for women and men, in response to counterevidence. In Studies 1-2, we examined people's impressions of targets described as brilliant in two different domains (i.e., intelligence and music) and found that people formed equivalent brilliant impressions for women and men. We used an updating paradigm in Studies 3-4 and found that people updated brilliance impressions differently depending on the strength of the counterevidence. Contrary to predictions, there is no evidence of gendered updating in the music domain. We are running a new study (Study 5) to examine whether these results generalize in the intelligence domain.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ming Ma

Graduate Student | Yale University

Authors

Melissa Ferguson

[193] State Authenticity and Approach–Avoidance Intentions: Examining the Moderating Role of Openness

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Individuals typically gravitate toward environments that foster a sense of authenticity—a feeling of alignment with one’s true self—while avoiding those that evoke feelings of inauthenticity. Building on the State Authenticity as Fit to Environment model, this study tested whether the openness personality trait moderated links between perceived state authenticity and approach-avoidance tendencies in an environment. Using an experience sampling design ($N = 53$), participants reported perceptions of state authenticity and willingness to return to the current setting three times daily over two weeks. Multilevel analyses confirmed that feeling more authentic predicted greater willingness to revisit the current environment. Higher average authenticity across time also corresponded to generally high return willingness. Contrary to predictions, openness did not moderate these associations, suggesting that individual openness levels may not alter state authenticity’s impact on approach willingness. These findings highlight state authenticity’s robust influence on approach-avoidance intentions and the importance of further exploring individual nuances in tolerating inauthentic environments.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Frankie Yaying Zhong**
Stanford University

Authors

Toni Schmader, Yingchi Guo

[194] State vs. Trait: Does Loneliness Make Children Prosocial or Aggressive?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Loneliness is often reported as a driver of maladaptive outcomes, such as aggression, yet existing accounts also suggest that it may promote prosociality as a way of regaining connection. In the current study, we addressed this paradox in a longitudinal dataset of 465 children ($N=1542$ observations; $Mage=8.86$) from five public schools, followed for 2 years across 4 waves. Relationships between self-reported loneliness and peer-rated aggressive and prosocial behaviors were assessed in a cross-classified, multilevel cross-lagged model. Within-person level increases in loneliness were followed by increases in prosocial behavior, suggesting that transient loneliness may prompt attempts to seek social reconnection. At the between-person level, however, higher loneliness was associated with marginal increases in aggression and lower prosocial behavior, suggesting that chronic loneliness may signal maladjustment. Findings reconcile conflicting perspectives by suggesting that acute loneliness might motivate prosocial efforts to restore belonging, whereas enduring loneliness may lead to maladaptive social behaviors. Ongoing work will examine classroom-level norms as potential moderators.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Jinsol Chung**
PhD Candidate | University of Southern California

Authors

Wendy Troop-Gordon, Elisa Baek

[195] Status Differences in Prospect and Refuge Importance in Public Spaces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Appleton (1975) proposed that people prefer spaces that provide resource opportunities (prospect) and safety from threat (refuge). Across multiple studies, students and community members identified a public space that they commonly used and rated it on greenness, openness, order, prospect, refuge, and sense of place before answering demographic questions. In an exploratory analysis of student responses, Asian ($n = 122$) and Latine ($n = 193$) students’ attachment to campus spaces was predicted by refuge (both $p < .013$) but not prospect (both $p > .44$), whereas white ($n = 477$) students’ attachment to campus spaces was predicted by prospect ($p < .001$) and not refuge ($p = .061$). A confirmatory analysis of community member responses yielded a similar pattern: Black ($n = 226$) and Latine ($n = 78$) sense of place was predicted by refuge (both $p < .001$) but not prospect (both $p > .15$), whereas white ($n = 363$) sense of place was predicted by both (both $p < .022$). Thus, the importance of refuge may differ with social status, with lower-status individuals more sensitive to safety concerns. Sociocultural factors such as belonging and inclusion may shape how spaces are perceived and valued.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Ellen Dulaney**
Adjunct Faculty | DePaul Univ.

Authors

Mattie Kujawski, Caitlin Ailsworth, Kimberly Quinn

[196] Stereotypic Anchoring-and-Adjustment in Social Inferences About Outgroup Targets

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

How do people make sense of other minds? One strategy is to use one's own mental states as an anchor for inferring others' mental states, and then adjust for differences between the self and others. Here, we test if this anchoring-and-adjustment process also underlies stereotyping. That is, when making inferences about an outgroup target, do people use stereotypes about the outgroup as an anchor, and then adjust from such stereotypes to account for target-specific information? Three studies (Ntotal = 2,093) examined this proposition in two different intergroup contexts (political parties, Studies 1–2; university affiliation, Study 3). Participants rated their outgroup and an outgroup target on traits (Studies 1–2) and preferences and habits (Study 3), and response times for target ratings were recorded. As predicted, outgroup–target discrepancy was positively associated with response time—the more discrepant target ratings were from outgroup ratings, the longer participants took to rate targets, reflecting more adjustment. These findings suggest that social inferences in intergroup contexts can also be understood through the lens of anchoring-and-adjustment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gale Chong

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Y. Andre Wang, Andrew Todd

[197] Stimulus individuability, not modality, impacts Implicit Association Test (IAT) performance

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Humans encounter social information as words and images. We examined whether the modality (words vs. images) of Implicit Association Test (IAT) category and attribute stimuli affects the magnitude of implicit attitude effects. Using Asian/White–good/bad IATs as a case study, four experiments (N = 2,262) showed no modality effects: image and word stimuli produced equivalent pro-White/anti-Asian bias across both Asian/White category stimuli (cultural artifacts like sushi vs. hot dog) and good/bad attribute stimuli (like flower vs. insect). However, we discovered a novel moderator of implicit attitudes that we term stimulus individuability, or the degree to which a stimulus elicits representations of unique individuals vs. entire groups. Regardless of modality, more individuable category stimuli (faces, full names) elicited lower pro-White/anti-Asian bias than less individuable category stimuli (last names, category labels). As such, IATs can be constructed in either modality without concern. However, individuability strongly modulates implicit attitudes expressed toward social groups; in fact, it even impacts performance on a measure that requires category-based responding.

*POSTER

Speaker



Veranja Suneragiri Liyanage

Research Assistant | Harvard University

Authors

Mahzarin Banaji, Benedek Kurdi

[198] Subgroup Support and Threat on Well-being for LGBTQ2S+ Individuals

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Individuals within the LGBTQ2S+ community can identify to their community as a whole, as well as specific subgroups (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity). We tested how experiencing support and threat towards one's subgroup, both within and outside the LGBTQ2S+ community, impact well-being. Gender minorities reported higher threat and lower support from outside the community, and lower well-being, compared to cisgender individuals. Racial minorities reported lower support from within and outside the community compared to white individuals. For white (n = 166) and cisgender (n = 189) individuals, support and threat from outside the community significantly predicted well-being. For racial minorities (n = 87), threat from outside the community significantly predicted well-being. For gender minorities (n = 61), threat from within the community significantly predicted well-being. These results suggest the importance of assessing support and threat from multiple sources to better understand well-being in a community of intersecting identities. Future research should explore mechanisms for these differences, such as developed resilience to forms of threat, change over time, and societal impacts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kamila Szczylowski

PhD Student | Wilfrid Laurier University

Authors

Frank Kachanoff

[199] Sustaining Belonging Through Adversity: Wise Interventions Eliminate Gender Gaps and Foster Growth Trajectories in STEM Doctoral Education

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

How do brief interventions sustain belonging in high-stakes, identity-threatening environments like STEM PhD programs, where attrition is highest during the first year, especially for women? This longitudinal field experiment (N = 651) tested the effects of two wise interventions—Values Affirmation and Social-Belonging—on students' week-to-week and daily sense of belonging. Using daily experience sampling and weekly surveys, we modeled belonging trajectories and responses to "bad" advisor meetings, defined idiographically. At baseline, women in the control condition reported significantly lower belonging than men. Both interventions eliminated this gender gap and fostered more adaptive trajectories across the first year. Following negative advisor meetings, intervention participants experienced smaller immediate declines and faster recovery. In a context marked by persistent uncertainty, these findings show how timely, psychologically precise interventions can buffer recursive threat, sustain belonging through adversity, and promote resilience—advancing equity in STEM doctoral education, where mentoring meetings can serve as turning points in belonging.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Steve Juarez**
PhD Candidate | Stanford University

Authors

Geoffrey Cohen, Steve Juarez, Jonathan Cook

[200] Taking “Thank You” to Heart: Responses to Gratitude Shape its Emotional and Relational Benefits

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Gratitude is a vital emotion that strengthens health and relationships (Algoe, 2012), and yet, we know nothing about how people respond to gratitude. Targets could accept, re-affirm, and internalize the gratitude, or deflect, diminish, or disagree with the gratitude. Across four datasets of video-recorded gratitude conversations, trained coders rated recipients' acceptance and rejection/dismissal. Integrative data analysis will be used to pool across datasets for final analysis. We will test preregistered hypotheses that target acceptance is associated with higher well-being for both partners while target rejection is associated with lower well-being for both partners. We will also test if targets higher in anxious or avoidant attachment are less likely to accept, and more likely to reject, their partner's gratitude. Altogether, this work will advance understanding of gratitude as an interpersonal communication process. As gratitude is an effective well-being intervention, the current work contributes to dialogue on the skillful expression of gratitude by highlighting target responses as key to fostering gratitude, strengthening relationships, and boosting well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Claire Shimshock**
University of Rochester

Authors

Sara Algoe, Bonnie Le, Zoe Hansen

[201] Taking an intersectional perspective on the relationship between labels and category induction

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Previous work with children indicates that labels facilitate the use of single social categories (e.g. gender or race) in property and group membership induction. The present work takes an intersectional lens by examining whether children use the intersection of social categories (race and gender) during the induction process and how labels aid in that process. Children (planned N=60, current N=12) were first shown a target image (e.g. black woman) and a maximal contrast image (e.g. white man) and were then asked if each of the test images (4 people varying in race and gender) had the same property and group membership as the target image. Preliminary results suggest that children account for both race and gender when inducing group membership (rather than focusing on only one dimension), and patterns suggest that this intersectionality may be stronger when a label is provided. This work has implications for understanding how children induce property and group membership—key processes underlying the development of stereotyping and prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Eliana Brown**
Haverford College

Authors

Ryan Lei, Alexander S. LaTourrette

[202] Testing the "You're Not Anonymous" Cyberbullying Intervention

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Across two studies, we tested the efficacy of the You're Not Anonymous (YNA) cyberbullying intervention on US adults. In Study 1 (N = 349), participants were randomly assigned to view the YNA video – one that focused on how online anonymity is a myth and

those who engage in nefarious online behaviors under the guise of anonymity are often caught – or the control video – one that focused on how online communication is often void of sarcasm, tone of voice, etc., which leads to gaffes. Online disinhibition (OD) – the degree to which one acts differently online – was measured before and after the video. Results showed that participants in the YNA had a significantly steeper decrease in OD compared to those in the control condition. Study 2 (N = 61) employed a similar procedure, except cyberbullying expectations were assessed. Results from Study 2 replicated Study 1 – YNA participants had a significantly steeper decrease in OD than control participants. Moreover, results showed that post-video OD mediated the relationship between condition and cyberbullying expectations. Overall, results showed YNA efficacy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emma Shawn
Kansas State University

Authors

Jordan Scott, Chris Barlett, Neveah Copenhaver

[203] The Associations Among Shared Reality, Existential Isolation, & Veterans' Health

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Military veterans face elevated risks of mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and suicide. While previous research has identified loneliness and social isolation as major contributors to these outcomes, less is known about existential isolation (EI), the sense that others cannot understand one's personal experiences. Shared reality, defined as a perceived commonality of inner states with others, may help reduce EI and improve health outcomes. This study examined whether experiences of generalized shared reality (SR-G) in close relationships were associated with reduced EI, and in turn, whether lower EI predicted better mental and physical health outcomes in veterans. The two hypotheses for this study were (1) higher levels of EI will be associated with greater symptoms of anxiety, depression, and PTSD, and with lower levels of physical health and (2) greater shared reality will be associated with lower levels of EI, which, in turn, will be related to reduced symptoms of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and increased physical well-being. A sample of 464 U.S. veterans completed measures of SR-G, EI, loneliness, PTSD, anxiety, depression, and physical well-being. Results showed that SR-G was significantly negatively associated with EI, loneliness, and depression, and positively associated with physical health. Mediation analyses showed that EI partially mediated the relationship between SR-G and both depression and physical health, even when controlling for loneliness. These findings suggest that fostering shared reality in close relationships may serve as a protective factor against EI and its associated negative health outcomes in military veterans. Implications for clinical interventions and veteran reintegration support programs are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karla Fuentes Maldonado
McNair Scholar | Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

[204] The Awe Paradigm

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

This study examines the effects of brief, structured awe practices focused on nature and moral beauty on students' psychological outcomes. Participants engage in sessions involving curated stimuli targeting one of the two awe categories. Pre- and post-session assessments capture immediate changes in affect, awe intensity, and autonomic regulation. A follow-up survey, administered via a mobile app, tracks continued engagement and well-being over time. This within-subjects design allows for evaluation of the immediate and short-term impact of targeted awe experiences on positive emotion and social attunement. The paradigm provides a scalable framework for integrating awe practices into student populations and assessing their effectiveness through repeated measures and ecological momentary assessments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Selina Bilal
UC Berkeley

Authors

Alejandro Campero Oliart, Dacher Keltner

[205] The Behavioral Ecology of Pro- and Anti-Sociality: A Systematic Review

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Humans are social creatures that thrive in groups, especially when group members engage in prosocial, cooperative strategies. However, humans vary in their pro- versus anti-social traits and behaviors. One important driver of variety in social strategies are early developmental environments. Via a systematic review, we apply a life history theory and behavioral ecology lens in order to understand the pattern of associations between childhood environments, namely harshness (i.e., extrinsic morbidity-mortality) and unpredictability (i.e., random variation in harshness), and pro- and anti-sociality in psychology. Forty-two papers met our criteria and were assessed. We find that harshness reflecting threat is consistently associated with antisocial traits and behaviors, whereas harshness reflecting deprivation is associated with both pro- and anti-social behaviors. Unpredictability, across operationalizations, is generally associated with anti-social traits and behaviors. We discuss implications for understanding how different operationalizations affect anti-sociality, practical implications for interventions, as well as limitations of outcomes measured and future directions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Felicia Jones

Post-bacc Research Assistant | Florida State University

Authors

Heath Maranges, Felicia Jones, Casey Timbs

[206] The Cognitive Barriers to Reconnecting with Old Friends: Mechanisms and Interventions

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Americans increasingly struggle to maintain friendships (Cox, 2021), and once friendships lapse, people find it difficult to rekindle them (Aknin & Sandstrom, 2024). This project proposes two explanations: 1) reconnecting with old friends demands complex social inference (the process of determining mental states from observable behaviors), and 2) old friends are especially likely to trigger status comparison (comparing one's social standing relative to a peer's). To test these hypotheses, three studies are planned. Study 1 will investigate whether participants engage in greater social inference and comparison when interpreting an ambiguous conversation labeled as between old friends, current friends, or strangers. Study 2 will examine if reminiscing about the past reduces social inference and status comparison compared to a typical "catch-up" conversation between actual old friends. Study 3 will evaluate an intervention for facilitating contact between old friends. By integrating theories of social cognition and social comparison with the under-researched domain of friendship, this work will clarify why old ties often remain dormant and identify strategies to revive them.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maya Ingram

Graduate student | University of Chicago

Authors

Shige Oishi

[207] The Cost of Cold Shoulders: Effects of Ostracism on Subjective Authenticity

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General identified loneliness as a public health crisis, underscoring the urgency of understanding ostracism: being excluded or ignored. Ostracism undermines authenticity, a mental health predictor. Study 1 (N = 296, adult Prolific sample) replicated prior findings that ostracism reduces subjective authenticity and psychological need satisfaction. Study 2 will extend this work by applying the Integrity–Fluency Model (Hicks et al., in press) to identify which facet of authenticity is most affected: self-integrity (acting consistently with one's values) or experiential fluency (feeling natural in a situation). We hypothesize that ostracism will reduce both cues to authenticity but further expect moderation effects on need satisfaction such that experiential fluency during ostracism will predict lower need satisfaction, while maintaining self-integrity will predict higher need satisfaction. Self-integrity may buffer the effects of ostracism due to benefits associated with maintaining one's values, whereas ostracism after one believes they were being their natural self may exacerbate related pain. This work may identify ways to reduce the effects of ostracism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Morgan Peace

Research Assistant | Texas A&M University

Authors

Joshua Hicks, Lydia Needy

[208] The Dark Side of Mentalizing: Associations with Internalizing Symptoms Among Young Women with Low Social Status

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Social hierarchy exerts a profound influence on human health and cognition. To adapt, individuals in low-status positions may develop other-oriented cognitive strategies that, while functional in context, may heighten risk for internalizing symptoms down the line. 300 young women with low subjective social status participated in our study assessing the relationship between unique dimensions of mentalizing and internalizing symptoms. Self-reported reflective functioning and personal distress were robustly linked to all internalizing symptoms. Hyper-mentalizing during a video-based task and self-reported fantasy proneness (e.g., immersion in fictional characters' experiences) were uniquely associated with symptoms of social phobia. In contrast, task-based visual perspective-taking and self-reported perspective-taking showed no association with internalizing symptoms. Notably, effects persisted after accounting for rumination, suggesting unique risk pathways. These findings highlight the importance of multidimensional approaches to social cognition and offer insight into how adaptive social strategies may contribute to internalizing risk among low-status young women.

*POSTER

Speaker



Victoria Guazzelli Williamson

PhD student | University of Oregon

Authors

Victoria Guazzelli Williamson, Valerie Owusu-Hienno, Alex Rankine, Kathryn Mills

[209] The Development of Social Relation Schemas

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social psychologists suggest that adults rely on social relationship schemas to guide and shape social interactions. Two major categories of these schemas are communal sharing (e.g., friends) and economic exchange relationships (e.g., strangers or acquaintances). We examined the development of these schemas and the cross-cultural comparisons. In Study 1, children read a story in which a protagonist verbally thanked one person and paid another for the same amount of help. Four- to 12-year-olds from the United States ($n = 118$) and China ($n = 128$) showed the same developmental pattern: with age, they were more likely to infer that the verbally thanked helper, rather than the paid helper, was the best friend ($ps < .002$). This developmental shift occurred at approximately 7 years in both cultures. In Study 2, 5- to 11-year-old Chinese children ($n = 90$) predicted how likely a protagonist would be to pay a best friend versus an unfamiliar person for the same amount of help. With age, children increasingly judged that the unfamiliar helper would be paid and the friend would not ($ps < .05$). Together, these studies suggest that the social relationship schemas develop similarly across cultures and the inferences about social relationships and social interactions are bidirectional.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shuai Shao

PhD student | University of California, San Diego

Authors

Gail Heyman

[210] The Effect of Conflict Expression Type on Anxiety and Stress

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Conflict is viewed as an inherent experience in the workplace and one which has impactful consequences for workers. In fact, workers commonly report that conflict is a major source of stress and miss work due to conflicts with co-workers. The goal of the current work is to examine how the way in which dyad members express conflict affects their own and a partner's levels of stress and anxiety. In this study, full-time working adults complete a conflict task with another person via Zoom. Dyad members report on their own and their partner's conflict expression and mental health outcomes to determine how one's own and one's partner's conflict expression affects one's own and one's partner's mental health outcomes. This work has important implications for understanding how patterns of conflict affect mental health outcomes. A better understanding of conflict process will allow us to intervene in ways which productive conflict resolution and improved mental health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kori Krueger

Assistant Professor | Morgan State University

Authors

Nicole Vershov, Matthew Diabes

[211] The Effect of Ostracism on Negative Evaluations of a Stranger

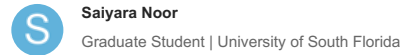
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

The present research investigates how social rejection influences the tendency to evaluate others negatively, with particular attention to the MUM effect, which reflects reluctance to deliver bad news and the role of the need to belong. Prior work suggests that exclusion can lead to either pro-social or anti-social responses depending on which of the four fundamental needs are more saliently threatened. To examine these competing predictions, participants played Cyberball under either inclusion or exclusion conditions, and then evaluated the author of an adapted Reddit "Am I the Asshole" (AITA) scenario. Half of the participants were told they might meet the author afterward, introducing an element of anticipated social interaction. Data collection is ongoing, and will be completed within the next month

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Storme Quinn, Derick Mack, Rachel Nemirovsky, Jackson Nash-Semler, Mark Pezzo

[212] The Algorithm Said So: How Data-Driven Justifications Shape Bias in Emergency Decision-Making

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Anger is a common but complex emotion that ranges from mild irritation to intense range. It energizes the body and prepares it for action, serving various functions including self-defense, boundary setting, resource protection, and effective negotiation. Perhaps most intriguingly, recent work suggests anger may serve adaptive functions in goal-directed behavior, particularly in challenging circumstances. Self-talk, the internal dialogue individuals engage in, may be a key mechanism through which anger facilitates goal attainment. Undergraduate participants (N = 259) were randomly assigned to recall either an anger-inducing or neutral autobiographical event from the past month, then completed the Self-Talk Scale (STS) and Functions of Self-Talk Questionnaire (FSTQ) regarding their self-talk during that recalled event. Results revealed that participants who recalled anger-inducing events reported engaging in more social assessment self-talk (i.e., replaying and analyzing social interactions), self-management self-talk (i.e., monitoring and changing internal dialogue to self-regulate), and self-criticism self-talk. Additionally, anger inducing events were associated with increased effort-related and automaticity self-talk functions. The increased social assessment and self-management self-talk patterns suggest that anger prompts individuals to engage in more evaluative thinking about interpersonal dynamics and behavioral regulation, while the increase in self-criticism self-talk indicates that anger may also trigger internal evaluation of one's own role or performance in the situation. Furthermore, the increase in effort-related self-talk aligns with previous findings that anger can mobilize motivational processes. Overall, the combination of these patterns provides initial evidence that anger influences self-talk patterns in ways that may facilitate both self-evaluation and goal-directed responses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Marriah Ramadan, Debanjan Borthakur, Shakura Kabir, Jason E. Plaks

[213] The Influence of Recalled Anger on Self-Talk Frequency and Function

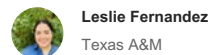
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Higher vagal tone is linked to better psychosocial and physical health outcomes, and typically decreases with age. Here, we tested whether experimentally manipulating vagal activity using cumulative transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation (tVNS) influences attention and emotion perception, and whether age moderates these effects. Younger and older adults were randomly assigned to receive active tVNS or sham stimulation over three consecutive days, during which they completed the Stroop (Days 1–3) and the Geneva Emotion Recognition Test (GERT-S; Days 1 & 3). Across both tasks, younger adults outperformed older adults ($p < .001$) and all participants improved from baseline. Relative to sham participants, active tVNS significantly enhanced Stroop accuracy. This effect was qualified by a significant age by condition interaction, such that active tVNS differentially influenced reaction times between age groups ($p = .049$). On the GERT-S, however, sham participants outperformed tVNS participants ($p = .007$). Our findings suggest tVNS effects are task- and population- specific, and emphasize the need to calibrate stimulation parameters to task demands in targeted groups to maximize its impact.

*POSTER

Speaker



[214] The Influence of Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation on Attention & Emotion Recognition

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

People are skilled at decoding facial expressions, but skin tone and facial features can affect processing. Indeed, when features are equated, people are faster to categorize anger on Black versus White faces, and vice versa for happiness (Hugenberg, 2005). However, people more accurately decode racial ingroup versus outgroup faces (Dailey et al., 2010). We argue for an interaction between facial features and skin tone when decoding facial expressions. In Study 1, White participants categorized happy or angry Black or White faces with either unambiguous (UFF) or ambiguous facial features (AFF). When the face was Black, people were faster to identify angry AFF than UFF faces. No feature effect was found for angry White faces. Among AFF faces, people were faster to identify angry Black than White faces; but among UFF faces, people were marginally faster when identifying White than Black faces. Participants were also faster to identify happy White than Black faces, but there was no feature effect. Study 2 used blue faces with native Black and White features. Participants were faster to categorize angry faces with White features, but happiness categorization did not vary by features.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sienna Bland-Abramson
Graduate Student | Yale University

Authors

Gold Okafor, Odessa Goldberg, Wendy Mendes

[215] The Interaction of Skin Tone and Facial Features on Expression Categorization

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Prior research on awe experiences rarely tests the social factor or obstacle factor. To fill the gap, the current study examined whether ostracism, a negative interpersonal experience, reduces awe experiences. Moreover, given awe's benefits to the self, the current study also examined whether awe experiences make people less ostracized. Therefore, we tested the reciprocal relationship between ostracism and awe and the mediating role of search for meaning in life. A total of 552 adult participants completed the adapted Workplace Ostracism Scale, Search for Meaning subscale from the Meaning in Life Questionnaire, and Awe subscale from the Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales three times with a one-month interval. The cross-lagged panel model showed that (1) ostracism at Time 1 related to lower search for meaning at Time 2, which in turn related to lower dispositional awe at Time 3, and (2) dispositional awe at Time 1 related to higher search for meaning at Time 2, which in turn related to less ostracism at Time 3. These findings indicate that ostracism and awe experiences negatively influence each other through search for meaning and provide theoretical and practical implications.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tara Barricella
Assistant Professor | Randolph Macon College

Authors

David March, Tara Barricella

[216] The Longitudinal Reciprocal Relationship Among Ostracism, Search for Meaning in Life, and Awe: A Cross-Lagged Panel Model

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Prior research on awe experiences rarely tests the social factor or obstacle factor. To fill the gap, the current study examined whether ostracism, a negative interpersonal experience, reduces awe experiences. Moreover, given awe's benefits to the self, the current study also examined whether awe experiences make people less ostracized. Therefore, we tested the reciprocal relationship between ostracism and awe and the mediating role of search for meaning in life. A total of 552 adult participants completed the adapted Workplace Ostracism Scale, Search for Meaning subscale from the Meaning in Life Questionnaire, and Awe subscale from the Dispositional Positive Emotion Scales three times with a one-month interval. The cross-lagged panel model showed that (1) ostracism at Time 1 related to lower search for meaning at Time 2, which in turn related to lower dispositional awe at Time 3, and (2) dispositional awe at Time 1 related to higher search for meaning at Time 2, which in turn related to less ostracism at Time 3. These findings indicate that ostracism and awe experiences negatively influence each other through search for meaning and provide theoretical and practical implications.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jieshuang Liang
PhD student | The Education University of Hong Kong

[217] The Mobilizing Force of Proscriptive Thinking about Economic Inequality

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

As economic inequality in the U.S. continues to rise and class divides reach that of the Gilded Age, the upper-class benefits from many privileges in crucial life domains, such as healthcare and education. Yet, research systematically investigating whether people are sensitive to different examples of privilege is sparse. We posit that privileges can be of 2 types: prescriptive—everyone should have—and proscriptive—no one should have. Utilizing text analysis, S1 demonstrates that people generate distinct examples of prescriptive (healthcare) and proscriptive (evading the law) class privileges. S2a-b confirm that there is relative consensus on what examples are seen as prescriptive vs. proscriptive. Then, preregistered experiment S3 finds that exposure to proscriptive (vs. prescriptive) upper-class privileges predicts greater acceptance of inequality-mitigating actions via greater belief that the economic system is corrupt. Overall, we find support for the existence of the prescriptive/proscriptive distinction in people's minds and its impact on people's reactions to inequality and the society they live in. The research is timely with recent bills set to exacerbate class divides.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ilayda Orhan

PhD Student | Duke University

Authors

Riana M. Brown, Maureen A. Craig, Taylor Dannis

[218] The Moderating Effects of Socioeconomic Status in the Association between Relationship Status and Psychological Well-Being

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SINGLEHOOD

Whilst research comparing the well-being of single versus coupled individuals has been prevalent, such research has typically approached singlehood from a deficit perspective. Moreover, there has been limited research concurrently examining both subjective and objective socioeconomic status (SES) to determine whether they are differentially associated with well-being as a function of relationship status. Two studies were conducted—one with a Singaporean sample and another with a cross-cultural sample from Singapore and the USA. Results revealed a significant moderation effect of subjective SES, but not objective SES, on the association between relationship status and psychological well-being. Specifically, at lower levels of subjective SES, coupled individuals reported significantly higher well-being than single individuals. However, at higher levels of subjective SES, there were no significant differences in well-being between single and coupled individuals. Implications and future directions regarding the role of subjective SES in singles' well-being are discussed

*POSTER

Speaker



Janice Patricia

PhD Student | Singapore Management University

Authors

YingJia Yang, Kenneth Tan, Swedha Saravanan

[219] The More Hate You Give: Toxic Reddit Comments And How They Change Over Time

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Receiving social support has been consistently recognized as an effective intervention to reduce the negative consequences following the lonely experience. However, limited studies have examined the role of providing support and its potential consequences on wellbeing among lonely individuals. This study aimed to compare the effect of the assigned role (receiving support/providing social/control) in a social interaction on instant perception of loneliness and positive affect after a loneliness prime. A total of 145 participants (18-87 years old, 94 of them are females) were recruited to participate in this study. A clip was used to guide participant to reflect on their previous loneliness experience which aimed to prime their loneliness level. Results showed a statistically significant interaction effect between timepoints and conditions on the perception of loneliness ($F(2, 142) = 3.241, p = .042, \text{partial } \eta^2 = .044$) and positive affect ($F(2, 142) = 6.377, p = .002, \text{partial } \eta^2 = .082$). In particular, the participants in the receiving support condition reported the highest reduction in loneliness and increase in positive affect after the social interaction. Despite of this, similar trend can still be observed in the providing support condition but not in the control condition (for the perception of positive affect). The findings could inform loneliness related intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danielle Walters

Independent Researcher | Independent Researcher

Authors

Benjamin Wilkowski

[220] The pattern of social interaction on perception of emotion: Give versus take

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Introduction: This study addresses a critical issue within the young adult population: the physiological effects of social media exposure, with a specific focus on violent content. College students, in particular, represent a demographic with higher-than-average rates of exposure to online violence. Therefore, this research is designed to measure and compare physiological stress responses associated with both general social media use and exposure to violent online content.

Background and Rationale: The universal nature of social media means that young adults frequently encounter violent scenes and imagery, both intentionally and inadvertently. Understanding the physiological consequences of this exposure is essential for developing targeted interventions. Previous research has established a link between chronic stress and negative impacts on cognitive function and academic achievement. This study will extend that research by examining the specific contribution of violent social media content to overall stress levels.

Research Objectives and Hypothesis:

- *To establish the baseline physiological stress levels of a cohort of college students.
- *To measure the acute physiological stress responses of students exposed to both general and violent social media content.
- *To test the hypothesis that students who limit their exposure to violent social media content will exhibit lower levels of physiological stress compared to those with high exposure.

Significance: The findings from this study will provide crucial data to support evidence-based recommendations for reducing media-induced stress among college students. By demonstrating a direct link between violent social media exposure and physiological stress, this research can inform students, educational programs, and behavioral interventions designed to improve student well-being and academic success.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hiu Ling Vivian Tsang

[221] The Power of Perspective: Humor and Positive Reappraisal in the Face of Discrimination

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

We compared humorous vs. positive reappraisal (against a rumination control) for coping with discrimination, and tested Oppressed Minority Ideology (OMI) as a moderator. Participants imagined workplace discrimination (Study 1; N=261, Black/Latine) or recalled personal discrimination (Study 2; N=271, diverse). In Study 1, significant group effects were found for positive emotions ($F(2,258)=8.17, p<.001, \eta^2=.06$), anger ($F(2,258)=6.97, p=.001, \eta^2=.05$), and anxiety ($F(2,258)=4.29, p=.015, \eta^2=.03$). Both reappraisals outperformed control, with no differences between them. In Study 2, stronger effects appeared for positive emotions ($F(2,268)=24.74, p<.001, \eta^2=.16$), anger ($F(2,268)=20.35, p<.001, \eta^2=.13$), and anxiety ($F(2,268)=14.26, p<.001, \eta^2=.10$). Tukey tests showed positive reappraisal > humor > control for positive affect and anger, while both reduced anxiety vs. control. For positive reappraisal, OMI moderation of anger was non-significant in Study 1 ($p=.120, \eta^2=.017$) and marginal in Study 2 ($p=.064, \eta^2=.021$). Humor's effects were not moderated by OMI, suggesting it may serve as a more universally accessible coping tool, providing consistent benefits across ideological differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erika Langley

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Whitman College

Authors

Jane-Abigail Rogg-Wilde, Madeleine Rokop

[222] The Power of Social Media and Community – Incels

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Incels, or involuntary celibates, are unable to attract sexual partners and have extreme hate of those who can (Ging, 2019). This misplaced hatred comes from believing masculine people are ostracizing them, the world treats them as sub-human, and social structures do not allow them to have a chance (Day & Reed, 2022; Ging, 2019). Increased violence from incels is partly due to the ability to connect with other incels. Online platforms such as 4chan, R9K, and Reddit allow sharing/forming vendettas, violence plans, 'heroes' to their cause, and validation on feelings/worldview (Maryn et al., 2024). Media coverage of incels and their attacks fuels empowerment (O'Malley et al., 2022). Eliminating violence without infringing on constitutional rights may include stricter filters on social media messages that can alert to possible violence (Maryn et al., 2024). For psychologists, any client that may be exhibiting signs of being an incel should focus on breaking down toxic masculinity, work on self-acceptance, and confidence. Spreading awareness of the dangers of these groups, warning signs, and specific characteristics can also help the community protect themselves and help loved ones.

*POSTER

Speaker



Makyla Jones

Fielding Graduate University

Authors

Kristine Jacquin

[223] The real and the beautiful: People value portrayals of real-life over the imagination in visual artwork

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Do people's beliefs about whether visual artwork portrays a real-life event versus an imagined one influence their emotional and aesthetic responses to it? Although visual art varies in its basic connection to the real-world – ranging from illustrations of historical or current events to fantasies imagined by an artist – it is unknown how people's beliefs about the realism of the content featured in artwork shape its emotional and aesthetic impact. In three studies, we compare the affective and aesthetic responses elicited by visual art when it is believed to depict a real-life event relative to an imagined one. In Study 1 (n = 96), people evaluated artwork that ostensibly illustrates a real-life event to be more beautiful, meaningful, and pleasant, compared to closely matched artwork that was presumed to portray an imagined event. Study 2 (n = 84) replicated these findings and further showed that self-reported arousal is heightened in response to viewing real-life, compared to imagined, artwork. Study 3 (n = 61) utilized a new forced-choice paradigm and found that people behaviourally chose to view artwork believed to depict a real-life event more often than an imagined event. By showing that the emotional impact of visual art is tied to the belief that it represents real-life, these findings support aesthetic cognitivism, the notion that a core function of art is to promote understanding of the world.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aashna Biala
Western University

Authors

Alexandra Leclerc, David Li, Ravi Thiruchselvam

[224] OPEN

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

*POSTER

[225] The Relationship Between Alexithymia and the Perceived Efforts and Use of Cognitive Reappraisal

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Alexithymia is an inability to express and articulate emotions and the limitations in thought orientation (Preece et al., 2023). It continues to grow significantly, relating to impairments in emotion regulation (Preece et al., 2023). Prior work shows it negatively correlates with cognitive reappraisal, as individuals use fewer strategies (Olalde-Mathieu et al., 2022). This study examines the relationship between individuals with higher symptoms of alexithymia and the frequency of use and perceived effort in cognitive reappraisal. A community sample of adults (N = 203) ranging in age from 18-55 completed a two-week experience sampling study. Five times a day for 14 days, participants responded to self-report questionnaires assessing use, perceived efforts, and success of cognitive reappraisal. At week 2, participants were trained in reappraisal strategies to be used during stressful events. We predict that individuals with higher alexithymia would report less frequent use of appraisal and greater perceived effort. These findings enable a focused view of the correlations between alexithymia and cognitive reappraisal.

*POSTER

Speaker



James Ammons
Research Assistant | The University of Alabama

Authors

Katie Garrison, Karen Akin

[226] The Role of Belonging and Loneliness in First Semester Freshmen Success

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

What factors contribute to student retention, dropout, and success within the first semester? We hypothesize that persistent feelings of loneliness, isolation, and a lack of social connection to the university across the semester play a major role in a student's intentions to continue enrollment. We will assess this in a sample of n = 31 first semester freshman enrolled in a university success seminar across the Fall 2025 semester. As of abstract submission participants have completed 1 of 4 surveys. Data collection will be completed in December 2025. We will be using the 20 item UCLA loneliness scale, 24 item University Belonging, and 3 item measurements of intent to continue enrollment. We preregistered our hypotheses that people who have less persistent feelings of loneliness will have higher intentions of re-enrollment; and feelings of university belonging will mediate this relationship. This research will contribute to the literature and the understanding of how student loneliness, isolation, and lack of social integration with the university may mediate the student's enrollment choice and help understand what factors contribute to student success.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amy Berg
Student | North Dakota State University

Authors

Anna Finley, Jani Western

[227] The Role of Conceptual Cues on the Outgroup Homogeneity Effect

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

The Outgroup Homogeneity Effect (OHE) describes the tendency to consider outgroup members as more similar to each other than ingroup members. In face perception, the OHE manifests in people's tendency to perceptually deindividuate outgroup faces by seeing them as more similar to each other, as shown in research with groups differing in visual appearance or experimentally induced features. Here, we examine visually similar groups characterized by intergroup animosity—Jewish and Muslim Israeli individuals. Using faces perceived as equally Arab or Jewish, we manipulated group identity with conceptual cues (names). Across two experiments (N = 311), Israeli-Jewish participants indicated whether sequentially presented face pairs were identical or different. Reaction times were shorter for repeated faces and faces associated with Jewish names, with no difference in accuracy rates across conditions. These results suggest that conceptual social cues can influence the speed and difficulty of face individuation without hampering identification. Ongoing research examines target gender and less familiar outgroups to clarify how conceptual cues and intergroup dynamics shape face individuation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Noa Valansi

Student | Ben Gurion University

Authors

Niv Reggev, Brent Hughes

[228] The role of importance and resource appraisals on cognitive reappraisal choice in daily life

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Cognitive reappraisal (i.e., reinterpreting a situation to lessen its emotional impact) is an emotion regulation strategy known to be effortful. Because cognitive reappraisal places a demand on one's resources, people often avoid using it especially at higher levels of stress severity. Nevertheless, because stressful situations are often appraised as more important, individuals may also be driven to use cognitive reappraisal in response. In the current study (N = 203; ages 18-55), we assessed whether the relationship between stress severity and cognitive reappraisal use is explained by importance appraisals and resource appraisals in daily life. Participants completed brief surveys throughout the day assessing the occurrence of stressful events, appraisals of the events, momentary emotional states, and emotion regulation. Results showed that the relationship between stress intensity and cognitive reappraisal use was mediated by both importance and resource appraisals. Events higher in stress severity were appraised as more important, driving greater cognitive reappraisal use. But stress severity also inhibited appraisals of resource availability, reducing one's cognitive reappraisal use.

*POSTER

Speaker



Justin Wahlers

Graduate Student | The University of Alabama

Authors

Katie Garrison, Karen Akin, Jakai Lindquist, Justin Wahlers, Elizabeth Ennis

[229] The Role of Paradox Mindsets in Relationship Receptivity and Formation for Single Individuals

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SINGLEHOOD

Amidst a context where there is an ever-increasing share of single individuals, there is a common belief that there exist inherent tensions between work and life, where sacrifices would have to be made in relationships or careers for the other to thrive. However, would reframing this 'zero-sum game' paradoxically as mutually reinforcing instead help young singles become more receptive to relationships? We tested our hypotheses in 2 studies, using a Singaporean sample. Study 1 was a correlational study and showed that higher paradoxical mindset predicted greater relationship receptivity, controlling for fear of being single, singlehood satisfaction and self-perceived mate value. Study 2 was a longitudinal study, and showed that paradoxical mindsets significantly predicted single individuals getting into a committed romantic relationship after 6 months, again controlling for fear of being single, singlehood satisfaction and self-perceived mate value. Furthermore, it predicted an increase in relationship readiness for those who remained single. Our results reflect how reframing contradictory demands can alter perceptions of conflict and synergy between work and relationship goals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kenneth Tan

Singapore Management University

Authors

Jennifer Nguyen, Megan Heng

[230] The Social blueprint of aggression: pathways from belief to behavior.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Expression of aggression in competitive sport varies, partially explained by social norm influence. The current project uses path analysis within a structural equation modeling approach to further dissect the relationship between social norms and aggression. Participants (n=158) were hockey players who completed validated self-report scales of norm endorsement and aggressive behavior. Age and sex were included as covariates. Path analysis was conducted using JMP software. The results indicate that endorsement of certain types of norms predicted distinct forms of aggression. For instance, norms supporting reactive aggression predict physical aggression ($\beta = 0.389$; $\eta^2 = 0.08$) whereas norms regarding proactive aggression predict penalty reactivity ($\beta = 0.326$; $\eta^2 = 0.05$). Conceptually, the model indicates that norm internalization may serve as a mechanism by which expectations translate to action. These findings hold implications for interventions aimed at reducing aggression. Future research should utilize longitudinal designs to clarify relationships. Overall, this study presents quantitative evidence that social norms are a key factor of aggressive behavior in adult hockey players.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jalyn Dubois

Assistant Researcher | Cofrin Logan Center - University of Kansas

[231] The spiteful function of anger and sadness displays

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Extensive research has examined how men’s and women’s tears are perceived differently, yet little is known about how crying in conflict influences perceptions of both the crying actor and their conflict partner. Four preregistered studies (total n = 2300) explored how different response types (stoicism vs. sadness vs. anger), actor genders (male vs. female), and settings (public vs private) across different interpersonal conflicts (workplace conflicts, romantic conflict, friendship conflict, neighbor conflict) influenced evaluations of both the actor and the conflict partner.

Across contexts, results show that displays of sadness and anger (vs. stoicism) are reputationally costly for the actor who displays these emotions. However, sadness and anger (vs. stoicism) also impose greater reputational costs on the conflict partner. These findings suggest that sadness and anger emotional displays could serve as a form of spite, imposing costs on the self but also imposing costs on conflict partners. We also identify potential moderators including the sex of the actor and the context of the conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zihan Yang

Psychology & CS Junior | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Zihan Yang, Cory Clark

[232] CANCELLED:

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

*POSTER

Authors

Selma Rudert

[233] Theoretical Insights into AI Algorithm-driven Narratives and Their Role in Hate Speech Propagation

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Why do AI-curated social narratives fuel division and hostility online, amplifying polarization? This study reviews evidence through social identity, in-group bias, and social learning theories to explain how AI amplification influences social belonging and hostile behavior. Key questions include: How do psychological theories explain engagement with AI narratives? What role does algorithmic amplification play in spreading hostility? Which mechanisms link social identity to online behavior?

Following PRISMA 2020 guidelines, a systematic review searched four databases (Sage Journals, ScienceDirect, PubMed, and Google Scholar) for 2015–2025 publications using terms like “AI algorithms,” “algorithmic amplification,” and “hate speech.” Empirical mixed-method, qualitative, quantitative studies, reviews, and reports were included. Quality was appraised with the Joanna Briggs Institute tool.

Preliminary synthesis shows AI algorithms reinforce group identity biases and foster hostile attitudes, contributing to digital polarization and social fragmentation. This review highlights psychological mechanisms behind AI-driven divisive narratives and suggests ways to mitigate hate speech and promote social cohesion in AI-governed digital spaces.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sana Naz

PhD Student | Faculty of Graduates, University of Colombo

Authors

Dr.Malathie Dissanayake

[234] Thriving or Surviving? Basic Psychological Needs and Well-being in Single Adults

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SINGLEHOOD

Adults who are not in committed relationships are a growing population in the US yet still face more stigma relative to their coupled peers (Gelles-Watnick, 2023). Even so, more single people report not actively looking for committed relationships than before, likely for several reasons. Thus, the current study asks single people's perceptions about both the positive and negative experiences they face and examines their well-being. Single participants (N = 200, 50% women) were recruited from Prolific and completed several measures on their perceptions of being single, well-being, and demographics. In accordance with self-determination theory (Deci & Ryan, 2000), we will examine whether single people feel both satisfied and frustrated in their basic psychological needs of autonomy, competence, and relatedness and whether these needs predict well-being. Furthermore, we will examine whether several factors differentially predict the extent to which people are satisfied or frustrated in their basic psychological needs such as gender, whether the person is actively dating or hooking up, and the extent to which the person is satisfied with their social support systems, among others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lauren Jordan

Assistant Professor | Ljordan2@coastal.edu

Authors

Alexis Osborn

[235] Too Long; Didn't Really Care for It — Emotion Evaluation Through the Lens of Impatience

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Among the emotions that punctuate daily life, impatience stands out as both frequent and familiar. Yet emotions rarely unfold in isolation; people also evaluate their impatience, which in turn shapes how people feel beyond the initial emotion, influences emotion regulation, and contributes to psychopathology. Despite their importance, research has focused mostly on general beliefs about emotions, leaving in-the-moment evaluations largely unexplored. The current study addressed this gap by using experience sampling methodology to capture in-the-moment, context-specific evaluations of impatience. Participants received three prompts per day for seven days, each asking them to report on experiences of impatience in the past few hours. Multilevel models revealed notable within-person effects: when participants felt more impatient than usual, they evaluated it more negatively, and when they evaluated it more negatively than usual, they also reported more negative affect. These findings highlight the importance of examining contextualized, in-the-moment evaluations and the role they play in shaping the consequences of emotional experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Olivia Karaman

PhD Candidate | University of California, Riverside

Authors

Kate Sweeny

[236] Towards a New Cyber-Aggression Paradigm: Detecting Cyber-Bullying in the Moment

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Cyber-aggression perpetration is defined as sending electronic communication to another that contains hostile themes with the intent to harm. Existing ways of measuring cyberbullying and cyberaggression rely on trait measures that assess how frequently individuals perpetrated online harm across a specific time frame and machine learning algorithms that "detect" harmful online communication. The existing measures of cyberbullying have been supported but are limited in their ability to determine causality and detect motivations in online conversation. The current study aimed to develop and test a new cyber-aggression paradigm to better detect cyberbullying in the moment. Using instant-messaging, participants communicated with a confederate on a specific topic and rated the messages they sent on various motivations before and after varying provocations. Results suggested that participants were meaner and less helpful after provocation which suggests the newly developed paradigm could be a new way to measure in the moment cyber-aggression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenna Waldo

Undergrad | Kansas State University

Authors

Jordan Scott, Chris Barlett, Jenna Waldo

[237] Tracking the speed of contestants' rapid (psychological) immune response to getting voted off Survivor Island

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

How quickly might the psychological immune system kick in to ward off an "overdose of gloom" (Gilbert et al., 1998) if we were to get ostracized from our social groups, stabbed in the back by our friends, and lose an opportunity to win \$1 million? Recent analyses of Survivor contestants' "final words" revealed that contestants were just as likely to express positive (86%) as negative affect (82%) within minutes of being voted off the island. We are now investigating whether contestants begin experiencing positive affect as the votes against them roll in but before they learn that they have been eliminated. Five coders will watch 3-5 second video clips of contestants' (n=553) immediate non-verbal reactions after each vote against them (M=3.96; range=1-7) is announced. Coders will then rate the degree to which the contestant genuinely expressed, tried to fake, and tried to hide positive affect and negative affect. Coders will also rate the degree to which the contestant appeared to be confident that they would be eliminated. We speculate that contestants will begin expressing positive affect as soon as it dawns upon them that they will be going home.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Brayton

PhD Student | University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Authors

Jeff Larsen

[238] True or False? How Children Decide Which Consensus to Trust

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

When confronted with conflicting information, consensus is a critical cue for deciding what to trust. Children often struggle to distinguish a true consensus, where sources respond independently, from a false consensus, where sources merely echo one another. Because reliance on false consensus can fuel misinformation, we examined which cognitive abilities predict children's ability to make this distinction. In an online study, 5- to 12-year-olds (N = 184) completed measures of fluid IQ, executive functions (inhibitory control, set-shifting, working memory), and cognitive reflection. They then completed a consensus learning task in which two groups of informants provided conflicting testimony, one based on independent responses (true consensus) and one based on copied responses (false consensus). Bayesian regressions revealed that only age and cognitive reflection, not IQ or executive functions, predicted choosing the true consensus. Results highlight cognitive reflection as a key mechanism supporting children's social information literacy and reducing susceptibility to misinformation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christina Esparza-Cassidy

Undergraduate Researcher | Northeastern Illinois University

Authors

Andrew G. Young

[239] Tuning Into Yourself: How Self-Monitoring Shapes Reappraisal and Stress Relief

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Self-monitoring is defined as an individual's ability to monitor and/or conform their behavior in response to their social environment. The current study examined the impact of self-monitoring on a participants' choice of reappraisal strategy and the strategy's effectiveness in relieving negative emotions caused by stressful events. A community sample of adults (N = 203) ranging in age from 18 - 55 completed a two-week experience sampling study wherein they reported on momentary stressful events in their life and their emotional state. Participants first filled out questionnaires assessing personality traits and characteristics, including self-monitoring. In the second week of the study, participants were trained to use five different cognitive reappraisal strategies in a lab session with an experimenter and asked to use them in response to daily stressors in the following week. To test the research question, we will analyze whether self-monitoring predicts strategy choice and if choice then reduces negative emotion. Results will aid professionals' understanding of the benefits of self-monitoring and its effects on helping individuals overcome stressful events in their lives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amelia Geist

Student | The University of Alabama

Authors

Katie Garrison, Elizabeth Ennis

[240] U.S. and Chinese children automatically encode gender and race with East Asian faces

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Previous work indicate that children automatically encode gender and race simultaneously when using Black and White boys and girls faces. The present work seeks to extend that work with E. Asian faces, as well as examine if there is any cross-cultural variability. Children (N=221) from the U.S. and China completed a who-saw-what task where they were asked to recall which stimulus child saw which stimulus animal. Preliminary results indicate that participants were most likely to commit within-race/within-gender errors, suggesting that they encoded both the race and gender of the stimulus. There was no evidence of cross-cultural variation. Implications for the representation of social categories are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yukun Zhang

Bryn Mawr College

Authors

Ryan Lei, Madison Zhao

[241] Uncertainty mediates, Intolerance moderates: The Affective Impact of Spontaneous Mind-Wandering

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Spontaneous mind wandering (MW) is associated with affective consequences, but the role of uncertainty and intolerance of uncertainty (IU) in this relationship is unclear. We hypothesized that IU would be positively correlated with MW. Exploratory analyses tested if uncertainty mediated the MW-affect link and whether this pathway is moderated by IU. We found that the effect of MW on affect was fully mediated by uncertainty. Additionally, we found that IU moderated the relationship between uncertainty and positive affect, but not negative affect. Specifically, uncertainty predicted reduced positive affect for those low in IU, but not for people with high and average IU. These findings may be a result of habituation, such that individuals high in IU may be desensitized to the emotional impact of experiencing uncertainty. Conversely, people more tolerant of uncertainty may encounter uncertainty less frequently, making them more susceptible to emotional distress associated with uncertainty. Overall, these findings highlight how individual differences in IU moderate the emotional consequences of MW through uncertainty.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dylan Jenkins

Texas Tech University

Authors

Heidi Martin, Jessica Alquist

[242] Under the Influence: Emotion and Impulsivity in Alcohol and Cannabis Users Across Baseline and Heat Conditions

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Substance use (SU) literature shows that alcohol (AU) and cannabis use (CU), even outside of active intoxication, are linked to reduced emotion recognition accuracy. Additionally, alcohol and cannabis co-use (ACC) is related to greater difficulty with emotion identification, dysregulation, regulation, and impulsivity. CU has further been associated with blunted neural responses to affective stimuli and vmPFC hypoactivation, suggesting cannabis users may experience greater cognitive loads during affective processing compared to non-users. Provided awareness of emotions is worsened for those with SUD, and emotional clarity is negatively associated with cannabis use, even in occasional users, we are interested in how SU and ACC impact clarity and attention to emotions (CAE). To explore this, we will analyze baseline survey data collected from 130 participants, examining SU and CAE. We will also use data collected from 80 participants who completed two sessions (Hot, Control), looking at affect, impulsivity, and thermal discomfort to assess heat-related differences across user types.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zaza Hughes

Post-Bacc/Research Lab Assistant | Washington State University

Authors

Tiara Freeman, Kim Meidenbauer

[243] Understanding cross-cultural differences in ostracism responses: The role of attributions in the US and Taiwan

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

After being ostracized people use attribution to explain the event. Finding the cause of an event in either the person or the situation is affected by interdependent and independent self-construal, a social self-definition hugely influenced by culture. We hypothesize that people with more interdependent self show greater tendency to attribute ostracism to the situation while those with more independent self-construal are more likely to attribute ostracism to the person. Comparing two cultures that differ in self-construal (Taiwan and US) we examine how self-construal moderates the effect of attribution tendency on fundamental self-related needs and altruistic tendencies based on social closeness. Participants in both countries will complete a self-construal measure before watching a video depicting an ambiguous ostracism situation or a video where no ostracism takes place. They will then indicate their attribution style and self-related needs from the perspective of the protagonist (ambiguously ostracized versus not) on scaled survey items. Finally, the participants will complete a social distancing task where their altruistic tendency based on social closeness is measured.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhi Quan Lim

Student | DePaul University

[244] Using Media in the Background During Overwhelming and Boring Tasks

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Many people “put something on in the background” while doing daily activities. One reason for using media in the background is for emotion regulation (Kampfe et al., 2010; Zillmann, 1988). However, the emotion regulation process is more complex than prior investigations into background media have shown. This study uses the Emotion Regulation Process Model (Gross, 2014) to explore the phenomenon. We hypothesized that situational modification—adding a background media while performing an overwhelming or boring task—will be associated with regulation of the negative emotion. We also hypothesize that this modulation would be associated with persistence on the task.

Participants at a Midwestern U.S. university (N = 575) filled out a survey in which they reflected on a time in the past year where they completed a) an overwhelming and b) a boring task while listening to audio or video content in the background (within-subjects). They answered whether the media made the overwhelming [boring] task less overwhelming [boring] and whether this helped them persist on the main task.

The addition of the media improved the negative emotions, though there were some mixed results for video content. In turn, this emotional modulation was associated with participants feeling that their motivation to continue on the main task improved. Both hypotheses were supported. These findings have implications for interventions and education on media use recommendations for university students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alena Rogojina

Ph.D. Student | Iowa State University

Authors

Alena Rogojina

[245] Valid and Reliable: Evaluating the Touch-Based Implicit Association Test

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Touch devices are increasingly common, yet psychological research has rarely evaluated whether data collected on them are psychometrically sound. A critical test case is the Implicit Association Test (IAT), a widely used indirect measure of attitudes and stereotypes. To evaluate its performance, we analyzed a large-scale data set (N = 4,829,865) collected via touch devices between 2016 and 2024 including both indirect (IAT) and direct (self-report) measures across eight domains: age, weight, disability, race, sexuality, and skin tone attitudes, and gender stereotypes related to science/arts and career/family. Results show that touch IATs demonstrate acceptable internal (split-half) consistency and convergent validity (implicit–explicit correlations). These psychometric properties closely mirror those of the desktop IAT and are further supported by comparable mean levels and variability of implicit and explicit attitudes and stereotypes across platforms. Together, these findings provide strong evidence that touch devices yield data of comparable quality to desktop devices, supporting their use as a platform for valid and reliable research on implicit and explicit social cognition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shaoming Wang

University of Illinois

Authors

Benedek Kurdi

[246] Validating a More Racially Representative Version of the Social Stimulus Approach-Avoidance Paradigm (SAAP)

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Social behavior is guided by approach-avoidance motivation to facial expressions that subtly vary in affect. Although the Social Approach-Avoidance Paradigm (SAAP) reliably measures sensitivity of approach-avoidance motivation to these subtle variations, it is limited by a reliance on White facial expressions, which may limit ecological validity and generalizability. To address this issue, a US representative sample (n = 395) completed a more racially representative SAAP that used morphed facial expressions from four different racial identities (Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White), which parametrically varied in happiness, anger, or co-occurring happiness and anger. Validating this SAAP, we observed highly robust and reliable effects of variations in facial affect on approach-avoidance motivation (all ps < 0.001). Compared to other racial identities, White facial morphs elicited weaker approach motivation to variations in happiness as well as stronger avoidance motivation to variations in anger (all ps < 0.05). These results validate a more racially representative SAAP, which enhances ecological validity and can be used to characterize more subtle biases in social behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Parker Jones

Auburn University

Authors

Emma Truchan, Oliver Gustafson, Leah Jha, Andrew So, Dr. Travis Evans

[247] Validation of the World Assumptions Questionnaire (WAQ)

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

World assumptions are core beliefs about the world's benevolence and predictability that shape perceptions, behaviors, and well-being. To assess these beliefs, we validated the World Assumptions Questionnaire (WAQ), which captures two second-order factors—benevolence and predictability—through four subscales: Trustworthiness and Goodness of People, Safety and Vulnerability, Controllability of Events, and Comprehensibility and Predictability of People. A total of 569 participants completed measures of personality, attachment, world assumptions, eudaimonic well-being, and symptoms of anxiety and depression. A second-order CFA supported a structure in which the four subscales loaded onto two second-order factors, benevolence and predictability, using a correlated trait—correlated method to account for wording effects. Regression analyses indicated that assuming the world to be benevolent was linked to fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression, whereas perceiving it as predictable was linked to greater well-being and fewer symptoms of depression, beyond personality and attachment. These findings support the WAQ as a valid instrument for assessing world assumptions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aurélie Thuot-Jolicoeur

PhD Candidate | UQAM

Authors

Frederick L. Philippe

[248] Violent Systems and Peaceful Protests: Highlighting the Violence of Inequality Spurs Outrage but not Support for Social Change

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Structural violence refers to preventable harm, suffering, and premature death that results from unjust institutions, structures, and systems. Sociologists introduced this construct to reframe social injustices as a form of violence. We investigated whether framing racial disparities as structural violence can foster moral outrage, overcome apathy and indifference, and motivate support for social change. We propose that the structural violence framework operates psychologically by identifying 1 the targets subjected to injustice, 2 the intentional agents responsible for injustice, and 3 the harmful consequences of that injustice. In an experiment, non-Hispanic White Americans ($n = 1,500$) read vignettes about racial disparities in health or economic outcomes that we framed either as mere group differences or as structural violence. Framing disparities as structural violence increased moral outrage but did not affect support for policies or protests aimed at challenging social injustice. Motivating concern for inequality is crucial for addressing it, and structural violence framing may be a tool for motivating emotional responses to racial disparities and to motivate social change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Henry Biedron

University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Nils Reimer

[249] Visualizing Mental Representations of People with Low Socioeconomic Status Using Reverse Correlation

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

This study aimed to visualize the mental representations (Classification Images, CIs) that Koreans hold for individuals of varying socioeconomic status (SES) and gender using the reverse correlation (RC) technique. The main goal was to analyze the impressions elicited by these CIs to understand the underlying social stereotypes prevalent in Korean society. Our investigation comprised two studies. Study 1 focused on the generation of CIs through the RC method. For this, 101 Korean university students (Mage = 21.06, 31 males) participated in an experimental task where they made forced-choice judgments between pairs of noise-modulated facial stimuli, identifying which face belonged to a "low SES" individual. This process enabled the creation of distinct CIs for high and low SES male and female targets. Study 2 explored how participants' social impressions were affected by these visually presented stereotypical images. In Study 2, 292 Korean adults (Mage = 39.32, 142 males) evaluated the CIs generated in Study 1 on 18 different social and personality traits, such as competence, warmth, attractiveness, and dangerousness. A 2 (target SES: high vs. low) $\times$ 2 (target gender: male vs. female) between-subjects ANOVAs were conducted to assess the main and interaction effects on these impressions. Impression assessments revealed clear distinctions based on target SES and gender. Regarding main effects of target SES, low SES targets were consistently rated less favorably than high SES targets. Specifically, they were perceived as less competent, less attractive, and less happy, and having a lower perceived SES. Low SES targets were also perceived as more dangerous and more neurotic than high SES targets. Furthermore, interaction effects between target SES and target gender were detected with traits such as competence, warmth, morality, attractiveness, and cleanliness, underscoring the gender-specific ways in which SES perceptions influenced these judgments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chang Yul Park

충북대학교

Authors

Chang Hyun HA, Sang Hee Park

[250] Watching Awe Unfold on a Partner's Face: A Dyadic Experiment at Lake Tahoe

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

People who experience awe are more open, curious, and prosocial. But how do we judge people who experience awe? A dyadic experimental design examines the traits people attribute to others experiencing awe.

We recruited visitors at the awe-inspiring Inspiration Point in Lake Tahoe. In total, 93 dyads were recruited (52 were romantic partners). Dyad-members were randomly assigned to the "experience" or "observe" role. Experiencers in the awe condition took in the view for 3 minutes; those in the control condition played a mobile phone game. Observers watched the experiencer. Experiencers reported how much they felt each of 12 discrete emotions. Observers inferred how much the experiencer felt each emotion. Both dyad-members then rated their partner on eight traits (eg. warmth, competence, moral character).

Experiencers in the awe condition reported greater awe than in the control condition ($B = -1.69, p < 0.001$). Observer inferences showed the same pattern. However, across eight trait attribution variables, there were no significant condition differences. The lack of effects were found amongst experiencers and observers. Follow up studies to better understand these null effects are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gaganpreet Kaur

Student | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Paul K. Piff, Gaganpreet Kaur, Matthew I. Billet

[251] Well-Being Effects of Conversations and Hangouts with Friends vs. Strangers

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Previous research has shown that interacting with another person can enhance psychological well-being. However, most studies have focused specifically on conversations with strangers. The present study investigates how interaction context—operationalized in a 2 (interaction type: conversation vs. hangout with minimal conversation) $\times$ 2 (partner: friend vs. stranger) factorial design—influences participants' expectations, well-being outcomes, and sense of interpersonal connection. Participants engaged in a 30-minute unstructured online interaction under one of these four conditions. Our results showed a very strong positive effect of engaging in a conversation, as opposed to a hangout, with either a friend or a stranger on subsequent well-being and sense of connection, as well as significant differences in initial expectations about the interaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nina Radosic

University of California, Riverside

Authors

Sonja Lyubomirsky, Lisa Walsh

[252] What can I say to help you? Language associated with successful regulation of others' emotions

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Previous research has shown that interacting with another person can enhance psychological well-being. However, most studies have focused specifically on conversations with strangers. The present study investigates how interaction context—operationalized in a 2 (interaction type: conversation vs. hangout with minimal conversation) $\times$ 2 (partner: friend vs. stranger) factorial design—influences participants' expectations, well-being outcomes, and sense of interpersonal connection. Participants engaged in a 30-minute unstructured online interaction under one of these four conditions. Our results showed a very strong positive effect of engaging in a conversation, as opposed to a hangout, with either a friend or a stranger on subsequent well-being and sense of connection, as well as significant differences in initial expectations about the interaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shaina Munin

Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology | Ohio Wesleyan University

Authors

Desmond Ong, Christopher Oveis, Olivia Jurkiewicz, Emma Gueorgieva

[253] What do Achievement Emotions Contribute to Early Math Outcomes?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

The emotions evoked within mathematical activity – achievement emotions – influence problem-solving behaviors and learning outcomes. Here, we test whether happiness mediates the effect of story problem complexity on arithmetic outcomes for kindergarteners. We coded arithmetic problem-solving strategies for 14 students across 2,516 problem-solving attempts and generated the intensity of displayed happiness using automatic facial coding software. Story problem complexity had an impact on the intensity and shape of the emotional response; however, the indirect effects of happiness were not statistically significant. Direct effects were statistically significant, indicating that more complex story problems predicted lower correctness and less sophisticated problem-solving strategies. There were strong child effects in the intensity and shape of the emotional response and also the direct effects, suggesting that our results will change as we increase our sample to 40 students. Final analysis will test the indirect effects of epistemic emotions, such as surprise, boredom, confusion, and interest on correctness and strategy sophistication.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Pfeiffer
University of Virginia

Authors

Traci Shizu Kutaka, Pavel Chernyavskiy

[254] What Impacts When People Support Company Diversity Statements?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The BLM movement has brought renewed attention to racial injustice and prejudice. While Industrial-Organizational Psychology has explored how identities such as race and gender influence workplace behavior, little research has focused on how people respond to companies that take public stances on social justice issues. This study investigates how attitudes toward social justice and understanding of social movements influence support for companies that express such positions. We surveyed 396 people about their involvement in social justice activities, perceptions of sexism and racism, understanding of the BLM movement, and support for companies engaging with social justice. Correlation results showed that greater involvement in social justice, stronger recognition of sexism/racism, and more positive views of BLM were all associated with greater support for companies engaging in social justice (r 's $\geq .30$). The findings suggest that customer attitudes toward social justice shape how corporate activism is received, highlighting the importance for companies to consider values of their consumer base when deciding whether to take a public stance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Danica Kulibert
Assistant Professor | Kennesaw State University

Authors

Indira Robotham, Lovia Feliscar, Danica Kulibert

[255] What Mediates Belonging Disparities Between Students With and Without Disabilities?

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

School belonging is critical for academic success and emotional well-being (Walton & Brady, 2017), but students with disabilities are often excluded from research in schools entirely, leaving them an understudied group. Perhaps due to the paucity of research, there are mixed findings regarding potential disparities in belongingness between students with and without disabilities. Furthermore, the psychological mechanisms underlying these gaps remain largely unexplored. Thus, with a large sample of high school students ($N = 1,436$), the present study examined whether or not there were disparities in belonging between students with and without disabilities and what mediators help explain such a disparity. Results indicated that students with disabilities reported significantly lower levels of school belonging than their peers without disabilities. Additionally, mediation analyses showed that both academic and social challenges mediated this disparity. These findings underscore critical pathways shaping belonging among an understudied and historically excluded group of students with implications for developing targeted supports to promote equity in school belonging.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hailey Margulies
Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Christopher Rozek, Maegan Arney

[256] When AI Empathy Backfires: How Sharing Emotions Can Make People Feel Worse

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

What kind of empathy do people want to receive? Although researchers view empathy as an interpersonal, multi-process construct, little is known about the perspectives of targets of empathy. In this work, we examined whether different components of empathy differ in how they make targets of empathy feel. In a preregistered experiment (N = 326), participants discussed a stressful experience in a 10-minute conversation with one of four AI responders designed to reflect different empathic strategies: perspective-taking, emotion sharing, compassion, or a non-empathic control. Participants felt significantly better after interacting with the perspective-taking and compassion responders and rated them as significantly more responsive than the other responders. In contrast, participants conversing with the responder that conveyed emotion sharing—thought to be the heart of empathy—surprisingly felt worse than before the conversation, felt worse compared to the other empathic responders, and rated the emotion sharing responder as less responsive. These findings offer novel evidence that the specific form of empathy influences how recipients of empathy feel, and may even make them feel worse.

*POSTER

Speaker



Leif Anderson

Graduate Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Dariya Ovsyannikova, Michael Inzlicht, Y. Andre Wang

[257] When Authority Feels Wrong but Must Be Right: Motivated Reasoning in High-RWA Individuals

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

In the past decade, democratic backsliding by democratically elected leaders has become increasingly prevalent worldwide, drawing renewed attention to right-wing authoritarianism (RWA; Altemeyer, 1981, 1996). To examine whether and how high-RWA individuals support authorities they themselves judge to be unjust, we conducted a survey experiment with 280 Korean adults. Participants first read a scenario and indicated what they believed to be an appropriate sentence for the offender. They were then randomly assigned to one of two conditions. In the experimental condition, but not in the control condition, participants received additional information that the authority figure had imposed an unduly lenient sanction on the offender. We predicted that high-RWA individuals would justify the authority's unjust decision, reflected in higher victim blaming. Results showed that high-RWA individuals did not automatically accept unjust authority. Their victim blaming, however, increased after they reviewed neutral case information, indicating that they were motivated to interpret the information in ways more favorable to the authority. These results imply that high-RWAs tend to support unjust authority even when they themselves perceive it as unjust.

*POSTER

Speaker



Seoyoung Jun

Master of Arts | Sogang University

Authors

Jinkyung Na

[258] Measuring Political Values in Congressional Discourse: A Large Language Model Approach

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

CULTURE

This paper presents a novel computational pipeline leveraging large language models (LLMs) to measure political values in textual data. The approach integrates a three-stage method: open-ended value identification, mapping to established theoretical frameworks, and weighted aggregation of importance scores. Unlike traditional survey or dictionary-based methods, this pipeline demonstrates superior contextual sensitivity, scalability, and adaptability to multiple value taxonomies. Applied to a decade of congressional speeches, it reveals theoretically coherent value structures with robust reliability and validity across diverse political contexts. This work addresses key limitations in value research, including bias amplification and inflexibility, offering a replicable and transparent tool for computational social science.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hongkun Zhang

University of Southern California

[259] If Your Politician Jumped Off of a Cliff, Would You? Associations Between Parasocial Relationships, Existential Isolation, and Extremist Beliefs

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

POLITICS

In the past decade, democratic backsliding by democratically elected leaders has become increasingly prevalent worldwide, drawing renewed attention to right-wing authoritarianism (RWA; Altemeyer, 1981, 1996). To examine whether and how high-RWA individuals support authorities they themselves judge to be unjust, we conducted a survey experiment with 280 Korean adults. Participants first read a scenario and indicated what they believed to be an appropriate sentence for the offender. They were then randomly assigned to one of two conditions. In the experimental condition, but not in the control condition, participants received additional information that the authority figure had imposed an unduly lenient sanction on the offender. We predicted that high-RWA individuals would justify the authority's unjust decision, reflected in higher victim blaming. Results showed that high-RWA individuals did not automatically accept unjust authority. Their victim blaming, however, increased after they reviewed neutral case information, indicating that they were motivated to interpret the information in ways more favorable to the authority. These results imply that high-RWAs tend to support unjust authority even when they themselves perceive it as unjust.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tiffany Bui

Doctoral Student | Texas Christian University

Authors

Cathy Cox, Javier Granados Samayoa

[260] When Safety Turns into Stigma: Prejudice Toward Fast Life Strategies in Secure Ecologies

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

AGGRESSION/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Traits such as sexual unrestrictedness, impulsivity, and preference for immediate gratification are often viewed negatively. Yet evolutionary psychology situates these traits within a fast life strategy, which can be adaptive in harsh or unpredictable ecologies. In contrast, slow life strategies, marked by delayed gratification and long-term investment, fit well in stable and resource-rich environments. While prejudice research has examined sexism, racism, ageism, and other biases, little is known about stigma directed at people exhibiting behaviours along the life history continuum. I propose that in today's relatively predictable societies, people show negative bias toward fast strategy traits (H1), but that this bias is attenuated when ecological harshness is made salient (H2), since fast strategies offer adaptive value under threat. Across three studies with ~1,500 U.S. participants, I test these hypotheses: Study 1 examines affective reactions to targets described as fast vs. slow strategists; Study 2 replicates and explores perceived affordances as a mediator; Study 3 manipulates both ecological context and target strategy. Results consistently reveal prejudice against fast strategists, mitigated when ecological harshness is salient. These findings extend prejudice research by showing how stable ecologies foster bias against fast strategies, while ecological cues shift social evaluations toward recognizing their adaptive function.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lynn Tan

Research Fellow | National University of Singapore

Authors

Oliver Sng, Norman Li, Kenneth Tan

[261] When Stimulus Pairings Change Evaluations: The Role of CS Valence Inferences in Evaluative Conditioning

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Evaluative Conditioning (EC) refers to changes in the evaluation of a conditioned stimulus (CS) following its pairing with a positive or negative unconditioned stimulus (US). Although EC has traditionally been explained through association formation mechanisms, recent accounts suggest instead that EC depends on inferences, particularly inferences about the evaluative properties of the CS based on the pairing and the CS-US relations inferred from the pairing. Three pre-registered experiments (total N = 288) tested this idea by manipulating how easily CS-US pairings would afford inferences about the CS valence. In Experiments 1 and 2, we selected USs that varied in self-reported ease of inferring CS valence based on the pairing (i.e., high versus low CS valence inference accessibility). EC effects were stronger for pairings with high inference accessibility, even when controlling for differences in US valence extremity. In Experiment 3, we explicitly defined the CS-US relation ('liking' or 'disliking') and instructed participants to interpret the implications of this relation for CS valence either intuitively (e.g., CS likes positive US implies a positive CS) or counterintuitively (e.g., CS likes negative US implies a positive CS). As predicted, EC effects were stronger for intuitive instructions. Together, these findings support the role of valence inferences in EC and highlight the value of an inferential perspective on EC.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhefei Mao

Ghent University

Authors

Pieter Van Dessel, Marine Rougier, Jan De Houwer

[262] When Successful Collective Action Undermines Support for Change

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social change is often construed as an incremental process in which systems are transformed through iterative collective action efforts (e.g., protest, strike, voting). The extant literature also suggests collective action success hinges on an optimal tension of contesting vs. appeasing the system and advantaged groups. Yet, little is known about how this tension advances from event-to-event towards long-term, transformative change. A central question is whether previous collective action success promotes (vs. discourages) support for future change. Present studies illuminate hidden barriers of iterative action to change systems, despite successful progress, in the context of worker strikes. Exposure to a successful strike (vs. unsuccessful or control) is associated with greatest initial out-group support for strikers, but leads to resistance against subsequent change attempts. This effect is mediated by perceived system fairness, suggesting localized progress alone may uphold system equilibrium, rather than disruption. An ongoing replication seeks to examine further mechanisms and consequences of other system sanctioned justifications of progress, such as instrumental arguments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aijia Gao

University of Missouri

Authors

Sage Bouchard

[263] When to Fight: Facial expressions as intimidation and invitation

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

Early hunter gatherer societies saw frequent intergroup violence where individuals often assessed a rival's fighting ability. Previous research suggests that individuals displaying anger are perceived to be stronger and that individuals displaying fear perceive potential harm. As such, angry and fearful expressions might serve as an honest signal communicating a threat or an opportunity with a rival.

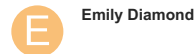
We tested this using a signaling game. Here, a confederate (described as a "typical" participant playing this game) was designated as either strong or weak. They were presented to the participant displaying either a neutral, angry, or fearful facial expression.

In a between-subjects design, participants decided whether to fight the confederate after viewing the confederate's facial expression but not knowing their strength. Participants were told they would earn a bonus payment if they fought a weak confederate or did not fight a strong confederate. Finally, participants viewed the confederate again and rated their emotions and strength.

Participants were no more or less likely to choose to fight a confederate presented with a neutral expression in comparison to an angry or fearful expression. However, participants were significantly more likely to fight a confederate presented with a fearful expression in comparison to an angry expression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Lawrence Reed, Ivan Lacroix

[264] Who's left to mourn? An Indigenous quantitative examination of enculturation, trauma, and grief

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Crisis refers to the disproportionately high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous people across the U.S. This crisis leads to what is known as ambiguous loss, a loss characterized by uncertainty of where a missing loved one is, neither confirmed deceased nor found alive. The relatives who remain are burdened by the trauma and grief from their missing loved one. This research examines the role of trauma in the relationship between enculturation and grief severity in the context of MMIR.

Participants (N=79), experiencing an ambiguous loss, filled out an online survey measuring enculturation, trauma, and grief severity, using the Native American Acculturation Scale (NAAS), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist (PCL-5), and the Ambiguous Loss Inventory + (ALI+). Results show that enculturation significantly predicts grief; therefore, the more culturally embedded an individual is, the higher the levels of their grief severity. We also examined whether trauma mediates this relationship, and found that enculturation is marginally associated with trauma, which suggests a pathway worth exploring with a larger sample.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Kristina Chamberlin, Jamie Yellowtail, Shoshoni Murphy, Yvette Pino

[265] Whose responsibility? When taking the fall protects you from blame

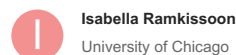
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

When assigning credit for success or blame for failure, one's decision about how to apportion the blame can deeply impact others' impressions of their morality and competence. We ask, how do people evaluate those who differentially apportion responsibility for group outcomes? In Study 1, participants evaluate a leader who assigns responsibility either selfishly (e.g., took credit or gave blame) or selflessly (e.g., gave credit or took blame) for an outcome. Interestingly, actions that might seem harmful to the leader's competence (e.g., taking blame for failure, giving credit for success) actually made the leader appear more competent. In a similar scenario, Study 2 investigates both leaders and non-leaders. We replicate our effect showing that actions of taking blame and giving credit are protective; those who do so receive less blame for failure and get more credit for success than those who try to shift blame or take credit. The selfless individuals are also thought to be more competent. Together, these results suggest that in cases where potential responsibility is equal or ambiguous, you will appear more competent and get less blame if you say: this failure was my fault.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Alex Shaw, Erin Kim

[266] Why Is He So Angry? The Role of Display Rules in Intercultural Emotion Communication

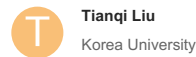
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

South Korea is rapidly transforming into a multicultural society, heightening opportunities for intercultural communication. Although AI translation technologies have significantly lowered language barriers, cultural differences in emotional display rules continue to generate misunderstandings and conflicts. This study investigates how emotion expressions aligned with U.S. display rules influence Korean observers' judgments of their appropriateness, emotional responses, and subsequent behavioral responses. We also test whether providing Koreans with information about U.S. emotional norms moderates these evaluations. Using validated conflict scenarios, we employ a 2 (anger expression: U.S. norm vs. Korean norm) $\times$ 2 (U.S. norm information: provided vs. not provided) between-subjects design with 200 Korean participants. By investigating whether preemptively sharing emotional display norms can reduce potential conflict, this research aims to deepen the understanding of intercultural emotion communication. Future work will extend the model by examining American responses to Korean expressions, advancing a bidirectional perspective.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Tianqi Liu, Eunsoo Choi

[267] Why the hurry? The who, when, and what of daily experiences of impatience.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

EMOTION

The process model of patience defines patience as a targeted form of emotion regulation that responds to the discrete emotion of impatience. Initial tests using hypothetical impatience-inducing scenarios provided support for this conceptualization, but further testing has yet to explore how people experience and regulate impatience in everyday life. Thus, in an experience sampling method (ESM) study (N = 130), we investigated how often people feel impatient in their daily lives and whether they regulate this emotion by practicing patience. Reports from 3-times daily surveys indicated that people experienced impatience approximately once per day and tended to enact patience less than half of the time when impatience arose. The most common strategies for enacting patience were acceptance, external and internal distraction, and deep breathing strategies. These findings provide an initial glimpse at the experience of impatience in everyday life and the ways people regulate it when it arises.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Kate Sweeny

[268] Why Your 'Clear' Rejection Feels So Vague: Perceptual Gaps in Social Rejection

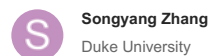
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Social rejection is a painful experience for both rejectors and rejectees, and yet little is known about how rejectors and rejectees perceive the same rejection episode. We propose that systematic perspective gaps exist in rejection communication, driven by rejectors overestimating their clarity and rejectees' defensive interpretations. Across four studies (N = 1,462), we tested how rejectors and rejectees perceive the same rejection episode. We found an "ambiguity gap" in interpersonal rejection: rejectees perceived rejections as more ambiguous than rejectors in recalled experiences (Study 1), controlled scenarios (Study 2), and real-time interactions (Study 3). We further demonstrated that rejectors' intuitions about effective rejection messages are systematically misaligned with rejectees' interpretations (Study 4). These findings have implications for understanding communication failures in social rejection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Gráinne Fitzsimons

[269] The Physiological Response of Students Exposed to Violence in Social Media

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Introduction: This study addresses a critical issue within the young adult population: the physiological effects of social media exposure, with a specific focus on violent content. College students, in particular, represent a demographic with higher-than-average rates of exposure to online violence. Therefore, this research is designed to measure and compare physiological stress responses associated with both general social media use and exposure to violent online content.

Background and Rationale: The universal nature of social media means that young adults frequently encounter violent scenes and imagery, both intentionally and inadvertently. Understanding the physiological consequences of this exposure is essential for developing targeted interventions. Previous research has established a link between chronic stress and negative impacts on cognitive function and academic achievement. This study will extend that research by examining the specific contribution of violent social media content to overall stress levels.

Research Objectives and Hypothesis:

*To establish the baseline physiological stress levels of a cohort of college students.

*To measure the acute physiological stress responses of students exposed to both general and violent social media content.

*To test the hypothesis that students who limit their exposure to violent social media content will exhibit lower levels of physiological stress compared to those with high exposure.

Significance: The findings from this study will provide crucial data to support evidence-based recommendations for reducing media-induced stress among college students. By demonstrating a direct link between violent social media exposure and physiological stress, this research can inform students, educational programs, and behavioral interventions designed to improve student well-being and academic success.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Jaymes Anthony, Amanda Christine

[270] Factors that influence the experience of being assumed to be a student-athlete among Black college attendees

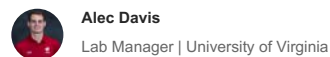
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

People often assume Black college students are student-athletes, regardless of whether they actually are. In the current study, we centered Black Americans' experiences of being assumed to be a student-athlete (N = 346, Black current and former college attendees). We specifically sought to understand how the experience was evaluated, and what attributions or cultural knowledge led to positive versus negative evaluations. Nearly 80% of Black participants reported having been assumed to be a student athlete, with Black men and student-athletes having the highest rates of experience. Overall, participants evaluated their most memorable experience as more positive than negative. However, being more surprised at the assumption, attributing the assumption to one's own race or others' bias, and attending an HBCU (vs. PWI) predicted more negative and less positive evaluations of the experience. Implications for the impact of experiencing positive stereotypes, and microaggressions on academic belonging and the importance of cultural context/knowledge are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Gerald Higginbotham, Jeff Stone, Jake Taylor

Beyond Stereotypes: Perceptions of Aging in Ourselves and Others

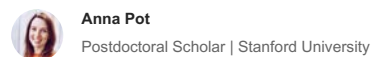
8:00 AM – 9:10 AM | Location: E450B, Level 4

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Age is a primary social category shaped by cultural contexts and internalized beliefs. As people live longer, age-based beliefs become increasingly relevant to social relationships, work, and community engagement. This symposium brings together research that examines the conditions under which perceptions of aging, in ourselves and others, shape expectations, beliefs, and behaviors. Presentations 1 and 2 demonstrate that moving from social groups to individual faces and introducing life-span context by viewing individual faces at different ages, combats 'ubiquitous but weakly held' group stereotypes. Over time, people may distance themselves from stereotypic views of aging, evidenced by the widening gap between subjective and chronological age. Presentation 3 demonstrates that feeling younger than one's chronological age relates to higher average temporal self-continuity and Presentation 4 suggests that younger subjective ages are associated with better cognitive performance and more positive affect. Together, these studies highlight the influential, but malleable nature of age as a social category.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Age Perceptions of Warmth and Competence Across Social Group Labels and Faces

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

According to the Stereotype Content Model, older adults as a group are rated as higher in warmth and lower in competence than young adults. Recently collected spontaneous impressions of real faces showed minimal effects of facial age in warmth and competence responses, even when age was made salient by intermixing young and older faces. We examine two potential sources of this discrepancy: perceptions of social groups versus individuals, and ratings versus spontaneous impressions. In Study 1, participants ($n=2,030$) rated faces (young and older adult) or social group labels (young adult, elderly) on warmth or competence. In Study 2, participants ($n=1,592$) provided spontaneous text responses; responses referencing warmth and competence were examined using natural language processing. Social group labels, but not real faces, elicited higher warmth ratings and more positively-valenced warmth responses to older versus young adults, suggesting that impressions of real people may be less impacted by group stereotypes. We found no consistent age effects for competence. Our findings have significant implications for the integration of stereotypes and facial impressions in person perception.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Anita Twele

Graduate Student | Brock University

Authors

Catherine Mondloch

Presentation Order Affects Age-related Impressions from Faces

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Faces convey information about competence, health, and approachability. We hypothesized that effects of age on perceptions are reduced when depictions of the same people presented in chronological order. Using a novel database of individuals portrayed at three different life stages (young, middle-aged and old) participants ($N=300$) rated faces on six attributes (appealing, approachable, attractive, competent, healthy, warm) in one of three conditions: random presentation ($N=100$), different individuals presented young-to-old ($N=100$), and the same individuals presented young-to-old ($N=100$). Sequential presentations of the same individuals consistently resulted in more positive perceptions than presentations of the same individuals in random order. Competence and attractiveness showed the most substantial order effects. Warmth was least affected. Effects were strongest for middle-aged and female faces, suggesting participants anchor women on younger appearances. These findings demonstrate that providing context to individual presentations in the form of aging meaningfully influences subjective judgments of individuals.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Anna Pot

Postdoctoral Scholar | Stanford University

Authors

Laura Carstensen

Discrepancies between Subjective and Actuarial Life Position: Associations with Age, Self-Construal, and Time Perception

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Prior findings suggest that subjective and actuarial life expectancy often diverge and that this varies by demographic and health background. Yet, little is known about how such discrepancies relate to temporal construals of the self and broader aspects of time perception. Using a U.S. sample ($N=456$, aged 18–99, 50% female, 55% Non-Hispanic White), this study examined subjective-actuarial differences in life position and their associations with temporal self-continuity, future time perspective, and future uncertainty. Subjective life position was rated on slider from 0=birth to 100=death, and actuarial life position (controlling for sex and race) was calculated from national data. With age, people tended to perceive themselves as younger than their actuarial position. Across age, perceiving oneself as younger was linked to higher average past and future self-continuity ($ps<.05$), to a more expansive future time perspective ($p<.001$), but not to future uncertainty. Findings suggest that discrepancies between subjective and actuarial life position are differentially associated with specific aspects of self- and time perceptions. Implications for motivation and well-being are discussed.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Yi Lu

PhD Candidate | Cornell University

Authors

Corinna Löckenhoff

Evidence-Based Priming Effects on Cognition and Emotion in Older Adults

8:00 AM – 9:10 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Prior research on internalized beliefs about aging has focused primarily on age stereotypes. Little is known about how exposure to empirical evidence about age-related gains and losses influences cognitive performance and emotional well-being in older adults. We investigated this relationship in two studies. In Study 1 (N = 398; M_age = 65.98), participants read an article describing positive or negative findings from cognitive aging research. Study 2 (N = 406; M_age = 66.64) followed a similar procedure but participants read positive or negative findings about emotion and aging. No main effects of priming were found. However, chronological age moderated performance in the condition that primed negative cognitive aging such that relatively older adults (≥ 65) performed more poorly on a cognitive task than younger-old adults. Across both studies and framing conditions, subjective age was associated with better cognitive performance, greater positive affect, and lower perceived task demand. These findings highlight the understudied, differential roles that chronological and subjective age have in shaping cognition and emotion after exposure to evidence-based age-related content.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kathrine Whitman

Ph.D. Student | Stanford University

Authors

Laura Carstensen

Positioning Social Psychology for the Future (INVITATION ONLY)

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: E255, Level 2

Due to limited space this is invite only at this time. Thank you for understanding!

Social psychology, as a field, is at a critical juncture. Recent technological advances present both opportunities and challenges for researchers and students alike. For example, while social psychology has long relied on biological methods to understand social processes, these techniques (like fMRI) have become more advanced. Recent years have also seen exponential growth in easily accessible Large Language Model generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the rise of Machine Learning to ask more complex statistical questions. Simultaneously, shifts in federal funding priorities pose new constraints and prospects for research support. At this moment in time, it is critical for social psychologists to reflect on how the science and the field will evolve in step with rapidly changing technology and federal priorities. The goal of this professional development workshop is to gather a large group of social psychologists to discuss adaptation to the emerging landscape, in ways that best position social psychology to remain an influential and generative field in the years to come.

*PROF DEV INVITATION ONLY

Speakers



Corinne Moss-Racusin

Professor | Skidmore College



Evava Pietri

Associate Professor | University of Colorado, Boulder

Student Mentoring Tables

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

Pre-registration required. [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

The SPSP Student Committee offers several mentoring opportunities designed specifically for undergraduate and graduate students. These events provide a supportive, small-group environment where students can connect with experienced scholars, advanced trainees, and peers to discuss academic pathways, career development, identity and inclusion, and professional growth within social and personality psychology.

Student mentoring events foster networking, community building, and candid conversations about navigating graduate school and early professional decisions. All student mentoring events require pre-registration, and space may be limited.

*MENTORING

Navigating Research in a Shifting Landscape: Funding, Careers, and Mentorship

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E450A, Level 4

Faced with a challenging funding environment, personality and social psychologists are confronting federal cuts and grant terminations that jeopardize the United States' scientific enterprise. Psychologists are also grappling with government opposition to research and programs with any perceived connection to diversity, equity, or inclusion. During this Professional Development session, the SPSP Government Relations Committee (GRC) will examine three key elements of this struggle: uncertainty surrounding research funding and its implications for current and future projects; difficulties related to teaching and mentoring psychology students as they build their own careers; and unpredictability in the job market for researchers who are seeking a job as well as those applying for tenure.

The speakers will discuss these challenges, offering support and practical guidance. The panelists come from a wide range of institutions, including Small Liberal Arts Colleges (SLACs), Primarily Undergraduate Institutions, and large, R1 universities. Session participants will have the opportunity to share their questions and experiences, connect with scholars facing similar issues, and learn how to advance their work in the current climate.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Rebecca Totton

Assistant Professor | Oberlin College



Cathy Kozlowski



Amanda Diekman

Professor | Indiana University



Catherine Sanderson
Professor | Amherst College



Yanine Hess
Chair, Associate Professor of Psychology | Purchase College, SUNY

Beyond Quantification: Expanding your Research Toolbox by incorporating Qualitative Methods

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Qualitative methods in psychology are underrepresented and undervalued (Masaryk & Rogers, 2024). However, their methodological inclusion is key to advancing scientific inquiry by incorporating aspects such as sociopolitical and historical contexts, and the processes of meaning-making individuals use to make sense of their experiences. This professional development session brings together skilled researchers who actively use diverse qualitative methods (interviews, testimonies, focus groups, social media, participatory action research) and analyses (reflexive thematic analysis, discourse, narrative, context) in their research. Further, researchers on this panel have different cultural backgrounds and expertise with non-WEIRD and marginalized populations. Attendees at this session will gain valuable knowledge and learn about cutting-edge qualitative and mixed-methods approaches. We will also share a mini-syllabus to kickstart attendees' ideas. Our panel will facilitate a critical, collaborative discussion on the power of qualitative methods, empowering researchers to strengthen their methodological toolkits in answering research questions beyond traditional surveys and experiments.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Carmen Marazzi
PhD student | Clark University



Apoorva Sarmal
Lyman T Johnson Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Kentucky



Anjali Dutt
Assistant Professor | University of Cincinnati



Michelle Twali
Assistant Professor | New York University



Micaela Varela
PhD student | New York University



Harrison Schmitt
Assistant Professor | Skidmore College

Data Blitz Teacher/Scholar

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E350, Level 3

*DATA BLITZ

Social Class and Social Goals in Romantic Relationships

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Romantic relationships provide an opportunity for couple members to expand their social networks and access greater social support, but these benefits do not occur for everyone. Although for some people romantic partnerships bring new friends, for others romantic relationships reduce their social ties. This research examined the role of social class as a factor that may influence these differences by informing the strategies people use to expand their social network. Across two studies, romantically involved participants reflected on their ideal romantic partner and indicated the extent to which they preferred to rely on their partner to fulfill their social connection or social support goals (e.g., making new friends or recruiting friends to provide support). Both Study 1 (N = 422) and Study 2 (N = 856) showed that individuals from higher (vs lower) class backgrounds had a stronger preference for relying on their partner to fulfill their social goals. This effect emerged only when social class was measured through educational achievement (as opposed to income), showcasing the unique role that education may play in helping people increase their social capital.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ledina Imami
Assistant Professor | Oberlin College

Expanding the Landscape of Social Support: A Bottom-Up Framework of Self-Reported Support Preferences and Provision

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Social support coding frameworks have traditionally focused on a limited set of support types, emotional, informational, instrumental, and appraisal, developed through top-down approaches and assessed via surveys or observed interactions (Cutrona & Suhr, 1994; Pasch et al., 1991). This study adopts a bottom-up, inductive approach by analyzing open-ended self-reports to identify support people prefer to give and receive during stress. Results showed recipients prefer behaviours not captured by traditional support typologies such as wanting a distraction from their problem or encouragement to be more mindful. Conversely, participants most often reported providing emotional support, active listening, and companionship to others. When comparing preferences for support received versus provided, a greater proportion of providers favoured giving emotional support, positive reframing, and esteem support than recipients desired, whereas more recipients preferred a distraction from their problem than providers preferred to offer. Women were more likely than men to prefer mindfulness, spiritual, and physical support (e.g., breathing, prayer, touch). Implications and future work discussed.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Melanie Christoforou
PhD Student | Wilfrid Laurier University

Authors

Justin Cavallo

When Nonstandard Meets Standard: Language and Affective Dynamics in Accent-Diverse Group Interactions

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

What happens when a standard-accented newcomer joins a group of nonstandard-accented speakers? While past work focuses on how newcomers adapt, this exploratory research flips the lens to examine how newcomers disrupt or facilitate ongoing interactions. Drawing on communication accommodation theory, we analyzed 49 WebEx discussions (N=102) where a standard-accented speaker joined midway, creating a natural “newcomer” scenario. Study 1 analyzed speech shifts—showing that post-newcomer’s entry, nonstandard-accented participants started talking more like them and less like each other, made more speech errors, spoke with greater confidence but less authenticity, yet used fewer filler words—indicating increased self-monitoring and interactional disruption. Study 2 revealed a twist: positive affect, more than negative, predicted higher interaction quality, suggesting participants viewed the newcomer as facilitative rather than disruptive. Findings paint a nuanced picture: amid disrupted speech patterns, nonstandard-accented speakers may still hold positive perceptions of post-newcomer interactions. The work offers insights into accent-diverse group dynamics and language training.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Merrisa Lin

Assistant Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences | Fairfield University

Authors

Nairan Ramirez-Esparza, Alexandra Paxton

From Bedroom to Bond: The Asymmetrical Links Between Sexual and Pair Bonding Motivational Systems

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Most romantic relationships—whether they are transient or long-lasting—reflect the dual activation of both sexual behavior and pair bonding systems. Nevertheless, how these two systems influence one another has not been extensively examined. Across two experiments (N = 900), we tested whether (1) activation of the sexual behavior system would mutually activate the pair bonding system whereas (2) activation of the pair bonding system would not activate—and might even inhibit—the sexual behavior system. Results indicated that experimentally priming sexual desire increased not only sexual motivation but also pair bonding motivation, relative to a control condition. In contrast, priming pair bonding did not increase sexual motivation, relative to a control condition. We also observed sex differences such that men reported higher sexual motivation and women higher pair bonding motivation on average, though these differences were attenuated or reversed in the priming conditions. Together, these studies reveal a key motivational asymmetry: sexual desire serves as a gateway to pair bonding motivation, whereas pair bonding does not reciprocally enhance sexual motivation.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sierra Peters

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Rhodes College

Authors

Jon Maner

Personality Stability and Change Across the Academic Semester

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

In this Registered Report, we tested competing theories of personality change across the academic semester and experiences associated with personality changes. The Situational Perspective predicted that conscientiousness and extraversion would decrease and neuroticism would increase as stress and workload increase; the Maturity Principle predicted that conscientiousness and agreeableness would increase and neuroticism would decrease as students adapt to new roles and expectations; and the Personality Stability Perspective predicted that personality would remain unchanged. From the beginning to end of the Fall semester, we observed a decrease in conscientiousness, consistent with the Situational Perspective, but also a decrease in agreeableness and openness, which were unpredicted from all three theories. Changes in personality co-occurred with declines in subjective well-being, social support, and health behaviors. In contrast to prior research showing personality maturity over the college years, we observed declines in traits associated with maturity over the semester, suggesting that students must adapt to new challenges and expectations before growing from their experiences.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Stephanie Anglin

Associate Professor | Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Authors

Rachel Rubinstein, Dustin Haraden, Caitlin Drummond Otten, Brandon Mangracina, K. Mackenzie Shaw

CANCELLED:

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

ATTITUDES/PERSUASION

*DATA BLITZ

Centering Social Fit, Self-Concept Fit, Goal Fit, and Resource Fit as Core Elements of Students' Experiences of Belonging at School

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Promoting belonging in school has become a focal concern. Such efforts require a comprehensive, accurate understanding of what belonging means. In this theoretical work, I argue that social psychological research on students' experiences of belonging has overwhelmingly focused on their sense of social connection to others at school (social fit), while overlooking other factors essential to these experiences. Using research from beyond social psychology, I show that when students describe their experiences of belonging in school, their descriptions also emphasize the extent to which they experience support for their valued identities (self-concept fit), goals (goal fit), and basic financial, nutritional, and safety needs (resource fit). Furthermore, I demonstrate that the reason that these four forms of fit matter for belonging is because they enable students' social connections, identities, goals, and needs to feel natural, inconspicuous, and "right" when they are at school, and it is those feelings of "fluency" that ultimately produce a holistic experience that they belong. Implications for measuring belonging and for belonging-supportive interventions/policies are discussed.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Alexander Browman

Assistant Professor | College of the Holy Cross

Simplification of Affect in Prejudice: The Winnowing of Time

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

We interrogate the notions that stereotypes cause prejudice, that stereotypic information is part of the representation of prejudice, and that the connections among stereotypes, emotions, and prejudice are durable over time. In five experiments (total N = 1060), we find the connection between stereotypes, emotions and prejudice fades rather quickly with time. We generate novel prejudices through evaluative conditioning, exposing participants to stereotypic information that indicates a specific negative emotion. Endorsement of the specifically induced emotion is high at first, but much reduced five days later, becoming nearly indistinguishable from other negative emotions. Meanwhile, prejudice levels remain relatively high. We show that connections between stereotypes and prejudice fade rapidly (although the prejudice does not), and that specificity of emotions degrades quickly. Memory for stereotypic information can mostly disappear while the prejudice remains. These data suggest that, absent reinforcement, the representation of prejudice towards a group is rapidly winnowed down to valence; durable prejudice representations seem to be a simple representation of negative affect.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Angela Bahns

Associate Professor | Wellesley College

Authors

Christian Crandall, Alexander Schoemann, Kaitlyn Helmstetter, Kelly Swanson

Shared Self-Expansion Activities Predict Individual and Relationship Well-being

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

We examined engagement in shared self-expanding activities predicting individual and relationship well-being in three studies. Because previous studies have focused on younger couples, we wanted to understand the effects of shared activities in retirement. In Study 1, 188 retired, married individuals completed measures of frequency of participation in exciting and pleasant activities, relationship and subjective well-being. Participation in exciting activities positively correlated with self-expansion, closeness, curiosity, positive affect, and satisfaction with life. In Study 2, 156 retired individuals in relationships were randomly assigned to read an article about the benefits of exciting or pleasant activities (or a no article control) and planned a date for their partner. Individuals who planned more exciting dates experienced greater individual and relational well-being. In Study 3, 199 retired couples were randomly assigned to participate in exciting, pleasant, or no activity. Participation in exciting activities predicted increased self-efficacy. In addition, for those in the exciting and pleasant conditions, perceived excitement of the activity predicted increased marital satisfaction, self-efficacy, positive affect, curiosity, and satisfaction with life one week later. Implications for the self-expansion model in older adulthood will be discussed.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Jennifer Tomlinson

Associate Professor | Colgate Univ.

Authors

Caroline Hashagen

Adult Attachment and Co-Rumination Outcomes in Romantic Couples

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Co-rumination is a dyadic emotion regulation strategy associated with both positive interpersonal benefits and negative intrapersonal outcomes, but recent work suggests that there may be individual differences in the effect of co-rumination. Attachment is a trait that influences how people respond to stress in interactions and may provide key insights into the individual nature of the outcomes from co-rumination. The current research examined the potential moderation of insecure attachment on the effect of a co-rumination manipulation. 139 romantic couples (278 participants) received instructions to either engage in co-rumination or discuss naturally, engaged in a problem discussion, then completed self-report measures of stressed and upset feelings, negative and positive affect, closeness, and perceived partner responsiveness. Results revealed that greater attachment anxiety was associated with greater stressed and upset feelings and negative affect, consistent with prior literature. However, attachment did not moderate any of the outcomes of the co-rumination condition. Future research should further examine the impact of individual characteristics on co-rumination outcomes.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker

J

Jessica Lang
Assistant Professor | Hamline University

Authors

Ashley Tudder, Abriana Gresham, Brett Peters

From belief to behaviour: An incremental theory of life satisfaction predicts greater engagement in well-being facilitating behaviours and greater life satisfaction over time

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Some people believe that well-being is malleable (incremental theory) and others believe it is fixed (entity theory). Past research suggests that these implicit theories of well-being shape individuals' intentions to engage in well-being facilitating behaviors. However, no research to date has examined why implicit theories predict differences in intentions, or whether these differences in intentions predict differences in behavior engagement and life satisfaction over time. The current work addressed these two gaps in the literature. In Study 1 (N = 297; cross-sectional), incremental theorists believed that their daily choices have a greater impact on their satisfaction, which in turn predicted greater intentions to engage in well-being facilitating behaviours. Further, in Study 2 (N = 204; longitudinal), holding a more incremental theory also predicted greater beliefs in daily behaviours as a source of satisfaction and greater behaviour intentions 3 months later which in turn predicted greater reported behaviour engagement and satisfaction at the end of the study- another 3 months later (controlling for initial satisfaction).

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Erin Shanahan
Assistant Professor, Psychology | St. Mary's University

Authors

Jack Maleski, Michael Busseri

The Social Roots of Well-Being: Relational and Affective Processes Across Cultural Contexts

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

What makes people "be well" – feel satisfied with their lives, connected to others, or grateful for what they have? This symposium brings together four talks that examine the socio-relational foundations of well-being through both emic (within-culture) and etic (cross-cultural) approaches.

We begin with work investigating how first-generation immigrants and non-immigrants in the U.S. differ in their experiences and expectations of gratitude toward their country. And importantly, how these feelings can shape broader social attitudes such as blind patriotism and system justification.

Shifting to Japan, the second presentation applies the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide to explore how relationship-oriented personalities (i.e., interpersonal sensitivity and privileged self) and cultural orientations toward horizontalism among Japanese adults shape feelings of thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensomeness, predictors of passive suicidal ideation.

The third talk turns to the question of where people derive a sense of worth, contrasting the predictive strength of self worth and social worth for life satisfaction across cultural groups, with particular attention to Sub-Saharan African contexts – a populous yet underrepresented region in psychological science.

The symposium concludes with a global analysis of the relationship between family satisfaction and life satisfaction in the context of both historical and contemporary cultural heterogeneity, further illustrated through an in-depth case study of Saudi Arabia.

Together, these talks illuminate the diverse relational processes that underpin well-being around the world and highlight implications for interventions, policy, and intergroup relations in an increasingly interconnected global society.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Tong Suo
PhD student | University of Michigan

CANCELLED:

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

T

*SYMPOSIA

Making America Grateful Again: The experience, and expectation, of immigrants' gratitude towards country.

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

EMOTION

Gratitude towards others is disproportionately expressed by the less powerful (Anicich et al 2022), potentially serving a system-justifying function (c.f. Eibach et al 2015; Tsang et al 2021). I will present three studies (N=1400) showing that experiences of gratitude towards one's country varies across immigrant identity, and that this difference predicts willingness across immigrant vs non-immigrant groups to critique/support existing social structures. 1st generation immigrants to the US not only reported increased gratitude towards their country of resettlement, but also reported a greater expectation (compared to non-immigrants) that they ought to feel grateful towards the country (Studies 1-3). These feelings in turn predicted greater blind patriotism and general system justification (Studies 2-3). These findings align with research from critical migration studies showing the prevalence of gratitude-towards-country narratives in migrant communities, and the ways in which these themes can regulate the expression of negative emotions (Iqbal et al 2021).

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Piercarlo Valdesolo
Assistant Professor | St Olaf College

Authors

Olivia Ceminsky, Grace Nichols, Susanne Schroll, Mary Yelick

Possible Risk and Protective Factors for Passive Suicidal Ideation among People in Japan: Interpersonal Sensitivity, Privileged Self, and Cultural Orientation

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Given the significant cross-cultural variation in suicide rates, it is critical to further understand the role that cultural orientation may have in suicidal ideation. Using the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide as a framework, the current study sought to investigate how cultural orientation, along with interpersonal sensitivity and privileged self – two personality traits closely related to new-type depression, a collection of depressive syndromes initially identified in Japan – may be linked with passive suicidal ideation, namely, thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensomeness. A total of 1,000 adults (Mage = 45.02, SD = 13.46) in Japan participated in an online survey. Results using two hierarchical regression analyses revealed that both interpersonal sensitivity and privileged self were positively associated with passive suicidal ideation. Horizontal collectivism was negatively associated with thwarted belongingness, and horizontal individualism was negatively associated with perceived burdensomeness. These findings suggest that personality traits that are associated with new-type depression may serve as risk factors, whereas a horizontal cultural orientation may serve as a protective factor, for passive suicidal ideation among people in Japan. Future studies should investigate how such personality traits and cultural orientation are formed, under what conditions they play a significant role, and if or how they can be changed.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Marina Tagaki-Morris
PhD Student | Oakland University

Authors

Marina Tagaki-Morris, Yudai Suzuki, Shinji Sakamoto, Kanako Taku

The Centrality of Social Worth to Life Satisfaction in Sub-Saharan Africa

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

While subjective well-being (SWB) is an extensively studied topic, theoretical frameworks and empirical findings remain disproportionately shaped by WEIRD populations and epistemologies. Our studies sought to address this gap by combining exploratory and confirmatory approaches to identify psychological foundations of SWB that are distinctive to Sub-Saharan African (SSA) cultural contexts.

In within-country Studies 1A and 1B, we employed elastic net and group LASSO to inductively identify top predictors of life satisfaction among two community samples with a set of 40+ social psychological and demographic variables. In both Niger (N = 930) and Uganda (N = 926), indicators of social worth (relational esteem, social standing, and group contribution) emerged as the strongest predictors whereas indicators of self worth were not retained by the model for either samples.

In between-country Study 2, a multi-group SEM analysis revealed culturally diverging results: social worth was more predictive of life satisfaction in SSA than in a U.S. sample (N=1104) whereas self worth was more predictive in the U.S. than in SSA.

In a global Study 3 with data from the World Values Survey (72,224 respondents across 46 countries), social worth was both more valued and more strongly predicted life satisfaction in SSA than other cultural regions. In contrast, self worth did not significantly predict life satisfaction in SSA.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Tong Suo
PhD student | University of Michigan

Authors

Richard Gonzalez, Catherine Thomas

Cognitive heuristics, attitudes, and emotions influence criminal justice and face recognition outcomes

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E265, Level 2

This symposium advances understanding across legal, social, and perceptual domains, examining how biases, attitudes, and emotions influence systemic and real-world outcomes. First, we examine how high potential trial sentences influence plea choices predominantly through deliberative, central-route processing, reinforcing perceptions of exculpatory evidence and reducing plea acceptance. Secondly, research on attitudes during the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests reveal that support for reform is impacted by entrenched beliefs in the justice system; support for meaningful change is lowered among those with high system justification. Thirdly, political conviction research demonstrate that faces perceived as corruptible are more likely to be convicted, with perceptions of being investigated serving

as a mediator. Finally, cross-racial recognition research underscore how positive emotional experiences and racial identity—more than contact frequency—are crucial for improving face recognition accuracy. Together, the research spotlights how attitudes and emotions contribute shape criminal justice decisions, first impressions, and face memory.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Joy Tong

Graduate student | National University of Singapore

Boundary Conditions on Anchoring in Legal Judgment and Choice

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Prosecutors sometimes overcharge, using excessively high potential trial sentences (PTSs) to anchor defendants on longer maximum sentences and coerce plea deals (Cárdenas, 2023). Across two experiments (N = 247 - 193), I find no evidence that informationally irrelevant anchors influence plea decisions via less-deliberative, peripheral-route processing: severe (vs. lenient) anchors had no differential effect on sentencing preferences, case judgments, or plea choices. A pre-registered third experiment (N = 844) reveals evidence of deliberative, central-route processing: excessively severe (vs. moderate) PTSs backfired by strengthening perceptions of exculpatory evidence ($d = .26$), lowering probability of conviction estimates ($d = .29$), and reducing plea acceptance (38 vs. 55%). These results suggest anchoring effects on preferential judgments are bounded by anchor extremity and irrelevance.

As recent meta-analyses emphasize, much debate remains about anchoring's underlying mechanisms (Bystranowski et al. 2021; Schley & Weingarten, 2025). This work furthers mechanistic accounts of anchoring biases and is among the handful to examine downstream effects on cross-modal judgments and choice outcomes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Stephanie Cárdenas

Assistant Professor | Bucknell University

Criminal Justice System Justification Support, BLM Endorsement and Support for Police Reform in 2020

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This study examined how support for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement correlates with attitudes toward police reform and whether criminal justice system justification (CJSJ) moderates those associations. Using a U.S. racially representative sample (N = 2913) participants completed a survey in Summer 2020, during the height of the BLM protest. Participants rated their support for three reform domains: dismantling the policing institution, increasing community collaboration, and preserving the policing institution. BLM support was associated with higher support for dismantling and community collaboration, and lower support for preserving. CJSJ had an opposite direction main effect such that higher justification was associated with lower support for reforms and greater support for preserving. Moderation analyses revealed significant interactions, but the main effects of BLM support and system justification on reform were stronger. These findings build on SJ theory, which suggest that even amid widespread protests and symbolic support, an individual's entrenched beliefs in system legitimacy may constrain support for radical or structural change (Kay & Friesen, 2011).

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Christina Carr

MA/PhD Community Psychology Student | DePaul University

Authors

Christine Reyna

Inferring Corruptibility of Politicians from Faces Applies Only If They Are White

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

First impressions from faces shape important real-world outcomes, including criminal justice. Here we investigated to what extent political corruption conviction was associated with facial impressions across politician gender, race, and perceiver culture. Across four preregistered studies (N = 1,352), we found that Caucasian male and Caucasian female politicians who were perceived to be more corruptible were more likely to have been convicted of political corruption. We replicated this finding across perceivers from U.S. representative samples, European samples, and Asian samples (Studies 1 & 2). Interestingly, this association was absent for African American politicians, likely buffered by the Teddy Bear effect (Study 3). We further identified underlying mechanisms by surveying participants working specifically in the finance and legal industries. We found that the higher likelihood of being investigated (but not bribed) mediated the association between looking corruptible and being convicted of political corruption (Study 4). These findings advance a mechanistic and generalizable understanding of how facial impressions shape behaviors in the real world.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Yufei Mao

University of California, San Diego

Authors

Yufei Mao, Chujun Lin

Intrapersonal Factors Trump Contact Frequency in Cross-Racial Face Recognition

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Cross-racial face recognition failures fuel wrongful convictions and social barriers. While cross-racial contact theoretically builds recognition expertise, meta-analyses show contact accounts for only 2% of recognition accuracy. Using theory-driven variable selection and data-driven network modelling, we identified intrapersonal factors mediating contact and recognition. Participants (N=515) completed face recognition tasks and measures of personality, contact motivation, racial attitudes and identity, outgroup emotion, and contact experiences. Network analysis showed that contact frequency was insufficient to enhance face recognition; perceived positivity of close contact enhanced allophilia (positive outgroup affect), decreased anxiety, increased racial awareness, and improved face recognition. This study pioneers insights on allophilia and positive racial self-concept in cross-race face recognition. This intrapersonal lens positions individual motives and emotions—not mere exposure—as the critical conduits of face learning. Interventions should foster allophilia and enhance perceptions of contact experiences, rather than simply increasing contact opportunities.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Joy Tong**
Graduate student | National University of Singapore

Authors

Sacha Epskamp

How Culture Shapes Seeing and Being Seen: Person Perception, Stereotype Accuracy, and Multiracial Well-Being

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E451B, Level 4

SELF/IDENTITY CULTURE

This symposium showcases research on the roles of culture and identity in person perception, stereotype accuracy, and multiracial people's well-being. The first talk reveals how individual and societal-level honor norms and values relate to differences in perception of apologies across multiple societies. The second talk highlights cognitive mechanisms explaining cross-cultural stereotype accuracy. The third talk considers racial socialization as a protective factor in the relationship between discrimination and well-being among multiracial people. Together, these talks demonstrate how culture and identity influence how we see others and how we are seen by others.

*SYMPOSIUM

Chair

 **Zoey Eddy**
Graduate Student | Rutgers University

Cancelled: Anchoring and Adjustment Shapes Cross-Cultural Stereotype Accuracy

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

The accuracy of social stereotypes is a deeply contentious issue—traditional views claim they're biased and inaccurate, while a vocal minority argues they're adaptive and accurate. Yet largely overlooked are the cognitive mechanisms by which people form stereotypes and how these mechanisms shape (in)accuracy. We address this gap by examining cross-cultural stereotyping accuracy between U.S. and Chinese participants and developing an anchoring and adjustment model. Specifically, we assessed how accurately participants from one country could predict the generosity of the other country toward various outgroups (e.g., Australians, Japanese). We found substantial variation in stereotype accuracy, with U.S. participants significantly more accurate than their Chinese counterparts. Importantly, these performance differences were mediated by anchoring and adjustment processes, where the U.S. advantage in accuracy stemmed not from more accurate anchors, but from more effective adjustments. These findings offer new insight into when stereotypes are accurate and how cognitive mechanisms shape social inference across cultural boundaries, which have important scientific and societal implications.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Wang Jiashu**
Assistant Professor | Renmin University of China

Authors

Jiashu Wang, Adrianna Jenkins, Colin Camerer, Ming Hsu, Jingjing Ma

Divergent Links Between Personal And Cultural Honor Values on Perceived Impact of Apology After Wrongdoing: A 16-Country Study

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

CULTURE

Recent research suggests that concerns about reputation and self-image may impede apologies in cultures where honor is a strong central value. We test this idea in a survey study using general population samples from 16 societies in Mediterranean, East Asian and Anglo-Western regions (N = 5,103). Individuals rated transgressors' perceived likability, respectability, strength, and reputation after reading scenarios involving an apology, no apology, or refusal to apologize. Consistent with previous findings, observers who endorsed high levels of self-promotion and retaliation (SPR) honor evaluated apologies more negatively, with apologies having less perceived positive effect on perceived likability, respectability, strength and reputation. Contrary to previous findings, individuals who endorsed high levels of defense-of-family (DOF) honor and high society-level honor norm endorsement were associated with more positive views towards apologizers. These findings highlight a more nuanced view of the relationship between honor and apology, with certain facets impeding apology (SPR) while others (DOF) support and enhance the importance of apologizing after transgressions.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jason Freeman
Post-doctoral Fellow | University of Sussex

Authors

Vivian Vignoles, Ayse K. Uskul, Alexander Kirchner-Häusler, Jason D. Freeman, Michael J. A. Wohl

Multiracial Socialization Moderates the Relationship Between Identity Contestation and Stress

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

SELF/IDENTITY

Due to holding multiple racial backgrounds Multiracial people often experience identity contestation (i.e., negotiation, questioning, or denial of one's identity), which negatively influences their well-being. Yet, little work has examined possible moderators to reduce the negative impact of identity contestation. The present work examined whether Multiracial socialization (i.e., preparation for monoracism or experiencing discrimination based on having multiple racial backgrounds; Atkin et al., 2022) moderated the relationship between identity contestation and stress. Across two pre-registered studies (Study 1: n = 150; Study 2: n = 151) Multiracial participants completed surveys assessing their experiences with identity contestation, preparation for monoracism, and perceived stress. The findings revealed that participants who received higher levels of preparation for monoracism were protected from the negative relationship between high levels of identity contestation and stress. Future research should continue to explore the moderating effects of Multiracial socialization, as it may be a possible tool to protect Multiracial people's well-being after identity contestation.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Zoey Eddy
Graduate Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Diana Sanchez, Rachel Mesa

OPEN

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

*SYMPOSIA

Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise: Judgment and Decision-Making in Life's Critical Domains

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E270, Level 2

MORALITY APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY PHYSICAL HEALTH JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

From trusting AI doctors to judging the wealthy, and from resolving conflicts to leaving social interactions, we make critical decisions every day. This symposium explores the psychology behind these judgments in life's most important domains. Under the theme of Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise, our four papers utilize diverse methodologies, including APIM and survival analysis, to reveal how we navigate health, status, and intimacy. Join us for a dynamic discussion on the cognitive and emotional processes driving our most significant social choices.

*SYMPOSIA

Bridging the Equity Gap: A Longitudinal Study on HBM-Based Segmentation and AI-Personalized Intervention

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Previous segmentation research mostly focuses on identifying different segments and calling for customized intervention for them in the future. With the help of AI, this research answers this critical call and tests a "segment-then-persuade" strategy in diabetes management, examining its effectiveness and its ELM-based dual-trust mechanism.

Based on health belief model, we segmented Chinese participants (N=993) into three clusters and then randomized them within each cluster to receive an AI (Gemini 2.5 Pro)-generated personalized message or a unified control.

AI-personalized messages significantly boosted adoption intent for all three segments. This effect was serially mediated via elaboration to cognitive trust and eventually to affective trust. We also identified a novel shortcut from elaboration to affective trust, which supplements existing trust models.

This study validates a "theory-driven segmentation + AI-execution" paradigm. By revealing a dual-trust mechanism with an emotional shortcut, we extend ELM and trust theory to AI persuasion, offering a complete empirical model for precise and human-centered intelligent health interventions.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Qinxuan Yin
student | Hunan University

Dyadic perspective-taking in interpersonal conflict

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Studies of perspective-taking (P-T) in conflict situations have tended to use dyadic (2-person) paradigms, but to conventionally analyze only individual outcomes. They therefore have not tested for reciprocal effects of both actors' and partners' P-T on each other, on conflict outcomes, and on the dyads' relationship. Yet, testing for such reciprocal effects is important for understanding how P-T operates in conflict situations. We applied dyadic actor-partner interdependence models (APIM) to a study of 43 dyads participating in a mild conflict role-play. Participants reported their P-T frequency, confidence, and tendencies prior to the interaction. Outcomes included conflict resolution, perceptions of partner's P-T, and felt connectedness to the other. Multiple partner effects emerged, indicating, for example, that participants' self-reported P-T frequency ($B = 0.39$, $SE = 0.19$, $p = .046$), confidence ($B = 0.34$, $SE = 0.17$, $p = .049$), and tendency ($B = 0.41$, $SE = 0.20$, $p = .038$) all predicted their partners' feelings of greater connectedness. No significant actor effects emerged. Findings demonstrate the utility of applying dyadic analysis techniques such as APIM in P-T research.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Suzanne Gurland
Professor of Psychology | Middlebury College

Authors

Suzanne Gurland, Holly Laws

Pitting nouveau riche against old money: Current wealth dominates past wealth in moral character judgments

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MORALITY

Prior research suggests that wealthy individuals are judged more harshly than poor individuals for the same moral infractions. However, it remains unclear whether this effect emerges because of wealth status itself or because of targets' histories of monetary privilege or stress. Across five studies ($Ns = 257, 243, 376, 252, 290$), participants evaluated bad-behaving targets who varied in childhood (low/high) and current (low/high) socioeconomic status (SES). Overall, low SES targets were judged less harshly and current SES contributed more than prior SES for judgments of moral character and reasons for acting. The age at which targets became low or high SES (5 or 17) interacted with whether current and past wealth impacted judgments. In addition, providing participants negative (vs. no) character information lessened the importance of current and prior SES on character evaluations. Results replicated over different infractions (e.g., theft, deception, and physical aggression). Overall, participants use target SES, particularly current SES, as an indicator of moral character after an infraction, such that actors with high SES are assumed to be more immoral than those with low SES.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Becca Ruger
Graduate Student | The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Becca Ruger, Sean M. Laurent

Should I Stay or Should I Go? Real-Time Decisions Under Ambivalence in Social Contexts

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

How do people decide whether to stay in or leave a social interaction when feeling ambivalent—especially in intimate or sexual contexts? Across three studies (two preregistered), we used a novel real-time decision paradigm inspired by evidence-accumulation models to simulate ambivalence via streams of positive and negative signals. Participants decided when to leave simulated interactions as we manipulated valence and ambivalence. Study 1 validated the paradigm in a neutral setting. Studies 2 and 3 introduced social contexts, comparing professional interactions to dating (Study 2) or sexual (Study 3) ones in heterosexual women samples. Across studies, ambivalence increased decision difficulty and shaped real-time decisions to leave. Importantly, compared to professional contexts, ambivalence reduced leaving in dating but increased it in sexual interactions. These findings suggest that social context shapes how ambivalent signals are weighted during real-time decisions and affects decision thresholds. This work bridges decision science and social psychology to gain new insights both about decision processes and about the dynamics of impactful social interactions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Noam Markovitch
Post-doctoral fellow | UCL

Authors

Maarten Speekenbrink

Cognitive, Social, and Cultural Pathways to Behavioral Change

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E353B, Level 3

MOTIVATION/GOALS

What drives behavioral change? This symposium brings together four complementary perspectives on how internal and external forces, from goal framing to social norms, identities, and culture, can motivate or inhibit change. The talks span lab and field studies across individual, interpersonal, and intergroup levels, exploring how people facilitate and respond to behavioral change efforts.

Talk 1 examines how framing behavioral goals as “do” versus “don’t” shape the way from evaluation to intention.

Talk 2 explores how tailoring messages that match, or mismatch recipients’ identities enhance or derail engagement depending on perceived judgment and timing.

Talk 3 demonstrates how culturally attuned behavioral interventions aligned with local models of self and motivation outperform Western approaches in reducing poverty.

Talk 4 shows that highlighting social norms and outgroup representations reduces discrimination and fosters inclusion through field interventions.

Together, these talks emphasize how cognitive framing, identity, and cultural fit function in the broader landscape of behavior change, offering practical insights into individual, social, and cultural processes.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Maya Enisman
Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Pennsylvania

To Do or Not to Do: How Goal Framing Shapes Behavioral Change

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This project investigates how framing a behavioral change as a “do” (e.g., get early to bed) versus a “don’t” (e.g., don’t stay up late) influences motivation and implementation intentions. Across 8 studies using open-ended goal generation, rating tasks, and mouse-tracking, we examined how goal framing shapes behavioral change. When prompted to list desired changes, participants generate more “do” than “don’t” goals, a consistent pattern across perspectives (self / other / other-for-self, n = 594) and time frames (past / present / future, n = 593). In rating tasks, behavioral change goals were rated as more important when framed as “do” rather than “don’t”, both when participants described their own goals (coded as “do” vs. “don’t”; n = 317), and when presented with goals (manipulated to be framed as “do” vs. “don’t”; n = 271). Mouse-tracking data (n = 408) revealed greater decision conflict when choosing between “don’t” goals, as reflected by longer decision time and more erratic movement paths. We conclude that behavioral change is influenced by how goals are framed, offering insights to facilitate change. Where “don’t” goals highlight a barrier, “do” goals can create a pathway.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Maya Enisman
Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Dolores Albarracín

Too Close for Comfort: Leveraging Identity-based Relevance Backfires When People Feel Judged

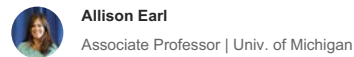
9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Most persuasive efforts assume that increasing message relevance will improve audience engagement. This may be the case when relevance is tied to attitudes, but may backfire when relevance is tied to identities. In two studies (total n = 2,164), delivering weight loss messages tied to audiences' higher body weights increased shame and irritation, which in turn, decreased attention. However, targeting the same information as a function of relevant personal goals, or at a relevant time (e.g., New Years, when identities feel malleable) decreased feeling judged and increased attention for audiences with higher (vs lower) body weights. Moreover, in two studies (total n = 782), Black Americans compared to White Americans paid less attention to persuasive messages and were less trustful of the source when participants made attributions that the message was linked to negative judgments about their racial group. This framework highlights why an audience's identity is essential for understanding how such bedrock principles of persuasion as relevance actually operate. Relevance (particularly identity relevance) is not neutral - it is interpreted; and those interpretations impact persuasion.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Veronica Derricks

Culturally Wise Interventions: A Framework for a Globalizing Behavioral Science

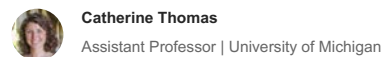
9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

From the UN to the World Bank to government Nudge Units, behavioral science is increasingly used to address global challenges like climate change, poverty, and health disparities. Yet over 90% of behavioral research is conducted in high-income, Western contexts, raising questions about its relevance and effectiveness in majority world, Global South settings. There, might Western-derived approaches be less impactful, or less preferred? Could a culturally attuned behavioral science be more effective? This talk introduces a framework for "culturally wise" interventions. Building on culture match theory and principles of wise interventions (Walton & Wilson, 2018), culturally wise interventions account for how local models of self, motivation, and relationships shape meaning making and behavior. I present empirical examples of their effects in lab and field experiments in East and West Africa, specifically comparing Western-derived and culturally wise behavioral science approaches on economic empowerment and poverty reduction. I conclude with future directions for advancing a truly global behavioral science.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Behavior Change to Promote Equity and Inclusion

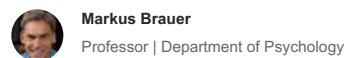
9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Other people's behaviors, not their beliefs or cognitions, shape the experience of members of marginalized groups. After showing that changing intergroup attitudes is a rather ineffective method to get people to behave in a more inclusive and less discriminatory manner, I will discuss the factors that have been shown to have a strong causal impact on intergroup behavior and which of these factors can be leveraged in the real world to promote positive intergroup relations. In a series of studies from our lab, I will show that it is possible to get people to behave more inclusively toward members of an outgroup if one makes the heterogeneity of the outgroup salient or highlights pro-diversity social norms. We also show that these changes in behavior sometimes have downstream consequences for members of marginalized groups who report an enhanced sense of belonging and earn better grades in college. Mook (1983) distinguished between "effects that do occur" and "effects that can be made to occur." Our studies, which are all randomized controlled trials conducted in field settings with large samples, all provide evidence for effects that do occur.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Modelling the Minds: Novel Computational Approaches to Social Judgment

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E353C, Level 3

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Human judgments are guided by internal representations of people, preferences, and social categories that shape social perception and behavior. This session presents new computational tools including generative AI, behavioral experiments, and large language models to model these mental representations. Talk 1 uses generative AI to model individual preferences, revealing unique and reliable visual profiles across faces, objects, and scenes. Talk 2 uses reverse correlation to uncover political differences in leadership ideals, showing conservatives visualize leaders as more masculine. Talk 3 finds people are more willing to help than to ask for help, especially toward trustworthy-looking and female faces, highlighting how perceived trust and gender shapes help decisions. Talk 4 analyzes stereotypes across 300,000 intersectional identities using large language models, finding that stereotype content becomes more negative and emergent with categorical complexity. Together, these talks show how computational approaches yield interpretable, scalable insights into the mind's representation of social judgment.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Using Generative AI to Model Idiosyncratic Preferences

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Human preferences are inherently idiosyncratic—individuals exhibit unique tastes in art, fashion, and interpersonal attraction. However, a substantial amount of research in judgment and decision-making relies on aggregated data, treating individual differences as noise and potentially obscuring the very phenomenon researchers aim to investigate. Understanding this complexity requires developing individual-level models, but existing methods are limited in their ability to capture idiosyncrasies. We present a novel, comprehensive framework leveraging generative artificial intelligence to model individual variation in preferences for diverse categories of stimuli, including faces, objects, and scenes. Across a series of eight interrelated studies, we show that our method produces valid, robust, and photorealistic visualizations reflecting each participant's unique visual stereotypes, allowing for a quantifiable examination into how individual variation shapes preferences. This approach extends to domains like consumer behavior and personalized design, offering new insights into the influence of idiosyncrasies on judgment and enabling more tailored and effective interventions.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Daniel Albohn

Postdoc | University of Chicago

Authors

Alexander Todorov, Stefan Uddenberg

Hyper-realistic reverse correlation reveals gender bias in leadership representations

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Appearance influences election outcomes via leadership stereotypes. We used hyper-realistic reverse correlation to elucidate such visual stereotypes. Participants (N=300) viewed generated faces and judged their leadership quality. Aggregating these choices yielded visually compelling and interpretable mental representations at both individual and group levels. While political group-averaged representations were similar along many subjective attributes (e.g., "trustworthiness"), they revealed a gender bias: conservatives' "good leaders" were more masculine than those of liberals. We directly replicated this result using richer latent face representations (N=300). We validated individual participant models on other observers (N=150), probing their willingness to vote for different faces. Participants were not only more willing to vote for "good" leader faces, but were most willing for faces generated by participants sharing their political orientation. Our results demonstrate how political orientation is linked to a novel gender bias in leadership representations, showcasing the utility of our reverse correlation technique.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Stefan Uddenberg

Assistant Professor | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Daniel Albohn, Alexander Todorov, Zen Nguyen

Good Samaritans in Mind: Who Asks and Who Agrees Help?

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Everyone needs help at times. Existing research indicates that people underestimate others' willingness to help when asked. This study combines behavioral surveys and AI-based reverse correlation to examine not willingness to ask vs. agree to help, but also to identify who people ask vs. agree to help. In a 2 (conditions: asking vs. agreeing) $\times$ 4 (scenarios) between-participant experiment (N = 470), participants judged 300 faces, indicating whether they'd ask for help or agree to help each person in 4 different helping scenarios. Replicating prior research with a new method, participants agreed to help more often than they asked for help, in both survey and behavioral responses (survey responses predicted behavioral responses). Reverse correlation visualizations indicated more willingness to ask for help, and agree to help, more trustworthy-looking faces. Participants were more willing to help females, but who people asked for help varied by gender and scenario. The dominant role of a trustworthy appearance in who to ask and agree to help suggests that differences in trust could also explain why people are more likely to give help than to ask for it.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Rui Sun

Assistant Professor | ESADE Business School

Authors

Daniel Albohn, Alexander Todorov, Nicholas Epley, Stefan Uddenberg

Content, Valence, and Emergence in Large Language Models’ Intersectional Stereotypes

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Human subjects research suggests that intersectional targets (i.e., those categorized into multiple social categories simultaneously, e.g., “a wealthy atheist”) tend to be stereotyped more negatively than their constituent groups. However, human research into complex intersectional targets (>2 categories) is resource-intensive, given the number of possible intersections (e.g., there are > 27,405 4-way combinations of 30 categories). Large Language Models (LLMs) are trained on vast text data and reproduce many human stereotypes. Using LLMs facilitates big data collection of complex intersectional stereotypes, while testing generalizability and providing insights for responsible technological development, among other benefits. Using 3 LLMs (ChatGPT 4.5, Llama 4, & O1Mo 2), we retrieved open-ended stereotypes about 80 salient U.S. social categories (e.g., based on gender, race, occupation) and 300,000 2-, 3-, and 4-way random intersections of these categories. We present how categorical complexity, constituent incongruence, and other features predict LLM stereotype content, emergence (i.e., content uniquely associated with intersections but not their constituents), and negativity.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Gandalf Nicolas
Assistant Professor of Psychology | Rutgers University - New Brunswick

Authors

Tessa Charlesworth, Aylin Caliskan

Motivation in Context: Social and Structural Pathways to Educational Equity

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Social psychological and motivational theories hold great promise for addressing educational inequality. Yet motivational research has often focused too narrowly on individuals, overlooking the systems that shape students’ experiences. This symposium highlights new research on how features of social and structural contexts shape motivation, and how understanding these features can inform efforts to reduce disparities. Emily Cyr shows how peer inclusion in STEM camps predicts belonging and career intentions among girls. Kathy Emerson reveals how institutional structures shape which student groups experience belonging in college. Cameron Hecht demonstrates that instructors’ framing of academic resources can affect performance among first-generation college students. Michael Asher shows that mastery-based testing policies can increase engagement and performance, with greater benefits for first-generation college students and those who initially struggle. Together, these talks advance a growing perspective on motivation as contextually afforded, demonstrating how social and structural environments shape motivational processes in ways that reproduce or reduce inequality.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Cameron Hecht
Assistant Professor | University of Rochester



Christopher Bryan

Girls in STEM: The Value of Peer Friendships and Belonging

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

In male-dominated STEM fields, boys and men tend to express a stronger sense of belonging than girls and women. We point to this gender gap in belongingness as a conduit between objective measures of social inclusion (per network analysis) and downstream intentions regarding long-term STEM participation.

To study this theoretical model, we recruited girls and boys (N = 1330; Mdnage = 12; 41% White, 35% East Asian) from week-long Canadian STEM summer camps.

Girls and boys received friendship nominations from 50% of same-gender (and 10% of other-gender) peers. Belongingness followed suit: Girls reported higher belonging among female (vs. male) peers, and boys reported higher belonging among male (vs. female) peers. Further, girls reported lower STEM fit and interest than boys (both at the start and end of camp).

Finally, we found that for girls, being more socially included (particularly by male peers) was associated with stronger STEM fit and interest, mediated by belonging. For boys, social inclusion (via belonging) was less predictive of STEM outcomes.

Childhood friendships may foster a sense of belonging that benefits STEM education and careers, especially among girls.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Emily Cyr
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow | York University

Authors

Steven Spencer, Jennifer Steele, Stephen Wright, Hilary Bergsieker

Opportunities to Belong: Institutional Factors that Shape Student Belonging

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Students' sense of belonging has long been recognized as a key predictor of their academic motivation, achievement, and persistence in college. Recent theory and research has shifted focus to the role that institutions play in providing affordances, or opportunities, for students to feel they belong. Using data from a large empirical study (over 15,000 students from 22 U.S. colleges), we identified four institutional factors that uniquely predict student belonging: (1) in-group representation on campus, (2) inclusive campus cultures that signal a sincere commitment to diversity and bolster identity safety; (3) opportunities for strong relationships with peers and faculty, and (4) opportunities for productive learning that convey growth-minded beliefs and help students work toward their greater purpose and goals. Our analysis revealed substantial variability among institutions in their ability to provide minimally adequate belonging affordances to their students. We discuss how college leaders have the opportunity (and responsibility) to support student success by recognizing and improving institutional structures and norms that foster student belonging.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kathy Emerson
Director of Research | Equity Accelerator

Authors

Kathryn Kroeper, Gregory Walton, Maithreyi Gopalan

Reframing Peer Support to Promote Equity in College STEM Courses

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

First-generation (FG) college students face inequality in STEM fields. Although peer education services (e.g., tutoring) can improve performance in gateway STEM courses, they are often underutilized. Students face psychological barriers that discourage using such resources, such as perceived stigma and unsupportive peer norms. We hypothesized that these beliefs reflect an underlying construal of help-seeking as signaling a lack of potential. To counter this, we developed an intervention framing use of peer education resources as a sign of resourcefulness—an efficient and effective way to learn. In a preregistered experiment (N = 605), we randomly assigned Introductory Biology students to complete either resourcefulness-framed or neutral reflections on these resources. The resourcefulness reflections increased peer education attendance by 38%, $b = 1.38$ [95% CI: 1.01, 1.88]. They also improved FG students' course grades by 0.25 grade points, $b = .25$ [95% CI: 0.04, 0.45], but had no effect for continuing-generation students, $b = -.06$ [95% CI: -0.25, 0.13] (interaction $b = 0.31$ [95% CI: 0.01, 0.60]. Results suggest that inequality can be influenced by the meaning assigned to supports.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Cameron Hecht
Assistant Professor | University of Rochester

Authors

Kali Trzesniewski, Lisa Limeri, Elizabeth Canning, Evelyn Mandujano, Anh Vu

Mastery-Based Testing and Self-Regulated Learning in Gateway STEM Courses

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

To utilize tests to encourage and motivate students, we implemented a mastery-based testing system in a general chemistry course (N = 234). This system allowed students to take three versions of each unit test, studying digital course resources in between to increase their mastery of the content. Students chose to take advantage of the mastery testing system when they struggled with unit tests, averaging six total repeated attempts. This level of repeated testing was associated with a 60 % increase in students' use of online study resources over the duration of the course, and a five-point overall increase in final exam scores (11 points for first-generation college students). Critically, student engagement with digital learning materials mediated these performance gains, suggesting that the benefits of mastery-based testing systems were not only due to students responding to the tests themselves. Instead, the findings suggest that mastery-based testing systems can enhance performance in introductory STEM courses by providing motivation and structure to support students' self-regulated learning, helping them invest more time in effective, distributed study strategies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Michael Asher
Graduate Student | Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison

Authors

Joshua Hartman, Mark Blaser, Jack Eichler, Paulo Carvalho

New Horizons in Regional Psychology

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E450B, Level 4

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

This symposium showcases advances in regional psychology via four talks that examine how psychological patterns and regional environments shape one another across various cultural contexts, spatial levels, and psychological variables. The first talk explores changes in regional cultural differences between China's rice and wheat-farming areas over time, showing the enduring influence of ecological traditions. The second maps Big Five personality traits across regions in Colombia, Japan, and New Zealand, revealing distinct clusters and country-specific associations with key societal outcomes. The third investigates personality-driven selective migration between cities, villages, and abroad using a representative Estonian sample. The final talk posits that racial prejudice is conceptually different when applied to places (vs. individuals) and shows that people can accurately perceive regionally aggregate racial bias across U.S. neighborhoods based on visual cues alone. Together, these talks promote a more spatially grounded, dynamic understanding of psychology by showing that regions, beyond individuals or nations, are meaningful and consequential units of psychological analysis.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers

Friedrich Götz

University of British Columbia



Guo Yangyilin

PhD Student | University of British Columbia

Evidence that rice-wheat differences are actually growing as China modernizes

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Religion has long been a source of existential comfort and security. As increasingly more people are leaving traditional religion, these religious doers and nones are turning toward new sources of spiritual connection. We explore spiritual yearning—the motivation for existential comfort and fulfillment—among the nonreligious through a multimethod set of three studies (N = 5757). In Study 1 (n = 2,338), we drew from three separate samples (ns = 585, 883, 870) to examine correlates of spiritual yearning with associated constructs. In Study 2 (n = 424), we conducted a longitudinal study to examine whether spiritual yearning is a state or trait. In Study 3 (n = 2,995), we conducted an experiment to examine the causal effects of having one's spiritual needs fulfilled or frustrated on existential security. The converging results suggest that spiritual yearning is the motivational longing for deeper meaning and transcendent connection, is relatively stable in the short-term, and is associated with existential security and positive emotions. We discuss the implications of this research for the changing religious landscape for many individuals.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Thomas Talhelm

Associate Professor | Univ. of Chicago, School of Business

Regional Personality Differences in Colombia, Japan, and New Zealand

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Spiritual yearning (SY)—desire for meaning, self-discovery, and/or transcendence—is common in religious and nonreligious individuals. Yet, SY may relate to spiritual struggles (SS), such as doubt and moral conflict. We examined SY–SS associations in 3,014 participants, including religious individuals, formerly religious “doers,” and never religious “nones.” Correlational and network analyses revealed positive associations between SY and SS, with stronger effects in nonreligious groups. Partial correlations showed links between specific domains (e.g., moral guidance yearnings with moral struggles), but other associations varied by group. Religious participants showed stronger ties between spiritual experience yearnings and belief struggles, while nonreligious, especially doers, linked inner peace yearnings to meaning struggles. Network analyses identified doubt struggles as central overall. Among the religious, yearning for spiritual experience was key; for nonreligious, moral guidance was central. These findings show how SY–SS connections vary by background, highlighting existential questions about how people search for and struggle with meaning, identity, and moral direction.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Guo Yangyilin

PhD Student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Friedrich M. Götz, Frankie Y. Zhong, Shinya Yoshino, Atsushi Oshio

Life-Course Migration and Personality Across Cities, Towns, and Villages

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Hope is central to many religious traditions, yet dominant psychological models - especially Snyder's theory emphasizing agency and pathways toward goals - fail to fully capture its existential depth. In Studies 1 (U.S. representative sample, N = 1,426) and 2 (convenience sample, N = 229), we find only small associations between religiosity and hope when using Snyder's definition. However, when hope is measured without a pre-set definition, the association grows moderate to large. This suggests religious individuals may define hope differently, i.e., less as goal pursuit. In Study 3 (N = 190; diverse in religious identity and background), we replicate these patterns and analyze qualitative definitions of hope across high- and low-religiosity participants. Our results highlight the need to revise psychological models of hope to reflect lived experience, especially among highly religious populations. This work broadens the conceptualization of hope and centers voices often overlooked in scientific research on hope.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ling Xu

The University of Edinburgh

Authors

Markus Jokela, Uku Vainik, René Möttus, Wendy Johnson

Can people accurately perceive prejudiced places?

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Hope is a key emotion for experiencing meaning in life (MIL; Edwards et al., 2025). Hope is specifically relevant to difficult circumstances that ultimately challenge MIL. As such, hope may more strongly predict MIL among people high (vs. low) on individual differences that reflect a challenge to MIL. In Studies 1-4, participants completed measures of hopeful feelings, MIL, and varied individual differences, including neuroticism, despair (Studies 1 N = 912; and 2 N = 973), mental health symptoms (Study 2), insecure attachment (Study 3, N = 288), and loneliness/social relatedness (Study 4, N = 586). As predicted, hope was a stronger predictor of MIL among those high (vs. low) in psychological misery (Studies 1-2) and poor social functioning (Studies 3-4). In Study 5 (N = 665), experimentally induced hope (vs. hopelessness) led to greater purpose (but not coherence and significance, specific facets of MIL) only among those with high adverse childhood experiences. Positive affect did not show the same moderation effects, suggesting this is unique to hope's relation to MIL. Overall, we demonstrate that hope is a stronger predictor of MIL among those who need it most.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Keith Payne
Professor | Univ. of North Carolina

Authors

Heidi Vuletic

The Moral Machine: How Digital Platforms Amplify Moral Conflict

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E270, Level 2

MORALITY

The human mind is fundamentally moral, but what happens when this ancient psychology meets the scale and speed of modern social media? This symposium examines how platform design interacts with moral psychology—from intuitive judgments to social learning and punishment. Using field experiments, text analysis, and surveys, these talks dissect the mechanisms that amplify moral conflict online.

Talk 1 (Puryear): a decade-long analysis of 2B posts shows moral language surging online, driven by users learning to moralize and extreme users dominating discourse. Talk 2 (McLoughlin): analysis of 30M media texts reveals low-quality sources use villain-centric narratives to spread falsehoods. Talk 3 (Solomon): representative surveys find that critics of "cancel culture" also endorse punitive speech restrictions, a contradiction magnified by social media. Talk 4 (Brady): a field experiment on Bluesky during the 2024 U.S. election finds a "diversified-extremity" algorithm reduces toxic, moralized content.

These talks show that users adapt to modern platforms by using simplistic, punitive moral frames that fracture shared reality. We outline paths to more reflective moral discourse online.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Curtis Puryear
Assistant Professor | University of North Carolina Wilmington



Billy Brady
Assistant Professor | Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Moralization has Risen in Social Media Discourse

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MORALITY

This study provides the first multi-platform, longitudinal evidence that moralization—the process of connecting issues to moral right and wrong—has sharply increased on social media from 2013-2021, outpacing traditional media. Using advances in natural language processing, we developed two new measures of moralization in natural language and applied them to posts from Twitter (9.7M), Reddit (2.1B) and ~5 million traditional media texts (COCA, News-on-the-Web). We found that moralization consistently rose on social media while remaining relatively flat traditional media. Moral language not only intensified in already moralized topics but also spread into previously neutral discussions. Two distinct user-level patterns drove these trends: (1) users became more moralizing over time and (2) highly moralized users became disproportionately active. Our findings highlight how platform design and user dynamics jointly shape public discourse, revealing key mechanisms behind online polarization and suggesting interventions—such as algorithmic curation and community structure—through which designers might mitigate runaway moralization without stifling civic engagement.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Curtis Puryear
Assistant Professor | University of North Carolina Wilmington

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Yuan Chang Leong, William Brady, Nour Kteily

Misinformation Portrays More Villains Than Trustworthy News

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MORALITY

Misinformation—defined as false or misleading information—spreads in part by evoking moral outrage. We reasoned that a frequent source of that outrage is the villain-victim instantiation of the moral dyad: a fundamental cognitive template underlying moral judgments. As agents who intentionally harm vulnerable victims, villains often evoke strong moral condemnation. And since misinformation need not verify intentionality or avoid condemnation, we expected it to portray villains more often than trustworthy news. In Study 1, participants (N=909) annotated villains in a set of headlines (N=4000) uniformly distributed over a measure of source quality. Headlines from low-quality sources (misinformation) had 5.49 times the odds of portraying a villain compared to headlines from high-quality sources (trustworthy news). We fine-tuned an open-source large language model (OLMo-2) on these annotations. In Study 2, we will use the model to replicate and extend Study 1 by classifying villains in datasets spanning multiple news archives and social media platforms (N=30,116,380). These studies shed light on the moral narratives that typify misinformation and may be amplified by online platforms.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Killian McLoughlin
PhD Candidate | Princeton University

Authors

Caleb Park, Judy Kim, Brandon Stewart, Molly Crockett

What is(n't) Free Speech? Conflating Censorship with Cancel Culture

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MORALITY

This research reveals a widespread misunderstanding of free speech in American society, regarding misinformation, toxic speech, and cancel culture on social media. In a preregistered, nationally representative conjoint survey experiment (N = 1,603; evaluation N = 25,648), we find few Americans differentiate between government censorship and editorial discretion by private social media companies, across varying low- and high-stakes punishments. In two additional preregistered studies (Ns = 1,504; 1,535), we examine misinterpretations of criticism and counterspeech as censorship in the context of cancel culture. Drawing on theories of group identity and motivated reasoning, we find that the most vocal critics of cancel culture—those who view it as a threat to free speech—are most likely to support punitive measures that undermine and obscure the true boundaries of free speech, demonstrating a pattern of inconsistency and hypocrisy. We show that these patterns are amplified by the dynamics of social-media environments, which intensify polarization, moral outrage, and public-private boundary blurring, shaping perceptions and applications of democratic principles in digital discourse.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Brittany Solomon
Assistant Professor | University Of Notre Dame

Authors

Matthew Hall

Redesigning Algorithms to Intervene on Social Norm Misperceptions During a National Election

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

MORALITY

For the first time in history, civic discourse commonly occurs in digital environments where algorithms influence how we are exposed to social information. It is increasingly important to understand whether and how these algorithms impact our politics. Here, we build custom feedranking algorithms with full control over their features and randomly assign 1,600 participants to use one over the 8 weeks before the 2024 U.S. presidential election. We test whether an engagement based algorithm (used on major social media platforms) amplifies ingroup, moralized and emotional information in ways that skew perceptions of social norms around political dialogue, and whether it leads to increases in perceptions of partisan animosity. We also tested a novel 'diversified extremity' algorithm feed that aims to reduce perceptions of partisan animosity compared to the engagement-based feed. Results show that engagement based feeds inflate toxic, moralized content, whereas our "diversified extremity" algorithm reduces it. Although there was limited evidence in algorithm impact on norm perceptions, the diversified-extremity algorithm reduced engagement with toxic content.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Billy Brady
Assistant Professor | Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Authors

Curtis Puryear, Joshua Jackson, Eli Finkel, Abdo Elnakouri, Victoria Parker

The Nuances of Empathy: Biases, Barriers, and Building Better Interventions

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E353A, Level 3

SOCIAL COGNITION

Empathy is fundamental to social functioning, yet recent research reveals it operates in far more complex ways than often assumed. This symposium explores the nuanced nature of empathic responding across four distinct but interconnected projects. First, we examine systematic biases in emotion perception, showing that people consistently overestimate others' negative emotions— a bias that may serve adaptive functions in relationships. Second, we investigate how cognitive load differentially impacts empathic versus factual reasoning, uncovering resource allocation trade-offs under mental strain. Third, we explore how meta-stereotypes can undermine empathy-based prejudice reduction efforts, highlighting critical limitations of traditional approaches. Finally, we demonstrate how "wise empathy" training improves well-being during social media use, illustrating that empathic responses can be skillfully regulated for better outcomes. Together, these findings challenge simplistic views of empathy as uniformly beneficial or harmful, revealing instead a sophisticated psychological process shaped by pre-existing biases, cognitive constraints, social context, and intervention. This work advances our understanding of both the boundaries and promise of empathy, offering insights for more effective and accurate empathic responding in everyday social life.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Jillian Franks
Graduate Student | Brandeis University

Emotion Perception Overestimation Bias in Neurotypical

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

The ability to accurately understand others' emotions forms the cornerstone of effective social interaction. Despite extensive research on emotion recognition, little is known about how people assess emotional intensity or whether these perceptions are accurate or systematically biased. Across nine datasets ($N \approx 2,600$), we found that while people perceived themselves as accurate and believed others underestimate their emotions, they actually systematically overestimate others' negative emotions. This bias occurred with both strangers and romantic partners, and across modalities (text, video, live interaction). Moderate overestimation may serve adaptive functions: for strangers, it predicts higher empathic responses; in romantic relationships, moderate

overestimation of negative emotions predicts higher relationship satisfaction. We further examine this bias in relationship to clinical populations including ADHD, depression, and anxiety. Together, these findings fill a crucial gap in understanding

emotional perception biases, highlighting their potentially adaptive roles and giving insight into how they shape our social world and relationship outcomes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Shir Genzer
PhD Student | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Shir Genzer, Matan Rubin, Haran Sened, Eshkol Rafaeli, Kevin N. Ochsner

Under Pressure: How Cognitive Load Shapes Empathic Processing

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Accurate and rapid judgments of others' mental and emotional states are essential for effective social interactions. However, these judgments can be compromised when cognitive demands are high and mental resources are strained. To investigate the impact of cognitive load on empathizing, we adapted the EmpaToM task to include both high and low cognitive load conditions. In the task, participants watched emotionally negative autobiographical video narratives. After watching, participants were asked either a mentalizing (cognitive empathy) or a factual reasoning question. In our study ($N = 125$), we found that, regardless of load condition, participants displayed greater accuracy on cognitive empathy questions compared to factual reasoning questions. However, participants took significantly longer to answer mentalizing questions compared to factual reasoning questions under high load, whereas this finding was reversed under low load. These findings suggest that cognitive load differentially affects the processing demands of social reasoning versus factual reasoning, potentially revealing a trade-off in resource allocation when executive capacity is taxed.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jillian Franks
Graduate Student | Brandeis University

Authors

Jillian Franks, Jennifer Gutsell

Meta-Perceptions as Barriers to Empathy-Based Interventions

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Empathy & perspective-taking are commonly used to reduce prejudice, but recent research suggests the effectiveness may be limited. This research explores how meta-stereotypes—beliefs about how one's group is viewed by another group—may interfere with empathy interventions. In Studies 1 and 2, White participants reported trait empathy, trait perspective-taking, stereotypes of Black Americans, and meta-stereotypes—how they believed Black Americans viewed White Americans. Perspective-taking was significantly related to both stereotypes and meta-stereotypes (p 's $< .04$), while empathic concern was related only to stereotypes ($p < .01$). Study 3 replicated Vorauer & Sasaki's (2009) work on empathy & meta-stereotypes. Participants viewed a video on struggles Black Americans face & were instructed to either take the perspective of the person in the video or remain objective. They were then told they would discuss the video with either a Black or White peer. Results showed no effects on meta-stereotypes or prejudice reduction. These findings suggest limits to empathy-based interventions and underscore the importance of studying meta-stereotypes in relation to psychology-based interventions.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Danica Kulibert
Assistant Professor | Kennesaw State University

Authors

Danica Kulibert, Laurie O'Brien

Wise Empathy Improves Well-being on Instagram

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Most of the global population now spends significant time browsing social media, making it critical to understand how to improve emotional experiences online in ways that support well-being. In this presentation I show a brief intervention training individuals to use wise empathy on Instagram can improve users' well-being. In an ecological momentary intervention, I trained half the sample (N = 260) to skillfully regulate empathic responses to positive and negative posts. Using experience sampling (Nobs. = 5,902), I tracked empathy and well-being during real-world Instagram use. The intervention increased wise empathy online—boosting appreciative joy, positive emotion sharing, and compassion for negative emotions—while reducing negative emotion sharing, upward social comparisons, and personal distress. Critically, when participants had recently browsed Instagram, those in the wise empathy condition reported higher well-being than those in the control, an effect mediated by changes in wise empathy. These findings position wise empathy as a psychologically powerful, trainable skill that can enhance well-being in digital contexts.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Gregory Depow

Postdoc | Rady School of Management, UCSD

The Political is (Inter)Personal: Relationships and Politics Impact One Another

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E351, Level 3

POLITICS

We combine insights from political psychology and relationship science to highlight the mutual influence between interpersonal relationships and politics. The first three talks focus on how politics impact interpersonal relationships. Talk 1 finds that partisans care about the impressions they make on out-party coworkers, striving to disconfirm negative stereotypes they assume out-partisans possess. Talk 2 examines more intimate relationships, showing how political dissimilarity is linked to lower romantic relationship quality. Talk 3 finds that adult children feel less connected to and respected by their parents the more they disagree about politics, with daily diary data from Thanksgiving 2024 suggesting political conversation might especially undermine father-child relationships. Finally, Talk 4 focuses on how relationships impact political behavior, showing that political conversations with others—even those that focus extensively on negative feelings—are associated with both day-to-day and longer-term increases in political engagement and participation. Taken together, these talks illustrate how close relationships shape, and are shaped by, political beliefs and behavior.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Pierce Ekstrom

Assistant Professor | University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Allison Farrell

Assistant Professor | Miami Univ.

Making an Impression: Political Metastereotypes and Interactions in the Workplace

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

Republicans and Democrats increasingly segregate themselves, so when circumstances force them to interact (e.g., in the workplace), we might expect indifference and hostility. We tested the effect of political disagreement on partisans' impression management goals with (hypothetical) coworkers. To our surprise, partisans reported being equally eager to make a good impression on in-party and out-party co-workers. The specific impression they sought to make depended on the expected duration of their relationship and on their political metastereotypes (i.e., beliefs about which stereotypes the other side had of their group). When the imagined working relationship spanned years rather than weeks, participants were especially motivated to disconfirm negative metastereotypes. Positive metastereotypes also mattered; participants cared less about projecting positive traits (to in-party and out-party members alike) when they believed the other side already viewed them as having those traits. Our results suggest that political disagreement does not nullify people's desire to make favorable impressions on each other, and that partisans especially strive to disconfirm negative expectations.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



John Jostes

PhD Candidate | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Authors

Pierce Ekstrom, Ritsa Giannakas, Zeenat Ahmed, Jacob Appleby, Rafael Aguilera

Love across the Aisle: Political Differences in Romantic Relationships

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

As political polarization in the United States rises, many feel the strain in their close relationships. However, we know little about the frequency of romantic couples' political disagreement and its consequences for relationship quality. Across 11 studies with a combined sample of over 4,000 participants, we assessed how often couples disagree about politics, both in terms of perceived and actual disagreement. We found that political disagreement between romantic partners is rare: Only 23% of couples belonged to different parties, and fewer than 8% were made up of one Democrat and one Republican. However, does the disagreement we do observe predict relationship problems? We tested whether couples' political similarity is associated with their relationship quality cross-sectionally and in their daily lives. Across studies, we observed a small but robust association between political dissimilarity and lower relationship quality. However, other relationship factors, such as appreciation, are stronger predictors of relationship quality—politics isn't everything. This work sheds light on how national patterns of political polarization play out in people's intimate relationships.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Maria Luciani

Doctoral Student | University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Annika From, Amie Gordon

Daily Impacts of Political Disagreement on Family Relationships and Belonging

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

Many parents and young adult children disagree about politics. Does this affect their relationships? Study 1 found that college-aged children reported worse relationships with their parents (i.e., lower perceived regard, felt security, and closeness) and less belonging at home to the extent that they believed their political views to differ from their parents' (all p 's $\leq .016$). Study 2 used daily diary surveys over Thanksgiving 2024 to test the impact of political issue disagreement and daily political conversational features, such as intensity and frequency, on daily relationship quality and belonging for college-aged children. Main effects from Study 1 replicated (all p 's $< .01$), and greater political issue disagreement between participants and their fathers (but not mothers) predicted lower feelings of belonging on days with political conversations ($p < .001$). On days when participants and their fathers agreed more than usual on politics, longstanding political issue disagreement impacted belonging less strongly ($p = .024$). This suggests political disagreement can undermine family relationships, but the impact of disagreement may depend on who disagrees with whom - and how.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jason Folmsbee
Graduate Student | Miami University

Authors

Heather Claypool, Pierce Ekstrom, Allison Farrell

Examining Political Co-Rumination with Close Others During the Election

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

POLITICS

Across two studies surrounding the 2024 US presidential election, we tested competing hypotheses regarding whether increased co-rumination about political stressors would be related to more or less political action. Study 1 capitalized on a 4-wave assessment of the three months surrounding the election, providing preliminary evidence that increased co-rumination – at both the between- and within-person levels – is associated with more political action. Study 2 examined co-rumination and political action with a 28-day diary (2-weeks leading up to and 2-weeks after the election). Replicating the findings from Study 1, Study 2 showed that on days when individuals talked about social and political issues with others, they engaged in more political action. And, on days when those conversations were more co-ruminative than was typical for them, they got an additional boost in political action at the daily-level. Importantly, the relation between co-rumination and political action is significantly mediated by increased daily motivation to stay engaged with political issues, offering insight into the processes by which co-rumination might increase political action are positively related.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ana DiGiovanni
Assistant Professor | Montclair State University

Authors

Niall Bolger, Brett Peters, Hannah Karsting, Timothy Valshtein

Unpacking Weight Bias: Intersectionality, Impact, and Intervention

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E271, Level 2

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Weight bias is a widespread and harmful form of stigma that undermines psychological, social, and physical well-being. Yet the complexities of weight stigma remain understudied. This symposium brings together four talks using diverse methods, including natural language processing, experiments, and ecological momentary assessment, to examine how weight stigma operates across perception, interaction, and behavior. Presenters explore how stereotypes vary by gender, race, and class in naturalistic text; how stigma shapes judgments about others' physical and social pain; how anticipated discrimination affects health behavior and provider communication; and how everyday experiences of stigma influence eating behavior in real time. Together, these talks show that weight stigma is multifaceted and deeply entangled with other social biases. By capturing both societal perceptions and lived experiences, these studies center the voices of intersectionally marginalized individuals and highlight the urgent need for more inclusive interventions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Anne Zola
PhD Student | Northwestern University



Tessa Charlesworth
Assistant Professor | Kellogg School of Management

Ecological Momentary Assessment of Weight Stigma and Eating Behavior in Everyday Life

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Weight stigma is pervasive and linked to adverse health outcomes, yet little is known about its real-time effects on eating behavior. This study used ecological momentary assessment (EMA) to examine how weight stigma unfolds in daily life and influences eating. Ninety-one adults with BMI ≥ 25 reported stigmatizing events and subsequent eating behavior over 14 days. Participants were not more likely to eat after stigma events compared to control periods, but when they did eat, they consumed significantly more—on average 1.45 times more servings. Gender moderated this effect, with men showing a stronger increase in consumption. Internalized stigma and identity centrality amplified this relationship, while anticipated stigma attenuated it. These findings challenge the notion that stigma motivates healthier behavior and instead suggest it may perpetuate a cycle of weight gain and further stigmatization. Addressing weight stigma is thus critical for both social justice and public health.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



A. Janet Tomiyama
Professor | UCLA

Authors

Jeffrey Hunger, Amanda Montoya, Kristienne Edrosolan, Juanyi Tan, Anne Hubbard

Self-Affirmation and Black Women's Receptiveness to Physical Activity Messaging

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Physical activity reduces chronic illness and extends life, yet Black women, who often face racial and weight stigma in healthcare, are among the least active groups in the U.S. While doctor recommendations can boost activity, especially from racially concordant providers, most U.S. doctors are White, and Black patients often anticipate discrimination, undermining their messages. This research tested whether self-affirmation (i.e., affirming self-worth) reduces defensiveness and improves message receptiveness. Across 2 studies, 716 Black American women completed either a self-affirmation or control writing task, then read a health message from either a Black or White doctor about Black women's need for exercise. In both studies, the White doctor was perceived as more discriminatory, less trustworthy, less persuasive, eliciting more anger. In Study 1, self-affirmation heightened perceived gender discrimination, reduced message persuasiveness, and increased anger. However, these effects did not replicate in Study 2. Thus, provider race strongly affects message reception and self-affirmation may not always reduce defensiveness in racialized, stigmatized health settings.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Sheba Aikawa
Social Psychology PhD | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Evava Pietri, Angela Bryan, Katherine Parks

Examining How U.S. Adults Evaluate Higher Weight Individuals' Pain

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Adults with higher body weights are undertreated for physical pain, which has severe implications for their health. However, research has yet to test (a) whether this relationship extends to social pain, and (b) the mechanisms underlying these relationships. Across two online experiments, we examined how U.S. adults from Prolific evaluate experiences of physical and social pain for White male targets who varied in body weight (lower vs higher). Across studies, participants believed that the higher (vs lower) body weight target would report more physical and social pain in response to various life experiences. Moreover, they believed that the higher weight target would report needing more resources (medical treatment and mental health support) to cope with this pain. Study 2 demonstrated that these relationships emerged via participants' beliefs that the target was exaggerating his pain. Additionally, we ruled out mechanisms (e.g., dehumanization) that have been established for other social groups. Together, this work shows that laypersons perceive that higher weight individuals exaggerate their physical and social pain, which can have implications for sensitivity in this domain.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Veronica Derricks
University Of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Eva Pietri, India Johnson

Body Weight Stereotypes Across History and Intersectional Identities

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Larger bodies are widely stereotyped in ways that reinforce weight-based prejudice and discrimination. However, less is known about how these stereotypes vary across intersecting identities such as gender, race, and class. Using a corpus of over 800 billion words of contemporary Internet text, we employ a natural language processing technique to examine associations between intersectional identities and 2,798 traits. Analyses of body weight alone showed that thinness, compared to fatness, was associated with greater competence, conscientiousness, attractiveness, and health. BodyXrace and bodyXclass intersections revealed a double jeopardy effect, with stereotypes worsening when paired with Black (vs. White) or Poor (vs. Rich) identities. Interestingly, gender modulated weight-based stereotypes such that fat women were linked to low conscientiousness and competence, while fat men were linked to low attractiveness and high neuroticism. These findings show that weight bias is not monolithic, but rather shaped by other social biases.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Anne Zola
PhD Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Tessa Charlesworth

What Do We Value in Leaders?

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: E258, Level 2

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Who should lead us? Across four talks, we identify key characteristics that people value in leaders and the individual and contextual moderators that make these characteristics more or less desirable. The first talk shows that, contrary to the stereotype of a male, dominant leader, people actually slightly prefer female, and strongly prefer prestigious, leaders. The second talk identifies political orientation as a critical moderator of who values dominant leaders: Liberals, compared to conservatives, dislike dominant leaders more, and as a result, underestimate dominant leaders' success more. The third talk identifies an important contextual feature that influences the value people place on integrity in a leader: When an organization is in crisis, compared to when it is not in crisis, people value integrity relatively more. Finally, the fourth talk documents the importance of maturity in leaders. This work identifies the nature of the leadership position (e.g., degree of interpersonal interaction) as an important moderator of the relative importance of maturity. Taken together, this symposium advances our understanding of important leadership traits and when they matter most.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Kristina Wald
Postdoc | University of Pennsylvania

Revisiting Stereotypes versus Preferences for Alpha Male Leaders

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

According to the "think manager-think male" model, one reason women are underrepresented in leadership in politics and business is that leaders are stereotyped as male (and dominant), which leads people to prefer such traits in leaders. However, the results of five studies suggested that such stereotypes do not necessarily translate into preferences. In Study 1A (N = 148), undergraduate students spontaneously imagined both dominant and prestigious (i.e., skill/competence-based) leaders as men (Study 1A, N = 148)—across occupational domains (Study 1B, N = 220)—but preferred women and prestigious leaders over men and dominant leaders. In Study 2 (N = 2,692), a nationally representative sample of U.S. respondents from the Pew American Trends panel also showed no preference for male over female leaders. Study 3 (N = 461) provided an experimental replication of a preference for prestigious (female) over dominant (male) leader candidates. Finally, in Study 4, MTurk participants judging facial photographs similarly showed a slight preference for women, which may have been partially due to the inference that women leaders are more likely to use prestige relative to dominance.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Adi Wiesel
Assistant Professor of Psychology | Elon University

Authors

Michael Barlev, Douglas Kenrick

Why Liberals Underestimate Dominant Leaders More Than Conservatives

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

The success of dominant leaders often evokes surprise and dismay. This paper offers a psychological explanation beyond partisan reasoning, positing a systematic tendency among liberals to underestimate the appeal and efficacy of such leaders compared to conservatives. Integrating moral foundations theory with the similarity-liking principle, we propose that liberals' heightened emphasis on harm avoidance and fairness values yields reduced liking of dominant leaders, subsequently causing them to underestimate such leaders' prospects of success more than conservatives do. We test this hypothesis using large-scale archival data (N = 212,607), a pre-registered time-lagged field study with full-time employees (N = 202), and six pre-registered experiments (N = 3794; two in SI). Across diverse organizational and political contexts, liberals consistently perceive dominant leaders as less likely to succeed than conservatives—even when the leader's political affiliation is irrelevant, unknown, or aligned with the participant's own. Intriguingly, our findings also suggest that these diminished expectations from liberals might paradoxically enhance the success trajectories of dominant leaders.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Danbee Chon
Assistant Professor | University of South Florida

Authors

Hemant Kakkar

Organizational Crises and Trust in Leaders

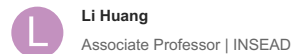
9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Extending the Uncertainty Management Theory to organizational crises, we study whether, how, and when organizational crises affect members' reliance on leader integrity in trust decisions. We also explore whether leaders are aware of the change and whether leader integrity predicts crisis-time performance increase. Studies 1a-1b, two experiments immersing business professionals from diverse cultures in the simulation of a security breach crisis or a non-crisis, find that crisis experiences increase members' reliance on leader integrity. Study 2a-2b, two online experiments with full-time American employees in the scenario of a factory explosion crisis or a non-crisis, replicate the effect and find fairness concern a mechanism. Study 3 finds leaders' crisis-specific vs. general ability a boundary condition. Study 4 shows that leaders are unaware of such a change to members' trust process in crisis times. Combining survey and archival data in a pre-post test of performance change at a multi-national company undergoing COVID-19, Study 5 finds that member-rated leader integrity associates with an increase in leader-rated member performance; leader ability or benevolence does not.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Authors

Eric Lou

Perceptions of Maturity in Leaders

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

We identify maturity as a critical trait that people value in leaders. Across three studies, we show that maturity has two key components: socio-emotional maturity (e.g., ability to regulate emotions and be prosocial) and cognitive maturity (e.g., ability to maintain responsibilities and engage in long-term thinking). We then link perceived maturity with leadership selection: In another study, we show that people are more likely to confer power to a person who is mature, even when that person has less expertise than another potential candidate. Importantly, we show that the importance of maturity in leadership selection is moderated by the extent to which a leadership role involves interpersonal interaction. Taken together, our findings advance our understanding of leadership, and of maturity, by introducing a novel conceptualization and measure of maturity.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Authors

Maurice Schweitzer

Who Benefits from First Amendment Rights? A Social Psychological Perspective

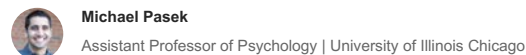
9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

LAW

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the rights to religious freedom, protest, and free speech. The four talks in this symposium aim to illuminate how—even though these rights are meant to be universal—they can be weaponized to serve ideological and group interests. Talk 1 shows that ideological biases can override the neutral application of law when people reason about religious freedom claims. Talk 2 reveals how Christians and Muslims (but not Jews) selectively interpret religious freedom rights as applying more to their ingroup than outgroups, with all three groups believing that politicians who express concern for religious freedom really care about Christians. Talk 3 leverages survey data from 20 countries, as well as large-scale geospatial data from the United States, to model how moral concerns about social equality and social order explain when people support, condemn, or express protests. The final talk demonstrates that free speech arguments can sometimes divert attributions of bias. Collectively, this symposium showcases the social psychological processes underpinning the conferral and weaponization of First Amendment protections.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Ideological Biases Shape Americans' Reasoning About First Amendment Religious Rights

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

LAW

Four studies examine how Americans reason about what political beliefs count as sincerely held and deserve First Amendment religious freedom protections. Study 1a (N = 99) and 1b (N = 151) find that conservative and liberal Americans schematically associate conservative (and not liberal) stances on culture war issues with sincerely held religious belief. Study 2 (N = 402) finds that conservatives and liberals are more likely to grant exemption requests from state anti-gay discrimination laws when claimants defend requests with religion (vs nonreligion), however, strong ideology effects show that liberals discount the deservingness of such requests and conservatives are willing to grant such requests even when nonreligious. Study 3 (N = 400) finds mirroring patterns when liberal religious beliefs (and freedom from religion arguments) are used to request exemptions from anti-abortion laws, this time with conservatives discounting the deservingness of liberal beliefs' legal protection. Results from both studies further show that liberals and conservatives prioritize granting ideologically aligned requests even when they think such requests are not justified under the First Amendment.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Mary Katz

PhD Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Michael H. Pasek

Religious Freedom May Not Mean Religious Freedom for All

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

LAW

Americans broadly endorse religious liberty, but for whom? In four studies (N = 1,098), we asked American Christians, Muslims, and Jews about their support for the freedom of religious expression of different religious groups and their perceptions of a political message related to religious freedom. Concerning people's own views, Christians and Muslims, but not Jews, were most supportive of religious liberty for their own faith than for other faiths. That is, both Christians and Muslims showed ingroup bias in supporting freedom of religious expression. What, then, do people make of politicians who appeal for religious freedom? Do they believe these politicians value religious freedom just for their ingroup or for all? Christians, Muslims, and Jews all believed that politicians emphasizing religious freedom were likely Christian and (compared to a control condition) more concerned with protecting Christian rights but not religious minority group rights. Thus, while some groups prioritize religious liberty for themselves, all perceive political messages about religious freedom as especially geared toward Christians. Results suggest religious freedom might not mean liberty for all.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Marah Al-Kire

University Of New Hampshire

Authors

Mary Katz, Michael H. Pasek, Chad A. Miller, Clara L. Wilkins

A Dual Process Model of How Observers Respond to Protests

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

LAW

Protests are met with either tolerance or repression. Two studies tested whether two processes jointly explain how we respond to protests. S1 provided cross-cultural evidence using stratified samples (N = 4,217) from 20 countries across all inhabited continents. Respondents completed survey measures of moral concerns and judged whether seven controversial actions (e.g., disrupting traffic) were acceptable means of protest for redistributive policies in their country. S2 provided geospatial evidence. Combining data on >60,000 protest events with survey data on the moral concerns of >50,000 Americans, we tested whether county-level differences in moral values predicted rates of protests (and their suppression). Moral concerns about social equality predicted observers considering more protest actions acceptable (S1) and higher county-level incidence rates of Black Lives Matters protests (S2). Moral concerns about social order predicted observers considering fewer protest actions acceptable (S1) and lower rates of protests and higher rates of police intervention (S2). Moral concerns about social equality and social order jointly explain when we support, condemn, and suppress protests.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Nils Reimer

Assistant Professor | UC Santa Barbara

Authors

Morteza Dehghani, Sze Yi Celine Tsoi, Henry W. Biedron

Does Claiming Free Speech Reduce Perceptions of Prejudice?

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM

LAW

Over the last few decades, Republicans have increasingly embraced free speech principles, as Democrats condemn hate speech as offensive and prejudiced. But little is known about the effects of asserting free speech rights on social perceptions. Therefore, we conduct a series of survey experiments to test the effects of a speaker asserting free speech rights on third-party perceptions of the speaker's prejudice. We find that assertions of free speech rights have different effects depending on the perceivers' racial attitudes: Free speech claims reduce perceptions of racism among those who are higher in modern racism but have a backlash effect among perceivers who are lower in modern racism. These findings suggest that endorsing free speech principles has mixed effects on social perceptions depending on the audience.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Matthew Hall
University of Notre Dame

Authors

Brittany C. Solomon

Diversity and Climate Committee Undergraduate Mentoring Event

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: E259, Level 2

Pre-Registration Required. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

About the Session

Come join us for an opportunity to network with inspiring graduate students and faculty and gain insider insights into academic and career paths. The event will feature a 30-minute Q&A session with graduate student panelists, followed by mingling and informal discussion with graduate student mentors and the members of the Diversity Climate Committee (DCC). This is a first-come, first-served event exclusively for undergraduate student attendees.

Meet our Mentors

Colin Li, University of Toronto

Colin is currently a PhD candidate in Social-Personality Psychology at the University of Toronto. He received his bachelor's degree from the University at Buffalo, SUNY, and a master's degree from Wake Forest University. His research focuses on prejudice at both the individual and regional levels, as well as its connections to structural outcomes and well-being. He has experience finding postbac research positions, choosing between master's and PhD programs, and navigating life as an international student in both the United States and Canada.

Uğur Özküsen, University of Pittsburgh and Harvard University

Uğur is a PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh and a research fellow at Harvard University. He earned his bachelor's in psychology from Özyeğin University in Türkiye and his master's in psychology at New York University as a Fulbright Scholar. His research investigates how people perceive others (e.g., people with conflicting identities) and how different social-psychological interventions can reduce group-based disparities and intergroup conflict. As a first-generation student, he has received several awards and grants during his undergraduate years for his research and internships abroad.

Tyler Salley, University College London

Tyler is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Experimental Psychology at University College London and a Visiting Scholar in the Organizations and Innovation Group at the UCL School of Management. Before beginning his PhD, he spent nearly a decade in industry, most recently leading Future of Work and Team Effectiveness programming for 70,000+ employees at Meta. He earned his MSc in Applied Behavioral Sciences / Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Baltimore and his BSc in Psychology from Illinois State University. His research examines how political identity shapes collaboration, especially when people with opposing ideologies must rely on one another to succeed. Having experience both in corporate America and bridging the Psychology and Management worlds in academia, he is happy to provide his perspective to undergrads on topics ranging from project management and goal setting to key considerations when deciding between a career in industry, academia, or pursuing a terminal master's degree.

Jinli Wu, Georgetown University

Jinli is a final-year doctoral candidate at Georgetown University under the mentorship of Dr. Yulia Chentsova Dutton. He is trained as a cultural psychology generalist, with an interdisciplinary professional training in public policy, public health, and social work. His research examines the cultural shaping of human experience across a wide range of domains, such as theory of mind, morality, social networks, motivation, emotion, and human development. Jinli was born and raised in a rural town in Southeast China, and his personal experience in under-resourced environments makes him passionate about bringing a non-WEIRD perspective to the field of psychology and mentoring undergraduate students who might be the next generation of cultural psychologists.

Zi Ting Louisa You, University of Toronto

Louisa is a 5th year PhD student at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Canada. She studies intergroup relations and ingroup identities, including its boundaries, context, and motivations. Her research spans data simulation, app programming, qualitative research, and experimental methods. Louisa is also happy to chat about gaining internship and professional development experience, navigating hidden curriculums, collaborating with different advisors, and anything else you might be curious about!

*NETWORKING

PUI Committee Sponsored: Discussing and Addressing Anti-DEI Attitudes in Academia

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: E252, Level 2

This session continues the conversation from SPSP's last Annual Convention on the growing resistance to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in higher education. We will explore how this backlash shapes student experiences, impacts classroom dynamics, and threatens faculty job security while sharing strategies to navigate these evolving challenges.

Mindworks: The Science of Thinking, A Chicago-only Experience During SPSP 2026

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: Offsite

Mindworks is a public-facing discovery center and active behavioral research lab in downtown Chicago, approximately a 15-minute ride from the convention center. Operated by the Roman Family Center for Decision Research at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Mindworks invites visitors to explore how people think and decide while participating in real studies that advance behavioral science. Participation in these studies helps researchers better understand human behavior, while participants earn prizes and contribute to advancing science.

Drop in on your own (hours listed here: <https://www.chicagobooth.edu/mindworks/visit>). A visit to Mindworks lasts about 30 to 60 minutes, depending on how many studies you'd like to take.

What to expect on the journey of writing a book for a popular audience

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Over the past decade the number of books by researchers writing for a popular audience has proliferated enormously. You may be

thinking of writing one yourself, or have already begun your journey.

This workshop tries to provide a clear sense of what the book-writing journey entails -- explaining the potential challenges and rewards to help you decide whether the journey is right for you and how to navigate the process if you decide to embark upon it.

Because most SPSP members are trained as researchers and not writers there is a great deal of implicit knowledge that needs to be learned about the world of writing a book. This workshop hopes to introduce you to some of that implicit knowledge to help you write a book that will be engaging without compromising scientific integrity -- or to help you decide that it's not the right journey for you at the moment.

*PROF DEV

Speaker



Dave Nussbaum

Adjunct Associate Professor | University of Chicago

Writing Back: Authoring and Responding with Agency in Peer Review

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

Navigating peer review is essential to scientific success, but it remains part of the "hidden curriculum." This session seeks to provide trainees and early-career scholars with concrete and practical strategies for responding to manuscript reviews. Such knowledge and tools can be especially important when experience is limited, institutional resources or knowledge are scarce, or authors contend with belonging concerns. This session includes resources from Reviewer Zero (reviewerzero.net), a collective working to shift peer review culture towards more inclusive practices. We will provide an overview of the mechanics and culture of peer review, including potential sources of bias. Then, we focus on decoding editorial decisions and reviews, and we offer strategies for responses. Throughout, we welcome interactive discussion and questions. Our goal is that participants will leave with greater knowledge of the peer review system and greater efficacy to implement response strategies.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Amanda Diekman

Professor | Indiana University



Dorainne Green

Assistant Professor | Indiana University



Shahana Ansari

Postdoctoral Researcher | Indiana University

Individual and Social Processes Underlying Goal Pursuit and Behavior Change

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E351, Level 3

This symposium examines how people pursue goals and change behavior through individual and social processes. Across four talks, presenters show how regulatory scope shapes multiple-goal management, how mental contrasting transforms fear into preventive action, how anxiety shifts reliance from individual to social pathways of behavior change across cultures, and how social actions facilitate goal-oriented self-talk and behavior. The presenters will discuss the dynamic interplay between individual and social processes in goal pursuit and behavior change.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Janet Lopez

Graduate Student | University of Pennsylvania

Beyond and Within the Box: Individual Differences in Goal Regulatory Scope and Their Role in Multiple Goal Management

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

In multiple-goal pursuit, people can pursue goals more or less intensely depending on factors such as properties within the scope of the goal, or on relations among goals. We define single-goal scope as focusing on one current goal at a time, where goal-specific properties (e.g., value) receive exclusive attention. In contrast, multiple-goal scope is the broad regulatory scope on multiple goals where both goal relations (e.g., facilitation) and properties become one's consecutive concern. A 24-item scale was validated (Study 1) and applied to examine goal selection and striving patterns across diverse goal contexts. In two validation studies on New Year's resolutions, it was hypothesized and found that both types of scope are associated with showing concerns about and selecting goals of favorable goal properties (higher value and attainability), while multiple-goal scope is uniquely associated with concerns about and selecting goals of favorable goal relations in the form of goal facilitation. Consequently, favorable goal properties and relations predicted goal motivation. Study 3 replicated and extended this by assessing the five most important established goals, while a longitudinal Study 4 on course goal management, which encompassed both goal selection and striving, explored long-term implications. In sum, this work highlights the importance of individual differences in regulatory scope and goal selection processes in understanding successful management of multiple goals.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Wen JIANG

Assistant professor | Beijing Normal University at Zhuhai

Authors

Chin Ming Hui

From fear to action: mental contrasting enhances preventive behavior through changed meaning of reality

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

People often anticipate negative future events such as illness, failure, and conflict; still little action towards preventing the feared futures follows. Recent studies, however, show that mental contrasting of people's feared futures with the positive, endangered reality it would jeopardize induces preventive action more effectively than merely imagining the threat. Yet, the psychological mechanisms behind this effect remain unclear. In four longitudinal experiments, we examined how mental contrasting of a feared future with the current reality transforms the current reality into something more precious, and how such a shift in evaluating reality drives preventive action. Compared to reverse contrasting, mental contrasting led participants to view their reality as more valuable and precious, which in turn predicted greater preventive action over the following four weeks (Studies 1 and 2). It also altered implicit evaluations of reality in the same direction, with these changes similarly predicting preventive action (Studies 3 and 4). Our findings identify a key mechanism by which mental contrasting converts fear into action: by increasing the perceived value of what is at stake.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



SunYoung Kim
Postdoc Researcher | New York University

Authors

Gabriele Oettingen, Peter M. Gollwitzer

Individual and Social Processes of Behavioral Change: Anxiety as an Individual and Cultural Driver of the Use of Social Influence

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

From eating healthier to saving more money, people everywhere seek to change their behavior—but how do they go about it? Do they prefer individual or social processes of change, and what drives these decisions or their beliefs about the efficacy or cost of making a change? Six studies (total N = 7,289; three preregistered) investigated preferences for and beliefs about individual and social behavior change processes, as well as the forces shaping these preferences. Findings demonstrated a large and robust reliance on individual (vs. social) processes, which consistently emerged in explaining past behaviors and planning for future changes, across participants from 11 different countries. Nevertheless, heightened anxiety led participants to use more social (vs. individual) processes. In other words, anxiety acted as a "social switch" that promoted leveraging close others, social norms and cultural beliefs, and other external resources, including laws and policies, as tools for behavioral change. This effect was observed at both the country and individual levels of anxiety, using both correlational and experimental methods.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Minjae Seo
Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Minjae Seo, Angela Zhang, Yubo Zhou, Dov Cohen, Dolores Albarracín

The Connection between Individual and Social Processes of Goal Pursuit

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Researchers have examined goal pursuit as an individual process, as well as goal pursuit within groups, but less is known about the connection between individual and social processes of goal pursuit. We hypothesized that social actions, such as telling others about a goal, would trigger goal-oriented inner dialogue that facilitates goal-oriented behavior. Further, we sought to observe and analyze inner dialogue through audio recordings of free speech about a goal. In five studies, (N = 4,814) two correlational and three experimental, social actions (i.e., sharing one's goal, asking for help, sharing difficulties, surrounding oneself with new people) predicted goal-oriented self-talk and behavior (i.e., setting a goal, implementing steps, and monitoring progress) with others. Additionally, LLM (Large Language Model) analyses of participants' self-talk revealed that belonging predicted confidence and motivation, especially in participants who had previously engaged in a social (vs. individual) action. These potential mechanisms advance our understanding of how how relationships influence individual goal pursuit.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Janet Lopez
Graduate Student | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Dolores Albarracín, Lena Graziani

Novel Insights into Power, Ideology, and Political Participation: Psychological Perspectives on Civic Engagement and Institutional Bias

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E353A, Level 3

SELF/IDENTITY LAW POLITICS

This symposium features four single-presenter talks on political psychology. One talk presents a large-scale megastudy that tests 10 behavioral interventions designed to increase voter registration ahead of the 2024 U.S. election. Another traces daily activism during the election period, highlighting identity-based differences in civic engagement before and after Election Day. A third introduces and validates a new measure of coloniality as a political ideology, examined across both Global North and South contexts, demonstrating its importance for understanding support for global inequalities. A final talk examines predictors of racial bias in policing, showing that regional psychological context can be more predictive of search bias than individual officer characteristics. Together, these studies highlight the psychological processes through which individuals engage with and are affected by political systems.

*SYMPOSIUM

Chair



Kayley Okst
PhD Student | NYU

A Tournament of Behavioral Interventions to Increase Voter Registration Ahead of the 2024 U.S. Election

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

POLITICS

Voting in elections is one of the most consequential forms of political participation in a democracy. However, voter registration and turnout in U.S. elections are chronically low. Decades of intervention research have identified promising strategies for increasing political participation, but few have tested these interventions against each other in a single experiment. To address this gap, we adopted a megastudy approach to evaluate 10 expert-crowdsourced, theoretically-based psychological interventions on a large sample (N=13,600) of eligible, yet unregistered, U.S. voters on registration intentions and behavior ahead of the 2024 Presidential election. We found that Escalating Commitment, an intervention that includes social norms, values, and accountability appeals, was most effective at increasing visits to the official voter registration website (by 2.14%) and intentions to vote (by 8.11%), compared to the control condition. Several other interventions also boosted intentions; however, none statistically increased actual voter registration. Future research should identify scalable strategies to promote voter registration that increase both intentions and behavioral outcomes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kayley Okst
PhD Student | NYU

Authors

Sara Constantino, Madalina Vlasceanu, Kayley Okst, Katherine Mason

Coloniality as a Political Ideology: Psychometric Assessment and Political Significance of a Novel Ideological Construct

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

POLITICS

This work advances a formal operationalization of coloniality as a political ideology—defined as the prescriptive belief that non-Western and Indigenous (a) cultures, (b) knowledge systems, and (c) societal structures are “outdated” and hinder societal progress. Drawing on decolonial theory and political psychology, we reconceptualize coloniality not only as a historical remnant but as an active belief system that justifies contemporary global inequalities. Across three studies, we develop and validate the Coloniality Beliefs Scale (CB). Study 1 (US, n = 936) confirms a hierarchical second-order factor structure across cultural, epistemic, and political dimensions (CFI = .970; RMSEA = .064). CB shows construct and incremental validity, correlating with conservatism, system justification, and social dominance orientation, and uniquely predicts support for Western foreign intervention and legitimization of global inequalities. Study 2 (Puerto Rico, n = 351) and Study 3 (Netherlands, n = 448) replicate the scale’s structure and assess political correlates in colonized and formerly colonizer contexts. CB is linked to both context-specific attitudes (e.g., political status, colonial monuments) and shared outcomes (e.g., support for reparations). Lastly, Latent profile analyses identify subgroups marked by cross-ideological endorsement of CB (e.g., Neocolonial Liberals and Conservatives), highlighting the prevalence of CB beyond conservatism, group status, and geopolitical context.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Eduardo Rivera Pichardo
Social & Political Psychology PhD Candidate | New York University

Authors

Zoe Bertenshaw

Moved to Data Blitz #1 on Friday: Person or the Situation? Predicting individual officers' search bias.

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

LAW

In a pre-registered study, we compare widely used measures of police bias to a novel bias measure that accounts for the unknown contraband rate. We use data from 18,870 officers across 9 U.S. states and 10 municipalities. Surprisingly, in South Carolina, officer race and age are not predictive of racial bias. Instead, county level regional bias (as captured by the IAT) is predictive of police bias. In South Carolina the average race discrepancy between White and Black community members on the IAT predicts an officer's propensity for searching more innocent Black drivers than innocent White drivers in that county. This effect holds when controlling for an individual officer's department, age, and race. Importantly, the weapons version of the IAT predicts the discrepancy between recovery rates of contraband (including weapons) for drivers of different races. Neither IAT predicts a police officer searching one race of drivers over another. These findings suggest that measures of police bias capture different psychological processes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Margaret Meyer
Ph.D. Candidate | University of Michigan

Authors

Richard Gonzalez

Social identity and daily activism trajectories during the 2024 election

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The 2024 presidential election was a focal point for political activism in the United States. For many, perceived threats to rights increased engagement in activism as a form of resistance and self-advocacy. Using 21 daily diaries (N = 313), this study examines changes in daily activism before and after Election Day, and how these patterns vary by race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and political affiliation. A multilevel piecewise growth model will estimate activism trajectories across the pre- and post-election periods, testing whether social identity predicts different growth patterns. We hypothesize that activism increased in the days leading up to the election and decreased in the days following. For individuals belonging to a minoritized status or the losing party, we expect this rise and fall to be more extreme. Data collection is complete, and pre-registration of analyses before data access is in progress. In addition to showing how daily activist behaviors shift during moments of political tension, this study will inform our understanding of how social identity shapes civic engagement in response to anticipated and realized threats to marginalized communities.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Giovanina Kelly
Graduate Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Muchen Xi, Kaylin Ratner, Megan Wilson Wolk, Patrick L. Hill

Pursuing the Good Life: From Individual to Social Welfare

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E353B, Level 3

MORALITY SELF/IDENTITY NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

What constitutes the good life, and how do pursuits of well-being operate across levels of analysis? This symposium traverses from individual ideals through dyadic moral judgments to community cohesion and social welfare. At the individual level, the first talk investigates the motivational foundations of “good life” ideals, examining how self-concept clarity and trait self-expansion promote preferences for hedonic versus eudaimonic ideals. At the dyadic level, the second talk explores how engagement in self-care, framed as self-improvement versus self-indulgence, shapes moral perceptions of individuals. At the community level, language analysis of over 880,000 people following crises reveals that natural disasters temporarily reduce divisive language while mass shootings do not, though both increase prosocial expression. At the societal level, the final talk proposes that welfare program participation is hindered by miscalibrated perceptions of public stigma, driven by overly pessimistic beliefs about how negatively welfare recipients are perceived. Together, these talks advance our understanding of how identity, social perception, and personal values influence the decisions we make about our well-being and societal welfare.

*SYMPOSIUM

Chair



Tara Rezvan
PhD Student | Smith School of Business, Queen's University

Beyond Pampering: The Impact of Self-Care on Moral Judgments

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MORALITY

The wellbeing industry has grown to \$5.6 trillion, reflecting a profound transformation in individuals' values. While the importance of self-care in people's lives is projected to continue growing, academic research on its interpersonal consequences remains scant. This paper begins to address that gap by examining how engaging in self-care, defined as “activities that improve and maintain one's physical and psychological wellbeing”, shapes observers' morality perceptions. Across six pre-registered experiments (N=1776) using different manipulations and an incentive-compatible DV, we provide converging evidence that engaging in self-care enhances observers' perceptions of a target's morality and impacts their partner selection decisions. We further demonstrate that this effect persists regardless of the target's financial status or time availability, but is limited to self-care activities that emphasize self-improvement rather than self-indulgence. Our findings contribute to the moral judgments and well-being literatures and offer novel insights into the moralization of self-care from a social cognition perspective.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Tara Rezvan
PhD Student | Smith School of Business, Queen's University

Authors

Ekin Ok, Nicole Robitaille

Do Collective Crises Bring Us Together or Tear Us Apart?

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

How do collective crises, such as natural disasters or mass violence, shape collective identity and intergroup relations? We analyzed the natural language of over 880,000 people across city or regional online communities surrounding 63 extreme weather events and 57 mass shootings that occurred in the United States between 2016 and 2024. Across both mass shootings and extreme weather events, individuals in affected regions expressed greater collective identity (e.g., we, us) and prosociality (e.g., care, help) in the days following the event. Further, there was a drop in language indicating the salience of outgroups (they, them) and social divisions (e.g., words about conflict, polarization) after natural disasters, but not after mass shootings. That is, while both types of crises induced solidarity, only natural disasters undermined division. The observed shifts typically lasted a week before returning to baseline, and they were observed even in discussions unrelated to the crisis or region. These findings suggest that different large-scale crises may differently shape the nature of people's relations with social others, but these changes may be short-lived.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Lin Gan
Harvard University

Authors

Ashwini Ashokkumar, Ryan Boyd

Pluralistic ignorance of stigma impedes take-up of welfare benefits

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

The U.S. spends hundreds of billions on welfare programs, yet over 30% of eligible individuals do not participate. We propose that a key barrier is miscalibrated perception of public stigma—people’s overly pessimistic beliefs about how negatively others view welfare recipients. Study 1 categorizes spontaneous reactions to someone being SNAP-eligible: stigma, negativity about help-seeking, pity, envy, willingness to help, happiness, and admiration. Studies 1 and 2 show widespread pluralistic ignorance: participants believed they held more positive, less negative views than their peers or the public. Studies 3A and 3B use incentive-compatible methods to confirm this discrepancy between personal and perceived public attitudes. Study 4 shows that experimentally increasing perceived public stigma reduces participants’ willingness to apply for or refer SNAP. Study 5, conducted with a SNAP-eligible sample, tests an intervention that reduced perceived stigma but did not significantly increase near-term application or referral intentions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Sherry Wu
Assistant Professor | UCLA

Authors

Alice Lee-Yoon, Sherry Wu, Jason Chin, Eugene Caruso, Heather Caruso

Self-Concept Clarity and Self-Expansion as Predictors of Well-Being Ideals: A Dual-Path Model

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

A “psychologically rich” life—varied, complex, perspective-shifting—complements hedonic (happy) and eudaimonic (meaningful) ideals. We propose a dual-path model: self-concept clarity (SCC; stable self-beliefs) promotes preference for happy or meaningful lives, whereas trait self-expansion (SE; motivation to grow through novelty) promotes preference for psychological richness. Five preregistered studies (total N=5 500) evaluated this claim. Across three surveys, multinomial logistic regression showed SCC uniquely predicted choosing happy or meaningful over rich lives, while SE uniquely predicted choosing rich over happy or meaningful lives; an SCC×SE interaction amplified effects. A large archival survey replicated the SE–richness link. An experiment manipulated SE via growth-vs-stability primes; heightened SE increased selection of a rich life (d=.50). SCC and SE correlated modestly (r = -.21) yet jointly explained 30 % of variance in ideals, confirming distinctiveness. Findings reveal how self-stability and self-growth motives guide divergent visions of the good life, informing tailored well-being strategies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Yingxue Liu
Research Coordinator | University of Chicago

Bridging Divides: New insights into promoting constructive engagement across social and political differences

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E265, Level 2

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Understanding how to foster prosocial behavior and constructive dialogue in the face of inequality and social division is a critical challenge. This symposium presents innovative research examining psychological barriers to prosocial engagement and testing interventions to overcome them.

*SYMPOSIUM

Chair



Tenelle Porter
Rowan University

A Values-and-Norms Intervention Promotes Intellectual Humility and Open-Mindedness in Adolescents

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

In today’s pluralistic societies, people are apt to encounter those who disagree with them about important social issues. If managed poorly, these encounters can exacerbate conflicts, while wasting opportunities to learn from each other. Here, we explored what might promote adolescents’ constructive engagement across difference. Study 1 identified a need for intervention, showing that adolescents (N = 961) were only slightly willing to engage with perspectives that disagreed with them about a relevant polarizing issue (i.e., whether cellphones should be allowed in class). In Study 2 (N = 392), youth randomly assigned to a brief values-and-norms intervention showed a more constructive response to disagreement by reading more opposing opinions (0.25 SDs), more research findings supporting the opposing view (0.45 SDs), and perceiving more limitations in their own position (0.20 SDs) relative to a control group. Results suggest that brief values-and-norms exercises can promote youths’ intellectual humility and open-mindedness, hinting at a potentially scalable approach for increasing constructive discourse among members of the next generation.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Tenelle Porter
Rowan University

Authors

Dan Newark, Jon Valant

Does unfairness help or hurt prosocial behavior and trust in authority?

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

A group reward account has identified procedural fairness as related to better attitudes towards authority and prosocial behavior, through group cohesion. Conversely, a group repair account has experimentally demonstrated that procedural unfairness spurs prosocial behavior. To adjudicate between these accounts, I examined how low, compared to high, procedural fairness is related to trust in national authorities and prosociality, via cohesion. A unique survey of 3,416 residents in Lebanon fielded immediately after the 2020 Beirut blast was used. Counterintuitively, perceiving procedural unfairness was related to prosocial intention and behavior, by seeing that the country was not united and cohesive. The indirect relationship between procedural fairness and trust, via cohesion, in a government agency—Lebanon’s Council for Development & Reconstruction—was also demonstrated, regardless of the level of procedural fairness. There was a direct relationship between procedural fairness and trust in political parties. Results are discussed in the context of Lebanon’s sectarian political system and in terms of contributions to the group repair and reward accounts of procedural (un)fairness.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Hrag Vosgueritchian
Graduate Student | Northwestern University

Economic Inequality Undermines Pro-Environmental Behavior: The Roles of Perceived Fairness and Identification with All Humanity

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Environmental issues require urgent global attention, underscoring the need for widespread pro-environmental behavior (PEB). This research examined how economic inequality influences PEB, along with the mediating role of perceived fairness and the moderating role of identification with all humanity (IWAH). Study 1 (N = 3,520) used national survey data and found that objective inequality negatively predicted PEB. Study 2 (N = 816) replicated this with subjective inequality. Study 3 (N = 180) experimentally manipulated subjective inequality and found that reduced fairness mediated the negative effect on PEB. Study 4 (N = 272) confirmed this mediation and showed that the indirect effect of inequality on PEB was weaker among those higher in IWAH. These studies provide evidence that economic inequality, both objective and subjective, negatively impacts PEB in China, with perceived fairness serving as a key mediating mechanism. The findings highlight the importance of addressing economic inequality and fostering a sense of global identity to promote environmental sustainability.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Chenxi Liu
Student | Beijing Normal University

Authors

Jing Lin, Yu Kou

When Perception Meets Reality: How Moral Metaperceptions Shape Intergroup Relations in Political Divides

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This research investigates moral metaperceptions across political divides and their impact on intergroup relations. Through a multi-method approach combining computational analysis of 10 million tweets and three experimental studies, we examine how individuals believe they are morally evaluated by political outgroups. Our findings reveal systematic discrepancies between how outgroups actually perceive a group’s morality and how that group believes they are perceived. For instance, pro-life individuals believe pro-choice people rate them significantly lower on care and equality than pro-choice individuals actually do. Similar metaperceptual inaccuracies emerge in gun control debates. Critically, these inaccuracies predict intergroup trust and threat perceptions. Individuals who believe outgroups view them less moral than they actually do report higher threat and lower trust. Our intervention study demonstrates that correcting these misperceptions by providing accurate feedback about how outgroups actually evaluate one’s moral positions significantly increases trust and reduces perceived threat. These findings suggest that addressing metaperceptual inaccuracies offers a promising pathway for reducing political polarization and improving intergroup dialogue in contentious moral debates.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Yalda Daryani
University of Southern California

Authors

Parsa Hejabi, Morteza Dehghani

Careful What You Say: The Psychology of Speaking Under Scrutiny

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Everyday communication is anything but casual when we are judged not just on what we say, but also on how—and why—we say it. This symposium brings together four talks that examine situations where this is the case and, in doing so, uncover how people navigate the psychological stakes of speaking under scrutiny. Whether job candidates weigh the risks of revealing financial motives, employees pitch social issues to powerful decision-makers, conflicted individuals decide whether to return blame, or conversational partners leak social class through language, each case highlights how listener inferences about power, norms, identity, and motivation shape how one’s words are received. Together, these talks offer a deeper understanding of impression formation in communication, revealing how speech is filtered through complex social lenses and used to infer traits, values, and intentions. Spanning diverse domains—including hiring, advocacy, interpersonal conflict, and everyday conversation—these papers share important implications for how people navigate reputation, credibility, and influence, particularly within organizational life.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Shereen Chaudhry
Univ. of Chicago, School of Business

The Effect of Expressing Financial Motives on Recruiter Perceptions

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Although compensation is a primary concern for job seekers, candidates who express financial motives in interviews often face negative evaluations. Why does articulating a common, legitimate motive still lead to penalties? Across three preregistered studies, we test a novel interpersonal inference account: expressing financial motives violates impression management norms and prompts inferences of low self-monitoring, a key social skill reflecting situational awareness and adaptability. Two pilot studies showed that (1) financial motives are normatively discouraged in interviews, and (2) those who express them tend to score lower on self-monitoring. In Study 1, a field study, financial motive expression predicted inferences of norm violation and lower self-monitoring, but only when nonfinancial motives were absent. In Study 2, an experiment, financial motives reduced performance expectations and hiring intentions via self-monitoring inferences. Study 3 showed that even when candidates were described as high in self-monitoring, expressing financial motives still harmed evaluations, suggesting that behavioral cues carry diagnostic weight even alongside countervailing trait information

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kelly Nault

IE Business School

Authors

Winnie Jiang

Power Dynamics and Perception Gaps in Social Issue Advocacy

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Amid pressure on organizations to address social and environmental challenges, employees selling social issues to decision-makers is a critical pathway for change. However, research often overlooks the perspective of social issue buyers—the decision-makers employees aim to persuade. We address this gap by examining seller-buyer differences in evaluations of image risk and success likelihood in social issue selling. Drawing on the approach/inhibition theory of power, we predict greater buyer (vs. seller) optimism and a reduced gap when employees sell laterally (vs. upwardly) or with an ally. Across four studies, including matched employee-supervisor dyads and online experiments, issue sellers perceived more image risk and lower likelihood of success than buyers, partially due to sellers' lower rank. Selling with an ally or laterally to same-ranked coworkers, and informing sellers of sell-buyer perception gaps increased seller optimism about success, but not image risk. This research introduces buyer psychology to the issue-selling literature, calls attention to buyer-seller differences in perception gaps, and suggests several strategies for aligning buyer and seller expectations.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Izzy Gainsburg

Research Scholar | Stanford University

Authors

Laura Sonday, Madeline Ong, Julia Lee Cunningham

More Than Tit-for-tat: Blaming As a Battle Over Beliefs

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

When conflicts involve shared blame, how people communicate about responsibility shapes whether conflicts resolve or escalate. Two initial studies found that disputants often blame and think blaming can elicit apologies. Research on conflict communication supports this intuition, suggesting direct blame clarifies misunderstandings, but reciprocity theories predict it will trigger defensiveness. We reconcile these perspectives by finding that, contrary to lay intuitions, blame begets blame in live interactions (Study 1), not just out of retaliation but because people want to correct the blamers' beliefs about responsibility division. A live conversation study with 126 pairs discussing real-life conflicts (Study 2) finds that return blaming increases when one thinks the blamer assigns them too much blame. By manipulating perceived self-blame (Study 3) and whether the counterpart is on the same page (Study 4), we find that blame division beliefs causally impact return blaming. When correcting the narrative about blame matters less, fewer people return blame (Study 5). These data highlight the importance of second-order beliefs in conflict resolution beyond reciprocity.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Eva Chen

PhD student | University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

Authors

Shereen Chaudhry

Using language to understand status in team conversations

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

The dynamics that unfold during conversations provide a wealth of information about relationship processes, and how traits like social class shape those processes. Here, we use a LLM (large language model) approach to examine transcribed conversations from over 700 in-person dyadic conversations, across several social contexts, to test the question: What elements of the conversation are most important for accurately signaling social class? With self-reported social class data, we designed a model that guesses the social class of each partner and provides confidence estimates and reasonings. To test for accuracy, we alter what the LLM is given: in one version, the LLM has the full dyadic back-and-forth; in another, the LLM has one partner's text; and in a third, features like hedge words are masked. We then compare accuracy across these models. We provide answers to questions like: Is the model less accurate in predicting class for lower class partners because these people adapt their language to their partners more than higher class partners do, making their class harder to predict? We provide an overview of how this model can be applied to other studies of conversational dynamics.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Sydney Phlegar
Doctoral Student | New York University

Authors

Tessa West, Kareena del Rosario, Sydney Phlegar, Oana Dumitru

Countering Deficit-Based Narratives in Universities and Workplaces Through Strength-Based Perspectives

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E270, Level 2

SELF/IDENTITY

Deficit-based approaches to research and policy attribute the challenges marginalized groups face to individual shortcomings, deflecting attention from structural inequities. In contrast, strength-based narratives shift the discourse by highlighting the resilience, knowledge, and assets that marginalized people possess in the face of adversity. Talk 1 explores how marginalized students navigate paradoxes in meaning-making as they transition to college, revealing structural tensions and strength-based possibilities for belonging. Talk 2 shows that strength-based messages from Latine families promote student confidence and counter deficit-based narratives about academic potential. Talk 3 tests an intervention to reframe adversity as a source of strength to improve motivation and achievement among refugee and low-SES students. Talk 4 embeds strength-based approaches in the workplace to enhance belonging, reduce bias, and improve the likelihood of promotion for low-income employees. Together, these talks challenge deficit-based thinking by expanding how we consider marginalized people in research and also redirect interventions to focus on changing contexts.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jovani Azpeitia
PhD Candidate | University of Washington

Paradoxes and Possibilities: Centering Feminist Wisdom in Strengths-Based Psychological Research

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The transition to college provokes a paradox for students from historically marginalized backgrounds as they navigate both new exciting possibilities and challenging realities shadowed by histories of exclusion. Students make sense of these transition experiences through three meaning-making processes advanced by social psychologists: the need to understand, the need to maintain self-integrity, and the need to belong. Guided by feminist theory and wisdom, we propose that paradoxes lurk within these core processes, and that these paradoxes illuminate how structural forces and conflicting tensions characterize students' pathways as they transition to college, including how students collectively resist marginalization and build new possibilities for their futures. Unearthing paradoxes contextualizes students' psychological meaning-making within their structural realities, making room for strengths-based theorizing that honors the fullness and complexity of student experience. We discuss how strength-based investigations that attend to paradoxes chart new pathways for building more humanizing psychological theory, research, and interventions focused on the student experience.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Giselle Laiduc
Assistant Professor | Santa Clara University

Authors

Rebecca Covarrubias

Using Strength-Based Narratives for Stereotype Reduction of Latine Students

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Strength-based narratives acknowledge that while marginalized social identities may be associated with educational hardships, they can also serve as sources of resilience and motivation for academic success. Latine students are stereotyped as unintelligent and lazy, but their families use strength-based narratives to remind them of how resourceful and hardworking they are. Across two preregistered studies, we explore how strength-based narratives can support Latine students' educational endeavors. Study 1 (N=149) used a mixed-methods approach to demonstrate that the educational messaging Latine students receive is more supportive and more likely to be strength-based when conveyed by families compared to schools. Study 2 (N=238) employed an experimental approach to show how strength-based messages increase Latine participants' confidence in a college writing course through reducing their perceptions of being negatively stereotyped by an educator. Our research demonstrates that strength-based approaches counteract commonly emphasized negative perceptions of Latine students and create affirming educational environments that promote positive academic outcomes.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jovani Azpeitia

PhD Candidate | University of Washington

Authors

Sapna Cheryan, Rebecca Covarrubias

The Importance of Acknowledging Individual Strength in the Context of Adversity

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

In responding to adversity, people commonly show strength. Yet, victims of adversity are commonly portrayed as weak, passive, and broken. These narratives frame individuals, not just the adverse situations they are in, as deficient. Such narratives can become self-fulfilling and may limit the extent to which these individuals can show their strength. We developed an intervention that reverses these narratives, highlighting the strengths individuals have shown specifically in contending with the adversity they face. We hence acknowledge, both, context-level adversity, and individual-level strength. We tested this approach in three large longitudinal randomized-controlled field-experiments – two pre-registered – among three distinct populations and settings. Across studies, the identity-reframing intervention supported individuals' goal pursuit: it boosted the learning-engagement of refugees entering an online-university over one year, improved the grades of low-SES students over one semester, and helped individuals with experiences of depression to more successfully complete a self-selected goal over two weeks.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Christina Bauer

Dr. | University of Vienna

Authors

Gregory Walton, Veronika Job, Nicole Stephens

Creating Strength-Based Company Cultures to Facilitate Marginalized Employees' Workplace Opportunities

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Workplaces' efforts to promote diversity and inclusion have come under intense scrutiny in recent months within the U.S. Beyond reactionary criticisms, these efforts have been met with mounting empirical evidence that their effects have been, at best, limited. Thus, the current studies test the potential of preparing workplaces to adopt alternative strength-based approaches that highlight the valuable skills, knowledge, and resources that people gain from their otherwise marginalized identities. Study 1 uses large-scale data from Glassdoor.com to demonstrate that workplaces' current diversity and inclusion efforts rarely feature these approaches and are not related to the experiences of their marginalized employees. Nonetheless, experimentally manipulating a workplace's efforts to center strength-based approaches led employees—particularly those from low-income backgrounds—to feel more comfortable and invested in the workplace (Studies 2-4). Furthermore, embedding these approaches across company practices reduced supervisors' biased evaluations of employees from low-income backgrounds which in turn increased their likelihood of being recommended for a promotion by 38% (Study 5).

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



David Silverman

PhD Student | Northwestern Univ.

Authors

Mesmin Destin, Nicole Stephens, Jennie Kim, Yelim Kim, Malik Middleton

Navigating Equality in a World of Tradeoffs

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E271, Level 2

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

People value equality, yet inequality is pervasive. In an effort to promote equality and pursue fairness, people often have to consider tradeoffs between allocation principles they care about. In this symposium we explore how people make such tradeoffs and evaluate others for making them. The first talk examines how efficiency considerations can escalate income inequality between partners in romantic relationships, as they increasingly prioritize the higher earner's career. The second talk investigates when people are willing to redistribute resources in ways that reverse social hierarchies, showing greater willingness to overturn rank when doing so benefits a Black versus a White target. The third talk reveals that decision makers are less willing to use random procedures (e.g., lotteries) to solve equality-efficiency tradeoffs, when distributing losses than gains. The final talk explores the developmental origins of inequality reasoning, showing that by age six children expect others to endorse self-serving distribution rules but only when those rules seem persuasive to others. Together these talks offer new insights into the psychology of distributing resources and (in)equality.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Shoham Choshen-Hillel

Associate professor, Vice dean for teaching and learning | The Hebrew University Business School and the Federmann Center f...

Alex Shaw

Assistant Professor | Univ. of Chicago

Escalation of inequality in close relationships

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Romantic partners often face tradeoffs between income equality and collective financial gain. Across six studies, we examined how existing income disparities in dual-earner couples shape their willingness to accept further inequality in pursuit of greater total household income. We find that greater income disparities predict a greater willingness to prioritize the higher earner's career and financial gain, further widening the income gap. This escalation of inequality over consecutive decisions emerges not only in income-related tradeoffs (e.g., salary cuts and raises) but also in decisions that indirectly affect income (e.g., chore delegation). The effect is causal: experimentally induced disparities increase acceptance of inequality, and prior decisions to accept inequality make individuals more likely to accept larger inequalities in subsequent decisions. This pattern arises partly because, as disparity grows, partners become less concerned with achieving equality. Perceptions of joint financial ownership amplify this tendency. Our findings reveal how everyday decisions, motivated by efficiency and shared benefit, can unintentionally escalate inequality within romantic partnerships.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Tong Suo

PhD student | University of Michigan

Authors

Shoham Choshen-Hillel, Ayelet Fishbach

Rank Reversal & Inequality: Willingness to Overturn Hierarchies Depends Social Identity

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Across two pre-registered studies (N=1,709), we demonstrate that individuals' choices to redistribute resources depend on: (a) whether doing so reverses targets' ranks in a hierarchy, and (b) the identities of the targets who lose and gain resources. Both experiments utilized a 2 (rank reversal: yes, no) x 2 (target race: White, Black) design. Participants saw a scenario where resources could be transferred from a (White/ Black) manager to a different (White/ Black) manager; in the rank reversal conditions, transferring resources overturned the hierarchy, such that the target that began with more resources now has fewer.

An ANOVA examining the impact of rank reversal and target race on transfer rates found a significant main effect of rank reversal (Study 1: $F=214.49$, $p<.001$; Study 2: $F=53.72$, $p<.001$), a significant main effect of target race (Study 1: $F=4.68$, $p=0.003$; Study 2: $F=3.62$, $p=0.01$), and a nonsignificant interaction (Study 1: $F=0.91$, $p=0.43$; Study 2: $F=2.19$, $p=0.09$). The most notable difference emerged when rank reversal involved a Black manager and a White manager; participants were more willing to overturn a hierarchy if resources were transferred to a Black target.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Preeti Vani

Authors

Nir Halevy

Divergent Endorsement of Lotteries in allocating Gains and Losses

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

When allocating resources, equity and efficiency can conflict. For example, a manager with a single company car may have to choose between giving it to one of two equally deserving employees (efficient but inequitable) or to neither (equitable but inefficient). Decision-makers often resolve such dilemmas by using random procedures (e.g., a coin flip, a lottery). Random procedures are often used for allocating benefits, but what about losses? We tested this question in four studies (N=819), including both scenario-based experiments and a consequential task. Across all studies we found that participants were more hesitant to use lotteries to solve equity-efficiency dilemmas involving losses (e.g., pay cuts) than gains (e.g., bonuses). Participants chose more wasteful allocations for losses than for gains, which is not predicted by loss aversion. Mediation analyses supported our suggested mechanism: decision-makers expected more negative reactions if they created inequality in losses than in gains. They also viewed lotteries as less fair when used to allocate losses. We discuss the findings in light of fairness theories and consider implications for management, policy, and daily life.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Yair Nahari

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Alex Shaw, Shoham Choshen-Hillel

Who should get more?: Kids expect strategic moral rule endorsement

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Adults often advance self-serving moral arguments—e.g., better workers advocate merit rather than equality and vice versa (DeScioli et al., 2014). Still, one must balance this self-interest with what might convince others. Slackers might suggest equality, but probably not to get the lion’s share. Here, we examine whether children expect others to navigate this tradeoff. Do they believe people will float arguments that are self-serving yet persuasive? To test this, 4- to 9-year-olds (N = 72) saw two characters in conflict over a snack, each with a legitimate claim to it—one was hungry, and one owned it. With age children thought each would advocate for a self-serving rule—the hungry one would propose the hunger rule, and the owner would propose the ownership rule. Further, by around age six, children predicted that the characters would eschew rules that were self-serving but arbitrary (e.g., wearing a blue shirt). These results suggest that by age 6-7, children believe others will propose self-serving rules but are constrained by what sounds persuasive. We are currently testing whether children think people will propose different rules based on the potential audience present.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Alex Shaw**
Assistant Professor | Univ. of Chicago

Authors

Alex Mackiel

Parenting and Flourishing: Emotions, Goals, and Self-Expansion in the Family

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E350, Level 3

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Despite nearly 90% of adults being or planning on becoming parents (Gallup 2023), work on parents’ own outcomes is scarce and tends to focus on parents’ challenges (e.g., stress or coping). However, in light of the US Surgeon General’s urgent call for supporting parent’s health (Murthy 2025), it’s more crucial than ever to examine how parents and families can flourish. This symposium shifts the typical paradigm with novel research on how parents’ positive experiences—their emotions, goals, and self-expansion—can help them and their families thrive. Our first talk reveals how compassionate parenting goals can be beneficial for parents and their family. Our second talk uncovers how parenting self-expansion—personal growth in parenting—is personally and relationally rewarding. Our third talk unpacks the types of parental love (compassionate, companionate, attachment) and their benefits. Our last talk highlights the rewards of interparental gratitude on a child’s prosociality and perceived warmth. Across rigorous designs (e.g., daily diary, intensive longitudinal) and over 11,000 parent observations, our work shifts the conversation by elucidating how parents and families can flourish.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Princeton Chee**
PhD Student | University of Rochester

Compassionate and Self-Image Goals in Parenting: Associations with Parental Well-Being

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Pursuing compassionate goals (i.e., to improve others’ well-being) has generally been linked with greater well-being, whereas self-image goals (i.e., to enhance how one is perceived by others) tend to show the reverse. Yet limited research has examined these goals in the context of parenting. In this 9-day diary study (N = 270), we investigated whether compassionate and self-image goals in relation to children were related to parental well-being and family functioning and whether empathic and negative emotions mediated these associations. Results showed that parents who pursued compassionate goals reported more empathic emotions and fewer negative emotions, which were in turn associated with optimal well-being (e.g., greater satisfaction) and more positive family functioning (e.g., more supportive parenting,) both overall and across the week. Conversely, self-image goals were associated with greater negative emotions, which was in turn negatively associated with several indicators of daily and global well-being and family functioning. These findings suggest that parents’ efforts to support their children’s well-being are associated with their own well-being and family functioning.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Katherine Nelson-Coffey**
Associate Professor | Arizona State University

Authors

John Coffey, Haruka Oshika, Grace Zechman

Parenting Self-Expansion: The Personal and Relational Benefits of Parenting Growth

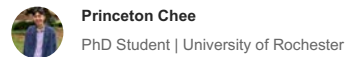
11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The birth of a child presents the start of a profound parenting journey. Although marked by hardship, much of this journey also fuels parent's growth and self-expansion. In a mixed method study with couples measured longitudinally across the first year of parenthood (N=431; 1724 observations), we identified key themes of parenting self-expansion (i.e., new, exciting parenting experiences) and examined how it can strengthen parents' personal and relational well-being with their spouse. Reflexive thematic analyses revealed that parents experienced self-expansion in diverse ways: from enhanced family bonds, changed perceptions of the world, awe from child development, greater internal growth, and shifted life values and priorities. Next, using growth curve modeling, we found that parents who felt greater parenting self-expansion had improved satisfaction with life, marital satisfaction, and marital commitment across the first year of parenthood. These held when controlling for child temperament and care difficulty. Thus, we find that parenthood begins with an array of new experiences and perspectives that signal growth and strengthen parent's well-being and marital relationships.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Amy Muise, Emily Impett, Bonnie Le, Natalie Rosen

How Do I Love Thee? Parents' Love for their Children

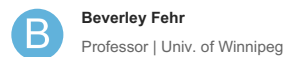
11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In her famous poem, Barrett Browning asks the question: "How do I love thee?", followed by the statement: "let me count the ways". Social psychologists tend to focus on the ways in which romantic partners love one another. Little is known about the kinds--and levels--of love that parents experience for their children. Parents in North America (recruited via Prolific) completed measures of compassionate, companionate (friendship-based) and attachment love for either a young child (Study 1, N = 275) or an adult child (Study 2; N = 197). In both studies, there was a significant effect for Type of Love, such that ratings of compassionate love for a child were highest, followed by companionate love, and then attachment love. Generally, gender of parent and gender of child effects were nonsignificant. All three kinds of love were moderately correlated with parents' satisfaction with their relationship with their child. It is concluded that parents' love for their children is variegated, such that they are most likely to report experiencing an other-focused, selfless kind of love for their child—more so than other kinds.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Aynslee Hinds

Interparental Gratitude Predicts Greater Child Prosocial Behavior via Parental Warmth

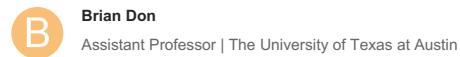
11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Interparental interactions are an important contributor to child outcomes, including to social outcomes. However, research primarily examines the influence of interparental conflict on children, meaning the influence of interparental positive interactions on children remains unexplored. Interparental Positivity Spillover Theory (IPST) proposes that interparental positive interactions spill over into children's experiences, and therefore uniquely enhance numerous child outcomes, however this theory remains largely untested. In this work, we tested the hypothesis that, both cross-sectionally, and across time, greater interparental gratitude would be associated with enhanced child social outcomes, via the mechanism of enhanced child perceptions of parent warmth. Using 10 waves of the Pairfam study (N = 2,403 parent-child dyads; k = 7,746 observations), and multilevel analyses, results were partially consistent with predictions. At the between-person level, greater interparental gratitude was associated with greater child prosocial behaviour, and this was mediated by greater child perceptions of parent warmth. These findings remained significant when controlling for parental conflict.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Tara Dooley

Persuaded by the Prompt: How AI Shapes Attitudes and Beliefs

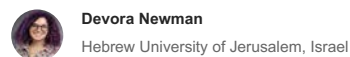
11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

As reliance on generative AI as a source of information and as an aid for writing and thinking increases, it is crucial to understand how interacting with AI systems affects people's attitudes and beliefs – and the moderators that shift them. We first show that exposure to creative content labeled as AI-generated, such as humor and visual art, boosts individuals' confidence in their own creative abilities through downward social comparison. We then present a covert influence AI has on people - biased autocomplete suggestions that can nudge users' writing and self-reported opinions toward the AI's stance without their awareness, beyond the influence such suggestions have when presented as non-AI static text. We then test whether influence – in the form of AI debunking of conspiracies - persists when participants are explicitly told the AI is trained on partisan data. Surprisingly, political identity does not overwhelm (or undermine) the positive impact of strong evidence. Lastly, we will explore the personal dispositions required for persuasion, finding that both intellectual humility and trust in AI are required to adopt factual, counter-attitudinal information delivered by ChatGPT

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Artificial Intelligence Can Cause Artificial Confidence at Creative Activities

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

As generative artificial intelligence (gen-AI) becomes more prevalent, it becomes increasingly important to understand how people psychologically respond to the content it explicitly creates. We demonstrate that exposure to gen-AI produced content can affect people's self-confidence at the same task through a social comparison process. Anchoring this research in the domain of creativity, exposing people to creative content ostensibly created by gen-AI (vs. a human peer) increases people's self-confidence in their own creative abilities. This effect emerges for jokes, stories, and visual art, and it can increase people's willingness to attempt the activity—even though the greater confidence behind it might be unwarranted. These effects emerge because gen-AI is perceived as a lower social referent for creative endeavors, bolstering people's own self-perceptions. Thus, for domains in which gen-AI is perceived as an equal social referent (i.e., in fact-based domains), the effects are attenuated. These findings have significant implications for understanding human-AI interactions, antecedents for creative self-confidence, and the referents that people use for social comparison effects.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jacob Teeny

Associate Professor of Marketing | Northwestern University

Authors

Taly Reich

Biased AI Writing Assistants Shift Users' Attitudes on Societal Issues

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

AI writing assistants powered by Large Language Models (LLMs) are increasingly used to make autocomplete suggestions to people as they write text. Can these AI writing assistants impact people's attitudes in this process? In two large-scale preregistered experiments (N=2,582), we exposed participants writing about important societal issues to an AI writing assistant that provided biased autocomplete suggestions. When using the AI assistant, the attitudes participants expressed in a post-task survey converged towards the AI's position. Yet, a majority of participants were unaware of the AI suggestions' bias and their influence. Further, the influence of the AI writing assistant was stronger than the influence of similar suggestions presented as static text, showing that the influence is partially due to AI writing assistants leading people to incorporate biased viewpoints into their own writing. Lastly, warning participants about assistants' bias before or after exposure does not mitigate the influence effect.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Sterling Williams-Ceci

PhD Candidate | Cornell University

Authors

Maurice Jakesch, Advait Bhat, Kowe Kadoma, Lior Zalmanson, Mor Naaman

Does political identity undermine AI debunking?

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Recent research finds that even entrenched conspiracy theorists will change their minds when an AI debunker presents them with counterevidence that is specific to their unique beliefs. We argue that the effect is strong and durable because the AI provides such strong evidence-based counterarguments. However, in this adversarial collaboration, we set out to test the potential influence of political identity on belief updating. Participants were told that they were to interact with an AI that was trained on Republican [Democrat] news sources prior to engaging in a dialogue about conspiracy theories. Importantly, the bot itself presented evidence in a neutral and informative way. Because of this, surprisingly, we found that political identity had no effect whatsoever. That is, participants in the politically-inconsistent condition (i.e., Republicans conversing with an ostensibly Democratic bot, and vice versa) updated their beliefs to the same extent as the participants in the politically-consistent and politically-neutral conditions. These results indicate that, in the face of strong and compelling evidence, political identity may play a weaker role than previously thought.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Gordon Pennycook

Associate Professor | Cornell University

Authors

Cory Clark, Esther Boissin, David Rand, Sze Yuh Nina Wang, Pete Ditto

Minds Meets Machines: Intellectual Humility, Trust, and Attitude Change

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Traditional efforts to change attitudes face psychological barriers (e.g. motivated reasoning, groupthink). Recently, AI agents' success in changing participants' opinions on various topics offers great promise. We focus on the traits that characterize those who significantly changed their opinion following a conversation with ChatGPT. In two studies (N= 312), we measured participants' intellectual humility and trust in AI, and invited those with a negative attitude towards legal immigrants to converse with ChatGPT. We find that a unique interaction between intellectual humility and trust in AI predicts a lasting change in one's opinion about legal immigrants. Specifically, it is the specific combination of being open to new information and trusting the information's source that allows for acceptance of factual, counter-attitudinal information. This study offers novel insights into the mechanism underlying opinion change, beyond highly tailored and persuasive AI agents, complementing existing research into the importance of factual claims, and highlighting the recipients' mindset as a driver of change.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Devora Newman
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Authors

Ruth Mayo, Almog Simchon

Situating Racial Justice Intervention Research within the Translational Research Framework

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E451B, Level 4

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Racism and racial injustice persist globally across every social domain—education, justice, employment, healthcare, and more. While psychology has long studied racism and can offer adequate scientific insights into it, these insights have rarely improved outcomes for minoritized groups. A key barrier to the translation of our psychological knowledge of racism into the development and implementation of effective interventions is the failure to emphasize the reciprocal link between individuals and systems. This symposium introduces the Translational Research Framework (TRF), adapted from the Clinical and Translational Science framework—gold standard in biomedical research, to center this relationship between individual-level factors and systemic racism at every intervention stage—from design to dissemination. Four presentations illustrate TRF application to studies that aim to promote racial justice society in general (Presentation 1), criminal justice (Presentations 2 and 3), and workplace (Presentation 4). Each presenter also discusses challenges faced when conducting intervention research grounded in the TRF and innovative strategies used to address those challenges.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Nao Hagiwara
Professor | University of Virginia

Breaking the Silence: White Privilege Intervention in the Netherlands

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

In the Netherlands, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts often focus on cultural differences, not racial inequalities. Our project tested a framework to reduce color-evasive racial attitudes and foster ethnocultural empathy among White Dutch participants. We tested a video intervention aimed at reducing color-evasive attitudes and explored whether a self-compassion writing exercise could enhance ethnocultural empathy. Specifically, we examined whether the intervention reduced White fear and increased guilt and empathy when learning about racism. In an online, within-between-subjects experiment, 301 White Dutch participants completed a writing task. In the experimental condition (n = 151), participants reflected on a marginalized identity and practiced self-compassion; in the control condition (n = 150), they wrote on a neutral topic. All participants then watched a video of racialized individuals discussing the harms of color-evasive attitudes. A paired-sample t-test showed the video intervention reduced color-evasive attitudes in all participants. However, general linear model analyses found no direct or indirect effect of the writing intervention on ethnocultural empathy.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Nivedita Singhal
MLU Halle-Wittenberg

Authors

Ceren Su Abacioglu, Catherine Molho, Berke Tan Tabak

Racial Disparities in the Discretionary Context of Traffic Stops: Organizational Practices Shape Institutional Interactions

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Efforts to change the tenor of police stop interactions may discount their discretionary context—the degree of choice in an officer's decision to stop a citizen—and how organizations influence those circumstances. We examine racial disparities in the discretionary context of traffic stops (Study 1), their disparate impact on community members' impressions of police interactions (Study 2), and the power of departmental guidance to close them (Study 3). In traffic stop data, we first find that stops of Black (versus White) drivers are more likely to be for high-discretion equipment violations, with these disparities most pronounced in urban police departments. A community field experiment demonstrates that Black community members evaluate body camera recordings of high-discretion, but not low-discretion, stops more negatively than Whites. We also identify organizational levers of change, finding that racial gaps in discretionary stops shrank in an agency after a directive to curtail stops for minor offenses. These data illustrate the influence of institutional interactions, and the importance of organizational policies in contributing to—and combatting—racial disparities.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Nick Camp

Assistant Professor of Organizational Studies | University of Michigan

Authors

Vinodkumar Prabhakaran, Rebecca C. Hetey, Benoît Monin, Dan Jurafsky, Jennifer L. Eberhardt

Can Deep Canvassing Promote Anti-Carceral Attitudes? A Field Experiment

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Advancing racial equity policies requires public support, but interventions designed to cultivate this support often falter, especially on racialized issues like incarceration. Explicitly discussing racism can further complicate this, triggering backlash. Our pre-registered, placebo-controlled field experiment utilized deep canvassing conversations—an intensive intervention that shifts views on highly salient issues. Half of conversations explicitly addressed anti-Black racism within the criminal legal system; the other half used a race-absent approach. Outcomes were measured through three follow-up surveys. Both deep canvassing conditions increased support for jail decarceration and other anti-carceral policies. These effects were clear one week post-intervention but showed limited durability. In contrast to prior research demonstrating null or backlash results from discussing racism, these findings suggest effective ways to discuss racism that can build support for racial equity policies and shift related attitudes. Deep canvassing isn't a cure-all but understanding the trade-offs of both race-explicit and race-absent approaches is vital for organizers, advocates, and scholars.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kristen Brock-Petroshius

Stony Brook University

Authors

Martin Gilens

Bridging the Belonging Gap: An Institutional Intervention to Support Faculty of Color and Women in Academia

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Faculty of color and women faculty often face significant barriers to tenure and promotion, including isolation, marginalization, and tokenism. In this study, we draw on social psychological research—specifically the contact hypothesis and the concept of belonging—to design and implement an institutional-level intervention aimed at improving faculty belonging and retention. Adapting successful strategies from other universities, we evaluated the impact of our intervention using faculty climate survey data and institutional demographic records. Over a three-year period following the intervention, faculty (time 1 $n = 305$, time 2 $n = 307$, time 3 $n = 355$) reported stronger perceptions of institutional support for diversity, and we observed reduced disparities in both feelings of belonging and tenure rates among historically marginalized groups. We discuss how social psychologists can play a key role in translating basic research into practical interventions that advance racial justice and equity in academia. Our findings highlight the promise of targeted, evidence-based efforts to foster greater inclusion and representation—benefiting faculty and the broader academic community.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Robyn Mallett

Professor | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Zahra Naqi-Hasnain, Dana Garbarski, Christine Li-Grining, David C. Enslinger, Walter Tangarife

Solitude in a Social World: Context Matters

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E258, Level 2

SELF/IDENTITY

Solitude is an integral part of daily life: U.S. adults spend between 30-60% of their waking hours alone. Historically, psychological research has emphasized the risks of solitude, often conflating it with loneliness and social isolation. Yet, emerging evidence paints a more nuanced picture: solitude is a complex, multifaceted experience with diverse consequences depending on the cultural, social, and psychological context in which it occurs.

This symposium spotlights key contextual factors that shape how solitude is experienced, including cultural norms, social cognition, and digital communication. Drawing on diverse perspectives and methodologies—from qualitative interviews to experimental evidence to archival data—the talks examine solitude across multiple levels of analysis. They span macro-level patterns (e.g., links between solitude and health across cultures), micro-level processes (e.g., individuals' thought content during solitude), and theoretical considerations (e.g., redefining solitude in the digital age).

Together, this symposium positions solitude as a rich yet underexplored domain in social-personality psychology and charts a path forward for understanding its varied forms, meanings, and implications in people's lives.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Micaela Rodriguez

PhD Candidate in Social Psychology | University of Michigan



Ethan Kross

Professor | Univ. of Michigan

Culture Shapes the Health Risks of Living Alone and Loneliness Across 58 Nations

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Rising rates of living alone and loneliness are recognized as serious public health threats. Yet, little is known about their links to health in non-Western contexts, and it is unclear whether culture shapes these links. Here, we combine five large-scale datasets (N = 352,556 across 58 countries) to examine the associations between living alone, loneliness, and a range of self-reported mental and physical health outcomes. We find that loneliness significantly predicts worse mental and physical health in all countries ($[r_{pooled}] = .123 - .492$), whereas living alone is weakly or not at all associated with worse health across countries ($[r_{pooled}] = <.001 - .084$). Critically, these links are moderated by country-level collectivism: In more individualistic societies (e.g., U.S., U.K.), living alone is more strongly linked to loneliness and worse health. In more collectivistic societies (e.g., Mexico, Tanzania), living alone is less strongly linked to loneliness and is weakly linked to some metrics of better mental health. Together, these findings suggest that the potential risks of living alone vary meaningfully across cultures and encourage us to consider the role of culture when developing initiatives to address social isolation.

***SYMPOsia**

Speaker



Micaela Rodriguez

PhD Candidate in Social Psychology | University of Michigan

Authors

Alexandra Wormley, Carley Vornlocher, Maya Tamir, Chayce Baldwin

How Does Real-World Social Isolation Affect Spontaneous Thought?

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Despite an infinite number of possible thoughts to explore, from everyday observations to fantastical daydreams, spontaneous thought overwhelmingly features social content. Here, we try to understand why the mind gravitates toward other people by studying thought content during solitude. We arbitrate between two hypotheses: (i) social processing, where the mind reviews social content provided by the environment, or (ii) social needs, where the mind seeks out social content when deprived of it by the environment. In Study 1, a large, representative sample collected during COVID-19 lockdowns supported the social processing hypothesis: the more time people spent in solitude, the less social thought they engaged in. In Study 2, archival analysis of texts from authors who experienced either voluntary (e.g., seclusion) or involuntary (e.g., imprisonment) solitude provided evidence for the social needs hypothesis: social thought increased specifically during involuntary isolation. This suggests that social content in spontaneous thought reflects the sociality in the environment, but that social needs can shape thought if there is a significant, unwanted disruption to one's social world.

***SYMPOsia**

Speaker



Diana Tamir

Professor | Princeton University

Authors

Judith Milner

Re-conceptualizing Solitude in the Digital Era: From “Being Alone” to “Noncommunication”

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

This presentation re-conceptualizes solitude to help address conceptual, methodological, and practical challenges of the digital era. Solitude has been conceptualized within a number of different research traditions, resulting in disconnected streams of theory. As a result, solitude is oftentimes conflated with loneliness, privacy, and other distinct concepts. Furthermore, foundations for scholarship on solitude were laid before the possibility of anytime-anywhere connectivity through digital media. As a result, solitude is commonly, if not most commonly, understood and measured as being physically alone. This presentation re-conceptualizes solitude as “noncommunication” to offer a more contemporary and inclusive perspective, one that uproots it from ideations of physical aloneness and replants it in social aloneness. Whereas previous theory in this area often ignores mediated interaction, we recognize it as a meaningful way for people to connect, with important implications for solitude. Empirical findings from new research underway will be presented to show that even being ambiently accessible can “shade” the experience of solitude.

***SYMPOsia**

Speaker



Scott Campbell

Professor of Communication | The Ohio State University

Solitude and Collectivism: Examining Person-Culture Fit in Costa Rica

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Research on solitude has oversampled individualistic cultures and overlooked collectivistic societies in Latin America. Drawing on the person-culture fit hypothesis, this mixed-methods study examined how trait preference for solitude intersected with norms of collectivism. In the first phase, 17 Costa Rican adults were interviewed after completing the Spanish translation of the Motivation for Solitude Scale. Qualitative analysis showed that solitude benefits (e.g., restoration, emotion regulation) and effects of solitude deprivation (e.g., irritability, exhaustion) were consistent with WEIRD samples. Two novel insights were revealed: 1) desire for solitude was stigmatized, interpreted as social rejection and a violation of interdependent norms, though family/friend validation offered some protection; and 2) such stigma necessitated defensive strategies for accessing solitude (e.g., evasive communication). Findings have informed the hypothesis-testing phase of the study, currently ongoing, which surveys Latino/a samples from Mexico, Costa Rica, and the U.S. to explore the relationships between individualism-collectivism, trait preference for solitude, and psychological adjustment.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Virginia Thomas
Assistant Professor | Middlebury College

The Lifecycle of Norms: Novel Insights from Around the World

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E352, Level 3

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

What gives rules their grip on human life, and how does this vary across cultures? This symposium traces the full lifecycle of social norms – from formation to enforcement, transgression to transcendence– across global contexts spanning Asia, Africa, North and Latin America, and Europe. Talk 1 shows how stable versus mobile ecologies shape context-specific versus universal etiquette, using surveys and a field analysis of subway signage in Japan and the U.S. Talk 2 examines who enforces norms – state or society – revealing divergent regulatory systems via novel NLP and survey methods across seven countries. Talk 3 maps the global spread of rule bending norms, exploring how (un)acceptance of regulatory circumvention predicts outcomes beyond classic cultural dimensions. Talk 4 tests the limits of obligatory norms: across the U.S., China, and India, actions framed as supererogatory rather than dutiful evoke greater meaning and happiness. Together, these talks offer an integrative, culturally grounded perspective on the development and manifestations of normative life across diverse societies, with broad significance for understanding cooperation and behavioral change worldwide.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Ugur Mert Yasar
PhD Student | ChicagoBooth



Daniela Rodriguez-Mincey
Student | Columbia Business School

Residential Stability and the Construction of Placeful Norms

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

How do divergent mobility patterns—historic global migration versus declining domestic mobility—shape social norms? This research introduces "placefulness," psychological embeddedness in physical environments, to explain how residential histories construct normative behavior. A novel method measures residential stability (RS) via the harmonic mean, capturing the psychological impact of disruptions missed by traditional move counts. A multi-level U.S.-Japan investigation provides converging evidence. Individually, Study 1 (N=401) shows RS uniquely predicts place-based identity formation. Collectively, Study 2's analysis of public etiquette signage (N=176 signs) in Tokyo and NYC subways reveals how these patterns manifest. Tokyo's stable ecology produced context-specific behavioral rules, while NYC's mobile ecology favored universal principles. This difference amplified during COVID-19, as each system intensified its dominant regulatory style rather than converging. Together, the findings establish residential history as a fundamental organizing principle shaping both individual identity and collective norms

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Gen Tsudaka
Ph.D. Candidate | The New School for Social Research

Who Enforces Rules? Cultural Tightness and State vs. Society Regulation

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

A key insight of tightness-looseness theory (Gelfand et al., 2011) is that the strictness of norms varies systematically between cultures. However, the scope of this variation should not be limited to the tightness or looseness of a nation alone, but must also consider the agents who enforce these norms. Specifically, norms vary in who creates and enforces them, regulated by state actors and/or societal agents (communities). In Study 1 (n = 741), participants from the USA, Colombia, Nigeria, India, and the Philippines listed five social behaviors regulated within their country. We analyzed these responses using a novel NLP technique, the BERTopic model (Grootendorst, 2020), clustering them into distinct conceptual themes. In Study 2 (n = 150), participants from the USA, Mexico, and Kenya rated each norm as to whether they were regulated by state or societal agents. Results revealed a negative relationship between state and societal regulation in all sampled countries, suggesting norms are enforced by either state or societal agents, with the US showing the least variation. In contrast, Mexico and Kenya exhibit a bimodal pattern: norms are either minimally or intensely regulated.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ugur Mert Yasar
PhD Student | ChicagoBooth

Authors

Joshua Conrad Jackson

Global Variation in Rule-Bending Norms

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Across cultures, rule-bending occupies a fraught “gray” area: sometimes celebrated, condemned, or both. Yet, we lack knowledge of how and why norms about rule-bending vary across cultures. Here we document, for the first time, how cultures vary in their norms around the acceptability of rule-bending, and analyze why rule-bending might be more prevalent in some cultures than others. In Study 1, we map words related to rule-bending in over 40 countries around the world, showing the many ways rule-bending practices are conceptualized cross-culturally. In Study 2, surveys conducted in six nations (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Italy, the UK, and the US) reveal substantial cross-national variation in beliefs that rule-bending is pervasive. We find that rule-bending is perceived as most normative in countries with civil-law legacies, while showing little variation in normativity of rule-breaking, and little variation in personal endorsement of rule-bending. Integrating insights from emic constructs with cross-cultural survey data, we reveal novel dimensions of cultural variation with implications for policy and theories of cultural evolution.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Daniela Rodriguez-Mincey
Student | Columbia Business School

Authors

Joshua Conrad Jackson, Carla Colina, Michelle J. Gelfand

Limits of Obligatory Norms: Finding Meaning and Happiness in Supererogation

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Obligatory norms help maintain social order and are often used to promote behavioral change. But do they have psychological limitations? Six studies in the U.S., China, and India examined how framing moral actions as obligatory (fulfilling duties) versus supererogatory (beyond duty) shapes perceptions of meaning and happiness. In the U.S., people attributed greater meaning and happiness to self-generated examples of supererogatory actions, even when rated equally ethical and impactful (Study 1). Societal perceptions of actions as supererogatory predicted higher meaning and happiness (Study 2). Studies 3 (within-subject) and 4 (between-subject) experimentally showed this effect, mediated by perceived choice and moral goodness (Studies 3–6) and moderated by participants’ own moral expectations (Studies 5–6). Participants in China and India similarly attributed high meaning and happiness to supererogation, with consistent mechanisms observed across cultures (Study 6). These findings reveal the psychological limits of obligatory norms—sometimes going beyond duty may be more rewarding for both society and the self.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Fan Yang
Research Associate Professor | University of Chicago

Authors

Ishita Singhal

The Psychology Behind (and Implications of) Support for Climate Technologies

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E353C, Level 3

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Climate change mitigation is a wicked problem requiring an energy transition that cannot be accomplished by one policy, technology, or behavioral shift alone, but rather by many working in tandem. Technological innovation will play an important role in decarbonization, but only if we understand and leverage the factors that lead people to support and implement such technology. Our first talk lays out a framework of the range of psychological and contextual factors—e.g., perceived risk, trade-offs, and fairness—that affect public engagement with energy technologies. Next, we dive into two case studies of support for or rejection of novel climate technologies: 1) our second talk discusses techno-optimism and the US and German public’s positive bias toward hydrogen energy and feedstock use, despite very low knowledge about its nuanced potential benefits and challenges; and 2) our third talk explores how individual differences in identity and concerns about tampering with nature affect US public perception of carbon capture technologies. Finally, our fourth talk demonstrates how learning about technological eco-innovation can in turn increase individuals’ pro-environmental behavior.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Cari Pick
Social and Behavioral Scientist | Environmental Defense Fund

The Psychology of Public Engagement in the Energy Transition

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

As the world accelerates efforts to mitigate climate change, technological innovation alone will not secure a sustainable energy future. Equally vital is understanding how people respond to these technologies—both as individuals making decisions about household adoption (e.g., solar panels, EVs) and as members of communities confronting large-scale developments. These responses are shaped not just by what people know, but by how they think, feel, and relate to the world around them. Psychological processes—such as how people perceive risk, make trade-offs over time, and interpret social cues—play a central role, often in subtle ways. Judgments are filtered through identity, emotions, and mental shortcuts that help people navigate complexity but can also lead to hesitation or resistance. At the same time, these responses are embedded in broader social and structural contexts that shape what feels possible, desirable, or fair. Drawing on research across psychology and the social sciences, this talk identifies key insights for understanding how public engagement with energy technologies takes shape—and why understanding these processes is crucial for a successful energy transition.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Kim Wolske
Research Associate Professor | University of Chicago

Authors

Anne Günther, Lukas Engel, Matthew J. Hornsey, Kristian S. Nielsen, Joyashree Roy

Positive Bias towards Climate Technology even with Mixed Environmental Benefits

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

People's varied support for different climate change solutions matters, affecting behavior change, philanthropy, policymaking, and investment in new technology. We investigated whether support for climate solutions would depend on whether solutions are perceived as bold and innovative versus steady and incremental. In Study 1, we find that climate solutions perceived as bolder by US participants are also perceived as more effective and worth financially supporting. Further, we find that participants are more likely to rate solutions as bold, effective, and worth financial support if they involve cutting-edge technology. In Studies 2-4, we assess US and German attitudes toward a set of technologies emerging in the public discourse (hydrogen energy use in transportation, buildings, industry, power grids). We find that despite having very low knowledge about hydrogen energy and its uses, participants have positively biased attitudes toward hydrogen technology and believe it to have environmental and economic benefits. However, the realities of hydrogen's risks and benefits are complicated, highlighting the need to communicate nuanced information about new eco-technology to the public.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Cari Pick

Social and Behavioral Scientist | Environmental Defense Fund

Authors

Rainer Romero-Canyas

Public Perceptions of Carbon Technologies: Risks, Benefits, Identity, and Naturalness

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

In the face of climate change, researchers are increasingly exploring techniques to capture carbon either from the atmosphere or to prevent emissions. Yet how does the public feel about these technologies? Across two studies, we explore U.S. public perceptions of carbon capture technologies. First, in a nationally representative survey, we explore public perceptions of the risks, benefits, and acceptability of carbon capture and utilization (CCU), finding that these vary across the aspect of CCU being considered, demographics such as gender and race, and by people's level of environmental identity and concern about tampering with nature. We find similar insights in an experiment testing public support for carbon dioxide removal (CDR). Namely, support for any CDR technology varies both by how much the technology is perceived to tamper with nature and by people's individual level of comfort for tampering. Together, these studies show that individual level differences in nature beliefs and identity are key drivers of carbon technology support.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kaitlin Raimi

Social Psychologist/Associate Professor of Public Policy | University of Michigan

Authors

Kimberly S. Wolske, P. Sol Hart, Soobin Choi, Victoria Campbell-Arvai

Understanding Decisions Underpinning Pro-Environmental Travel

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

This study explores how climate messaging (status quo 'doom and gloom' compared against eco-innovative optimistic futures) impacts pro-environmental behaviors. We included 'cost' to a transport choice task requiring participants to choose between car or bike journeys where a bike journey required exercise bike pedaling. We assessed impacts of climate messaging videos and personality on transport choice, mood and feelings of climate hopelessness. Climate optimism stimuli increased positive mood when compared to status quo stimuli but there was no effect on climate hopelessness. Behavioral results show a significant interaction between transport choice and stimuli; the status quo video increased car use in longer trials, suggesting a licensing effect. Those who watched the eco-innovative optimistic video showed more bike use in longer trials, suggesting a mechanism (that may include hope) increases pro-environmental behavior. Personality results suggest that honesty-humility and conscientiousness are positive predictors of bike choices, whereas extraversion was a negative predictor. The paradigm developed here shows promise in understanding real-world behavior and further research.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Chris Neale

University of Lynchburg

Authors

Jonathan Henderson, Éilish Duke

Trans Rights in Crisis: Correlates and Consequences of Policy Support

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

GENDER

In the US and abroad, policies restricting trans rights have risen sharply in recent years. This symposium brings together research examining the underpinnings of opposition to trans rights and policies—including both individual (Speakers 1 and 2) and cultural differences (Speaker 3)—as well as the consequences of these policies for trans youth and their families (Speaker 4). Speakers 1 and 2 examined correlates of policy attitudes in the US, finding—for example—that beliefs that gender identities are distinct predict more support for anti-trans policies (Speaker 1). Speaker 3 examined both attitudes and the legal context more globally, finding that while Western countries tend to have more favorable laws and attitudes toward gay (vs. trans) people, the opposite is true in the non-Western world. Speaker 4 found that trans youth and their parents are directly and indirectly affected by anti-trans laws, reporting worry and interest in moving. Together, these talks identify a) correlates of anti-trans policy support that could be targets for future intervention and b) why intervention is needed, illustrating how these policies are related to negative consequences for trans people.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kira Means

PhD Candidate | Purdue University

Bathroom Bills and Gender-Affirming Care Bans: Understanding People's Attitudes Toward Different Types of Transgender Policies

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

GENDER

Policies restricting transgender rights have proliferated across the United States in recent years, yet little research has examined attitudes toward different types of transgender-related policies or psychological correlates of these attitudes. Across four studies, we address these questions. Factor analyses and an analysis of real-world transgender-related policies proposed in 2022 identified six policy types: (1) discrimination, (2) physical spaces, (3) degendering, (4) gender-affirming care for adults, (5) sports and (6) gender-affirming care for minors. We largely found that the same psychological constructs predicted anti-trans policy support across policy types. The belief that people with different gender identities form distinct groups predicted more support for anti-trans policies, and including transgender people in their superordinate gender category predicting less support. Through these studies, we aid both a theoretical understanding of attitudes toward different types of transgender policies and illuminate potential avenues for intervention for researchers and activists looking to decrease support for anti-trans policies and increase support for pro-trans policies.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kira Means
PhD Candidate | Purdue University

Authors

Thekla Morgenroth

Perceived Norm Support and Personal Support for Trans Rights Following the Presidential Election

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

GENDER

In recent years, transgender rights have become increasingly politicized in the U.S., with presidential elections serving as key inflection points. This talk examines how personal and perceived norm support for transgender rights shift in response to political change, focusing on the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Study 1 (N = 589) used a longitudinal design to explore how support for gender-affirming care (GAC) and general transgender rights changed before and after Trump's election, capturing shifts in both personal attitudes and perceptions of broader social norms. Across studies 2 (N = 840) and 3 (N = 407), we investigated the roles of information sources (e.g., news, social media) and personal relationships with transgender and gender diverse (TGD) individuals in support for trans rights, and explored mixed-methods reflections about public responses to anti-trans policies and opinions on punishing those who seek GAC. Together, our data illuminate how political climates interact with social context to shape support for trans communities.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Emerson Todd
Graduate Student | The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Jes L. Matsick, Leanna J. Papp, Jennifer F. Chmielewski, Elyssa M. Klann, Laurel B. Watson

Greater Bias Toward Transgender People Compared to Gay Men And Lesbian Women is WEIRD

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

GENDER

The greater acceptance of gay, compared to transgender, people in Western countries may be a result of a specific trajectory—where queer rights was centered by and around White, middle class, gender-conforming gay men—and may not generalize to other places. Two surveys of respondents in 23 countries (N's~500 or 1000 per country) showed that bias toward gay and transgender people is lower in Western (vs. non-Western) countries, but that the relative bias changes as a function of region: there is greater acceptance of gay (vs. transgender) people in most Western countries, whereas the reverse is true in most non-Western countries. Analyses of legal frameworks (N=193) show that recognition of same-gender unions is prevalent in Western countries but virtually nonexistent elsewhere, whereas recognition of gender marker changes is prevalent throughout the world. Overall, in the most intolerant places, transgender people are relatively more accepted than gay people.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jaime Napier
Associate Professor | NYU Abu Dhabi

Worries About Anti-Trans Legislation and Desire to Move Among Trans Youth and Their Families

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

GENDER

The U.S. has seen a rapid increase in legislation aiming to restrict trans rights. Using a convergent mixed methods approach with survey data from a sample of 230 families across the U.S. in 2023, we examined trans youth and their parents' worries about the impact of anti-trans laws and their interest in moving due to this legislation. Though the majority of participants lived in states that had not yet passed these laws, they showed worry for the youth's safety and distress about anti-trans rhetoric in public discourse. Many participants reported feeling safe in the present but worried about the future and concerned for other trans youth in the country. Youth and parents' levels of worry were positively correlated, though parents reported more worry than their children. Families' worries about the impact of legislation and their state's level of political conservatism were significantly associated with higher interest in moving due to anti-trans laws. These results demonstrate that even families who predominantly lived in states where anti-trans laws had not been passed were quite worried about these laws, and some were considering moving, if and when that became necessary.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Aditi Kodipady
Graduate Student | Princeton University

Authors

Kristina Olson, Sara Covin

Achievement in Context: The Role of Families, Communities, and Nations

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM | Location: E353B, Level 3

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This session highlights sociocultural variation in the form and function of aspirations and achievement. The first talk proposes models of success as a framework to explain differences in achievement motivation between Asian and European Americans, and finds that U.S. teachers tend to favor an independent model of success. The second talk focuses on parent-child relationships in Latino/a working-class families and finds that the achievement of higher education can create a clash between children and parents. This clash results from the difference between a Tough Love model (emphasizing family, responsibility, resilience) common at home and a Gentle Love model (emphasizing self, expression, affirmation) promoted in college. The third talk examines fear of financial insecurity at the national level and finds that this insecurity can hinder innovation and achievement. Countries where more students plan to pursue financially safe careers tend to be less innovative. The fourth talk focuses on increasing the formal education of girls in Nigeria and finds that framing education as a legacy that grandparents can leave their children promotes greater parental support for girls' education.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Jenny Yang

PhD Student in Social Psychology | Stanford University



Leslie Joann Remache

Graduate Student | Stanford University

Success Models Shape Asian and European Americans' Education and Career

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Models of success are assumptions about what "success" means and what a "successful" student should do. They provide meaning and motivation for students' success. A default success-is-mine model, common in European American (EA) families and institutions, construes success as an independent pursuit of personal happiness and well-being. A less-recognized success-is-ours model, common in Asian American (AA) families, construes success as an interdependent pursuit of the family's financial stability. Three studies compared these models and identified the default in U.S. education. In Study 1, AA (vs. EA) students evoked their parents more on an index of achievement-oriented attributions, affective experiences, aspirations, and intended actions. In Study 2, the success-is-ours model mediated AA (vs. EA) students' intent to pursue high achievements (e.g., high-paying STEM jobs). In Study 3, K-12 teachers perceived less potential in students who endorsed the success-is-ours (vs. success-is-mine) model, regardless of students' race/ethnicity. The success-is-ours model motivates students from many interdependent contexts, warranting greater recognition in U.S. education.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jenny Yang

PhD Student in Social Psychology | Stanford University

Authors

Hazel Rose Markus

A Clash of Tough and Gentle Love Models of Relationships

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

We propose a theory of multiple models of relationships to explain the impact of upward mobility through higher education on parent-child relationships in Latino/a working-class immigrant families. Here, we propose that two models of relationships can clash during college—(1) a Tough Love model (emphasizing family, responsibility, and resilience) that first-generation (FG) students are socialized with at home; and (2) a Gentle Love model (emphasizing self, expression, and affirmation) that students encounter at college. To examine this clash, Studies 1 and 2 employed interviews with Latina immigrant mothers (N = 21) and Latino/a FG students (N = 24). Mothers and students described familiarity with Tough Love and parent-child clashes during college. Study 3 is an experimental scenario study (N = 602) that examines Latino/a FG students' perceptions of peers either receiving a Tough or a Gentle Love message from parents after an academic setback. Witnessing Tough Love reduced FG students' expectations of family closeness and support-seeking. A theory of multiple models of relationships provides a framework to examine clashes in parent-child interactions across sociocultural contexts.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Leslie Joann Remache

Graduate Student | Stanford University

Authors

Gregory Walton, Hazel Rose Markus

Scientific Innovation Can Suffer When People Fear Financial Insecurity

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Disruptive innovation, or important discoveries that push science in new directions, has declined over the past several decades in some countries (Park et al., 2023), despite recent breakthroughs in areas like AI. Four studies support the idea that disruptive innovation can suffer more when people have a greater fear of financial insecurity. In Study 1, a country-level index was constructed using data on career expectations from more than 500,000 students across 63 countries. Countries in which more students pursued financially safe careers produced fewer patents per capita, even after controlling for other important predictors of innovation. Studies 2a and 2b provided experimental evidence that a fear of financial insecurity can lead people to choose, and to encourage others to choose, career paths that are financially more secure, even though they knew it meant a lesser potential for important scientific innovation. Study 3 replicated these findings with STEM PhD students. In a decision scenario, they were less likely to pursue riskier, groundbreaking research ideas in favor of safer, more incremental research ideas that could better guarantee their financial security.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Cedric Lim

PhD Student | Stanford University

Authors

Oliver Sng, Lile Jia, Lisa Hui En Koh, Carol Dweck

Framing Education as a Legacy Increases Parental Investment in Girls

11:00 AM – 12:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Nigeria has a large number of out-of-school children most of whom are girls (UNICEF, 2022), and gender gaps in median years of school attendance can be as large as 6 years (DHS, 2018). Parental support is crucial for improving educational outcomes for girls, yet many Nigerian parents believe that pursuing an education clashes with girls' future roles as a wife and/or mother. Across three studies with a total of 1,200 participants in Nigerian settings, my colleagues and I developed and tested an intervention which aligned education with cultural values and represented education as a tangible and communally valuable legacy which could be bequeathed to one's grandchildren through one's children. We found that aligning education with this Nigerian cultural value increases parents' reported intentions to support and financially invest in their daughters' education. Results suggest that the desire to leave a legacy is a resonant cultural value in Nigeria—and potentially many other interdependent contexts—that can be leveraged to increase the continued enrollment of girls in school.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ayodele Dada

PhD candidate | Stanford University

Authors

Gregory Walton, Catherine Thomas, Carol Dweck

Boxed Lunch Pick-up (pre-registration required)

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall. Seating is available in the Exhibit Hall, Cafe on Level 3, and the Lobby on Level 2. Boxed Lunch Options (first come, first serve) *V = Vegetarian | VG = Vegan | GF = Gluten Free | DF = Dairy Free (sauces on the side)

oCobb Salad: Grilled Chicken Breast, Bacon, Hard-Boiled Eggs, Tomatoes, Blue Cheese Crumbles, Mixed Greens, Avocado Ranch

oThe Hummus Wrap(VG):Hummus, Roasted Red Peppers, Cucumber, Tomato, Red Onion, Mixed Greens, Tahini Sauce, Spinach Wrap

oThe Hummus Wrap (VG | GF): Hummus, Roasted Red Peppers, Cucumber, Tomato, Red Onion, Mixed Greens, Tahini Sauce, Gluten Free Wrap

oMediterranean Chickpea Salad (V | GF): Crispy Chickpeas, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese, Mixed Greens, Lemon Vinaigrette

DARN Mentorship Event

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: E259, Level 2

Pre-Registration Required. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

DARN is the Disability Advocacy & Research Network. DARN events are open to all students, faculty, and other professionals, regardless of research interest and ability status. DARN facilitates community building, mentoring, professional development, and resource sharing. We are a volunteer-led collective with nearly 500 members. Membership is free and open to all. Learn more at darndisability.org or just join us for lunch on Saturday.

*MENTORING

Getting Started with Registered Reports in Social and Personality Psychology

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: E255, Level 2

A registered report is a multi-stage publication format in which peer review occurs prior to data collection and analysis, helping to eliminate publication bias and reduce questionable research practices. Several prominent journals in social and personality psychology—including Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, and Nature Human Behaviour—accept registered reports. While this approach strengthens the credibility of findings, researchers may have concerns about feasibility, journal fit, and navigating the process. This workshop will introduce the structure and rationale of registered reports, help researchers identify appropriate journals, locate successful examples, and provide guidance for drafting Stage 1 submissions and responding to reviewer feedback. We will also address issues especially relevant to social and personality psychology, including multi-study designs, use of pilot data, and working with secondary data. Finally, we will discuss practical strategies for time management, integrating trainees into the process, and aligning registered reports with existing publication and career advancement incentives.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



William Krenzer

Research Project Manager | Duke University



Amanda Montoya

Assistant Professor | UCLA



Jared Block

Graduate Student | UCLA

Poster Session E Saturday

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

*POSTER

[1] "Who Are You Fighting For?": Black Americans' Perceptions of Allyship and Solidarity from White Gay Men

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Solidarity may cultivate intra-minority coalitions in the fight for equity, but how are those who leverage solidarity perceived? We explore how leveraging solidarity with the Black community may influence perceptions of a potential ally's motives and behaviors. Generally, Black-gay solidarity statements from a White gay man had elicited more perceived disingenuous motives and less racial privilege acknowledgement (Study 1-3) compared to when he made Black allyship statements. Further, Black Americans anticipated greater identity-credentiating, an expectation that gay targets would use their marginalized gay identity to buffer against claims of being racist, with solidarity statements than allyship statements (Study 2-3). When solidarity or allyship statements came from a gay man of color, statement type (i.e., solidarity versus allyship) did not differentially impact ally perceptions (Study 3). Implications for intra-minority coalitions are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Izilda Pereira-Jorge

Grad Student | University at Buffalo, SUNY

Authors

Kimberly Chaney

[2] "Damn, capitalism got hands!": Anti-capitalist memes depict working-class defeatism

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Today, internet memes are a popular way of conveying political critique through humor. This study examines how anti-capitalist memes use humor to depict the working class and class conflict. Humor styles may influence such depictions. Specifically, we focus on humor that uses self-deprecation to make light of economic uncertainty and wealth inequality (gallows humor) and humor that belittles an outgroup such as the rich (disparagement humor). We sampled 193 memes posted online by real users. Using a k-means cluster analysis and data from an independent sample of raters (N = 500), we classified the stimuli based on their use of gallows and disparagement humor styles. A qualitative analysis indicated that gallows and disparagement humors were both prominent in anti-capitalist humor and that anti-capitalist humor depicted mostly negative traits of the working class. This was particularly true of gallows humor, which depicted the working class as depressed, hopeless, and stuck. Overall, results suggest that the working class is predominantly portrayed as defeated. We discuss the implications of this work on the development of working-class identity according to Social Identity Theory.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alyssa Pavak

Research Assistant | University of Florida WEB Lab

Authors

Gregory Webster, Eva García Ferrés

[3] "I Like to be in America!": Cambodians on Feeling American

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Past research investigating how U.S. citizens identify with the nation and negotiate their identities with the perception of discrimination, typically homogenize Asian Americans if they are included at all. Our project identifies the nuances between subgroups which compose the Asian American category. We perform secondary data analyses on the 2016 National Asian American Survey (NAAS) Pre and Post-Election Surveys illustrating how Cambodians interface national, racial, and ethnic identities relative to other Asian American groups and whites. Findings for the 2016 Pre-Election NAAS demonstrate significant differences as Cambodians show relatively higher levels of national, racial, and ethnic identification compared to 'higher status' groups. We replicate analyses with the 2016 Post-Election Survey and investigate the influence of perceived discrimination on national, racial, and ethnic identification. Results illustrate variability between Cambodian and other subgroups' national identification. Implications are drawn for the Cambodian experience of belonging to the U.S. relative to 'higher' status groups (e.g., Japanese, whites) and the impact on perception of discrimination.

*POSTER

Speaker



Naomi Painter

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Kansas

Authors

Ludwin Molina, Naomi H. Painter

[4] “I Swear I’m Happy for You”: The Link Between Malicious and Benign Envy and Prosocial Behavior

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Prosocial behavior is largely thought to be motivated by empathy, but some research suggests selfish motivations also exist. Similarly, envy is often seen as a malicious emotion, but a small body of research hints that a more positive, “benign envy” also exists. A link between envy type (benign vs malicious) and prosocial behavior has never been investigated. This study hypothesizes that benign envy will more strongly predict prosocial behavior and will correlate with altruistic motivations for prosocial behavior, while malicious envy will correlate with selfish motivations. 100 undergraduate participants will complete a Qualtrics study assessing their levels of benign envy, malicious envy, and tendency for prosocial behavior. Participants will also be shown vignettes depicting social situations, choose whether to help the person in the vignette, and report their motivation for helping or not. Results of this study will advance our understanding of envy and refine the literature on prosocial behavior by demonstrating that altruism can be motivated by selfishness. The study is pending IRB approval; data collection will begin by October 2025.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anabelle Jimenez
Northeastern Illinois University

[5] “Singaporean with an Asterisk”: Racial Categorisation and Its Implications for National Belonging among Malay and Indian Singaporeans

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Singapore offers a compelling case study of state-endorsed multiculturalism, marked by a strong emphasis on the nation’s multiracial composition—particularly the inclusion of Chinese, Malay, and Indian communities. Its racial classification system aims to promote social harmony by preserving the distinct cultures and languages of these groups and positioning them as representative of the nation. However, how this system shapes the negotiation between national and racial identities among ethnic minority Malay and Indian Singaporeans remains unclear. Drawing on 31 semi-structured interviews with Malay and Indian participants, we found that (i) embedding multiculturalism within national identity affirms minority representation while creating normative expectations for intercultural integration; (ii) the classification system facilitates both positive intergroup contact and the reinforcement of racial stereotypes; and (iii) bi- and multiracial individuals often report feelings of exclusion within Singapore’s rigid racial framework. These findings highlight the ambivalent role of institutionalized racial categorization in both enabling and constraining national identification. Reimagining multiculturalism through more fluid and polycultural understandings of identity may better accommodate the complex realities of belonging in diverse societies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Davelle Lee
PhD Candidate | Singapore Management University

Authors

Muhammad Nur Izeayr Yazid, Jia Ying Yong, Chi-Ying Cheng

[6] “Your Participation Unlocks Greater Resource Integration”: The Effects of Unconditional Giving, Standard Matching, and Contingent Matching on Collective Action

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Addressing the climate crisis requires effective resource integration among exogenous stakeholders—including citizen collectives, corporations, and governments. However, prior literature presents inconsistent findings. This research investigates the efficacy-based psychological mechanisms through which individuals perceive their contributions as meaningful in achieving collective performance (i.e., total resources integrated). Specifically, we focus on Perceived Behavioral Impact (PBI)—the belief that one’s own actions contribute meaningfully—and how it influences Collective Outcome Expectancy (COE), ultimately affecting collective action. Across five studies involving various types of collective action and a range of stakeholders, we compared three resource integration schemes: unconditional giving, standard matching, and contingent matching. Our findings reveal that contingent matching schemes significantly increase collective action by enhancing PBI and COE. In contrast, unconditional giving undermines participation, and standard matching yields no impact improvement. These results underscore the critical importance of strategically designing resource integration approaches that empower individuals and highlight the tangible impact of their contributions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kihyon Kim
Research Professor | Bentley University (Korea University)

Authors

Kihyon Kim, Jihoon Jhang

[7] A Crisis of Belief: A Pilot Study on the Tolerance of Uncertainty in Individuals in an Amish Community

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

The purpose of this case study is to analyze the potential relationship between tolerance of uncertainty and religious affiliation within an Old Order Mennonite community in Tennessee. Using an in-depth, mixed methods case study, data was collected through the observation of participants in their religious and home settings over two months (June and July 2025), a structured interview process to collect direct information from participants, and the use of a quantitative Intolerance of Uncertainty Scale to survey participants and evaluate their relationship towards uncertainty. Results are still being analyzed, with a specific interest in whether the rigid environment is correlated with more or less comfort in situations of uncertainty for individuals. This study can be used as a springboard to continue to study different religious communities and then to compare and contrast the relationships to uncertainty within those religious communities. The implications of studies such as these are valuable in predicting who will enter into specific religious communities and who has a higher probability of leaving structured religions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Serena Yoder
Lee University

Authors

Melodee Alexander

[8] A Mixed-Method Examination of Linked Fate in the Black Community

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Linked fate—the degree that African Americans perceive their self-interests as linked to the interest of the race—has been used to study Black people’s political behavior (Dawson, 1994). Less is known about who, why, and when linked fate is endorsed and what it means for the experiences of marginalized members of the Black community. In this mixed-method study, Black participants (N=400; via Prolific) will complete validated measures of linked fate, system justification, in-group shame and anger, race centrality, community connectedness, and critical consciousness. They will provide justification for why they do (not) endorse linked fate, to whom they feel their fate is linked, and when they do (not) feel that link. Using regression and reflexive thematic analysis, we will test our hypotheses: (1) linked fate will be greater among those with more positive perceptions of the Black community, and (2) people will feel their fate is more linked to normative members of the Black community and less linked to deviant members (e.g., transgender people). Our study takes an intersectional lens to linked fate to explore its potential to facilitate intragroup relations among Black people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brianna Donaldson-Morton
Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Jes Matsick

[9] A Pilot Vignette Study on Left-Wing Authoritarianism, Social Media Influence, and Support for Geopolitical Conflicts

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Motivations regarding geopolitical conflict (e.g., Gaza War) support are underexamined. Left-wing authoritarianism (LWA) and social prestige influence, including that facilitated by social media (SM), are relevant given links to politically-primed threat-sensitivity and self-enhancement. Via a SM vignette paradigm, this ongoing study examined whether LWA and the popularity of various conflicts (as shown by number of post “likes”) may influence support for said issues.

College students (N = 105) filled an online survey with a 6x2 vignette paradigm of fake SM posts. Each post promoted one of six entities across three conflicts, including one faux war (i.e., Israel or Palestine; Russia or Ukraine; “Bucharastan” or “Estamese”), as well as a high or low like count. Individuals viewed one post for each conflict (three total), responded to support items, and completed measures.

2x2 repeated measures ANOVAs were used to explore impacts of the design. LWA was a strong predictor for Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflict support. It interacted with the high-low condition in shaping Russia-Ukraine conflict support. There was a 3-way effect for LWA, the high-low condition, and support for the faux conflict.

LWA expounds geopolitical conflict support. It may be influenced by prestige (i.e., “like”) pressure in some cases. Limitations include the small sample and nascent vignette design.

*POSTER

Speaker



Summer Steely
The University of Southern Mississippi

Authors

Jefferson Sherwood

[10] A Targeted Prosociality Intervention for Previously Incarcerated Populations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Personality interventions for recidivism and re-offense continue to be scarce, with many interventions focusing on clinical counseling or forms of punishment. However, prior research shows the importance of prosocial behavior in personality change models, which could be of use in reducing the well-known link between negative personality traits (e.g., Dark Triad) and (re)offending. In a single six-wave longitudinal study, we examined the effect of a set of prosocial behavioral tasks (e.g., holding the door for someone) and the motivations to change on shifts in Dark Triad traits in previously incarcerated individuals (N = 245; control n = 84; experimental n = 161). When comparing changes in self-reported personality traits between the experimental group and a control group, results from the study found that, within the experimental group, participants reporting higher motivation to change their “darker” personality traits had significantly lower Dark Triad scores compared to their scores at the study’s onset. This study gives promising preliminary evidence for a low-cost behavioral intervention to support the reduction of antisocial traits which contribute to recidivism rates.

*POSTER

Speaker



DaniLeigh Graham
Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Stephen Foster

[11] A two-stage Model of Intergroup Conflict: How Unjustified Confidence Influences Leader Behavior and Follower Support

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Intergroup conflict is widespread and destructive. It has long been recognized that leaders play a crucial role in instigating conflict, with extant research proposing that holding a position of leadership increases people’s propensity to engage in conflict. Here, we investigate another mechanism: namely that followers support conflictual members as group leaders. We propose that to understand why groups might support conflictual members as leaders, it is necessary to identify leader characteristics which increase i) the propensity of conflictual behavior, and ii) the support that leaders will get. We examine one such characteristic, namely, unjustified confidence, defined as confidence that is clearly higher than warranted given the parameters of the situation. We develop a two-stage ecologically valid experimental design to examine these questions. In the first stage, we find that unjustified confidence increases conflictual behavior, which is partially explained by myopic self-focus. In the second stage, we find that leaders who exhibit unjustified confidence receive stronger support when followers experience higher fear and greed, two emotions frequently observed in intergroup contexts. This work provides new insights into the persistence of intergroup conflict by examining the interplay between leader behavior, follower emotions, and group support.

*POSTER

Speaker



Peter Wallmueller

Authors

Natalia Karelaia

[12]CANCELLED

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

*POSTER

[13] Across the Aisle & Over Time: Media, Risk Perceptions, and Psychological Strain During an Unfolding Contentious Election

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

The 2024 U.S. Presidential election generated enormous uncertainty, media attention, and emotional strain, particularly before the outcome was known. This 3-wave study used a probability-based national sample from NORC’s AmeriSpeak panel to examine whether media exposure was linked to worry and emotional exhaustion, possibly through risk perceptions, and whether associations differed by timing (pre/post-election) and candidate support (of the winner/loser). Respondents were randomly assigned to complete the survey just before (10/11-11/4/24; n=2137) or after (11/8-12/2/24; n=2091) the election. Candidate support and survey timing formed a 2x2 group variable. Using a 4-group generalized structural equation model, correlations were directionally consistent but varied by group. Media exposure’s positive indirect associations with worry were strongest for losing candidate supporters pre-election, while the positive indirect link with media and emotional exhaustion was strongest for supporters of the winner post-election. Findings inform communication, clinical, and policy strategies for mitigating psychological strain before and after contentious events across the political divide.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kayley Estes
Post-Doc | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Daniel P. Relihan, Dana Rose Garfin, E. Alison Holman, Roxane Cohen Silver

[14] Actual Versus Perceived Impact of Prosocial Lies on Social Judgments of Honesty and Kindness

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Prosocial lying—or lying to spare feelings—is considered socially beneficial, but its perceived versus actual impacts are understudied. In Study 1, participants (N = 161) chose to tell a prosocial lie or a blunt truth about a confederate's poor essay and estimated how the confederate would rate their honesty and kindness. Truth tellers predicted higher honesty ratings than prosocial liars but similar kindness scores. Participants also made counterfactual predictions (e.g., how the confederate would have rated a lie instead of the truth). Truth tellers thought lying would make them seem kinder but less honest, whereas prosocial liars thought the truth would make them seem less kind but not more honest. In Study 2, participants (N = 103) completed a hard essay task and got confederate feedback that was either a harsh truth, genuinely positive, or positive but revealed to be a lie. Genuine positive feedback scored highest on honesty and kindness, but truth tellers and liars differed only on honesty. Comparing studies, prosocial liars and truth tellers underestimated kindness ratings and prosocial liars overestimated honesty ratings, illustrating the complex impacts of prosocial lies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabriela Valladares

Graduate Student | Texas State University

Authors

Annemarie DeChellis, Cassidy Watkins, Jennifer Clegg, Katherine Warnell

[15] Adaptive authenticity: How bisexuals respond to LGBTQ+ vs. heterosexual prejudice

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Bisexuals are the largest subgroup within the LGBTQ+ community, yet they are routinely stigmatized by heterosexuals and fellow LGBTQ+ members. While harmful outcomes of prejudice are well-documented, less is known about how social identity and intergroup dynamics affect bisexual identity expression. This study (N = 263) explored the role of inter- and intragroup sources of prejudice, identity centrality, and relative ingroup prototypicality on bisexual identity expression. Results revealed a three-way interaction. When prejudice came from gay and lesbian individuals, identity centrality predicted greater authentic identity expression regardless of whether bisexuals felt that bisexuality is representative (prototypic) of the LGBTQ+ community. When prejudice came from heterosexual individuals, identity centrality predicted authentic identity expression only when bisexuals perceived themselves as representative of the LGBTQ+ group. These results suggest that when facing external prejudice, bisexual individuals may need both identity centrality and a sense of group legitimacy to respond with authentic identity expression; otherwise, dominant group stigma may suppress expression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karleigh Groves

PhD Student | Lehigh University

Authors

Jiin Jung, Dominic Packer

[16] Addressing US partisan animosity: An intervention targeting political media consumption

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Animosity toward individuals with opposing political views has rapidly grown in the US, making Americans less willing to connect with political out-partisans and further widening the social divide. A major driver of this animosity is media content (e.g., news stories) that promotes outrage towards out-partisans. Such content generates immense engagement, making it highly profitable despite its harmfulness. We designed an intervention that sought to shift Americans' construal of this content toward being inflammatory rather than informative. In a preregistered laboratory experiment (current n = 84; target n = 150), we randomly assigned young adults to receive this intervention or a control activity before completing a set of self-report measures. Participants then discussed politics with a confederate posing as a supporter of the opposing political party and, subsequently, rated the confederate. The intervention increased intent to disengage from polarizing media by .63 SD (b = 0.63, p = .003) and perceived importance of finding common ground by .61 SD (b = 0.61, p = .005). The intervention also increased openness to friendship with the confederate by .58 SD (b = 0.58, p = .008).

*POSTER

Speaker



Anh Vu

Lab Manager | University of Rochester

Authors

Margarett Clapper, Christopher Bryan, Cameron Hecht

[17] Affirmation in Action: How Being Seen Shapes Transgender and Nonbinary Identity and Well-Being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Erikson's psychosocial model suggests that identity development precedes relationship formation, but this sequence may not fully apply to transgender and nonbinary (TGNB) emerging adults. For TGNB individuals, gender identity development may occur in tandem with or as a result of supportive relationships (e.g., friendships, online communities, romantic partnerships, intrapersonal reflection (Cronesberry & Ward, 2024; Hainsworth et al., 2024; Kuper et al., 2018). These relationships often provide "safe spaces" for exploration, affirmation, and identity solidification. This mixed-methods study challenges traditional developmental frameworks by investigating how both interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships shape TGNB gender identity development. It also explores the role of gender identity affirmation, a process shown to positively influence well-being (Galupo et al., 2019). In addition to examining identity formation, the study considers broader positive outcomes such as pride, community connectedness, gender identity acceptance, romantic and sexual satisfaction, as well as well-being. By centering strengths over pathology, this research contributes to a more inclusive understanding of TGNB development. Findings offer practical insights for TGNB individuals, their friends, partners, online communities, and mental health professionals. In a time of increasing socio-political debate around TGNB rights and inclusion, this study advocates for affirming, evidence-based support systems that empower TGNB individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Agata Soltys

Program Marketing Intern | Equiticity

Authors

Christopher R. Merchant

[18] Affirming the Moral Self: People Prefer Transgression Explanations that Support Compassion Rather than Unmitigated Blame

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Prior theorizing suggests people "love blame" and engage in motivated information processing to maximize perceived blameworthiness of others. We explore a different possibility: People are motivated to forgive and may prefer information that enables them to respond with compassion to transgressors because such responses affirm their moral self-image. Participants (N=402) learned about Robert Harris's double homicide and were randomly assigned to read either a blame-supporting explanation (describing Harris's clear intentions to make others suffer) or a blame-mitigating historical explanation (detailing his abusive childhood). Then, participants reported their satisfaction with the explanation they received. They also reported compassion and blame toward Harris and their feelings of moral self-approbation. Results suggested mitigating explanations were associated with greater compassion and less blame, which, in turn, brought higher moral self-approbation, which, in turn, was associated with greater explanation-related satisfaction. People appear to like blame-mitigating explanations because they facilitate feeling like a good person.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zeena Whayeb

PhD Student | Lehigh University

Authors

Michael Gill

[19] Agentic AI Simulations of Intergroup Conflict

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Intergroup conflict is difficult to study due to logistical and ethical constraints. We simulate conflicts using LLM-driven agents with distinct personas in interactive environments, producing 200 K+ conversations and 1 M+ plans, reflections, and questionnaire responses. Agents in minimal groups underwent manipulations of threat (symbolic vs. real), geographic segregation, and moral profiles (binding vs individualizing). Both threats uniquely increased hate, aggression, moralized language, and negative sentiment, while reducing overall cross-group interactions. Segregation magnified these effects, and moral values modulated responses. Longitudinal probing of agents revealed increasing identity fusion, out-group bias, and dehumanization alongside declining trust and collaboration under threat, highlighting how context and values drive conflict processes. Our analyses show that agentic AI frameworks can enable scalable, ethical experimentation and generate deeper insights into conflict mechanisms (e.g., uncover temporal dynamics of identity fusion, bias, dehumanization, and conflict behavior). This approach may support the development of interventions to mitigate intergroup hostility.

*POSTER

Speaker



Suhaib Abdurahman

PhD Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Morteza Dehghani, Suhaib Abdurahman

[20] Am I Better or Am I Enough? Self-Compassion and the Better-than-Average Effect

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

People, especially those high in self-esteem (SE), engage in a wide variety of self-enhancement strategies. But as Crocker and Park (2004) noted, self-enhancement goals undermine learning, relationships, and both mental and physical health. Might self-compassion (SC; being supportive of oneself during times of suffering) be an antidote to unhealthy SE striving? In the current study, we investigated whether the tendency to see oneself as superior to others (the Better-than-Average Effect, or BTAE) would be positively associated with SE, but not SC, as SC is about accepting one's imperfections rather than needing to outdo others. In an online survey on Prolific Academic, we asked college students (N = 249) to rate themselves relative to the average college student on 20 positive and 20 negative traits. As predicted, once SE was controlled for, SC no longer predicted the BTAE across most traits, although SE did. The findings suggest that SC may attenuate people's engagement in SE striving, though the study is correlational, so experimental work is needed. Future research should also examine additional domains in which this attenuation occurs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anais Geronimo Jimenez

PhD student | University of California, Irvine

Authors

Shanbairong Nie, Jennifer Borton

[21] Amplifying Benefits of Storytelling with Generative AI: Evidence from Storybook

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

As AI becomes part of daily life, can it be leveraged to enhance well-being and foster prosocial behavior? Across two experiments (total N = 805), we test whether AI can amplify the psychological and social benefits of storytelling. We developed Storybook, an AI-powered tool that lets users describe themselves in natural language, create avatars, and write AI-illustrated stories. In Experiment 1 (N = 207), people were more likely to offer advice to a stranger struggling in their career when reading the story on the AI-enhanced platform (i.e., Storybook condition) compared to a SPSP 2026 Annual Conventions [spsp.org/events/annual-convention](https://www.spsp.org/events/annual-convention) standard text-based interface. In Experiment 2 (N = 598), pre-post analyses revealed that people in both conditions experienced increases in self-efficacy—i.e., belief in their ability to handle challenges—after providing advice, but gains were greater in the Storybook condition. Language analyses revealed higher-quality, more affirming advice in the Storybook group. These participants also reported greater ease empathizing with the storyteller, which predicted better advice. Results suggest that creative use of generative AI can improve self-efficacy and supportive behavior in anonymous online settings.

*POSTER

Speaker



Luiza Almeida Santos

Postdoc | Toyota Research Institute

Authors

Luiza Santos, Scott Carter, Tatiana Lau

[22] The Relational Costs of Goal-Directed Listening in Workplace Conversations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Everyday conversations often demand that listeners balance accuracy with empathy. These competing motives reflect what Yeomans et al. (2022) describe as informational motives (exchanging accurate information) versus relational motives (building connection). We examine this tension in professional contexts. In an experiment ($N = 196$; $Mage = 38.66$, 50.5% female, 49.0% male, 0.5% other), participants listened to standardized audio from an ostensible coworker describing a workplace challenge. Participants were randomly assigned to a relational goal or a non-relational goal (informational or control). Relationally assigned listeners who felt goal conflict (torn between accuracy and support) reported lower authenticity ($b = -0.24$, $p < .001$), less willingness to reengage ($b = -0.46$, $p = .004$), and more emotional exhaustion ($b = +0.53$, $p < .001$) than those in the non-relational conditions who felt similar levels of goal conflict. Notably, Johnson–Neyman analysis indicated that this last effect on emotional exhaustion emerged even under low conflict values, affecting approximately 71% of the sample. These findings suggest that relational listening goals can leave employees depleted and less willing to reengage with colleagues, offering important insight for workplace interventions focused on interpersonal cohesion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matias Wissinger

Predocctoral Researcher | Kellogg School of Management

Authors

Jake Teeny

[23] CANCELLED:

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

*POSTER

[24] Antiracism: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Mitigating Threat to Self

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Across three studies ($N=731$) and a qualitative analysis ($N=187$), we explored how utilizing an antiracist framework (Kendi, 2019) can neutralize the inherent self-threat of the term "racist" while motivating actions toward a more just society.

Participants were randomly assigned to read passages that asked participants to engage with Kendi's antiracist framework or engage with a neutral passage (S1 & 2) or a passage that essentialized antiracism (S2 & S3). After reading, participants summarized the passage (S1-S3) or answered multiple choice questions about the passage (S3) to examine how engagement may affect threat to self. Following, participants indicated how much they agreed with statements of inequity in American society and measured self-related threat through self-related need fulfillment (self-esteem, belonging, meaning, and control; Zardo et al., 2003).

Results discuss two patterns: (1) How engagement with an antiracist framework allows individuals to endorse statements of inequity while reducing the threat of the label "racist"; (2) giving participants the ability to voice their ideas about antiracism results in themes around growth and fixed mindsets (Dweck, 2006).

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaelan Vazquez

Graduate Student | DePaul University

Authors

Miguel Vazquez III, Verena Graupmann, Ellen Dulaney

[25] Assessing Stereotype Content and Accuracy of the Upper Economic Class: Interpersonal Warmth and Social Competence Dimension

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

This study examined how individuals from non-upper and upper economic classes perceive the upper economic class in terms of interpersonal warmth (IW) and social competence (SC), using implicit (Single Category Implicit Association Task) and explicit (stereotype ratings) measures, along with self-report questionnaires. Both groups rated upper-class individuals significantly lower on implicit measures than explicit ones. Regardless of the measure, participants rated the upper class higher on SC than IW. Implicit and explicit measures were not significantly correlated for either SC or IW. Stereotype accuracy analysis showed limited alignment between perceptions and self-reports, especially for IW, where participants underestimated upper-class individuals. However, upper-class participants accurately perceived SC on explicit measures. There were no actual differences in IW between the two groups, but upper-class individuals scored higher on SC. Findings offer insights into stereotype content and have implications for addressing class-based bias through diversity and inclusion efforts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kenji Noguchi

Associate Professor | University of Southern Mississippi

Authors

Elena Stepanova

[26] Attorney Recommendations and Anti-Intellectualism in Settlement Decision-Making

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Anti-intellectualism (i.e., feelings of distrust toward experts) has been widely studied in relation to vote choice and medical decision-making. However, a past study found that attorneys were perceived as among the least credible experts. Here, we examined how attorney recommendations and anti-intellectualism influenced legal decision-making. Online participants (N = 260 adults) were presented with a hypothetical civil lawsuit in which the opposing litigant proposed a settlement. Using a 2x2 factorial design, participants were randomly assigned a litigant role (plaintiff or defendant) and an attorney recommendation (to accept or to reject). Attorney recommendations, but not litigant roles, significantly influenced decisions to accept the settlement. Regression analyses revealed that perceptions of attorney credibility moderated the effect of attorney recommendations on settlement decisions. These perceptions were further associated with anti-intellectualist attitudes, but there was no direct effect of anti-intellectualism on settlement decisions. Future work needs to assess how the interaction between anti-intellectualism and attorney credibility affects legal decision-making.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicholas Alia

PhD Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Eugene Borgida

[27] Authentic Online Presentation and Self-Brand Congruity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Social media profiles can be useful for autobiographical curation of the self, allowing people to organize and connect with others. Following the Dramaturgical perspective, people may use social media as a public platform to express themselves in a performative way—and this performative self may or may not authentically align with their actual, offline self. This research aims to explore: (1) the source of the performative self on social media (ideal, actual, or ought self; imagined others; various temporal selves); (2) if people perceive this performance as an authentic representation of their self; (3) consistency of the performative self over time (personal-brand congruity) and across contexts (online and offline); and (4) motivations for this online, dramaturgical self-presentation (e.g., status, affiliation, mating, escape, etc.). This study may contribute to the growing literature regarding personality and social psychological development in an increasingly digital age, where social media is highly valued as a reference for social status and a tool for self-presentation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jorge Osuna

Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Virginia Kwan, Kamryn Kadotani, Rayan Chamas, Benjamin Koehler

[28] Authoritarianism Predicts Authenticity as a Function of Ideological Norms in the Environment

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Building on research and theory linking authenticity to the experience of fit in one's environment, we tested whether right- and left-wing authoritarianism differentially predicts authenticity as a function of the political leanings of one's environment. In Study 1, we found that left-wing authoritarianism correlates negatively with trait authenticity, while right-wing authoritarianism positively correlates with trait authenticity, among students on a conservative leaning campus. In Study 2, we conceptually replicate these patterns and further reveal that left-wing (right-wing) authoritarianism negatively (positively) predicts the experience of "fit" at the university. In Study 3, left-wing (right-wing) authoritarianism negatively (positively) predicted authenticity most strongly among U.S. participants who perceived that their community was substantially more (vs. less) conservative. These findings suggest that strong authoritarian beliefs differentially connect to the experience of authenticity as a function of how well they align with the normative views of others in their environments. This could have implications for understanding political polarization and current patterns of migration based on political concerns.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ronin Deemer

Graduate Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Matthew Vess

[29] Avoidance of altruistic punishment in cross-cultural contexts

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Altruistic punishment is one powerful tool for maintaining cooperative norms. Classic third-party punishment games have consistently shown that observers are willing to incur personal costs to punish selfish actors. However, a recent study demonstrates that such punishment occurs less frequently when observers can avoid exposure to the selfish act, with avoidance driven both by reluctance to witness unfair treatment and by aversion to administering punishments. Building on this insight, the present study conducted a cross-cultural comparison in Japan and the United States to examine whether avoidance of altruistic punishment generalizes across cultures. Two hundred participants engaged in the situation-selective third-party punishment game (SS-TPPG) in which observers could choose situation that reduced the likelihood of encountering selfish monetary allocations, thereby creating opportunities to forgo costly punishment. The results showed that the avoidance tendency emerged regardless of culture, highlighting that the reluctance to witness unfair treatment and engage in costly punishment is a robust human tendency that transcends cultural boundaries.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kodai Mitsuishi

Student | Osaka Metropolitan University

Authors

Yugo Maeda, Cleone Mitsui, Yuta Kawamura

[30] Awe Promotes Pro-Environmental Views, Shifting Focus Beyond the Self

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Awe has been associated with pro-environmental outcomes. It is unclear why experiencing awe might make people more pro-environmental. We report the results of a pre-registered field experiment in Lake Tahoe that assessed whether a series of environmental attitudes might explain the link between awe and pro-environmental outcomes.

Participants (N=157) were recruited at the base of the Heavenly Gondola and were randomly assigned to take in the awe-inspiring viewpoint at the top of the gondola ride for 2 minutes [awe] or spend that time in the gondola gift shop [control]. Participants reported connectedness to nature, environmental efficacy, ecospirituality, and moralization of nature. Participants in the awe condition reported significantly greater awe than the control condition, which indicated that the manipulation was successful. Participants in the awe condition and the control did not differ in report connectedness to nature nor environmental efficacy. However, the awe condition reported significantly greater ecospirituality and moralization of nature. Results suggest that experiences of awe might contribute to pro-environmental outcomes by shaping the way people view nature.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rae Collins

University of California Irvine

Authors

Paul Piff, Matthew Billet, Ishita Singhal

[31] Beliefs about voting and racism shape voting policy preferences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Some White Americans fear illegal voting, which they assume is happening among racial minorities. Other White Americans want more access to voting. What is unknown is whether desires for restrictive or accessible voting would be less favorable than a "perfect policy" - one that prevents all voter fraud while allowing all eligible voters to vote. This study investigates support for a "perfect policy" and whether perceiving voting as a privilege, or symbolic racism may moderate support for different types of voting policies. White participants (N = 1,200) were randomly assigned to one of three voting policy conditions: (1) a "perfect policy" that prevents all voter fraud while allowing all eligible voters to vote, (2) an "overly inclusive policy" that allows all eligible voters to vote but also allows some illegal voting, or (3) an "overly restrictive policy" that eliminates all illegal voting but also excludes some eligible voters. Findings indicate that participants preferred the perfect policy overall. Furthermore, those rejecting the idea that voting is a privilege favored the perfect and inclusive policies equally. Those high in racist beliefs supported the perfect and restrictive policies equally. These findings highlight how beliefs about voting and racism shape policy preferences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Roshonda Bissainthe

Student | University of Virginia

Authors

Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi, Gerald Higginbotham

[32] Between the Divide: The Role of Existential Isolation in American Political Polarization

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Cognitive misperceptions often underly political polarization. Existential isolation, the perception that your experiences and worldview are not shared by others, may precede the formation of these misperceptions, thereby perpetuating political divides. This research, across four studies (N = 924) sampling undergraduate students and adults online, examined the role of existential isolation in American political polarization. Results show that individuals report greater existential isolation towards political opponents than political peers, which was then associated with dehumanization of, and less willingness to engage with, political opponents. Further, greater existential isolation towards politically liberal or conservative others was associated with less support for a political policy proposed by these groups. Lastly, feedback that liberals or conservatives share our subjective perceptions attenuates our feelings of existential isolation towards these groups. Together, these findings demonstrate the importance of addressing existential isolation as a social cognitive factor underlying and perpetuating political polarization in the United States.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Espinosa

Lecturer | Old Dominion University

Authors

Cathy Cox, Tiffany Bui

[33] Beyond Ideology: The Sexually Strategic Logic of Abortion Opposition

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Why do some people oppose abortion? Most accounts focus on religion and politics. We test an alternative grounded in evolutionary social science: Individuals with committed mating orientations (CMO)—who often marry and have children earlier—may be reproductively disadvantaged by casual sex. As such, people may support policies that, even nonconsciously, shape the social world to align with their own fitness interests. We predicted that individuals high in CMO who also believe that abortion access lowers the costs of casual sex (“deterrence belief”) would show the strongest abortion opposition. Supporting this, in three U.S. samples (N = 2,711)—including one preregistered and one pre-Dobbs—CMO and deterrence belief interacted to predict abortion opposition. This effect held when controlling for religiosity and political ideology. Results challenge the view that political attitudes are unrelated to self-interest and highlight an under-recognized driver of abortion attitudes with broad implications for women’s health, well-being, and equality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elias Acevedo

Authors

David Pinsof, Martie Haselton

[34] Beyond Job: AI as Perceived Threat to Self-Identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Artificial intelligence (AI) is often portrayed as a threat to employment. However, this assumption might overlook a deeper mechanism: the threat that AI poses to self-identity. We propose job loss threat as a trigger, while the ultimate source of fear might be the potential loss of uniqueness. When individuals perceive AI as a threat to their role, they are not only afraid of unemployment but also of the erosion of a part of their identity.

Based on research on ego-defensiveness and self-identity, this study outlines the model where AI salience → Job loss threat → Identity threat - Defensive attitudes towards AI. For those who have work-identity centrality, this causation could be much stronger.

We outline a study design in which participants would be randomly assigned to read vignettes describing AI implementations with (a) job loss with income loss, and (b) job loss without income loss. This design would allow us to test whether AI fear persists even when income is guaranteed. If yes, it might suggest that the driver is an identity threat.

This model frames AI anxiety as an existential rather than purely economic concern and points to new directions for theory and communication.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anna Smolko

MA Student | Michigan State University

[35] Beyond Left and Right: Who Truly Welcomes Refugees?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Considerable research asserts that the "rigid" political right is more anxious about immigrants and more likely to support exclusionary policies than the political left. However, such "personality" effects may depend on sociopolitical and historical context. While the right may generally be more hostile to refugees, sociohistorical factors may cause them to perceive some outsider groups as "us" rather than "them", buffering their feelings of threat or hostility. Aligned with this hypothesis, in four samples collected in Turkey in 2017 (3 studies; Total N = 1,347) and 2025 (N = 634), we do not find right-wing Turks to be more hostile to Syrian refugees than left-wing Turks. In fact, left-wing participants reported greater levels of perceived threat and anti-refugee attitudes than the right-wing individuals in 2025. Preliminary analyses suggest that the right-wing's lack of hostility against Syrian refugees may be explained by a perception of shared values with Syrian refugees. These findings illustrate that the effects of political ideology may be context-dependent. The "rigid" right may become open to outsiders who are viewed as value-aligned or beneficial to the ingroup.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ugur Ozkusen

PhD Student | University of Pittsburgh, Harvard University

Authors

Ashwini Ashokkumar, Fatih Özdemir, William B. Swann

[36] Bittersweet Belonging: The Affective Signature of Nostalgia in Gen Z

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The purpose of this study is to further explore how inducing feelings of nostalgia can influence an individual's affective state. Nostalgia can best be described as a sentimental longing for past experiences. It is well understood that nostalgia can elicit mixed emotions, most often described as "bittersweet" feelings. Previous research has affirmed that nostalgia is best described as bittersweet, however, many previous studies in this area have focused mainly on the positive affective state that people report to be in after feelings of nostalgia arise. The current study is looking to explore if individuals are also left with a negative affective state after feeling nostalgic. The current study will utilize a recently validated measure of inducing feelings of nostalgia while reducing possible participant bias through a short video composed of images and music. Through use of this method, we are exploring the affective signature of nostalgia when experienced by members of Generation Z, a population not previously explored in this context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Newton

Graduate Student | Ohio University

Authors

Keith Markman

[37] Black girls' same-race social media exposure and self-objectification

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

While social media has been found to have an adverse effect on Black girls' body image through sexualizing and discriminatory content, the potential benefit of affirming content is understudied. Gahler et al. (2023) found positive links between same-race social media exposure (SRSME) and body appreciation in women of color. Ethnic-racial identity (ERI) commitment, a relevant protective factor, may amplify the benefits of affirming online content. Adolescents are more sensitive to online and identity-related experiences, yet these associations remain unclear among youth. The current study examined SRSME (percentage of same-race accounts followed) and self-objectification in a sample of 154 Black early adolescent girls (Mage = 13.1), and tested ERI commitment as a moderator. We ran a saturated path model to maximize data inclusion. Higher SRSME was associated with lower self-objectification ($b = -.01$, $SE = .004$, $p = .001$). ERI commitment did not significantly moderate this association. ($p = .96$). Results indicate SRSME may be protective for Black girls. Future research can identify specific features of same-race content that benefit their body esteem and identity development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caitlin Mbuakoto

PhD Student | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Authors

Anne Maheux, Brianna Ladd

[38] Blame in Autonomous Vehicle Accidents - The Role of Passenger Attention and Seat Location

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Are passengers in autonomous vehicles (AVs) blamed for accidents that occur while they ride, and does it matter whether they're on their phone, or where they sit? As AVs continue to develop and become more common worldwide, how people assign blame in AV accidents remain an important topic. In this study, we examined how attention and seat choice influence blame attribution in AV accidents. U.S. adult participants (N = 357) evaluated scenarios in which a person was either attentive to the road or distracted by their phone and sitting in one of three seats (driver, passenger, or rear) during an accident caused by their AV. Participants rated the extent to which the rider and the pedestrian were blamed. Distracted passengers were blamed more than attentive passengers, while blame did not vary significantly across seat positions. The finding that riders - who lack the ability to control the autonomous vehicles in which they ride - are blamed for accidents if they are on their phones suggests a mechanism for moral blame in this context that is distinct from any casual chain.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julian Hou

California State University, Northridge

Authors

Abraham Rutchick

[39] Blind Agreement: A Content Analysis on Fear Appeal and Post Interactions on Truth Social

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Many politicians have utilized social media to enhance political discourse by connecting with those who share their ideologies. In the present study, we examine the communication style of the current President of the United States, Donald Trump, on Truth Social as a primary approach to promoting his Make America Great Again (MAGA) campaign through a quantitative content analysis. One hundred seventeen text posts were analyzed from Truth Social from Donald Trump's personal account. Coding variables included appeals to fear, in-group/out-group language, White nationalist rhetoric, and typographical emphasis on Trump's post interactions. A Pearson's correlation was used to determine a positive relationship between the interaction options "likes" and "ReTruths." A point-biserial correlation analysis was conducted and found a positive relationship between the number of post interactions and typographical emphasis. Finally, a multiple regression analysis indicated that fear appeal predicted higher interactions. These findings provide insight into how modern politicians may optimize persuasive rhetoric using social media to gain endorsement from targeted audiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lisa Maltos

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Authors

Yani Yakob, Lisa Maltos, Brittany Moncalieri

[40] Breadth and Depth in the Search for Meaning : Development and Validity Test of Dual Existential Meaning Search Scale

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

How do people pursue meaning in life? Existential psychology suggests that individuals construct meaning through diverse sources, yet prior research has focused largely on the content of these sources rather than the ways people search for them. We propose a dual-dimensional framework of meaning search: seeking breadth (exploring a wide variety of sources) versus seeking depth (immersing in a few sources). Across three studies, we developed and validated the Dual Existential Meaning Search (DEMS) scale and examined how these search styles shape meaning experiences. In Study 1 (N = 323), exploratory factor analysis of candidate items yielded a 12-item DEMS with two factors: breadth (e.g., "I often feel motivated to discover new meaning in new experiences") and depth (e.g., "I sometimes feel a strong urge to pursue deeper meaning in my life"). In Study 2 (N = 317), confirmatory factor analysis supported the two-factor structure, and differential associations emerged: depth was linked with religiosity and need for closure, while breadth related to extraversion, curiosity, and openness. In Study 3 (N = 273), participants rated meaning across 16 life domains (e.g., family, achievement, spirituality). Depth search predicted concentrated meaning in select domains, whereas breadth search predicted distributed meaning across multiple domains. Together, these findings highlight the necessity of distinguishing search styles, offering a more nuanced framework for understanding how people construct life meaning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Minji Seek

Sogang University

Authors

Jinhyung Kim

[41] Campus Economic Inequality May Shape Feelings of “Falling Behind” and Reduced Student Well-Being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Past research suggests that White-wealth stereotypes in the U.S. lead the average White American to feel as if they are “falling behind” most White Americans (i.e., low within-group status). And, these perceptions of low within-group status predict worse health over time. In the present study, we extend this work to test whether campuses with high economic inequality might be contexts where students, on average, feel as if they are “falling behind” the typical student who is stereotyped as wealthy. In a daily longitudinal design, students (N = 103) from one of the most economically unequal campuses in the country completed nightly surveys about their health, feelings of “falling behind,” and daily status comparisons. On average, students reported feeling significantly lower status than most other students at their university who were stereotyped to be wealthy. Low within-group subjective status then predicted worse mental/physical health via increased negative emotions and number of daily upward status comparisons (controlling for objective status). We conclude that contexts of high inequality may foster feelings of “falling behind” with important consequences for well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Camryn Yeager

Associate in Research | Duke University

Authors

Camryn Yeager, Emy Pacheco Ramirez, Maya Guha, Jessie Cai, Erin Cooley

[42] Can Objects Be Self? Implications for Moral Judgment, Identity, and Perceived Significance

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Belk (1988) proposed that possessions can serve as extensions of the self, yet direct empirical evidence for this claim has been limited. Across four experiments (Studies 1, 3 and 4 preregistered), we test whether sentimental objects are treated as self-extensions and whether their violation evokes moral concern. In Studies 1–2, altering an individual’s sense of self through transformations of belief systems (e.g., adopting Buddhist non-attachment) reduced perceived value of sentimental objects, whereas mere masking of the self (e.g. experiencing depression) did not. Study 3 showed that losing sentimental objects was judged to disrupt personal identity, suggesting that such possessions sustain perceived self-continuity. Study 4 demonstrated that harms toward sentimental objects were judged as more immoral than identical harms toward non-sentimental ones, an effect mediated by perceived object centrality to the self. Together, these findings provide convergent experimental support for the notion that sentimental possessions constitute part of the self-concept and shape moral cognition due to their centrality to personal identity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Pardis Rostami

PhD Student | Cornell University

Authors

David Pizarro, Shaun Nichols, Pardis Rostami

[43] Choosing Not to Debunk: Political Bias in Responses to Online Misinformation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Online political misinformation presents one of the greatest challenges to contemporary political discourse. Indeed, misinformation is often cited as one of the largest contributors to political polarization (Van Bavel et al., 2025), and concerns about online “fake news” are now common among the American public (Pew Research Center, 2025). For this reason, much literature has examined the causes of the proliferation of online misinformation. While many scholars explain the increase in online misinformation as a product of predictive algorithms or deliberate spreading by political actors (Chan et al., 2017), this research explores another approach, hypothesizing that a reluctance to debunk online misinformation is a common phenomenon. The study presented found that participants (n = 603) were significantly more likely to avoid debunking misinformation when the misinformation portrayed their political outgroup members negatively, even when the participants themselves believed the information was false. In addition, an average of 44% of participants refrained from correcting misinformation, with 39% doing so even though they believed the information to be false.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tyler Parker-Rollins

Graduate Student | Ohio University

Authors

Xian Zhao

[44] Cleaning Up the Underbelly of Society: Disentangling the Effects of Ingroup Attachment and Glorification

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Societies face pressing internal problems, such as crime targeting vulnerable populations or drug addiction, that harm their members. Yet authorities and the public often fail to address these issues. When, then, are people willing to take ingroup corrective actions—efforts to address their own group's flaws? Across four studies, we examine how two modes of national identification, attachment and glorification (Roccas et al., 2006), shape such actions. Three surveys with South Koreans (N = 500) and Americans (N = 163) consistently showed that glorification, but not attachment, predicted greater collective guilt, which in turn increased intentions to take corrective actions (e.g., donating to addiction programs, protesting for awareness). This finding complicates prior work, as glorification has typically been linked to negative outcomes such as collective narcissism. Furthermore, an experiment (N = 240) showed that enhancing glorification (vs. individuation) heightened collective guilt, which predicted corrective action intentions. We discuss this seemingly paradoxical effect and its implications for how glorification can motivate repairing societal flaws.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hayeon Lee

Assistant Professor | Gyeongsang National University, Republic of Korea

Authors

Hyun Euh

[45] College Students' Solidarity with Palestine/Israel: An application of the Theory of Planned Behavior

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Grounded in the Theory of Planned Behavior, this study investigates the psychological drivers of allyship amid the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We conceptualized allyship through four key constructs: social justice attitudes (beliefs and values related to justice), perceived behavioral control (confidence in one's ability to act), subjective norms (perceived social pressure to engage), and behavioral intentions (plans for future action). Using structural equation modeling (N = 250 U.S. college students), we examined how these constructs predicted support for three political outcomes: solidarity with Palestine, solidarity with Israel, and support for a ceasefire.

Across models, social justice attitudes and subjective norms emerged as significant predictors of behavioral intentions. Notably, only solidarity with Palestine was robustly predicted by both attitudes and intentions, while perceived behavioral control was negatively associated, suggesting that strong ideological commitment can drive allyship even in the face of low perceived efficacy. In contrast, solidarity with Israel was predicted positively by attitudes and intentions but negatively by subjective norms, indicating possible social discouragement of this form of solidarity. No significant predictors emerged for ceasefire support.

These findings reveal how motivations for allyship vary across political targets, shaped by context, ideology, and perceived social pressure. We believe this work offers timely insights for researchers, educators, and policymakers concerned with social action, political identity, and intergroup solidarity in times of crisis.

*POSTER

Speaker



Richard Chang

Doctoral Candidate | University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Authors

Gloria Wong-Padoongpatt

[46] Conflict or Harmony: Outcomes and Integration For Holding Multiple Marginalized Identities

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Previous literature about individuals with multiple minority identities has predominantly focused on race and gender (e.g., Hecht et al., 2001; Yampolsky et al., 2013). However, little work has examined how other combinations of identities integrate with each other (Cheng et al., 2008; Jackson et al., 2012). We purposely sampled participants across minoritized race, gender, and sexuality: racial and gender minorities (e.g., straight women of color), sexual and gender minorities (e.g., queer white women), and sexual and racial minorities (e.g., queer men of color). We were interested in the degree to which these various combinations of marginalized groups report integrating their identities. Our findings indicated that queer white women reported greater identity integration as compared to both queer men of color and straight women of color. Additionally, participants' identity integration was related to the degree to which they felt self-overlap with their identities. These findings have critical implications for how individuals with multiple marginalized identities navigate their identities and the strategies used to reduce conflict between them.

*POSTER

Speaker



Luke Herder

University of Oregon

Authors

Chanel Meyers, Gretchen Nihill

[47] Confucian Patriarchy and Identity Negotiation Among Chinese Immigrant Women

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

This study explores how Chinese immigrant women raised under Confucian patriarchy reconstruct identity, gender roles, and intergenerational relations post-migration. Guided by acculturation theory (Berry, 2005) and role theory (Georgas & Charles, 2004), we examine how cultural transition enables new forms of selfhood. Ethnographic interviews and observations were conducted with 20 women born before the mid-1990s. Data were analyzed using flexible coding to identify patterns of role negotiation. Findings show that migration disrupts traditional life scripts and enables redefinition of gendered expectations. Participants report returning to an "emerging adulthood" phase, navigating inherited norms and emerging agency. Fang struggles with her daughter's rejection of traditional femininity; Zhongrui prioritizes mental health over filial obedience. These narratives reveal processes of "degendering" and intergenerational reorientation, highlighting how immigrant women negotiate conflicting cultural schemas. The findings deepen understanding of gendered identity reconstruction in migration contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Luchenzhi Wang

Authors

Bo Jian, Merrill Silverstein

[48] Social Network Access and Growth: Building Relational Resilience for Street Crew-Involved Men through a Community-Based Intervention

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

To address gun violence disproportionately affecting New York City's poorest neighborhoods, community violence interventions (CVI) often target high-risk individuals through holistic programming. Project Restore (PR), a 12-month CVI serving 30 men from rival street crews, concluded without any new participant violent arrests and an overall 28% reduction in community shooting incidents. The current research examines the role of social network transformation on PR participants' violence reduction outcomes. Using mixed methods, Study 1 employed qualitative content analysis of post-intervention interviews with 25 of the 30 PR participants to examine relationship changes across three Social Brain Hypothesis levels: Support Clique (family), Sympathy Group (peers, mentors), and Active Network (professional connections). Study 2 conducted social network analysis with a purposively selected subset of six participants—influential crew leaders from both rival groups—examining structural network changes pre- and post-intervention. Results demonstrated substantial network expansion and transformation that may help explain PR's previously documented success.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ava Kamdem

Research Assistant | Center for Justice at Columbia University

Authors

Brooke Burrows, Gabriel Feldman, Jarrell Daniels, Jason Bostic

[49] Cross-cultural value orientation and environmental behavior - A study from university students of Nepal and United States of America

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Existing studies exploring individual values and environmental behavior have established that self transcendent values have a positive association and self-enhancement values have a negative association with pro environmental behaviors. However, few studies have asked whether this relationship between values and pro environmental behaviors varies based on culture. We tested the link between egoistic, altruistic and biospheric value orientation and environmentally relevant behaviors in two contrasting cultures: the USA and Nepal. The results showed that in the USA, biospheric value orientation positively predicts and egoistic value orientation negatively predicts pro environmental behaviors. On the contrary, in the case of Nepal, we found that egoistic value orientation predicts pro environmental behaviors like purchasing sustainable products, donating and volunteering for environmental causes. Likewise, in comparison to the US, biospheric value orientation in Nepal has a weaker association with environmental behavior. These results demonstrate culturally-specific relations between value orientation and environmentally relevant behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Subina Shrestha

PhD Student | Northeastern University

Authors

John Coley

[50] Crowding out Systemic Change: The Appeal of Individual-Level Interventions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Systemic reforms (e.g., taxes, regulations) are often key drivers of meaningful change, yet behavioral science has historically focused on individual-level nudges (Chater & Loewenstein, 2023; Hagmann et al. 2019; 2023). Across three experiments (N=1,766), we examined how U.S. adults evaluate "i-frame" nudges versus "s-frame" reforms across a variety of issues (e.g., cell-phone use in schools, climate change, online privacy). First, we saw that systemic policies attract less public support than individual-level nudges, partly due to cost-benefit perceptions. Second, people systematically misjudge public opinion: they underestimate others' support for both i- and s-frame policies, even on a politically neutral issue. Because systemic reforms often require broad coordination and buy-in, these misperceptions can create a false social reality, suppress advocacy, and hinder structural change. Our ongoing work examines interventions to correct these social perception gaps, demonstrating that aligning perceived and actual public opinion is vital for more effective, large-scale policymaking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria Leonor Neto
New York University

Authors

M. Leonor Neto, Olivia Kim, Minah Jung

[51] Cuing Social Media Disrupts Perceived Self-Knowledge.

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Social media use is widespread among young adults in the United States, yet little is known about how it shapes self-understanding, despite growing research on its psychological consequences, particularly among individuals exhibiting signs of social media addiction (SMA). Study 1 (N = 235), a daily diary study, found a positive association between social media addiction and self-alienation (i.e., sense of disconnection from the self) at the daily level. Building on these findings, Study 2 uses a within-subjects, social media cue-reactivity paradigm. Participants will be exposed to two cue sets [social media vs. automobiles (control)] in randomized order. Following each set of cues, participants will answer questions regarding the cues, then complete self-report items assessing the urge to use social media/drive an automobile and self-alienation. We hypothesize a main effect of cue condition on perceived self-knowledge, such that social media cues will increase self-alienation. Additionally, we expect the effect of cue exposure on self-alienation will be highest for those who express an urge to use social media.

*POSTER

Speaker



Theo Steele
Texas A&M University

Authors

Joshua Hicks, Lydia Needy

[52] Deception as Self-Protection in High-Risk Contexts: A Naturalistic Study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

High-stakes, naturalistic contexts provide a rare opportunity to examine deception as it unfolds under intense cognitive and emotional pressure. Televised pleas for help in missing persons cases offer a valuable setting for identifying reliable behavioral markers of dishonesty, as some are delivered by perpetrators themselves under exceptionally strong motivation to deceive. In this study, 100 missing person plea videos (50 from honest individuals and 50 from deceptive individuals) will be coded by trained judges who are blind to the speakers' veracity, using the newly developed Plea for Help Q-sort. This measure captures mid-level behavioral domains often overlooked in prior missing person deception research, including emotional display (e.g., exaggerated or flat affect), verbal and nonverbal behaviors (e.g., contradictions between words and demeanor), and self-presentation (e.g., defensiveness or efforts to appear sympathetic). Findings will aim to clarify which cues are most consistently associated with dishonesty in emotionally charged, high-risk contexts, with implications for forensic and clinical assessments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Ryan
Villanova University

Authors

Nicholas Ashenfelter, Wilkes Jones, Marie Loro, Sofia Saj, Nina Amodio

[53] Deep conversations, stronger selves? The impact of self-disclosure extent on sense of identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Close relationships are cognitively intertwined with sense of identity, or one's sense of who they are, purpose in life, and clear goals (Collins & Beike, 2025; Lounsbury et al., 2005). Sense of identity is also correlated with the degree to which people report engaging in self-disclosure. The present study is designed to test whether manipulating the extent of self-disclosure enhances sense of identity. In four lab sessions over two weeks, each participant in a planned sample of 150, will engage in one-sided self-disclosure, reciprocal self-disclosure, or a non-disclosing control with an experimenter and complete measures of sense of identity. Self-disclosure will be structured by having participants respond to increasingly deep questions (Sedikides et al., 1999) over the four sessions. We predict those in the reciprocal disclosure condition will report a stronger sense of identity, than those in the one-sided or control condition, and an increase in sense of identity across time in both disclosure conditions. Engaging in regular, reciprocal self-disclosure may provide a solution for a weak sense of identity and a means by which close others are influential to the self.

*POSTER

Speaker



Josephine Collins

Graduate Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Denise Beike

[54] Defensive processing and the acceptance of misinformation on social media

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This poster presents preliminary findings from an experimental study on the role of mistrust in misinformation acceptance. Participants from a student sample ($n = 58$) and a Prolific sample ($n = 126$) evaluated 15 mock social media posts on psychology topics (e.g., depression, trauma, or family) and rated their truthfulness and accuracy. Participants were randomly assigned to an accurate condition (80% accurate, 20% misinformation) or a misinformation condition (20% accurate, 80% misinformation). Posts also varied within-subjects, including credibility claims (e.g., "Don't believe me? Here's Pincus & Lukowitsky (2010), cited 1300 times...") or danger-everywhere themes (e.g., "It applies to a lot of different situations. Watch out for these people!").

We focused on a sub-factor of inequality-driven mistrust, specifically defensive processing (e.g., "If you put too much faith in what people tell you, you are likely to get hurt", $\alpha = .74$). Multiple regression analyses showed that defensive processing predicted greater misinformation acceptance. For danger-everywhere posts, this effect was significant ($b = .26$, $p = .017$), though condition did not moderate the effect ($p = .272$). For credibility-claim posts, defensive processing was again a significant predictor of misinformation acceptance ($b = .32$, $p = .005$), and participants in the misinformation condition showed higher acceptance ($b = .77$, $p = .040$). Moderation analyses suggested mistrust may play a stronger role when misinformation is less frequent. These results highlight defensive processing as a key factor in susceptibility to misinformation, particularly when posts employ credibility cues.

*POSTER

Speaker



Heather Perkins

Assistant Professor | Purdue University Northwest

Authors

Heather Perkins, Sophia Sullivan, Shin Loubriel, Alysen Roman

[55] Defensive Reactions to Prejudice as a Function of Feedback about Self and Ingroup

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Anti-bias training is often unsuccessful (Devine & Ash, 2022) because feedback that self or ingroup are prejudiced likely prompts defensiveness (Legault et al., 2011). We examine how White Americans who vary in internal motivation to control prejudice manage their identity in response to feedback that they and/or their racial group harbor anti-Black prejudice. We hypothesize that: (1) in the absence of feedback, motivated persons will endorse dismantling systems of discrimination; (2) when feedback is about the ingroup (but not self), motivated persons will distance self from ingroup; (3) when feedback is about self, motivated persons will deny and defend their prejudice particularly when feedback co-occurs about the ingroup. To test these ideas, we pre-measure motivation to control prejudice, have White participants complete a race IAT, randomly assign them feedback in a 2(self: no-feedback, anti-Black) x 2(white-Americans: no-feedback, anti-Black) design, and have them complete the 4-D (Defend, Deny, Distance, and Dismantle) scale (Shuman et al., 2024). We have thus far collected 454 of the planned 500 observations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sulaimon Kasali

Graduate Student | University of Tennessee Knoxville

Authors

Lowell Gaertner, Michael Olson

[56] Defying Stereotypes: Identity Transformation Through Photography in Adults with Congenital Visual Impairment

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Societal stereotypes often define blindness in terms of limitation, constraining both identity and perceived capability. Little research examines how contradicting such assumptions through lived experiences—succeeding in activities deemed “impossible”—shapes identity and purpose. We interviewed five adults with visual impairment who completed a professional photography course that challenged assumptions about vision-dependent skills and asked them about their identity, purpose, and meaning-making. Analysis revealed three patterns: (1) redefined self-knowledge, as participants reassessed their capabilities; (2) counter-narrative identity construction, as they developed new stories resisting disability stereotypes; and (3) expansive purpose development, marked by reimagined goals and futures. Participants described photography as transformative both through creative expression and the dissonance of succeeding at an “impossible” task, producing identity “breakthroughs.” Findings suggest structured experiences confronting disability stereotypes can catalyze identity and purpose transformation, offering new directions for disability psychology and rehabilitation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Garam Lee

Data Analyst & Researcher | Motivate Lab

Authors

Kwanwoo Lee

[57] Developing an Expanded Dimensional Measure of Trust

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Trust is crucial for fostering interpersonal cooperation and social harmony, but misplaced trust can lead to devastating consequences. Financial scams disproportionately target older adults, likely due to excessive trust. Although research suggests that older adults are more trusting than younger adults, the underlying reasons remain unclear—possibly due to limitations in existing trust measures. The present study addresses this gap by developing an Expanded Dimensional Measure of Trust (EDMT), which extends the existing Multi-Dimensional Measure of Trust—comprising Capacity and Moral Trust—by adding a third factor: Socioemotional Trust. Participants (n = 41) provided socioemotional words that characterize the people they trust. The top 30 most frequent words were rated by additional participants (n = 75). An iterative principal component analysis revealed the top four items in the socioemotional trust factor: caring, supportive, understanding, and considerate. By incorporating socioemotional dimensions, the EDMT enables a more nuanced understanding of trust that may offer critical insights into the unique vulnerabilities of older adults in today’s fraud-prevalent environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lauren Lilly

Ph.D. Student | The University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Daniel Krawczyk

[58] Development of Integrated Leader and Follower Identities: A Qualitative Exploration

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

In modern work contexts, one is often required to simultaneously be a leader and a follower (e.g., middle-level managers who must lead their subordinates while following executives). Leadership and followership are inherently interdependent and often conceptualized as opposites, as they each carry their own set of schemas and expectations. Thus, holding the identities of both leader and follower may present a sense of identity tension. The identity literature establishes that individuals may see their distinct identities as either “compatible” or “oppositional”, and that they may construct a third, unique sense of identity that integrates characteristics of both (Benet-Martínez & Haritatos, 2005). The present study examines whether and how individuals come to an integrated sense of self as leader and follower. This qualitative study includes interviews with 56 working adults, and aims to answer the question: What are the stories individuals tell themselves about who they are as leaders/followers and how they have come to an integrated leader-follower identity? Using both thematic and structural analysis, this study will identify common themes in leader identity development narratives and examine how the structure of these narratives may differ between those with integrated vs. partitioned (oppositional) leader and follower identities. Findings will contribute to a greater understanding of leader identity development, specifically the emerging concept of follower-leader identity integration, and provide a basis for creating leader development interventions based on personal narratives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura Ashlock

PhD Student | UC Riverside

Authors

Thomas Sy

[59] Differences in self-perceptions between college students who do and do not vape: An online cross-sectional study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Vape use is a public health concern among young adults, and often differs from other forms of nicotine use. Thus, interventions will need to be tailored to best support individuals in their journey towards cessation, such as considering the role of identity-related concerns that may be tied to vape use. We hypothesized that individuals who vape, compared to those who do not, would report lower self-esteem, higher self-alienation (i.e., disconnection from the self), and increased likelihood to report a concealable stigmatized identity (CSI). Undergraduates (N = 380) filled out measures of self-esteem, self-alienation, CSI status, and vape use. Participants who self-reported vape use were also asked to write about their journey of vape use (e.g., initiation, continued use). Results show that participants who vape reported higher self-esteem, lower self-alienation, an increased likelihood to self-report having a CSI, and described social reasons as a primary motivation for vape use. Taken together, the social connection tied to vape use, which may inform a person's view of themselves, may be a driver of vape use and should be a point of leverage in developing future interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kianna Arthur

Postdoctoral Fellow | Brown University

Authors

Lydia Needy, Morgan Peace, Summer Moser, Natalie Rodriguez

[60] OPEN

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

*POSTER

[61] Digital media use, loneliness, and exploration in a reward task among late adolescents

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Digital media is an essential aspect of our social lives, but its associations with loneliness and exploration are still not fully understood. We sought to clarify these effects by examining acute loneliness and behavior in a monetary reward task following a period of smartphone inaccessibility. Participants (N=54, 50% female; aged 19.7 ± 1.2) completed a loneliness questionnaire and a reward learning task once after a 24-hour period of digital media abstinence and again after using digital media as normal. A linear mixed-effects model assessed differences in state-level loneliness and win-shift behavior during the abstinence versus media use conditions.

Participants engaged in more exploration during the reward task in the media use condition compared to the abstinence condition ($\beta=29.40$, $p=.018$). Additionally, higher state-level loneliness was associated with greater exploration during the abstinence condition, but with decreased exploration during the media use condition ($\beta=-0.60$, $SE=0.24$, $t(58.83)=-2.45$, $p=.017$). We suggest that a lack of compensatory social stimulation among lonely individuals provided by smartphone use may drive increased explorative behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexis Bendi

Research Assistant | Temple University

Authors

Kristen Lindquist, Eva Telzer, Jessica Flannery

[62] Disconfirmation bias: Do people ever seek out disagreement?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Cognitive reflection problems are those for which most people come up with an answer that is intuitively compelling (but wrong) but some people come up with an answer that is counterintuitive (but correct). Trouche et al. (2014) asked participants to solve a cognitive reflection problem first on their own and then in groups. Most participants headed into group discussions with the wrong answer, but they listened to the other side's explanation and eventually changed their minds. It appears that "truth wins" when people who disagree about cognitive reflection problems are forced to come together, but it is not clear whether people would choose to come together. Thanks to confirmation biases, people may instead avoid those with whom they disagree. We will ask undergraduates to solve a cognitive reflection problem on their own, then ask them to choose whether to discuss the problem with another participant who agreed vs. disagreed with them. In addition to investigating whether most people seek out disagreement, we will explore the factors that drive them to do so. We speculate, for instance, that intellectually humble individuals will be most likely to seek out disagreement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Guo Qi

Graduate Student | University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Authors

Jeff Larsen, Qi Guo

[63] CANCELLED

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

*POSTER

[64] Do Different Mechanisms Drive Partisan Animosity towards the Left vs. Right?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Partisan animosity is bad, but why partisans hate each other is unclear. Since the left is more demographically diverse, we thought the reasons the left and right hate each other would differ. Threat and competition drive hatred of minoritized groups, suggesting these may be why the right hates the left. Because liberalism is defined as egalitarian and progressive, we expected perceptions of the right as powerful and harmful may drive animosity towards them. In a nationally representative sample (N=403), political ideology was strongly linked with animosity (r 's=.74, and .70, $ps<.001$). Threat, competition, and power exacerbated the link between politics and animosity (interaction β 's =.09 to .19, $ps<.001$). Harm mediated the politics-animosity link (indirect b (se)=.26(.03)95% CI [.19, .33]) for conservatives, and (indirect b (se)=.16(.02)95% CI [-.21, -.12]) for liberals. Thus, these group perceptions shape partisan animosity, but the reasons the left and right hate each other are the same. Follow up analyses probe whether patterns differ for ideological vs. cultural targets linked to the left and right. Ongoing studies test whether reducing harm perceptions reduces animosity.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Suzanne Parker**
Student | California State University, Bakersfield

Authors

Jake Womick

[65] Do I Fight with You Because We're Alike—or Because It's Right? Identity vs. Morality in Interminority Solidarity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

People of different marginalized identities have come together and brought about lasting change to the American landscape in instances such as the labor rights movements and Black Lives Matter. So far, these interminority coalitions are thought to arise from shared identity and shared discrimination experiences. When shared experiences, however, are not apparent, how can we foster interminority solidarity? In this study, we test the effectiveness of shared discrimination and moral violation as two distinct mechanisms to foster interminority solidarity. Asians Americans will be exposed to vignettes about recent Latino deportations framed in different ways. We tested the hypotheses that i. framing a minority outgroup's struggle as similar to the minority ingroup's struggles will foster interminority solidarity, and that ii. framing the outgroup's struggle as a moral violation will foster interminority solidarity even when the outgroup's discrimination is presented as dissimilar to the ingroup. We also explored the relative strength of the shared identity and the morality intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Celine Tsoi**
UC Santa Barbara

Authors

Nils Reimer

[66] Do social goals moderate the effect of brief mindfulness instruction on compassion and prosocial behavior?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Research on secular mindfulness practices has grown exponentially over the last three decades, finding benefits for personal and social well-being. Contemplative scholars have argued, however, that for the social benefits of mindfulness to be realized, meditation practices should be grounded in their original ethical framework. This study attempts to clarify if mindfulness itself promotes social well-being or if mindfulness interacts with ethics (i.e., one's current social goals) to predict social well-being. Undergraduates ($n = 274$) will listen to a real or sham mindfulness instruction prior to observing an ostensible person being ostracized in an online game. To manipulate social goals, the victim will be at fault for their own ostracism. For half the participants the ostracism victim will be excluded for no apparent reason. Participants will be invited to write emails to the ostensible Cyberball players, scored for helping and hurting. Three 2×2 factorial ANOVAs will be computed. If mindfulness predicts compassion and helping only for the non-burdensome victim, this will highlight the importance of grounding mindfulness in ethics to enhance social well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Grace Kinsky**
Graduate Student | Radford University

Authors

Dr. Daniel R. Berry

[67] Do they have your best interest in mind? The effect of advice in risky decisions.

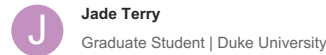
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Uncertainty plagues many everyday decisions, and social influence is often a common denominator. Social decision-making research has contributed key findings about self-other decision-making, particularly in monetary allocation tasks. However, less is known about the role of other social behaviors, such as advice giving/taking; in cases where uncertainty is high and a poor decision may have dire consequences, seeking advice is often encouraged. The current study uses eye-tracking to investigate how uncertainty and heuristics shape decision-making behavior. In this manipulation, advisors are given numerical information about the gambles, and provide advice on some trials for future advisees, who receive incomplete information about the gambles. Effects of the advice condition will be explored with the use of maximum likelihood estimates to approximate subject and group-level risk parameters for regression models. Further exploratory analysis will be conducted to determine whether individual differences modulate behavior. This paradigm entwines prior research in the fields of neuroeconomics and social psychology, and offers an expanded lens for thinking about everyday decisions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Iris Zhou

[68] Do we really want our politicians to be intellectually humble?

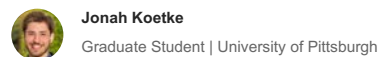
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

In the current work, we examined whether people think politicians should exhibit intellectual humility (IH) in two preregistered studies. Study 1 was a repeated measures experiment where participants reported their ideal level of IH for ingroup and outgroup politicians across different contexts. Participants thought outgroup politicians should be more intellectually humble than ingroup politicians, and thought ingroup (and to a lesser extent outgroup) politicians should be more intellectually humble in cooperative than competitive contexts. In Study 2, we randomly assigned participants to read about high or low IH politicians and measured warmth, competence, and voting intentions. We found that there was a significant impact of IH, but this was larger for outgroup politicians than ingroup politicians. We also asked participants to report their ideal and perceived IH of Joe Biden and Donald Trump, finding that people perceived higher IH for their ingroup than outgroup politician. These perceptions then predicted voting intentions. This work reveals the importance of IH as a component of political person perception.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Karina Schumann

[69] Does Ingroup Superiority Explain the Effects of the Internalized Model Minority Myth on Asian Americans' Attitudes Toward Black Americans?

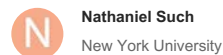
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

The Model Minority Myth is a social construct that presents Asian Americans as intelligent, successful, and hard-working. Past research has shown that Asian Americans' internalization of the Model Minority Myth has negative implications for their mental health (e.g., Yoo et al., 2015). More recently, researchers have shown that the Model Minority Myth also has negative implications for Asian Americans' intergroup attitudes toward Black Americans, as well (e.g., Yi & Todd, 2021). However, this work is correlational and does not account for theoretically plausible covariates. We propose that the relationship between the internalized Model Minority Myth and anti-Black attitudes is rooted in a more basic psychological process: Ingroup superiority. In an exploratory study with 104 monoracial Asian American participants, we found that ingroup superiority was associated with Achievement Orientation, a component of the internalized Model Minority Myth. After accounting for ingroup superiority, which was positively associated with anti-Black attitudes, there was no relationship with the internalized Model Minority Myth. The Model Minority Myth may serve to validate some Asian Americans' beliefs in ingroup superiority.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Shaun Wiley

[70] CANCELLED:

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

*POSTER

[71] Dual Forms of Teleological Reasoning in Judgements of Authenticity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Teleological reasoning holds that entities exist for specific purposes, suggesting a link between perceived purpose and perceived authenticity. The present study tested whether judgments of authenticity in others rely on two distinct forms of teleological reasoning: a perceived individual telos, relating to skills and passions, and a perceived universal telos, relating to the moral ideal of being a good human being. In a within-subjects experiment, 269 undergraduates read vignettes in which characters either maintained or abandoned a unique passion and acted either morally or immorally. After each vignette, participants made both "shallow" and "deep" authenticity judgments of the character. Results revealed main effects of both consistency and morality, as well as a three-way interaction: shallow authenticity judgments were shaped more by self-consistency information, whereas deep authenticity judgments were shaped more by morality information. These findings provide initial evidence for a layered model of teleological reasoning in which authenticity judgments draw on both individual and universal conceptions of human purpose.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephen Bender

Graduate Student | Texas A&M University

[72] CANCELLED:

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Dysfunctional individuation describes the maladaptive outcomes for identity, autonomy and relatedness following the separation-individuation processes, which is an iterative developmental process that is initiated by biographical transitions. Identity, autonomy and relatedness are the three domains of individuation. These domains are interrelated and work together to support psychological wellbeing. Minimal research has explored the presentation of dysfunctional individuation for adults after emerging adulthood. This study used qualitative and quantitative methods to develop knowledge into how adults (N=148) over the age of 30 describe their identity, autonomy and relatedness, and how these descriptions vary by levels of dysfunctional individuation. Identity, autonomy and relatedness were described through statements related to the participants' meaning making, outcomes of prior processes, traits and skills. As levels of dysfunctional individuation increased, participants tended to offer more negative descriptions of domains, increased statements about domain non-achievement and reported more references to maladaptive inter-relatedness amongst the domains.

*POSTER

[73] Echoes in the Chat: Conformity in AI-Simulated Political Majorities

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Do people conform when surrounded by a dominant political stance in a chat group with colleagues? We conducted an experiment with American participants (N = 180) assigned to a simulated workplace group chat populated by a few AI colleagues consistently expressing either liberal or conservative views on contentious political topics (e.g., guns, abortions, gender). Each participant engaged in several rounds of real-time text-based conversations. Stance alignment was coded by GPT-5 zero-shot stance detection and human rater on a unified scale from -2 (strongly liberal/strongly agree) to 2 (strongly conservative/strongly agree). Results revealed clear conformity: participants in liberal rooms expressed more liberal positions, while those in conservative rooms expressed more conservative positions. Coding agreement between GPT-5 and human ratings was observed to be reliably high. These findings provide evidence that in chat group-based social settings, when everyone around them voiced one side, participants echoed it, potentially creating a misleading impression of where the true majority lies in public opinion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cleone Mitsui

PhD Student | Osaka Metropolitan University

Authors

Yuta Kawamura

[74] Educating for Empathy: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Empathy Pedagogy in the US, Italy, Germany, and Ecuador

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Empathy is a primary driver of prosocial behavior, and a foundational skill for building close interpersonal relationships. Empathy has the power to motivate altruism towards those in need, foster connection in the midst of conflict, and even bridge racial, political, and geographic divides. The problem is, we don't empathize with all "others" equally. The empathy we are born with is directed primarily towards our ingroup, and empathic bias towards racial outgroup members has been clearly documented. Fortunately, it's possible to expand our circle of empathy and develop more "inclusive" empathy towards diverse groups.

Empathy is a skill that can be fostered in the classroom, and preliminary research suggests empathy training can provide a host of positive outcomes. This paper presents the results of a cross-cultural qualitative study exploring how schools in the US, Italy, Germany, and Ecuador foster empathy. In particular, practices aiming to promote "inclusive" empathy—that which includes outgroups on various dimensions such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, appearance, and species (ecological empathy)—are highlighted.

*POSTER

Speaker



AnnaLise Hoopes

Founder, Executive Director | The Changemaker Project

Authors

AnnaLise Hoopes

[75] Embodied Consequences of Identity Denial and Exclusion

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Multiracial and Multicultural people hold two or more racial/ethnic/cultural identities and are seen as non-prototypical members of monoracial and cultural groups. Multiracial and Multicultural people often face challenges to their identity when their observable features do not match perceiver expectations for their groups (e.g., skin tone, accent; "You don't look Asian"; Albuja et al., 2019). Appearance is a multidimensional construct encompassing racialized features, and dissatisfaction with these features is linked to poorer appearance satisfaction and overall well-being (e.g., Bond & Cash, 1992). Little research has examined how identity denial and exclusion may fuel stress surrounding appearance. In an online survey of Multiracial and Multicultural individuals, $N = 331$, we asked whether experiences of identity denial and exclusion predict phenotypic dissatisfaction. Results showed that both experiences of exclusion and identity denial significantly predicted phenotypic dissatisfaction. This work demonstrates that invalidation diminishes belonging and manifests in embodied consequences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sarah Osaro

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Brenda Straka

[76] Emotion Regulation as a Pathway to Identity Formation in Emerging Adults

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Developing a sense of identity is a central task of emerging adulthood, often shaped by negative experiences. One way people adjust with negative emotions is through cognitive reappraisal, a well-studied and adaptive emotion regulation strategy. Past research shows that reappraisal fosters purpose and coherent life narratives, key aspects of identity development. However, little is known about how reappraisal relates to identity development over time. To address this gap, we examined whether trait cognitive reappraisal use predicts identity development in a two-wave cross-lagged panel model. 1,628 undergraduates participated in a longitudinal online study, and completed two waves of surveys nine months apart, reporting on their emotion regulation strategy use and identity statuses. Results showed that reappraisal use at T1 predicted more adaptive identity outcomes at T2, specifically greater commitment making, identification with commitments, and exploration in breadth. These findings suggest that emotion regulation plays a key role in fostering healthy identity formation and may inform interventions that support adolescents and young adults in navigating identity development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alex Le

Stanford

Authors

Jamil Zaki

[77] Emotional predictors of political attitudes in a zero-sum context

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Starting in 2012, people are disliking their political outgroup more than they are liking their political ingroup. Does this asymmetry in behaviors extend to emotions? Are people's emotional responses to ingroup losses the same as an outgroup wins? Participants were recruited after the 2022 Midterm elections before it was known which political party would control the House and Senate. Participants indicated 14 emotions in response to their preferred party losing control in the House/Senate in 2 prompts: How would it make you feel if [your party LOST/ the [Outgroup party] WON]? Participants felt significantly more bitterness, anxiety, fear, as well as less empathy and compassion, when thinking about their political outgroup winning compared to their political ingroup losing, $F(13, 3367) = 52.79$, $p < .001$. Furthermore, feeling more violence when thinking about political outgroups winning compared to the ingroup losing was related to less trust, forgiveness, and interest in cooperation as well as more violence and hindrance. I replicated these results in a follow-up study with participants imagining the 2028 presidential election.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sa-kiera Hudson

Assistant Professor | University of California Berkeley Haas School of Business

Authors

Sa-kiera Hudson

[78] Emotions and Action around the 2024 Election – Explanations and Future Predictions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Substantial research has examined people's support for certain forms of activism in the context of social movements and the role of emotions in shaping political preferences (Thomas et al., 2009; Iyer et al., 2007; Shuman et al., 2022). The present research elicited written narratives and responses to survey measures from 146 undergraduate students to examine their appraisals of the results of the 2024 US presidential election. Democratic identification predicted a decreased faith in the American public's ability to act as an engaged and informed citizenry ($r = -.61, p < .001$); increased anger toward the Republican party, its candidate, non-voters, and the American public ($r = .77, p < .001$); and support for all types of protest tactic, with the relationship between liberal identification and support for non-normative tactics being slightly stronger ($r = .52, p < 0.001$) than normative tactics ($r = .22, p = .007$). Republican identification predicted increased faith in the American public's voting habits ($r = .62, p < .001$); increased hatred toward the Democratic candidate and Democratic voters ($r = .36, p < .001$); and decreased support for normative protest action ($r = -.48, p < .001$). These and other findings will be examined in relation to personal narratives about participants' emotional and rational analyses of the election and their beliefs about the future.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Brandt

Research Assistant at Environmental Decision Making Lab | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Brian Lickel

[79] Empathy, Loneliness, and Political Identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

This research aims to better understand the relationship between empathy choice, loneliness, and political identity and policy preferences, which we do through an original survey experiment with four conditions. We utilize the empathy selection task and vignettes to test and measure empathy choice, and to elicit loneliness. We also test attitudes towards politicians, political groups, and support for different policies. At the time of submission, we have yet to finish data analysis, but data collection is nearly completed. We expect to find increased levels of isolation will increase willingness to empathize with others; willingness to empathize will predict stronger partisan identity; and stronger artisans will be more supportive of anti-democratic legislation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lauren O'Rourke

Graduate Student | University of Arizona

Authors

Lauren O'Rourke, Dave Bracken

[80] Environmental Predictors of Delay Discounting: Results from a correlational study in Chicago

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Individual variations in impulsive decision-making stem from a combination of genetic, biological, and environmental influences. Delay discounting (DD), the devaluation of future outcomes, is one of the critical components of decision-making. Lower SES has consistently been linked to steeper discounting, reflecting a stronger preference for immediate, smaller rewards over delayed, larger rewards. Emerging evidence suggests that environmental exposures, such as heat, limited greenery, and air pollution (PM2.5), may impair cognitive function and increase impulsive choice. Further, some studies have shown that higher PM2.5 exposure predicts steeper DD. However, whether this is the case with other environmental factors remains unclear. This study investigated how SES and multiple environmental factors jointly predict delay discounting. Participants were recruited for an EMA study in Chicago ($n = 395$) in which discounting was assessed using the Kirby Delay Discounting Scale, with the percentage of immediate rewards chosen out of total trials used as the outcome variable. Predictors included participant-level income bracket and home heat exposure, as well as neighborhood-level measures of heat, air quality/PM2.5, and greenspace. Regression analysis revealed that SES significantly predicted discounting: a higher income bracket was associated with a lower proportion of immediate reward choices ($\text{Beta} = -0.15, p < .01$). However, analyses of environmental factors (heat stress, air quality, and greenspace) showed no significant associations with delay discounting. The unexpected absence of direct effects from environmental factors such as greenery, heat, and air quality suggests complex, context-dependent influences. Future research should explore potential mediating factors or alternative measurement approaches.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sanaz Dorri Sedeh

Graduate student (Phd Student) | Washington state univeresity

Authors

Andrew J. Stier, Kathryn E Schertz, Marc G Berman, Kimberly L Meidenbauer

[81] Epistemic Hypervigilance: When do we scrutinize others' motives for sharing information?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Accompanying the rise in US partisan polarization is a rise in misinformation. People must practice epistemic vigilance: paying cautious attention to new information. One mode of epistemic vigilance is goal attribution: strategically wondering, why did this person share this information? But the decision to make an effortful goal attribution may be motivated by political group affiliations. If people are more inclined to make effortful goal attributions for outgroup (versus ingroup) information sharers, this may endanger epistemic vigilance, as they may be more accepting of misinformation from their ingroup, and skeptical of true information from their outgroup. In Study 1 (n=594), using fake Twitter/X profiles, we found that people made more effortful goal attributions for outgroup (versus ingroup) sharers of identical politically-neutral information. Study 2 probed 176,800 Reddit posts from 32 weeks prior to the 2020/2024 presidential elections; using natural language processing, we found that outgroup goal attributions increased as elections approached. This work reveals an underexplored attributional bias with implications for intergroup threat, censorship, and misinformation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenna Landy

Graduate Student | New York University

Authors

Jenna Landy, Emily Balcetis

[82] Evaluating Non-Moral Passions and the Experience of Authenticity within the Integrity-Fluency Model

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Previous research on perceptions of the true self and authenticity has largely emphasized morally valenced activities or traits. Does engaging in non-moral passions, particularly harmonious passions, also foster authenticity? The Integrity-Fluency Model (IFM; Hicks et al., in press) posits that two cues, self-integrity (i.e., acting consistently with deeply held values) and experiential fluency (i.e., ease in a situation), elicit the feelings of authenticity. In this study, participants will be randomly assigned to one of three conditions in which they will reflect on and write about a harmonious passion, obsessive passion, or a simple routine (control), followed by a series of measures of authenticity and relevant constructs. We hypothesize that harmonious passions, those autonomously chosen and integrated into one's self-concept, will lead to greater experiences of subjective authenticity and self-integrity compared to obsessive passions and routines, while both passion conditions increase experiential fluency. This study contributes empirical support for the IFM and extends the understanding of authenticity to non-moral domains, an area lacking currently in the literature.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elaine Broussard

Research Assistant | Texas A&M University - Psychological and Brain Sciences

Authors

Joshua Hicks, Lydia Needy

[83] Examining an Important Assumption in the Faultline Literature

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Group faultlines are defined as hypothetical dividing lines that split a team into subgroups based aligned attributes. While early research examined dormant or potential faultlines, recent work has highlighted perceived subgroups. Yet most studies still emphasize between-subgroup relationships, assuming that "team members form homophilous ties on either side of a faultline by associating with others in the team who have similar attributes" (Ren et al., 2015, p. 390)—an assumption that remains untested.

Drawing on social comparison theory's "similarity hypothesis," we argue that subgroup members may compare more with each other than with outsiders, and that such comparisons can generate within-subgroup conflict (rather than between subgroups, as is typically assumed). Extending faultline research that distinguishes between identity-based and knowledge-based subgroups, we propose that members of identity-based subgroups are especially likely to compare popularity with one another, whereas members of knowledge-based subgroups more often compare competence. These within-subgroup comparisons can trigger within-subgroup competition and conflict.

Using multi-wave, round-robin data from 142 full-time employees across 27 work teams, we found support for our predictions: perceived subgroups fostered within-subgroup competition and conflict. We conclude by outlining implications for future faultline research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zhiya (Alice) Guo

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor | Utah State University - Jon M. Huntsman School of Business

Authors

Yimin He, Rui Zhong

[84] Examining Suboptimal Decision-Making in High-Stakes Resource Allocation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

How do people navigate complex trade-offs when allocating scarce resources, and when do they avoid deciding altogether? In a preregistered study, participants allocated organ transplants across patient profiles that varied in deservingness and health responsibility. Participants could also opt out of deciding, which delayed allocation and increased the risk for the patients. Using behavioral choices, eye-tracking, and cognitive modeling, we test how attention and decision processes shape both allocation choices and decision deferral. Conjoint analyses estimate the weight participants assign to patient features, while regression models link choice-set characteristics and individual differences (indecisiveness, maximization) to opt-out behavior. Our results aim to illuminate the psychological processes that underlie decision-making in high-stakes contexts when people defer difficult trade-offs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Madison Monroe-Mohajerin

Graduate Student | Duke University

Authors

Scott Huettel, Sophie Thomsen, Clare Lee

[85] Examining the Relations Between Educational Censorship Laws Affecting High School Curricula and the Ethnic-Racial Identity Development of Youth of Color

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Research shows that when schools affirm students of color's racial and cultural identities through inclusive curricula, it promotes stronger ethnic-racial identity (ERI) and greater well-being. However, in recent years, over 30 U.S. states have introduced or passed educational censorship laws that restrict what public schools can teach about race, gender, and sexual orientation. This study examined whether censorship laws shape students' experiences of school racial climate and ERI development. Participants were 299 18–19-year-olds of color who recently completed high school in states with active censorship laws, proposed but failed censorship bills, or no such proposed legislation. They completed measures of school racial climate and ERI. Results showed no significant differences across policy contexts. However, students who were more aware of the spread of educational censorship laws reported experiencing greater stereotyping from teachers and in their school materials, lower positive ERI regard, and more engagement in critical action. Since these laws are recent, future research should track the development of awareness and its implications.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Biamonte

Undergraduate student | College of the Holy Cross

Authors

Alexander Browman

[86] Exploring backlash effects to rising gender equality among Gen Z men around the globe

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Gains in gender equality have been made in recent decades in many regions. Concurrently, increasing attention is being paid to rising gaps between young men and women in sexist attitudes and political conservatism. Drawing on system justification theory and intergroup threat theory, we hypothesize that increasing opportunities for women may trigger backlash among young men due to zero-sum perceptions that their own professional prospects have been reduced. Our analyses of nationally representative surveys of more than 90,000 individuals from 66 countries support this hypothesis, particularly in more gender-equal societies. However, it remains unknown whether gaps have increased over time and are more pronounced in countries with more rapidly improving equality. To address this, we conducted multilevel analyses across five waves of data collected in more than 100 countries dating back to 1995. We also tested whether young men with greater psychological and material resources may be more resilient to backlash responses. Our findings provide global cross-level insight into ironic reductions in egalitarianism among those who perceive themselves to be victims of improving societal conditions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Evelyn Do

University of Missouri

Authors

Erin P. Hennes (University of Missouri)

[87] Exploring ethnic identity, racialization, and psychological well-being among US-born Arab Americans

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Bicultural identity development in Arab Americans, who must manage sometimes conflicting cultural expectations, is understudied. Even less is known about Arab Americans born in the United States (US-born AA), who are American by birth yet are alienated from society due to differences between their 'white' racialization and their cultural identities. The current study aimed to examine the relationship between bicultural identity, racialization, and psychological well-being at the intersection of co-existing identities. Eight adult US-born AAs (M=28 years, SD=4) were recruited for semi-structured interviews analyzed with interpretative phenomenological analysis. Participants reported being misperceived by mainstream America, feeling erased by racialization, and being hypervigilant due to physical and psychological safety concerns. They also described their cultural values as protective against the negative effects of discrimination and often leveraged their ethnic visibility to find community. Findings illustrate the complexity of biculturalism and contextualize how participants make sense of their bicultural identity. Interventions tailored to this population may benefit from strategies aimed at increasing bicultural identity integration.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hisham Nsier

Loyola Chicago

Authors

Will Beischel, Scott Leon, Byron Brooks

[88] Exploring Power, SES, and Attribution

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

People tend to take credit when they feel powerful (Lammers & Burgmer, 2019). However, subjective socioeconomic status (SSS) may shift how individuals perceive who gets credit. To test this idea, we preregistered an experiment to test whether a memory recall of power or powerlessness changes internal attributions, and if this effect is dependent on SSS. After individuals self-report their SSS using MacArthur's ladder (Adler et al., 2000), participants will be randomly assigned to recall a specific, high or low influence episode in their life. They will then indicate "who contributed more" and "who had more influence" on the outcome, and rate how positive or negative the outcome of the situation was. We will analyze results using moderated regression procedures and predict an interaction such that high-power (vs. low-power) recall yields greater internal attribution at higher SSS, but little to no increase at lower SSS. We aim to target the gap of how low SSS individuals, who, on balance, tend to explain outcomes through external constraints, encounter a state of high power where people, on average, make more internal attributions on outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mckinley Almeida

Student | University of Arkansas

[89] Exploring the Connection Between Self-Criticism, Self-Concealment, and Belonging Among Black Women at an HBCU

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Black women (BW) face societal pressures to appear strong, resilient, and flawless, often leading to self-critical tendencies. Self-criticism, a personality trait involving negative self-evaluation, is related to interpersonal concerns and reduced belonging. Cognitive-evolutionary frameworks suggest self-concealment may mediate the relationship between self-criticism and belonging. Although BW at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) report more social support than at Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs), they still face gendered racial microaggressions, which can impact self-criticism and belonging. The relationship between these variables among BW at HBCUs has not been explored. This study analyzes secondary data from Black female students (n=259) at an HBCU using Andrew Hayes' PROCESS to test self-criticism as a predictor of belonging and estimate mediating and moderating effects of self-concealment. Findings will determine whether HBCUs mitigate maladaptive patterns of self-criticism or clarify if these patterns persist for BW even in racially affirming spaces. Implications will inform theory and culturally responsive interventions that support BW's well-being at HBCUs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mireya Smith

PhD Student | Texas A&M

Authors

Charles Ridley, Timothy Lawrence

[90] Exploring the structure and predictors of political ideology in the United States

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Researchers in political psychology have long debated whether ideology is sufficiently conceptualized as a unidimensional continuum or whether multiple dimensions are needed. To this end, using data from the 2000, 2004, and 2006 ANES data sets, Feldman & Johnston (2017) demonstrated that one dimension was insufficient and that two dimensions (social and economic) provide a better explanation for political ideology in the U.S. Furthermore, these researchers also demonstrated the utility of these two dimensions by showing that each is predicted by different personality level variables such as need for cognition, authoritarianism, and religiosity. A question remains, however, about whether the conclusions of this work hold up given the changes in the political environment in the U.S. since the original data was collected. Specifically, given the increase in polarization since the early 2000s, has the structure of ideology changed to more closely fit the unidimensional conceptualization? If so, how have the predictors of this continuum changed? The current research seeks to answer these questions by replicating the analyses of the original work using more recent years of the ANES.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Wisneski

Associate Professor | Saint Peter's University

Authors

Brittany Hanson

[91] Extreme Partisanship, Political Violence, and the Denial of Human Rights

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Democracy relies on the protection of human rights. However, public willingness to restrict these rights has become increasingly visible, and violations continue to be observed in the U.S. Our previous data, collected from Trump Inauguration attendees (N=164), Kansas Solidarity Fest attendees and KU Feminists (N=173), and representative samples (N=2,319), show that individuals on the right of the political spectrum are most willing to deny human rights. However, we find associations between extreme partisanship and the denial of certain rights (e.g., left-leaning vs right-leaning rights) on both sides of the political spectrum, as well as some support for political violence. We continue our research in a new representative sample (N=600), further exploring extreme left and right partisanship, human/civil rights denial, and support for political violence (e.g., regarding abortion clinics, tesla dealerships, Charlie Kirk). We consider whether approval of violence is associated with chaos/nihilism or partisan ideology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kelly Swanson

Ph.D. Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Christian Crandall

[92] FOLK THINKING, FAST AND SLOW: INTUITIVE PREFERENCE FOR DELIBERATION IN HUMANS AND MACHINES

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Influential models conceive human thinking as an interplay between intuition and deliberation. Yet,

it's unclear how people actually perceive these types of reasoning. Across 13 studies (total N = 3066), we examined whether humans—and large language models (LLMs)—favor intuition or deliberation. Participants rated individuals' reasoning quality in short vignettes that varied by reasoning type (fast-intuitive vs. slow-deliberative) and past accuracy (high, low, unspecified). Consistently, participants rated deliberative reasoning as superior to intuition, regardless of accuracy. Deliberative thinkers were seen as smarter and more trustworthy—a preference that held even under time pressure and cognitive load, suggesting it arises intuitively. Studies with LLMs (ChatGPT 3.5 and 4) replicated the human preference pattern, indicating that AI language models capture human folk beliefs about reasoning. These findings suggest a strong intuitive link between deliberation and reliability, with critical implications for public trust in human and AI recommendations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wim De Neys

CNRS - Université de Paris

Authors

Wim De Neys, Matthieu Raelison

[93] Free Speech Matters... Until My Boss Says Otherwise

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This study examined the effect of moral versus pragmatic goals, perceived peer support, and personal free speech attitudes on individuals' decisions to cancel a controversial campus speaker. Participants were told a potentially controversial speaker was coming to campus. Before the event, participants read the speakers opinions and decided whether to allow the event to continue. Participants were told either to do what they felt was morally right or to make the controversy go away. Then, participants were told either 90% or 10% of the student body were in favor of the event being cancelled. Participants read opinions on the following four topics: Transatheletes, Israel Hamas War, DEI hiring, and Red Pill Philosophy. Participants then indicated how offensive, psychologically harmful, physically harmful, and misleading they viewed the opinions to be. Finally, participants filled out the Freedom of Speech Index from Zakharin & Bates (2024). Results showed main effects of goals, perceived peer support, and free speech attitudes. These main effects were qualified by interactions between goals and perceived peer support as well as between goals and free speech attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Connor Marshall

Graduate Assistant | University of South Florida

Authors

Mark Pezzo

[94] From Black Box to Blueprint: A Scalable Text Analysis Pipeline for Identifying Active Ingredients in Affirmation Writing

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LANGUAGE

Self-affirmation interventions, particularly values affirmation writing exercises, have demonstrated potential for improving well-being, reducing stress, and narrowing achievement gaps across diverse contexts. However, the psychological mechanisms underlying their effectiveness remain poorly understood, in part because most research treats the content of affirmation writing as a "black box," relying solely on condition-based comparisons rather than systematically analyzing what participants actually express. This project addresses this gap by developing and validating a scalable text analysis pipeline that leverages large language models (LLMs)-based natural language processing (NLP) and advanced to extract and quantify key psychological constructs and "affirmativeness"—from affirmation essays. By applying this pipeline to new and existing datasets, we identify the active components of affirmation writing that predict positive outcomes such as stress reduction, identity protection, and context-dependent "dampening" effects. The pipeline is designed to be accessible to researchers with varying technical backgrounds and adaptable to different languages and cultural contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuntian Deng

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Authors

Kevin Binning

[95] From Comparison to Action: The Consequences of Exposure to History

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Proposed legislation claims exposure to U.S. history that outlines systemic racism causes psychological harm to privileged groups for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race. This study investigated how White people are personally affected when exposed to depictions of racial inequity from the perspective of a Black person. To test potential outcomes, the concepts of social comparison and collective action were applied, specifically focusing on how assimilating to an outgroup member who has experienced a negative historical outcome may lead to attitudes that endorse justice for outgroup members. Using a 2 (social comparison: assimilation vs. contrast) x 2 (outcome: positive vs. negative) design, White participants primed to assimilate to a Black target who experienced a negative outcome reported greater self-esteem, lower perceptions of injustice, and greater prosocial intentions than those primed to contrast to a target who experienced a negative outcome. Findings suggest that feeling similar to an outgroup member who is perceived as resilient in the face of injustice may paradoxically benefit the self and individual others while failing to benefit society.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sherika Caliste

Doctoral Student | University at Buffalo

Authors

Mark Seery

[96] From Identity to Inequality: How Appraisals Inform Social Judgment

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

How we appraise our racial identities, as sources of strength or sources of stress, can shape how we see ourselves, others, and society. This study examined how racial identity appraisals influence perceptions of inequality and intergroup dynamics, as well as evaluations of individuals in professional contexts. Black (N = 296) and White (N = 300) Americans first reported on identity appraisals, perceived income inequality, discrimination, and intergroup anxiety. SEM analyses showed that for White Americans, resource appraisals predicted greater awareness of inequality and discrimination, while demand appraisals were unrelated. Then, participants evaluated a job applicant who was randomly identified as either Black (Jamal Jenkins) or White (James Sullivan) through a letter of recommendation. Identity appraisals once again shaped participants' responses. Among White Americans, higher resource appraisals were associated with more favorable evaluations of the Black applicant. In contrast, among Black Americans, higher resource appraisals were linked to less favorable evaluations of the Black applicant. For demand appraisals, White Americans who viewed their racial identity as more demanding evaluated the Black applicant more negatively. Findings highlight how cognitive appraisals of social identity can shape both perceptions of intergroup processes and interpersonal judgments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karishma Singh

PhD Student | University of Rochester

Authors

Jeremy Jamieson, Jonathan Gordils

[97] Generational Historical Reflexivity: A psychometric, experimental and applied examination

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Generational Historical Reflexivity (GHR) is the recognition of oneself as historically situated within a generational lineage, shaped by inherited social conditions and positioned to transform future realities. Across three studies, we examine its theoretical, empirical, and practical significance. First, a psychometric study (N=1000) supports a two-factor structure: historical causality and generational responsibility with strong reliability and validity. Second, an experiment (N=500) tests GHR's role in predicting problem-based views of inequality, expansive political vision, and attitudes toward diverse social actions. Third, a collaboration with a racial justice group explores how shifts in GHR relate to political engagement. Together, these studies suggest GHR is a powerful tool for understanding and fostering critical consciousness, political imagination, and intergenerational solidarity in both research and practice

*POSTER

Speaker



Ali Javeed

Ph.D Student | New York University

Authors

John Jost, Ali Javeed

[98] Generativity, Loneliness, and the Mediating Role of Prosocial Behavior

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Despite research showing that older adults engage more frequently in prosocial behaviors and report lower loneliness than younger generations, the underlying mechanisms remain unclear. Drawing from Erikson's developmental theory, this study investigated whether prosocial behavior mediates the relationship between generativity—concern for establishing and guiding the next generation—and loneliness among middle-aged and older adults.

This cross-sectional study utilized data from an online survey conducted in September 2024. The analytic sample comprised 334 participants aged 40 and above who completed validated measures of prosocial behavior frequency, generativity concerns, and loneliness levels. Structural equation modeling was conducted using R's lavaan package.

Results revealed that prosocial behavior frequency was negatively associated with loneliness and significantly mediated the relationship between generativity and loneliness, suggesting that generativity fosters helping behaviors that subsequently reduce loneliness. These findings indicate that achieving generativity and engaging in prosocial activities may help alleviate loneliness and promote social integration in later life.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aya Toyoshima

Shimane University

Authors

Nagisa Sasaki

[99] Disconfirmation bias: Do people ever seek out disagreement?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

*POSTER

Speaker



Guo Qi

Graduate Student | University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Authors

Jeff Larsen, Qi Guo

[100] Getting Involved in a Society Breaking Down: The Link Between Anomie and (Non)Normative Political Actions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Recent studies indicate a link between anomie, i.e., the perceived breakdown of society, and nonnormative, e.g., illegal, political actions. However, less is known about how anomie relates to normative political actions and what explains its relationship with political engagement more broadly. In three experiments (U.S., total N = 492) and a nationally representative sample from Germany (N = 1,624), we tested how anomie may have consequences for normative political actions. As hypothesized, anomie decreases intentions to engage in normative actions via perceived (1) political uncontrollability and (2) ineffectiveness of normative political actions. Second, anomie increases the perceived effectiveness of nonnormative political actions, predicting greater readiness to engage in them. Finally, we find some, but inconsistent, evidence that the link between anomie and nonnormative action may be better explained sequentially by lack of control and political uncertainty, indicating that such actions may reflect a quest for significance and meaning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasper Neerdaels

Post-Doc | KU Leuven

Authors

Jasper Neerdaels, Ali Teymoori

[101] Happy to help: Feeling successful and self-efficacious at helping prompts attention to sad faces

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Attention to sad faces has been described as characteristic of sad emotional states and in particular of depression. In contrast, non-sad observers appear to avoid allocating attention to sad faces presumably because it feels aversive to look at them. Will non-sad observers then never pay attention to sad faces? Here we suggest that feeling positive about and capable of helping others will cause an attentional bias to sad faces because it makes people motivated to and capable of looking at others' suffering. To investigate this possibility, we asked participants to recall an instance where they helped another person or where they failed to help (a control condition). Before and after this manipulation, participants performed a dot probe task measuring attention to sad faces in comparison to neutral faces. Replicating previous research, participants in both conditions were inattentive to sad faces at baseline. After the manipulation, only participants who had recalled successful helping behavior and felt self-efficacious raised attention to sad faces. These findings suggest that activating prosocial motivations increases attention to other people in need, but not when reminding people of their shortcomings in prosocial behavior. This approach opens a new avenue for research looking into the role of attentional processes in prosocial actions highlighting the role of feeling positive and able to help and to look at others' suffering.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Vogt

Associate Professor of Psychology | University of Reading

[102] Harmful Bystander Intervention? Predictors of Bystander Harm in Sexual Assault Situations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Research on bystander intervention has long shown that bystanders often fail to help others (Latané & Darley, 1970), but less is known about whether they actively contribute to harm. This study investigated predictors of harmful bystander behavior in sexual assault situations. We hypothesized that adherence to toxic masculine norms, past objectification and sexual assault perpetration, and hostile sexism would predict harmful bystander behavior. Participants were 162 men who completed baseline measures of masculine norms (e.g., power over women), perpetration history, and hostile sexism, then entered a virtual house party. Participant's verbal responses to men's unwanted sexual advances toward women were coded for harm (0 = absent, 1 = present). Bivariate analyses showed positive associations between masculinity, perpetration history, hostile sexism, and harm; however, binomial regression revealed that only hostile sexism uniquely predicted harm. These findings suggest that men's misogynistic attitudes, rather than general masculinity or perpetration history, most strongly escalate sexual risk situations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Malousek

Graduate Student | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Authors

Sarah Gervais, David DiLillo, Lucia Fetkenhour, Theresa Ngan Nguyen

[103] Harmony in Earnings, Bliss in Love?: Social-class Stereotypes within context of close relationships

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Do people believe that similar financial situations matter in relationship decisions? The debate between love and money has been endless, yet some literature implies that the rising perception that not only financial resources itself, but also the similarity of them are essential for a happy relationship may prevent people's relationship transitions. The major concern is that this social perception can conflict with actual desires. People, including romantic partners, have a basic need for connection (Baumeister & Leary, 1995), and intimate relations play a crucial role in well-being (Myers & Diener, 1995). Additionally, despite relationship status becoming conditional, people are reluctant to break-up once they are in one, given the emotional pain accompanied with dissolution (Rhoades et al., 2011). In light of this, the perpetuating belief that money equals happy relationships can carry potential disadvantages to modern people in two ways. First, it can lead to unwanted breakups due to extra hesitation for major relationship transitions (i.e., marriage). Second, it can contribute to singles' low well-being by closing the door for potential chances of relationships. Nevertheless, there has been little attempt to investigate social-class-based stereotypes within romantic contexts and how they influence people's relationship decisions. Thus, the present research aims to take the very first step. That is, the current study will be a holistic exploration of people's stereotypes regarding a couple's socioeconomic status, with a primary focus on the inequality and level of SES. Gender differences, and their interaction with SES, will also be examined.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sooyeon Park

Doctoral Student | University of Florida

[104] Honesty Online: How Self-Concept Clarity Shapes Self-disclosure and Well-Being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Individuals with high self-concept clarity (SCC)—a stable, consistent self-view—tend to show greater psychological adjustment and well-being. Self-concept and self-disclosure are closely linked, as people shape their self-views by sharing personal information and observing others' reactions. While online self-disclosure is especially abundant and flexible today, few studies have examined how it may transmit the effects of SCC on psychological outcomes, such as well-being. This study explores whether self-disclosure valence, honesty, and amount are mechanisms that help explain the association between SCC and well-being. Analyses of correlational data (N=804 Cloud Research) show that honesty significantly mediated this association: higher SCC was linked to more honest online self-disclosure, which in turn predicted greater life satisfaction and well-being. We also found that lower SCC was associated with perceiving Facebook as a safer and more beneficial space for self-disclosure than in-person settings. Thus, although individuals with low SCC may gravitate toward online self-disclosure, they may not fully reap its psychological benefits due to lower honesty in their disclosures.

*POSTER

Speaker



Helen Wanqi Zhang

Full-time Research Associate | UCLA Anderson School of Management

Authors

Alexandros Nikolaidis-Konstas, Jessica Good

[105] How Accents Alter Sentence Meaning

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LANGUAGE

Since the Industrial Revolution, people have been moving for work more than ever before, making societies increasingly racially and ethnically diverse. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted changes in the economy and work arrangements, enabling many to work remotely, even from abroad. As a result, our communities will continue to diversify, and opportunities to interact—both in person and virtually—with people from different cultures will increase. Research indicates that accent is a fundamental and unique dimension of social perception, similar to sex and age. Accents carry more weight than race in shaping children's social preferences and exert a stronger influence than physical appearance in determining adults' ethnic categorizations. Unfortunately, some studies suggest that non-native accents may trigger broad negative stereotypes, irrespective of specific ethnic or national associations. These findings raise an important question: how does hearing someone speaking with an accent different from our own influence the way we think? To explore this, I turn to Construal-Level Theory, a theory that explains psychological distance. This theory suggests that the further or less similar something or someone is to us, the more abstractly we construe them. Conversely, when something is closer or more similar, we form a more concrete understanding of it. To begin answering my question about accents, I aim to test whether they influence our interpretation of language. Does hearing a sentence spoken in a non-native accent alter the way we interpret it?

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrea Zavala

Research Assistant | New York University

Authors

Yaacov Trope

[106] How do group-oriented traits relate to college students' democratic attitudes?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Typically, research suggests that age relates to political ideology such that youth are more liberal than older people (Glen, 1974). However, recent research suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic and social media increased the popularity of right-wing ideology among European college students (Vinocur & Goury-Laffont, 2024). The present research measured a similar phenomenon among American college students with attention toward democratic attitudes and group-oriented traits including social dominance orientation (SDO) and collective narcissism. SDO describes the belief that one's societal group surpasses other groups, and collective narcissism describes extreme belief in the superiority of one's group. The survey recruited 102 students through SONA from April 3rd to April 15th, 2025. Participants completed a random order of predictor variables, like SDO, followed by a random order of outcome variables. We found that National Collective Narcissism positively correlated with political efficacy and voting interest, but SDO negatively correlated with civic attitudes and willingness to engage with government officials.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca Sutton

Authors

Joy Losee, Emily Antognoli, Stephen Boerger

[107] How Ethnic-Racial and Socioeconomic Identities Intersect to Affect College Student's Well-Being

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

This research investigates the effects of how Black and Latinx students conceptualize their intersectional identities on well-being. While a positive ethnic-racial identity (ERI) can support well-being, this study examines how ERI may interact with or depend on positive or negative feelings about one's socioeconomic identity. Study 1 (N=108) found an association between a positive ERI and well-being, especially for students with a positive socioeconomic identity. Study 2 (N=54) randomly assigned students to cue positive or negative aspects of both their ERI and socioeconomic identity. An interaction effect revealed desirable effects of a positive socioeconomic identity on well-being, but only for those who were also cued to a positive (rather than negative) ERI. Qualitative reflections within the experiment revealed that students often described race and socioeconomic status as deeply intertwined. However, interpretations and effects of one dimension depended systematically on how students experienced the other.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rebecca Lawrence

PhD Candidate | Northwestern University

Authors

Mesmin Destin

[108] How Group Member Role and Personality Impact Reactions to Success and Failure

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Individuals and groups tend to attribute successes to themselves and failures to external factors. These self- and group-serving biases help protect and boost one's self-esteem. This study aims to replicate and expand upon previous research by investigating how group biases and self-esteem relate to two variables: one's role within the group (follower or leader) and one's personality traits.

Each participant was assigned to be a leader or follower within a group of three. They worked in-person on a puzzle task. The success or failure of a group was determined by the manipulation of puzzle difficulty.

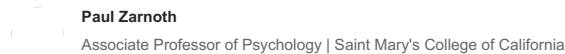
Leaders and followers gave one another roughly equal credit for success; however, followers blamed leaders more for failure. Leaders and followers experienced similar increases in SSES (self-esteem) after experiencing success; however, leaders had a larger drop in SSES than followers in the failure condition.

In the success condition, individuals with more neuroticism rated external factors as more important to the outcome. Meanwhile, individuals higher in conscientiousness attributed success more to their leaders and the group.

Implications for work teams will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Paul Zarnoth

Associate Professor of Psychology | Saint Mary's College of California

Authors

Daniel Vasilyev, Jerin Philip, Zane Waterman, Ania Metkowski

[109] How History Shapes Perception: Understanding Different Conceptualizations of Native American Identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Due to settler colonial endeavors, Native American people have faced a history of removal from ancestral lands and attempts at total elimination. The impacts of these endeavors have led the general US population to have varying exposure to authentic contemporary Native American people, depending on the sociopolitical histories of the geographic region. This research explored how these unique histories impact non-Natives' perceptions of Native American identity. A total of 137 participants were collected from Indiana (a removal state), Arizona (a reservation state with low Native/non-Native overlap), and Oklahoma (a reservation state with high Native/non-Native overlap). They were asked to complete a two-item free-response survey regarding their expectations about Natives. Using thematic analysis, we were able to compare prevalent themes from each state. Our findings indicate that while no state is truly unique, each state's responses were indicative of its relationship with natives, each offering a different perspective. Oklahoma's themes revealed the integrated nature of the communities, whereas Indiana had more superficial perceptions, often drawing from cultural narratives and media. Arizona's themes had much more variance, thus serving as a bridge between Indiana and Oklahoma.

*POSTER

Speaker



Leelu Cervantes
University of Arizona

Authors

Daniel Sullivan, Alexis Goad

[110] How Small Belief Shifts and Trusted Voices Alter Polarized Minds

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Beliefs do not exist in isolation but are interconnected within structured networks, where peripheral beliefs connect to and influence core convictions. Leveraging belief network theory, the BENDING model, and insights into parasocial influence, we investigated whether targeted contradictions from a beloved authority figure — Donald Trump — could alter political belief systems among conservatives, specifically on immigration and abortion.

Trump's contradictions led to significant belief reductions in both treatment conditions. Network analyses revealed condition-specific effects: immigration contradictions strengthened within-cluster ties but weakened links to core MAGA beliefs, while abortion contradictions reduced MAGA connections to abortion beliefs without altering internal coherence. These disruptions cascaded inward, weakening more central beliefs, especially on immigration. Although strong parasocial bonds enhanced epistemic trust, trust did not mediate belief change, likely due to ceiling effects. These findings reveal how contradictions from trusted figures can strategically disrupt belief networks, offering new tools for reducing ideological rigidity and polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gracielle Li
Ph.D. Student | Princeton University

Authors

Alin Coman

[111] How the Spectrum Framing of Sexual Orientation Impacts Sexual Minorities

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Sexual orientation is increasingly being considered in more open and fluid ways, but highlighting its continuous nature also could be perceived as dismissing the importance of discrete sexual identities. Across two studies (total N = 920), we investigated whether sexual minorities perceive the spectrum framing of sexual orientation (i.e., sexual orientation lies on a continuous spectrum from exclusively straight to exclusively gay) to be dismissive of the importance of sexual identities. In Study 1, sexual minority participants perceived a straight person who endorsed a spectrum framing (compared to a categorical framing) positively (e.g. increased perceptions of LGBTQ+ allyship), regardless of participants' level of ingroup identification. Study 2, on the other hand, found that when the spectrum framing was used specifically to distance from a sexual minority identity, the speaker was perceived negatively (e.g., identity-blind), especially by highly identified sexual minority participants. Overall, this research highlights that the spectrum framing can be perceived positively or negatively by sexual minorities, depending on how it is used.

*POSTER

Speaker



Max Miller
Graduate Student | Purdue University

Authors

Thekla Morgenroth, Teri Kirby, Kira Means

[112] How Varying the Tone of Political Disagreement Shapes Cross-Partisan Attitudes and Relations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Although political discourse in the U.S. is typically contentious and hostile, little work has focused on improving cross-partisan relations (Voelkel et al., 2023). Referencing the vicarious contact literature (Wojcieszak & Warner, 2020), this research considers whether observing civility in partisans' political communication can foster supportive cross-party attitudes. Altogether, 317 Democrat and 453 Republican adults (meanage = 55.3) watched a video of two trained actors (White, middle-aged men) posing as political partisans (one Democrat, one Republican), expressing differing opinions about the 2020 U.S. Presidential election. After an introduction from the experimenter, participants were randomly assigned into one of three experimental conditions; they observed the partisans engaging in civil disagreement, or uncivil disagreement, or did not observe any partisan disagreement (control condition). Next, 3 (condition: civil/uncivil/control) x 2 (participant partisanship: Democrat/Republican) ANOVAs revealed main effects of partisanship. Relative to Republicans, Democrats found the disagreement more stressful to watch, $F(1)=9.67$, $p=.002$ as well as expressing greater hope for the future of partisan relations, $F(1)=9.97$, $p=.002$. Importantly, we also observed significant main effects of condition. Both Democrats and Republicans conveyed greater hope for the future of partisan relations in the civil disagreement condition ($M = 0.15$), relative to the uncivil and control conditions ($M = -0.07$; $M = -0.02$), $F(2)=3.98$, $p=.019$. Moreover, participants from both parties reported greater stress when watching the uncivil disagreement ($M = 1.98$), compared to those in the civil disagreement and control conditions ($M = 1.68$; $M = 1.64$), $F(2)=7.70$, $p<.001$. Implications of these findings will be discussed.

Voelkel, J. G. et al. (2023). Interventions reducing affective polarization do not necessarily improve anti-democratic attitudes. *Nature human behaviour*, 7(1), 55–64.

Wojcieszak, M., & Warner, B. R. (2020). Can interparty contact reduce affective polarization? A systematic test of different forms of intergroup contact. *Political Communication*, 37(6), 789-811.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nora McKenzie

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Erin P. Hennes (University of Missouri), Linda R. Tropp, Donald Snyder, Rita Guerra, Sofia Stathi

[113] I Don't Want no Kings: Protest as a Pathway to Meaning in Life for Liberals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Existential theories suggest political beliefs and behaviors should promote meaning in life (e.g., by reducing mortality anxiety). However, past research shows only right-wing beliefs actually serve this function. Because liberalism is defined, in part, as dissatisfaction with the status quo, it may be that these beliefs need to be combined with value-congruent behaviors (i.e., protest) for them to enhance meaning in life (MiL). In Study 1 (2020, $N=517$), liberalism and Black Lives Matter (BLM) support were negatively correlated with MiL. BLM support bolstered meaning in life among liberals, interaction $\beta=.15$, $p<.001$. Study 2 ($N=515$) attempted to replicate this pattern in the context of the Pro-Palestinian protests in 2023/24, but we found no significant evidence of moderation. Null results may be due to the concentration of these protests on college campuses, and our sample consisting of representative adults who may have had little exposure. In Study 3 ($N=629$), we tested these predictions during the 2025 No Kings protests. Liberalism and protest participation were negatively related to MiL. No Kings protest participation bolstered MiL among liberals, interaction $\beta=.14$, $p<.001$.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brandon Nieto

California State University, Bakersfield

Authors

Jake Womick

[114] Identifying Group Alignments in Culture War Politics

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Partisans in the United States have become increasingly polarized in recent years, particularly over "culture war" issues. Traditional theories in social psychology argue these divides reflect deep-seated moral or psychological differences between liberals and conservatives. Emerging perspectives, however, suggest they are better explained by group alliances, with both sides motivated to support allies and oppose rivals, but identifying different groups in those roles. The present study introduces a participant-driven measurement pipeline to adjudicate between these accounts. Using open-ended responses from participants recruited through Prolific, we elicit the social groups Americans perceive as most relevant to polarizing issues. Responses are coded to generate a crowdsourced taxonomy of politically significant groups and their perceived alignments. By mapping these perceptions, this study contributes to the growing literature on Alliance Theory of political systems, which views alliances and rivalries as the foundation of partisan dynamics, and provides new tools for assessing the psychological and social bases of polarization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benjamin Lawson

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Jason Plaks, Yoel Inbar, Spike Lee, Matthew Feinberg, Noah Laskey

[115] Identifying individual identity through smile patterns

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Smiles are the most common facial expression. While we intuitively recognize that people have distinctive ways of smiling, currently it is not known whether there are indeed unique individual smile patterns. To test this, first we characterized the smiles of 1,252 people from multiple countries and backgrounds to ecologically examine what the facial action unit (AU) signature of a smile is. We then created a smile dataset comprising 19,000 smiles (38 people × 500 smiles each) from a variety of setups, cultures, ages, angles and locations. Our findings show that for ecological data, all action units may play a role in a smile, and that people have unique, individual smile signatures. Using neural networks with AU intensity as features, and avoiding impact of facial appearance, we achieved 21.82% classification accuracy (chance level = 2.63%, $p < 0.0001$), eight times better than chance. Moreover, when running the classification analyses on all possible pairs, the accuracy was 80% (chance level = 50%, $p < 0.0001$). These results provide the first empirical evidence that smiles function as unique individual signatures, extending beyond mere expression to serve as identity markers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Inbal Ravreby

Weizmann Institute of Science

Authors

Inbal Ravreby, Manmeet Lamba, Adam Anderson

[116] Identity Fusion Predicts Stronger Negative Relationships between Liking for the Two Main Political Parties even controlling for self-esteem, social dominance orientation, and authoritarianism

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

We examined the relationship between attitudes toward Democratic and Republican political parties, and how Political Identity Fusion with one's party moderates this relationship. Participants completed measures assessing their liking for Democratic and Republican parties and their level of political identity fusion. Regression analyses consistently demonstrated that the negative association between liking for one party and the other intensifies to the extent that people are fused with their party.

This effect proved robust to the addition of control variables such as Right Wing Authoritarianism (RWA), Opposition to Equality (OEQ), Group Based Dominance (GBD), and Rosenberg Self-Esteem (RSE). The finding that identity fusion intensifies the inverse relationship between liking for opposing political parties remained consistent and significant even after controlling for these established psychological constructs. This research underscores the powerful role of identity fusion in exacerbating partisan divides.

*POSTER

Speaker



Johnathan Wright

Grad Student | Western Kentucky University

Authors

Aaron Wichman

[117] Identity Fusion, Belonging, and Protest Violence among Trump and Harris Voters

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Identity fusion (i.e., feeling of oneness with ingroup members; Swann et al., 2009) is associated with extreme pro-group positioning and collective action. Between 2016 and 2019 elections, fusion with Trump was associated with political violence (Kunst et al., 2019). More broadly, political ideology found to predict protest support when protests reflect one's political values (Peacock & Biernat, 2021). The present study ($n = 149$) examined the relationship between pre-2024 identity fusion and post-election protest violence endorsement. Difference tests revealed Trump supporters ($n = 104$) were found to be more fused than Harris supporters ($n = 45$), but all participants were similarly rated their ingroup belonging and protest endorsement. However, a mediation analysis revealed an indirect effect of candidate affiliation on protest endorsement through identity fusion. Supporters' fusion with Trump drives post-election protest endorsement whereas fusion with Harris does not. While endorsement for protest violence may not differ, electoral candidates' ingroup values may account for when and why conservatives support collective action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kennedy Brauch

Western Washington University

Authors

Anita Azeem, Angela Bell

[118] Identity Match Preference in Gender-Affirming Voice Therapy

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Preferences for client-clinician identity match in psychotherapy is well-established across minoritized populations. However, this phenomenon is rarely explored in other behavioral health fields like speech pathology, where therapeutic alliance corresponds to improved adherence and outcomes.

This mixed-methods investigation explored preferences of gender diverse individuals seeking a gender-affirming voice modification (GAVM) clinician. Via online survey, 132 gender diverse individuals completed a delayed-discount task to weigh the relative importance of clinical features (e.g., empathy/acceptance) compared to match features (e.g., gender match, LGBTQ+ match) when selecting a GAVM clinician. Follow-up semi-structured interviews were conducted with 12 random participants.

Participants reported stronger preferences for clinical features, with the strongest preference for empathy/acceptance. Interviews revealed that all preferences were mediated by their perceived connection to empathy/acceptance. All interview participants revealed at least somewhat positive views of gender-matched clinicians, but preferences were not strong enough to sacrifice treatment efficacy. Gender centrality was the only statistically significant moderator of preferences, with higher gender centrality predicting stronger preference for match factor

*POSTER

Speaker



Desi Gutierrez

Speech Pathologist | UCSF Voice and Swallowing Center

Authors

Anu Subramanian

[119] Identity-Fusion Reduction in Common-Bond and Common-Identity Groups

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Identity fusion (i.e., a visceral sense of oneness with a social group) promotes a willingness to engage in extreme sacrifice for the group. Consequently, scientists have begun examining means of reducing fusion. Research suggests that degrading either attachment to group members (relational ties) or the group as a whole (collective ties) reduces fusion. The current study examines whether weakening relational vs. collective ties differentially reduces fusion to common-bond groups (formed from interpersonal connections) vs. common-identity groups (formed from shared aspects). We randomly assigned participants (N = 598) to: (1) think about a group to which they belonged that was either common-bond or common-identity; (2) describe two instances that made them question their connection to a group (weakened collective ties), connection to group members (weakened relational ties), or neither (control); (3) and, rate their fusion. Weakening relational (but not collective) ties reduced fusion regardless of group type.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kanan Wise

Undergraduate Student | University of Tennessee

Authors

Lowell Gaertner

[120] Ideology and Motivated Perception of Sociopolitical Images

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Ideologies—shared systems of political or religious beliefs—serve as powerful psychological lenses that shape how people interpret information. Even when presented with the same content, individuals may reach different conclusions depending on their ideological beliefs and motivations to maintain them. The present work examined whether ideology influences how people visually perceive sociopolitical imagery. In a study conducted in the days before the 2024 U.S. presidential election, we tested how people perceived the size of political rallies. Using a novel visual matching tool, participants estimated how many people they saw in a photograph described as either a Trump or a Harris rally. We found evidence for ideologically-motivated visual perception; when participants thought the photograph depicted their preferred candidate's rally, they perceived more people than when they thought the photograph depicted the opposing candidate's rally. Such findings reveal polarization at early stages of information processing. Ongoing data collection is investigating these effects in other polarizing sociopolitical topics, including immigration policy, research funding cuts, and LGBTQ+ rights.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julie Abaci

Research Coordinator | Rutgers University

Authors

Shana Cole

[121] Four Guiding Principles for Understanding Human-AI Relationships: An Authenticity Lens

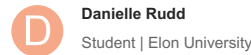
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Social psychology, across its psychological and sociological branches, offers a powerful lens on how people make sense of and use artificial intelligence (AI). Authenticity is a concept that bridges those foundations and lends insights into when human-AI exchanges feel "real," trustworthy, and socially meaningful. We propose four guiding principles about how humans engage with AI. (1) Origins Principle. Judgments of authenticity are dependent on perceived authorship and intent, with disclosure about origins and process shifting perceived authenticity and trust. (2) Negotiation-in-Interaction Principle. Human-AI interactions are authentic because they are dynamic, evolving through continuous exchange that mutually transforms both AI and the user. (3) Symbolic Alignment Principle. Shared language, labels, and meaning frameworks signal "realness." (4) Situated Subjectivity Principle. How we experience AI is subjective and constructed through experience, shaped by authenticity, and mediated by identity, role, and status through the definition of the situation. These principles are supported by secondary analyses of data collected from Elon University's Imagining the Digital Future Center. This framework reframes human-AI relationships as identity work and offers a testable roadmap for aligning human values, roles, and AI affordances to reduce identity labor and support flourishing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Alexis Franzese, Danielle Rudd, Valeria Lopez Torres

[122] Immediate Habituation to Excess Wealth; When Money is Never More Than Enough

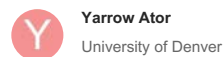
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Despite historic levels of economic inequality, people oppose redistributive policies- particularly high earners. In the current work, we document a novel psychological barrier to redistribution: People fail to recognize when they have excess money, even when their income far exceeds their needs. Across seven experiments ($N = 2,022$), we show this trend using a financial game where we manipulated income while holding spending constant. Sufficiency judgments increased when more income helped to meet more needs. But, when income exceeded what was needed, more money failed to increase sufficiency judgments. This adaptation has direct behavioral consequences. Charitable giving mirrored sufficiency judgments, plateauing when participants had excess money. This experimental evidence shows that there is immediate habituation to excess wealth. We also replicated these findings in two correlational studies ($N = 3,167$). Overall, our results suggest that those with the greatest capacity to give may be unable to recognize their excess. We discuss implications for understanding opposition to economic redistribution and policy interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Heidi Vuletich, Keith Payne

[123] Impact of group status on children's thinking about structural inequality

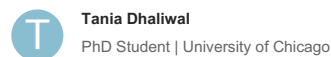
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

When learning history, children often confront their own group's role in inequality, identifying with either aggressors or victims. This study examined how perceived group status shapes children's views of historical group-based inequality. 5–10-year-olds ($N = 243$) heard a historical narrative about two fictional groups, in which one of the two was favored. In a 2×2 between-subjects design, we manipulated (1) whether participants were assigned to be a member of the high- or low-status group, and also (2) the framing of the cause of the status differential (causal framing, where the high-status group was explicitly named as responsible for making the rules; versus ambiguous framing, where the rulemaker was left unspecified). Children assigned to the low-status group judged the inequality as less fair ($p = .021$), liked the high-status group less ($p < .001$), and supported rectification more ($p = .033$). Causal framing also reduced liking for the high-status group ($p = .002$), especially among children assigned to the low-status group. These findings show that both perceived group status and framing influence children's learning about and responses to structural inequality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Katherine Kinzler, Kyshia Henderson, Kaila Scott-Charles

[124] Individual Differences in the Utilization of Cues in Truth Judgments of Political News

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Why do some people fall for misinformation more than others? While people differ in terms of their knowledge, they might also differ in terms of the cues they use to judge information as true or false. Two pre-registered studies (N = 810) investigated whether four individual-difference dimensions that have been found to be related with accurate discernment between true and false information (Hubeny et al., 2025) are associated with systematic differences in the utilization of information-related cues in judgments of truth. Balanced samples of Democrats and Republicans rated 20 political headlines (randomly drawn from a pool of 400+) regarding 15 cues (e.g., evaluative connotation, familiarity, moral undertone, amusement, shock) as well as their veracity. Bullshit Receptivity and Actively Open-minded Thinking (AOT) were systematically associated with differences in the utilization of cues (i.e., the relation between cue ratings and truth judgments). The relation between truth discernment and AOT (but none of the other individual-difference dimensions) was partially mediated by the utilization of valid cues (i.e., cues for which cue ratings were related to actual truth status).

*POSTER

Speaker



Fabian Wurzinger

PhD Student | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Bertram Gawronski, Lea S. Nahon, Nyx L. Ng

[125] Insecurity and Authority: The Role of Self-Esteem in Autocratic Leadership Support

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Self-esteem plays a critical yet underexplored role in shaping leadership preferences, particularly in uncertain contexts. This study investigates how self-esteem influences support for autocratic leadership during uncertainty. We hypothesize that individuals with low self-esteem will show greater support for autocratic leadership under high uncertainty, while those with high self-esteem will be unaffected. To test this, we will conduct a survey-based quantitative study, randomly assigning undergraduate students to low- or high-uncertainty conditions using a self-uncertainty prime developed by Hogg (2007). Participants will read a scenario featuring a hypothetical autocratic leader and then rate their support using a six-item questionnaire by Rast (2012). We expect that uncertainty will increase support for autocratic leadership among individuals with low self-esteem, while those with high self-esteem will remain stable in their preferences. Findings will enhance our understanding of how personality traits shape preferences for political and organizational leadership, offering valuable insights for leadership development and decision-making strategies in the workplace.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dhanika Purmanan

University of Alberta

Authors

David Rast, Kathryn Kincaid

[126] Insurance stigma in healthcare among physicians: A mixed methods investigation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

In the US, obtaining health insurance depends on individual qualifications. Based on these qualifications, patients are grouped into one of three categories: uninsured, privately insured, or publicly insured (i.e. Medicaid). To inform medical decision-making and treatment, this categorization is recorded in patients' electronic health records (EHR); however, past research shows that certain labels may inadvertently induce stigma, adversely influencing the care provided. Yet unexplored is if patient insurance type is another such stigmatizing label. To test this, we collected data from 20 physicians during 850 patient encounters in an emergency department where we measured real-time variables including physician self-reported emotions and physiological response (e.g., skin conductance). We are linking these data with data scraped from patients' EHRs (i.e. patient insurance type, demographic information, and treatment decisions). Data analysis may uncover a relationship between patient insurance type, a controllable and system-related variable, and physician's emotions, behavior, and decision-making, which will inform the development of interventions to mitigate possible biases.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasna Hardin

Graduate Student | UMass Amherst

Authors

Linda Isbell

[127] Intellectual Humility as a Deterrent for Planning Fallacy: Exploring Narcissism's Moderating Role

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This study aims to assess whether interventions promoting state-level intellectual humility can impact healthy college students' extent of planning fallacy, and whether the effect of the intervention may be moderated by individuals' levels of normal narcissism. In our online study, participants will be asked to estimate the date they expect themselves to complete an actual semester-long project, as well as providing imagined scenarios of them working to complete the task. In the experimental condition, before generating the estimates, we attempt to raise participants' state-level intellectual humility by asking them to recall previous similar experiences and their completion time of those tasks. Participants will also take the Narcissistic Personality Inventory as an assessment for their levels of normal narcissism. To compare the discrepancy between the estimated completion time and actual behaviors, we will access participants' actual completion status and time via the university course system. We will then use ANCOVA and regression models to measure the effect size of the intervention, as well as its interaction with normal narcissism.

Findings from the present study hold promise in contributing to understanding the interplay between planning fallacy and intellectual humility, and how this relationship is moderated by levels of normal narcissism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sydney Lesnick

University of Michigan

Authors

David Dunning, Tong Suo

[128] Interdependence in Political Campaign Messaging

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Political language can serve as a powerful tool for mobilizing and uniting voters. The present work examines partisan differences in the use of interdependent language—language that emphasizes connection, collective goals, and cooperation—in US Congressional campaign emails during the 2024 general election. Using computerized text analysis (LIWC), we analyze over 15,000 emails from 378 Senate and House candidates to assess the prevalence of interdependent language, as measured by first-person plural pronouns, references to affiliation, and social language. Our findings suggest that, on average, Democratic candidates employ significantly more interdependent language than their Republican counterparts. However, we observe pronounced shifts in this pattern over time, with Republicans' use of interdependent language increasing to match Democrats as Election Day approaches. Given prior evidence that framing issues in interdependent terms can foster cooperation and collective action, understanding how political candidates engage with the language of interdependence can provide insight into the rhetorical tools used to rally support and motivate political engagement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Waldfogel

Postdoc | Columbia University

Authors

Maude Ceruso

[129] Interpreting Microaggressions: Effects of Discourse Context, Race, and Political Orientation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LANGUAGE

We conducted an experiment to examine factors predicted to influence perceptions of an utterance as a microaggression.

Participants read four randomized vignettes depicting conversational exchanges and rated their perceptions of potential microaggressions. Discourse context and recipient race were manipulated, resulting in four scenario versions. Participants' political orientation and Theory of Mind were assessed.

As predicted, the target remark was more likely to be perceived as a microaggression when there was no clear context for its occurrence and when the recipient was Black. Additionally, these effects were larger for those with a more liberal political orientation and higher Theory of Mind capabilities. Discourse context indirectly predicted perception of microaggressions via perceptions that the remark did not make sense.

Participants were more likely to perceive microaggressions with fewer contextual cues and when the recipient was Black. Liberal participants were more sensitive to these effects, suggesting they were more attuned to discourse context and race of recipients when perceiving remarks as microaggressions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rishi Sarin

Auburn University

Authors

Emily Cronk, Ana Julia Nogueira Mourao, Rebecca Wood, Thomas Holtgraves

[130] Interwoven Identities: Examining U.S. Multiracial Women's Experiences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Multiracial women navigate complex, intersecting identities, yet their experiences remain underrepresented in psychological research. This mixed-methods study explores how U.S. Multiracial women (ages 18–35) integrate their racial and gender identities and negotiate discrimination across academic, professional, and social contexts. Participants (N = 316) completed an adapted Multiracial Identity Integration (MI) Scale and the Bem Sex Role Inventory, along with measures of race- and gender-based discrimination. Most participants reported that their Multiracial background was a meaningful and positive aspect of identity (M = 5.42), yet 65% reported race-based and 63% gender-based discrimination. Many described shifting experiences of identity based on context. Follow-up interviews (N = 30) provided in-depth insights into strategies used to manage identity conflict and navigate invisibility. Guided by an intersectional framework, this research offers a more nuanced understanding of how Multiracial women construct identity within systems of racism and sexism in the U.S.

*POSTER

Speaker



Angelo Cusimano

Research Fellow | The CUNY Graduate Center

[131] Intra-minority Solidarity Through Critical Consciousness Raising

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Zero-sum beliefs among more privileged minority groups can deter interminority solidarity and collective action (Stefaniak et al., 2020). Minority groups may feel especially distant from each other when their experiences with discrimination are rooted in different components of oppression (Pérez et al., 2024; Zou & Cheryan, 2017). Research suggests that critical consciousness (Freire, 1974) is a mechanism that can increase rates of interminority solidarity (Burson & Godfrey, 2020). We aimed to experimentally assess the utility of critical consciousness for increasing interminority solidarity between Latine and Asian Americans via their shared discrimination on the dimension of foreignness. We predicted that for an Asian American sample, experimentally inducing critical consciousness would increase their sensitivity to detecting discrimination in Latine targets. Furthermore, we expected that inducing critical consciousness in Asian American participants would increase their intent to act in support of Latine issues in the U.S. This work provides a novel method of inducing critical consciousness in minority participants and examines its impact on discrimination detection and behavior intentions. Increasing interminority solidarity across minority groups in the U.S. is crucial for collective action against racism, and pinpointing effective interventions, such as education on critical consciousness is essential.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isabella Crame

PhD Student | University Of Oregon

Authors

Chanel Meyers

[132] Investigating Intersectionality: How the Race, Gender, and Perceived Deception of Victims Influences the Efficacy of the Trans-Panic Defense

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

The trans-panic defense allows defendants to claim that they panicked as a result of a victim revealing or allegedly being "deceitful" about their transgender identity. However, prior work has not investigated how intersecting identities (e.g., race and gender) of transgender victims impacts the efficacy of the trans-panic defense. Therefore, our study (anticipated N = 1100) will employ a 2 gender-identity(transgender versus cisgender) X 3 race(Black versus Latino versus White) between-subjects design to examine how the race and perceived deception of transgender victims affects jury-decision making. We predict that participants will report more pro-defendant (e.g., lenient sentencing, fewer guilty verdicts, and less defendant culpability) and anti-victim (e.g., more victim culpability, and perceived deception) outcomes for Black and Latino transgender victims in comparison to all other conditions. The results of this study will reveal criminal justice inequities and enhance our understanding of the trans-panic defense, which could inform future research on methods to mitigate cycles of victimization and coaxing defendant responsibility.

*POSTER

Speaker



Demitri Aguilar

Ph.D. Student | University of Kentucky

Authors

Angel Armenta, Kevin McAweeney

[133] Why Are You A Dog To Your iPhone: The Impact of Social Media on Emotional Regulation in Young Adults

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

We will investigate the relationships between smartphone and social media (SSM) use, sleep quality, and risk-taking in young adults. Prior research has established that SSM engagement is associated with both sleep deprivation (Exelmans, 2019; Li et al., 2022), and increased risk-taking (Durkee et al., 2016; Salfi et al., 2020). However, little is known about the cognitive and behavioral mechanisms that explain these relationships. Additionally, prior work relies almost exclusively on self-report data, often without distinguishing between risk types (e.g., positive vs. negative) or integrating diverse SSM metrics (e.g., objective vs. Subjective measures). We seek to clarify the pathway from SSM use to risk-taking by examining potential mediation by sleep, cognitive control, and sensation seeking. Ecological momentary assessment (EMA) will be combined with self-report and behavioral assessment to track daily shifts in sleep, self-reported executive functioning, and screen usage, thus providing a window into the (1) degree to which daytime vs. nighttime SSM use differentially relates to risk-taking, impulsivity, and sensation seeking, (2) associations between objectively measured smartphone use, sleep, and attention control, and (3) relationships between behavioral performance on tasks of reward, impulsivity, and risk-taking and objectively measured SSM use and sleep data in the days preceding task completion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maia Singh
Temple University

Authors

Daniel Zweben, Ife Adeoye, Maia Singh, Andrew Cardono, Megan Vince

[134] Inviolable Value Expression and the Experience of Authenticity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Although many studies link moral behavior to subjective authenticity, less is known about how the inviolability or sacredness of values shapes this experience. Katsafanas (2022) argues that sacred values are treated as absolute, resistant to compromise or even consideration of violation. To test whether such inviolability relates to authenticity, we conducted two studies (total N = 682) in which participants were asked to imagine a close friend who was more qualified for a job they desired and then to generate novel ways to harm or help (within-subjects design) the friend's reputation to improve their own chances. About 30% of participants explicitly refused to generate harmful responses, indicating a behavioral marker of value inviolability. Across studies, writing about helping the friend elicited greater authenticity than harming. Notably, those who signaled value inviolability reported the highest authenticity across both prompts. These findings suggest that authenticity is experienced most strongly in moments when individuals uphold sacred relational values, even in the face of experimental demand.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuhui Du
PhD student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Joshua Hicks, Xiaobo Xu

[135] Is existential isolation always aversive? Exploring the role of similarity threat

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Research on existential isolation (EI)—the sense that one is alone in one's subjective perception of reality—rests on two assumptions: that EI is inherently aversive, and that it operates independently of self-concept processes. We challenge both. Drawing on optimal distinctiveness theory (Brewer, 1991) and uniqueness motivation (Snyder & Fromkin, 1977), we hypothesize that when people perceive their self-concept as highly overlapping with others (a similarity threat), the sense that one's subjectivity is unique may feel neutral or even positive. To test this, participants will complete personality and lifestyle questionnaires and then be randomly assigned false feedback indicating high versus moderate similarity with others. They will then complete a validated EI measure and a new measure assessing attitudes toward EI. This preregistered study will make data and code publicly available. By testing whether EI can be experienced as affirming rather than uniformly aversive, the project reframes EI as a context-sensitive experience with both risks and benefits. Findings may broaden theoretical models and inform interventions that currently treat EI solely as a risk factor.

*POSTER

Speaker



S. Aster Sabin
Student | University of Kansas

Authors

Mark J. Landau

[136] It's only funny if it makes sense

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Humor requires incongruity—but too much incongruity makes jokes hard to understand and less funny. People often rely on their ease of processing (i.e., fluency) to judge meaning and coherence. Across six preregistered experiments (N = 1321), we test whether fluency enhances humor by increasing perceived coherence of incongruous content. Using diverse materials (standup comedy, memes, nicknames), we manipulated visual (e.g., contrast), auditory (e.g., background noise), and phonological (e.g., rhyme, alliteration) fluency. We also assessed familiarity with memes as a predictor of humor appreciation. Fluent jokes were consistently judged as funnier (p 's < .001; d 's = .23–1.54). Serial mediation analyses showed these effects were fully explained by increased subjective fluency and perceived coherence. These findings challenge current humor theories and identify a distinct fluency-coherence-humor pathway. This novel framework helps explain many previously documented humor influences (e.g., laugh tracks, native language, multimodal delivery) and suggests that anything that boosts processing ease—without dulling surprise—can make jokes funnier.

*POSTER

Speaker



Drew Gorenz

Doctoral Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Drew Gorenz, Norbert Schwarz

[137] Juror perceptions of grooming and chronological age among CSA victims

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Prior research suggests 99% of child sexual abuse (CSA) victims experience grooming behaviors (e.g., desensitization to sexual material) pre-abuse, and that these experiences negatively affect perceptions of a victim's credibility (Winters et al., 2024). Additionally, there is evidence mock jurors discount the credibility of older (i.e., over 12-years-old) compared to younger victims (i.e., under 10-years-old; Tabak & Klettke, 2014). Both grooming and victim age have been shown to predict conviction rates in CSA trials (Aliev & Burd, 2025). However, there is limited empirical research examining the interactive effects of grooming and victim age. The current study examined the effects of grooming and victim age on mock juror decision-making in a CSA trial utilizing a 2 (Victim age: 9 vs. 14-years-old) x 2 (Expert testimony: grooming-specific vs. general) between-subjects design. Participants read a mock trial vignette, rendered a verdict, and completed case-related measures (e.g., victim/defendant culpability). We hypothesized that general expert testimony paired with an older victim would increase negative attitudes towards the victim, leading to fewer guilty verdicts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jaylan Aliev

Graduate Student | University of Wyoming

Authors

Kayla Burd

[138] Jury Instructions in Battered Woman Syndrome Cases

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Traditional self-defense law reflects male-centered models of sudden violence and often disadvantages women whose defensive actions occur between such violent acts. This study examines how lay-people interpret and apply self-defense instructions in cases where women kill their abusers after a cycle of intimate partner violence (IPV). There are two competing instructions, one that justifies the defendant's defensive action if it was "immediately necessary," and another if there was a threat of "imminent harm." We will test whether people recognize these instructions as meaningfully different, leading to higher acquittal rates under the "immediately necessary" standard (as lawyers suspect), or if these phrases are used similarly (as psychologists suggest). Using a 2 (immediately necessary vs. imminent harm) x 2 (present vs. impending threat) factorial design, 400 adults will go through jury selection, read a case summary and instructions, and render a verdict. By testing the effects of instruction type and threat timing, this study can inform legal standards and more equitable treatment for IPV survivors, particularly women, whose experiences don't fit stereotypes of self-defense.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexandra Malikov

Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Richard Gonzalez, Margaret Meyer

[139] Just Be Authentic! Links between authenticity pressure, encouragement, and well-being across groups

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Although authenticity is linked to many benefits, calls to “be authentic” may inadvertently place pressure on those who do not feel safe expressing their true selves, particularly members of marginalized communities. Across three studies (N = 1401), we find consistent evidence that participants reported feeling both supported and encouraged to be authentic, yet also pressured and judged to be authentic. These reactions, in turn, were linked to well-being outcomes; such that greater perceptions of judgment and pressure tended to negatively predict self-esteem, self-knowledge, and life satisfaction, while support and encouragement positively predicted these outcomes. This pattern emerged among both marginalized groups (i.e., lesbians, gay men, and bisexual participants, as well as Black and Latino/a participants) and majority group members (i.e., White and heterosexual participants). This research highlights the nuanced consequences of encouraging people to “be authentic.” Future research should further examine how the impact of authenticity messages varies across social groups and contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Madelyn Church

Student | University of Mississippi

Authors

Grace Rivera, Joseph Wellman, Ana Clara Vieira Zaidan, Adam Beam, Ellen Newell

[140] Knowing who you are, staying in your lane: Predictors of stepparent role clarity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Despite being a common role in society, stepparents and their families often experience difficulties. Stepparent role clarity (SPRC) is one key factor that predicts positive outcomes for stepparents, beyond overall self-concept clarity. The current work aims to identify predictors of SPRC as a window into stepfamily functioning. Our goal was to contrast personal, relational (romantic), and familial predictors of SPRC, as well as contrast objective demographic predictors versus cognitive/perception-based predictors in a sample of 408 stepparents. Predictors were grouped into personal-demographic, personal-cognitive, relational-demographic, relational-cognitive, and familial-demographic, familial-cognitive sets based on theoretical considerations and bivariate correlations between measures. Machine learning, employing a random forest model with k-fold cross-validation and repeated sampling, was used to predict SPRC from each predictor set. We also examined which individual predictors accounted for the most variance in SPRC. Cognitive factors emerged as stronger predictors compared to demographic factors, with personal-cognitive factors accounting for the most variance as a set.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lauren Foley

Student | Villanova University

Authors

Erica Slotter, Jennifer Ryan, Patrick Markey

[141] Large Language Models Exhibit Human-Like Bayesian Hypocrisy

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Humans solve Bayesian reasoning tasks quite well. For example, they accurately determine that given particular parameters a person who performed surgery is more likely to be male than female. However, they paradoxically condemn others who do so on both intelligence and moral grounds (Cao et al., 2019). Given the recent achievements of LLMs, it is reasonable to expect that these models will perform well on basic Bayesian reasoning tasks, at least as well as humans. It is also expected that LLMs, unlike humans, will not judge others who use Bayes' Rule harshly. In four studies involving over 1,200 trials, we first elicited statistical judgments from two models (GPT-4o and Claude Sonnet 3.7) and then assessed their evaluation of a hypothetical person making a Bayesian judgment. We found that both LLMs not only closely resembled human data in successfully employing Bayes' Rule, but also demonstrated the same hypocrisy as did humans in condemning others who followed Bayes' Rule. This surprising hypocrisy highlights a lack of consistency in LLMs, and cautions against using them for decision-making in domains where statistical accuracy and fairness norms may collide.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nykko Vitali

PhD Student | Harvard University

Authors

Mahzarin Banaji

[142] Latent Profile Analysis of Collective Victimization Beliefs: Connections to Wellbeing

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Collective victimization is assumed to have detrimental consequences on group members' wellbeing. Studies on perceived discrimination and historical trauma support this view. However, because people make sense of such experiences in different ways (i.e., collective victimization beliefs), negative outcomes may not be inevitable and could depend on how the group's experience is construed. The current poster reports a latent profile analysis (LPA) of several collective victimization beliefs about historical ingroup victimization among Jewish Americans, N=256 (age: M=45.84, SD=20.59). Results indicated four latent groups characterized by different belief patterns with varying levels of these victimization beliefs: 1) Inclusive and Secure, 2) Threatened but Inclusive, 3) Siege Mentality, 4) Ambivalent. ANOVA indicated that while these groups did not differ in positive affect, participants in the Inclusive and Secure group expressed less negative affect about their group's collective victimization than participants with other profiles. This shows that psychological wellbeing after group trauma varies depending on how this history is construed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Khaled Elazab

Graduate Student | Clark University

Authors

Isabelle Raskin, Johanna Ray Vollhardt

[143] Liberty or Lockup?: How Algorithmic Risk Assessments Shape Trust in the U.S. Criminal Justice System

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Algorithmic assessment tools (AATs), such as COMPAS, have replaced human decision-making in predicting recidivism. Yet, there are growing concerns about the racial disparities, trust in the tools' capabilities, and the lack of human judgment. The current research aims to investigate how racial and decision-makers' identities shape humans' perceptions. U.S. adults, recruited via Prolific, rated the fairness of and trust in COMPAS-style decision vignettes in a 2 x 2 x 2 Latin Square design. Vignettes varied by defendant's race (Black vs. White), predicted risk level (high vs. low), and outcome accuracy (correct vs. incorrect). Analyses will include linear mixed-effects models to examine whether race and accuracy interact to shape participants' judgments. We predict that errors created by AATs disadvantaging Black defendants will elicit the lowest trust, whereas accurate predictions of low risk for Black defendants will enhance trust. Findings may clarify how algorithmic bias and error type influence perceptions of fairness and provide insight into the conditions under which AATs may reinforce or reduce racial disparities in trust in the justice system.

*POSTER

Speaker



Skyler Gin

PHD Student | Brown University

Authors

Raima Islam, C. Malik Boykin

[144] Listening to Black Storytellers: Effects on Individual-Level and Group-Level Attitudes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LANGUAGE

Across 5 experiments we investigate the attitudinal effects of White Americans' exposure to Black American storytellers. Participants were randomly assigned to a no-intervention control or experimental condition in which they listened to one or more first-person stories told by Black Americans. Explicit (self-reported) and implicit (IAT) attitudes toward the storytellers and Black vs. White Americans were then measured. At baseline, we observed pro-Black explicit and pro-White implicit attitudes toward both individual storytellers and the underlying racial categories. Exposure to the stories shifted individual-level attitudes in a more pro-Black direction, but group-level attitudes were unaffected. These results generalized across attitudes (explicit vs. implicit), story sources (Story Collider vs. TED Talks), designs involving single vs. multiple stories, and processing instructions (listen vs. generalize). Overall, these results suggest that first-person stories told by Black storytellers considerably improve White Americans' attitudes toward them, with no generalization to group-level racial attitudes. Ongoing work seeks to identify conditions to facilitate such generalization.

*POSTER

Speaker



Benedek Kurdi

Assistant Professor | University of Illinois

Authors

Nilanjana Dasgupta, Hector Sosa, Aanchal Setia

[145] Living between cultures: A mixed-methods study of immigrant youth's ethnic-racial socialization and identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Little research has focused on how ethnic-racial socialization messages from inside and outside the home collectively impact immigrant youth's identity. Thus, in a mixed-method study we examine what profiles of ethnic-racial socialization exist among immigrant youth and how they impact their identity. We asked immigrant youth (N=672) between 14 and 18 years about the ethnic-racial socialization messages they receive at home, school, and from others. We find three profiles of ethnic-racial socialization amongst immigrant youth, which differentially impact their racial identification. Additionally, in follow-up semi-structured interviews (n=30) we asked immigrant youth what it means to be a member of their ethnic group in the U.S., the impact it has had on them, and how they feel about their identity. Our qualitative findings contextualize and highlight the complexity regarding how important and positively immigrant youth view their ethnic-racial identity in relation to their racialized experiences. Our findings offer a person-centered understanding of immigrant youths' racialized experiences that can be utilized to inform positive identity development among immigrant youth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adam Beam

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Wesleyan University

Authors

Adam J. Beam, Andrea Negrete, Audrey Wittrup, Gloria S. Kang, Alan Me

[146] Longitudinal Evaluation of the Prosocial Pain Scale Psychometric Properties

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Helping others often entails physical discomfort, yet individual differences in enduring such pain remain understudied. We developed the 10-item Prosocial Pain Scale (Pro-Pain) to assess trait-level tendency in physically effortful or painful helping. Across two waves one week apart, we examined its factor structure, temporal stability, and measurement invariance. Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses supported a two-factor solution, reflecting daily helping (physically effortful acts in everyday contexts) and costly helping (rare or high-risk prosocial acts). The model showed acceptable fit across waves and evidence of configural and metric invariance. Test-retest reliability was moderate to strong. Item response theory analyses revealed that Pro-Pain provides greater information at moderate-to-high latent trait levels and a broader trait range than the widely used Prosocialness Scale for Adults (Caprara et al., 2005). These findings suggest that Pro-Pain captures a distinct facet of prosociality by focusing on physical costs and provides a valuable tool for studying embodied altruism and costly helping behaviors over time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Qi Deng

Research Fellow | The Career Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Authors

Dominik Mischkowski, Kelsey Kayton, Jasmina Jolie Ostrowski, Lili Cleaveland, Paige Elise Woodland

[147] Longitudinal Links between Identity Development and Materialism among Korean College Freshmen

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

This study explored longitudinal associations between identity development and materialism among first-year Korean college students. Data were collected from 641 participants (Mage = 19.13, range = 18–24; 48% female) across four time points over two academic semesters and analyzed using the Random Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model (RI-CLPM). According to the results of the RI-CLPM, significant cross-lagged effects appeared only in the path from materialism to identity development, specifically between Time 3 and Time 4. Increases in materialism predicted a subsequent increase in disturbed identity and lack of identity. These results suggest that when individuals are excessively preoccupied with material possessions than usual, they are more likely to experience uncertainty about who they are and feel an inner emptiness regarding their sense of self at the subsequent time point.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hyorin Ryu

Graduate student | Korea University

Authors

Ah-Young Jo, Kidong Bae, Joonbae Lee, Sun W. Park

[148] Losing Track of Our Self: Social Media Flow Impacts Self-Related Needs, Vitality, and Regret

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Increasingly, social media applications are designed to grasp the attention of the user in short bursts of content. We examine how extensive social media use affects how individuals feel about their sense of self compared to other forms of media. Additionally, we explore how these variables may be impacted by an individual's future time perspective (FTP; Lang & Carstensen, 2002). Participants (N=108) were randomly assigned to take the perspective of the protagonist in one of three 2-minute videos, where the protagonist is shown spending their entire evening engaging in social media, watching television, or reading. Participants in the extensive social media use condition reported lower levels of self-esteem and control, and higher levels of regret compared to those in the book reading condition. There were no interactions between FTP and the type of media. Our findings suggest extensive social media use negatively impacts sense of self-esteem and control and increases feelings of regret compared to other media types. These results emphasize the vulnerability of the self to social media and the need for interventions to mitigate these negative effects.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brianna McAloon

Doctoral Student | New York University

Authors

Verena Graupmann

[149] Lost in Transcription: How Unexpected DNA Ancestry Results Can Impact Our Identities & Racial/Ethnic Attitudes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

The widespread use of DNA testing reinforces the misconception of race as a biological concept, yet it has profound impacts on identity formation. Examining this effect in a heterogeneous population such as Mexican-Americans, perceptions of race/ethnicity may be volatile, as it is likely that ancestry results will often be unexpected and identity-shattering. Across two experiments, we explored whether unexpected (vs. expected) social identity changes would evoke greater social identity conflict and impact racial/ethnic attitudes in Mexican-Americans. Study 1 asked participants to imagine receiving different DNA breakdown results, while Study 2 utilized real DNA testing services, and their attitudes were assessed at multiple points in time. Initial evidence suggests that DNA expectations may influence racial attitudes in Mexican-Americans. Implications will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ava Bedford

Psychology Tutor | STAR Tutoring

Authors

Joshua Taarud, Cinthya Navarro, Kinga Bierwaczzonek, Milan Obaidi, Jonas Kunst

[150] Cancelled;

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Political attitudes and behavior are shaped by lived experience. For example, personal crises often dampen voting turnout by diverting cognitive resources, but can motivate other forms of political participation perceived to offer tangible and/or emotional relief. Economic and emotional insecurity can heighten zero-sum beliefs and outparty blame. Thus, even ostensibly apolitical threats can become politicized as people attempt to understand and respond to them. In an analysis of the 2024 Cooperative Election Study (N = 837), we investigate the relationship between recent life changes (e.g., marriage, job loss) and political polarization (relative in- vs. out-partisan affect). We tested whether the strength of the association varies by event valence (negative vs. positive) and content (economic vs. personal), hypothesizing that negative economic changes are most strongly associated with polarization. Results supporting our hypothesis would suggest that reducing affective polarization may hinge on mitigating negative economic shocks (e.g., through social support) and disrupting politicized blame frames that translate private hardship into partisan hostility.

*POSTER

[151] Mapping Temporal Shifts and Partisan Differences in Moral Discourse on Capitol Hill from 1873-2024

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Recent research suggests that congressional language is becoming increasingly intuition-based rather than evidence-based over time. This drift toward intuition over evidence exemplifies the broader phenomenon of 'truth decay', wherein lawmakers rely less on rational discourse and more on normative claims, e.g., by appealing to the moral intuitions underlying policy proposals. In this study, we ask: How have U.S. lawmakers' appeals to moral values changed from 1873 to 2025, and how do those patterns differ by party affiliation? We have collected every floor remark by a legislator in over 100,000 hearings. We plan to use Contextualized Construct Representations (CCR), a computational method for deriving embeddings from surveys, to quantify the moral foundations of liberty, care, proportionality, equality, purity, authority, and loyalty. We will fit multilevel segmented-time regressions that detect yearly break-points and test party-specific slope changes in each moral foundation. Our results will shed light on how moral language has changed in Congress over time, both in terms of its overall prominence and the specific moral intuitions that the major parties differentially appeal to.

*POSTER

Speaker



Meriel Burnett

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari

[153] Measuring purpose among adolescents from diverse racial-ethnic backgrounds

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The Claremont Purpose Scale (CPS) is an increasingly popular scale designed to assess youth purpose. Yet, prior validation of this measure has relied on samples predominantly comprised of white respondents, leaving questions about its applicability among youth from other racial-ethnic backgrounds. In this study, multigroup confirmatory factor analysis supported scalar measurement invariance across Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latinx, and white adolescents (N = 506), indicating that the CPS measures a latent construct of purpose equivalently across groups. However, the beyond-the-self (BTS) dimension consistently exhibited suboptimal loading on the overarching purpose construct. No significant differences in CPS-based purpose levels were found across groups, but exploratory analyses suggested that purpose may serve as a stronger protective factor for Hispanic/Latinx youth than for Black youth. These findings support the CPS's use with racially and ethnically diverse adolescents, but raises questions about whether BTS is appropriate for conceptualizing youth purpose. Findings also invite exploration of how different sociocultural backgrounds shape purpose's role as a resource.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hou Xie

PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Melody Estevez, Kaylin Ratner, Anthony L. Burrow

[154] Mind the Gap: Experiencing Privilege Leads to Decreased Sensitivity to Inequality

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Amid unprecedented inequality, understanding how privilege is maintained is critical yet challenging, given system-justifying beliefs and social identity confounds. We address this with a gamified field experiment designed to isolate the psychological effects of unearned advantage. In a between-subjects design (N = 201), participants played a modified cornhole game, randomly assigned to stand closer (advantaged) or farther (disadvantaged) from the target. Successful throws earned raffle tickets that could be kept or donated to the next player. Overall donation rates did not differ across conditions, but advantaged participants donated significantly more to other advantaged individuals and recommended weaker redistributive policies. These results suggest that experiencing privilege not only reduces prosociality toward disadvantaged others but also undermines support for policies aimed at reducing inequality. Increasing awareness of this dynamic may lead to a greater endorsement of redistributive policies in the United States.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jackson Scharnell

undergraduate student | UCI

Authors

Paul Piff, Ishita Singhal

[155] Misconceptions in the Media: White Women's Meta-stereotypes, Emotions, Vigilance, and Allyship After Viewing Negative and Positive Interracial Interactions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

This research explores White women's cognitions and interaction outcomes after witnessing negative and positive interracial interactions in the media. Two studies examine video clips of interracial interactions depicting racist or allyship behavior, the social media comments in response to the behavior, and the race of their viewing partner. In Study 1, White women who imagined viewing a video clip with a Black woman experienced greater meta-stereotypes, coping strategies, and allyship. White women who witnessed a negative interracial interaction experienced heightened negative emotions and vigilance upon watching an ingroup member's racist acts. Study 2 expands upon this by evaluating the influence of social media comments that exhibit racism or allyship on White women's cognitions. Ongoing data collection predicts that White women who view racist comments with a Black woman will experience heightened meta-stereotypes, coping strategies, negative emotions, and impaired executive functioning. This work highlights how social media shapes White women's perceptions of themselves and Black women online, serving as a bridge or barrier to facilitating positive interracial interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brianna Clark

Masters Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Sandra Manfreda, Valerie Jones Taylor

[156] Mitigating Cognitive Biases in Higher Education Contexts Through a Brief Video-Based Intervention: A Randomized Controlled Trial

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This study introduces and evaluates a novel, scalable intervention using brief, scenario-based videos to reduce cognitive bias among adults in educational settings. We conducted a cross-national experiment (N=1038) with teachers and learners, targeting 21 distinct biases. Participants were randomly assigned to a control or experimental condition. Both groups viewed a video depicting a bias-eliciting scenario; the experimental group was then shown an additional "debiasing" segment containing supplemental, context-altering information. Results showed the debiasing videos significantly reduced biased decisions. This effect was substantially stronger for teachers (Cohen's $d = 0.51$) than for learners ($d = 0.11$). For students, the intervention was effective only when participants viewed the videos with subtitles in their native language. Teachers, but not learners, also demonstrated a "spillover" effect, showing reduced bias in subsequent, unrelated tasks, after receiving the debiasing intervention. These findings indicate that brief, narrative-based micro-interventions are a promising and scalable tool for cognitive bias mitigation. However, their effectiveness is moderated by audience characteristics like professional role and the language of delivery, underscoring the need for context-sensitive design and implementation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zeynep Cemalcilar
Professor | Koc University, Turkey

Authors

Lemi Baruh

[157] Modeling Identity Development Trajectories

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The formation of a coherent sense of self is a central developmental task during the transition from adolescence to emerging adulthood. But how does the self develop during the transition to college? In this study, we focus on the development of personal identity during the college years by relying on the dual-cycle identity model (Luyckx et al., 2006), which conceptualizes two distinct cycles of identity formation and identity maintenance. To characterize the identity development process, we examine how identity processes among college students ($N = 2,722$; observations = 54,201) change across six academic quarters over two years. Using growth mixture models, we identified underlying longitudinal trajectories across the five dimensions of identity development. Our findings support a three-class solution: 1. Low exploration, weak stable commitment, 2. Moderate exploration, increasing identity commitment, 3. High exploration, unstable rapid commitment. The findings suggest that distinct patterns of identity development may be explained by individual differences (e.g., identity commitment, exploration, and rumination), which points to a promising direction for future research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Noah Vinoya
PHD Student | Stanford University

Authors

Serena Soh, Zhenchao Hu, Gabriella Harari

[158] Moral Judgment Pathways: Exploring the role of Locus of Control

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Locus of control refers to the extent to which individuals believe that their outcomes depend on their own actions (internal locus), or on situational forces or chance (external locus, Rotter, 1966). Research in moral psychology distinguishes between two judgment perspectives: consistency, in which people maintain behavior in line with their prior actions and outcomes, and compensation, in which people adjust their behavior to offset perceived disadvantages or past misconduct (Joosten et al., 2014). It is hypothesized that locus of control may influence which perspective becomes more salient in social judgement. Internals, who emphasize personal responsibility and individual agency, are expected to be more consistent, judging others primarily by their actions and outcomes. Externals, who take situational constraints and bad luck into account, are expected to adopt behavioral compensations, supporting corrective actions to balance past circumstances. This perspective links locus of control to a broader pattern of moral and social judgement, highlighting its role in shaping whether individuals respond to others with emphasis on personal accountability or situational sensitivity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maryana Madeira Borri
Graduate Student | Florida Atlantic University

Authors

Alara Karatuna, Laura Gust, Andrzej Nowak, Robin Vallacher

[159] Moral Misperceptions in Politics: Correlates of Perceived Outgroup Immorality

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Prior work suggests that partisans in the United States perceive the political outgroup to be deficient in their norm adherence tendencies in presumed responses to moral dilemmas. This tendency reflects an outgroup moral derogation effect, whereby the outgroup is viewed as morally inferior to the political ingroup and shared social ingroup of Americans. The current study (N = 446) examined correlates of this effect among Democrats and Republicans. Results indicate that ingroup identification and ingroup feelings are not associated with outgroup moral derogation. Instead, perceptions of the outgroup as prejudiced toward the ingroup, as posing symbolic and realistic threat, and as susceptible to non-normative influences are associated with greater outgroup moral derogation. Outgroup moral derogation is also associated with greater reports of affective polarization, greater social distancing from the outgroup, and fewer endorsements of cross-partisan empathy, reflecting disengagement from outgroup members at various levels. Finally, outgroup moral derogation is associated with greater willingness to endorse pro-ingroup undemocratic practices and candidates.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nyx Ng

PhD Candidate | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Bertram Gawronski, Rachel Buterbaugh

[160] More Domain-Relevant AI Limitations Reduce Perceived AI Capability

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Do people believe AI is capable of providing good recommendations for cases outside the scope of its training? Across 7 studies on real estate, participants discern that an AI is more capable for in-scope compared to out-of-scope cases, and for only one out-of-scope attribute compared to two. However, many believe AI is still somewhat capable for out-of-scope cases, depending on the relationship of its training attribute to the real estate domain. Specifically, participants judged AIs as very incapable of providing a good recommendation when the case was out-of-scope on income, slightly incapable when it was out-of-scope on age, but neutral in capability when it was out-of-scope on race. These inversely related to participants using that attribute in their own real estate decisions with 57% using income, 27% using age, and 4% using race. Overall, we find that participants' mental model of the domain relevance of an AI limitation predicts their perception of AI's capability to make a good prediction for a particular case. These findings suggest the interaction of AI and domain mental models, which highlights the value of explainable AI focusing on domain-relevant attributes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Shank

Associate Professor | Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology

Authors

Harishankar Vasudevanallur Subramanian, Casey Canfield, Aiden Pickett

[161] Multiracial Malleability and Race Concept Reflection

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Multiracial individuals may experience malleability in their identities, meaning that the way that they racially identify can shift depending on the situation or environment. This study explores whether the experience of malleability is associated with greater reflection about the concept of race. Additionally, it explores potential downstream consequences of this reflection, such as being more likely to endorse socially constructed, rather than essentialist, conceptions of race and having greater social categorization flexibility. Participants (N=172) who identified as Multiracial completed a survey about their experiences with Multiracial malleability, reflection about race concepts and racism, and their belief that race is socially constructed. Findings revealed that greater Multiracial malleability experiences were positively correlated with greater levels of reflection about race concepts. However, race concept reflection did not predict belief in race as a social construct or flexibility in social categorization. These findings suggest that the malleability that Multiracial individuals experience in their racial identity may be connected with reflection about race itself, but the downstream consequences of this relationship should be further explored.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brianna Lopez

Graduate Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Diana Sanchez, Zoey Eddy

[162] Negative Meta-Perceptions as a Cause of Anti-Intellectualism: An Empirical Study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Anti-intellectualism and its causes are still not well-understood. In the present research, we investigated a potential, proximal cause: negative meta-perceptions. If a group of people think intellectuals resent and look down on them, anti-intellectualism may increase via reciprocal disliking. To test this idea, we conducted an online study in which we manipulated Republicans' meta-perceptions of climate scientists. We then measured participants' anti-intellectualism, trust in climate scientists, a measure of attitudes toward science and a measure of climate change beliefs. Compared to a positive meta perception condition, participants in the negative meta perception condition expressed greater anti-intellectualism, as well as poorer attitudes toward science, greater climate skepticism, and less trust in scientists. Trust in climate scientists mediated the relationship between negative meta perceptions and anti-intellectualism, science attitudes, and belief in climate change. Ongoing research in our lab is exploring how these results may generalize for other groups and topics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Noelani Jackson de Avila
University of Arkansas

Authors

Ian Beatty, Lily Eagan, Michael Petrino

[163] Negative Reactions to Partisan Ingroup Dissent: The Role of Exaggerated Moral Stereotypes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Despite the importance of ingroup dissent in preventing blind groupthink and promoting complex consideration of ideas, dissent within US politics is often met with hostility. Across two studies, we test three hypotheses regarding whether Democrats and Republicans differ in their harshness towards partisan ingroup dissent. Research from the ideological asymmetry perspective suggests that conservatives' greater levels of cognitive rigidity lead them to be more threatened by difference, and therefore should be more negative towards dissent. Research from the symmetry perspective suggests that liberals and conservatives should be equally intolerant, the level of intolerance simply depending on the degree of perceived value-conflict with the target. Finally, research on moral stereotypes suggests that Democrats especially exaggerate moral stereotypes compared to conservatives, which may make them harsher towards partisan ingroup dissent. Given that Democrats were harsher toward dissenters in the first two studies, we also test in a third study the efficacy of an intervention aimed to correct exaggerated moral stereotypes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathan Digby
Graduate Student | UIC

Authors

Nathan Digby, Tomas Ståhl

[164] Nostalgia Mediating Symbolic Threat on Identity Continuity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

The two-party governing system of the United States lends itself to partisan polarization, creating a constant battle over which party truly represents the American identity. As a result, each party may experience symbolic threat (e.g., American values shifting) when faced with the outparty holding political power, thus affecting perceptions of the stability of the American identity over time (i.e., identity continuity). Previous research suggests that nostalgia (i.e., affection for a past era) is a mechanism for restoring positive self-regard after facing a threat. We predicted that rising symbolic threat would predict greater nostalgia, which in turn would predict decreasing perceptions of the continuity of the American identity. Using data collected before the US midterm election in 2022 (N = 336), results show that symbolic threat ($b = -.18, p < .001$) and nostalgia ($b = -.33, p < .001$) negatively predict identity continuity; however, there was no significant relationship between symbolic threat and nostalgia. Although the predicted mediation was not significant, we discuss the practical and theoretical implications of symbolic threat affecting identity continuity in America.

*POSTER

Speaker



Catie Burtch
Graduate Student | Cal Poly Humboldt

Authors

Catie Burtch, Jordyn Pasley, Faith Byington, Benjamin Anjewierden, Amber Gaffney

[165] Not One Story: Subgroup Differences in Asian American Identity and Attitudes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

The position of Asian Americans (AA) in the United States is unique – though they have faced historical discrimination and are seen as perpetual foreigners, they are also regarded as higher status and thus often not perceived as people of color. The experiences of AA also vary across regional subgroups – East Asians (EA), South Asians (SA), and Southeast Asians (SEA) – due to distinct histories and physical appearance, though little research has examined these variations. In two studies, we investigated subgroup differences in personal experiences and attitudes towards other racial groups. In Study 1 (N = 420), compared to EA, SA and SEA identified more as people of color, reported personally experiencing more racial discrimination, perceived higher linked fate with Black and Hispanic people, and lower linked fate with White people. Study 2 (expected N = 800), which will replicate and extend on Study 1, will also examine subgroup differences in beliefs of the model minority stereotype, support of affirmative action, and how similar they find their own subgroup to be to other racial groups in the U.S.

*POSTER

Speaker



Diana Than

Graduate Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Deborah Wu, Sylvia Perry

[166] Occupation and Purpose in Life: The Moderating Role of Gender

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

A sense of purpose in life is critical for well-being, and occupation is one context through which individuals enact purpose in their daily lives. However, few studies have examined the impact of occupational profiles on a person's sense of purpose, and even fewer have considered how the gendered nature of occupations may amplify or weaken this association. This study (N = 1,523) will use the MIDUS dataset to examine the associations between occupational characteristics and purpose in life. Further, it will examine how gender moderates these associations. Based on self-reported job titles, occupational characteristics were pulled from O*NET. This resulted in each participant being assigned a continuous score for six dimensions: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional. Purpose was measured using 7 items from the Psychological Well-being Scale (Ryff & Keyes, 1995). Data collection and coding are complete, and data analysis is in progress. This study will contribute to understanding how gendered career paths shape well-being in adulthood. Additionally, it provides support for more equitable career development and reducing barriers to meaningful work.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lillian Dine Young

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Kaylin Ratner

[167] OPEN

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

*POSTER

[168] On Consumers' Reactions to Tariffs

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Prices have reached record highs, and inflation remains the top concern for consumers worldwide. Among the many forces driving inflation, tariffs have increasingly come into the spotlight. However, little is known about how consumers react to tariffs. Across six pre-registered studies (N = 3,954), we show that consumers perceive price increases attributed to tariffs as less fair than identical increases attributed to other reasons. Moreover, when consumers learn that a company's costs have increased, they believe it is more appropriate for the company to absorb a greater share of the cost when the increase is due to a tariff (vs. other reasons). This tariff penalty arises because consumers perceive such price increases to impose greater restrictions on consumer freedom. This effect is stronger among left-leaning consumers and holds across countries (e.g., US, UK, Canada, Australia), demographic groups, product categories, and multiple fairness measures. Overall, the current research shows how tariffs shape perceptions of price increases, reveals when and why tariffs are viewed as less legitimate, and offers actionable insights for consumers, marketers, and policymakers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Will Wu

University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Rodrigo Dias

[169] Partisan Identity, Ideological Orientations, and the Differential Threats Posed by Ingroup and Outgroup Leadership: An Examination of the 2024 U.S. Election

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Do partisans ever oppose their candidates during U.S. presidential elections? We explored this question across two studies (N = 1,106) using U.S. Republicans and Democrats in the context of the 2024 Presidential Election. We propose that partisan identity and ideological orientations related to different threat perceptions of in-group and out-group leaders, which differently relates to level of candidate support. For Democrats, we focused on the ideological orientation of left-wing authoritarianism (LWA). For Republicans, we focused on the ideological belief in democracy. Study 1 measured participants' perceptions of leadership threats, while Study 2 manipulated the salience of in-group (or out-group) leadership threat. Across both studies, stronger partisan identity related to lower perceptions of in-group failure, higher perceptions of out-group threat, and more leadership support. Importantly, the examined ideological orientation lead Democrats (but not Republicans) to oppose their in-group leader. Manipulating the salience of the threat did not impact these relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yani Yakob

Student | University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Authors

Yani Yakob

[170] Patience under fire: How imagining a harsh future impact intertemporal choice

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Decision making can be influenced by imagining the future. Prior research shows that episodic future thinking (EFT) can reduce delay discounting (the tendency to devalue delayed reward). Imagining positive future events reliably reduces delay discounting, whereas negative future events yield mixed findings. The current study aimed to clarify the inconsistencies with negative EFT by moving beyond valence and examining negative emotions with distinct appraisal tendencies (anger vs fear). Following the Appraisal Tendency Framework, we predicted that anger and fear EFT differently impact delay discounting due to certainty and control appraisals. Participants (N = 395) were randomly assigned to anger, fear, or neutral conditions. All participants first completed a baseline delay discounting task with no imagination, then engaged in an EFT task wherein they imagined future events per condition and completed the delay discounting task for a second time. Results showed that all EFT conditions reduced delay discounting relative to no imagination. However, no differences emerged between conditions, suggesting that appraisal tendencies play little role in EFT's effect on delay discounting.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ava Behrouzi

Graduate Student | The University of Alabama

Authors

Katie Garrison

[171] Patiently waiting for your partner's turn: Children's expressions of patience

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Some children are more patient partners when playing games, such as Jenga. Within the process model of patience, this patience is understood as a behavioral response to the discrete emotion of impatience (Sweeny, 2025). The current study explored how school-aged children look when they are placed in a situation that requires patience. To answer this question, children (4-11 yrs, N = 300) played a game with an increasingly slow-to-act confederate. Research assistants then coded the videos for children's behavior and facial expressions and for overall demeanor. Children were rated as more patient when they showed fewer negative and more positive facial expressions, spent less time looking at the experimenter, moved their bodies less (particularly in the direction of the object in the game), and talked less. After controlling for ratings of boredom, cooperation, and calmness, two behaviors remained linked to patience: spending less time interacting with the game object and talking less. These findings suggest that, from an observer's perspective, patience in children is reflected in their ability to remain physically calm and verbally restrained.

*POSTER

Speaker



Steve Flores

University of California, Riverside

Authors

Kate Sweeny, Jason Hawes, Elizabeth Davis

[172] Perceived Group Cohesion Modifies Individual Decision-Making and Confidence in a Collaborative Memory Task

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

The motivation to conform to others can influence decision-making when retrieving memories with others. Specifically, in collaborative settings, participants may be influenced by informational cues, such as seeking accurate details, or normative cues, like appearing agreeable. While studies have suggested that normative cues take precedence in inducing conformity, less is known about the comparative influence of both informational and normative cues. Utilizing confederates, we conducted a collaborative recognition task to test for the impact of perceived competence and in-group proximity on the degree of participants' conformity with group/confederate decisions. In a novel feedback paradigm, where everyone's retrieval attempt was subject to agreement/disagreement (with confidence) from two confederates, we found that participants did not blindly conform to the highly accurate confederate and/or the in-group confederate. Rather, participants gave "middle ground" memory and metamemory decisions that didn't favor either confederate. Memory on a subsequent individual retest was also more likely to reflect initial responses before receiving feedback, suggesting a lack of reliability in confederate responses. In sum, participants did not cognitively offload to highly competent confederates; rather, memory decisions were made in efforts to maintain group cohesion.

*POSTER

Speaker



Karen Rodriguez

Recent PhD graduate | The Graduate Center at CUNY

Authors

Jennifer Mangels

[173] Perceptions of Political Doubters

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

A record 42% of Americans now identify as politically independent (Gallup, 2024), suggesting that people may still reconsider those group memberships that are based on beliefs and attitudes, such as political ideology. Prior work (Bagherian et al., 2025) showed that participants view outgroup doubters more positively (black sheep effect; Pinto et al., 2010) and as more likely to convert than ingroup doubters (social projection; Allport, 1924). Extending these findings, the present study examines how perceptions of political doubters shape advocacy and persuasion (Bechler et al., 2020) using behavioral measures. In a 2 (conservative/liberal doubter) × 2 (conservative/liberal participant) design (N = 400), both liberals and conservatives perceived outgroup doubters as warmer, more competent, and more likely to switch parties. Participants also reported greater advocacy intentions toward outgroup doubters, including a stronger willingness to promote their own party and persuade the doubter to convert. These findings highlight pathways for reducing polarization and fostering bipartisan engagement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Homa Sheibani

PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Kimberly Rios, Maziyar Bagherian

[174] Perceptions of Psychological Abuse in Sport: Associations with Mental Health Outcomes and Shared Reality Theory

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Psychological abuse in athletics is increasingly recognized as a serious issue, though athlete and coach perceptions of what constitutes emotional abuse vary widely. Using a revised version of the Group Psychological Abuse Scale (GPAS-R, Chambers et al., 1994), we examined perceptions of abuse in sport and their relationship to mental health measures, including the PHQ-9, PCL-5, GAD-7, RSE, SWLS, and MLQ. Elevated GPAS-R scores correlated with the PCL-5 ($r = .34, p < .001$) and with the PHQ-9 ($r = .21, p < .05$) but showed no association with the SWLS, MLQ, RSE, GAD-7, or demographic variables. Specific GPAS-R subscales are aligned with distinct mental health outcomes, offering more nuanced insight into the impact of perceived abuse. Future analyses will investigate how motivations for and perceptions of potentially abusive behaviors predict or influence mental health outcomes. Shared Reality Theory could explain the varied interpretations of potentially psychologically abusive behaviors. If the athlete believes that the coach is acting in their best interest, thus creating a shared reality, they are likely to consider the coach's behavior as non-abusive.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Regula

Wheaton College

Authors

James Cornwell

[175] Policy Strength and Public Acceptance of Decontaminated Soil Disposal

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

This study explored whether people would accept the final disposal of decontaminated soil and waste from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident near their own homes, within the policy framework for determining disposal sites. An online survey asked respondents to rate their acceptance in five types of policy scenarios: opinion-reflective process, distance from residence, number of sites, financial compensation, and soil reuse, each with increasing policy strength. We analyzed two linear mixed-effects models. One model predicted whether individuals would accept a final disposal site near their neighborhood based on the scenario type and intensity of the policy. Another model further analyzed the "NIMBY" (Not In My Backyard) problem, where individuals support a policy but oppose its proximity. The findings suggested that for lowest-strength scenarios, mayoral decision-making without resident input promoted acceptance. However, for higher-strength scenarios, increased compensation was most effective. Individuals with NIMBY attitudes were more influenced by stronger policy measures.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tomoyuki Kobayashi

Associate Professor | Kuwansei Gakuin University

Authors

Susumu Ohnuma, Tomoyuki Kobayashi, Momo Takada, Kosuke Shirai, Yukihide Shibata

[176] Political Implications of Implicit and Explicit LGBT Conspiracy Beliefs

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

LGBT Conspiracy Beliefs (LGBT-CBs) portray LGBT people as promoting a hidden agenda aimed at subverting traditional values and imposing a so-called "Gender Theory." Despite their growing proliferation in the U.S. socio-political context, they remain largely understudied. This study (N=194 U.S. participants) examined LGBT-CBs using both implicit and explicit measures, exploring their associations with political behavior. Specifically, we assessed support for LGBT versus heterosexual candidates, candidates who promote versus oppose LGBT rights, and participants' likelihood of voting for an anti-LGBT candidate in a simulated voting task featuring a realistic campaign flyer. LGBT-CBs emerged at both implicit and explicit levels, with larger effect sizes observed for implicit LGBT-CBs than for explicit ones. Higher endorsement of LGBT-CBs was associated with reduced support for LGBT candidates and those promoting LGBT rights, as well as a greater likelihood of voting for an anti-LGBT candidate. These findings suggest that both implicit and explicit LGBT-CBs play a critical role in influencing political behavior, paving the way for discriminatory candidates and harming LGBT rights.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chiara Guida

University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli

Authors

Maddalena Marini

[177] Political outgroups as monoliths: Evidence of perceived political outgroup homogeneity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

The outgroup homogeneity effect describes a tendency for people to perceive outgroup members as more similar to one another than ingroup members. This pattern has been found for various attributes (e.g., faces, preferences, and personality) and with respect to various outgroup types (e.g., gender, nationality, minimal groups). In two pre-registered studies (N = 1400), American Democrats and Republicans placed 20 ingroup members and 20 outgroup members on a five-point continuum representing liberal-to-conservative views on a randomly selected political topic (e.g., immigration, gun control). Replicating the basic effect, participants' placements of outgroup members showed less variance than their placements of ingroup members. Extending beyond previous findings, this effect was mediated by the belief that their political outgroup has less informed views than their ingroup. As well, participants who perceived their outgroups as more homogenous perceived them as more capable of taking coordinated action to further the group's interests. Political outgroup homogeneity could cause people to overestimate the threat posed by political outgroups, furthering political animosity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Khai Qing Chua

University of British Columbia

Authors

Kristin Laurin

[178] Presentation of research: The effects of experiencing gender identity-based stress on decision-making

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

While prior research shows stress affects decision-making, little is known about how identity-based stress may have distinct effects. Fear of stigma from one's social identity has cognitive (e.g., increased rumination) and affective (e.g., higher emotional distress) responses that vary in both nature and intensity from those elicited by general stress, which may impair one's decision-making performance. Based on dual-process theory, we assess the likelihood of heuristic use (Type I) versus reflective processing (Type II) under uncertainty. Using an adapted Trier Social Stress Task, participants (N = 130) will be randomly assigned to either a general or identity-based stressor. Heuristic use and shifts to reflective processing will be assessed using the Cognitive Reflection Test and the Iowa Gambling Task. We hypothesize that experiencing gender identity-based stress will reduce reflective processing and increase heuristic use compared to those under general stress. Cognitive and affective responses will mediate this relationship. Findings from this study may contribute to a deeper understanding of issues such as inequality, empowerment, and stigma perpetuation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emiliano Irena-Hernandez

PhD student | Carnegie Mellon University

Authors

Michael Trujillo, Emiliano Irena-Hernandez

[179] Projective Embodiment in Tabletop Roleplaying Games

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Tabletop roleplaying games (TTRPGs) have become central to many young adults' social, creative, and emotional lives. However, little is known about how players experience projective embodiment—projecting aspects of the self onto an inhabited character while also experiencing that character as a possible self. Drawing on projective identity and Cultural-Historical Activity Theory, this study takes a phenomenological approach to explore the lived experience of embodying a character in TTRPG play. A naturalistic game session of a pre-existing gaming group of young adults will be video/audio recorded and paired with an immediate post-game focus group to collect first-person reflections. Transcripts and field notes will be coded using six a priori embodiment indicators, social/rhetorical/ludic activity-system codes, and inductive themes. Findings are expected to expand embodiment theory beyond sensorimotor or avatar models, demonstrating how TTRPGs function as psychosocial sites for identity exploration, social-emotional learning, and collaborative meaning-making. A thematic analysis will be presented at the conference, with implications for education, therapy, and game design.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caleb Dotson

University of Kentucky

Authors

Spencer Greenhalgh, Joshua Abboud, Sharon Rostovsky

[180] Protecting the self from threat using authenticity judgements

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Generally, most people have positive views of both their specific and global traits (Twenge & Campbell, 2008). However, when people encounter threats to positive self-views, they tend to engage in a variety of defense mechanisms. The current study sought to examine a novel way people may protect their self-views in the face of threat: deciding they were not being authentic at the time of threat. We hypothesize that people will report lower authenticity when reflecting on times of social rejection relative to times of social acceptance or recent social interactions. We used a between subjects design with participants randomly assigned one of three conditions where they completed either a control, acceptance, or rejection social interaction writing prompt. After responding to the assigned prompt, participants indicated how authentic they retrospectively perceived their past selves to be during the target social event. In line with our hypothesis, the results of our study show that people indeed saw themselves as less authentic during a past social rejection. The present findings are important because they suggest feelings of authenticity may sometimes be undesirable.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabriella Figueroa

Social and Personality Psychology PhD Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Rebecca Schlegel

[181] Qualitative Analysis of Self-as-Doer Identities: Perceptions of Healthy Eater Identities Include Non-Eating Behaviors

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Adherence to dietary guidelines remains far below recommendations with 60% of adults having one or more diet-related chronic diseases. Interventions rooted in self-as-doer identity, a construct where individuals perceive themselves as a doer of action (e.g. healthy eater) have increased healthy eating behaviors (HEB). However, less is known about how individuals define a healthy eater. That is, what does a healthy eater look like and in turn, do? Knowing how healthy eaters are conceptualized may promote engagement in HEB. Participants (N=383) responded to open-ended questions describing a healthy eater. Consensual qualitative research methodology was used to analyze themes. In addition to HEB, themes reflected identities that focused on non-eating approaches. Healthy eaters were those in good physical, mental and emotional health, and worked toward illness prevention. Healthy eaters were perceived as adopting a healthy lifestyle and not just a diet. Self-as-doer identities may uniquely promote active behavioral responses and thereby promote health behaviors that align with healthy eating. Future researchers can explore how social and cultural norms related to identity affect HEB.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Ekern

Winona State University

[182] Racial Messaging, & Parent Nativity Impact Black Adults' Identity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

While Black American parents often prepare their children for the realities of racial bias, less is known about how these conversations unfold in families navigating US racial dynamics for the first time. This retrospective study compares the racial socialization and identity of US-born Black adults (18–65 y) raised by US-born (US) or foreign-born (FB) parents. Participants (N = 178) completed the CARES scale to assess racial socialization and the MIBI scale for racial identity. Preliminary findings reveal that US and FB parents relay different racial messages that differentially impact their children's racial identity. More specifically, FB parents' messages encouraging conformity, respectability, and distance from stigmatized views of Blackness predicted their children's racial identity. Conversely, US parents' messages acknowledging racism and equipping their children with tools to navigate or resist discrimination predicted their children's racial identity. Taken together, these findings underscore cultural complexities within the Black community and the need for culturally responsive interventions that support healthy racial identity development for US-born Black youth.

*POSTER

Speaker



Oretioluwasefunmi Agbelusi

Graduate Student | Duke University

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Makeba Parramore Wilbourn

[183] Racial Positionality and Minority support for Social Change

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Despite growing diversity, little research has examined how racial minorities' experiences shape their support for social change. We addressed this gap by focusing on Asian (AA) and Latino Americans' (LA) experiences through the racial positional model. Based on this model, AAs are high-status but foreign, while LAs are low-status and foreign. Using experimental manipulations, we examined Asian (N = 282) and Latino (N = 297) participants' support for challenging the status-quo based on their positionality (i.e., their foreignness, their status, or adult friendship [control]). AAs' support for social policies decreased when they read about their high-status relative to other conditions. In contrast, LAs' support for social policies is the same across all three conditions. A potential explanation for this divergence lies in AAs' unique racial position. They are perceived as forever foreigners relative to White Americans, yet too high-status to belong with other marginalized groups. Perhaps, to the extent that this unique position is reinforced, they may be less supportive of broader societal change, which may hinder the formation of multiracial coalitions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Anika Mork

Augusta University

Authors

Joseph Wellman, Jackson Owens, Tuong-Vy Nguyen

[184] Reduced moral discounting in six populations of extraordinary altruists

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Are morally bad people less worthy of generosity, and does this belief guide behavior? Using a novel monetary decision-making paradigm, we examined how the moral status of potential recipients (selfish, fair, selfless) influenced giving. Results revealed a moral discounting effect: morally worse individuals were judged less deserving of monetary generosity. This decay followed a hyperbolic function, allowing comparison of discounting slopes across groups. Notably, this effect was diminished among extraordinary altruists who had previously provided costly aid to strangers (e.g., organ donors, rescuers, humanitarian workers; $n=173$) compared to demographically matched controls ($n=117$). Altruists' discounting curves were significantly less steep (logk [95% CI] = $-0.740 [-0.912, -0.568]$, $t = -4.31$, $df = 575$, $p < .001$), reflecting reduced differentiation based on targets' moral status. Consequently, altruists were more generous toward morally neutral and selfish individuals. These findings suggest that highly altruistic individuals extend generosity with less regard for recipients' moral worth, offering new insights into the psychology of helping.

*POSTER

Speaker



Paige Amormino

NIH T32 Postdoctoral Fellow | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Kyle Law, Paige Amormino, Jeffrey Gao, Penny Li, Megan Kozak Williams

[185] Relationship between Kinship, Intergenerational Future-Oriented Thinking, and Sustainable Perceptions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

How sustainably people behave in the present will impact future generations and their environment, calling for pro-environmental sustainable behaviors in the present. Across two studies, this research investigates the relationship between intergenerational future-oriented thinking (IFOT) and perceptions of climate crises, as well as underlying factors within these relationships. Study 1 ($N = 1557$) found IFOT was a significant predictor of perceived urgency and severity of an ongoing drought among young adults who intend to have children in the future. Study 2 ($N = 400$) tests the effectiveness of two experimental manipulations aimed to increase IFOT and the effects on sustainable outcomes. Participants will imagine either (1) their own future children, (2) the upcoming Generation Beta, or (3) a control; then report their sustainable attitudes, perceptions, intentions, and resource allocations. We hypothesize intent to have children may moderate the relationships between IFOT and sustainable perceptions, intent, and predict more intergenerational allocations. The research has implications for better understanding perceptions of the distant future and predictors of sustainable intent.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kamryn Kadotani

Graduate Teaching Assistant | Arizona State University

Authors

Virginia Kwan

[186] Resilience in the Stacks: Identity, Threat, and Commitment Among Library Professionals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Library professionals play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to information across academic and public library contexts. Despite this, they face severe challenges, including being seen as part of a “dying” profession (Mourdoukoutas, 2018) and being targets for discrimination due to their role providing equitable access to information. This study examined perceptions of threat to the profession (e.g., uncertainty about the future of libraries) among library professionals ($N=329$, recruited across the U.S.). We investigated how group identification as a library professional influences commitment to the field under such threats (Ellemers et al., 1997). Self-esteem derived from identifying with the profession (Bergami & Bagozzi, 2000) mediated the relationship between perceived threat and professional commitment. In contrast, organization-based self-esteem (i.e., self-worth tied to one's place of work; Bowling et al., 2010) did not. Findings suggest bolstering profession-based self-esteem may help mitigate negative impacts of threat and foster sustained commitment which is vital to the profession's survival and the wellbeing of its members.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ellen Newell

Associate Professor | Wilkes Univ.

Authors

Kate J. Cummings

[187] Rewards bias self-evaluations of ability

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

How do people learn about their own abilities? Often, people receive rewards that offer information about their performance level. Yet, even when two people perform equivalently on a task, they may receive disparate rewards. In these cases, could rewards still influence self-evaluations of ability? In two behavioral experiments, we asked whether people feel more capable and confident when they receive more rewards, even when their performance is held constant, and they know how they objectively performed. Participants played a perceptual game in which they received trial-by-trial accuracy feedback; a staircase procedure held their objective performance constant. However, participants were assigned to either a high or low reward condition, which varied the probability of receiving a reward for a correct answer. In Experiment 1 (N = 340), we found evidence that rewards bias overall self-evaluations of ability after the task—particularly estimations of objective accuracy. Next, in Experiment 2 (N = 342), we examined whether reward feedback would inflate participants' trial-by-trial expectations of their own accuracy before each round of the game. Results indicated that participants updated their expectations to a greater extent when a correct response was accompanied with a reward. These findings suggest that rewards enhance how much people integrate accuracy feedback into their dynamic self-beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jean Luo

Graduate Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Peter Mende-Siedlecki, Leor Hackel

[188] Risk aversion in prosocial decision-making: The role of early life adversity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Childhood experiences calibrate psychological and behavioral responses to uncertainty, shaping adult decision-making. Risk-taking in social contexts depends on balancing loss aversion with perceived safety, and early adversity may bias individuals toward protective strategies that minimize uncertainty. This study examined how childhood maltreatment influences social risk-taking in the Public Goods Game (PGG) and Trust Game (TG). In the PGG, individuals with low childhood maltreatment were highly sensitive to social cues, increasing contributions when others cooperated and decreasing them when others defected, consistent with strategic, adaptive risk-taking. In contrast, those with high maltreatment maintained stable contributions across rounds, showing reduced responsiveness to social fluctuations. In the TG, individuals high in maltreatment became progressively more trustworthy over time, while those low in maltreatment grew more self-interested, retaining greater funds. These patterns suggest that low adversity fosters flexible, incentive-driven cooperation, whereas high adversity promotes cautious, risk-averse strategies that prioritize stability and trust maintenance. Together, the findings highlight how early life environments shape the motives and mechanisms underlying trust, cooperation, and social risk-taking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Audrey-Anne Forget

PhD Student | McGill University

Authors

Jonas Nitschke, Jennifer Bartz

[189] Seeing Ourselves in Real and Fictional Disliked Others

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Prior research shows that we like similar others – both real other people and also fictional characters (e.g., from media). But does similarity still predict liking when others are similar to us in negative ways? We predict liking will diminish or even reverse when others share our negative traits. A minimum of 157 student participants (based on a sequential analysis and an a priori power analysis) will identify a disliked real person, a neutral acquaintance, and a disliked fictional character. Participants will provide liking ratings for these three targets and rate the self and the targets on positive and negative traits. Similarity between self and targets will be assessed using Euclidean distance. A within-subjects design will examine how similarity between self and targets on negative traits is related to disliking. By also drawing upon qualitative measures (e.g., paragraphs written about the targets) we will also explore whether disliked others may bolster self-esteem through downwards comparisons and clarify self-concept. This study challenges the idea that similarity invariably leads to liking and explores how individuals relate to disliked real versus fictional characters.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erika Davis

PhD Student | University of Oregon

Authors

Eliott K. Doyle, Sara D. Hodges

[190] Self-as-Doer Identity and Healthy Eating Behaviors: Differences between Online and In-Person Interventions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-as-doer identity, an identity construct describing one in terms of doing a behavior, increases healthy eating behaviors (HEB) in in-person interventions, but its effectiveness has not been tested in online mediums. Participants (N = 514), either online or in-person, received the self-as-doer intervention and identified the degree to which 10 doer statements (e.g., healthy eater, sugar avoider) described them. Demographics and HEB items were also completed. Online participants were older, had different education levels, completed the task faster and were more likely to be excluded for completing the survey incorrectly. ANCOVA analyses, controlling group differences, found that in-person participants had higher doer identities than those online. In hierarchical regression analyses, doer identity predicts HEB for both groups, albeit accounting for more variance for those in-person (12.1%) than online (6.8%). Self-identity interventions can be conducted online but may be more effective in-person. Results advance existing knowledge about participant differences and provide directions for future study in generalizing self-identity interventions across different mediums.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amanda Brouwer

Professor of Psychology | Winona State University

[191] Self-Clarity through Enmity: Demonizing Others as an Antidote to Self-Uncertainty Among Structure-Seeking Individuals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Becker (1973) proposed that people can define their moral identity by opposing an outgroup. Specifically, demonizing and raging against an "evil" outgroup solidifies one's own righteousness. A preregistered online experiment (N = 1174) tested whether inducing uncertainty (vs. certainty) about one's moral self, motivates those with high epistemic needs to vilify a disliked outgroup. We also examined whether exposure to an anger-eliciting outgroup bolstered self-certainty, moral self-regard, authenticity, and meaning in life. Results showed that for those high in Personal Need for Structure, reflecting on uncertainties (vs. certainties) about one's own moral goodness increased perceptions of the outgroup's immorality and heightened anger. Moreover, completing self-assessments after (vs. before) outgroup exposure reduced self-uncertainty and raised moral self-regard, authenticity, and meaning. These effects were not explained by state self-esteem and did not reflect general derogation of the outgroup. Findings suggest that for some, the desire to maintain a clear, morally grounded, and meaningful self, may contribute to intergroup hostility and perceptions of outgroup malevolence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zachary Rothschild

Associate Professor | Bowdoin College

[192] Self-compassion and Willingness to Apologize

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Although people's willingness to apologize is likely impacted by a number of factors, some evidence suggests that self-compassion (treating oneself with kindness in the face of suffering) might play a role. Past correlational research found that people higher (vs. lower) in self-compassion had a greater general tendency to apologize (Vazeou-Nieuwenhuis & Schumann, 2018). Additionally, a brief self-compassion intervention increased participants' feelings of remorse for a recalled wrongdoing (Breines & Chen, 2012). We used a hypothetical scenario in which neither party was explicitly at fault to examine whether self-compassion might predict not just guilty feelings, but also intention to apologize. We supported our hypothesis: Participants who wrote in a self-compassionate (rather than neutral) manner about the hypothetical ending of a friendship expressed greater willingness to apologize and less intention to avoid their former friend, as well as greater guilt. These findings suggest that self-compassion interventions may be effective in improving reconciliatory behavior, which could help in maintaining healthy relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ross Eagle

Student | Hamilton College

Authors

Jennifer Borton, Aaliyah Gauthney, Ahaana Mahapatra

[193] Self-Expansion Predicting Changes in the Self After Family Relationship Dissolution

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-expansion in intimate relationships is the level of self-enhancement a relationship provides. Previous research has shown that less self-expansion in romantic relationships is associated with positive changes in the self following a breakup. However, no study has associated self-expansion with potential affective changes in the self following the dissolution of family relationships. This research aimed to examine the impact of self-expansion provided by recently broken family ties on self-esteem, the ideal self, attitudes toward perceived changes in the self, and the valence of words people use to describe themselves in a post-dissolution context. Participants were 155 individuals who had recently experienced the dissolution of a family relationship. Data were analyzed using linear regression and sentiment analysis with a lexical approach. Results showed that lower pre-dissolution self-expansion predicted greater closeness to the ideal self, more favorable attitudes toward perceived changes in the self, and a more positive valence of self-descriptive words. We concluded that self-expansion is associated with how people perceive themselves after family relationship dissolution.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathalia Melo

Postdoc | UC Berkeley

Authors

Amanda Londero dos Santos Jean Carlos Natividade

[194] Self-Love & Social Connection

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-love, often misinterpreted as narcissism, is a vital yet understudied psychological construct linked to well-being. We argue narcissism is not self-love, as it has never been measured as such but only theoretically conflated. A 2019 pilot study introduced the Whole Self-Love (WSL) Scale, defining self-love as intrinsic, unconditional, and non-narcissistic acceptance of the self. This study further validates WSL through its associations with psychological, health, and social outcomes in a cross-sectional design. Contrary to assumptions that high self-love fosters hyper-independence and weak social ties, WSL correlated strongly with Positive Affect and Life Satisfaction, and moderately with Self-Rated Health, Cognitive Reappraisal, Big Five traits, and Social Network Index. Negative correlations emerged with Negative Affect, Depression, Loneliness, and Social Anxiety. Divergent validity was supported by weak associations with Narcissism, Neuroticism, and related constructs. Findings highlight WSL's potential in promoting emotional, psychological, and physical health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katy Sine

TeenChef Pro | REEL People Productions

Authors

Katy Sine, Julianne Holt-Lundstad

[195] Self–Other Distinction and Empathy: The Role of the Bodily Self

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Prior work has shown that self–other distinction is an essential component of empathy and that self-concept clarity promotes empathy and prosocial behaviour. This conceptual understanding of the self, however, does not speak to the underlying processes that support a coherent and stable self-representation. Here, a "bottom-up" understanding of the self that focuses on the integration of sensory cues (i.e., the bodily self) may be particularly relevant. This study assessed participants' (n = 98) bodily self malleability, quantified using the Rubber Hand Illusion task, and its relation to empathic accuracy. While watching a series of videos, in which targets describe negative experiences, participants provided continuous estimates of each target's emotional state, which was compared with each target's time-series self-reported emotional states to determine empathic accuracy. The results revealed that those with a more malleable bodily self were less accurate when judging a target's emotional state ($\beta = -0.044$, $p = .022$). These findings highlight the potential role of the bodily self in self–other distinction and empathy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jade Stobbart

McGill University

Authors

Jonas Nitschke, Jennifer Bartz, Melissa Shemirani

[196] Self-reflection in a clouded mirror: Integrating possible selves for expression under biased thought processes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-reflection occurs in two modes that guide attention to information in the self-concept: integration seeks incoherence, information that does not agree with its neighbors, to unify, while and expression seeks coherence, information that does agree with that around it, to use. It is proposed that integration is needed to maintain multiple coherent clusters representing flexibility and possible selves. To examine this, the focus (i.e. placement) of the attentional spotlight was made random at set intervals, with data collected on the ability of expression to create clustering and coherence in a random area following prior integration compared to continual expression. This study expands on that hypothesis by including a humanistic complication in the patterns of the model: manipulating bias in the valence of incoming information and the ratio of mode focus to represent effects of traits like self-esteem and tendency for rumination on the specificity and coherence of the self-concept structure. Findings are related to how biases in self-perception affect the adaptability of the self-concept in the formation and valence of current and possible selves.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lore Olson

Florida Atlantic University

Authors

Andrzej Nowak, Robin Vallacher, Wieslaw Bartkowski

[197] Shaped by Space: Ethnic-Racial Identity Profiles and Their Role in Black Americans' Responses to Environmental Threat

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Black residents who inhabit predominantly White spaces grapple with the threat of being stigmatized, which may lead to isolation from one's racial/ethnic groups, and consequently, a distorted sense of self. This study examines the impact of built environments on the lived experiences of individuals who access and occupy them. We examined associations between the racial composition of past environments, racial identity profiles, perceived discrimination, and vigilance among Black Americans. Participants ($n = 328$) completed an online survey measuring the racial composition of schools attended and neighborhoods resided in, ethnic-racial identity (ERI), vigilance, and perceived discrimination. Latent profile analysis detected three unique profiles (59%, Ethnic-Racial Identity Focused, 35.7%, Assimilated, 5%, Undifferentiated). Hierarchical linear regression showed that ERI accounted for 8.7-17.8% of the variance in perceived threat, stigma, exclusion, discrimination, and vigilance. Environments accounted for 2.8% of the variance in perceived discrimination. This study identified profiles that are adaptive to environments with implications for space-induced identity formation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Milena Berestko

Ph.D. Student | University of Illinois-Chicago

Authors

Morgan Jerald

[198] Shared Fandom as a Buffer: A Simulation Study of Politicual Sorting and Affective Polarization

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Political and cultural identities are increasingly intertwined, a process known as politicual sorting. This alignment intensifies affective polarization, or the tendency to view political out-groups with hostility and distrust. At the same time, shared cultural communities, such as fan groups, may provide cross-cutting identities that bridge partisan divides. The present study used a simulation design to examine whether shared popular culture identification moderates the relationship between politicual sorting and affective polarization among adolescents. A synthetic sample of 1,000 individuals was generated, each assigned a continuous measure of politicual sorting and a binary indicator of shared fandom. Affective polarization scores were modeled as a function of sorting, fandom, and their interaction. Results revealed three key findings. First, politicual sorting strongly predicted higher affective polarization. Second, shared fandom was associated with lower baseline polarization. Third, and most critically, the interaction was significant and negative: shared fandom attenuated the effect of politicual sorting on polarization. These results suggest that cross-cutting cultural identities can buffer the consequences of political sorting, highlighting the potential of seemingly apolitical spaces—such as fandoms—to reduce intergroup hostility in politically divided societies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dahyeon Kang

Assistant Professor | University of Washington

Authors

DongHyun Ryu

[199] Short-Form Video Induces an Inverse Relationship Between Believability and Retention

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Misinformation is spreading at an alarming rate, often by design. Short-form videos are now a prominent format for information consumption on social media platforms. Prior research suggests that visual media can promote cognitive laziness, with audiences relying on surface level cues instead of engaging in deeper analytical thinking. The current project examines how media format and exposure length influences the believability and retention of misinformation. In Study 1, U.S. adult participants ($N = 319$) were exposed to fake news stories, watching a video or reading an article for either 50 seconds or 3 minutes. Participants then rated the believability of the content and completed a retention test. There was a significant inverse relationship between believability and retention, but only in the short-form video condition ($r(61) = -.35, p = .006$); in all other conditions, the relationship was nonsignificant. Surface-level cues in short videos may trigger heuristic processing, increasing believability while undermining deeper memory encoding and/or retention. Study 2 examines a broader stimulus set and assesses the role of individual differences (e.g., reflective thinking).

*POSTER

Speaker



Shakeeb Ghacha

California State University Northridge

Authors

Abraham M. Rutchick, Dustin P. Calvillo

[200] Should AI inform us when we're going to die? Framing life expectancy information as "life length" vs. "death date"

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

How we think about our future may affect our willingness to engage with information. In this study, participants (N = 248) were asked to imagine an artificial intelligence (AI) system that could accurately predict either their "death date" or their "life length", and asked whether they would access this information for themselves and close others. Participants also reflected on their mood and meaning in life after receiving either a "very soon" death date (or "very short" life length) versus a "very far" death date (or "very long" life length). Participants were significantly more willing to receive information when it was framed as "life length" compared to "death date." Moreover, even when the time horizon was identical (1-2 years from now), participants who were told to contemplate a "very short life length" reported a higher meaning in life compared to those who were told to contemplate a "very soon death date." These findings highlight how framing life expectancy alters openness to confronting future outcomes, with implications for health communication, decision-making, and information technology. Additional results (e.g., age, religiosity, health status) are also discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jason Trent

Associate Professor of Psychology | Marist University

Authors

Masanori Oikawa, Yuna Ferguson

[201] Signals of Exclusion: Student Perceptions of Campus Safety Amid Anti-DEI Legislation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Across the U.S., anti-DEI policies are reshaping higher education by dismantling programs designed to foster inclusivity and success for marginalized students. As these policies spread, they may signal identity-based threats, fundamentally altering students' anticipated sense of belonging, academic success, campus safety, and even their decisions about where to enroll. This talk presents empirical insights from a study of 220 students, using both quantitative and qualitative data to examine (1) how anti-DEI policies serve as threatening cues that shape students' expectations of campus belonging and success, (2) which specific campus mechanisms—such as reduced resources or shifts in multicultural values—drive these anticipated changes and (3) what positive and negative experiences students anticipate on anti-DEI campuses. Findings reveal that these anti-DEI policies have potential psychological and institutional consequences, highlighting the need for future research on signaling safety and fostering inclusive campus environments despite growing restrictions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Skyler Carter

Graduate Student | University of Connecticut

Authors

Alexandra Garr-Schultz, Skyler Carter

[202] Similarities in the Perception of the East Asian Group Across Identity Content and In-group Membership

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

People tend to perceive their in-groups more accurately and favorably than out-groups, but less is known about how the same group is perceived differently by its in- versus out-group members and how ethnic-racial identity (ERI) – specifically people's understanding of their ERI (ERI content) – plays a role. This mixed-methods project explored the perceptions of East Asians based on one's in-group status and ERI content. East Asian participants (n = 145) and White participants (n = 166) completed quantitative tasks capturing their visual and socio-behavioral representations of East Asians through the reverse correlation task and a description judgment task, respectively; additionally, they responded to two open-ended questions about their day-to-day perception and categorization of East Asians. Results demonstrated that while one's in-group membership afforded sensitivity to group-relevant behaviors and traits, it did not influence one's visual representation of their group. ERI content influenced perception primarily when perceivers had the cognitive bandwidth for deliberate reasoning.

*POSTER

Speaker



Binhao Wu

The Social Self Lab Research Assistant | Northwestern University

[203] Social Change through Social Media: The Positive Role of Online Organizing in Armenia's Velvet Revolution

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

In 2018, the Armenian Velvet Revolution, a series of nonviolent protests against the government, led to successful regime change and the sponsorship of democratic and anti-corruption reforms (Lanskoy & Suthers, 2019). Social media was a clear driving force of the movement's successful collective action (Kende et al., 2016; Muradian, 2019). In the current study, semi-structured interviews with 18 Armenian activists who participated in the revolution examined social media's role in supporting regime change, creating social pressure for participation, coordinating diverse protest tactics, and sustaining political pressure for continued reform. Using Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA), three main categories were developed from the data: social relationships online and offline, popular opinions on movement legitimacy, and perceived political outcomes of the movement. Study results connect activists' perceptions of social media usage to broader understandings of regime change legitimacy and sustainability within popular uprisings. This work offers insight into the understudied topic of social media's role in collective action and social change in politically restrictive environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taylor Ward

Graduate Student | Appalachian State University

Authors

Brooke Burrows, Özden Melis Uluğ, Özen Odağ, Knar Khudoyan

[204] Social identity complexity as a buffer against political polarization under uncertainty

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Partisan social sorting – the alignment of social identities such as race, religion, and ideology with political partisanship – has been shown to strengthen partisan attachments, heighten emotional reactivity, and fuel animosity towards political outgroups. This phenomenon can be more deeply understood via social identity complexity, a construct that describes the degree to which individuals perceive their multiple ingroup identities as discrete rather than overlapping. Two studies investigated the effects of uncertainty and social identity complexity/partisan social sorting on affective polarization. In Study 1, participants were primed with high vs. low social identity complexity and high vs. low uncertainty. High uncertainty increased affective polarization among those primed with low social identity complexity, but reduced polarization among those primed with high complexity. Study 2, a secondary analysis of 2016-2020 American National Election Studies (ANES data), replicated these results both cross-sectionally and longitudinally. Uncertainty was associated with increased affective polarization among highly sorted partisans, but reduced polarization among the least sorted partisans.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kathryn Kincaid

PhD student | University of Alberta

Authors

David Rast, Mohammed Ali

[205] Social Identity, Relative Deprivation, and Collective Action Before the 2024 Presidential Election

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Politicized identities form the backbone of collective action, which includes behaviors such as signing petitions and attending protests on behalf of the group (Klandermans, 2014). Injustice, often feelings of relative deprivation, motivate these behaviors. Partisan identities were salient leading up to the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election and interparty conflict was high. The Republican nominee, President Trump, claimed that the 2020 election was "stolen from us," whereas the Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, called for unification, stating, "in unity, there is strength." These platforms, along with research linking relative deprivation to right wing populism (Cena et al., 2022), suggest that Republicans may prescribe to a normative narrative of deprivation based on their political identities. A sample of 1521 Democrats and 1324 Republicans collected one week before the 2024 Presidential Election provides evidence that strength of party identification predicts collective action intentions on behalf of one's group, mediated by perceived relative deprivation (in comparison to the outparty). This relationship is stronger for Republicans than Democrats.

*POSTER

Speaker



Miranda Connelly

Graduate Student | Cal Poly Humboldt

Authors

Benjamin Anjewierden, Amber Gaffney, Ava Carney, Yu Jing Guo, Hannah Vogel

[206] Speaking of Emotions: Bicultural Identity, Mentalized Affectivity and Psychological Distress Among Spanish English Bilinguals

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LANGUAGE

While disparities in mental health care access for Hispanic individuals are well-documented, a deeper issue concerns how emotion and distress are experienced among bicultural, often bilingual, individuals. Using the frameworks of Mentalized Affectivity (MA) and Bicultural Identity Integration (BII), the current study examines whether Spanish-English bilinguals experience differences in emotion regulation and psychological symptoms across languages, shaped by cultural identity coherence and language-activated cultural schemas. 171 bilingual adults completed the Mentalized Affectivity Scale, BII Scale, and DASS-21. Results showed higher Identifying scores in English and higher Expressing scores in Spanish. Depression and Stress were also higher in Spanish; Anxiety did not differ. BII predicted cross-language differences in Processing and Expressing but not Identifying. Findings support cultural frame switching theories and suggest that language context shapes emotional experience. BII appears to foster emotional coherence, with implications for culturally sensitive mental health care.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nishanthi Anthonipillai

PhD candidate | The City College of New York

Authors

Adriana Espinosa, Elliot Jurist

[207] Specialization of Labor: A Game Changer for Collaboration

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Humans excel at collaboration, an ability shaped by evolution to solve problems with shared outcomes requiring joint effort. Children and adults prefer to share resources equitably when acquired by collaboration, but not other types of cooperation. Yet key structural features of collaboration remain unexplored. Collaboration offers benefits like achieving otherwise unattainable goals and increasing productivity, but also costs like vulnerability to free-riders. Thus, labor organization likely affects how desirable collaborations are to join. Specialization of labor may be critical. It can incentivize contribution by making roles essential, boost efficiency via task-specific skills, and deter free-riders by making them easier to detect. But do people intuitively understand this? To find out, participants imagined being stranded on an island, needing to prepare food collaboratively. They saw two plans: (1) Each person task-specializes or (2) they switch tasks. People expected more productivity and less free-riding with specialization, and preferred such collaborations. This suggests a well-designed decision-making system for collaborations, reflecting a psychology of collaboration.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dylan Benkley

PhD Student | University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Leda Cosmides, Dylan Benkley

[208] OPEN

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

*POSTER

[209] Spontaneous Self-Affirmation, Psychological Well-Being, and Health Behaviors

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

People may respond defensively when faced with self-relevant threats (e.g., health information), for example in the form of avoidance or reduced health behaviors. Reflecting on personal values and strengths (i.e., self-affirmation) may reduce defensiveness. People who spontaneously self-affirm (SSA) also tend to have better psychological well-being (e.g., more positive emotions and optimism, less negative emotions) and subjective health. The present study investigated associations of SSA with 1) indices of psychological well-being, including anxiety and depression, loneliness and life satisfaction, and 2) health behaviors (Clean and Contain scale) in two panels of participants (Panel 1: n=429, April 2021; Panel 2: n=568, May 2022). After accounting for sociodemographic factors, linear regressions found that greater SSA was associated with less psychological symptoms (Panel 1 only; $\beta = -.15$, $p = .002$) and loneliness ($\beta = -.15$, $p < .001$), as well as greater life satisfaction ($\beta > .09$, $p < .028$) and more cleaning behaviors ($\beta > .10$, $p < .016$) in both panels. Results support the association of SSA with psychological well-being and health behavior engagement, a potential avenue for intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ivy Cheng

Graduate Student | Kent State University

Authors

Jennifer Taber, Charles Fitzsimmons, Pooja Sidney, David Disabato, Karin Coifman

[210] Stay the Course or Make Amends: Consistency vs. Compensation in Decision Making

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Decisions involving the appropriate (fair) allocation of outcomes between two entities often center not only on the current behavior and qualification of the entities, but also on their past experiences. In the consistency perspective, outcome allocation is considered appropriate when it's in line with past success and failure; in the compensation perspective, the appropriate allocation of outcomes compensates for past hardships and mitigating influences. This distinction is observed in everyday situations as well as in institutional contexts (affirmative action). We employed a diverse set of scenarios to test whether political orientation and level of personal agency (Vallacher & Wegner, 1989) influence people's preference for consistency vs. compensation. We hypothesize that political conservatives will opt for consistency because of their emphasis on personal responsibility, while liberals will opt for compensation because of their emphasis on situational forces that hinder success, and that high-level agents will opt for consistency due to their emphasis on competence, while low-level agents will opt for compensation due to their sensitivity to impediments to effective action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alara Karatuna

Student | Florida Atlantic University

Authors

Alara Karatuna, Laura Gust, Andrzej Nowak, Robin Vallacher, Maryana Maderia Borri

[211] Stealing home: Does social support moderate the effects of identity threats on concealment and demoralization?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-verification theory posits that individuals need to be seen by others consistent with how individuals see themselves. If individuals feel self-verified by a small number of friends who know and accept the individual, these friendships may provide a "home base" that mitigates the harm done by various identity threats in other settings. The proposed research will examine the direct effect of identity threats on the tendency to conceal identities and, in turn, the effect of identity threats and concealment on demoralization. These relations are expected to be moderated by perceptions of social support from a close set of friends who make the individual feel self-verified. Data assessing each of these constructs will be gathered from approximately 320 college students. Statistical analyses will include testing a regression-based moderated/mediational model as described above. The study will examine possible theoretical and empirical linkages between self-verification and attachment theories—exploring whether self-verification needs can be satisfied by means of a "home base" of securely attached relationships that extend protections outside of the confines of those relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Moiz Rehman

Student | The University of Texas at San Antonio

Authors

David Pillow, Janelle Kohler, Monica Jimenez, Katie Cheves

[212] Supporting Autocracy: The Impact of Ingroup Status on Leadership Preference

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Research on leadership style demonstrates a preference for democracy over autocracy; however, situational factors may undercut this predisposition. This study investigates the relationship between ingroup status and leadership style preference, specifically whether political ingroup leaders are evaluated more leniently for being autocratic than outgroup leaders. The hypotheses are: (1) an autocratic leader will receive less support than a non-autocratic leader, (2) an outgroup leader will receive less support than an ingroup leader, and (3) there will be an interaction between leadership style and ingroup status, such that the difference in support between autocratic and non-autocratic leadership styles will be greater for outgroup leaders. Participants will read a vignette about a candidate for political office. The candidate's platform will be manipulated such that the leader will be a member of the participant's ingroup or outgroup, and either autocratic or non-autocratic. Participants will then evaluate the candidate, measuring leader support. The expected results are that there will be greater support for ingroup autocratic leaders compared to outgroup autocratic leaders.

*POSTER

Speaker



Saraiah Cottrell

Student | University of Alberta

Authors

Kathryn Kincaid, David Rast III

[213] Sympathy toward home owners versus renters displaced by gentrification

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

People believe they root for disadvantaged individuals, but empathy due to loss aversion could cause them to sympathize more with the advantaged (who have more to lose). Our experiment depicted a low-income resident who really enjoyed living for ten years in a rapidly-gentrifying neighborhood but could not afford to stay. We described the resident being displaced as either a homeowner or renter. Home-owning participants reported having more sympathy and rooting more for the owner than the renter. Participants experienced these feelings even as they understood the substantial profit the owner (but not the renter) could gain from selling their house. Participants thought the owner would feel worse about having to move than the renter, so they sympathized more with the owner despite stating that they would rather trade places in life with the owner than the renter. Renting participants displayed higher sympathy and rooted for the renter more than the home-owning participants.

*POSTER

Speaker



Henry Castaneda
Trinity University

Authors

Harry Wallace

[214] Teaching the System: Connecting People, Policy, and Racism

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Many Americans attribute racism to individual behavior and overlook policy as a crucial cause of racial inequality (Rucker & Richeson, 2021). We designed a novel intervention aimed at teaching people about how individuals and policies reinforce each other to produce racial inequality. In three experiments, participants read examples of racial bias in individuals and policies. Information about racist individuals and racist policies were either presented separately or described as inextricably linked and reinforcing one another. Compared to the 'separate' condition (and compared to a 'no information' control condition), the 'linked' condition increased participants' endorsement that policies and individuals influence one another. These results suggest it is possible to teach how individuals and policies interact to produce racial inequality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nicholas Elacqua
Social Psychology Lab Manager | University of Virginia

Authors

Gabrielle Adams, Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi, Jaclyn Lisnek

[215] Testing a Self-Affirmation Intervention for Seeking Emotional Social Support

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Although needing help is a common occurrence, many people do not seek the help they need. People may avoid seeking help because they anticipate it will be awkward or they fear they will be judged negatively. These negative feelings may become worse when needing to seek emotional social support (ESS) for a personal issue, as needing to seek help for such an issue can be self-threatening. The current study will test a value-based self-affirmation intervention to buffer against this self-threat. It is predicted that self-affirmation will protect against future threats to the self. In the present study, we hypothesize that participants who complete the intervention will report a greater likelihood of seeking ESS regardless of how uncomfortable they anticipate the experience to be. A behavioral measure will also examine whether more people in the intervention group sought support compared to the control group. The findings will reveal whether the self-affirmation intervention was effective in reducing emotional barriers to help-seeking and will contribute to the literature on eliminating help-seeking avoidance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Selena Heinlein
Graduate Student | Northern Illinois University

Authors

Randy McCarthy

[216] Testing The Coddling of the American Mind: Measuring the Three Great Untruths and Their Correlates

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

In *The Coddling of the American Mind*, Lukianoff and Haidt (2018) posit that maladaptive social, psychological, and cultural trends on American college campuses (and potentially Western society more broadly) stem from a growing belief in three "Great Untruths": Fragility (what doesn't kill you makes you weaker), Emotional Reasoning (always trust your feelings), and Us vs Them (life is a battle between good people and evil people). However, despite the book's popularity and impact on popular discourse, few efforts have been made to directly test these claims. We sought to generate and validate a scale and test some of the book's claims. Starting with an initial pool of 131 items, three studies validated a 30-item Measure of the Three Great Untruths (M3GU). Endorsement of the three Great Untruths positively predicted reported experience of helicopter parenting, mental health distress, support for censorship and political violence, political polarization, dangerous and competitive worldviews, a conspiracy mentality and authoritarianism. However, the M3GU was only weakly related or unrelated to education level and age, suggesting that these beliefs are not isolated to college campuses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jake Siamro
M.A. Student | Wilfrid Laurier University

Authors

Melody Hogervorst

[217] That's Just My Opinion: Political Identity Threat in Virtual and In-Person Environments

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Given growing political polarization in the U.S., it is possible that Americans experience identity threat based on their political identity, in which they anticipate negative treatment from others based on their own political ideology. Moreover, political identity threat may be experienced differently in virtual versus in-person contexts. We randomly assigned 356 American adults to imagine hearing a negative political or apolitical comment from a coworker that was communicated either in-person or online. The coworker's negative political comment (pilot tested) voiced either opposition (for liberal participants) or praise (for conservative participants) for gender neutral bathrooms. In partial support of pre-registered hypotheses, participants experienced greater general and categorization threat when exposed to a political comment and greater distinctiveness threat when exposed to an apolitical comment. Setting did not moderate these effects. This study supports the existence of political identity threat and demonstrates that it may be elicited through negatively valenced politically-salient interpersonal interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nick Ashenfelter

Masters Student | Villanova University

Authors

Caitlyn Yantis

[218] The role of elite cues and endorsements of political violence in shaping individual attitudes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

This project analyzes the role of affect-based political cues, wherein different emotional valence produces different behavioral outcomes, provided by elite leadership and the subsequent transmission of these values onto the electorate. Given that there is a well-documented rise in charismatic politicians being elected to office and ultimately influencing a large swath of the electorate to adopt ideologically similar policy preferences, this study employs a survey experiment to observe whether rhetorical manipulations can result in greater political alignment between elites and their constituents. Using a three-way factorial design between elite ideological identity, elite-participant ideological matching, and the cue's rhetorical theme, participants were exposed to a sample political speech that manipulated the chosen cue, political violence, as either an agency-based call to action or a moral defense of ingroup identity. Early theories suggest the robustness of social influence processes as they play out in today's modern political climate, along with the need for assessing the malleability of individual behavior, particularly when originally positioned against elite preferences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katherine Keil

Northwestern University

[219] The “No Alternative” Trap: Authentic vs Strategic Expressions of Fatalism

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Across three studies (N = 3,032), we examine the disconnect between dissatisfaction with societal conditions and political action. Study 1 uses longitudinal data from the American National Election Studies (ANES) and finds that between 2020-2022, 30% to 43% of participants remained politically inactive despite reporting an explicit dissatisfaction with the current state of the country. This “resigned” group is distinguished from ambivalent, system justifying, and system challenging groups. Study 2 replicated these results using a U.S. Prolific sample, while bringing to light an important issue for the study of collective resignation: the tendency for system justifiers to report hopelessness for social change and fatalism. Study 3 replicates and expands Studies 1-2 and demonstrates that system justifiers personally endorse feelings of fatalism in affectively neutral ways, potentially as a means to mute dissent. Relative to system justifiers, resigned participants personally endorsed fatalism less but perceived fatalism to be more negative and widespread. These studies underscore the importance and complexity of studying collective resignation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eva García Ferrés

Graduate Student | University of Florida

Authors

Gregory D. Webster, Colin Tucker Smith, Lea Hartwich

[220] The Alliance Hypothesis of Race: A Replication Study

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Is categorization by race inevitable? The Alliance Hypothesis of Race posits that age, sex, and alliance—but not race—are “dedicated” or “primary” dimensions of social categorization (e.g., Pietraszewski, 2022). The Alliance Hypothesis of Race predicts that when alliance information is presented orthogonally with race information (such that race does not predict who is allied with whom), categorization by race will substantially decrease relative to when alliance information is absent. Importantly, the hypothesis also predicts that categorization by age and sex will be unaffected by alliance information. The current studies attempt to replicate the effects predicted by the alliance hypothesis of race using the ‘Who Said What?’ paradigm in a series of three 2(dimension) x 2(alliance information: present/absent) between-subjects experiments (Ns = 100/condition ; Total N = 600). Studies 1, 2 and 3 examine categorization by race(black/white), age(young/old), and sex(male/female), respectively. Categorization along each dimension is examined in contexts where alliance information, (operationalized as cues to targets’ political orientation), are present or absent. Results of all three studies are used to gain empirical leverage on the veracity of the Alliance Hypothesis of Race.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kenya Mulwa

Graduate Student | Michigan State University

[221] The Cognitive Map of Politics: Measuring How Voters Organize and Perceive Political Coalitions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Understanding how voters perceive political coalitions is key to explaining partisanship and polarization. While prior work focuses on how parties sort voters by ideology and demographics, less is known about how voters themselves mentally organize political groups. We first analyze nationally representative ANES data, using network and clustering methods on feeling thermometer ratings to uncover latent coalitions embedded in affective group evaluations from 1996 to 2024. We then validate this structure in an original survey (N = 602), where participants rated the perceived political alignment of a subset of social groups. Exploratory graph analysis reveals the same latent coalition structure, suggesting voters share a coherent map of party-aligned groups. Finally, we explore individual differences in this perceptual sorting, examining which psychological and demographic variables predict variation in how voters structure partisan coalitions. This work sheds light on how voters construct political meaning and how these mental maps shape polarization in the electorate.

*POSTER

Speaker



Isaias Ghezze
Harvard University

Authors

Mina Cikara

[222] CANCELLED:

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

*POSTER

[223] The Cost of Caring: How Mindfulness Impacts Motivated Compassion Avoidance

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Research has found that prosocial emotions are cognitively effortful. One way that people regulate prosocial emotion is by selecting into or avoiding social situations that require it. As an attention-based emotion regulation strategy, mindfulness may allow one to be more "present" in social emotion regulation contexts. Early work has found that mindfulness training increases prosocial emotion regulation. Here, we conducted three studies that tested if trait mindfulness and brief mindfulness instruction would predict motivated compassion avoidance (or selection). In Study 1 (n=189), trait mindfulness was not correlated with motivated compassion avoidance in a modified Empathy Selection Task. In Study 2 (n=148), Prolific workers and college students receiving brief mindfulness instruction unexpectedly avoided compassion situations over time as compared to sham mindfulness instruction recipients. Together these studies suggest that momentary states of mindfulness may be associated with motivated empathy avoidance. Study 3 (ongoing n=117/300) adds a no-instruction control to Study 2, to determine if the mindfulness or sham mindfulness condition is "active" in compassion selection.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophia Crawford
Undergraduate | Radford University

Authors

Daniel Berry

[224] The Double-Edged Identity: How White vs. Ethnic Salience Shapes White Americans' Privilege Acknowledgment and Diversity Support

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Prompting White Americans to consider their ethnic (vs. racial) identity increases support for multiculturalism. However, it is possible that an ethnic (vs. racial) identity focus absolves White people from acknowledging their racial privilege. We tested this possibility in two preregistered studies (N = 696). White American online participants were randomly assigned to consider their racial (i.e., White) or ethnic identity (e.g., Irish). In Study 1 (N = 276), the identity salience manipulation did not impact multiculturalism nor privilege beliefs, but qualitative analyses revealed that those in the ethnic (vs. racial) identity salience condition spontaneously mentioned privilege less frequently. Study 2 (N = 420) added an explicit privilege reminder to make unearned racial advantages more apparent. As hypothesized, ethnic (vs. racial) identity salience decreased personal privilege acknowledgment, but we failed to replicate the positive effect of ethnic (vs. racial) identity salience on multiculturalism support shown in past work. These findings suggest that emphasizing White Americans' ethnic identity may hinder privilege acknowledgment and complicate genuine allyship.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samantha Di Carlo
Graduate Student | Villanova University

Authors

Caitlyn Yantis

[225] Cancelled

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

*POSTER

[226] The effects of I-sharing with same and opposite sex partners on sexist beliefs in men

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

I-sharing is the belief in an identical shared subjective experience between two individuals (e.g., sharing the same emotional reaction like fear when watching a movie). Shared subjective experiences play an important role in interpersonal contact and it can lead to increased liking between subjects. Interestingly, the liking that I-sharing builds can override in-group bias, leading individuals to prefer I-sharing dissimilar partners over non-I-sharing similar partners. While increased liking from I-sharing has been explored, intergroup perceptions, such as sexist beliefs, after I-sharing have not been explored. Unlike I-sharing, quality and quantity of time spent with women have both been linked to a reduction in sexist beliefs in men, which may suggest that I-sharing could have a similar effect (Vasquez, 2020). Since sexist beliefs are connected to violent behavior and acceptance of violent behavior towards women, any reduction of them is significant (Gutierrez, 2023). Participants will be subject to an I-sharing manipulation then surveyed on benevolent and hostile sexist beliefs. This study seeks to explore the relationship between men I-sharing with women and sexist beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ollie Ansley

Research Assistant | Texas Christian University

Authors

Bao Han Tran, Cathy Cox

[227] The Effects of Narrative vs. Expository Messages on Social Support-Seeking in First-Year College Students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

College students experience increasing loneliness and isolation, with first-year students being particularly vulnerable due to environmental and social changes. We tested whether reading about peers' vulnerable experiences would improve social support-seeking and perceptions of peer empathy among first-year college students. Reading fiction has been shown to strengthen social cognition, and norm-setting has also been shown to increase social wellbeing. We examined how these formats—Narrative (1st-person storytelling, i.e. "fiction") vs. Expository (statistics, i.e. "nonfiction"/norm-setting)—could lead to changes in empathy perception and support-seeking. Study 1 findings (n=118) indicated that reading about student experiences in both styles did not consistently change empathy perception but significantly increased social support-seeking ($p < 0.01$). These results were partially replicated in Study 2 (n=85). Our findings suggest that such an intervention design can be potentially beneficial and effective in encouraging support-seeking in college students. This in turn can increase social outreach, connection-making, and sense of belonging, all of which promote wellbeing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Huang

Research Specialist | Princeton University

Authors

Rui Pei, Jamil Zaki

[228] The Effects of Racial and Ethnic Identities on Discrimination Perception

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Race and ethnicity are often conflated in mainstream and scientific discourse, resulting in terminological confusion. This study defines race as a social construct categorizing people based on visible physical characteristics such as skin color, whereas ethnicity refers to a shared cultural heritage, values, tradition, and ancestry. This study examines the difference and the intersection of these concepts rooted in social identity within two groups in the Black population—Black Americans and Black immigrants. We believe racial identity is important to Black Americans due to the prevalence of racial discrimination in America; therefore, we make ethnic identity comparatively less central. We test this by evaluating naturally occurring racial and ethnic differences as well as by manipulating the salience of racial and ethnic identities. We propose that Black Americans will report more discrimination and attribute it to race. For Black immigrants, discrimination perception and attribution to race and ethnicity will be moderated by acculturation. These naturally occurring differences will be lessened in response to the salience manipulation. To assess these, a survey will be distributed to 400 Black Americans and 400 Black immigrants on Cloud Research Connect. Participants will be randomly assigned to an ethnicity or race social identity condition to prime either identity before administering the primary measure. Discrimination perception and attribution to race and ethnicity will be measured using ambiguous discrimination vignettes modeled from previous work.

By evaluating within-group differences and the intersection of race, ethnicity, and acculturation, this study will better inform our understanding of the discrimination experience. Findings are expected to inform culturally responsive counseling approaches and guide equity-focused policies tailored to the nuanced realities of marginalized populations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Miracle Bain

Undergraduate Student | Baylor University

Authors

Monica Weedman, Jo-Ann Tsang

[229] The Effects of Self- and Racial-Affirmation on Self- and Race-Relevant Outcomes among African Americans

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Previous research has examined how self-affirmation affects ethnic minority samples within the context of stereotype threats and health-related threats. However, limited self-affirmation research has considered self-related outcomes (e.g., psychological well-being; resilience) and race-related outcomes (perceived discrimination; racial identity) among African Americans. Furthermore, little research has compared self-affirmation (promoting self-relevant values) to racial-affirmation (promoting racial group relevant values). We hypothesized that African Americans on an online Prolific sample in a self- or racial-affirmation condition will report lower discrimination and higher psychological well-being, resilience, and racial identity as compared to control participants. Further, we hypothesized that self-affirmation will have a larger effect on self-relevant outcomes and that racial-affirmation will have a larger effect on the race-relevant outcomes as compared to the other respective condition or control condition. Given the pervasiveness of racism in society, it is important to examine these identity and well-being constructs among African American samples.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mollie Price-Blackshear

Assistant Professor | University of Central Arkansas

Authors

James Wages, Mollie Price-Blackshear

[230] The Expectedness Gap: Socioeconomic Inequality in the Quality of Employment Self-predictions

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Who experiences more unexpectedness in life than others? My work measures and explains the extent to which socioeconomically disadvantaged people have less success in foreseeing a key life outcome: whether one will be employed in four months. Economists have emphasized that disadvantaged groups have more overoptimistic systematic bias. People predicting an x% chance of employment tend to have a less than x% chance of employment, especially among the less well-off. However, focusing on systematic bias allows positive and negative prediction errors to simply cancel out and yields few insights into the importance of systematic bias relative to other factors constituting unexpectedness. Using the Survey of Consumer Expectations, I show that those with more earnings and schooling can better foresee positive and negative employment outcomes. I decompose mean squared prediction errors to show that differences in systematic bias make up at most 15% of the expectedness gap between the top and bottom earning quartiles. Disadvantaged people have more unexpected outcomes mostly because they face greater variation in employment and lack the advance notice necessary for foreseeing nonemployment.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hanzhang Ren

PhD Candidate | Stanford University

[231] Beyond Religious Prosociality: The Effects of Secular and Religious Primes on Behavioral Consistency

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Authors: Rozelin Vurgun, Ensar Acem, Firat Seker, Burak Dogruyol, Hasan G. Bahcekapili, Ozan Isler, Onurcan Yilmaz

Challenging the assumed religion–prosociality link, we present evidence that moral consistency—not just prosociality—is shaped by the interplay of religious identity and contextual factors among Christian and Muslim participants. Across two experiments, we examined how priming religious and secular authority (via a novel pseudo-CAPTCHA task) influenced prosocial behavior and behavioral moral consistency among religious believers and non-believers. In Study 1 (N = 1546, United States), Christians were not more prosocial than non-believers, but they exhibited greater moral consistency across domains. Although neither prime significantly increased general prosociality, priming secular authority enhanced moral consistency. In a replication with a Muslim sample in Türkiye (N = 971), religiosity was not correlated with either prosociality or consistency. However, secular priming increased prosocial behavior compared to the control condition and enhanced consistency relative to the religious prime. Overall, our findings showed that morality extends beyond religion, with both religious and secular systems adapting moral behavior depending on cultural context and activated norms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rozelin Vurgun

PhD Student | Kadir Has University

Authors

Rozelin Vurgun, Ensar Acem, Burak Dogruyol, Ozan Isler, Onurcan Yilm, Firat Seker, Hasan G. Bahcekapili

[232] The Impact of Threats to the Democratic System on Psychological and Physical Health: From the Declaration of Martial Law to the Presidential Impeachment in South Korea

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Threats to democratic systems can be stressors that adversely affect individuals' mental and physical health. We examine the health consequences of two contrasting political events in South Korea: the declaration of martial law by the president (Dec. 3, 2024) and his impeachment through democratic procedures (Apr. 4, 2025). Data were collected from a nationally representative sample (N = 1,000) shortly after the impeachment. Participants reported mental and physical health during two distinct periods (pre- and post-impeachment). Controlling for covariates, participants reported worse mental and physical health in the pre- (vs. post-) impeachment period. Political orientation moderated these effects: liberals, compared to conservatives, experienced worse health outcomes before the impeachment, but better outcomes after. We collected follow-up data from the same participants before and after Korea's presidential election (Jun. 3, 2025) and will further analyze health changes over time. These findings suggest that political threats to democracy can harm public health, and individuals' political orientation plays a key role in shaping how they experience and recover from such crises.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hyun Joon Park

Assistant Professor | Ajou University

Authors

Eunha Kim

[233] The impact of victim identity on true crime media consumption and the perpetuation of Missing White Woman Syndrome (MWWS)

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

MWWS is the tendency for true crime stories involving white, high SES, female victims to receive greater media attention and public interest compared to true crime stories involving minority-identifying victims (Slakoff & Fradella, 2019). This study investigated mechanisms of MWWS by testing how a victim's race and SES in a true crime podcast drove interest, perceptions, and attitudes toward the story. Participants (n = 248) read a description of a fictional true crime podcast in which an 18-year-old woman went missing. The victim's race (white or black) and SES (low or high) were manipulated, creating 4 between-person conditions. Contrary to MWWS bias, the low SES black victim's story was perceived to be more surprising and important compared to other identity conditions. Interest in the podcast did not differ based on race and SES. Aligning with MWWS, high SES white victims were perceived to garner greater concern and effort from police and community members compared to other conditions. Thus, MWWS bias may not be primarily driven by what listeners perceive as most important or engaging but what is perceived that other people—i.e., society at large—seem to care about.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kathryn Howard

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Eastern Mennonite University

Authors

Kathryn Howard-Ligas, Allison Wilck

[234] The Influence of Identity Priming on Evaluations of Kamala Harris

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

The social identities of Democratic Party nominee Kamala Harris were noted frequently prior to the election. We examined how priming her marginalized identities affects perceptions of her. In study 1 (n = 592), a representative U.S. sample viewed a paragraph describing only Harris's qualifications or her qualifications along with her gender, race, or both. Mentioning her race led to less favorable perceptions regardless of participants' political orientation, suggesting subtle identity cues shape impressions. However, when compared to an unnamed candidate, political orientation moderated responses: only more conservative participants rated Harris less favorably. Study 2 (n = 588) disaggregated Harris's racial background. Results showed that her Black identity, not her South Asian or combined identity, drove the negative evaluations regardless of political orientation. As in Study 1, conservatives rated her more negatively than an unnamed candidate, but only when her Black identity was made salient. Together, these studies demonstrate that identity salience, particularly Black racial identity, can meaningfully influence candidate evaluations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Brown

Graduate Student | University of Colorado - Boulder

Authors

Evava Pietri, Sheba Aikawa

[235] The Influence of Mock Juror Attitudes, Beliefs, and Ideologies on Perceptions of Sex Workers in Criminal Trials

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Prior research indicates that terminology strongly influences perceptions of sex workers, with the term "prostitute" evoking more negative perceptions compared to "sex worker." Additionally, juror beliefs and ideologies may impact how the victim is perceived especially when they are sex workers who are victims of sex crimes. The current research utilizes a 2 (Terminology: Prostitute vs. Sex Worker) x 2 (Victim Ethnicity: Latina vs. White) between-subjects design to examine how terminology and mock jurors' preexisting beliefs and ideologies influence decision making in a case of sexual assault. Participants rendered a verdict and answered questions regarding their perceptions of victim credibility and believability. Additionally, they completed several individual difference measures (i.e., stereotypes towards sex work, moral foundations, political ideology, social dominance orientation, and rape myth acceptance). This research highlights how differences in terminology use, as well as perceptions of victims, can negatively impact the criminal legal system.

*POSTER

Speaker



Olivia Grella

Graduate Student | University of Wyoming

Authors

Kayla Burd, Gavin DeRosas

[236] The Interaction of Self-Concept Clarity and Advice Seeking in Decision-Making

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

People often face tough choices with no clear answer—such as choosing between job offers. While some decide easily, others seek input. Self-concept clarity (SCC), the extent to which people have clear and consistent beliefs about themselves, influences well-being and decision-making, but its link to advice-seeking is understudied. We hypothesized that people with lower SCC will seek more advice to reduce uncertainty, easing the decision process but increasing regret.

We surveyed 246 participants, measuring trait SCC, decision difficulty, regret frequency, and advice-seeking, and experimentally manipulated SCC before presenting a hypothetical relocation job offer decision. Participants reported who they would turn to for advice, varying by closeness and decision relevance.

The findings supports our hypothesis that higher trait SCC predicted lower decision difficulty, less regret, and less frequent but more comfortable advice-seeking. While the SCC manipulation effects were not statistically significant, trait SCC predicted advice-seeking behavior. These results highlight how SCC shapes not only whether people seek advice, but also who we turn to and how we feel about it.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sabrina Lam

Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Wendi Gardner, Sabrina Lam, Mengdi Huang

[237] The Interactive Roles of Social Fit and Self-Alienation in Shaping the Experience of State Authenticity

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The State Authenticity Fit to Environment model posits that individuals with devalued social identities experience fewer opportunities for state authenticity due to lower perceived fit (i.e., goal, self-concept, social) between their identity and the environment. This research examined which type of fit best predicts state authenticity and how self-alienation (i.e., felt disconnection from the self) interacts with fit to shape the experience of state authenticity. Study 1 (N = 235), a four-day daily diary study, found that social fit (i.e., feeling accepted by others) uniquely predicted state authenticity beyond goal and self-concept fit. Social fit interacted with self-alienation: For those with a strong sense of self (low self-alienation), social fit had little impact on authenticity; but, as self-alienation increased, social fit became more influential. Study 2 (N = 168) experimentally tested the role of social fit with LGBTQ+ individuals in a mock interview. Participants in the social fit condition reported greater state authenticity than those in the non-fit condition. Self-alienation again moderated this effect in a pattern similar to Study 1. This evidence suggests that, although environmental fit contributes to feelings of authenticity, the perception of knowing oneself may help people sustain a sense of authenticity even in environments that do not affirm their identity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lydia Needy

PhD Student | Texas A&M University

Authors

Joshua Hicks, Lydia Needy

[238] The Limits of Religiosity as a Buffer for Immigration-Policy-Related Stress

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Recent changes in U.S. immigration policies are a potential stressor, particularly for people living in communities targeted by the policies. This stress is likely exacerbated when people have familial ties to people likely to be targeted. Still, these changes do not necessarily cause stress. For example, research suggests that religiosity can buffer people against negative stress responses, in part because it provides meaning to suffering (Masters, 2008). We investigated whether religiosity might buffer college students against stress regarding immigration policy changes, and whether familial attachment to someone potentially targeted by the policies (here having at least one parent born outside of the U.S.) might moderate this effect. We found religiosity was a stress buffer for those with both parents born in the U.S. (n=62) but was not for those with at least one parent born outside of the U.S. (n=275). This interaction was not significant for other national policies implemented at the same point in time (e.g., tariffs). Findings indicate that the assumed stress buffer provided by religion might vary based on contextual factors, such as personal relevance of the stress source.

*POSTER

Speaker



Camryn Hutchins

PhD Student | University of California, Merced

Authors

Jennifer Howell, Charlie Coward, Sameeksha Panda

[239] The Meaning of Seeking Help: The Effects of Ascribed and Achieved Status of the Help-Seeker on Observer Attributions, Expectations and Willingness to Offer Help

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Research indicates that sometimes people rely on limited sources of information when judging a person or group. Unable to see the 'whole picture', they, usually unconsciously, often fill in missing pieces of information themselves. Ascribed and achieved status dimensions assist in the process of social perception. Drawing on recent research on intergroup helping and focusing on evaluations of potential helpers, this research investigates inferences and attributions made by observers and their willingness to offer help while considering the effects of ascribed and achieved status dimensions of the help-seeker. We conducted a pilot study and two additional studies exploring the implications of this link in real-life settings. Our findings indicate that seeking help may be viewed as a sign of insufficient effort, particularly for individuals characterized by low ascribed and achieved status dimensions, and, thus, as stigma consistent behavior. Theoretical and applied implications are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samer Halabi

[240] The Mental Separation of Church and State: Investigating the Relationship Between Religiosity and Support for Authoritarian Norms in American Politics

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

How separated are church and state in the minds of Americans? While Americans may be becoming less religious in recent years, religion still remains linked with prevailing political attitudes that shape voter behavior. There has also been an increase in acceptance of authoritarian behaviors from political elites in the United States, which can be linked with the rise of White Christian Nationalism within the Republican Party. Given the similarities between religion and political ideology as belief systems that are linked to individuals' social identities, we ask to what extent does religious identity influence an individual's willingness to accept autocratic behavior from political leaders?

In the present research, we examine the extent to which religiosity is associated with perceptions of normalcy for political figures pushing the legal and moral boundaries of their powers. We analyzed data from a survey conducted by the UMass Poll of a nationally representative sample of 1,000 American adults. We expect to find that respondents who score higher on measures of religiosity will be more likely to consider government overreach politically normal. These findings can be used to inform our understanding of religious individuals behaving in ways that contrast their religious ideals in the realm of politics.

*POSTER

Speakers



Julia Mohanty

University of Massachusetts Amherst



Sydney Brake

Ph.D. Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Sydney Brake

[241] The more you want to fit in, the more similar you become: How others' ideologies relate to our own intergroup attitudes

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Why people develop prejudice has been under the spotlight of many political and social psychological studies. The current contribution bridges the gap between individual and contextual perspectives and conceptualizes attitudes as joint products of personal ideologies and social norms, as such adopting a person-within-context approach. In two US samples (total N = 1150), representative in terms of age, gender, ethnic background (Studies 1–2), and political orientation (Study 2), we examined whether perceived levels of Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) and Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) in one's close groups (family, friends, colleagues, and people in one's town) were related to outgroup warmth and avoidance through one's own RWA and SDO. We also included norm enactment as a moderator of close-group ideologies' effect on one's own ideologies. The results showed that close-group ideologies were positively linked to participants' own RWA and SDO, which, in turn, were associated with lower outgroup warmth and higher outgroup avoidance in both studies. Most importantly, these effects were strongest for those who have a high desire to enact close-group norms, and weakest for those who have a low desire for norm enactment. These findings highlight the significance of situating personal ideologies within their contextual plenum while studying intergroup relations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasper Van Assche

Université libre de Bruxelles / Ghent University

[242] The More-Stressed-Than-Average Effect in US College Students

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

In some circumstances, people rate their traits and abilities less favorably than their average peer (worse-than-average effect or WTAE; Guenther & Zhang, 2024). Given that college is an especially stressful period (Barker & Howard, 2022), we tested whether college students exhibit a WTAE in perceptions of stress. We used data from the American College Health Association, which included responses from US college students in 2008–2019. Participants rated their overall stress in the last twelve months as (1) no stress, (2) less than average stress, (3) average stress, (4) more than average stress, or (5) tremendous stress. Overall, we found a robust WTAE in perceptions of stress ($M = 3.53$, $SD = 0.85$, $d = .63$). This WTAE was associated with lower well-being ($\log\text{-count} = 0.24$, $SE = .004$), a 20% greater chance of being diagnosed with psychological disorders ($OR = 1.92$, $SE = .02$), and a 15% greater chance of seeking counseling services ($OR = 1.72$, $SE = .01$). Altogether, these results suggest that US college students perceive their stress as worse-than-average and that such perceptions are associated with worse mental health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tyler Robinson

Graduate Student | University of North Carolina Greensboro

Authors

Ethan Zell

[243] The Myth of the Unmoving Past

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Americans believe the past is different from the present. Previous research has already demonstrated that people believe the past was more conservative than it really was, a misperceptions of American attitudes going back to the year 1972. Here we extend this idea of misperceptions. First, we manipulate within subjects and within 39 attitudes what year in the past we ask Americans to estimate American attitudes from 2012 all the way back to 1822. We also manipulate whether we ask people at all about the past, or present, or future, across attitudes. Finally, we ask people to predict American attitudes in the future, within-subjects and within attitudes from 10 to 200 years in the future. Across 4,664 estimates about the past, present, and future—we replicate the finding that Americans believe progress has occurred. We also show, however, that Americans believe progress has occurred only relatively recently, and attitudes in the more distant past were stable and unchanging. We also show that Americans believe progress will continue into the future, although at a significantly slower rate than it had progressed from the mythical unmoving past. Overall, our findings show that stereotypes of the past lead people to misperceive attitude change, but largely because we misperceive how the past was. Americans see the past as a stable and unmoving place.

*POSTER

Speaker



John Protzko

Assistant Professor | Central Connecticut State University

[244] The Need to Evaluate Predicts Greater Affective Political Polarization

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

In recent years, a great deal of research has documented stark political polarization in the United States. Specifically, political partisans have become more affectively polarized, expressing strong preference and liking for their own party over the opposing party. In efforts to understand the antecedents of affective political polarization, very little work has focused on the influence of psychological or individual difference variables. Using data from the 2012 and 2016 American National Election Studies, the present study tests whether the need to evaluate (Jarvis & Petty, 1996) is related to polarization. The results indicate that the need to evaluate is associated with greater polarization. Contrary to expectations from prior research on the need to evaluate, this relationship was not moderated by respondents' level of political knowledge.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jacob Appleby

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Hamline University

[245] The Pandemic has Aged Me: The Impact of Blocked Goals on Subjective Age

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Many individuals report feeling aged by the COVID-19 pandemic, a sentiment widely expressed across social media and journalism. This study investigates what it means to feel aged by a life experience, integrating theories of subjective aging and adult development. I developed a novel self-report measure to assess perceptions of being aged by the pandemic and examined its relation to blocked personal goals. Results from the first wave of a longitudinal study (n=234) supported the validity of this measure, showing that participants who experienced greater goal disruption during the pandemic were more likely to report feeling aged. Furthermore, participants who felt aged, particularly those classified as languishing rather than flourishing, reported lower life satisfaction. These findings suggest that feeling aged by hardship may indicate not just stress but a more lasting shift, with significant implications for subjective aging and overall well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brigitta Munds

Authors

Richard Eibach, Steven Mock

[246] The perception of a source who advises while admitting to not knowing

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

We examine how people evaluate sources that say "I don't know." In three studies, participants imagined seeking online medical advice from either a physician, a layperson, or an AI, who either provided proactive advice or admitted not knowing. Across studies, physicians were rated more positively than laypeople. Additionally, sources who admitted not knowing were seen as more honest and benevolent. When advice was proactive, adding an explanation didn't affect perceived expertise. But among sources who admitted not knowing, those who explained were seen as equally expert as proactive ones, while unexplained admissions reduced perceived expertise. When AI replaced the layperson, results replicated with one exception: AI was seen as less expert when it didn't know, even with an explanation. Follow-up surveys revealed a discrepancy between perceived norms and evaluations: people perceive and expect others to perceive experts who say "I don't know" negatively, even when an explanation is provided. Shifting the perceived norm could encourage more willingness to say "I don't know," potentially reducing the spread of misinformation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tom Mushkat

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Ruth Mayo

[247] The Price of the Status Quo: I'd Rather Pay More Than Change To Protect Environment

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Contemporary society faces unprecedented climate threats, yet progress toward decarbonization has been impeded by public resistance. From a rational choice view, this opposition may stem from concerns over economic costs, as climate solutions (e.g., renewable energy) are often believed to entail higher expenses than fossil fuels. In contrast, system justification theory suggests opposition may be driven by threats solutions pose to the status quo, since proposals often require changes to entrenched lifestyles. These perspectives raise an important question: Would people rather bear financial costs or change their lifestyle to protect the environment? Using U.S. General Social Survey (GSS) data from 1993 (N = 1662), we found that people reported greater willingness to pay higher prices to protect the environment than to accept cuts to their lifestyles. Notably, this pattern was not moderated by income, perceived financial situation, or subjective SES. Using multi-year GSS data, we will preregister and replicate the findings, and test if the pattern changes over time. These results underscore the role of status-quo defense in driving climate opposition, even more than economic costs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Taeik Kim

PhD Candidate | University of Missouri, Columbia

[248] The racial categorization of Kamala Harris in the US Election

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Studies of racial categorization of Biracial people often focus on how people categorize those with a majority and minoritized background. How do people racially categorize Biracial people who have two minoritized backgrounds? The racial categorization of Kamala Harris, who holds two minoritized backgrounds, provides an important case study, as her racial identity was widely discussed during 2024 US presidential election. Using data collected before and after the election, we test how Black, South Asian, and White participants (N = 564) racially categorized Harris. Participants were much more likely to categorize Harris as Biracial than monoracial, though this varied by participant race and political orientation. White and South Asian participants were more likely to categorize Harris as Biracial if they intended to vote for Harris compared to Trump. Among Black participants, there was no difference by participants' voting intentions. The findings were robust to an acute identity salience manipulation and persisted two weeks after the election. These data suggest the category "Biracial" is widely applied for a high-profile person, with political and racial variation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Analía Albuja

Assistant Professor | Northeastern University

Authors

Sabrina Piccolo, Chris Petsko, Pia Chandrakanth

[249] The Relationship Between Celebrity Worship and Conspiracy Endorsement

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Conspiracy theories are increasingly prominent in politics and media. Schizotypal personality traits are the best predictors of conspiracy belief because they reflect cognitive styles that deviate from conventional logic. Cognitive deficits also make individuals more susceptible to celebrity worship. As celebrities increasingly influence political spheres, it is critical to examine whether attitudes toward celebrities relate to political cognition. 318 participants completed the Conspiracy Mentality Questionnaire, the Brief-Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire, and the Celebrity Attitudes Scale. Conspiracy mentality was correlated with schizotypal personality ($r = 0.23, p < .05$), and with celebrity worship ($r = 0.18, p < .05$). In individual linear regression models, schizotypal traits ($t(269) = 3.85, p < 0.001, R^2 = 0.05$), and celebrity worship ($t(265) = 2.98, p < 0.001, R^2 = 0.04$) were significant predictors of conspiracy mentality. When included together, both schizotypal traits ($t(257) = 3.40, p < .001$) and celebrity worship ($t(257) = 2.24, p = 0.03$) were significant ($R^2 = 0.08$), but did not have a significant interaction ($t(256) = 0.58, p = 0.56$). This suggests that celebrity worship is related to conspiracy belief. Understanding this link may help explain why some people are more prone to conspiratorial thinking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abigail Van Nuland
DePaul

Authors

Abigail Van Nuland, Sandra Virtue

[250] The role of moral foundations in recent US presidential elections

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Do moral foundations matter in elections? Using Prolific data from 337 Americans, with vote for presidential candidate as the outcome variable, I conducted three binary logistic regression analyses using, in two steps, political liberalism-conservatism and moral foundations as predictors. In 2016 and 2024, but not in 2020, the answer appears to be yes. Two of the right-associated moral values (loyalty and authority) were consistent predictors of voting behavior (or intentions), whereas the left-associated moral values rarely were, with fairness only predictive in 2020 and caring never being predictive. Furthermore, the moral foundations were predictive in 2016 and 2024 over and above political liberalism-conservatism, indicating their value as additional predictors of voters' preferences.

*POSTER

Speaker



David Nalbone
Professor of Psychology | Purdue Univ. Northwest

[251] The role of political stereotypes in climate-related second-order belief content and accuracy

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

The present study shows how political stereotypes hinder policy support by shaping second-order beliefs (beliefs about others' beliefs) about support for carbon regulation. The study ($N = 896$) used a 2 (target of beliefs: Democrats vs. Republicans) x 2 (stereotypical policy cues: revenues to the poor—consistent with Democrat stereotypes and inconsistent with Republican stereotypes vs. revenues to the military—consistent with Republican stereotypes and inconsistent with Democrat stereotypes) x 2 (respondents' political identity) design. Conforming to stereotypes, Democrats were estimated to support the climate policy when revenues went to the poor more than when they went to the military, and the reverse was true for Republicans. However, political stereotypes influenced the accuracy of Democratic respondents' second-order beliefs more than those of Republicans: Democrats underestimated Republicans' support for policies with revenues for the poor and overestimated the political divide. The impact of second-order beliefs was evident in greater support for policies when both Democrats and Republicans believed their political ingroup supported it and their out-group did not.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zoe Baker
Graduate Student | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Janet Swim

[252] The Role of Source Attribution for Debunking Critical Race Theory Misinformation

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Previous research has shown that misinformation about critical race theory (CRT) can be corrected when a debunking technique is used (Devaney et al., 2025). The current study aims to extend the literature on debunking and CRT misinformation by investigating how source attribution impacts the accuracy of participants when misinformation is corrected. Based on a two-wave panel design with a nationally diverse U.S. sample, source attribution for a correction to CRT misinformation was varied between a liberal source (MSNBC), a conservative source (Fox) or no source attribution. Participants were randomly assigned to one of five conditions: (1) a control condition, (2) a misinformation-only treatment, (3) a misinformation + no source correction, (4) a misinformation + conservative-source correction, and (5) a misinformation + liberal-source correction. Contrary to predictions, there was not an increase in accuracy for participants in all three of the correction conditions compared to the misinformation-only condition. Accuracy was increased for participants in the no-source and liberal source conditions compared to the control condition but not for the conservative-source condition. The present set of findings is consistent with past research suggesting that source credibility has an inconsistent impact on the correction of political misinformation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mackenzie Devaney
Graduate Student | University of Minnesota

Authors

Eugene Borgida, Christopher Federico

[253] The Role of the Behavioral Immune System in Welfare Chauvinism: Variation in Its Impact by Recipients' Nationality

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

In recent years, growing attention has been directed to welfare chauvinism—the phenomenon in which foreign welfare recipients are seen as less deserving than natives based solely on nationality. While prior work has emphasized coalitional psychology, the present study tested whether the behavioral immune system—an evolved system to detect and avoid pathogen threats—contributes to welfare chauvinism. 484 Japanese participants read vignettes describing both Japanese native and foreign recipients (Brazilian, Chinese, or Vietnamese; between-subjects) and evaluated the benefits each should receive. A mixed-design ANOVA revealed that foreign recipients were evaluated as less deserving compared natives ($\eta^2 = .24$, $p < .001$). Generalized linear models showed that Pathogen Disgust significantly predicted welfare chauvinism toward Vietnamese recipients—regarded as culturally distant from Japan—beyond coalitional psychological factors ($B = 0.64$, $p = .002$). Higher Pathogen Disgust increased the likelihood of differentiating between natives and Vietnamese recipients. These findings demonstrate that the behavioral immune system contributes specifically to welfare chauvinism toward culturally distant outgroups, extending previous work on coalitional psychology and suggesting that distinct psychological mechanisms underlie responses to different foreign nationalities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Koya Kakimoto
PhD Student | Toyo University

Authors

Hideya Kitamura

[254] Their Lives, Their Art: Participant-Led Multimedia Storytelling About Identity In Hawai'i

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

This study shares findings from a two-phase qualitative, community-based participatory action (CBPR) multimedia photovoice study conducted with $n = 15$ queer and disabled community members in Hawai'i. For the first part of the study, participants created art pieces expressing their identity/identities. In the second part, three focus groups engaged participants in dialogic interpretation of their work, exploring embedded stories, emotional resonance, and cultural values. Reflexive and iterative thematic analysis (conducted collaboratively by the researcher, trained research assistants, and the participants) highlighted themes of community, belonging, and support, as well as experiences of prejudice and marginalization. Participants acted as co-researchers, shaping the analytical process and final interpretations. The project demonstrates how photovoice and artmaking foster agency, reveal multidimensional self-concepts, and provide alternative modes for investigating queerness and disability as experiential, interpersonal, and context-dependent identities. The findings contribute to advancing decolonial and inclusive scholarship through community-driven, arts-informed methodologies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maximillian Soares Miehlestein
Ph.D. Candidate | University of Hawaii at Manoa

Authors

Ashley Maynard

[255] Then and Now: Capturing Socio-Political Values in a Time of Change

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Political ideology is often reduced to a liberal-conservative spectrum, yet current discourse reveals a more fragmented and multidimensional reality. This study revises and validates a values-based ideological orientation scale to better reflect the complexity of U.S. political attitudes. Drawing from a diverse item pool, a 16-item measure was developed with balanced liberal and conservative content. Factor analyses ($N = 586$) revealed two distinct value dimensions within each domain: personal autonomy and structural equity for liberal values; national strength and sociocultural traditionalism for conservative values. Results support the scale's reliability, internal structure, and discriminant validity. These findings offer a more nuanced understanding of ideological orientation and provide a tool for studying political identity, polarization, and value alignment in contemporary society. Implications for ideological measurement and future research on political values are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sieun An

Authors

Shanhong Luo, Mark Kline

[256] Think Different? Consumer Identity and Reactions to Reports Child Labor in Apple's Supply Chain

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

How do corporate misdeeds affect Consumer Brand Identity? This study investigates how learning about child-labor practices influences authenticity and brand identification among cell-phone users. This study applies a 2 (Apple users vs. non-users) X 2 (Article about Apple [vs. Xiaomi] child labor practices quasi-experimental design, recruiting 304 U.S. adults from the Connect platform. Pre-registered hypotheses predict that Apple users exposed to an article detailing child labor practices by Apple will report lower state-authenticity than the other groups, while Apple users exposed to the Xiaomi article will report higher Apple brand consumer identity than the other groups. These findings can shine light on how corporate wrongdoing shapes consumer sense of authenticity and identification with favored brands, offering insight into identity processes and ethical consumption.

*POSTER

Speaker



Josiah Peck
Student | University of Wyoming

Authors

Dr. Benjamin Wilkowski

[257] Timing is everything: Unraveling the temporal dynamics of the cheerleader effect

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Facial attractiveness is one of the most immediate and universal sources of social information. However, current theories cannot fully explain its computational mechanisms, especially with regard to facial attractiveness in a group context. Recent studies have found that faces appear more attractive when presented in a group compared to individually (the cheerleader/friend effect). Does the presentation time of faces influence the magnitude of the cheerleader effect, as time factors have been shown to have a significant impact in many other studies on face perception? Here, we investigated the effect of presentation time on the cheerleader effect, dividing it into two segments: pre- and post-cue time (cue indicates the position of target face). We conducted five behavioral experiments (Exp), testing a total of 473 subjects, including both in-lab and online tasks (with pre-registration). We observed a negative, nonlinear effect of pre-cue time on the cheerleader effect (Exp 1 & 2), indicating that changes in overall group-face presentation time impact judgments of target face attractiveness. We identified the optimal pre-cue duration for peak effect (Exp 3), offering a reference for future research. However, we demonstrated that the cheerleader effect was not influenced by post-cue time (Exp 4 & 5). Our results suggested that the potential perceptual process involved in the "overestimation" of the attractiveness of the target face within a group occurs before cue appearing. In conclusion, our study offered a novel explanation for the cheerleader effect, demonstrating that the duration of face observation during group interactions significantly influences perceptions of facial attractiveness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shuai Wang

Authors

Haojiang Ying, Qinyi Wang, Lu Li, Xue Lei, Frank Krueger

[258] Truth Discernment in Conspiracy Theories

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Although previous research has shown that analytic thinking, the importance given to being epistemically rational, and overconfidence predict (dis)belief in conspiracy theories, it remains unclear whether these factors predict actual truth discernment in conspiracy theories - the ability to discern between plausible and implausible conspiracies. In three studies, we examined whether these individual differences predict truth discernment rather than indiscriminate (dis)belief in conspiracy theories. Across all three studies, analytic thinking and valuing epistemic rationality predicted better truth discernment, while overconfidence impaired it. Notably, the association between analytic thinking and truth discernment was stronger among those who valued epistemic rationality more (vs. less). Future research should investigate causal mechanisms and potential interventions targeting overconfidence, motivation to be epistemically rational, and analytic thinking to enhance people's ability to evaluate the plausibility of conspiracy theories.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sinem Yilmaz
Graduate Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Tomas Ståhl, Sinem Yilmaz

[259] Uncertainty Predicts Wish for a Strong Leader

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Strong leaders — those who promise to overcome society's difficulties by any means necessary, including through autocratic tactics and defiance of democratic norms — are on the rise globally, even in many long-standing democracies. This study tested the hypothesis that uncertainty is associated with a greater desire for strong leadership. Data for this study (total N = 2,839) came from a secondary analysis of 2016 - 2020 American National Election Studies (ANES) data, a nationally representative probability sample of U.S. eligible voters that is fielded to support analysis of public opinion and voting behaviour in U.S. national elections. For our analysis, we focus on measures relating to (a) uncertainty, and (b) wish for a strong leader using a pre-established index and a single-item measure, respectively. Additionally, political ideology, age, and gender were included as control variables. Hypothesis 1 was analyzed both cross-sectionally and longitudinally. As hypothesized, uncertainty significantly and positively predicts the desire for a strong leader even when controlling for demographics like political ideology, age, and gender both cross sectionally and longitudinally. These findings suggest that uncertainty itself is an independent driver of support for strong, potentially non-democratic leaders, implying that periods of widespread uncertainty may create an opportune environment for "strong-man", non-democratic leadership to rise.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ella Neuman

Student | University of Alberta

Authors

David Rast, Kathryn Kincaid, Mohammed Ali

[260] Under Pressure: Partisans Self-Censor In-Party Criticism in Response to Electoral Threat

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

In democratic societies, elections offer citizens an important opportunity to influence their representatives. Yet, in politically polarized societies, elections may heighten feelings of intergroup threat, producing a tradeoff between expressing critical opinions of one's party and supporting its success. Prior work shows that perceived threat leads group members to judge in-group critics more harshly and self-censor their own in-group criticism. Building on this work, we examine whether highly polarized elections, by increasing feelings of intergroup threat, promote self-censorship of in-party criticism. We conducted a two-wave panel survey with a U.S. representative sample recruited via Prolific in the two weeks before the 2024 U.S. Presidential election (N₁=822; N₂=741). We find that under higher electoral threat, participants are less likely to publicly criticize their party, especially when holding strong partisan identities. A pilot experiment (N=961) manipulating electoral threat provided converging evidence. These results suggest that rising polarization can stifle intra-party dissent, limiting citizens' political expression and potentially undermining democracy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jules Oberschulte

Harvard University

Authors

Sanaz Talaifar, Ashwini Ashokkumar, Ajua Duker

[261] Uniqueness and Cognitive Preferences Interact to Predict Conspiracy Beliefs

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Cognitive processing preferences have been shown to predict conspiracy theory (CT) endorsement. Faith in intuition predicts increases and need for cognition predicts decreases in CT endorsement. Separately, need for uniqueness predicts increased CT endorsement. We manipulated need for uniqueness while measuring trait uniqueness and cognitive preferences to observe the impact on CTs. In a preregistered study with paid online participants, we gave participants false feedback that they were highly similar or highly unique as compared to others. Need for cognition interacted with the uniqueness manipulation to predict CTs: those high in need for cognition told they were highly similar to others no longer showed previously observed protective effects of need for cognition, while uniqueness feedback maintained protective effects. Faith in intuition interacted with both the manipulation and trait uniqueness to predict CTs. Those high in faith in intuition and trait uniqueness given high uniqueness feedback displayed greatest CT endorsement, but this effect was attenuated with high similarity feedback. Findings suggest uniqueness interacts with cognitive preferences to predict CTs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marie Altgilbers Roweton

Graduate Student | University of Arkansas

[262] Unmoved by Cues: Political Priming and Empathy in Liberals and Conservatives

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Stereotypes abound about empathy levels of both conservatives and liberals with liberals generally considered to be more empathic. But are there any truth to these stereotypes and do they present self-fulfilling prophecies? We expected that Americans would demonstrate stereotype-consistent empathy levels, and in line with a stereotype threat explanation, we hypothesize that this trend would be exacerbated when participants are reminded of their political affiliation beforehand. In Study 1, 290 participants from Wisconsin completed a performance measure of emotion recognition (RMET) and a questionnaire measure of empathy (IRI). Liberals scored higher than conservatives on the RMET ($p = .026$), Empathic Concern ($p = <.001$), and Fantasy ($p = .007$). However, contrary to our hypothesis there was no difference in empathy levels with those who were prompted to list their political affiliation beforehand ($p > .05$). In Study 2, we attempt to replicate this result with a stronger prime of political affiliation. We expect to confirm differences in empathy between groups, that are not explained by stereotype threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alison Wagner

Student | University of Wisconsin - Green Bay

[263] Using mouse tracking to understand race-gender intersectionality

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Interest in intersectionality – the ways in which multiple social identities (such as race and gender) intersect to shape individual experiences – has grown significantly in recent years. As psychological research continues to explore this important phenomenon, there is a growing need for valid tools to measure how individuals cognitively represent their intersecting identities. The present study investigates the utility of mouse-tracking as a novel, real-time method to assess the extent to which individuals perceive their racial and gender identities as integrated versus distinct. Participants completed a 200-trial forced-choice categorization task in which they were presented with two words – one related to the concept “woman” and one related to the concept of their self-identified race “race”. Participants were instructed to click on the word they identified with more strongly while their mouse cursor trajectories were recorded. Because the decision process and motor movement co-occur, these trajectories allow us to examine how the decision process unfolds in real time. Metrics derived from this data such as maximum deviation from the unselected option and area under the curve, as well as attribute processing times, offer insight into the implicit cognitive dynamics underlying intersectional identity integration and potential as a future tool in this emerging research domain.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marsha Rodrigues

California State University Northridge (CSUN)

Authors

Jen Prall, Debbie Ma, Nicolette Sullivan

[264] Value-Driven Vulnerability: Personal Values and Choice Overload in Online Dating

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This study explores the phenomena of choice overload in the context of online dating. Specifically, we investigate the influence of underlying personal values on decision-making tendencies when exposed to many options. Two hundred and seventy three participants completed items assessing a range of personally-held values, ranging from more self-focused (e.g., achievement, hedonism) to more other-focused (e.g., conformity, benevolence). Participants were randomly assigned to select one online dating profile amongst a large set vs. a small set, before reporting their choice-related stress. Fitting previous choice overload research, individuals who selected from a large choice set reported greater stress than those who selected from a small choice set. When selecting from the large set, individuals who were high in social-focused values reported greater choice-related stress than did those who were 1) low in social-focused values choosing from the large choice set and 2) high in social-focused values choosing from the small set. For individuals with modest social goals, condition did not predict choice-related stress. Notably, further analyses revealed a three-way interaction between personal values, social values, and condition on choice-related stress. The findings suggest that individuals whose values prioritize others' needs ahead of their personal objectives were more likely to experience choice-related stress when exposed to the large set. The findings indicate that social goals and traditional beliefs influence individual decision-making tendencies and experiences in situations of choice overload.

*POSTER

Speaker



Thomas Saltsman

Lecturer | Univ. at Buffalo, Singapore Institute of Management

Authors

Devika Kumaya, Meenatchii Shanmugham, Rajesh Ganesh Honnur

[265] Verify or Challenge? Self-Motivations in Non-Human Feedback Preferences

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

People routinely seek feedback on their self-concept from their social environment. Classic and contemporary theories emphasize a preference for feedback that maintains the self-concept (self-verification) or enhances it (self-enhancement). Complementarily, information-seeking perspectives highlight the value of instrumental feedback—information that facilitates growth but potentially contradicts the self-concept. In a series of 3 studies and 2 replications (Total N = 262), we arbitrate between self-verification and self-learning motivations using feedback from a non-human source. In studies 1-2, a novel pay-per-view paradigm revealed that participants forwent money to disengage from questionnaires providing self-consistent information and to engage with self-violating information. In Study 3, participants displayed less conflict when choosing potentially self-violating information provided by AI than when choosing to receive self-verifying information. These results highlight an understudied motivation for self-learning and growth when the feedback provider is non-human. As LLMs use grows, unpacking the effects of non-human feedback on the self-concept becomes ever more important

*POSTER

Speaker



Aviv Mokady

Graduate Student | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Authors

Gideon E. Anholt, Niv Reggev, Aviv Mokady

[266] Violence From “Us” vs. “Them”: How Political Identity Shapes Moral Judgments

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

Political polarization has intensified hostility between opposing political parties in America -- but has it intensified to the point that we might support political violence against the opposing party? We examined whether people judge political violence differently when it comes from their own side versus the opposing side. We surveyed 239 Americans via Prolific and provided scenarios of political violence at a rally for or against abortion, guns, and gender-affirming care. Our study found that individuals are more comfortable with political violence in support of their cause than the same act of violence in support of a cause they did not believe in. Participants were also more condemning of individuals who committed acts of political violence for the outgroup, suggesting two additional years of jail time for the offender on average. Importantly, these findings held for both Democrats and Republicans. In Study 2, we are investigating how individual differences, such as perceived victimhood and authoritarianism, predict willingness to support political violence. Regardless of political affiliation, these findings show that people's beliefs shape their moral evaluation; we are more comfortable with violence when we agree with its cause.

*POSTER

Speaker



Raisa Chowdhury

Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Alexandra Wormley

[267] Virtuous Hope Predicts Environmental Prosociality Beyond Individual Hope

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Hope benefits others and is related to prosociality (Schornick et al., 2023). Yet, traditional measures of hope are individual-oriented, insufficiently explaining the critical other-oriented and moral components of hope expected to be at play in prosociality (Thomas, et al., 2023). However, Thomas and colleagues (2025) have recently introduced a new measure to assess a more other-focused construct of hope -- virtuous hope.

The present work examined the predictive value of virtuous hope for environmental prosociality, a domain hypothesized to be uniquely explained by virtuous hope.

Our results attest to the predictive value of virtuous hope in this domain over and above traditional, individual-oriented, measures of hope and optimism. Our preregistered online study (N = 450) provides evidence for the role of virtuous hope across 3 spheres of environmental prosociality: (1) the private sphere (ps < .05); (2) the public sphere (ps < .001); and (3) the policy sphere (ps < .001). Virtuous hope was the strongest predictor across spheres, even when simultaneously including or controlling for individual-oriented hope and optimism.

Future directions include parsing how robustly virtuous hope predicts domains over and above individual-oriented hope.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Ray

Graduate Student | Indiana University

Authors

Ed Hirt, Kendra Thomas, Peter Todd, Nathan Geiger

[268] Voices of Judgment: Exploring Racial Bias Through Sound Alone

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This project examines how racial and linguistic biases influence decision-making in audio-only contexts, including emergency calls, probation check-ins, and social service hotlines. In these high-stakes moments, responders rely solely on voice cues, such as accent, tone, and perceived racial identity, to judge credibility, urgency, and threat. Using an experimental design, participants will evaluate randomized recordings of 911-style calls, where the caller's content remains constant, but the race, accent, or gender of the caller shifts. This isolates how subtle variations in speech influence judgments. The study integrates theories of linguistic profiling, implicit bias, and racial formation to examine how systemic inequality is reproduced through communication. By connecting psychological processes of implicit bias with structural outcomes in the criminal legal system, this work highlights how “small” biases can produce disproportionate consequences. Findings aim to inform reforms in responder training and contribute to broader conversations about race, language, and justice in diversifying communities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasper Bennett

Research Assistant | University of Southern Maine

[269] Wearing one's heart on one's sleeve: Self-location and sociability

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The head and heart regions of the body are most often identified when people are asked where the self is. A differential tendency to self-locate in one area or the other is likely to be consequential given that metaphor and folk theory ascribe very different attributes to these two bodily locations. In the current research, a new measure of perceived self-locations was created by asking people whether the self tends to be in head and/or heart regions while performing various activities. Three studies (total N = 444) pursued the idea that self-locations favoring the heart would be more conducive to social activity, given that the heart, and not the head, is the organ that folk theory links to love and joy. As hypothesized, two initial studies found that self-locations favoring the heart were linked to higher levels of agreeableness, extraversion, and warmth. These personality correlates were replicated in a peer-report study and peers also characterized heart-locators as socially skilled. This research links self and social-personality literatures while suggesting that conceptual metaphors can both characterize the self as well as constrain it to be a particular type of person.

*POSTER

Speaker



Pranika Vohra

PHD Candidate | North Dakota State University

Authors

Muhammad Asad, Hamidreza Fereidouni, Michael Robinson

[270] What Breaks the Balance? Intra-Individual, Cultural, Relational, and Structural Determinants of the Decision-Making Process among Chinese-Speaking Immigrant Women in Canada Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

This study explores what drives or deters the decision-making process of Chinese-speaking immigrant women in Canada who have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), focusing on the turning point between enduring abuse and taking action. We draw on decision-making theories and acculturation concepts, using an intersectional approach to examine how personal history, cultural identity, immigration and family experiences, and social resources interact. In the context of decision-making, the investment model shows how external conditions and social resources keep women tied to relationships when leaving seems too risky. The psychological entrapment model explains how internal mechanisms delay action despite harm. Additionally, based on the concept of acculturation, we examine the impact of traditional Chinese cultural values and the norms of the host society on IPV survivors during the decision-making process. Fifteen participants from China and Taiwan, residing in four Canadian provinces, participated in in-depth interviews. Reflexive Thematic Analysis is underway, with the researcher's positionality as an IPV survivor deepening interpretation. Preliminary themes will be analyzed and presented at the conference. Overall, this study shows how decision-making among Chinese-speaking immigrant women is shaped by individual, cultural, relational, and structural contexts and bridges Western and Chinese perspectives. Findings inform culturally tailored services for IPV survivors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yun-Lin Wang

PhD. Student | Concordia University

[271] What Counts as a True Test of Ability? How Perceived Group Performance Patterns and Individual Differences Shape Task Evaluations

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

White Americans are disproportionately represented in academia and often serve in "gatekeeping" roles with power to determine which assessments of merit signify true ability. To test whether people favor ability tests that advantage their racial ingroup, we randomly assigned White participants (N=445) to view one of three conditions depicting performance patterns on a new reasoning task: White people outperforming Black people, Black people outperforming White people, or Equal High Performance. Participants rated the task a better test of real-world ability when a performance gap in either direction was present, compared to when there was no difference in performance across groups. Individual differences moderated the comparison between conditions featuring performance gaps: higher perceived intergroup threat and stronger White identity predicted more favorable evaluations of the task when the ingroup excelled, whereas lower levels predicted less favorable evaluations in that condition. Findings suggest that judgments of ability metrics are not neutral and are shaped by racial group performance and individual differences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Forster

Graduate Student | University of Pittsburgh

Authors

Kevin Binning

[272] What Is Corruption and Bribery? A Social Representations Study From the Views of Young Adults

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

LANGUAGE

Public messages often treat corruption and bribery as the same, yet individuals may interpret them differently. These differences in perception can shape how anti-corruption initiatives are understood and received. To examine this, we investigated young adults' (N = 253, M_age = 21.32; 59.3% female) perceptions of "corruption" and "bribery" using Social Representation Theory as a framework, collecting data via an online survey. Prototypical analysis with IRAMUTEQ identified the core elements—terms deemed highly important and widely shared—of each concept. Findings indicated that participants commonly linked both corruption and bribery to "money," but distinguished them through moral judgment and the actors involved. Corruption was described with negative terms such as "bad" and "dishonest" and associated with "government," whereas bribery carried fewer moral connotations and was linked to the "police." The lack of perceived consequences in these social representations may help explain why corruption and bribery remain persistent societal challenges.

*POSTER

Speakers



Mengzhen Lim

PhD Student | Meiji University



Sumata Naga

Student | University of Central Florida

Authors

Lim Mengzhen

[273] What Might Have Been: The Effects of Counterfactual Availability on Agency Attribution

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Attributing blame and agency are fundamental aspects of moral reasoning and decision-making. While counterfactual thoughts are fundamental for moral judgements, specifically how counterfactual thoughts lead to attributing agency and blame remains unclear. We experimentally tested the individual contributions of number of counterfactuals and ease of counterfactual production on attributions of agency and blame. Participants (N = 291) were randomly assigned to one of four conditions in a 2 (obviousness: obvious vs. non-obvious) × 2 (number: one vs. three) design. They read a short narrative about a car accident and generated counterfactuals about how the driver could have acted differently. We found that participants attributed more agency, responsibility, and blame when there was a single obvious counterfactual, than when it was less obvious what the driver could have done otherwise. The number of counterfactuals generated did not significantly affect attributions of agency, responsibility, and blame. These results suggest that how obvious, or how easy it is to generate at least one counterfactual, may be the driving force behind attributions of agency and responsibility.

*POSTER

Speaker



Heidi Martin

Graduate Student | Texas Tech University

Authors

Jessica Alquist, Alec Stinnett

[274] When Helping Hurts: Trauma, Empathy, and Pathological Altruism

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

This study investigates how trauma exposure relates to prosocial behavior, distinguishing between adaptive (helping) and maladaptive (self-sacrificing) tendencies. Trauma can catalyze both post-traumatic growth (PTG) and pathological altruism, where overextension harms the self (Tedeschi & Calhoun, 2004; Staub & Vollhardt, 2008; Kaufman & Jauk, 2020). Participants complete a PTSD symptom survey (DSM-5 criteria) followed by validated measures of empathy (QCAE), mindful self-care, PTG, stress-related growth, meaning in life, religious coping (positive/negative), and helping behavior (Prosocialness Scale for Adults; Pathological Altruism). We hypothesize that PTSD symptoms predict increased prosocialness through PTG and empathy, but also greater pathological altruism when mindful self-care is low or negative religious coping is high. Positive religious coping is expected to support healthier prosocialness. Analyses will include correlations, regressions, and path models to test mediation and moderation. This correlational design clarifies when trauma-linked helping reflects resilient growth versus harmful over-giving, informing interventions that cultivate compassionate yet sustainable care.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ashley Laws

Authors

Aaron David, Christopher Sanders, Jasper Sigler, Jude Decker

[275] When In Doubt, Tune Out: Political Identity Avoidance at Work

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

People are generally motivated to reduce uncertainty about the identities of others, especially when these identities are related to meaningful values, like politics. However, in the context of interdependent work, people may prefer uncertainty over learning about a coworker's political identity if they suspect the coworker is a political outgroup member. Across a series of high-powered experiments, we examine how liberal and conservative participants respond to cues that suggest, with some uncertainty, that their coworker is a part of their political ingroup or outgroup. We find that when participants respond to cues that suggest their coworker is an outgroup member (vs. an ingroup member) they report lower desire to learn more about the political identity of their coworker, higher information avoidance behavioral intentions, and higher regret about being exposed to their coworker's political identity. Effects are stronger for liberals than conservatives with unique mechanisms driving the responses of people on either side of the political spectrum. Consequences for organizations are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tyler Salley

PhD Candidate | University College London

Authors

Felix Danbold

[276] When Leaders and Followers Misfit: Regulatory Focus Non-fit and Enhanced Team Performance

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Regulatory focus, a concept reflecting individuals' goal orientations, can also explain behavior within workplace groups. However, few studies have directly examined the interactive effects of leaders' and members' regulatory focus on team outcomes (Kark & Van Dijk, 2019). This study investigated such dynamics among 120 employees nested in 23 teams at Company A. Leaders' and members' regulatory focus in the workplace was measured, and team performance was evaluated by each team's immediate external supervisor. Analyses revealed a consistent pattern of regulatory non-fit. Specifically, when team members tended to act with a promotion focus (e.g., taking risks to achieve success), team performance was higher when leaders approached their role with a prevention focus (e.g., concentrating on avoiding mistakes). Conversely, when leaders acted with a promotion focus, team performance was higher when members carried out their duties with a prevention focus. These results suggest that leader-follower misfit in regulatory focus can be beneficial. Rather than similarity, regulatory non-fit between leaders and members enhanced team performance by balancing risk-taking and vigilance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chika Harada

Professor | Meijo Univ.

Authors

Koji Tsuchiya

[277] When Personalized Ads Reduce Self-esteem and Brand Attitude

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Personalized advertising can implicitly communicate the identity the brand thinks consumers have. We test the hypothesis that when this implied identity is undesirable, consumers will feel more offended by a personalized (vs. non-personalized) ad, leading to more negative views about both the self and the brand. Five studies (n = 4430) demonstrate that personalized (vs. non-personalized) ads implying undesirable identities such as an opposing political identity (study 1), low creditworthiness (studies 2, 4, and 5), and excess weight (study 3) decrease self-esteem and brand attitudes. Using moderation (studies 1 and 5) and mediation (studies 2, 3, and 4), we show that the effects of ad personalization on both self-esteem and brand attitude are mediated by perceived ad offensiveness. The effects hold regardless of the accuracy of personalization (studies 1 and 3), the blaming tone of the ad message (study 4), the nature of the firm (for-profit and non-profit; study 4), and whether the personalization is attributed to algorithms or humans (study 5). Finally, we identify a boundary condition: the effects attenuate when personalization is not salient (study 5).

*POSTER

Speaker



Jessie Zhisui Jia

Northwestern University

Authors

Maferima Touré-Tillery

[278] When Suffering Means Something: Difficulty-as-Improvement and the Willingness to Endure Pain

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

People often believe that enduring unbidden life difficulties improves their character - a belief coined the difficulty-as-improvement mindset. Previous research shows that those who endorse this belief experience more optimism and purpose in life, view difficult methods as more effective, express greater willingness to use them, and do things the hard way on any given day. But no research has explored whether people who score higher in difficulty-as-improvement are actually more willing to suffer pain. We address this gap. About 1500 students completed the difficulty-as-improvement (DAI) scale as part of their subject pool prescreening questionnaire (T1). At T2, based on a power analysis $N=250$ (expected; current 151) were randomly assigned to read that participating in the Cold Pressor Test (CPT) was an opportunity to improve their character by practicing endurance or a pain-inducing task, completed a round of the CPT, the Flanker Task, a second CPT, and the DAI scale again. We predict that the T1 DAI score will be positively associated with willingness to endure if task instructions suggest that pain is meaningful and that, in this condition, doing so will increase T2 DAI scores.

*POSTER

Speaker



Onyul Haque

Student | University of South California

Authors

Daphna Oyserman

[279] Regional Personality Differences in Big Five Personality Traits and Their Societal Impacts in Colombia

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

CULTURE

Prior research has shown that the Big Five personality traits cluster geographically and relate to key political, economic, social, and health (PESH) outcomes – at least in Western countries. Moving beyond the Western context, this study is the first to investigate within-country regional personality variation in Latin America, specifically in Colombia ($N = 27,313$). Results unveiled pronounced spatial differences across Colombia in Extraversion and Neuroticism, whereas the other traits showed more uniform distributions. In contrast with prior work, Colombia's capital and most urban city, Bogotá D.C., did not show high Openness. Notably, Openness was linked to poorer health and greater political conservatism, hinting at distinct cultural dynamics of Openness in Colombia. Meanwhile, Conscientiousness related to both greater conservatism and social deviance, suggesting a coexistence of traditionalism and defiance. These findings demonstrate that regional personality differences in Colombia meaningfully relate to important societal outcomes and highlight the importance of broadening the cultural scope of geo-psychological research.

*POSTER

Speaker



Amber Xuanyi Wu

University of British Columbia

Authors

Yangyiin Guo, Juan Pablo Ospina, Camilo Guzmán Velásquez, Friedrich M. Götz

[280] Cultural Frame Switching and Identity in Third-Culture Kids: A Theoretical Examination

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

The focus of this poster is on Cultural Frame Switching (CFS) in Third-Culture Kids (TCKs) and the key differences between TCKs and multicultural kids, such as loss of identity and fluidity between cultural identities. TCKs are individuals who have spent a significant portion of their development in a culture other than their parents'. The "third culture" experience is rooted in mobility and displacement. CFS is the process by which bicultural/multicultural individuals adapt their mindset, behaviors, and self-perception to different cultural contexts in response to cues like language, icons, or social interactions. This theoretical analysis explores contextual triggers that may affect how a TCK reacts to their environment, based on physical location or the cultural identity of those with whom they interact. The poster reviews existing theoretical frameworks and how they can support future research into TCKs, including cultural priming. By focusing on CFS, this poster compares multicultural kids and TCKs in how they experience the world, develop their personality, and adapt socially. Finally, the poster suggests directions for future research to guide discussion of TCKs and help the research community engage with this growing population.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tanya Goyal

Student | Northeastern University

[281] Who Perpetuates Identity Denial Predicts Multiracial Asian Mental Wellbeing

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

The Multiracial population reports the highest rates of social exclusion and identity denial compared to other racial/ethnic groups. Yet, current research on Multiracial identity denial does not measure who (i.e., in/outgroups) is doing the denial and where (i.e., homogeneous contexts) that denial occurs. Multiracial Asian people from the US Mainland (less diverse context) and Hawaii (more diverse context) were recruited to measure whether identity denial from ingroup vs. outgroup members and if living in a more vs. less diverse context differentially predicted levels of stress (N = 500). Regardless of context, identity denial was perpetuated more by ingroup than outgroup members. However, higher stress was predicted only by outgroup identity denial experiences. Thus, Multiracial Asian people may better cope with identity denial from ingroup compared to outgroup members, suggesting unique encounters and psychological outcomes for distinct identity denial pathways regardless of the present racial diversity in one's context. These results contextualize that the source of the identity denial matters most for Multiracial mental wellbeing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mohammad Wiswall

PhD Candidate | Duke Identity & Diversity Lab

Authors

Sarah Gaither, Kristin Pauker, Hannah Garner, Snow Lin

[282] Who Speaks; What's Seen? Identity in the 2024 Presidential Election

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

POLITICS

People of color have long been stereotyped based on the single dimension of their race (Devine, 1989). Perhaps to avoid such framing, Kamala Harris, the first woman of color to be a major party nominee, typically pushed a race-blind message in her 2024 presidential campaign against Donald Trump. She often argued that "we have so much more in common than what separates us." However, we theorize that Americans relied on her racial identity to infer her political agenda. In Study 1 (N=100), in an online survey with White participants, 31% stated that electing Harris would improve race relations or that she would support people of color in the United States. In Study 2 (N=106), White Americans were paired to discuss how society might have changed under either candidate. One participant phrased the election in terms of "having a Black woman president versus Donald Trump." In future analyses, we anticipate that participants will cite Harris's racial identity more than her qualifications or proposed policies when discussing her political commitments. This work will highlight the narrow lens through which many prominent Americans of color are viewed regardless of how they represent themselves.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shannon Li

Dartmouth College

Authors

Kiara Sanchez

[283] Who Steps Forward? Agency, Communion, and Leadership Self-Selection

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Agentic self-perceptions—beliefs that one is assertive, independent, and goal-directed—and communal self-perceptions—beliefs that one is warm, cooperative, and other-oriented—predict leadership self-selection. Individuals who see themselves as more communal and less agentic are less likely to self-select into leadership pathways than those higher in agency, despite evidence that communal qualities are valued in leaders (Ponce de Leon & Bailey, 2025). This reluctance may stem from stereotypes that equate leadership with agentic, masculine traits (Koenig et al., 2011). We test the causal role of these self-perceptions using an experimental approach: after completing vignette-based decision-making tasks, participants will receive randomized feedback emphasizing either agentic or communal strengths before choosing whether to assume a leadership role in a hypothetical group activity. We expect agentic, relative to communal, feedback to increase leadership self-selection. Because women are more likely to define themselves in communal terms and face stereotypes linking leadership with agency, this work offers insight into strategies to promote women's leadership emergence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julia Mills
University of Richmond

Authors

Crystal Hoyt

[284] Why Do Wealthy People Give? A Systematic Literature Review

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Understanding why wealthy individuals give can help move resources toward worthy causes. Despite growing interest in the role of high-net-worth (HNW; $\geq \$1M$) and ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW; $\geq \$30M$) individuals in shaping society, the motivational landscape of elite giving remains poorly integrated across disciplines. We conducted a comprehensive literature search using wealth-related terms (e.g., "high net worth," "billionaire," "elite") and donor-related terms (e.g., "philanthropy," "altruism," "generosity"). From 2,194 records, 47 quantitative and qualitative sources were eligible. Using grounded theory, we iteratively coded donor-reported motivations, identifying three external (need, social, data-driven) and three internal (emotion, identity, impact-driven) motivations, spanning a Responsive–Deliberative dimension from spontaneous to planned giving. We then extracted quantitative endorsement rates, supported by qualitative interviews. Wealthy donors report diverse drivers, including family traditions, direct requests, passion, gratitude, and guilt. While deliberative giving dominates prior research, it appears as only one among many motivations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alison Jane Martingano
Assistant Professor | University of Wisconsin - Green Bay

[285] Why Does Predecisional Information Distortion Happen?

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Predecisional informational distortion (ID) occurs when evaluations of new information are more positive/negative than they otherwise would be depending on of if it pertains to the most preferred option in an upcoming decision. We explore two accounts for why ID may happen. In the Support-Preference-Ordering account, ID is the outcome of evaluating new information to maintain preference orderings. In the Gain-Choice-Confidence account, ID functions to gain confidence in choosing one option over others. To differentiate between these two accounts, one must evaluate contexts with more than two options. In the present study, we aimed to test which account better fits the pattern of information distortion across four decision making options. We tested 100 Prolific participants. We used a modified ID paradigm, where participants chose one rental home out of four options. They saw and rated attribute information (i.e., rooms) across six stages. We looked at ID across all four options ranked from most to least preferred. Overall, our data reflected a pattern similar to the Support-Preference-Ordering account. If ID does have a function, it is likely to support consistency in preferences.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Piper Clark**
Graduate Student | University of Iowa

Authors

Paul Windschitl, Jeremy Strueder

What now? NGO, industry, and international resources for early-career researchers

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

Many of the research resources early-career academics typically rely on are not currently available. This session will feature panelists who, having conducted research with industry or NGO partners, or creative uses of free resources, will share their experience with the process. After a brief PowerPoint presentation which outlines funding opportunities and research resources, panelists will answer questions that will be crowdsourced ahead of and during the session. A list of resources discussed by the panelists will also be made available after the session. Topics will include: NGO and industry partnerships, international funding sources that are available to any early career researcher, and free research resources. This session will be especially tailored to the needs of early career researchers, but will have something to offer to anyone who is in need of alternate funding sources beyond US federal sources. Five panelists are proposed, with three confirmed thus far.

*PROF DEV

Chair/Moderators

 **Marjorie Prokosch**
Assistant Professor | Rochester Institute of Technology

 **Tessa Benson-Greenwald**
Visiting Assistant Professor | Seton Hall University

Speakers

 **Joshua Conrad Jackson**
Assistant Professor | University of Chicago, Booth

 **Ike Silver**

 **Emily Willroth**
Assistant Professor | Washington University in St. Louis

I Wish I'd Known Sooner: Hidden Curriculum of Grad School

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Graduate school is filled with unwritten rules that shape students' success, rules that are rarely taught formally but are critical to thriving. This session will demystify the "hidden curriculum" of graduate education by focusing on practical advice for navigating key challenges like selecting the right advisor, building a supportive network, joining organizations, securing funding, and finding the right program fit. A diverse panel of scholars at various career stages, from current grad students to mid-career professionals will reflect on what they wish they'd known earlier and offer insights for those still navigating these systems. Attendees will gain concrete strategies and a better understanding of how informal norms shape academic progression, with time reserved for Q&A to ensure relevance across different backgrounds and institutional contexts.

*PROF DEV

Speakers

 **Joshua Richards**
Student | Bridgewater State University

 **Grace Flores-Robles**

 **Deborah Saki**

 **Kim Chaney**
Assistant Professor of Psychology | University at Buffalo

 **Nirupika Sharma**
Graduate Student | University of California, Berkeley

Data Blitz Early Career #2

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E350, Level 3

*DATA BLITZ

Undermining Free Will Belief Increases Forgiveness of Self and Others

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

There is growing philosophical and scientific rejection of the notion of free will, but the psychological implications of this shift remain underexplored. While prior work has emphasized potential negative outcomes of weakening free will belief, the present studies examine possible benefits. In two experiments, we tested whether exposing participants to deterministic arguments would increase forgiveness. In Study 1 (N = 260), participants who recalled a personal transgression and read pro-determinism texts reported greater self-forgiveness. In Study 2 (N = 262), participants who recalled being wronged by someone else showed greater forgiveness and less hatred toward their transgressor after the same manipulation. Extending these findings cross-culturally, we surveyed 8,917 participants across 44 countries and found that individuals with stronger belief in free will were more punitive in response to everyday moral transgressions. At the country level, stronger free will belief predicted support for the death penalty and higher incarceration rates. These results suggest that undermining belief in free will may foster forgiveness and reduce punitive attitudes.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Aaron Walton
The University of Melbourne

Authors

Stefan Bode, Brock Bastian

Impressions of Chatbot Personality

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

People are increasingly using chatbots powered by large language models (LLMs) for tasks ranging from coding help to emotional support. Differences in algorithms and training data suggest chatbots will express distinct and stable personality profiles. In two studies, we examined impressions of Big Five personality traits of three popular LLMs: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot. In Study 1, N = 248 participants read chatbot responses to personality-relevant prompts (without knowing they were chatbot-generated) and rated the author's traits. In Study 2, N = 229 undergraduates interacted with each chatbot for 5 minutes, then rated the chatbot's personality; chatbots also rated their human partners. Participants agreed about chatbot traits and differentiated between them. When unaware responses were chatbot-generated, participants assumed similarity in traits at levels comparable to impressions of people—but not after direct interaction. Chatbots conveyed stable, distinctive personality traits and rated humans with moderate accuracy. We discuss how these impressions may shape trust, social judgments, and future human–chatbot relationships.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Bradley Hughes
Assistant Professor | Villanova University

Authors

Catherine Ma

Tradeoffs between social media and other activities for adolescent well-being

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

Studies on social media and well-being have produced mixed results. One explanation is that the current approach does not account for the relative nature of time. According to the displacement hypothesis, increasing social media inevitably bears a cost on time that could be spent on activities like sleep or exercise and thus predicts worse outcomes. However, existing work has not directly accounted for these inherent tradeoffs in social media use. This preregistered study uses compositional data analysis to examine specific tradeoffs between social media and time spent on other activities for subjective well-being in a representative birth cohort panel of 2,340 UK adolescents. Preliminary analyses suggest that social media does not appear to be the key culprit in the negative association between screen time and well-being. Further analyses will be conducted to identify key activities against which social media use is more harmful, beneficial, or neutral. Our approach aims to illustrate the value of treating time as inherently limited and inform future social media interventions, recommendations, and policies to consider how time should otherwise be spent to lead a satisfying life.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Elizabeth Chan
Student | University of Toronto

How Research Value Hierarchies Shape Faculty Epistemic Exclusion in STEM

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

DIVERSITY

In STEM, certain research values (e.g., qualitative, social justice focused) are marginalized more than others (e.g., quantitative, "generalizable"). We investigated how this hierarchy contributes to epistemic exclusion of women faculty and faculty of color. Specifically, we tested whether epistemic exclusion occurs because scholars hold marginalized research values and conduct marginalized research. We found that White men were least likely to endorse marginalized values or conduct marginalized research, while women of color were most likely to do so. The indirect path from race/gender to epistemic exclusion via marginalized values or marginalized research was significant. Finally, we explored how mismatch between faculty and departmental research values shapes epistemic exclusion. Response surface analysis showed that scholars who endorse marginalized values report greater epistemic exclusion in departments that do not support those values. These findings highlight the critical role of both individual and institutional factors in shaping epistemic exclusion and call for environments that value diverse scholarship.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker

E

Eun Ju Son
Post-Doc | University of Michigan

Authors

Eden Harrison, Martinque Jones, NiCole Buchanan, Dasom Jang, Isis Settles

Reduced Wellbeing in Parents of Transgender Youth Following the 2025 U.S. Presidential Inauguration

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

GENDER

The recent spate of executive orders directed at transgender youth in the weeks following the 2025 U.S. presidential inauguration were a likely signal to these youth—and their parents—that the federal government no longer supported them. Using a longitudinal design spanning three years prior to the inauguration (2022-2024) and two months surrounding the inauguration (mid-January to mid-March 2025), we tested whether the wellbeing (depression, anxiety, and positive affect) of transgender youth and their parents declined relative to that of cisgender youth and their parents over this time period. Across two sets of preregistered analyses of youth and parents (total youth N=160, total parent N=167), we observed significant and robust declines in the wellbeing of parents of transgender youth compared to parents of cisgender youth, and we observed minimal differences over time between transgender and cisgender youth themselves—patterns we corroborate in analyses of participants' open-ended data. Altogether, our findings identify an immediate potential cost of the current political environment for supportive parents of transgender youth.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker

R

Rachel Leshin
Postdoc | Princeton University

Authors

Kristina Olson, Trans Youth Project Member, Grey Raber, Natalie Gallagher

Parents consistently underestimate their children's prejudices

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

To intervene on prejudice development, parents must acknowledge that their children hold prejudiced attitudes in the first place. Do they? The present study examined the accuracy of parents' estimates of their own children's prejudices. Specifically, I examined how accuracy varied across (1) diverse parents and (2) diverse forms of prejudice (race, class, weight, disability, and orientation). I also examined (3) why parents held the beliefs they did. A diverse national sample of parent-child dyads (n=130 dyads), six- to nine-year-olds and their parents, participated. Parents predicted their children's selections on a playmate preference task and then children completed the task. Results indicated that parents severely underestimated their children's prejudices overall (Cohen's d=.83). Underestimates were consistent across diverse parents (e.g., across political views, educational backgrounds, income brackets, & personal values) and across several forms of prejudice (e.g., class, weight, and disability, but were more limited for race and orientation). Finally, underestimates may reflect specific intuitive misconceptions parents hold about the processes driving prejudice development.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Rebecca Peretz-Lange
Vassar College

A Random Human Peer Is Better Than a Highly Supportive Chatbot in Reducing Loneliness Over Time

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MENTAL HEALTH/WELL-BEING

AI chatbots are increasingly embedded in social life, offering accessible companionship. While brief interactions have been shown to provide immediate benefits, it is unclear whether sustained, daily engagement with chatbots reduces loneliness. In this pre-registered study, we tested the effectiveness of an AI chatbot versus a human peer in reducing loneliness among 296 students in their first semester of university. For two weeks, participants either interacted with a chatbot or a human peer, or simply wrote a brief journal entry (control condition). Although our chatbot was designed to offer consistent support rooted in principles from relationship science, the psychological benefits it provided paled in comparison to a randomly selected first-year university student. The present study provides the first evidence that texting daily with a random human peer is more effective in alleviating loneliness than texting with a highly supportive chatbot.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Ruo-Ning Li
Graduate student | University of British Columbia

Authors

Lyle Ungar, Elizabeth Dunn, Dunigan Folk, Ruo-Ning Li, Abhay Singh

The Digital Authoritarian: Smartphones reveal the everyday behavioral patterns of individuals with authoritarian tendencies

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

Authoritarianism is rising around the world. It is therefore important to understand the nature and underpinnings of this trend. To this end, we develop a portrait of the fine-grained behavioral patterns individuals with authoritarian tendencies engage in on a day-to-day basis. We collected more than 280 million digital records of behavior over three to six months from 669 volunteers' smartphones (i.e., their app usage, music listening, keyboard typing, calling/texting, unlocking/locking, and GPS location). These digital records were processed according to psychological theories about authoritarians' behavioral attributes and then used in machine learning models to predict self-reported authoritarianism. Overall, results show that individuals with authoritarian tendencies behave differently in everyday life—their behavioral patterns revealed limited exposure to unknown people, places, and cultures; a preoccupation with status and hierarchy; and greater aggression and emotionality. Regarding specific behaviors, patterns of Facebook use emerged as the most important behavioral predictors of authoritarian tendencies. Our results were not reliably explained by demographic characteristics typically linked to authoritarianism. This research demonstrates how everyday behavioral patterns collected with smartphones provide rich insights into the micro-level underpinnings of authoritarianism in the 21st century.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Sanaz Talaifar

Assistant Professor | Imperial College London

Authors

Timo Koch, Alejandro Hermida Carillo, Daniel Racek, Jan Digutsch

Victim blame in the #MeToo Era: Raising awareness of social problems may trigger backlash by activating threat

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

GENDER

The #MeToo movement was paramount in raising awareness of sexual assault. While most research suggests that such movements should heighten concerns for victims, literature on backlash suggests that they may instead heighten rationalization and victim blame. We investigate this possibility in the context of victim versus perpetrator blame for sexual assault following three moments in time in the United States: Before the #MeToo movement, after the #MeToo movement, and after the Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court hearings, but before his confirmation. As hypothesized, men, conservatives, and those assessed following the Kavanaugh hearings were more likely to blame the victim and less likely to blame the perpetrator. The effect of study wave on blame was mediated by heightened feelings of threat. In conclusion, social movements may have unanticipated implications for blame attributions, particularly among threatened individuals. Future research should examine messaging strategies that heighten awareness of social problems while minimizing backlash.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Katherine Mason

Graduate Student | New York University

Authors

Erin P. Hennes (University of Missouri), Sean P. Lane (University of Missouri), Mitchell Rabinowitz (Fordham University), Katherine A. Mason (New York University), Nitzan Cohen (Fordham University), Margaret McGuire (Fordham University)

Unseen and unseeing: Threats to belonging impair social monitoring and empathic accuracy

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Humans have an innate need to belong which drives us to seek positive social connections that are imperative for well-being. Past research has argued that when our belonging needs are thwarted (e.g., through rejection), we are motivated to restore a sense of acceptance. However, across three studies, we found consistent evidence that rejection impairs complex social monitoring. In Study 1, self-reported state feelings of rejection were negatively associated with empathic accuracy as measured by performance on the Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test (RMET), which was mediated by negative affect. In Studies 2 and 3, we experimentally manipulated feelings of rejection by giving participants false feedback that they would end up alone later in life. Compared to those in the acceptance and control conditions, rejected participants once again performed worse on the RMET (Studies 2 and 3) and struggled to interpret the feelings of others who told emotionally negative stories in a video task (Study 3). While threats to belonging may motivate us to seek acceptance, these findings suggest that rejection hinders sensitivity to complex social stimuli, thereby impairing empathic accuracy.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Katya Kredl

Graduate Student | McGill University

Authors

Sara K. Quinn, Hasagani Tissera, Jennifer A. Bartz, John E. Lydon

Eudaimonic Utility: When Environments Help You Become Who You Are

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Between growing political challenges to inclusive education and unprecedented access to knowledge through artificial intelligence, young people are beginning to question why they should pursue education—a trend made salient by recent records in school absenteeism. Considering these challenges, expanding our understanding of the forces that push young people into learning opportunities is worthwhile. This study introduces eudaimonic utility (EU), or the perception that a given environment can help someone become the person they are meant to be. An environment with high EU helps one (a) pursue their purpose in life, (b) grow, (c) bring out their best, and (d) live authentically. We established the Eudaimonic Utility Scale through factor analyses (Study 1: N=146 / Study 2: N=170) among youth in an extracurricular program. We further show that program and school EU converge with context-matched motivation measures; school EU correlates with higher grades and well-being; and, when program EU outpaces school EU, distress is likely. Together, EU offers programs and schools a new way for tracking impact and aligning their mission with the young people they are built to serve.

*DATA BLITZ

Speaker



Kaylin Ratner
Assistant Professor | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Hou Xie, Jessica R. Gladstone, Aixa D. Marchand, Melody Estevez

Cognitive Skills, Values, and Social Interaction in Shaping Lived Experience

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E451B, Level 4

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION SELF/IDENTITY SOCIAL COGNITION MOTIVATION/GOALS

This symposium brings together research examining how thought, memory, values, and perception influence our engagement with the social world. The first talk explores how specific cognitive capacities like critical thinking, perspective taking, moral metacognition, and locus of control predict social justice-related thoughts and behaviors. The second talk explores how sharing personal memories under validating versus non-validating social conditions affects how events are integrated into the self, feelings of connection, and future projections. The third talk examines how personal values guide preferences for particular situations and, through both value-congruent and value-incongruent paths, shape how situations are perceived. The final talk shows how voices, faces, and behaviors interact to update social impressions, emphasizing the surprising potency of vocal cues across intentional and spontaneous judgments. These projects illustrate how cognitive processes and social contexts continually influence our understanding of ourselves and others, thus pointing toward a dynamically integrated science of lived experience.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Anshita Singh
Doctoral Student | University of Virginia

Cognitive Pathways to Critical Consciousness Development

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Our cognition and lived experience continuously inform each other. As a process involving reasoning, interpretation, and sociopolitical decision-making, critical consciousness is informed by cognition. Yet, critical consciousness has primarily been studied through developmental and experiential lenses. The present analysis explores whether cognitive skills like critical thinking, perspective taking, social intelligence, emotional regulation, metacognition, and locus of control predict CC's components. A multiple linear regression analysis showed that critical motivation was predicted by critical thinking and moral metacognition. Critical action was predicted by critical thinking, perspective taking, and internal locus of control. Gender and race also influenced CC, with men and white participants reporting lower CC. These findings suggest that fostering certain cognitive skills may be a promising pathway for developing critical consciousness, informing future educational and community-based interventions. The results also open new avenues for integrating cognitive perspectives into CC research.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Anshita Singh
Doctoral Student | University of Virginia

Authors

Merve Koyuncu, Channing Mathews

Conversational Remembering about Life Experiences: Shared Reality and Autobiographical Reflection

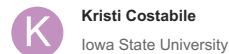
2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Approximately 75% of conversations contain discussion of one's autobiographical memories (Beike et al., 2016). When describing autobiographical events to others, we operate at two levels: the outward-facing level in which communication is organized and interpreted for others, as well as the inward-facing level in which we mentally re-experience events for ourselves. As part of a highly-powered registered report, we examined how the experience of shared reality with one's communication audience affects the experience of these two levels. Participants were randomly assigned to disclose a positive or negative personal memory under high v. low shared reality conditions (i.e., in which audience validated communicator experiences or not). Results indicated that under high shared reality conditions rememberers were more likely to: (a) attach the disclosed event to their self-concept, (b) feel connected with their communication audience, and (c) use the recalled event when projecting future experiences, effects that were especially large for those disclosing negative experiences. This work highlights how social interaction affects the meaning we derive from remembered life experiences.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Abby Boytos, Grace Wasinger, Emma Bogнар

How Values Shape Psychological Situations: Congruent and Incongruent Paths

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

We examine how value-congruent and value-incongruent paths explain the role of personal values in shaping subjective perceptions of reality. Using a taxonomy of psychological situations (negativity, positivity, familiarity, demandingness, oddness, straightforwardness), we propose that values predict the situational attributes people prefer and tend to perceive. In Studies 1 (N=155, students) and 2 (N=708, general population), conservation, openness to change, and hedonism values relate to preferences for familiar, straightforward, and odd situations. Study 2 also used suppression analyses to illustrate how both congruent and incongruent value paths predict perception of a randomly chosen situation: Through situation preference, people perceive situations in line with their values, while the direct path suggests a contrasting effect. In Studies 3 (N=208, students) and 4 (N=502, 251 couples via Prolific), we examined when these values are linked to perceptions of familiarity, straightforwardness, and oddness. Optimism moderated these associations, and Study 4 revealed gender differences. These studies offer a first step toward understanding how values shape psychological situations.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Shaul Oreg

Impression Updating from Multimodal Cues: Dynamics of Face, Voice, and Behavior Integration

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

A glimpse of a face or a few spoken words is often enough to form impressions. Yet, most research on impression updating has focused on behaviors, overlooking their inherently multimodal nature and ignoring this aspect of genuine social interactions. Across nine experiments (N = 1919), we demonstrated that impressions based on facial features, voice tone, and behavioral descriptions can be updated by cross-modal cues of opposing valence—particularly when initially negative facial impressions were followed by positive vocal cues (Experiments 1–4). Positive voices also reshaped negative face representations generated via reverse correlation, both under intentional and spontaneous impression formation conditions (Experiments 5–6). To explain these effects, we examined perceived diagnosticity of faces versus voices, as well as participants' explicit beliefs about their relative diagnostic value, but the results were mixed (Experiments 7–9). Together, these findings highlight the dynamic nature of impression updating, underscore the uniquely powerful role of voice, and offer an initial test of potential underlying mechanisms, opening promising directions for future research.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Authors

Simone Mattavelli, Fabio Fasoli, Marco Brambilla

CURRENT EVENTS GRANT SYMPOsia

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E265, Level 2

*SYMPOsia

Reading Between the Lines

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Prejudices extend beyond borders of the Israel-Hamas attacks to impact Jewish and Muslim peoples worldwide. We hypothesize that outgroup narratives can alter these prejudices. Muslim and Jewish participants received a passage written from the perspective of a Palestinian/Israeli father and were instructed to either engage in empathy or count the number of times the word “the” appears. Those who received empathy instructions reported significantly greater empathy with the main character. Character empathy was significantly correlated with greater outgroup empathy. For the Jewish sample only, empathy with the main character also significantly predicted more positive outgroup attitudes. In a mediation model using data from the Jewish sample only, the indirect effect of our experimental manipulation on outgroup attitudes via character empathy was significant. Follow-up results from a Christian sample mirrored the results from the Jewish sample. Understanding the role that narratives play in improving group attitudes could inform interventions and media aimed at promoting peace between groups in conflict.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker

Lauren Coursey

Assistant Professor | tx wes

Authors

Alexis Henry, Elsee Maradiaga, Michael Jackson, Aileen Puga

Villains and Victims in the Middle East: A Moral Typcasting Theory of Antisemitic and Islamophobic Attitudes

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

We applied Dyadic Morality Theory to test pre-registered hypotheses regarding whether the moralization of actors in the Israel/Gaza war has aggravated the links between authoritarianism and intolerance. Study 1 (N=500) showed perceiving Israelis as villains mediated the positive link between left-wing authoritarianism (LWA) and antisemitism. Viewing Palestinians as moral villains mediated the link between right-wing authoritarianism (RWA) and Islamophobia (Sobel Zs=4.98 and 4.76). Study 2 (N=400) replicated these findings and showed divergent patterns for anti-Zionist vs. Judeophobia antisemitism. Path analyses revealed that anti-Zionism and perceiving Israelis as villains acted as suppressors, masking the direct effects of authoritarianism on Judeophobia. For LWA, higher anti-Zionism and perceptions of Israelis as villains masked a residual negative link between LWA and Judeophobia ($\beta=-.22$). For RWA, lower anti-Zionism and villain perceptions only provided minor suppression of the residual positive association with Judeophobia ($\beta=.49$). A final experiment (N=600) manipulates perceptions of moral harm to reduce the links between authoritarianism, anti-Zionism, and Judeophobia.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jake Womick

Assistant Professor | California State University Bakersfield

Authors

Dylan Selterman, Manual Galvan

Pain and Prejudice: An Empirical Investigation of the Impacts of Hypervisibility and Invisibility among Arab, MENA, and Muslim University Students

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The onset of nationwide campus protests advocating for a ceasefire in Israel/Palestine have been and continue to be met with formidable institutional backlash against Arab, Middle Eastern or North African (MENA), and Muslim university students, while at the same time invisibilizing the resulting widespread macro- and microaggressions directed at them. In line with the cumulative racial-ethnic trauma model (Awad et al., 2019), the current study empirically investigated the impacts of a set of stigma-related stressors unique to these populations. Specifically, we examined the impacts of simultaneous hypervisibility and invisibility on institutional betrayal and sense of belonging amongst these populations of university students. Findings from this study provide greater insight into the unique experiences and needs of Arab, MENA and Muslim university students, which are understudied and underrepresented populations within the psychological literature. Findings also inform recommendations for university administrators regarding the facilitation of increased sense of belonging on campus among these vulnerable populations of students.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Zeinab Hachem

Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Michigan

Authors

Saera Khan, Germiné Awad

Ameliorators and Aggravators of Affective Polarization

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E353A, Level 3

POLITICS

Affective polarization—hostility between political parties—divides communities and threatens democracy. This symposium examines new directions in understanding the antecedents of affective polarization. Talk 1 tests dozens of interventions and finds that manipulating attitudinal polarization does not lead to a change in affective polarization, nor vice versa, casting doubt on a widely-assumed causal link. Talk 2 finds that practicing religion reduces some forms of affective polarization among American Christians, and that attending politically heterogeneous churches is linked with lower affective polarization. Talk 3 explores participants from eight religiously diverse nations and reveals that religion that is fused with nationalism is associated with greater support for undemocratic practices and political violence. Talk 4 presents a promising intervention, showing that exposing participants to political debates can increase issue-specific intellectual humility and reduce affective polarization. Together, these talks provide insights into the precursors of affective polarization and offer suggestions about the efficacy of various approaches for bridging political division.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Adam Smiley

Assistant Professor | Belmont University



Abdo Elnakouri

Assistant Professor | University of Houston

The Relationship between Attitudinal and Affective Polarization

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

What is the relationship between affective and attitudinal polarization? Although these two forms of polarization are often discussed together, it remains unclear whether reducing one has causal effects on the other. In this paper, we investigate this question by synthesizing evidence from 26 tests of treatments designed to reduce attitudinal polarization ($N = 4,892$) and 25 tests of treatments designed to reduce affective polarization ($N = 32,059$). We find that, on average, treatments aimed at reducing attitudinal polarization do not significantly impact affective polarization. Likewise, treatments designed to reduce affective polarization do not produce reliable changes in attitudinal polarization. These findings provide evidence for the causal independence of affective and attitudinal polarization. They also highlight the importance of precisely diagnosing the type of polarization at stake when designing and selecting interventions: strategies that reduce one type may have no effects on the other.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jan Gerrit Voelkel

Cornell University

Authors

Robb Willer, David Broockman

Religious Engagement and Affective Polarization in American Christians

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

Can religion ameliorate political animosity, and under what conditions? We experimentally manipulated engagement with Biblical teachings (vs. meditation) among American Christians and observed reduced affective polarization in the biblical condition on some but not all measures. To explore whether engagement with religion is more naturalistically linked with reduced affective polarization, we explored whether church attendance and the political diversity of one's church predicts affective polarization. Whom one shares a pew with may be important for reducing polarization, as attending a politically diverse church allows for more cross-party contact. Indeed, we find those who attend politically diverse churches are significantly less affectively polarized than those whose churches are dominated by either in-partisans or out-partisans. Religious behaviors like reading scripture or attending services have the potential to reduce affective polarization, yet their effects may be limited in the context of politically uniform churches.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Adam Smiley

Assistant Professor | Belmont University

Authors

Mj Schneider, Cheryl Kaiser, Caroline Lansford, Shauna Bowes

A Cross-Cultural Investigation Into Religious Nationalism and It's Correlates

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

While research has extensively documented the role of religious nationalism—the desire to fuse politics and religion—in the US, a majority-Christian country, little is known about its global nature. To fill this gap, we explore religious nationalism across 8 nations ($N = 2563$), representing Christian, Hindu, and Jewish majorities. Using quota-representative surveys from the US, Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, Israel, South Korea, and England, we examine (1) the association between political conservatism and religious nationalism, (2) this association's moderation by perceived political threat, and (3) links between religious nationalism and anti-democratic attitudes. Results reveal consistent positive associations between religious nationalism and conservatism across all nations [$\beta = .23, p < .001$], strengthened by political threat in six of eight countries. Religious nationalism also predicted support for undemocratic practices [$\beta = .20, p < .001$] and partisan violence [$\beta = .19, p < .001$] across contexts. Consistent patterns across diverse religions, political systems, and nations provide a deeper understanding of political shifts, democratic drift, and intergroup conflict.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Zarnab Zahoor

University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Samantha Moore-Berg, Mary Katz

Do Debates Work? Consuming Political Debates and Intellectual Humility

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

Political debates are often thought of as a vital part of a functioning democracy, but perspectives on the psychological function of political debates vary. On the one hand, by observing debates, the public may learn to appreciate the topic's complexity as well as their own intellectual limitations (i.e., intellectual humility). Conversely, debates may serve as a spectator sport that makes a mockery of intellectual engagement: people could watch debates to have their views reinforced, and to see their enemies embarrassed (i.e., intellectual hubris). To explore whether consuming debates encourages intellectual humility or hubris we ran two experimental studies (N=701; one pre-registered). Participants experimentally assigned to a debate video (vs. informational or no-video controls) displayed more intellectual humility about rent control (Study 1), defunding the police (Study 2), and even displayed less affective polarization (Study 2). Then, to explore what types of debates might lead to intellectual humility, we analyzed ~300,000 YouTube comments, finding that argument persuasiveness and debate moderation were associated with comments' greater intellectual humility.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Abdo Elnakouri

Assistant Professor | University of Houston

Authors

Igor Grossmann, Trevor Spelman, Jonathan Doriscar

Applications of Mixed Methods in Social and Personality Psychology

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

METHODS/STATISTICS

Mixed methods approaches – including the combination of quantitative and qualitative analyses – have been used in social psychology since the field's foundational research programs (e.g., on the authoritarian personality and cognitive dissonance). In recent years mixed-methods research is again on the rise, due to factors such as the growth of qualitative psychology, the availability of archival datasets, and greater interest in work with real-world applications. However, available textbooks on mixed methods deal largely with theoretical issues. This symposium aims to demonstrate the power of mixed-methods research for social psychologists and to offer models for curious researchers interested in this approach. Our speakers include well-established scholars, experts in mixed methods, and rising stars in the field. Their investigations cover a great range of applied areas in social psychology, ranging from racial/ethnic identity and narratives to the workings of the U.S. carceral system. What each of the presenters shares is a commitment to the use of mixed methods to break new ground in areas that have long been studied primarily with conventional quantitative techniques.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Harrison Schmitt

Assistant Professor | Skidmore College



Daniel Sullivan

Associate Professor, Director of Social & Personality Psych Program | University of Arizona

Social Psychology as World-Making

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Social psychology's disconnect from the vital and urgent questions of people's lived experiences reveals limitations in the current paradigm. To re-engage social psychology with the alleviation of serious everyday world problems, I propose we consider our discipline as "world-making" in two ways. First, people are future-oriented and often are guided more by what could be than what is. Second, social psychology can contribute to this future orientation by supporting people's world-making and also critically reflecting on the role of social psychological research in world-making. In this talk I will describe the ontology, epistemology, ethics, and the importance of mixed qualitative and quantitative methods of social psychology as world-making. I will illustrate the utility of this approach to its application to comprehending serious everyday world problems. I will conclude by arguing that reconceptualizing social psychology in terms of world-making can make it more humble yet also more relevant, reconnecting it with the pressing issues of our time.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Seámus Power

Associate Professor | University Of Copenhagen

Authors

Tania Zittoun, Sanne Akkerman, Brady Wagoner, Flora Cornish, Alex Gillespie

How Mixed Methods Expand the Study of Personality/Social Psychology

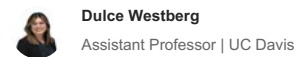
2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Psychology often privileges quantitative approaches, overlooking qualitative insights into how people navigate identity within social structures. In this talk, I discuss how mixed methods designs can expand what questions we ask in personality and social psychology and offer new tools for addressing them. I outline key forms of mixed methods research and share how I have used an embedded mixed methods design to examine racial/ethnic conversations with 107 young adult friend pairs. Participants first completed written narratives about a meaningful racial/ethnic experience, followed by a recorded conversation with a friend. We coded written and spoken narratives for meaning making and quantitatively analyzed conversation dynamics around encouragement and mitigation. Findings showed higher meaning making in written than spoken narratives, with encouragement dynamics corresponding to greater meaning making in conversation. By embedding qualitative narrative analysis within a quantitative framework, this study highlights how conversational processes shape identity-relevant meaning making and offers practical guidance for integrating mixed methods in personality and social psychology.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Authors

Ursula Moffitt, Kate McLean, Moin Syed

Racial Discrimination in Everyday Life: Integrating Focus Groups and EMA

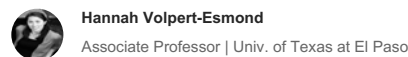
2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Qualitative focus groups can be used to support experimental design and data interpretation both before and after quantitative data collection. Here, initial focus groups were used to design measurement tools used in a quantitative ecological momentary assessment (EMA) study looking at racial discrimination experienced by Black students at a Primarily White Institution in the U.S. Reports of discrimination over the course of 4 weeks coincided with immediate increases in negative affect, depression, and anxiety, as shown in other studies. Surprisingly, reports of discrimination were followed several hours later by bumps in positive affect, which was unexpected and has not been shown before. More focus groups were conducted in which the surprising results were presented and discussed by the participants, including what active coping may have followed instances of discrimination that may have resulted in the rebound in positive affect. Thus, qualitative focus groups supported the quantitative research at both initial design stages and during interpretation.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Credit, Cops, & Cages: A Theory of Capitalist Individualism

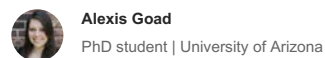
2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

METHODS/STATISTICS

Combining Frankfurt School critical theories of society and the criminal punishment system with cutting edge psychological methods, we offer a theory of capitalist individualism that proposes that people in the contemporary US occupy self-positions along a hierarchically structured continuum of accumulation/dispossession. Using mixed-methods, we investigate how the intersection of structural systems (policing/incarceration) and ideology (neoliberalism and capitalist individualism) affect and characterize people in the US along lines of race and class. Across three quantitative studies, we find that neoliberal ideology has a strong positive relationship with carcerality, at both social-structural (state policies) and individual (attitudes) levels. At the individual level, the relationship between neoliberal and carceral attitudes is stronger for White and higher class individuals. In a fourth study, lifeline interviews with currently incarcerated women provide both illuminative support and clarifying contradiction for our overarching theory, highlighting the importance of in-depth qualitative analysis for the refinement of quantitative methods and critical theory in psychology.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Authors

Daniel Sullivan, Tyler Jimenez, Tiana Jones, Harrison J. Schmitt, Lauren Sedivy

Countering Anti-Muslim & MENA Bias: The Role of Media and Paths to Intervention

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

This symposium brings together research on bias and discrimination against Muslims and MENA populations, emphasizing the powerful role of media in shaping these dynamics. We showcase four studies examining how media influence intergroup perceptions and identity threat, and how targeted interventions can reduce bias. Talk 1 investigates linguistic bias in news coverage of violence against Palestinians, showing how language that obscures agency can normalize harm inflicted on civilians. Talk 2 explores how perceived media, interpersonal, and group discrimination interact to form a reinforcing cycle of identity threat among Muslim and Latino Americans. Talk 3 examines how entertainment portrayals of Muslims affect support for anti-Muslim and anti-democratic policies, demonstrating how positive depictions reduce prejudice while negative ones heighten threat and social distance. Talk 4 presents a virtual contact intervention connecting non-Muslim U.S. students with Muslim peers from MENA and Southeast Asia, demonstrating its effectiveness in improving attitudes. Together, these talks illuminate how media and mediated contact can either sustain or challenge intergroup bias.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Media Bias in Framing Violence in Gaza: How Language Shapes Public Perceptions of Agency and Accountability

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

News media play a central role in shaping popular narratives and public understanding of intergroup conflict and violence. In particular, media reportage of intergroup violence may use linguistic forms that serve to minimize the visibility and recognition of violence and erase the responsibility of perpetrators. Combining text analysis and experimental methods, this study examines the prevalence and consequences of bias in news reports in the context of the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine. Analyzing thousands of news headlines and reports on violence against Palestinians in Gaza by prominent US newspapers, we identify recurring linguistic patterns that obscure perpetrator agency, such as passive constructions, agent omission, nominalization, and intransitive verbs. Across three experiments (Total N ~3,500), including a preregistered study, we find that exposure to news reports using these linguistic forms, compared to reports employing active voice, reduces perceptions of perpetrator responsibility, intent to harm, and motivation to hold perpetrators accountable. These findings suggest that linguistic choices in news media may serve to condone intergroup violence, functioning as a tool of discursive oppression.

***SYMPOSIA**

Speaker



Siwar Hasan-Aslih
Assistant Professor | University of California, Santa Cruz

Authors

Ashwini Ashokkumar, Siwar Hasan-Aslih

Reinforcing Spirals of Discrimination: The Mutual Influence of Media, Interpersonal and Group Discrimination on Muslim and Latino Americans

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Stigmatized groups, such as Muslim and Latino Americans, frequently encounter discrimination across multiple domains including personal mistreatment, group marginalization, and negative media portrayals. This research examines whether these domains of perceived discrimination function as distinct yet mutually reinforcing sources of identity threat. Across two studies, we investigate the cross-domain effects of media, interpersonal, and group discrimination on perceptions of stigmatization. Study 1 (N = 253 Muslim Americans) uses cross-sectional data to validate a three-factor model, showing each domain uniquely contributes to perceptions of societal hostility. Study 2 (N = 1,160 Latino Americans) employs a longitudinal design and a random-intercept cross-lagged panel model, revealing reciprocal spillover effects between perceived media, interpersonal and group discrimination over time. Results support a reinforcing spiral of discrimination, wherein identity threat in one domain heightens threat in others. These findings extend social identity theory by showing that media discrimination is a distinct, reinforcing source of identity threat beyond interpersonal or structural contexts.

***SYMPOSIA**

Speakers



Ismaharif Ismail
University of California, Santa Barbara



Muniba Saleem
Associate Professor | University of California, Santa Barbara

Authors

Ismaharif Ismail, Muniba Saleem

The Effects of Muslim Portrayals in Entertainment Media

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Media plays a central role in shaping perceptions of minoritized groups. This study investigates how portrayals of Muslims in entertainment media shape support for anti-Muslim and anti-democratic policies and intergroup attitudes. In an experiment (N=1,005) using a U.S. sample matched to Census demographics, participants viewed positive, negative, or mixed TV depictions of Muslims. Positive portrayals led to more opposition to policies that curtail civil liberties for Muslims and Americans broadly, and fostered warmer attitudes, less social distance, lower symbolic threat, and greater identification with Muslims. Negative depictions, by contrast, actively harmed intergroup attitudes—heightening intergroup anxiety, symbolic threat, social distance, and reducing identification with Muslims. Mixed portrayals fell in between. These findings highlight that positive media representations can meaningfully reduce prejudice and strengthen democratic values, while negative depictions worsen bias and threaten social cohesion. This underscores the importance of promoting balanced portrayals to counter harmful stereotypes and support more equitable, inclusive societies

***SYMPOSIA**

Speaker



Sohad Murrar
Assistant Professor Of Psychology | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Sohad Murrar, Lina Saud, Zahra Mirnajafi

Virtual contact improves intergroup relations between non-Muslim American and Muslim students from the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia in a field quasi-experiment

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Given the current polarized climate in many parts of the world, finding effective interventions to address psychological drivers of conflict is critical. While direct, face-to-face contact can reduce intergroup antipathy, many conflicts span great distances, making direct contact costly and rare. Programs for "virtual contact," which combine text-based communication with live video, extend intergroup contact's benefits to broader audiences. However, studies of such programs are typically conducted in laboratory settings, focusing only on change in outgroup attitudes. This research tests how a semester-long virtual contact intervention connecting non-Muslim US American students with Muslim students from the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia shapes intergroup processes, across two field quasi-experiments (combined N = 2886). Compared to before the intervention and a control group, participants who engaged in virtual contact showed greater self-outgroup overlap, improved outgroup attitudes, and less outgroup dehumanization and meta-dehumanization. This research provides evidence that virtual contact can be an effective tool for promoting better intergroup relations.

***SYMPOSIUM**

Speaker



Samantha Moore-Berg
University of Utah

Authors

Eran Halperin, Boaz Hameiri, Linda R. Tropp, Shira Hebel-Sela, Samantha L. Moore-Berg

Extending Lewin's Field Theory: Contemporary Approaches to Person X Ecology

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

CULTURE

This symposium revisits Kurt Lewin's foundational field theory, which emphasized the dynamic interplay between the 'person' and their psychological environment—the 'field', showing how contemporary approaches expand this concept across diverse ecological contexts.

We introduce extended ecology, arguing that non-proximal environments (intergenerational, media, virtual) shape minds and behavior. We explore lifespan dynamics of ecological affordances—how identical environments present different opportunities/threats across life stages as goals shift, and how people navigate them. We examine seasonal effects on psychology, showing how changing ecologies influence cognition, emotion, and behavior (e.g., prejudice, altruism) through neurochemical/socio-cognitive mechanisms from high-power datasets. Finally, we present ecology-driven stereotypes: cross-cultural data show that beliefs about others' home environments shape social perception, exceeding traditional categories like race.

Together, these talks offer a holistic, dynamic, empirically grounded view of person–field interaction across ecologies and time.

***SYMPOSIUM**

Speakers



Ahra Ko
Postdoctoral researcher | University of Pennsylvania



Steven Neuberg
Professor of Psychology | Arizona State University

Extended Ecologies: A New Framework

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

Ecology, features of the environment such as pathogen levels, climate, resource availability, and population density, which have fitness consequences for humans and other organisms, has been shown to influence psychology at levels. Such ecological conditions have been shown to shape state level psychology, individual differences, cultural variation, and cultural change over time. Here we present a novel framework, what we term "extended ecology," that describes how ecological conditions not proximately experienced may nevertheless exert potent influences on our minds and behavior. This expanded view, holds that alongside extended cognition and extended phenotypes, humans may essentially have extended ecologies. We highlight a variety of such paths including intergenerational transmission of past or distant ecological conditions, consumption of news about distant places, immersion in fictional or virtual worlds, and travel. We also lay out a series of novel theoretical and empirical questions that this new perspective opens for future investigation.

***SYMPOSIUM**

Speaker



Michael Varnum
Associate Professor | Arizona State Univ.

Authors

Arian Rajaeian

Ecological Affordances Across Life Stages: A Lifespan View of Lewinian Fields

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

Extending Lewin's foundational field theory in social psychology, we explore here the lifespan dynamics of person-field interaction. Integrating affordance-management and life-history perspectives, we propose that ecological affordances (environmental opportunities/threats for goal achievement) shift across developmental stages, driven by changing goal priorities. For example, an environment with many relatives (e.g., high genetic relatedness) is likely to be perceived as an essential resource for children but a potential constraint for young adults seeking non-kin relationships, becoming an opportunity again for new parents needing childcare support. In response, individuals actively manage these shifting affordances by (a) calibrating attention and emotional responses to environmental cues, (b) adjusting thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, and (c) restructuring their 'living spaces' to align with life-stage goals. This framework offers new avenues for research into lifelong flexibility of person-field interactions, essential for a complete understanding of human psychology.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ahra Ko

Postdoctoral researcher | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Steven L. Neuberg

Seasons Matter in Many Ways and for Many Reasons

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

Seasons change and so do the ecologies that people inhabit—and consequently, so do the emotions, cognitions, and behaviors of those people who inhabit those ecologies. This talk will provide an overview of seasonal effects on human psychological functioning. The overview will be illustrated by empirical research on topics of interest to social and personality psychologists (e.g., preferences, prejudices, moral values, altruistic behavior, etc.). Some of these findings are published; some aren't (e.g., results from two recent studies—one cross-sectional [with data from over 10 million respondents] and one longitudinal—on prejudices against marginalized groups). The talk will also include an overview of multiple causal mechanisms through which seasons have these many consequences. Some mechanisms reflect neurochemical responses to seasonally-varying meteorological variables, whereas others reflect cognitive and motivational responses to seasonally-varying features in natural and/or social ecologies. Methodological implications (e.g., implications for non-replication of empirical findings) will be discussed, and a few bits of useful advice will be offered.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Mark Schaller

Professor | University of British Columbia

Authors

Ian Hohm

Ecological Information Shapes Person Perception and Judgment

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

A person's "field," or ecology, plays a powerful role not only in how they themselves behave, but also how they are perceived and judged by others. This talk introduces the concept of ecology stereotypes: Beliefs about people's characteristics and behavior based on their presumed home environment. Such stereotypes exist across societies and are similarly held regardless of one's own ecological circumstances. In a series of studies spanning ten years of research, we demonstrate that ecological cues can in fact exert a stronger influence on social perception than traditional categories like race or ethnicity. This work highlights that to best understand Person X Environment interactions, one must take into account how the "field" actively structures social impressions and judgments of the "person."

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Keelah Williams

Associate Professor of Psychology | Hamilton College

Authors

Oliver Sng, Cari Pick

Friendship Formation and Change: Insights From Experimental and Network Data

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E353C, Level 3

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Friendship is critical to well-being, yet remains understudied. Here, we present four talks examining how people initiate, strengthen, lose, and perceive friendship across levels of analysis. First, experimental data show that people have biased meta-perceptions when imagining initiating a friendship. People believe they would be judged more negatively than they judge others, which shapes their willingness to reach out and predicts their real social network size. Second, six experimental studies find that requesting help signals friendship closeness even when the requested help is costly. In the third talk, we use longitudinal network data to show that closeness with friends from home declines significantly during college transition, and this decline predicts poorer mental health among students from marginalized backgrounds. Finally, egocentric network data reveal that people's perception of friends is shaped by their network structure. For instance, people feel closer to friends who are network brokers, and they perceive friends with more similar social connections as more similar to themselves. Together, these talks highlight how people connect and how friendships endure.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Caimiao Liu

University of Virginia

Biased Meta-Perceptions Inhibit New Friendships and Predict Social Networks

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

As loneliness rises, forming new friendships is more vital than ever. Yet little research has focused on this early and uncertain stage of friendship initiation. What holds people back from reaching out? We hypothesized that people have biased meta-perceptions, believing their own attempts at initiating friendship are judged more negatively than they judge others for the same behavior. Across three pre-registered studies (N = 951), participants were randomly assigned to imagine being either the initiator or recipient of various everyday friendship invitations. Controlling for personality and attachment style, people think others perceive their friendship initiation attempts as less positive (e.g., friendly), more hesitant (e.g., socially awkward), and more overly assertive (e.g., pushy). Each judgment dimension also differentially predicts critical outcomes. For instance, people with less biased meta-perceptions for the positive traits reported being more willing to initiate friendships. Surprisingly, those who worry about seeming awkward actually have more friends. Results highlight a multifaceted cognitive barrier that discourages new ties and predicts real-world social networks.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Caimiao Liu
University of Virginia

Why didn't you ask me?: Requesting help cues interpersonal closeness

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Friends commonly ask each other for help, even when the help they need is costly. Across six preregistered experiments using scenario studies (N = 707) we predict and find that, despite its costs, friends prefer to be asked for help and get upset if their friends don't ask them for help, even when the task is tedious. We argue that this is because asking for help is tightly linked to friendship. Consistent with this, we find that people infer friendship strength from being asked to help and, in some cases, requesting help is seen as a more diagnostic signal of friendship than providing help. Further, we find that a friend's upset at not being asked to help is moderated by factors that lessen or increase this friendship inference: for instance, an unasked friend feels more upset if their friend asks another friend for help rather than if their friend asks someone else, like parent or co-worker, instead of them. These findings reveal that requesting help is not just a practical act but one that provides rich information about friendship strength.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Alex Mackiel
PhD Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Alex Shaw

Home Friendship Network Changes among College Students from Marginalized Backgrounds

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Students from marginalized backgrounds—such as underrepresented minority (URM) and First-Generation (First-Gen) students—often face distinctive social challenges when transitioning to college. Yet little is known about the role of “home” friendships in buffering – or exacerbating – these challenges. We used a longitudinal design to assess the home friendship networks of 280 students (31% URM; 38% First-Gen) before and throughout their first year of college. We find that all students experienced steep declines in closeness with their friends from home when they entered college. However, URM and First-Gen students experienced significantly steeper declines than their peers. Importantly, losing connection to home friends was linked to worse mental health for URM and First-Gen, but not for their peers. Potential mechanisms relating to identity, similarity, and new network characteristics are discussed. These findings suggest that, while it may be especially challenging for students from marginalized backgrounds to maintain their friendships from home, doing so may help buffer the challenges and stressors they face during the college transition.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Madeline Paxson
PhD Student | Princeton University

Authors

Rebecca Carey

The Shape of Connection: Networks Influence Self and Social Perception

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Our immediate social world—comprising the people we know and how they are interconnected—shapes how we feel about ourselves and others. Using egocentric social network data (N = 259), we examine how both the content and structure of people's social networks relate to their perceptions of individual friends, their self-perceptions, and their feelings of loneliness. First, people's impressions of friends are shaped by where those friends are situated in their network: emotionally close friends are more likely to occupy “broker” positions, bridging different social circles. Second, impressions are influenced by the broader context of who friends are connected to: friends with more similar connections to the participant are themselves seen as more similar. Third, when zooming in on participants' core support networks, lonely individuals tend to have smaller, less interconnected networks. Finally, more structurally diverse socializing networks are linked to more positive self-perceptions and higher self-esteem. These findings highlight that both social perceptions and self-views are shaped not just by individual ties, but by the structure of our broader social world.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Hazel T. Chen
Ph.D. Student | University of California, Riverside

Authors

Brent Hughes

Gender Inequalities Persist: Longitudinal and Experimental Examinations of Gender Stereotypes

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E351, Level 3

GENDER

Despite increases in women’s representation in historically male-dominated domains (e.g., politics), gender inequality persists. This symposium examines novel ways to measure and understand gender stereotypes, with implications for judgments about people’s behaviors across contexts. Talk 1 presents evidence from across 40 years demonstrating that gender stereotypes (e.g., agency) remain exaggerated and inaccurate despite men’s and women’s occupational and behavioral differences narrowing. Talk 2 suggests that dimensions of perceived agency (e.g., competence) may explain why some gender stereotypes are more resistant to change. Talk 3 discusses surprising findings regarding people’s willingness to befriend women and men who exhibit counterstereotypic behaviors, highlighting people’s openness to stereotype violations. Talk 4 shows that White men sexualize women in high-status roles, potentially to degrade a powerful, and thus threatening, subordinate group member to maintain their own psychological dominance. Together, our symposium leverages 4,641 participants as well as longitudinal and experimental methods to explain why gender inequalities persist and how to best address them.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers

- 

Apoorva Sarmal
Lyman T Johnson Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Kentucky
- 

Abigail Folberg
Assistant Professor | University of Nebraska - Omaha

Same Script, Different Decade: The Gender Stereotype Freeze Frame

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

GENDER

Over the past forty years, women’s roles have changed dramatically across politics, higher education, and beyond. Yet the stereotypes ascribed to women and men have remained exaggerated and stable. I present evidence that—despite women’s growing participation and visibility in public life and attainment of high-status roles and leadership—gender stereotypes continue to portray women and men as fundamentally different in inaccurate ways. Drawing on data from 1983, 2014, and 2024, I demonstrate the persistence of strong perceived gender differences ($d=0.9-1.8$) across the key trait dimensions of gender stereotypes—agency and communion, even as actual behavioral and occupational differences have narrowed (Haines et al., 2016). I argue that the primary impediments to gender equality are not rooted solely in stereotypes themselves, but emerge from intrapersonal, interpersonal, and structural factors across both work and home domains. To explain these dynamics, I outline the Role Prioritization Model, which extends role congruity, lack of fit, and backlash theories by specifying the boundary conditions of prescriptive and proscriptive behaviors for women and men.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

- 

Elizabeth Haines
Professor | William Paterson Univ.

Authors

Nicole Lofaro

Dominance (vs. Competence) Contributes to Women’s Underrepresentation in the Workplace

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

GENDER

We draw on social role and status incongruity theories to examine the role of perceived dominance (vs. competence) in women’s underrepresentation in various organizational settings and careers. In Study 1, we show that perceived communion (e.g., warmth) and dominance (e.g., assertiveness), but not competence (e.g., skillfulness), explained perceptions that men (vs. women) were overrepresented in masculine (vs. communal) organizational cultures. Two reverse correlation studies suggest that gendered mental representation of dominance and communion (vs. competence) may explain these effects. Further, dominance and communion (vs. competence) also explain patterns of women and men’s representation across various careers. In Study 4, we show that participants viewed potential perceived gender similarities in trait dominance and communion (vs. competence) as less believable and more threatening. (Gender similarities in perceived dominance and communion were viewed similarly.) Thus, the two dimensions of gender stereotypes that contribute to perceived representation may be difficult to address. We discuss implications for assessing gender stereotypes and research on stereotype change.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

- 

Abigail Folberg
Assistant Professor | University of Nebraska - Omaha

Authors

Charlotte Moser, Abi Leyden, Jaylin Sims, Anna Miller, Katie Buglewicz

Investigating the role of gender stereotypes on spontaneous impressions

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

GENDER

Traits are spontaneously inferred from observing other’s behavior via spontaneous trait inferences (STIs). Decades of research show that STI effects are large, long lasting, and occur under various contexts. Yet, findings conflict on whether other implicit impressions, like stereotypes, impact STIs. Across 2 experiments, we investigated whether gender stereotypes impact STIs and subsequent intentions to friend and punish. Unexpectedly, in Experiment 1, participants formed stronger STIs of stereotype inconsistent (e.g. confident women, caring men) versus stereotype consistent targets (e.g. caring woman, confident men). Participants were also more likely to befriend and less likely to punish stereotype-inconsistent (vs. consistent) targets. These findings may reflect individuation (vs. stereotype) effects. To test these competing hypotheses, Experiment 2 utilized ambiguous behaviors that simultaneously implied stereotypic traits across gender (e.g., the same behavior implied the person was caring and confident). Data for Experiment 2 are collected and will be analyzed prior to SPSP 2026. We discuss implications for stereotype development, prejudice, and discrimination research.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Paige Taylor
Graduate student | University of Kentucky

Authors

Ka Wai Lau

Do White men sexualize higher-status women more in the workplace?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

GENDER

Within the higher ranks of leadership in the U.S., women tend to be less represented. In these leadership roles, women face backlash, which can be sexual in nature. Research on sexualized backlash has paid less attention to investigating the interlocking systems of racism and sexism and their impact on women leaders. This research investigated how White men in the U.S. sexualize women with intersecting marginalized identities in higher-status roles than themselves. Results from a pre-registered experiment (N = 641) indicated that women supervisors faced greater sexualized backlash than women colleagues (conceptual replication). But unexpectedly, White women were sexualized more than Black and East Asian women. Finally, a greater difference in role assignment (supervisor vs. colleague) in sexualization for East Asian women relative to Black women and White women emerged. Moreover, the more White men perceived their woman colleague/supervisor to be dominant and endorsed current social hierarchies, the more likely they were to sexualize her. Theoretical and practical implications will be discussed.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Apoorva Sarmal
Lyman T Johnson Postdoctoral Fellow | University of Kentucky

Authors

Allison Skinner

Is SPSP a Healthy Scientific Organization?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E352, Level 3

POLITICS

SPSP’s 2025 conference created a firestorm of criticism that the organization has replaced its scientific focus with a political one. In this symposium, we bring together SPSP researchers from different perspectives to debate the current scientific health of the organization. Talk 1 argues that SPSP is becoming unscientific while encouraging behavior that is in violation of egalitarian principles. Talk 2 uses large-language-model based classifiers to evaluate ideological framing and linguistic biases in SPSP symposia over time. Talk 3 evaluates whether SPSP has explicitly devalued the scientific method as racist. Talk 4 argues that, although imperfect, SPSP is nonetheless still largely healthy. With over 35,000 combined citations, our panel’s mixture of elected SPSP fellows, journal editors, and successful young researchers will open an important dialogue into the current state of SPSP. This symposium’s goal is to thus invoke vital self-examination. Even if SPSP is currently healthy, all organizations benefit from constructive criticism and debate. If SPSP is not healthy, this symposium could offer solutions to restoring that health.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Lucian Conway
Professor | Grove City College



Nathan Honeycutt

Why SPSP is a Bad Society

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

When SPSP sticks to being a scientific society it is on solid ground. But it has allowed itself to become a participant in the sectarian corruption of science. Contra its claims about “inclusion,” SPSP has become a club for leftists and an engine for far left/progressive activism; as such, it bears responsibility for: 1. Declining trust in academia and science, especially on the right; 2. Evoking Trump’s attacks on science. SPSP engages in and encourages illegal behavior. To understand this, it’s necessary to understand U.S. civil rights law. SPSP programs that likely violate those laws are discussed. SPSP’s website diversity statement and requirements for diversity statements for this conference, while not illegal per se, encourage illegal discrimination. SPSP leaders present a disingenuously innocuous definition of anti-racism and then make claims about White supremacy, based not on the innocuous definition, but on bizarre claims that have emerged from critical race theory. The talk ends with a list of recommendations to improve SPSP that are both tractable and likely to be supported by the membership: (<- not a typo).

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Lee Jussim
Distinguished Professor | Rutgers Univ.

Quantifying the Health of SPSP with Large Language Models

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

What a scientific society deems worthy of inclusion in its scholarly programming may offer insight into its intellectual priorities, its health, or its blind spots. SPSP's symposium sessions, in particular, are competitive and reflect not only member interests, but also institutional and member judgments about what meets scientific muster and merits attention. Analyzing over 20 years of SPSP symposium abstracts using a large-language-model classifier, I provide three lines of evidence: (1) In over 20 years, there were almost no symposia with a conservative-leaning framing; (2) However, over time, the prevalence of politically neutral framing declined in step with an increasing prevalence of liberal/progressive framing; (3) Further, results indicated a rising frequency of prescriptive, activist rhetoric, primarily within liberal/progressive-framed abstracts. These patterns invite questions about pluralism and the intellectual culture within SPSP, and may reflect movement toward stronger ideological consensus. By quantifying what SPSP scholars study—and how they frame it—this study offers an evidence-based diagnostic of SPSP's evolving character and intellectual health.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



The Scientific Method is Not Racist: Choosing Between SPSP's Faces

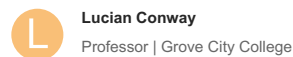
2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

SPSP simultaneously uses the scientific method as the backbone of its status and yet devalues it as reflecting racist ideology. In this talk, I will present evidence that although it has been used in a racist manner, the scientific method is not racist at all. Quite the contrary, it is fundamentally good. As such, I use adherence to the scientific method as a lens to judge SPSP's organizational health. The news is both good and bad. Although the average social psychologist still practices the scientific method (reflecting a healthy organization), SPSP's policies have explicitly demoted and devalued it (reflecting an unhealthy organization). I then argue that the consequence of this demotion is that SPSP will lose both membership and influence. Finally, I conclude that the solution is to unapologetically re-elevate the scientific method to its proper place. SPSP thus must choose between its more scientific-friendly face and its "science is racism" face. For a scientific organization such as SPSP, the scientific method is not one standard among many to be discussed or discarded. The scientific method is the only reasonable standard to build our organization upon.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



In Defense of SPSP - and of its Dissenters

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

POLITICS

Is SPSP ideologically captured, scientifically compromised, bad? In this fraught political era, SPSP's scientific health and public legitimacy depend not on avoiding critique but on its response. Dissenters are essential for provoking self-examination and deserve serious engagement. I weigh criticisms against the evidence and argue that SPSP remains a largely healthy organization capable of producing rigorous research. Controversies and rhetorical excesses have occurred, but SPSP's direction shouldn't be conflated with fringe views. The history and legacy of the scientific method isn't immune to critique, but it hasn't been discarded. SPSP's efforts to include underrepresented and disadvantaged scholars—though imperfect—can enhance the scope and quality of science when aligned with fairness and merit. SPSP has navigated a fast-changing landscape and made missteps, but it is not collapsing under politicization; historically, it stands out for its willingness to self-scrutinize. For instance, the controversial diversity statement initiative was transparently evaluated and altered following criticism. I urge SPSP to continue that tradition and resist dismissing even strident critics.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Large Language Models and the Future of Social Psychological Science

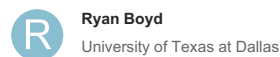
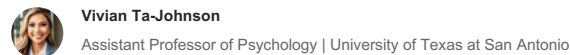
2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E270, Level 2

LANGUAGE

As large language models (LLMs) become increasingly integrated into everyday life, they present both profound opportunities and urgent challenges for social and personality psychology. This symposium showcases three talks that illustrate how LLMs can move beyond traditional methods to model, simulate, and advance core theories in social and personality psychology. Talks examine (1) belief updating in real-world discourse and the use of LLMs to foster open-mindedness; (2) psychological shifts in public engagement with a sustained geopolitical conflict through LLM-based analysis of social media data; and (3) LLM-based intimacy and how it challenges conventional models of attachment, reciprocity, and authenticity in relationship science. Speakers will address how LLMs can extend traditional methods to enhance theoretical and methodological rigor, as well as best practices and emerging ethical considerations when applying these tools to psychological data. Together, this symposium offers a path forward for integrating LLMs into the field, transforming how researchers study personality and social psychology in the era of artificial intelligence.

*SYMPOsia

Speakers



Harnessing Language and AI for Effective Belief Updating: New Frontiers in Social Psychology

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

LANGUAGE

This talk explores three interconnected studies that illuminate the mechanisms of belief updating using real-world social media data. First, it details recent work analyzing social interactions and belief change among ~18,000 individuals, identifying key linguistic features that increase the likelihood of belief updating. The findings highlight the importance of well-structured, evidence-based arguments in shaping beliefs. Second, the talk covers ongoing work at the intersection of social psychology and AI: training a large language model (LLM) to engage users across diverse contexts by presenting balanced arguments, acknowledging uncertainties, and fostering open-mindedness. The goal is to facilitate productive discussion and learning. Together, these studies show how understanding language and leveraging AI can enhance belief updating. By integrating social psychology and computational tools, they offer promising applications for improving dialogue in clinical, educational, and workplace settings. Ultimately, they aim to foster more open, informed discourse and promote intellectual humility as a foundation for belief change.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Ryan Boyd

University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Akshay Raghavan, Adithya V. Ganesan, Vasudha Varadarajan, Zoey Chen, H. Andrew Schwartz

Advancing Social Insight with Large Language Models: Unpacking a Geopolitical Conflict at Scale

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

LANGUAGE

How do people engage with geopolitical crises and how can large language models (LLMs) uncover psychological dynamics in public discourse at scale? This talk presents an analysis of over 1 million English tweets about the Russia–Ukraine war during its first 10 months. Transformer-based LLM methods were used to extract evolving social insights in public reactions to key wartime events. Findings revealed temporal shifts in emotional tone, moral salience, and engagement. Early discourse showed heightened empathy, anger, and moral condemnation, while later stages reflected emotional distancing and fatigue. Embedding-based clustering and LLM-driven summarization revealed latent narratives and complemented findings. This presentation will also demonstrate how LLMs enhance sensitivity to meaning and emotional nuance in naturalistic text and address important ethical and epistemological questions about interpretability and influence. Overall, this talk demonstrates the value of LLMs for social and personality psychology, not only as tools for large-scale language analysis, but also as nuanced windows into social psychological processes unfolding outside the lab.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Vivian Ta-Johnson

Assistant Professor of Psychology | University of Texas at San Antonio

Authors

A. Burcu Bayram

Rewriting Relationships: Large Language Model-Based Intimacy and the Future of Relationship Science

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

LANGUAGE

As large language models (LLMs) increasingly serve as emotionally responsive companions, they raise questions about how language scaffolds perceived intimacy, attachment, and authenticity. This talk examines the emerging phenomenon of romantic relationships with LLM-based chatbots, drawing on foundational research on romantic human–chatbot relationship development. Although these relationships are asymmetrical and non-sentient, users often describe them as emotionally real and psychologically fulfilling, highlighting the role of LLMs in shaping relational experiences. The talk explores how LLMs function as relationship partners who are always available, linguistically adaptive, and customizable to users' emotional needs; how intimacy is constructed when one partner is artificial; and how these relationships challenge traditional models of attachment, reciprocity, and authenticity. The talk concludes by highlighting implications for revising core theories in social and personality psychology to address the unique dynamics of human–AI intimacy. As LLMs become increasingly embedded in social life, understanding how they shape and are shaped by human emotional experience is essential.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Isabella Swafford

UTSA

Authors

Vivian Ta-Johnson

Overlooked and Omitted: Bias Against and Wellbeing of LGBTQ+ Groups

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E253CD, Level 2

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Despite ample research on LGBTQ+ people, research has overlooked or omitted many LGBTQ+ groups, in part, because of their intersecting identities. In this symposium, we discuss findings on bias against overlooked LGBTQ+ groups and explore their unique and nuanced experiences. Speakers 1 and 2 demonstrate that LGBTQ+ people face unique stigmas due to their intersecting identities. Speaker 1 discusses how relevant ingroup and outgroup members evaluate targets with two “conflicting” identities (gay/lesbian and nonbinary Christians) differently as a function of perceived political ideology. Speaker 2 explains how people dehumanize Black transgender women more than other relevant targets, with consequences for perceptions of violence against these women. Speakers 3 and 4 extend this research by examining the unique experiences of intersectional LGBTQ+ groups. Speaker 3 examines how the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals vary by SES. Speaker 4 explores the impact of the experiences of Indigenous LGBTQ2S+ individuals on their well-being. Together, this symposium showcases timely research centering overlooked LGBTQ+ groups and informs theories on intergroup bias and well-being.

*SYMPOsia

Speakers



Benjamin Valen (they/he)

Ph.D. Candidate | Syracuse University



Emma Ward-Griffin

PhD Student | University of California, Berkeley

Impact of Perceived Political Ideology on Evaluations of LGBTQ+ Christians

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Researchers have examined the relationship between perceived political ideology and bias against LGBTQ+ people and Christians. We extended this work by testing the effect of perceived political ideology on evaluations of groups with two "conflicting" identities: gay/lesbian and nonbinary Christians. In Experiment 1, nonreligious gay/lesbian people (n = 164) and cisgender heterosexual Christians (n = 239) were randomly assigned to learn that gay/lesbian Christians were politically conservative, moderate, or liberal. Nonreligious gay/lesbian people and (to a lesser extent) cisgender heterosexual Christians evaluated gay/lesbian Christians more negatively when they learned that this group was misaligned versus aligned with their own political ideology. Experiment 2 conceptually replicated these findings using a similar manipulation among nonreligious nonbinary people (n = 164) and cisgender heterosexual Christians (n = 210) who evaluated nonbinary Christians. These studies provide novel causal support for ideological conflict theory by demonstrating that perceived political orientation can change intergroup evaluations, at least for two groups with "conflicting" identities.

***SYMPOSIA**

Speaker



Benjamin Valen (they/he)

Ph.D. Candidate | Syracuse University

Authors

Sara Burke, Catherine Cottrell

Unpacking Transmisogynoir: What Drives Devaluation of Black Trans Women?

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

We examined the mechanisms driving transmisogynoir, i.e., the pervasive devaluation of the lives of Black trans women in white, heteronormative, cisnormative contexts (Bailey & Trudy, 2018). Participants (N = 277) in a nationally representative Prolific sample dehumanized and stereotyped a Black trans woman more than a Black cis woman, a white trans woman, and a white cis woman. Further, dehumanization indirectly drove tendencies to downplay the murder of a Black trans (versus cis and white) woman sex worker. These effects were driven entirely by men. A follow-up experiment is planned to replicate and extend these findings with a larger sample, and to test individual difference moderators of the effects.

***SYMPOSIA**

Speaker



Jeongin Hong

University of South Florida, Tampa

Authors

Rj Kubicki, Thekla Morgenroth, Jennifer Bosson

Differences in Stigma Experiences by Socioeconomic Status Among LGBTQ Adults

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Exposure to stigma (e.g., discrimination, victimization) has detrimental effects on well-being for sexual and gender minority (SGM) people. Socioeconomic status (SES), which includes factors like income and education, can offer some protections from these experiences, though little is known about its impact on SGM people, a population at higher risk for economic insecurity. The purpose of this study was to describe the association between SES and stigma among SGM people. Participants (N=7,326) who completed the 2018 Annual Questionnaire in The PRIDE Study, a longitudinal cohort of LGBTQ+ people, were included. A latent variable was created representing SES composed of poverty-to-income needs ratio, education, current insurance status, past year homelessness, and past year unstable housing. In logistic regressions, higher SES was associated with reduced odds of experiencing discrimination and victimization in the past year, controlling for age and ethnoracial identity. These results hold when stratified by gender identity with the most robust effects experienced by transfeminine individuals reporting discrimination in the past year. Implications will be discussed.

***SYMPOSIA**

Speaker



Michael Trujillo

Assistant Professor | Carnegie Mellon University · Full-time

Authors

Mitchell Lunn, Juno Obedin-Maliver, Micah Lubensky, Matthew Capriotti, Annesa Flentje

Resilience and Challenges: Exploring the Experiences of Native LGBTQ2S+ People

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

For Native LGBTQ2S+ people, their Native, LGBTQ2S+, and intersectional identities are sources of both adversity and strength. We conducted two studies to explore Native LGBTQ2S+ peoples' experiences and their consequences. In a qualitative study (Study 1, N=1097), participants identified challenges and sources of strength in their lives. Many participants mentioned experiencing numerous challenges, such as racism, homophobia, transphobia, and identity invalidation. Further, participants drew strength from diverse sources, particularly social ties and connection to Native culture. In a quantitative study (Study 2, N=196), participants experienced many challenges related to their identities, particularly in the current political climate. Importantly, some of these challenges were associated with poorer well-being (e.g., anxiety symptoms), whereas certain strengths (e.g., social ties) buffered participants from the effects of certain challenges. This research highlights unique aspects of Native LGBTQ2S+ peoples' experiences and provides a foundation to help dismantle challenges facing Native LGBTQ2S+ people.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Emma Ward-Griffin

PhD Student | University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Arianne Eason, Jamie Yellowtail, Kelly House, Adam Farero

The Architecture of Status Perception: Cues, Categories, and Consequences

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E271, Level 2

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Social hierarchies shape life outcomes from employment to relationships, making it crucial to understand how people perceive and judge social status. This symposium brings together cutting-edge empirical work on how visual and semantic cues influence perceptions of socioeconomic status and social hierarchy. First, we examine how skin tone and class-linked names independently shape status judgements in India, with implications for employment decisions. Next, we explore how status-related societal stereotypes moderate the impact of clothing on competence perceptions in the U.S. and Singapore. We then investigate how marginalised groups strategically use attire to counter status-based stereotypes, revealing systematic differences in impression management across racial and gender lines. Finally, we present evidence that racial stereotyping emerges from the simultaneous activation of multiple fuzzy categories rather than discrete classification, revealing the cognitive mechanisms underlying hierarchical perception. These talks highlight understudied pathways through which status perception operates, advancing our understanding of how social hierarchies are perceived and reinforced.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Finneaz Moner

National University of Singapore



DongWon Oh

Assistant Professor | National University of Singapore

Names and Facial Complexion Independently Predict Impressions of Socioeconomic Status: Evidence from India

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Socioeconomic Status (SES) is signaled by diverse cues across cultures and impacts significant life outcomes like marriage and employment. However, research on SES perception is limited by its lack of cross-cultural investigation and emphasis on unimodal stimuli. In the current study, we examine how visual (facial skin tone) and semantic (caste based names) cues contribute to SES perception among Indian participants. Study 1 demonstrates that visual and semantic cues independently influence SES perception. Study 2 shows that acculturation to a different culture (the UK) plays a limited role in influencing SES perception among migrating Indians. Finally, Study 3 highlights that SES-based cues, especially facial skin tone, impact job suitability judgments via perceived warmth and competence. These studies highlight the need for studying social perception with more multimodal stimuli and cross-culturally diverse samples to gain a more generalizable understanding of SES perception.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Abhinanda Dash

Graduate Student | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES

Authors

Kerri Johnson, R. Thora Bjornsdottir

Dressing the Part: Economic Status Stereotype Awareness Shapes Clothing-Based Competence Perceptions

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Clothing plays a powerful role in shaping perceptions of competence—judgements that in turn, influence a wide range of social outcomes. However, the role of individual perceivers' societal stereotypes associating wealth with competence in these status-based evaluations remains unknown. Participants (Singapore: n = 98; US: n = 208, preregistered) rated the competence of individuals in expensive-versus inexpensive-looking clothes, and reported societal stereotypes about rich and poor people's competence. Crucially, in both studies, individuals with stronger perceptions of these societal stereotypes showed greater differentiation in competence ratings between expensive and inexpensive clothing conditions. These findings highlight how individual differences in awareness of economic status stereotypes shape social perception, potentially contributing to the maintenance of social hierarchies. We discuss possible interventions and emphasise its need to reduce the impact of status-competence stereotypes on social perception and decision-making.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Finneaz Moner
National University of Singapore

Authors

Minkyung Kim

Empowering Attire: The Role of Clothing in Countering Stereotypes

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

While clothing serves as a powerful tool for impression management, little is known about how members of stereotyped groups strategically use attire to navigate social biases. In Study 1, participants (53 Black and 52 White men, 55 Black and 55 White women, all U.S. residents) read 20 competence-salient (e.g. job interview) or irrelevant (e.g. friends meet-up) scenarios. For each scenario, they chose an outfit out of 5 options drawn from gender-specific pools of 74+ items each. These clothes and situations had been previously rated for "how professional they look" by independent raters. Competence-salient situations prompted formal attire choices. Crucially, Black participants are more likely to choose more professional attires in competence-irrelevant situations. In Study 2 (n = 214, preregistered), we replicated the findings using completely different clothing images. We examined the motivations behind the clothes choices using participants' verbal responses (Study 3). This work advances our understanding of how stereotyped groups manage their appearance, even in casual settings, and illuminates the hidden labour of countering bias through strategic self-presentation.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Ming Huang Teo
Machine Learning Engineer | National University of Singapore

Stereotyping as a Function of Multiple Fuzzy Categories

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Decades of research established that mental representations of categories play a central role in stereotyping. However, the cognitive mechanisms underlying this process are much less clear. In the present research, we provide evidence that stereotyping in the context of race is shaped by simultaneous activation of multiple categories, and that the structure of these categories varies meaningfully across perceivers. In Study 1, we show that participants' stereotype-related trait impressions (e.g., "shy) of individual faces which varied in prototypicality on three race-category dimensions (Asian, Black, White) are better predicted by a model that integrates all relevant racial categories, compared to a model that assumes each face is classified only into a single category at a time. In Study 2, we find that individual differences in the strength of stereotypic attributions are correlated with categorical perception such that participants with fuzzier representations of racial boundaries show less race-consistent trait associations. Together, these findings suggest that stereotyping is determined by a high-dimensional representational space that varies meaningfully across perceivers.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Bastian Weitz
Pre-doctoral Research Fellow | Stanford University

Authors

Jon Freeman

Under the Surface: Exploring Cultural Differences Beyond Collectivism

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: E258, Level 2

CULTURE

This series of talks presents evidence of meaningful cultural differences beyond the collectivism-individualism paradigm. Talk 1 argues that the most-used collectivism scales fail to capture collectivism in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The classic scales include items about warmth and generalized positivity, which participants in Africa tend to disagree with. Instead, agreement is higher with "responsibilism", which emphasizes duties in close relationships. Talk 2 explores warm collectivism and responsibilism in romantic relationships around the world. Cultures higher in warm collectivism date more and marry earlier, while cultures high in responsibilism date less and marry later. Talk 3 investigates causal attributions beyond collectivism, focusing on self-promotive interdependence. SSA participants exhibited weaker dispositional bias, particularly when interpreting behaviors that could serve group interests. Talk 4 asks whether a socio-ecological process can better explain cultural differences in assertiveness, which have traditionally been attributed to differences in individualism/collectivism. Higher relational mobility shaped assertiveness via positive reputation management.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Lindsay Ackerman
Graduate Student | Michigan State University

A Fundamental Misunderstanding of Collectivism Prevented Measurement in Sub-Saharan Africa

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

An open secret in cultural psychology is that self-report collectivism scales “don’t work.” Researchers largely expect that the West is less collectivistic than East Asia, but several meta-analyses have found no differences (such as Heine et al., 2002). Comparisons with sub-Saharan Africa are similarly puzzling. For example, the US scores more collectivistic than Ghana and Nigeria (Krys et al., 2022). We argue that the scales are based on a misunderstanding of collectivism. The scales tap into intuitions about “warm fuzzy” collectivism—being nice to people in general. Our proposal is that “responsibilism” is a more accurate description of collectivism. This focuses on duties in close relationships.

To test this, we created a scale to measure responsibilism with 16,237 people from 100 cultures. Cultures in sub-Saharan Africa scored higher on responsibilism and lower on warm fuzzy collectivism. Within Africa, we found higher responsibilism in cultures with a history of rice farming, which required more coordination than crops like wheat. This hints at ecological roots of responsibilism. In sum, pulling apart two concepts of collectivism can help explain an old puzzle.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Richard Homenya

Graduate Student | University of Chicago

Authors

Thomas Talhelm

Responsibilism, Collectivism, and Relationship Status Across 92 Countries

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

There are many studies on the influence of culture on human behavior, but there are surprisingly few studies on culture and romantic relationships. In this pre-registered study, we explored cultural differences in relationships. We argue that there are two different types of collectivism with opposite implications for relationships. One type is a novel measure we call “responsibilism,” which focuses on duties in close relationships. The other is “warm collectivism”, which includes “warm fuzzy” feelings to people in general. In this study, we tested responsibilism (N = 12,381) and warm collectivism (N = 5,962) in two large datasets around the world. Logistic multilevel models found that dating was more common in warm collectivistic cultures and less common in responsibilistic cultures. Further, people in more responsibilistic cultures were less likely to be in any relationship at younger ages, while those in more collectivistic cultures were more likely to be in any relationship at younger ages. The results suggest responsibilism’s focus on duty to close others may be a factor in rejecting casual relationships and delaying committed partnerships.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Lindsay Ackerman

Graduate Student | Michigan State University

Authors

Thomas Talhelm, Hyewon Yang, William J. Chopik

Self-Promotive Interdependence and Moral Attribution in Sub-Saharan Africa

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

Prior research showed that Westerners tend to attribute others’ behavior to internal traits, whereas East Asians tend to consider situational factors. Building on this work, we hypothesized that many African contexts are shaped by a shared cultural understanding in which individuals pursue self-interest in ways that ultimately benefit their ingroup. Across five studies (total N = 3371), we investigated social inference patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), moving beyond the East–West framework. Participants from multiple SSA regions (Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Ethiopia) exhibited weaker dispositional bias than American and Japanese participants, particularly when interpreting behaviors that could plausibly serve group interests. When the group-benefiting aspect was absent, these cultural differences in attribution diminished. Notably, SSA participants often viewed dispositional and situational factors as mutually reinforcing rather than competing. Together, these findings suggest that causal attribution in SSA may reflect a broader ethos of self-promotive interdependence, in which self-directed actions are morally justifiable when they serve the interests of one’s group.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Erin Wang

University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Authors

Keiko Ishii, Annabella Osei-Tutu, Stephen Asatsa, Lyzelle Naude

Relational Mobility and Reputation Management Explain Cultural Differences in Assertiveness

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

CULTURE

The theory of relational mobility—a socio-ecological factor referring to how freely people can choose and leave relationships—has explained numerous psychological differences identified in cultural psychology within a unified functional framework. This study extends the theory by testing whether cultural differences in assertiveness arise from distinct adaptive tasks related to reputation management. In high-relational mobility societies, building a positive reputation through assertiveness is adaptive, whereas in low-mobility societies, avoiding a negative reputation through modesty is crucial. A US ($n = 188$)–Japan ($n = 210$) survey found that Americans perceived greater societal prevalence of praise than Japanese, whereas no difference was found in perceived criticism. Mediation analyses showed that higher relational mobility and perceived praise serially accounted for Americans' greater assertiveness, whereas the pathway via perceived criticism was not significant. These findings suggest that cross-societal differences in assertiveness primarily reflect heightened sensitivity to positive reputation management in high-mobility societies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Masaki Yuki

Professor | Hokkaido University

Authors

Yugo Maeda

Invited Symposium: What Is Good Theory and Why Should We Care

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

Most of our theories are useless. Our theories need meta-theories. Our theories need to be predictive and practical. We have forgotten the importance of theory and need to recalibrate. This invited symposium brings together four speakers from diverse perspectives, with varying messages about the nature and role of theory in our field. Our field has experienced significant advances in the way we do science, from the methodological reforms to the explosion of work using generative AI. Amidst these advances, this symposium aims to take a reflective step back and revisit one of the most basic questions of our science: what is a good theory? And why should we care?

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIUM

Chair



Oliver Sng

Assistant Professor | University of California, Irvine

Theory as the Aim of Science

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

These days, social psychology in particular and the science of psychology more generally are at a crossroads. Advancements in methodological rigor yielded sophisticated experiments and exacting statistical analyses, yet the pursuit of empirical precision may have overshadowed the field's commitment to theoretical depth. This paper argues that psychology has become structurally imbalanced, prioritizing puzzle-solving over genuine theory-building, leading to fragmented findings and diminished understanding of the profound whys and hows behind human behavior. Drawing parallels with natural sciences, I suggest that robust theory is essential for observation and discovery, akin to a lens through which data gain meaning. I trace the historical trajectory of this imbalance, from the social psychology's early, theoretically vibrant period to its current prevention-focused climate, shaped by crises and institutional pressures. I propose, therefore, a strategic recalibration: cultivating theorizing as a teachable skill within graduate curricula and advocating for differentiated research roles to foster collaborative teams of conceptual "builders" and empirical "testers." Our rigorous methodologies will then serve a renewed theoretical ambition, enriching our understanding of the bases of human behavior.

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Arie Kruglanski

Professor | University of Maryland

There Is Nothing So Useless as a Social Psychological Theory

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

“There is nothing so practical as a good theory,” so goes the well-trod dictum from Kurt Lewin that serves as an unofficial motto for social psychology. “Theory” is strongly valued in the field, and for good reason, but what does theory mean to the social psychologist? This talk provides a commentary on the current state of theories used in social psychology, with a particular emphasis on the importance of distinguishing between theoretical models and the statistical models used to evaluate them. Most theories in the field serve more as rhetorical devices rather than proper scientific theories that can be put to empirical test. This presentation will include suggestions for how social psychological theories can improve, moving them from useless to scientific, and thereby contributing to our shared goal of scientific progress.

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Moin Syed

Professor | Univ. of Minnesota

Psychological Theory Building Needs a Formal Adaptationist Metatheory

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

Good theory should make clear predictions about the future and should do so without the help of a theorist. I will argue that psychological theorizing is often held back from this ideal by its purely verbal character and the lack of a metatheoretical framework. Absent metatheory, we have no means of deciding which possible theories are plausible. Absent formalisms, our theories can only make predictions as filtered through the whims and biases of human theorists. Both problems can be solved by adopting a formal, adaptationist framework for theory building. Such a framework provides guidance as to what psychological systems are likely to exist and provides language for describing unambiguously how these systems operate. This provides testable predictions that can allow psychological science to hill climb toward better descriptions of the mind. I will furthermore show how formal, adaptationist theorizing yields stronger theory with examples from relationship science.

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Daniel Conroy-Beam

Associate Professor | UC Santa Barbara

Social Psychological Theory as a Reality Benchmarked, Collective Enterprise

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

As defined by Allport, social psychology is the scientific study of how people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. Accordingly, social psychological research has built a rigorous body of knowledge about social phenomena, explaining attitude formation and change, communication and persuasion, social judgments, interpersonal interactions, and how social contexts shape self and identity. As a relatively young science, our discipline has excelled in generating measurement methods, producing internally consistent explanations, precisely measuring mechanisms, and deriving testable predictions. But is deriving, measuring, and supporting precise empirical predictions all that we need to be doing? In this presentation, I will argue that to build sustainable theories, we need to come together as a field to enhance the predictive power and practical impact of our theories. To do so, I propose that we collectively identify key social psychological phenomena to explain and change, and survey candidate variables to build a more general theory of social behavior. I will present data from social media experiments showing that broad theory-based models of persuasion and norms outperform single theory models and purely algorithmic (LLM-based) predictions.

*FEATURED SESSION

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Dolores Albarracín

Amy Gutmann University Professor | University of Pennsylvania

PM Beverage Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Join us for complimentary beverages in the exhibit hall.

*NETWORKING

Defending Academic Freedom and DEI: Social Psychological Perspectives on Resistance

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E451A, Level 4

Since Trump's inauguration, federal actions have increasingly targeted higher education, putting DEI initiatives and academic freedom under threat. Official communications and policies have framed DEI programs as discriminatory, pressured institutions to eliminate them, and influenced major funders like NSF and NIH to shift priorities. Consequently, faculty are being asked to scrub their syllabi and course materials of DEI-related content, halt DEI-related activities, rethink grant proposals, and censor academic speech. While many likely wish to resist, they might worry that doing so individually can carry serious professional consequences. As social psychologists we bear an important responsibility to address these challenges. Our research has been foundational to understanding and promoting equity and inclusion, directly informing the very DEI initiatives now under attack. Moreover, our discipline offers unique scientific insights crucial for effective resistance. This panel session will facilitate a discussion on strategies for collective action to preserve academic freedom and meaningful DEI programs, offering a vital space for shared insights and collaborative solutions.

*PROF DEV

Speakers



Jennifer Gutsell

Associate Professor | Brandeis University



Alexa Tullett

Associate Professor | Univ. of Alabama



Jessica Remedios

Associate Professor | Tufts Univ.



Neil Lewis, Jr.

Associate Professor | Cornell University



Betsy Paluck

Princeton

How to successfully apply to industry internships

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E450A, Level 4

Securing an internship in industry can be a challenging process. As a rising 3rd-year Ph.D. student this past summer, I enjoyed an exceptionally positive experience working full-time and in-person as a Summer 2025 PhD Data Science Modeler Intern at Discover Financial Services here in Chicago. In this session, I will share my perspectives on successfully navigating the corporate internship application process and gaining hands-on experience while employed at a major Fortune 500 company during a historic acquisition (by Capital One!). In the first 45 minutes, I will deliver an interactive presentation explaining how to: (1) identify internship opportunities that represent a good fit; (2) prepare competitive application materials; (3) ace the interview process; and (4) make the most of the experience. The remainder of the session will be dedicated to audience Q&A. Participants will leave this session with a practical toolkit to convert their academic CV into a professional résumé, draft a compelling cover letter, and effectively communicate their academic experiences as business-oriented proficiencies during interviews.

*PROF DEV

Speaker



Nathan Liang

Graduate Research Fellow, WyLab | Cornell University

How Legacy Motives, Identity-based Role Allocation, Intellectual Humility, and Ethnic Diversity Shape Organizational and Societal Outcomes

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E353A, Level 3

DIVERSITY

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

This symposium examines how motivational, interpersonal, and structural factors—such as legacy motives, role allocations, team composition, and demographic change—shape organizational behavior and broader societal systems. The first paper explores how agentic and communal legacy motives relate to entrepreneurial intentions, patenting activity, and firm ownership. The second paper investigates whether disadvantaged group members are more likely than dominant group members to be assigned to DEI roles in organizations despite their domain expertise, and examines perceived expertise and lived experience as potential explanations for these role allocations. The third paper examines how the presence of team members high in intellectual humility predicts information exchange, listening behaviors, psychological safety, affective integration, and performance in multicultural teams, especially when members differ in their values about how the team should function. The final paper analyzes six decades of global data to investigate how changes in ethnic group composition, including declines in the dominant ethnic group's population share, are associated with shifts in multiple dimensions of democratic quality. Together, these papers highlight how a range of motivational, interpersonal, and structural factors shape outcomes across organizational and societal systems.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Jessica Paek

Assistant Professor | Indiana University

Built to Last: Entrepreneurs Illuminate Agentic and Communal Legacy Motives

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

In this paper, we explore the relationship between legacy motives and entrepreneurship. We posit that entrepreneurship enables people to fulfill agentic and communal generative needs. Through entrepreneurship, people can create something that will outlive themselves – thus responding to one of the most basic human drives to strive for immortality. Across four studies, we demonstrate that legacy motivation predicts both the desire to begin an entrepreneurial venture, the real behavioral action of founding a new firm, and the choices entrepreneurs make as they run their firms. We introduce an effective legacy motive activation intervention that can promote entrepreneurial efficacy and desirability. Finally, we identify behavioral outcomes that differentially emerge from a focus on agentic versus communal legacies. Specifically, we show that while a focus on leaving an agentic legacy predicts higher patenting activity, a focus on leaving a communal legacy predicts reduced firm ownership. This research is among the first to consider a key motivational predictor of entrepreneurial intention and behavior and broadens our understanding of types of legacies and how they shape choices.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Jessica Paek

Assistant Professor | Indiana University

Authors

Matt Fox, Katrin Burmeister-Lamp, Kimberly Wade-Benzoni

Channeling Disadvantaged Group Members into Diversity Roles

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

DIVERSITY

Disadvantaged group members are often presumed to possess unique insights into social justice issues due to their lived experiences with discrimination. Yet, such assumptions may inadvertently obscure recognition of their expertise in other domains. This research examines whether disadvantaged group members (e.g., racial minorities) are more likely than dominant group members (e.g., White individuals) to be assigned to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) roles, even when they display expertise in unrelated fields (e.g., marketing). Across studies, we found that disadvantaged group members were indeed more likely to be channeled into DEI roles. This effect was mediated by perceptions of their greater social justice expertise and lived experience. Notably, the same participants also associated DEI roles with lower power and salary. These findings suggest that assumptions about disadvantaged individuals' expertise in social justice can have unintended negative consequences for their careers and contribute to inefficient use of talent.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Hyunjin Cha

UCLA

Authors

Margaret Shih, Gloria Danqiao Cheng

Composing Multicultural Teams for Success: The Role of Intellectual Humility

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GROUPS/INTERGROUP PROCESSES

Intellectual humility (IH)—recognizing that one's views and beliefs may be wrong or fallible—bridges gaps between people from diverse backgrounds. Less is known about whether IH has a similar effect on multicultural work teams. In a multi-wave study of 120 multicultural teams working together intensely for three months (N = 510), we found that IH team composition (IHTC)—the presence of team members high on IH—later predicts more information exchange, team potency, listening behaviors, information acquisition, and affective integration. Moreover, IHTC plays a bigger role when teams have higher representational gaps (rGaps)—different perspectives on how a team should operate—such that when rGaps are large, IHTC is negatively associated with conflict and positively associated with psychological safety, subjective outcomes, and performance. These findings underscore the crucial role of intellectual humility in improving team dynamics and bridging gaps in multicultural settings.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Michal Lehmann

Postdoctoral Researcher | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Authors

Laurie R. Weingart, Ella Miron-Spektor

Declining Ethnic Dominance and Democratic Quality Across Six Decades and 90 Countries

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Does diversity strengthen democracy or weaken it? And what kind of diversity matters? In the past 80 years, nations have become, on average, both more ethnically diverse and more democratic, suggesting a positive relationship between diversity and democracy. However, diversity creates the potential for intergroup conflict, which can weaken democracy. Consistent with this, resurgent ethnic nationalism featuring opposition to immigration and concerns about the status of dominant groups has accompanied democratic backsliding. Here we examine the relationship between diversity and democracy by combining complementary data from six historical data sets covering 90 countries from 1950 to 2010. We use multiple measures of democratic quality and track diversity using a conventional measure (fractionalization) as well as a measure of ethnic polarization and, critically, the historically dominant group's share of the population. Using dynamic panel models, we show that declines in ethnic dominance predict significant reductions in electoral, liberal, egalitarian, and participatory democracy. Crucially, we find that these declines are typically followed by periods of democratic resilience, suggesting that democratic backsliding is reversible and that declining ethnic dominance may lead to stronger democratic institutions over time. These findings may provide insights for fortifying democratic institutions in increasingly diverse societies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Lucas Woodley
Ph.D. Student | Harvard

Authors

Joshua Greene

From Adolescents to Algorithms: Social Contexts of Emotion and Trust

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E271, Level 2

GENDER SOCIAL COGNITION CULTURE EMOTION

This session explores how emotions, identity, and social meaning are shaped across developmental, social, and technological contexts. Across four studies, presenters examine how adolescents learn emotion regulation strategies, how confrontations to prejudice influence identity safety, how people interpret and respond to humanlike AI, and how race and gender shape perceptions of leadership and competence. Together, these papers demonstrate that emotional processes, trust, and social judgments are not merely individual traits but emerge from social structures, cultural contexts, and design choices.

*SYMPOSIUM

Chair



Erica Miller
Doctoral Student | Washington University in St. Louis

A large-scale study on emotion regulation skill development in adolescence

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

EMOTION

Effective emotion regulation (ER) strategies are associated with improved adolescent wellbeing and mental health. Yet, there remains a gap in understanding what influences how adolescents develop ER skills along with the breadth of ER strategies used by adolescents. Across two large-scale studies, adolescents were asked to describe in words where they learned the ER strategies they use (N=1226) and how they typically manage their emotions when they are upset (N=3168). The responses were qualitatively coded and reported as a percentage of the total number of responses. Adolescents most frequently explained that their ER strategies were self-taught (45%) or learned from family members (23%). Adolescents reported using distraction strategies (46%), relaxation (15%), cognitive strategies (10%), social support (7%), and problem solving (5%). Nearly half of the adolescents in this study neither were taught ER strategies nor report using adaptive emotion regulation strategies. This study highlights the critical importance of providing explicit ER instruction for adolescents. It also highlights the variety of influences and strategies employed by adolescents to manage their emotions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Erica Miller
Doctoral Student | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Chris Rozek, Langdon Jonas, Sam Hewitt, Amanda Plaxe, Courtney Sweet

Confrontations to prejudice as identity safe information on social media

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL COGNITION

Previous work has demonstrated that confrontation style (passive vs. assertive) meaningfully shapes perceptions of racism on social media for minoritized individuals (Meyers et al., 2020). We expand upon this work to test whether educational confrontations impact comfort with confronters when viewing confrontations of explicitly racist anti-Asian statements online (Study 1, n = 137). Findings suggest that participants reported greater comfort with confronters who used assertive and educational confrontations. In Study 2, we manipulated confronter's motivation (intrinsic vs. extrinsic, n = 218) and found that participants were more favorable towards assertive confronters regardless of their motivation, while attitudes towards passive confronters were moderated by their motivation. While past work suggests assertive confrontations are accompanied by social cost, our studies find social benefits from the perspective of targets of discrimination. This work stresses the importance of considering the viewpoint of targets of discrimination when using confrontation to cue identity safety, and the ability of confrontations on social media to designate individuals as authentic allies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Gretchen Nihill
Graduate Research Assistant | University of Oregon

Authors

Chanel Meyers

Humans Across the Globe can be Manipulated to Anthropomorphize AI-systems

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CULTURE

Anthropomorphism describes ascribing human characteristics (emotions or reasoning) to non-human entities. Driven by user preferences and increase usage, more human-like AIs are designed, which may lead to adverse psychological consequences. Prior work theorizes that humanlike AIs foster increased trust and emotional attachment. However, empirical support for this hypothesis is weak. This is due to a shortage of causal studies and a research focus biased towards a small, WEIRD user group. To address this, we conducted two studies (N=3500) with participants from 10 culturally diverse countries. Participants interacted in real-time with a state-of-the-art Large Language Model (LLM). We identified a high overall levels of anthropomorphization, with strong variation across cultures. We conceptualize anthropomorphization of AI characteristics in two areas: "design features" and "conversational sociality." Our second study indicates that engineers can strategically manipulate user anthropomorphization levels. This demonstrates that AI-anthropomorphism is not inevitable or uncontrollable, but partly an intentional design choice. Interestingly, contrary to assumptions in AI ethics, but consistent with past empirical findings, varying AI human-likeness did not causally affect user trust. Our study's insights carry significant ethical implications, directly informing responsible and equitable AI design. They also highlight the critical need causal research across diverse populations.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Aida Davani

Research Scientist | Google Research



Robin Schimmelpennig

Post Doc | Max Planck Institute for Human Development

Authors

Robin Schimmelpennig, Mark Diaz, Vinodkumar Prabhakaran, Aida Davani

Revisiting Think Manager-Think Male: The Moderating Effects of Race

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GENDER

Two studies examined how race influences the think manager-think male (TMTM) effect, which suggests that men are typically more strongly associated with successful managers and leaders than women. Study 1 manipulated the race of male and female targets within the TMTM framework, focusing on competence, assertiveness and communality. Results revealed that while this effect held for men and women "in general" and for White targets, it was not observed for Black and Asian targets. For these groups, both racial and gender stereotypes shaped perceptions.

A follow-up study focused on potential implications of Study 1 found that competence was seen as more crucial than communality or assertiveness for perceptions of managerial success, potentially explaining why groups with competence stereotypes (e.g., White men) have a leadership advantage, as these stereotypes overlap more closely with the characteristics typically attributed to successful managers. These findings challenge the universality of the TMTM effect and add to the growing concern about the informativeness of gender bias research findings when attention is not paid to crucial intersecting identities such as race.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Fiona Adjei Boateng

Visiting Assistant Professor | Hamilton College

Mindsets That Matter: Humor, Curiosity, and the Choice to Belong

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E350, Level 3

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

GENDER

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

This session explores the idea that human experience is shaped not only by what happens to individuals, but also by how they approach what happens to them. Rather than treating people as passive recipients of circumstances, the papers in this session highlight the power of mindsets and traits and their outcomes through themes of curiosity, humor, and collective identity.

*SYMPOSIA

Chair



Claudia Torres

PhD Student | University of Notre Dame - Mendoza College of Business

Curiouser and curiouser: Examining state-to-trait mechanisms via curiosity micro-interventions

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSONALITY PROCESSES/TRAITS

This talk examines curiosity as a model for state-to-trait personality change through two complementary studies. Study 1 (N = 91) tested a 21-day smartphone-based intervention for promoting trait curiosity. Participants were randomly assigned to receive daily curiosity-related behavioral goals (half with additional attitude-focused lessons) or to a waitlist control. App users showed significant increases in trait perceptual curiosity, meaning in life, creative behaviors, and marginal increases in trait epistemic curiosity versus controls. The subgroup receiving attitudinal lessons additionally showed increased mindful awareness and reduced boredom proneness. Study 2 (N = 194) used a 14-day mixed-design to compare the effectiveness of four naturalistic micro-interventions to an active control. Three of the four interventions promoted state-mediated effects on trait curiosity through different pathways (state curiosity or openness). Results are discussed within a comprehensive framework emphasizing repeated state experience and situational contingencies. This work helps advance our understanding of intervention-based mechanisms and causal links between personality and life outcomes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Madeleine Gross

PhD Candidate | UC Santa Barbara

Authors

Todd Kashdan, Patrick McKnight, Jonathan Schooler

Leading with Laughter: Leader Humor and Employee Trust

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Although scholarly interest in leader humor has increased, it remains unclear how and why humor could be used to cultivate employee trust in leaders. We examine the humor-trust connection using a combination of theory application and theory building. We apply theory by using Mayer, Davis, and Schoorman's (1995) model to distinguish humor's effects on the perceived trustworthiness of the leader, trust in the leader, and actual risk-taking behavior. We build theory by proposing six signals that could be sent by leader humor, thus explaining its impact on perceived trustworthiness. Our hypotheses are tested in multiple, preregistered studies utilizing both experimental and field survey designs across different sample populations. The results show that humor led employees to see leaders as creative, humble, and as sources of positive affect. The three signals, in turn, predicted perceived trustworthiness, trust, and risk-taking behavior. Moreover, we differentiate between affiliative humor and aggressive humor, and show the effects of leader humor were more positive when it was affiliative rather than aggressive. We discuss the implications of our results for the humor and trust literatures.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Claudia Torres

PhD Student | University of Notre Dame - Mendoza College of Business

Authors

Shubha Sharma, Jason Colquitt, Claudia Torres

OPEN

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

*SYMPOSIUM

Pathways of Collective Identity: Coping with Gender Inequality and Finding Existential Meaning

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

GENDER

Does a collective identity promote a sense of meaning for women when coping with gender discrimination? In this research, we ask whether the ways in which women connect with their collective identity might contribute to a greater sense of meaning in the face of discrimination. We recruited women from Prolific (N = 485) to reflect on their experiences of gender discrimination and then gave them an opportunity to either a) find a sense of support and community with other women (i.e., Rallying), b) work with women to fight the patriarchy (i.e., Rioting), or c) avoid thinking about the collective or the situation altogether (i.e., Ignore). Pre-registered analyses revealed that women who chose to focus on some form of unity through their collective identity (i.e., Rally or Riot) found a greater sense of meaning from their experience of discrimination. A follow-up study tests the causal nature of these effects. Ultimately, this work suggests that collective unity can come in different forms, and women who turn to the collective in response to discrimination, whether that be rallying or rioting, may benefit.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Carmelle Baraket-Shavit

Graduate Teaching Assistant | The University of British Columbia

Authors

Toni Schmader, Gabrielle Ibasco

Advances in Understanding Trust to Address Societal Issues

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E353B, Level 3

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Trust is essential for social cooperation, yet historical harm or inequality often creates distrust, with cascading consequences for many social issues, from the ability to build diverse coalitions, interracial relationships at work, community-police interactions, and addressing societal disadvantage. The current symposium highlights new research on the causes and consequences of distrust, as well as how it can be repaired to address pressing societal challenges. Talk 1 examines how past harm can perpetuate disadvantage and distrust because leaders avoid collaborating with harmed groups due to an assumption that they will be distrustful. Talk 2 identifies asymmetries in linked fate between white women and women of color, fueling distrust. Talk 3 demonstrates that in power imbalanced relationships, high-power people can gain trust by deferring to the lower-power person's priorities. Talk 4 tests an intervention in the field, in which police officers gain community trust through transparency statements. In sum, this symposium offers new insight and solutions to some of society's most pressing problems by advancing our understanding of trust.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Laura Wallace

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

Perpetuating Disadvantage and Distrust: Leaders Avoid Victims Due to Concerns about Distrust

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

When people are mistreated, how do leaders respond? Ideally, leaders would engage with victims to repair damage and restore trust. However, we identify circumstances in which leaders instead avoid victims, perpetuating cycles of disadvantage and distrust. This is because leaders expect victims to be distrustful, which can decrease their willingness to work with victims. These dynamics create double disadvantage: victims initially mistreated by one are then neglected by others who fear that distrust created by the original transgressor will extend to them. This neglect can increase victims' distrust of leaders and their institutions, perpetuating the cycle.

These hypotheses are supported across eight pre-registered studies (N = 2207), including field data from public health and government officials, lab studies employing tightly-controlled experimental paradigms with incentive-compatible economic games, and a scenario study with professionals considering negotiation partners. The current talk will focus on one lab study testing our full model in an economic game (N = 300, U.S. Prolific; https://aspredicted.org/S6T_BS8), and a field study (N = 91, https://aspredicted.org/2RW_R3F).

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Laura Wallace

Postdoctoral Researcher | University of Chicago, Booth School of Business

Authors

Ryan Bruno, Emma Levine, Yena Kim

Divergent Perceptions of Linked Fate: Contrasting Beliefs About Cross-Racial Gender Relations among White Women and Women of Color

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Fostering solidarity within marginalized groups can promote social change. However, prior research suggests barriers to positive inter-minority group relations. The current work adopts an intersectional lens to explore such barriers within a marginalized group, focusing on perceptions of linked fate among women of different races and their consequences. Across 5 studies, we find that White women perceive greater linked fate with women of color than do women of color with White women. These discrepant linked fate perceptions are explained by divergent beliefs about the extent to which White women support women of color, as well as the perception that White women experience more active facilitation from others in the workplace than do women of color. Due to these linked fate discrepancies, women of color view gender-based programming as less inclusive when White women (vs. women of color) are highlighted, whereas White women expect high inclusion regardless of the race of the women featured. This work contributes greater understanding to the forces that fuel the distrustful relationship between White women and women of color and that might prevent effective coalition-building.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Rebecca Ponce de Leon

Assistant Professor | Columbia University

Authors

Derek Brown, Casey McMahon

Increasing Trust and Reducing Threat in Interracial Power-Imbalanced Relationships

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

People of color (POC) experience threat in many spaces, particularly in power-imbalanced relationships. While shared goals can build trust, they may only reflect the goals of the person in power. Thus, we propose that decisions made by high-powered individuals during goal conflict in power-imbalanced relationships are critical. Pilot data (N=129) confirms that people expect the high (vs. low)-powered person's goal to be prioritized in a goal conflict situation. In Studies 1 (N=149) and 2 (N=144), participants imagined being the low-powered person in power-imbalanced relationships and read scenarios where the high (vs. low)-powered person's goals were prioritized. Results showed that when high-powered individuals pursued a low-powered person's goal, trust towards the high-powered person was increased across all participants (Study 1) and social identity threat concerns were reduced among POC compared to White participants (Study 2). These results were replicated (pre-registered Study 3). This work highlights the importance of high-powered people ceding power in goal conflict situations. By prioritizing the low-powered person's goals, the high-powered person cues trust and safety.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Ariana Hernandez-Colmenares

The Ohio State University

Authors

Steven Spencer, Kentaro Fujita

Using Transparency Statements to Improve Safety and Trust in Police Traffic Stops

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

America's roads are dangerous. About 40,000 people die in crashes and nearly 1,000 officer-involved deaths occur yearly in America in traffic stops, making roads one of the most important areas for public safety intervention. Police stop drivers to prevent violent crashes and crime (e.g., drug and gun trade on interstates). As the modal site for police-community interactions (Camp, 2024), drivers often form their opinions on police, leaving with less trust in the institution purportedly made to keep them safe, rarely curbing their risky behavior. To reduce this miscommunication and increase driver safety, we have implemented "transparency statements" (TS) within an American police department—statements from high-power individuals that explicitly declare the authentic, benevolent reason for their behavior to those with less power (Dobson, Dittmann, Yeager, 2025). Our intervention comprised training police and randomized TS for motorists during traffic stops with immediate follow-up measures of trust. We measured psychological (i.e., self-reported) and behavioral (e.g., complaints; language) manifestations of trust after TS in this work.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kyle Dobson
Assistant Professor | University of Virginia

Authors

Andrea Dittmann

Effects of Race on Various Facets of Collective Action

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E352, Level 3

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Given the mounting challenges that communities of color face in the United States' current political climate, it is becoming increasingly important to examine factors that influence these communities' participation in and reactions to various forms of collective action. Talk 1 examines how Asian Americans' identification with their ingroup, and outgroups such as Black Americans and LGBTQ+ Americans, affect their collective action for those outgroups. Talk 2 examines how Black and White observers differ in their perceptions of Black or White protestors when they engage in violent or non-violent protest actions. Talk 3 examines how experiences of vicarious racism affect Black peoples' likelihood to engage in collective action. Lastly, talk 4 examines how respectability politics affect public perceptions of and justification for non-violent protests, comparing Black and White protestors. Overall, these talks offer a fascinating array of collective action research that decenters the WEIRD perspective and underscore considerations for achieving social change.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Darcy Acevedo-Torres
Student | The Ohio State University

Predicting Intraminority Collective Action With Ingroup and Outgroup Identification

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Outgroup identification positively links to collective action between minoritized groups (Klavina & van Zomeren, 2020). Research has yet to compare how outgroup and ingroup identification might uniquely predict this intraminority collective action. We tested the extent to which ingroup identification (with Asian Americans) and outgroup identification (with Black Americans and LGBTQ+ Americans) predicted collective action intentions, behaviors, and donations for those outgroups. Synthesizing past research, we created three identification subscales. Affective identification was key, with outgroup affective identification positively predicting all collective action measures and ingroup affective identification positively predicting intentions for Black Americans. Cognitive ingroup and outgroup identification positively predicted intentions, and behaviors for Black Americans, respectively. Evaluative ingroup and outgroup identification, represented by a subscale and feeling thermometers, did not reliably predict the collective action measures. Implications for measuring and motivating ingroup identification, outgroup identification, and intraminority collective action are discussed.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Tatum Leclair
Graduate Student | Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Robyn Mallett

Racial Effects on Support of Normative and Non-normative Collective Action

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Following the public's vitriolic responses to the Black Lives Matter movement, we were interested in whether these reactions were due to the racialized topic or the race of the protestors themselves. Across various studies we showed race-balanced online participants vignettes depicting protest actions that varied in tactics, topics, the protestors' race, and the participants' prior agreement with the topics. Afterwards, participants were asked how much they supported the protestors, how legitimate they found the protest, and whether they would have liked to join. Additionally, we measured various individual differences such as Social Dominance Orientation (SDO, Pratto, et al., 1994) and Motivation to Control Prejudice (MCP, Dunton & Fazio, 1997). Across studies we found that the use of normative protest actions, prior agreement with the protest topic, and, surprisingly, the presence of Black protestors were all significantly associated with more overall support for the protestors. Higher levels of SDO were negatively associated with levels of support, while higher levels of MCP were positively associated with levels of support.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Darcy Acevedo-Torres
Student | The Ohio State University

Authors

Richard Petty, Lanier Holt

Exploring How Sources of Vicarious Racism Exposure Influence Collective Action

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Within recent years, vicarious racism, or instances of witnessing or hearing about racist events, has garnered increased intellectual intrigue. However, few psychological studies have empirically tested this phenomenon. Thus, present research sought to examine the correlation between lifetime experiences with vicarious racism across various sources (e.g. friends, family members, social media) and collective action, assessing both past actions and future intentions, among Black adults. Exploratory emotion (e.g. anger) and problem-focused (e.g. collective efficacy) mediators were also considered. Across all sources, results revealed significant, positive correlations between lifetime exposure to vicarious racism and collective action, where as exposure to racism increased, so did the likelihood of both past and future collective action engagement. Furthermore, group-based anger and collective efficacy partially mediated relationships, but specific mediation pathways varied between each source. Findings provide promising results for the social ramifications of experiencing vicarious racism. However, future studies still need to experimentally test these relationships.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Authors

Ava Ma de Sousa, Simon Howard, India McCray

Race, Respectability Politics, and Perceptions of Non-Violent Protest

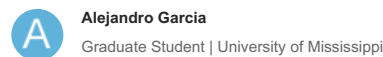
3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Public perceptions of non-violent protest play a critical role in shaping its effectiveness, particularly when the protests advocate for marginalized communities. These perceptions may be influenced by respectability politics (RP), the expectation that marginalized groups must conform to White-dominant norms to gain legitimacy. Across two studies, we examined how RP shape both justification of non-violent protests for Black rights and emotional responses toward protesters. Study 1 (N = 256) found that stronger endorsement of RP predicted lower perceptions of protest justification. Study 2 (N = 209) experimentally manipulated a protester's race and perceived respectability, revealing that respectability increased perceived justification, but this effect was stronger when the protester was Black. Respectable protesters elicited more positive emotional responses overall, however, Black protesters received more favorable emotional reactions than White protesters regardless of respectability. These findings underscore the racialized role of respectability politics in shaping responses to protest and the complexity of public support for racial justice movements.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Authors

Grace Rivera, Micheal Perez

Evaluating and predicting performance and learning: New Insights, New Directions

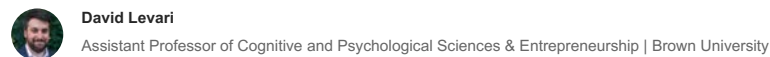
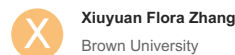
3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: Lakeside Ballroom E354B, Level 3

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

How and how well do people evaluate and predict learning and performance, both for themselves and for others? Four talks will explore new insights about these judgments, which are critical for domains ranging from skill acquisition and education to hiring and productivity. Talk 1 shows how people accurately predict the shape of learning curves in novel visuomotor tasks, but not other parameters like initial performance, negatively impacting feelings about learning. Talk 2 examines how learning about new topics can drive overconfidence and overclaiming of knowledge, even in the face of warnings and incentives. Talk 3 investigates a self-other asymmetry in performance evaluations: individuals tend to reward high performance, but expect others to prioritize performers who have overcome challenges. Talk 4 explores why people are willing to take over tasks from partners even when they are likely to perform worse, and usually hold the mistaken belief that they performed better than their partners would have. We hope that this symposium will spur further research on how people decide how well they and others are progressing, whether developing new skills or honing old ones.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



People accurately predict the shape but not the parameters of skill learning curves

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Decades of research have shown that skill learning often unfolds exponentially: people improve rapidly early on, then performance gradually levels off. Given how important expectations of learning are for actual learning, we explored whether people accurately intuit this canonical time course of skill learning. Across six preregistered experiments ($n = 500$), people correctly predict that skill learning curves (error reductions over time) on a novel visuomotor task will follow an exponential decay function, both for an imagined naive player and for themselves, before engaging with the task. Moreover, people are sensitive to conditions that merit exponential learning and only predict these curves when an imagined player puts in effort and the task is not too difficult. However, people systematically misestimate specific parameters of skill learning (e.g., initial performance, and rate of improvement), which relates to reduced affect at the beginning of learning. Critically, these negative effects can be ameliorated by practice: Providing people with minimal practice reduces their prediction errors and, in turn, buffers them from negative feelings at the beginning of learning.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Xiu Yuan Flora Zhang
Brown University

Authors

Samuel McDougal, Julia Leonard

When Does Learning Make You More Ignorant?

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Introductory education paradoxically increases learners' overconfidence about unknown information. Four longitudinal studies (field & experimental; $N = 1,218$) demonstrate that basic instruction in finance, psychology, or GPS led learners to systematically overclaim more knowledge of fictitious concepts, and also overestimate their understanding of real but untaught concepts. E.g., finance students' overclaiming of nonexistent finance terms increased 56% vs. only 8% in controls. Effects persisted despite explicit warnings about fictitious concepts and financial incentives for accuracy. Two key mechanisms drive this effect: (1) self-perceived expertise grows faster than objective expertise; (2) newly acquired knowledge schemas enable learners to make plausible but incorrect interpretations of novel information. These effects persisted for two years post-instruction. Critically, education did not merely increase confidence: it improved metacognitive calibration for learned content, while simultaneously worsening calibration for unknown content. Results highlight a critical need for pedagogy that actively help learners recognize both what they know and what is left to learn.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Stav Atir
Assistant Professor | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

David Dunning

Pitting Merit Against Misfortune: Self-Other Asymmetries in the Impact of Hardship Appeals

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

Hardship disclosures can be used to garner support in merit-based contexts like competitions and crowdfunding. This research investigates the perceived versus actual impact of hardship disclosures on support and preferences in merit-based decisions. Five pre-registered studies ($N = 2,262$) identify a self-other asymmetry such that although people favor individuals with higher performance indicators regardless of hardship disclosure, they believe others will favor lower-performing individuals who disclose hardship. That is, when indicating their own voting preferences, people believe they (vs. inexperienced others) are more competent and have a greater propensity to make justifiable decisions, leading to greater support for higher-performing individuals. Further, this asymmetry disappears when inferring the preferences of competent others who are able to make justifiable decisions. Finally, people are also more likely to advise individuals to disclose hardship to an inexperienced (vs. experienced) audience.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Evan Weingarten
University of Southern California

Authors

Ziwei Wei, Adriana Samper

Do People Know When to Take Over Tasks?

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

JUDGMENT/DECISION-MAKING

When working together, humans often need to decide whether to step in and help one another. Do they know when to do so? In seven experiments ($N = 4,842$), we introduce a novel method to measure how well a task is performed when one person takes over from another, and the counterfactual they cannot see: performance if the takeover had never happened. Most participants took over for their partners, and most of them reported afterwards that they had improved task performance. In fact, many had actually made things worse. This may happen because people step in too early to see how well their partners perform, and have a hard time identifying tasks where takeovers are likely to be beneficial. Takeovers are common in cooperative contexts, but people may not realize when they harm the performances they are meant to improve.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



David Levari

Assistant Professor of Cognitive and Psychological Sciences & Entrepreneurship | Brown University

Authors

Adam Mastroianni, Jacob Verrey, In Gim, Sean Devine, Daniel Gilbert

Identity-safety cues: Improving outcomes across diverse contexts for underrepresented groups

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E258, Level 2

BELONGING/REJECTION

Identity-safety cues (ISCs; i.e., signals that one's identity is valued) can alleviate identity-related concerns for underrepresented groups. Four talks present novel experimental research on the role of ISCs across contexts in improving outcomes for members of underrepresented groups. Talk 1 investigates the efficacy of general versus disability-specific ISCs for facilitating disability disclosures in the workplace. Talk 2 expands our understanding of ISCs by examining the impact of consistent (versus inconsistent) organizational diversity statements on Black Americans' belonging in the workplace. Talk 3 utilizes a novel racial allyship framework to assess allyship perceptions of prenatal providers as an ISC for Black women in maternal health settings. Talk 4 explores how Black and Latine adults respond to relational safety and threat cues (e.g., words, behaviors) during racial conversations with White strangers, friends, and allies. This symposium highlights the power of ISCs—from institutional messages to interpersonal signals—in promoting positive outcomes for diverse underrepresented group members across workplace, healthcare, and interpersonal settings.

*SYMPOSIA

Speakers



Sandra Manfreda

Doctoral Student | Rutgers University



Tory Benson

Graduate Student | Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Disclosing Disability and the Importance of Disability-Specific Safety Cues

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

BELONGING/REJECTION

People with stigmatized identities, such as a disability, may opt to conceal them to minimize discrimination on the basis of these identities. People with disabilities face significantly higher unemployment rates than non-disabled people. These disparities in employment rates could further dissuade people from disclosing their disability, denying them access to necessary accommodations. We aim to investigate what makes an identity safety cue (i.e., statement that one's identity is valued) effective in facilitating disability disclosure in the workplace. We find that viewing a disability-specific safety cue increases disclosure intention above both a general safety cue ($p = 0.004$) and control cue emphasizing employee success ($p = 0.01$), even when controlling for demographic factors ($N = 316$, collected prior to January 20th). Additionally, the disability-specific safety cue led participants to feel more included ($p = 0.004$), and to believe that they would have an easier time getting accommodations than the general safety and control cues ($ps < 0.003$). Thus, disability-specific identity safety cues could prove critical to facilitating equality for disabled people in the workplace.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Tory Benson

Graduate Student | Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Authors

Diana Sanchez

Perceptions of Inconsistent Organizational Identity-safety Cue Implementation Over Time

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

BELONGING/REJECTION

The U.S. is currently experiencing a DEI (i.e., diversity, equity, and inclusion) regression, with organizations increasingly abandoning their past commitments. Integrating research on attributions, we examine how consistency of identity-safety cues over time impacts perceptions of an organization's motivations. Two studies (S1=298 Black Americans; S2=217 Black Americans, 219 White cis-men) examined perceptions of an organization that had a diversity statement two years ago and had either maintained, removed, or diluted the statement. Across studies and perceivers, organizations that removed or diluted their statement were perceived as less internally motivated to be non-prejudiced in the present day and more externally motivated to be non-prejudiced in the past than a consistent organization, $p_s < .001$, $d_s > 0.40$. Further, Black Americans anticipated greater belonging at the consistent organization compared to the diluted or removed organization, $p_s < .001$, $d_s > 0.73$; No effect emerged for White cis-men. These findings afford an expanded temporal lens to the study of identity-safety cues and demonstrate how consistency impacts attributions and anticipated identity-safety.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Kim Chaney
Assistant Professor of Psychology | University at Buffalo

Authors

Izilda Pereira-Jorge

EARS: Investigating a novel allyship framework among Black women

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

BELONGING/REJECTION

Perceiving one's provider as an ally, or someone that acknowledges and addresses racial inequities, can transform the quality of patient-provider encounters. We examined the utility of a novel racial allyship framework, EARS (i.e., Empowerment via collaborative decision-making, Approaching racism dialogue, Recognition of systemic racial inequities, and Social support for racism-related stress), a collection of interrelated patient care objectives to convey provider allyship. Black women that had received prenatal care in the US since 2020 ($n = 285$) reported their patient-provider interaction quality for their prenatal encounters (i.e., identity-safety), pregnancy complications, and perceptions their provider was an ally – as defined by our EARS framework. Prenatal provider allyship perceptions significantly predicted greater identity-safety and fewer pregnancy complications, even when controlling for established predictors of provider evaluations (e.g., patient-provider race concordance) and pregnancy outcomes (e.g., maternal age). The present investigation, for the first time, links provider allyship to an improved pregnancy-related health outcome among Black women.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



India Johnson
Associate Professor | Indiana University, Indianapolis (IUI)

Authors

Evava Pietri, Veronica Derricks, Sacha Sharp, Francesca Williamson, Jasmine Johnson

Minoritized Individuals' Identity-safety Cues: with White Strangers, Friends, and Allies

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

BELONGING/REJECTION

In interracial interactions, marginalized group members rely on relational cues (e.g., words, behaviors) signaling identity-threat or -safety. But, such cues may hold different meaning with White friends and allies. In two pre-registered experiments, Latine ($N = 513$) and Black ($N = 478$) Americans imagined discussing a negative racial topic with a White stranger (Studies 1-2), friend (Studies 1-2), or ally (Study 2) who demonstrated relational safety (e.g., support) or threat (e.g., discomfort) cues. Participants reported identity-safety, comfort, and disclosure intent. Participants reported more positive outcomes in response to safety (vs. threat) cues. Latine participants reported more positive outcomes with White friends (Studies 1-2) and allies (Study 2) vs. strangers. In Study 1, Black individuals reported greater identity-safety and disclosure intent to a White friend (vs. stranger) showing safety (vs. threat) cues. In Study 2, they reported greater comfort and disclosure intent to a White ally (vs. stranger) who showed safety (vs. threat) cues. This work highlights the relational safety cues Black and Latine individuals desire from White strangers, friends, and allies.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Sandra Manfredo
Doctoral Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Caitlyn Yantis, Valerie Jones Taylor

Mechanisms of Self-Transformation: Insights from Narratives, Identity, Memory, and Society

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E270, Level 2

SELF/IDENTITY

Our sense of self is both stable and dynamic, shaped by life events, transformations, and narratives we construct. This symposium connects four emerging perspectives on how our sense of self transforms and stabilizes across time, social context, and life stages. The first speaker will present longitudinal data from the 2020 U.S. presidential election, showing how societal events reshape self-perception. The second will examine gender transitions, highlighting how perceived continuity in the self is shaped by how others see us. The third will explore how older adults integrate low-point life events into a personal narrative, linking self-transformation to well-being. The final talk will combine network science and neuroimaging to show how the structural cause and effect relationships of autobiographical memory supports self-coherence—and how this process varies by mental health and well-being. Together, these talks offer converging insights into how people navigate personal transformations and major life events to maintain a coherent sense of self over time.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Jennifer Mosley

Graduate Student | University of California, Riverside



Brent Hughes

Assistant Professor | University of California, Riverside

CANCELLED: Self-Views and Memory Across U.S. Presidential Elections

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Self-views – or, how one perceives their own traits and values – change across social contexts. Yet, whether and how major societal events alter self-views remains to be determined. Across two studies, we investigate whether a significant event – in this case, the 2020 and 2024 U.S. presidential elections – changes self-views. We also ask if the election acts as an event boundary, and in turn impacts memory for self-views before the election (across a boundary) vs after the election (within a boundary). Data from the 2020 election revealed that traits and values changed more across the election than after it. When investigating memory for previous responses, we found that memory for ratings of values was worse across the election than after it, while memory for traits was unaffected. Analyses of data from the 2024 election are ongoing. Our findings suggest that a) a significant event can substantially alter one's self-views, and b) that the impact of an event boundary on memory for self-views may differ depending on the relevance of the remembered content. More broadly, the findings suggest that moments of major societal change can also change how we view ourselves.

***SYMPOsia**

Speaker



Benjamin Silver

Graduate Student | Columbia University

Authors

Kevin Ochsner, Meghan Meyer, Lila Davachi

Tracing Self-Continuity Across Gender Transitions

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

How do major identity-relevant life transitions shape one's sense of self across time? How are these processes informed by both internal and social understandings of identity change? Across three studies ($N = 1,039$), we investigate how transgender and cisgender individuals experience temporal self-continuity—connectedness to one's past and future selves—and how these experiences are shaped by both self-perceptions and reflected appraisals. While future self-continuity did not differ between groups (Studies 1–2), transgender participants reported lower continuity with their past selves (Studies 2–3). In Study 3, meta-perceptions (how individuals believed others viewed their identity change) predicted past self-continuity among transgender participants, whereas self-perceptions of change did not. These findings highlight how social identity and reflected appraisals shape the experience of self-continuity. More broadly, this work brings an underrepresented group into the literature on self-concept, advancing understanding of how the self is jointly constructed through personal and social lenses.

***SYMPOsia**

Speaker



MJ Schneider

Ph.D. Student | University of Washington

Authors

Diana Tamir, Hal Hershfield

Self-Transformation Through Suffering: Stories that Shape the Self

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

Life's low points may play powerful roles in psychosocial development. Whereas some experiences fit easily into one's existing life story, adversity and suffering often challenge an individual's identity and disrupt their life narrative, calling for transformative reconstruction and meaning making. These processes may be especially consequential during the later years, when accepting one's life and experiencing ego integrity becomes a foremost concern. How an individual narrates experiences of suffering, therefore, may have important implications for their identity development and psychological well-being, as evidenced in the present longitudinal study of late midlife American adults ($N = 158$). We coded 426 narrative accounts of life's low points to evaluate their relative fit to a culturally sanctioned script for experiencing positive transformation in the face of suffering. We found that adults whose stories most closely approximated the favored script manifest a mature trait profile, higher well-being, and higher psychosocial development. Moreover, alignment with the script increased in a developmental trajectory over nine years, showing increased self-transformation over time.

***SYMPOsia**

Speaker



Sarah Jennings

PhD Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Dan McAdams, Nathan Siskel

Transforming Selves: Mapping Autobiographical Memories to Understand Self-Concept Coherence

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

SELF/IDENTITY

How do people weave their life events into a coherent sense of self over time, experience, and personal change? We used network analysis to map the structure of autobiographical memory—how people perceive their life events as interrelated. Participants recalled meaningful life events and indicated which events led to others, allowing us to construct a memory network for each person. Events with more downstream influence (i.e., higher outdegree centrality) were seen as more self-defining and transformative—experiences participants felt they wouldn't be the same person without. In fMRI data, ventromedial prefrontal cortex activity tracked the centrality of memories, pointing to its role in maintaining internal maps that organize memory and support the self-concept. Critically, individuals with lower self-esteem were less likely to view highly connected memories as transformative, highlighting their struggle to draw meaning from past events, even those with significant narrative importance. These findings reveal how the structure of autobiographical memory supports self-concept coherence, and how individuals differ in the way they build a coherent identity from the stories they tell.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jennifer Mosley
Graduate Student | University of California, Riverside

Authors

Brent Hughes, Jacob Elder

Psychological Interventions to Counter Misinformation: New Developments and Future Directions

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E450B, Level 4

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Misinformation is a serious threat to democracy, public health, and public safety that has only grown more perilous in recent years. Psychologists have an important role to play in addressing this threat, and much progress has been made on developing interventions and identifying the most appropriate methods for evaluating those interventions. This symposium provides the latest insights on developing and evaluating such interventions. The symposium will feature large-scale intervention comparison studies, including some of the largest ever conducted, and will evaluate the impact of those interventions across time and culture. All studies feature large, longitudinal, and/or cross-cultural data. We will close with a discussion of how the field can and should move forward in today's difficult environment. Despite expanded interest in studying misinformation over the last decade, false information is more impactful now than ever. Further improvements in interventions will be needed, and yet changing political priorities have made funding more scarce, at least in the U.S. We will consider what has been accomplished and how to continue making progress on this critical societal issue.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speakers



Michael Cohen
Senior Research Analyst | University of Chicago



Rakoen Maertens
Research Fellow | University of Oxford

The Structure of Misinformation Resilience: Measuring Susceptibility in Intervention Studies

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

This work is the first to systematically investigate 102 different variables related to cognitive resilience to misinformation in six different countries (US, UK, Australia, India, Kenya, Nigeria). In three longitudinal experiments with nationally representative quota samples (N1 = 7,196, N2 = 4,040, N3 = 4,606), we test these variables in nine different interventions (text-based and video-based) and three topics (GMOs, climate change, cryptocurrencies), combining bottom-up and top-down approaches with new quantitative and qualitative research methods such as exploratory graph analysis (EGA) and SHAP analyses to gain a complete understanding of the structure of misinformation resilience. Finally, we analyse and evaluate some of the most commonly used interventions to counter misinformation, including inoculation interventions (prebunking), media literacy videos and messages (cobunking), and fact-checking videos and messages (debunking), finding that the results are not uniformly positive nor negative, but have a differential impact on the various aspects of misinformation resilience.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Rakoen Maertens
Research Fellow | University of Oxford

Authors

Sander van der Linden, Friedrich Gotz, Yara Kyrychenko, Jon Roozenbeek, Rachel Xu

Inoculation reduces impact of unproven accusations against mock political candidates

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Inoculation interventions expose people to a weakened dose of manipulative techniques to help them develop “antibodies” to those techniques. While often tested on participants’ ability to explicitly identify false information, interventions should also reduce the impact of false narratives on attitudes about targets. Here, we test whether a short inoculation video about emotional language reduces the impact of accusations of misconduct against hypothetical political candidates in a mock social media environment. Accusations against 1/3 of the candidates are followed by a factual correction, while 1/3 of candidates face uncorrected accusations, and 1/3 face no accusation. Impressions of each candidate are rated via a feeling thermometer both immediately after seeing posts about them and ~15 minutes later. Combining data from 11 experiments (n = 6255) using an internal meta-analysis, inoculation reliably reduces impact of uncorrected accusations on ratings given both immediately and after a delay. Impacts of corrected accusations on immediate ratings are also slightly reduced. Thus, inoculation could reduce impacts of unproven or false accusations during electoral campaigns.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Michael Cohen**
Senior Research Analyst | University of Chicago

Authors

Jean Decety

Adapting Media and Digital Literacy for Global Impact

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Media and digital literacy interventions show promise in improving misinformation discernment, but their effectiveness depends on cultural relevance, engagement, and delivery method. A study of Gali Fakta, a prebunking game designed for Indonesians, found it increased skepticism toward false headlines without reducing trust in factual ones, suggesting its promise as a scalable intervention in the Global South. Comparing Gali Fakta and Harmony Square in Indonesia and the U.S. revealed that cultural tailoring and engagement are critical: Gali Fakta improved sharing discernment in Indonesia, while Harmony Square was effective only in the U.S. Finally, feedback itself may be a useful strategy as these techniques become more streamlined and adaptive. A subsequent study promoted digital literacy by teaching participants how to identify manipulated images online, with feedback alone being just as effective as education. Together, these findings highlight that media literacy interventions must consider cultural context, engagement, and simple yet impactful strategies like feedback to enhance their impact across diverse populations.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Matthew Facciani**
Researcher | The Evidence Collective

Authors

Tim Weninger

A megastudy testing nine different misinformation interventions

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Researchers have tested a variety of interventions to combat misinformation on social media. These interventions work via different psychological mechanisms, but all share the goals of increasing recipients’ ability to distinguish between true and false information and/or increasing the veracity of news shared on social media. This toolkit of approaches is useful, but it is currently difficult to compare the interventions because they have been tested in different environments, with different sets of stimuli (e.g., headlines vs. tweets), using different participants and different methods. The current study addresses this gap by testing nine prominent misinformation interventions in an identical setting. In a large megastudy (N = 33,233 US respondents), we tested each intervention’s effect on belief in and the sharing of false, misleading, and true health-related and politics-related headlines. Our findings provide robust evidence that multiple online interventions work well at reducing belief in and spread of false and misleading health information and that real-world implementation is reasonable.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Lisa Fazio**
Associate Professor | Vanderbilt Univ.

Authors

David Rand, Stephan Lewandowsky, Mark Susmann

Switching Selves: Changing Identity Presentation Across Contexts and Domains

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E253AB, Level 2

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

People often change how they present their identities across contexts. People’s experiences changing their identity and people’s social evaluations of these changes are often studied across disparate literatures. Thus, this symposium integrates research on different forms of changes in identity presentations, covering how these changes are operationalized, experienced, and perceived. Speaker 1 will discuss how racial code-switching varies across demographic groups in the U.S. and the implications that racial code-switching has for job satisfaction and retention among university professors. Speaker 2 will examine how people perceive biracial people who change their racial identification across contexts. Speaker 3 will discuss people’s perceptions of autistic people who change how they behave to avoid stigma by adjusting to neuronormative social expectations. Finally, Speaker 4 will present an integrative model that suggests why people perceive different types of changes in identity presentation differently.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker

 **Sabrina Piccolo**
Graduate student | Northeastern University

Racial Code-Switching in America: Unpacking Psychological and Occupational Implications

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Racial code-switching (adapting one's speech and behavior to mirror a specific racial group) is commonly used by people of color to modify their self-presentation to reduce experiences of bias and exclusion. However, code-switching is a labor-intensive task that carries major psychological and occupational implications. This study examines racial code-switching among a large nationally representative sample of Americans (Study 1; N=9,309) & a sample of university faculty (Study 2; N=2,492) to identify key demographic trends and major implications of code-switching. Findings reveal that demographic and contextual factors both play a pivotal role in predicting the rates of racial code-switching among Americans. Negative experiences such as discrimination and incivility also exacerbated these rates. Racial code-switching was perceived as stressful by nearly all demographic groups and predicted lower job satisfaction and lower faculty retention rates among all university faculty. Implications regarding the true costs and benefits of racial code-switching will be further discussed in the presentation.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Myles Durkee

Assistant Professor | Univ. of Michigan

Phenotype & Ancestry Information Impact Judgements of Contextual Racial Presentation

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Biracial people can change their racial identification depending on the context (contextual racial presentation; CRP). Perceivers evaluate CRP less positively than if the target has a fixed racial presentation (Albuja et al., 2018). Four studies examine how target phenotype and ancestry information influence these evaluations. First, we find perceivers expect a Biracial target's phenotype to match their stated racial identity. We also provide suggestive evidence that a Biracial target is seemingly evaluated less positively when they present as the racial identity that is most inconsistent with their phenotype. Finally, we show that judgements of CRP vary whether ancestry information is provided. If present, perceivers evaluate the target less positively when they contextually present as Black or White compared to Biracial. However, if ancestry information is absent, perceivers evaluate a target less positively if they contextually present as Black compared to Biracial. This work incorporates the wide variety in phenotypic appearance among Biracial people and the fact that perceivers rarely know a person's ancestry to increase the ecological validity of evaluations of CRP.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Elizabeth Quinn-Jensen

Presidential Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Princeton University

Authors

Analia Albuja

Measuring the Effectiveness of Autistic Camouflaging on First Impressions

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

Autistic adults exhibit differences in social behavior that often result in them being perceived negatively by the non-autistic populace (Sasson et al., 2017), leading some to change the ways that they act in order to conform to neuronormative expectations and reduce stigma (Cook et al., 2021). This is known as camouflaging. 496 participants observed and provided social feedback on videos of autistic people who were instructed either to camouflage to the best of their abilities or act authentically. Different autistic people received significantly different first impressions when controlling for camouflaging condition. Across autistic people, they were rated significantly more favorably when camouflaging than when being authentic on every item of the First Impressions Scale (Sasson et al., 2017) except for attractiveness. Camouflaging also made the observers significantly less likely to indicate they thought the person in the video was on the autism spectrum. There was also a significant interaction effect between camouflaging condition and autistic participant for every item, indicating that the benefits of camouflaging were not evenly distributed across all participants.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Danny Dunn

University of Texas at Dallas

Authors

Noah Sasson

Switching Selves: Perceptions of Changing Identity Presentations

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

PERSON PERCEPTION/IMPRESSION FORMATION

People frequently shift how they present themselves across situations, eliciting varied social evaluations from others. For example, people may adjust their speech at work to appear more professional (i.e., codeswitching or camouflaging), change their behavior across cultural settings (i.e., cultural frameswitching), or emphasize or minimize certain aspects of their identities (i.e., identity switching or self-monitoring). How do people evaluate these different types of identity change, and why? This review will integrate research on perceptions of identity switching to propose a model outlining factors that shape perceptions of changes in identity presentation. These factors include stigma associated with the identity, cultural context, expectations for authenticity, the identity of the target and perceiver, and whether the change in identity presentation is across domains (e.g. race and gender) or within a domain (e.g. across cultural contexts). Our integrative model provides a new lens for understanding why changes in identity presentation are perceived differently and suggests ways to test this model.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Sabrina Piccolo

Graduate student | Northeastern University

Authors

Analia Albuja

The Psychology of Victimhood

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E265, Level 2

MORALITY

Victimhood is core to our moral psychology, influencing the judgments we make about individuals, groups, and broader institutions. Four speakers discuss the key situational and ideological factors influencing how victimhood is evaluated in society. Speaker 1 focuses on the limits of the “virtuous victim effect”—although victims are typically seen as more moral than non-victims, sexual assault victims who engaged in adjacent consent prior to assault are morally penalized. Speaker 2 reviews evidence for the distinct role of egalitarianism in victim perceptions, shaping attitudes toward inequality and support for victimized groups. Speaker 3 extends theory on the belief in a just world by introducing a typology of unjust world beliefs, each tied to divergent attitudes toward the powerful and powerless in society. Lastly, Speaker 4 discusses how liberals and conservatives share a similar concern for victimhood, but crucially differ in perceptions of who or what deserves victim status. Collectively, these talks demonstrate the psychological role of victimhood in explaining today’s most pressing issues, including political polarization, conflict, and controversies around social justice.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Gabrielle Ibasco

Graduate Student | The University of British Columbia

Sexual Assault Victims Face a Penalty for Adjacent Consent

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

MORALITY

Across 11 studies (N = 12,257), we show that female sexual assault victims are blamed more and seen as less moral if their assault follows voluntary sexual intimacy, a factor we term “adjacent consent.” This reflects a breakdown of the “Virtuous Victim Effect,” whereby victims are typically seen as more moral than non-victims; victims who consented to sex-adjacent activity before being assaulted do not receive this moral elevation. Adjacent consent plays a unique role in undermining the moral elevation of rape victims: subjects continue to elevate victims when, in the absence of adjacent consent, we introduce other information that makes the perpetrator seem less abhorrent or that makes the victim seem promiscuous, reckless, or sexually interested in her perpetrator. These patterns also hold among political liberals and undergraduates who, when no assault occurs, have no moral objection to the victim’s voluntary sexual intimacy, suggesting that even “sex-positive” communities penalize rape victims for adjacent consent. Finally, field data from 180,000+ students across 33 U.S. universities provide evidence that victims are less likely to report assaults involving adjacent consent.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Jillian Jordan

Assistant Professor | Harvard Business School

Authors

Roseanna Sommers

New Directions in the Study of Anti-Egalitarianism

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

MORALITY

Much research has examined the link between (anti-)egalitarian ideology and motivated social cognition. However, this research is typically framed around anti-egalitarianism, with the other end of this ideological pole, egalitarianism, often ignored altogether or treated as merely the absence of anti-egalitarian-motivated cognition. We integrate long-standing ideas from social dominance theory with contemporary models of motivated social cognition and a recent wave of empirical findings to argue that egalitarian ideology also drives social cognition in meaningful ways. Using correlational, experimental and computational designs, we consider how egalitarianism—like anti-egalitarianism—can drive socially-consequential outcomes, including attention to inequality, empathy for others, inclusive social categorization, and the signal-boosting of the accomplishments of socially disadvantaged (vs. advantaged) groups. We discuss why pursuing this avenue of research is important and outline several unanswered questions for future research.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Nour Kteily

Professor | Northwestern Univ.

Beyond the Just World: Just, Non-Just, and Anti-Just World Beliefs

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

MORALITY

Research has shown that to maintain a belief in a just world (JWB), people sometimes derogate innocent victims. However, little is known about the opposite: the belief in an unjust world. Across 5 studies (N = 14,544), we propose a novel typology of justice worldviews. In addition to JWB, we introduce two unjust world beliefs: the non-just world belief (i.e., outcomes are random, unrelated to deservingness) and the anti-just world belief (i.e., people get the opposite of what they deserve). We find evidence that self-report measures of these worldviews load on distinct factors, that JWB has declined since the 1960s, and that on average, across six countries, these beliefs are held in roughly equal proportions. Moreover, we show that these beliefs are tied to divergent attitudes toward the powerful and powerless. While JWB predicts trust in institutions, support for pro-rich policies, and less moral elevation of victims, anti-JWB predicts distrust and support for policies that harm the rich—but not necessarily ones that help the poor. Instead of falling on one continuum, justice beliefs are distinct worldviews shaping how people moralize status differences and victimization.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Gabrielle Ibasco

Graduate Student | The University of British Columbia

Authors

Azim Shariff, Nour Abdelfattah

Differing Assumptions of Victim Vulnerability Drive Political Disagreement

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

MORALITY

People across the political spectrum share a harm-based moral mind but differ in who they see as vulnerable. Across eight studies, we develop and validate measures of assumptions of vulnerability (AoVs), show they predict moral judgments about diverse targets, hot-button issues, and sacred objects, and replicate these patterns with implicit measures and a national sample. We find liberals see stark differences—viewing the environment and marginalized groups as highly vulnerable and the powerful and divine as invulnerable—while conservatives see all groups as more equally vulnerable. AoVs also predict charity choices and can be experimentally shifted to change moral judgments. These differences help explain clashes over abortion, policing, and climate policy. By tracing moral divides to who people see as most vulnerable, this work shows how a mind universally concerned with harm can still yield deep political differences—and offers a common currency of vulnerability that could help bridge them.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Kurt Gray
Professor | UNC Chapel Hill

Authors

Jake Womick, Emily Kubin, Sam Pratt

"Speaking Equity": Strategies to Counter Language Bias and Promote Belonging

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E255, Level 2

Despite being a prominent identity feature, language is rarely addressed in inclusion efforts and society often overlooks language-based ideologies. Language diversity – world languages, minority varieties, regional dialects, accents, features associated with race, ethnicity, economic status, ability, or gender – is broad and remains invisible. Yet research shows that language bias can cause psychological harm and socioeconomic disadvantage. This session uncovers language bias and presents actionable strategies to implement inclusivity and accessibility. Topics include the impact of language bias on individuals' sense of belonging, workplace dynamics, and instruction. Since language diversity is widespread in education and organizational contexts, everyone can benefit from this workshop – as potential targets or agents of bias. We will first introduce language diversity and its impact, including evidence from two mixed-method studies with 566 US students illustrating how language insecurity predicts lower classroom belonging. Then, we will analyze case-based examples to learn how to mitigate language bias and develop tools that support language equity, accessibility, and belonging.

*PROF DEV

Speaker



Alex Panicacci
University Of Washington

Advancing Relationship Science by Embracing Gender and Sexual Diversity

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E351, Level 3

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

In relationship science, sexually and gender diverse (SGD) and cisgender, heterosexual samples are often studied independently. This symposium includes four talks that use diverse methods—including longitudinal, qualitative, diary, survey, and metascientific data—to highlight insights generated when research integrates and draws comparisons across SGD and cisgender, heterosexual samples. The first talk uses a large, diverse sample to reveal that gender identity, rather than sexual orientation, drives differences in mating psychology. The second talk compares same- and different-sex couples to show how couples' intimate decisions are affected by gendered contexts. The third talk examines effects of social change and uncertainty on diverse relationships. The final talk identifies barriers to studying SGD populations and describes a new resource to facilitate more inclusive scholarship. Together, these talks demonstrate that including SGD populations advances relationship science not only by illustrating phenomena specific to these communities, but also by generating broader insights into how gender, sex, and sexual orientation shape relationship processes.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Molly Smith
PhD Student | UCLA

Mapping Mating Psychology Across Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Prior investigations of human mating psychology have painted a consistent picture of the fundamental axes of variation in mating-related preferences, attitudes, and behaviors. However, this literature has relied almost exclusively on samples of cisgender, heterosexual participants—severely limiting our understanding of how mating psychology varies across different sexual orientations and gender identities. Here, we attempt to provide a more diverse foundation for mating psychology research by collecting a large sample of gay, lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, cisgender, and transgender participants (n = 2,219) and applying statistical techniques that allow holistic examination of mating psychology. Overall, we find that much of the variation in mating psychology comes from differences in gender identity, not from sexual orientation. Furthermore, the mating psychologies of transgender participants are indistinguishable from cisgender participants. These insights underscore the universality of human mating phenomena and emphasize the importance of diverse sampling in relationships research.

*SYMPOSIA

Speaker



Daniel Conroy-Beam
Associate Professor | UC Santa Barbara

Authors

Kathryn Walter, Benjamin Gelbart, Selina Mixner, Ashley Coventry, Tamsin German

Housework, Sex, and Relationship Satisfaction in Same-Sex and Different-Sex Couples

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Housework, Sex, and Relationship Satisfaction in Same-Sex and Different-Sex Couples

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Molly Smith
PhD Student | UCLA

Authors

Thomas Bradbury, Benjamin Karney

Sociopolitical Uncertainty, Well-Being, and Gender During the 2025 Presidential Transition

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The 2025 U.S. presidential transition created a new landscape of sociopolitical uncertainty rife with attitudinal changes and policy propositions targeting minoritized populations. The Contextual Relational Uncertainty (CRU) model predicts that sociopolitical instability can be associated with uncertainty in romantic relationships, particularly for those in minoritized relationships. To examine changes in personal and relational well-being for individuals in romantic relationships during this time period, we conducted a longitudinal study to answer the following questions: 1) How did sociopolitical uncertainty manifest prior to and after the U.S. presidential transition, and did that uncertainty manifest differently for those who identified as LGBTQIA+? 2) What was the association between sociopolitical uncertainty and well-being during and following the U.S. presidential transition, and was this association moderated by gender identity and/or sexual orientation? To address these questions, we measured sociopolitical uncertainty, individual well-being, and relational well-being quantitatively at three timepoints and qualitatively with a series of open-ended questions.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Ghada Kawas
Doctoral Student | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Brian Ogolsky, Jennifer Hardesty, Eleanor Junkins, Evaline Li, Maya Carter

Addressing Barriers to Studying Sexually and Gender Diverse People's Relationships

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The diversity and inclusivity of relationship science research is limited, including with respect to sexually and gender diverse (SGD) populations. To understand the origins of this problem, we surveyed 188 relationship researchers from a range of career stages, nations, and personal backgrounds, inquiring about the nature and extent of their experiences studying underrepresented groups. Quantitative and qualitative findings suggest that individuals face barriers to studying SGD populations at various stages of the research process, from difficulties in recruitment to lack of familiarity with conducting statistical analyses when studying same-sex couples. We find that SGD researchers were more likely to have reported ever studying SGD populations, suggesting that the diversity of experiences reflected in research may be linked to identities of the researchers themselves. Acknowledging that barriers occur at both individual and structural levels, we offer recommendations for navigating structural problems and introduce a resource hub that connects researchers with existing knowledge and online tools that may help them to overcome common individual-level barriers.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Emma McGorray
Assistant Professor | Carleton College

Authors

Lydia Emery, Amaya Mitchell

Moral Minds in Polarized Times

3:30 PM – 4:40 PM | Location: E353C, Level 3

MORALITY

In polarized times, morality often fuels not just strong attitudes but deep social divides. This symposium investigates how moralized political thinking emerges and polarizes, and how its effects might be softened. Talk 1 uses formal modeling and simulation, panel studies, and ANES data to show that moral conviction spreads between connected attitudes within belief systems, especially in dense belief systems, implying a rise in sectarian, all-or-nothing political worldviews. Talk 2 uses observation and experimental studies to show that perceptions of vulnerability drive intolerance: liberals, in particular, perceive high-status groups as morally harmful, linking left-wing ideology with intolerance toward them. These patterns are troubling, but not inevitable. Talk 3 uses observational and experimental studies to show that liberals and conservatives prioritize the same core moral value, and climate messages framed around this shared value resonate across party lines. Finally, Talk 4 uses a preregistered experiment on a large representative U.S. sample to test whether popular depolarization interventions reduce three distinct dimensions of toxic partisanship.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Abby Cassario
Graduate Student | Michigan State University

Conviction Cascades: Moral Conviction Transmits Through Belief System Ties

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

How do attitudes become moralized? While moral conviction, the metacognitive sense that one's attitude reflects a fundamental distinction between right and wrong, is central to understanding political behavior and polarization, its origins remain unclear. We propose that moral conviction spreads between connected attitudes in belief systems. In Study 1, we use a formal model to simulate this process across 6,000 belief networks varying in structure. Moral conviction spreads from a "patient zero" attitude to neighboring nodes. Spread is also more efficient in dense networks, mirroring those of ideologues (Converse, 1964). Studies 2–4 test this dynamic in three U.S. panel studies. At baseline, we measure participants' belief system structure; then moral conviction is measured across waves. Multilevel models show moral conviction spreads between closely connected, but not weakly connected attitudes. Likewise, people with denser belief systems moralize more attitudes. Finally, ANES data shows belief systems in the U.S. have grown denser over time, which our model implies results in greater potential for the moralization of entire belief systems in the population (i.e., sectarianism).

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Abby Cassario

Graduate Student | Michigan State University

Authors

Mark Brandt

From Dyads to Divides: How Perceptions of Harm Drive Political Intolerance

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

Dyadic Morality Theory shows that people perceive immorality when they see an agent harm a vulnerable patient. Study 1 (N=938) measured assumptions of vulnerability (how much people view given targets as vulnerable to harm) and showed liberals and conservatives view moral patients differently. Liberals split the world into the very vulnerable (oppressed) vs. invulnerable (oppressors). Conservatives viewed all targets as similarly vulnerable. This splitting pattern suggests perceptions of harm may drive the link between left-wing politics and animosity. Left wingers may hate groups they view as morally harmful (and like those they view as vulnerable). Study 2 (N=386, nationally representative) measured intolerance towards a wide variety of groups. Leftism was linked with more intolerance towards only two groups—men and Jewish people. Study 3 (N=408, nationally representative) replicated these results, and showed that leftists are intolerant of other high-power groups (e.g., white Americans) and that these links are explained by perceiving them as morally harmful. Experimental Study 4 (N=397) manipulated perceived harm to reduce these links.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Jake Womick

Assistant Professor | California State University Bakersfield

Authors

Kurt Gray, Brandon Nieto, Josh Duarte

Red, Blue, and Morally Alike: Rethinking Moral Appeals on Climate

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

Climate change is one of the most politically polarizing issues in the U.S., with 78% of Democrats viewing it as a major threat compared to just 23% of Republicans. A common explanation, rooted in Moral Foundations Theory (MFT), is that liberals and conservatives prioritize different moral values—and that climate messaging typically appeals only to liberal values like harm and fairness, neglecting conservative values such as patriotism, duty, and purity. Some researchers argue that reframing climate change around putative conservative values can increase support among conservatives. In this talk, we challenge the core premise of MFT and its application to climate messaging. Across several studies, we show that when given choice, liberals and conservatives prioritize the same top moral value and that messaging on this common moral currency can be effective for motivating climate action across the political spectrum. We discuss the implications for MFT and for building bipartisan support on climate issues.

*SYMPOSIUM

Speaker



Diego Reinero

MindCORE Postdoctoral Research Fellow | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Alyssa Sinclair, Danielle Cosme, Emily Falk

Cool It: Lowering the Moral Temperature of Toxic Partisanship

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM

MORALITY

Moralized politics can be especially toxic, transforming affective polarization into deeper forms of conflict where people are more likely to reject compromise, punish opponents at their own expense, and even support anti-democratic actions and political violence. Yet we know little about how to lower the moral temperature in intergroup settings, with most research on (de)moralization focusing on issue attitudes rather than intergroup conflict. A preregistered experiment (N = 2,950) conducted on a nationally representative sample tested whether depolarization interventions—such as correcting misperceptions about the outparty—can reduce three conceptually distinct forms of moralized partisanship: (1) moralized partisan identity, (2) perceptions of interparty disagreement as fundamentally moral in nature, and (3) viewing party membership as a reflection of moral character. The study further investigates whether such demoralization is associated with changes in anti-democratic attitudes, support for political violence, and reactions to candidates who violate democratic norms.

*SYMPOsia

Speaker



Paul Teas
PhD Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Selim Erdem Aytaç

Poster Session F Saturday

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

*POSTER

[1] "Stop the White Genocide!" Mediating Effects of Conspiracy Theories on Threat and Behavior

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The present research will examine the effects of realistic and symbolic threat on racialized demographic conspiracy theories and anti-immigrant behavioral intentions. Racialized demographic conspiracy theories, such as the Great Replacement theory, are theories or beliefs related to the intentional replacement of a majority group through immigration, race-mixing, and policies meant to enhance diversity. In Study 1, 148 participants read a newspaper article that included either realistically or symbolically threatening information. Results revealed that participants in realistic threat conditions reported more anti-immigrant behavioral intentions, which were mediated by conspiracy theory endorsement. Study 2 will build upon findings from Study 1 by examining the role of artificial intelligence on prejudice. Specifically, the role of artificially generated media and misinformation on anti-immigrant prejudice and perceptions of immigrants. Participants will read a newspaper article that will include AI-generated photos designed to arouse a sense of symbolic or realistic threat. Participants will then complete a survey assessing their behavior, threat perception, endorsement of conspiracy theories, and prejudice. Practical implications of anti-immigrant prejudice and conspiracy theories on behavioral intentions are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daisy Zhanay-Arpi
Student | Buffalo State University

Authors

Eyad Naseralla

[2] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

*POSTER

[3] “Am I Preppy enough?”

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Asian Americans are often misperceived as foreigners, as the prototype of Americans is conceptualized as being White. Past research has found that overweight and gay Asian Americans are perceived as more American than their normal-weight and straight counterparts, respectively. The present research extends this work by examining whether Asian Americans who dress “preppy”—a style historically associated with elite Northeastern prep schools, Whiteness, and wealth—are seen as more White and American than non-preppy Asian Americans. White Americans were randomly assigned to view four AI-generated images of an Asian American dressed in preppy clothing (e.g., pastel-colored shirt and shorts) or four AI-generated images of an Asian American dressed in non-preppy clothing (e.g., darker shirt and jeans). This research provides the first experimental evidence that preppy Asian Americans are perceived as more White and affluent than their non-preppy counterparts. Findings suggest that minoritized people may be afforded “entry” into the (White) American community when they signal particular cultural values and practices associated with Whiteness (i.e., preppy style).

*POSTER

Speaker



Ruby Petrovich
Student | The College of Idaho

Authors

Tai Salisbury, Timothy Lee

[4] “Because I Said So!”: Masculine Honor Beliefs and Perceptions of Parenting Styles

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

We examined how individual differences in masculine honor beliefs (MHBs; i.e., values encouraging traditional norms of masculinity and the belief that aggression is sometimes justifiable, permissive, and necessary; Saucier et al., 2016) relate to perceptions of parenting styles (i.e., authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive; Buri, 1991). Participants (N = 215, 73% women, 81% White, Age: M = 19.20, SD = 3.23) completed measures of their general MHBs, their caregiver's MHBs, their perceptions of the extent to which caregivers used each parenting style, and their general evaluative perceptions of their caregivers' parenting. Greater MHBs were associated with more favorable perceptions of their caregivers' parenting, and this relationship was mediated by how much caregivers were perceived to demonstrate an authoritarian parenting style. This research suggests individuals with greater MHBs were more retrospectively appreciative of their caregivers using authoritarian parenting methods. Future research should examine the perceived utility of the authoritarian parenting style by those higher in MHBs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lillian Taylor

Kansas State University

Authors

Lillian Taylor, Donald Saucier, Natalie Barlett, Rachel Gillam, Ashley Schiffler

[5] “You’re not Native”: Intragroup Perceptions of Native American Cultural Authenticity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Prior work on minority intragroup biases based on within-race differences (e.g., racial phenotypicality) have demonstrated that while those with fewer prototypical traits (e.g., lighter skin tones) are generally perceived more positively, those with more prototypical traits (e.g., darker skin tones) are usually rated higher in cultural authenticity. This study aims to extend this work to an understudied group: Native Americans (NAs). Using a two-way between-subjects design, participants (all NAs) will be tasked with judging ostensibly real potential roommates based on social media profiles, with a critical trial of a NA varying in place of origin (city, reservation) and skin tone (light, dark), prior to rating perceptions of their cultural authenticity (e.g., likelihood of engaging in cultural activities or speaking a tribal language). We hypothesize that targets with lighter skin tones and those from cities will be perceived as less culturally authentic, with a potential interaction effect between place of origin and skin tone. These findings will help identify how perceptions of authenticity are derived, informing solutions to address intragroup prejudice and discrimination.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mikala Chee

Fort Lewis College

Authors

Alex Borgella

[6] 10 Years after College: Who Lives a Psychologically Rich Life?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Since the time of ancient Greece, questions about what consists of 'the good life' have endured. Traditionally, answers revolved around happiness and meaning. However, psychological richness has been recently proposed as a third dimension (Oishi & Westgate, 2022). Existing cross-sectional data has revealed psychological richness as a related but unique concept about the desirable aspects of the good life. Our longitudinal study examined a novel question: What kind of college students were more likely to experience psychological richness a decade after in their 30s? We found that psychologically rich individuals differed from their peers in terms of personality (extraversion, openness), self-views (more agentic and independent) and valued the importance of the 'self' and 'freedom' in life. Additionally, we also found some deviations in correlational patterns between psychological richness and Cantril's Ladder. Overall, our longitudinal study sheds light on what kinds of individuals are exposed to diverse and perspective-changing experiences during emerging adulthood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Ng

Graduate student | Yonsei University

Authors

Minjung Shin, Hwaryung Lee, Eunkook M. Suh

[7] A Gamified Behavioral Task for Measuring Moral Decision Making

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Rising affective polarization (Iyengar et al., 2019) and the “perception gap” (Yudkin et al., 2019) reveal hostility and distorted assumptions about what the other side values. Public speech amplifies extremes while stifling nuance, leaving people wary of divisive dialogue. Depolarization requires better tools for recognizing how our own biases shape what we perceive as others’ values—especially in the moral domain, as depolarizing dialogue depends on constructive disagreement.

We introduce a behavioral task that captures real-time moral decision making across four domains: anthropology, biology, philosophy, and religion. In each dilemma, participants are evaluated on competing values within these domains: autonomous vs. communal, harm sensitive vs. harm tolerant, utilitarian vs. deontological, and secular vs. spiritual. The task generates individualized moral profiles that show the extent to which participants lean toward each value in their decisions.

This measure advances moral psychology beyond self-report by providing a behavioral, ecologically valid method for studying decision making. Its interdisciplinary foundation and gamified format extend its relevance beyond the lab, creating opportunities for public engagement and fostering depolarizing dialogue.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jillian Meyer

Social Psychology and Cognitive Science Dual Doctoral Student | Indiana University

[8] A Moral Lens: How Moral Convictions Influence Visual Attention and Deliberation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral convictions have been shown to drive rapid judgments. While previous research has emphasized their influence on attitude strength and resistance to persuasion, less is known about how moral convictions shape cognitive processes during real-time decision-making. The current study investigates how alignment between moral convictions and decision options influences visual attention and decision caution. Participants completed a binary decision task while their eye movements were tracked. Trials varied in the degree of moral alignment—whether both, one, or neither option matched participants’ moral beliefs. Results indicate that trials where both topics align with the participant’s moral convictions elicited faster responses and fewer fixations, pointing to lower cognitive conflict when choices are morally aligned. A drift diffusion model further revealed that strong moral conviction alignment reduced boundary separation, indicating lower decision caution. These findings provide a mechanistic account of how moral values shape attention and decision-making, highlighting the role of value congruence in reducing deliberation and streamlining cognitive effort.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abdulaziz Al-Hothi

University of Chicago

[9] A Pilot Wise Intervention Fosters Relationships Between Immigrant-Refugee Students and Teachers

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

When refugee youth arrive in the United States, trustworthy relationships in school are vital, especially given disruptions to their previous communal ties. The Lifting the Bar intervention (Walton et al., 2021) is a wise psychological procedure that aptly fosters relationships between students who are vulnerable to being unseen and their educators. It entails a writing activity through which students reintroduce themselves to an educator they choose using strength-based language, and a letter that lets the teacher know they were nominated. We explored how refugee students (N=17; 59% South American) used this platform and how teachers (N=5; 60% Female) responded to students. We also test the causal effects of receiving the letters on teachers’ responses to students (forthcoming). Results suggest that students welcomed the opportunity to reintroduce themselves to teachers through a strength-based lens, especially because the external challenges they faced (e.g., housing instability) had prevented them from showing their best version in class. Teachers embraced the idea of being nominated by students. Promises and challenges of future research with this population will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zainab Hosseini

Authors

Greg Walton, Zainab Hosseini, Hattie Tate

[10] A Qualitative Exploration of Reactions to Non-Monogamy

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

While prior work has established that people who engage in non-monogamy (NM) encounter stigma for violating mononormative social norms, little work has explored people’s rationales for pro or anti-non-monogamous attitudes. To address this gap, we used MTurk to recruit adult participants living in the U.S. (N = 440). Participants were then asked to either generate at least three reasons why people might support NM, or three reasons why people might oppose NM. Thematic coding analyses (consistent with established methods; Braun and Clarke, 2006) revealed that participants identified numerous rationale types for either supporting or not supporting NM. Common reasons for NM included personal fulfillment, financial stability, expanded kinship networks, and increased autonomy. Emergent reasons for opposing NM included monogamous social norms, beliefs that love is zero sum, and perceived perversion/sexual deviance. Of importance, participants generated more distinct reasons for opposing NM than supporting it, reflecting prevalent mononormative ideals and models. Implications for understanding and reducing relationship structure stigma targeting NM individuals are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Srijon Saha

Student | Skidmore College

Authors

Corinne Moss-Racusin, Maggie Bateman, Nadia Marcou, Eli Tauber

[11] Ability to learn as a way of increasing consumers' moral intentions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Stemming from research on the moral asymmetry effect and on economic decision-making, in a series of three studies we investigate the factors affecting participants' moral intention to report a billing error in retailing situations. Study 1 is an online survey implementing a 3 (Agent) × 2 (Learning) between-subjects design. 478 native English speakers read a vignette describing the error being made by either a human, an automated robot or a self-checkout machine, provided with or lacking the ability to learn from reported mistakes. They then evaluate their intention to report the billing error, subjective guilt and the error's detectability and preventability. Of interest, results fail to replicate previous literature concerning the effect of Agent on participants' moral intentions, while we unveil an effect of Learning, with agents provided with the ability to learn from reported errors eliciting higher moral intention to report such errors. This has important real-world implications in everyday retailing scenarios. Studies 2 and 3 are to be conducted. All studies are pre-registered, fully follow research best practices and clearly answer RQs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Paolo Buttazzoni

Project Researcher | University of Turku

Authors

Michael Laakasuo, Marianna Drosinou, Paavo Rinkkala

[12] Abortion stigma and mental health: The moderating role of social support

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Abortion stigma is prevalent in the U.S., and is deleterious to the mental health of people of reproductive age. However, little is known about protective factors that may attenuate such harms such as social support. This study examines associations between perceived abortion stigma (PAS) and pre-abortion mental health symptoms (depressive, anxiety, social anxiety), and whether social support from three sources (partner, mother, friend) moderate these associations. We utilized survey data from 591 people aged 18 years and older who sought clinic abortions between November 2023 and January 2025. Results indicated that higher PAS predicted greater pre-abortion mental health symptoms. Social support moderated the associations between PAS and symptoms of anxiety and social anxiety. Specifically, PAS was positively associated with social anxiety symptoms at all levels of partner support (i.e., low, moderate, high), but was strongest for those with low partner support. PAS was also positively associated with anxiety and social anxiety symptoms for people with moderate and high maternal support (but not low). This study elucidates the role of social support on the PAS-mental health link.

*POSTER

Speaker



Joni Brown

PhD Candidate | UCLA

Authors

Alexandra DiOrio, Julia Steinberg

[13] Accent & Hireability

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Previous research on accents in the workplace has demonstrated that standard-accented English (SAE) speakers are considered more hireable and more competent than non-SAE speakers. However, less is known about the impact of accent while also considering intersections between race and gender. Existing accent research especially lacks investigations into gender, with many studies using only masculine voices or identifying the effects of gender as not of interest. Using an online experimental design, we randomly assigned American adults (N = 207) to four of eight conditions based on three factors: (a) accent (foreign versus standard), (b) race (Asian versus White), and (c) gender (woman versus man). Participants answered scales about language attitudes and hireability, as well as perceived prototypicality, realistic threat, and previous exposure to accents. We hypothesize that evaluations of each condition's hireability and competence will depend on perceptions of prototypicality and realistic threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jenna Pollard

Student | St. Olaf College

Authors

Ja Seng Nan, Tyson Pope, Jessica Benson

[14] AI Fuels Moral Disengagement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

AI is increasingly part of moral decisions. While this can be useful, we show that it also makes people more likely to morally disengage from responsibility. AI causes moral disengagement by disrupting how people recognize the “moral dyad” in morally charged situations. Research shows that people are quick to condemn acts that fit a dyadic pattern of an intentional agent causing harm to a vulnerable victim. When AI is inserted into these situations—like helping a drone pilot launch a strike on civilians—questions of intention and causation become less clear. Who intended or caused the strike, the person or the AI? Across eight preregistered studies (N = 1,247), we find that people feel less blameworthy when AI shares responsibility, experience less moral pressure when AI is involved, and are more likely to commit harmful acts with AI than alone. These results show how AI fosters moral disengagement by disrupting key features of moral evaluation and point to ways to reduce these effects in human-AI interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Qilong Li
Renmin University of China

Authors

Kurt Gray, Xiaomeng Hu

[15] An Experimental Investigation of False Memories for Gender and Orientation Stereotypes and their Relationship to Character Judgments

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

"An Experimental Investigation of False Memories for Gender and Orientation Stereotypes and their Relationship to Character Judgments"

False memories happen when people recall information that is not originally present in a situation. Previous research has shown that when an individual is indicated to be gay or lesbian, this increases false memories for the opposite gender's stereotypical traits (Marsh, Cook, & Hick, 2006). Straight, gay, and neutral stereotypical traits were presented as self-reported descriptions of a target person. Participants were asked to remember these personal traits. Participants also completed the LGB-KASH measure of gay, lesbian, and bisexual bias (Worthington, Dillon, & Becker-Schutte, 2005) and rated the warmth and competency of the target person after the memory study. Results revealed more false memories for gay and lesbian stereotypical information than heterosexual typical information. In the straight target conditions, participants who remembered more straight stereotypes rated the target as warmer. However, in the gay or lesbian conditions, the only predictor for perceived warmth of the target was participants LGB-KASH score.

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Validity of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Knowledge and Attitudes Scale for Heterosexuals (LGB-KASH). *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 52(1), 104–118.

<https://doi-org.proxy.lib.odu.edu/10.1037/0022-0167.52.1.104>

*POSTER

Speaker



Nahielys Ortega Jimenez
Student | Old Dominion University

Authors

James Bissell, Julia Strickland Nunez, Ivan Ash

[16] An Exploration of Basic Human Values in 38 Million Obituaries Over 30 Years

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

How societies remember the dead can reveal what people value in life. We analyzed 38 million U.S. obituaries (1998–2024) to examine how personal values are encoded in individual and collective legacies. Using Schwartz's theory of basic human values, we found that tradition and benevolence dominated legacy reflections, while values like power and stimulation appeared less frequently. Major cultural events (the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the 2008 financial crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic) were linked to shifts in value expression. Security declined after 9/11, achievement dropped following the financial crisis, and benevolence fell after the onset of COVID-19 and has yet to return to baseline. Gender and age of the deceased also shaped remembered values: men were more often described with achievement, power, and conformity; women with benevolence and hedonism. Older adults were remembered more for tradition and conformity, and men's legacies shifted more with age than women's. Obituaries serve as psychological and cultural time capsules, preserving not only individual legacies but also broader patterns of what U.S. society values in a life well lived.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kyle Fiore Law
Postdoctoral Research Scholar | Arizona State University

Authors

Liane Young, Stylianos Syropoulos, David Markowitz, Thomas Mazzuchi

[17] Analyzing Corporate Discourse on Diversity, Environment, Economy, and Governance Through Topic Modeling

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

How do companies frame their commitments on Diversity, Environment, Economy, and Governance on social media? Using Natural Language Processing (structural topic modeling), we analyzed ~270,000 Tweets (2010-2024) by Fortune 500 companies that were identified as ESG-relevant from a dataset of ~1.8 million. From a baseline model (i.e., modeling topics of all Tweets) we found that (1) environmental and social issues dominate discussion, governance is less central, and economy is rare; and (2) the most common topics focus on celebrations (e.g., "international women's day," or "earth day") and have a temporal focus (e.g., referring to "time to act" or "need"). Furthermore, we found a structural difference in the topic space over time, with ESG-specific topics increasing after 2017 and more COVID and identity/diversity topics (e.g., BLM) post 2020. Additional analyses using random forest clustering explored how topics also differed by organizational sectors, company size, and female CEOs. Overall, these findings provide deep descriptive insight into Fortune 500 companies' varied engagement across ESG domains and demonstrate evolving organizational responses to societal challenges.

*POSTER

Speaker



Celena Kim

Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Tessa Charlesworth, Maryam Kouchaki, Mohsen Mosleh, Roberto Borsetti

[18] Antecedents of a propensity for overinvolvement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Extant research suggests that overcommitment and overinvolvement contribute to increased stress among college students via an effort-reward imbalance. A theoretical model of undergraduate student overcommitment suggests that student effort is shaped by a cyclical process where students' effort shapes whether they receive approval and delayed rewards, which in turn impact future effort. This study investigates motivational factors that may influence overinvolvement and examines the impact of the overinvolvement on students' stress using structural equation modeling. Drawing on 4-year longitudinal data from a larger college-student cohort (N = 1,473), the present study posits that internal and external motivators, such as a desire for approval and future rewards, influence students' propensity for overinvolvement. We propose the internal factors driving overinvolvement are intrinsic motivation for challenge seeking and coping by distraction, while external factors include parental expectations and pressures, and a desire to appear competent to peers. These internal and external motivators may have implications for student stress both directly and through increased overinvolvement.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maria Brown

Duke University

Authors

Rick Hoyle, Skyler Wyly, James Shah

[19] Applying Social Dominance Theory to Inpatient Mental Healthcare

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Adverse treatment event research is sparse despite concerning outcomes for acute mental healthcare service users (Morgan et al., 2018). We examine social dominance theory (SDT)'s ability to explain why some therapists are drawn to inpatient wards through a desire for social hierarchy (social dominance orientation; SDO) and how this may impact adverse events. Surveys were collected from 223 licensed therapists measuring SDO, prison, inpatient, and private practice work history; and attitudes towards mechanical restraints and patient privacy violations. We used correlational analyses to test relationships between SDO, work history, and adverse event attitudes; and t-tests to assess the relationship between SDO and current workplace. Results indicate SDO is related to years worked in prisons $r(211) = .22, p < .05$, current inpatient workplace ($M = 3.25, SD = 1.11$) compared to lack thereof ($M = 2.05, SD = .95$), $t(167) = -7.07, p < .001, d = 1.20$, support for mechanical restraints $r(168) = .36, p < .005$ and privacy violations $r(166) = .53, p < .005$, and negatively with years worked in private practice $r(215) = -.19, p < .05$. Findings support the use of SDT, suggesting SDO is related to work in hierarchical care environments and increased support for adverse event practices among therapists; implications for ward safety are discussed regarding voluntary and collaborative rather than carceral mental healthcare.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Holt

PhD Student | Clark University

Authors

Andrew Stewart, Hannah Holt, Kathleen Palm Reed

[20] Are Individuals with Autism Spectrum Condition More Utilitarian?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Do individuals with autism spectrum condition (ASC) differ from non-autistic individuals in utilitarian moral judgment? To address this question, we compared responses from 394 individuals with ASC and 394 non-autistic participants selected using quota sampling. We employed three approaches: (1) classic trolley dilemmas (Footbridge and Switch), (2) the Oxford Utilitarianism Scale, and (3) the CNI model, which separates sensitivity to consequences (C), norms (N), and general preference for inaction vs. action (I). We also assessed traits associated with ASC (empathy, systemizing, camouflaging) and co-occurring conditions (alexithymia, depression, ADHD). Participants with ASC made more utilitarian judgments in the Footbridge dilemma and on the CNI traditional score than the control sample. They were also less sensitive to moral norms (N parameter) than the control sample. No significant differences emerged on the Oxford scale or other CNI parameters. Our findings add clarity to previous mixed results, highlighting selective differences in moral decision-making among individuals with and without ASC.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zuzanna Farny

Ph.D. candidate | University of Silesia in Katowice

Authors

Mariola Paruzel-Czachura, Bertram Gawronski

[21] Asking Matters: Race, Gender, and Self-Advocacy in Primary Care Access

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Objective: Emerging evidence suggests that inequities in healthcare access can occur during appointment scheduling. This study examined whether patient race and gender shape appointment access in primary care, and whether requesting an earlier appointment affects scheduling outcomes. Methods: In this audit study, 24 pseudonymous callers varying by racially coded names and gender placed calls to primary care clinics in major metropolitan areas of Texas, yielding 798 analyzable calls from 5,760 initial attempts. Using a standardized script, callers scheduled new patient appointments. After receiving an initial offer, callers were instructed to ask whether an earlier appointment was available. Each call was coded for the appointment time offered and whether the request for an earlier appointment was made and granted. Results: There were no significant differences in scheduling outcomes based on the race or gender signaled by the caller's name. However, callers whose requests for an earlier appointment were accommodated received significantly earlier time slots regardless of demographic characteristics. Conclusions: Although no direct evidence of differential treatment based on race or gender was found, differences in how patients advocate for themselves, potentially shaped by broader social norms, may still contribute to disparities in healthcare access.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hwayeon Myeong

student | Rice University

Authors

Elisabeth Silver, Jazmin Argueta-Rivera, Dillon Stewart, Mikki Hebl, Eden King

[22] Avoiding or vaccinating against pathogen threats: Evidence from 11 countries

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

A broad range of social behaviors are shaped by pathogen threats. The behavioral immune system is a constellation of psychological strategies for handling pathogen threats. Almost all research on the behavioral immune system focuses on one strategy: pathogen avoidance—a set of tendencies that facilitate avoidance of pathogen threats. However, there are other strategies beyond avoidance, such as the tendency to prefer controlled pathogen exposure (e.g., vaccines). No post-COVID-19 research has examined cross-cultural variation in the association between pathogen avoidance and vaccine attitudes. In the current work, we examined the association between pathogen avoidance and vaccine attitudes across 11 countries. When examining results by continent, European and Latin American data (N=1173) indicate that pathogen avoidance was only associated with believing that personal caution—not vaccines—was effective for avoiding pathogen threats. Conversely, African and Asian (N=1809) data indicate that pathogen avoidance was associated with avoidance and vaccine strategies. Thus, pathogen avoidance and vaccine strategies may complement one another in ecologies with greater pathogen burden.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marius Unnvik

Graduate Student | University of Arkansas

Authors

Anastasia Makhanova, Brianna Garcia

[23] Behavioral Forecasts in Human-AI Interaction

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Can people accurately predict their own and others' behavior within human-AI interactions? Across three studies (N = 895), we compared participants' accuracy in forecasting their own and others' (1) closeness to AI companions and (2) moral judgments of their erring AI companions with their actual closeness and moral judgments in a lab setting. Results revealed forecasting errors for both closeness and moral judgment. Compared to actual, in-lab measurements, participants' predictions overestimated how close others would feel towards their AI companions and how harshly others would judge their erring AI companions. When predicting their own behavior, participants also overestimated the harshness of their own moral judgments but accurately forecasted their closeness to their AI companions. These patterns—underestimating human resistance to AI bonding while overestimating negative reactions when AI fails—may reflect deeper preconceived notions about AI as fundamentally threatening.

*POSTER

Speaker



Reem Ayad

PhD Candidate | University of Toronto

Authors

Reem Ayad, Selin Okman, Jason Plaks

[24] Beliefs about human nature affect political ideology and policy preferences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

We examined whether lay theories about what people are fundamentally like predict ideology and policy preferences. A sample of 128 college students reported their beliefs along four dimensions: selfishness, evil, fixedness, and genetic determinism. These dimensions echo longstanding debates in academic and popular discourse and demonstrated good internal reliability. Human nature beliefs predicted policy preferences across domains including immigration, welfare, education, criminal justice, and environmental protection, even after controlling for ideological self-placement, right-wing authoritarianism, social dominance orientation, and system justification. Moreover, different dimensions of human nature beliefs mapped onto distinct ideological tendencies: seeing people as fixed predicted RWA, seeing people as evil predicted SDO, and seeing people as genetically determined predicted system justification. Taken

together, these preliminary findings suggest that core beliefs about human nature may have profound consequences for how people think about politics.

*POSTER

Speaker



Oded Ritov

University of California, Berkeley

Authors

Dacher Keltner

[25] Beyond Borders: Gen Z and the Future of Global Empathy

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Empathy has historically been bounded by group identity, extending most naturally to those who share our culture, proximity, or personal ties. Yet the emerging generation—Gen Z—appears to be challenging these traditional limits. From climate justice movements to protests against systemic discrimination and, most recently, solidarity with Palestinians facing genocide in Gaza, Gen Z has repeatedly demonstrated that empathy can transcend national, cultural, and linguistic divides. Their activism is notable for extending concern to communities with whom they have no direct connection, advocating instead for a global human society rooted in justice and moral accountability.

Digital culture plays a central role in this transformation. Through social media, online communities, and immersive platforms, young people are exposed daily to diverse perspectives and experiences, fostering earlier and broader empathic engagement. This generational shift challenges traditional psychological models that locate empathy's peak in midlife, suggesting new developmental pathways shaped by technology and global interconnectedness.

Yet, this broadened empathy is not without limits. Activists often face significant personal and political costs, and group norms continue to influence who receives solidarity. This presentation reviews literature and case studies to argue that Gen Z's activism signals both the promise and fragility of global empathy. It asks: can this generational shift be sustained and institutionalized, transforming empathy from an individual moral choice into a cultural and structural norm?

*POSTER

Speaker



Parvaneh Yaghoubi Jami

Authors

Kasra Tabrizi

[26] Beyond Direct Harm: Contextualizing Off/Online Vicarious Discrimination Experiences on Health

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

With the rise of social media consumption, exposure to racial stressors has extended into digital spaces, compounding the ways in which individuals experience race-based stressors. While studies link direct racial discrimination (DRD; i.e., firsthand experiences of racial unfairness) to health, recent findings suggest that vicarious racial discrimination (VRD)—the secondhand experience of racial discrimination—may be encountered more frequently than DRD and thus also detrimental for health. However, lack of differentiation between DRD and VRD exposures hinders standardization and cross-study comparisons. In two studies, we aimed to identify the frequency and health impact of VRD, compared to DRD. Study 1 (N=147) was a cross-sectional survey that examined frequency patterns of off/online VRD/DRD exposure across various domains and their associations with health. Study 2 (N=144) used an 8-day ecological momentary assessment (EMA) to examine how off/online VRD/DRD exposure impacts same and next-day metrics of health. Findings clarify VRD/DRD similarities and differences, expanding our understanding of how racial discrimination affects health, even among those vicariously exposed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Barajas

Graduate Student | University of California, Irvine

Authors

DeWayne P. Williams, Belinda Campos, Paul K. Piff, Jennifer Barajas

[27] Beyond the Left-Right Continuum, Understanding the Role of Social Versus Economic Ideology in the Endorsement of Different Group-Level Moral Values

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

The current study explores group-level moral values outside of the left-right political spectrum. The Model of Moral Motives (Janoff-Bulman 2023) makes predictions about different group-level moral values endorsed by liberals versus conservatives. Specifically, Liberals endorse social justice values that focus on government regulation of economic issues (but not social issues). In contrast, Conservatives endorse social order values that focus on government regulation of social issues (but not economic issues). However, the theory does not make predictions about those who do not support government regulation in either the economic or social domains or those who want government regulation in both domains. The current study explores whether those who are economically conservative but socially liberal oppose the group-level moral values and instead apply self-discipline and industriousness (personal-level values) to the group. Similarly, it will also explore whether individuals who support social and economic regulation view the goal of economic regulation as to protect society rather than provide for it, like the model argues.

*POSTER

Speaker



Brittany Hanson

Associate Professor | Saint Peter's University

Authors

Daniel Wisneski

[28] Beyond Threat to Opportunity: An Affordance Management Approach to Immigrant Stereotypes and Prejudices

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Research on prejudice has primarily focused on negative stereotypes and prejudices related to threats. Grounded in the affordance management framework—which posits that the mind's role is to identify and manage both opportunities and threats—this study investigates how perceived opportunities shape "positive" stereotypes and prejudices. Specifically, it examines highly skilled immigrants and war refugees to test how "base stereotypes" (beliefs about the capacities and behavioral inclinations of group members, that represents the group as they are) are transformed into opportunity or threat stereotypes as a function of perceivers' goals, vulnerabilities, and beliefs. Furthermore, this study explores the relationship between specific opportunity stereotypes and distinct positive emotions such as enthusiasm, gratitude, admiration, and compassion. By examining how immigrants may be viewed not only as threats but also as opportunities—and how opportunity perceptions give rise to positive emotions—this work advances our understanding of stereotyping and prejudice processes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tiffany Chin

Graduate Student | Arizona State University

Authors

Steven Neuberg

[29] Bias in a bag. Exploring implicit biases against Arab Americans in the detection of contraband

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

This study examines whether implicit biases influences decision-making relating to aviation security screening toward people of Arab descent. Previous research has suggested that Arab men are disproportionately scrutinized in these contexts, specifically when terrorist events are made salient to participants, but limited empirical work has directly assessed how such biases manifest in screening tasks. To address this gap, participants will complete a simulated baggage screening activity in which they view computed tomographic images of bags that may or may not contain contraband, paired with passports displaying demographic information about their owners. Accuracy and reaction times (RTs) will be recorded across 150 trials in which all participants are exposed to White, Black, and Arab targets, allowing for within-subject comparisons. We predict increased mean RTs and reduced accuracy for stimuli associated with Arab targets relative to other groups. Findings will contribute to ongoing discussions about whether advanced security technologies mitigate or mask implicit bias, with broader implications for equity in airport screening practices.

*POSTER

Speaker



Billy Finn

Fort Lewis College

Authors

Alex Borgella

[30] Bias in Generative AI Reduces Trust in AI Systems and Willingness to Use AI Across Domains: Evidence From Neurodivergent Users.

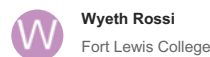
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

While generative AI is rapidly becoming part of daily life, these tools sometimes produce biased content. This study investigates how instances of such bias shape trust in AI and willingness to use it, with particular attention to neurodivergent (ND) adults who often face invisible stigma relative to members of groups with visible marginalized identities. Participants will be randomly assigned to interact with an ostensibly real AI interface that delivers one of three opinions about neurodivergence: negative, neutral, or positive. The primary outcome is trust in AI systems; willingness to use AI across domains is a secondary outcome. Perceived bias, of the AI output, serves as both a manipulation check and mediator. Using conditional process analyses, we will test whether biased output increases perceived bias, reduces trust, and lowers willingness, and whether these pathways are amplified for ND compared to neurotypical participants. This study offers evidence that biased AI disproportionately undermines trust among a marginalized group, providing guidance for building AI that is inclusive, equitable, and worthy of public confidence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wyeth Rossi

Fort Lewis College

Authors

Alex Borgella

[31] Blind Loyalty to the Sunk-Cost Decision of a Loyal Leader

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Leadership success often depends not only on leader characteristics but also on the characteristics of members responding to leader behavior. One critical member characteristic is group loyalty, defined as an emotional attachment and commitment to one's group. Loyal members are typically expected to support group decisions and prioritize collective goals over personal interests. Their role becomes especially important when leaders make flawed or irrational decisions—such as those driven by the sunk cost fallacy, where continued investment in a failing endeavor is used to justify prior investment.

Prior research on the effects of group loyalty has yielded mixed results. Some studies suggest that loyalty can impair critical judgment, blinding members to a leader's errors and encouraging uncritical conformity. Other findings show that loyalty can inspire dissent when members perceive that flawed leadership threatens the group's long-term welfare. We propose that this inconsistency may depend on how members perceive the leader's own loyalty to the group. Specifically, when leaders display loyalty through visible self-sacrifice and consistent commitment to group welfare, loyal members may view those leaders as more trustworthy, aligned with group values, and deserving of support—even when their decisions are flawed.

Grounded in trait activation theory and the similarity-attraction principle, we argue that perceived leader loyalty acts as a situational cue that activates members' trait loyalty and prompts vicarious justification. When members perceive psychological similarity in loyalty, they may internalize the leader's decision as their own, making them more likely to rationalize it.

We tested this hypothesis in two online experiments (N = 330), manipulating perceived leader loyalty and measuring trait group loyalty. Across two studies, we found converging evidence for our hypothesis. Results showed that member loyalty predicted conformity to the leader's sunk cost decision—but only when the leader was described as loyal. These findings suggest that pairing loyal leaders with loyal members may increase vulnerability to biased decision-making, especially in a sunk cost context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kendall Al-Halah

Undergraduate student | Western Kentucky University

Authors

Youngjae Cha, Emma Hicks, Young-Jae Yoon, Sophia Cheever, Payten Seawood

[32] Bridge between Ironic and sincere within hate speech - an empirical analysis of Meta-irony effects on belief

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Paralleling Schrodinger's Cat, meta-irony is indistinguishable as sincere or ironic until the listener asks, and is used online in the context of disparaging humor and promoting extremist ideologies. There is a sense of "getting away" with the joke without negative social consequences. This study investigates whether exposure to extreme speech becomes normalized when communicated under the guise of meta-irony. We also test whether repeated exposure to meta-irony affects perceived sincerity and one's own beliefs. Participants (n=294) viewed a Reddit thread, "r/Womenssufferage." Participants saw zero to 30 meta-ironic statements against suffrage. We observed a significant increase in perceived sincerity of meta-ironic statements with repeated exposure. We also found a reactionary effect on one's own beliefs in lower exposure conditions, suggesting that some meta-irony exposure can bolster prior beliefs. However, higher exposure significantly reduced prior beliefs from the peak of the bolstering effect. No effects were found in perceptions of others' beliefs, suggesting that norms do not drive fluctuations in beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



William Ashack

Student | University of Tennessee, Knoxville

[33] Bridging Self and Society in Understanding Racism

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Despite growing discourse around structural racism, many people continue to struggle with understanding how individuals and structures perpetuate racism in tandem. Across three experimental studies, including a field study, we test a novel intervention designed to illuminate the interconnectedness of individuals and systems. Results show that participants who received the intervention reported greater perceived responsibility at both the institutional and individual levels, increased frustration, stronger motivation to take action, and greater support for anti-racist policies. They also demonstrated improved understanding of how individuals and structures mutually reinforce one another. These findings suggest that people often view individual- and structural-level racism as competing explanations rather than interconnected forces. However, when the link between them is made explicit, understanding improves. This work offers important implications for developing interventions and policies that address racism at both individual and structural levels.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jaclyn Lisnek

Graduate Student | University of Virginia

Authors

Gabrielle Adams, Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi

[34] Buffers and Mechanisms of Structural Stigma and Sexual Minority Health

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Structural stigma and regional bias have increasingly come to the fore as fundamental causes of health disparities. Indeed, a rapidly-expanding literature demonstrates that sexual minorities living in regions characterized by increases in or higher overall levels of discriminatory legislation and heterosexist bias exhibit poorer physical and mental health outcomes. However, potential buffers of and mechanisms linking structural stigma and health remain obscure. We utilized data from both large publicly-available datasets (Project Implicit, the US Census, MIT Election Lab, and Movement Advancement Project) and from Generations: A Study of the Life and Health of LGB People in a Changing Society, United States, 2016-2019, a longitudinal survey of a national probability sample of sexual minority Americans. More specifically, we hypothesized that social support from family, social support from friends, and subjective sexual and gender minority (SGM) community connectedness would each either moderate or mediate the relationship between state-level policy environments or county-level explicit and implicit sexuality bias and measures of health and well-being among sexual minorities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexander Kellogg

PhD Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Allecia Reid, Alexander Kellogg

[35] Can you travel through your body? Brain-heart dualism and its ability-related advantages

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Self-regulation may benefit from an ability to simulate oneself traveling through the body in a strategic manner. This would be particularly true concerning the brain and heart regions of the body, which, folk theory contends, are good at rational (brain) versus experiential (heart) tasks. Pursuant of these ideas, two studies (total N = 455) asked participants how much of their self typically exists in brain and heart regions of their bodies while engaging in a diverse set of daily activities. These responses permitted a calculation of brain-heart dualism, defined in terms of a representational self that moves toward the brain for some activities and toward the heart for others. Participants differed in brain-heart dualism, with some displaying it (negative brain-heart correlation) and others not (no negative correlation). Participants who exhibited dualism excelled in both intellectual and experiential domains, as captured by outcomes such as ACT scores and ability-based emotional intelligence. The ability to simulate oneself as a bodily entity that can travel up versus down appears to be functional in reconfiguring the self to support both rational and experiential endeavors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Michael Robinson

Professor | North Dakota State Univ.

Authors

Muhammad Asad, Hamidreza Fereidouni, Pranika Vohra

[36] CBT-Informed Approach to Understanding Interracial Interaction Challenges

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Over a half century of research on the benefits of intergroup/interracial contact demonstrates that positive contact can decrease intergroup anxiety (e.g., Pettigrew & Tropp; 2008). There have been various efforts to reduce intergroup anxiety among White people in interracial interactions (Oyler et al., 2022), yet none, to our knowledge, have employed a cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) approach. Adapting a CBT framework, we investigated the emotions, automatic thoughts, and behaviors of White Americans in interracial interactions. Eighty-eight participants provided three interracial interaction scenarios and rated them on various dimensions (e.g., discomfort/distress, automatic thoughts, emotions/reactions). We hypothesized that: 1) discomfort, emotions, and reactions would be significantly higher in scenarios with greater perceived intensity, and 2) scenarios involving power differences, direct involvement, or close relationships would elicit higher discomfort. Participants reported increased discomfort and emotional responses in higher intensity scenarios (H1). Mixed-method analyses focusing on the characteristics of interracial situations and associated automatic thoughts, is ongoing (H2). Preliminary findings suggest that the perceived intensity of an interaction directly influences both emotional and cognitive responses. The current study will inform future interracial interaction interventions on ways to reduce White Americans' interracial anxiety and thereby improve racially minoritized group members experiences in novel cross-race encounters.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tugba Metinyurt

Assistant Teaching Professor | Rutgers University

Authors

Jared Cutler, Valerie Jones Taylor

[37] Characterizing First Impressions of East and South Asian Faces

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Asian individuals represent a highly diverse and growing subgroup of the American population with whom people interact every day. Yet much social psychological research ignores this diversity and focuses on East Asian individuals. For example, in the domain of face perception, South Asian faces are understudied, and there is a lack of information on how people perceive and interact with South Asians. This experiment will fill this gap by exploring perceptions of warmth, competence, and threat from faces of White, East Asian, and South Asian men and women. Participants will view 60 unique faces of East Asian, South Asian, and White men and women one at a time in a random order in three randomly presented blocks. In each block, participants will rate the faces on how warm, competent, or threatening they appear to them. Based on prior work, we expect that South Asians might be rated higher in warmth and lower in competence compared to East Asians. Another possibility is that, potentially due to colorism, South Asian women may be perceived as more threatening than East Asian or White women. Data collection is ongoing, and results will be discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maya Rao

UNCG

Authors

Brittany Cassidy

[38] Children and adults' evaluations about others' capacity for redemption

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Children and adults hold different beliefs about redemption (i.e., moral improvement). For instance, 6- to 8-year-olds view people as more capable of redemption than do adults (Cohen et al., 2023; Dunlea & Heiphetz, 2021). The current project examines mechanisms underlying children's and adults' views. We will recruit 6- to 8-year-olds and adults to learn about characters who transgressed. Within-subjects, we will vary whether characters exerted high or low effort to fix wrongdoing (e.g., to help a friend feel better after hurting their feelings) and whether the effort was successful (e.g., whether the friend felt better). Participants will indicate the extent to which characters changed for the better. We expect to replicate results showing that children perceive people as more redeemable than adults. Because children and adults perceive effort to be virtuous (Mosley et al., 2024; White et al., 2024), we also predict that participants in both age groups will perceive people as particularly redeemable when they exert a lot of effort to fix their wrongdoing and their effort is successful. We are currently awaiting IRB approval and will begin data collection immediately thereafter.

*POSTER

Speaker



James Nesbit

Columbia University

Authors

James Nesbit, Sophie Charles, Larisa Solomon

[39] Cognitive Homophobia Across Cultures: A Systematic Review

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

What are people homophobic about? This preregistered systematic review examined the framework of cognitive homophobia and its cultural variations. We searched five databases and analyzed 574 items from 89 validated homophobia scales in 81 studies across 18 countries (1970–2024). Thematic analysis identified 21 categories clustered into five themes: (T1) threats to heteronormativity, (T2) essentialism and pathologizing, (T3) violations of gender/sexual norms, (T4) rejection of cultural diversity, and (T5) negative contact experiences. Most themes and categories showed no significant differences across contexts, suggesting universal elements of cognitive homophobia. Meanwhile, variations emerged: At the theme level, Confucian-influenced contexts placed greater emphasis on essentialism and pathologizing than many others. At the category level, East European contexts emphasized civilizational decline (in T1) and foreign threats (in T4) than many others; Confucian-influenced contexts stressed abnormality/inferiority (in T2) more than English-speaking contexts. These findings provide a conceptual framework for cognitive homophobia and highlight cultural variations across societies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yingying Ying

Student | East China Normal University

Authors

Gu Li, Zitong Li, Yuejia Zhu, Tao Zhang

[40] Collective Narcissism, Disgust Sensitivity, and Prejudice against Zainichi Koreans: Evidence from an Online Survey in Japan

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

This study investigates associations of prejudice against Zainichi Koreans (Korean residents in Japan), collective narcissism, and disgust sensitivity. An online questionnaire survey was conducted in December 2024 with Japanese respondents aged from 20s to 60s and above. After excluding satisficing responses, the analyzable sample size was 600 (290 men and 310 women; Age [Range = 20 – 80, M = 48.4, SD = 14.9]). As indicators of prejudice, we employed the feeling thermometer and the Modern Racism against Zainichi Korean Scale. Correlational analyses showed that collective narcissism was moderately positively correlated with modern racism and weakly negatively correlated with the feeling thermometer. Comparison of the absolute values of the correlation coefficients indicated that the association with modern racism was significantly stronger. Disgust sensitivity was correlated with the prejudice indicators in the predicted direction, but the effect sizes were small or negligible. We discuss the implications of the findings that collective narcissism is particularly associated with modern racism and that disgust sensitivity is just a weak predictor of both types of prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fumiaki Taka

Professor | Toyo University

Authors

Tetsuro Kobayashi

[41] College Students' Responses to Setbacks in Difficult Courses: Associations with Peer and Faculty Support

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Objective: We examined how college students self-regulation their academic motivation after experiencing setbacks in difficult courses, and how different forms of social support from peers and faculty influence that process.

Design: We surveyed 323 college students over the course of an academic quarter. The surveys tracked changes in academic motivation, use of goal adjustment strategies, and perceptions of informational and emotional support following lower-than-expected midterm performance.

Results: Students who received disappointing midterm scores showed declines in academic motivation. However, those who engaged in goal adjustment strategies were better able to maintain their motivation. Informational support from both peers and faculty predicted greater use of these strategies. Notably, emotional support from faculty was linked to higher overall academic motivation.

Conclusion: Goal adjustment strategies are effective in preserving motivation after academic setbacks. Importantly, the type and source of social support matter—informational support facilitates adaptive goal regulation, while emotional support from faculty helps sustain motivation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yongwon Cho

Assistant Professor | Georgia Southwestern State University

Authors

Priscilla Yau, Jutta Heckhausen

[42] Comparing Susceptibility to Social vs. Artificial Intelligence Influence

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Evidence suggests that people increasingly rely on artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) to make decisions. However, it is unclear whether and when people rely more on AI than other people as the primary source of information. This research compares the magnitude of social and AI influence on everyday decisions and explores the conditions under which one is stronger than the other using two experiments (total N = 2,881). In both studies, participants completed true/false health questions. We provided some participants with information about how other participants evaluated the statements. Others were given information on how AI chatbots evaluated them. We also manipulated credibility, such that for some participants, this additional information was either correct or incorrect. The first study found that regardless of information source, people performed better when given credible (vs. noncredible) information. Study 2 manipulated the difficulty of health statements, to explore whether difficulty moderates study 1's findings; data collection is in progress. Findings suggest that people rely on AI chatbots and humans similarly on everyday decisions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nadyezhda Taylor

Graduate student | Texas Tech

Authors

Haesung Jung

[43] CANCELLED

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

People may be bothered by errors such as falsely accusing an innocent person (false alarm) and failing to apprehend a guilty person (miss). Similar processes occur in stereotyping – one may mistakenly apply a stereotype or fail to apply a stereotype to a person who has that trait. We tested whether individual differences in concern about false alarm and miss errors in everyday contexts (e.g., accusing a student of cheating) related to beliefs about stereotyping and tendencies to apply traits to social groups. Miss concern related to lower beliefs that stereotypes are immoral, whereas false alarm concern related to greater stereotype immorality beliefs. However, miss concern related to higher endorsement of negative traits across social groups (e.g., criminality in Black, White, and Asian Americans), whereas false alarm concern related to higher endorsement of positive traits across social groups. These findings indicate that those concerned with misses vs false alarms may hold different perceptions of the base rates of traits in people generally, suggesting that concern about errors in social decision making is associated with the ways people think about and apply traits to others.

*POSTER

[44] Conforming to Gender Roles Influences Spontaneous Trait Inferences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Traits are spontaneously inferred from observing people's behavior via spontaneous trait inferences (STIs). However, little research tests if other implicit impressions, like stereotypes, influence the strength of STIs and whether STIs impact subsequent perceiver behavior. Across two experiments, we assessed the impact of gender stereotypes on STIs and intentions to approach and punish targets. Counter to predictions, Experiment 1 (N = 202) showed that participants made stronger STIs for stereotype inconsistent targets (e.g. ambitious women, emotional men) compared to consistent targets (e.g. emotional women, ambitious men). Participants were also more likely to befriend and less likely to punish inconsistent targets if they formed a STI about that person. These results may reflect individuation, not stereotyping. Experiment 2 (N = 215) tests these competing hypotheses by using ambiguous behaviors that simultaneously implied stereotypic traits across gender (e.g. same behavior implied the person could be emotional or ambitious). Data for Experiment 2 are collected and will be analyzed prior to SPSP 2026. We discuss implications for stereotype development and discrimination.

*POSTER

Speaker



Paige Taylor

Graduate student | University of Kentucky

Authors

Angel Armenta, Nicole Baker, Lilly Vallina

[45] Consent to consume: Passivity and authority in meat marketing

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Why, despite evidence that sentience reduces willingness to eat meat, are anthropomorphic animals a staple of meat marketing? Across two experiments, we test a theory of perceived consent using barbecue restaurant logos featuring animal mascots. In Study 1 (N = 447), compared with an image of a real animal, anthropomorphic mascots were rated more appropriate for consumption, mediated by perceptions that the mascot was consenting. In Study 2 (N = 900), we tested whether perceived consent stemmed from cues of authority or passivity by manipulating mascot gender (feminized, masculinized, neutral). Across mediation models, perceived consent drove consumption judgments, but the pathway to consent was sensitive to gender cues: Authority mediated consent for masculinized mascots, while passivity mediated consent for feminized and neutral mascots. These effects were exacerbated in participants who linked meat with masculinity. Anthropomorphism paradoxically increases consumption through perceptions of animal consent, an effect apparently sensitive to gender stereotypes with masculinized mascots legitimizing consumption and feminized/neutral mascots yielding to it.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ivy Gilbert

PhD Student | Cornell University

Authors

Laura Niemi

[46] Contextualized and intersectional positive and negative automatic evaluations of social categories are related to discrimination in dichotomous choice decisions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The relation between automatic evaluations and behavior is notoriously small. One reason for this may be the assumption that automatic evaluations should be conceptualized as a single number representing relative valence. However, research in close relationships has demonstrated the utility of conceptualizing automatic evaluations as separate positive and negative associations, in part, because doing so disentangles truly neutral attitudes from ambivalent attitudes. The present research ($N > 600$) found strong relations (some r 's $> .7$) between automatic evaluations conceptualized as separate positive and negative associations and one specific class of behavior: dichotomous choice decisions. Specifically, which automatic evaluation (positive, negative, or ambivalent) was related to the decision to award a scholarship to a Black woman depended on whether she was pitted against a Black man, white man, or white woman at two time points: when the automatic evaluations were measured and when the dichotomous choice was made. For example, in the present study, how often Black women recommended a Black woman over a white woman for a scholarship was related to associating Black women with positivity but not negativity when they were contrasted with white women ($r = .73$) but the relation was much weaker when they were contrasted with Black men ($r = .19$) or white men ($r = .33$).

*POSTER

Speaker



Curtis Phillips

Associate Professor | University of Oregon

[47] Contextualizing Positive Vocational Identities: A Qualitative Study Among Resettled Refugees

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

This qualitative study elaborates on the four pathways (growth, integration, virtues, esteem) for positive vocational identity construction among three different groups of refugees by introducing the concept of a "core positive vocational identity," which means that the construction of a positive vocational identity is shaped by the individual's most salient contextual factor. Among Hmong participants in this study, this core positive vocational identity was value-driven as they prioritized community respect and contribution. For MENA participants, the future and hope for upward mobility despite present barriers constituted their future-driven core positive vocational identity. Somali participants emphasized the importance of balancing personal ambitions and family expectations, leading to a life-stage-driven positive vocational identity. We propose that positive vocational identity is deeply shaped by context-driven core factors – cultural values, future aspirations, or life stage – that influence how individuals experience growth, integration, virtue, and esteem. We call for further research into additional contextual influences on positive vocational identity formation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Evita Schaefer

PhD Candidate | University of Michigan

Authors

Evita Schaefer, Mari Kira

[48] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

*POSTER

[49] Coping Styles: Understanding Risk-Aversion in Decision-Making

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Individuals exhibit different rates of risk avoidance behaviors based on their anxiety (Eisenberg, et al., 1998). Individuals who report high dispositional anxiety display higher rates of risk avoidance behaviors (Maner, et al., 2007). Current research utilized self-report measures of anxiety, which does not accurately measure repressive copers. Repressive copers are not consciously aware of their anxiety, thus self-report low anxiety while physiologically experiencing high anxiety (Weinberger, et al., 1979). This study aims to explore the impact of repressive copers' on the current risk avoidance literature. Participants are classified into three groups (high-anxious, low-anxious, and repressive copers) using two surveys: Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale and Taylor Manifest Anxiety Scale (Weinberger et al., 1979). This study employs the Balloon Analog Risk Task to assess rates of risk aversion (Lejuez et al., 2002). We expect to replicate previous literature showing high-anxious individuals display higher risk avoidance compared to low-anxious individuals. Additionally, we expect that repressive copers will have similar risk avoidance patterns to high-anxious individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Antara Shukla

Student | University of Illinois Chicago

Authors

Abigail Swanson, Julie Chen

[50] Cultural Differences in Metamorality: Resolving Moral Conflict Across Societies

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

When moral values come into conflict, individuals rely on metamoral principles to adjudicate between them. Prior work has argued for at least four such principles: utilitarianism, divinity, honor, and rational self-interest. To measure the importance given to these principles across cultures, we used a newly developed metamorality measure in a series of four preliminary studies (N = 624) and tested its validity in the U.S. Results demonstrated that our measure had construct validity and reliability. We recently finished collecting data for a cross-cultural study spanning 14 countries (N = 4,600) to test the validity of our measure and examine how metamoral principles relate to cognition (holistic vs. analytic thinking, reflection vs. intuition) and moral behavior, such as utilitarian decision-making and generosity, using incentivized behavioral tasks. To our knowledge, this project is the first to examine how metamoral principles vary across populations and sheds light on how culture and cognition contribute to the resolution of moral conflicts around the globe.

Keywords: Morality, metamorality, culture, prosociality, cognitive styles, thinking styles.

*POSTER

Speaker



Firat Seker

PhD Student | University of Massachusetts Amherst

Authors

Mohammad Atari, Firat Şeker

[51] Cultural differences in outrage and sympathy toward viral outrage on the Internet

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

In previous research, viral outrage-the cumulative online condemnation of an offensive remark- not only encourages one to join mass condemnation but also foster sympathy toward a target. Namely, when exposed to viral outrage, one may conform to majorities but at the same time, they may deviate from condemning others. Given cultural differences in social sensitivities, we predicted the former pathway would be stronger in interdependent cultures, but the latter pathway in independent cultures. A cross-cultural study (202 Koreans & 203 Americans) confirmed the prediction. Perceived norm and outrage sequentially mediated the effect of viral outrage on condemnation, and such pathway (viral outrage → perceived norm → outrage → more condemnation) was stronger for Koreans. In contrast, all the participants thought condemnation was extreme and felt sympathy more in the viral outrage condition than in the control condition, leading to the reduction in one's condemnation, the pathway (viral outrage → perceived excessiveness → sympathy → less condemnation) was stronger for Americans. We are collecting additional data to examine psychological mechanisms underlying the cultural difference.

*POSTER

Speaker



Heungwoo Cheon

Master's Student | Sogang University

Authors

Jinkyoun Na

[52] Development of the Contamination Threat Bias Scale: A Measure of Perceptual Contamination Sensitivity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

How readily we infer contamination from ambiguous cues colors who we trust, avoid, and stigmatize—biasing social judgments and policy attitudes under ambiguity. Yet no trait measure exists that directly indexes perceived contamination threat, so researchers often substitute self-reported feelings of disgust (e.g., the Disgust Scale-Revised). To fill this gap, we developed the Contamination Threat Bias Scale (CTBS). Participants (N=663) rated 53 candidate contaminants across 6 domains (human/nonhuman biological, food/drink, public space, environmental, conspiratorial) on 3 dimensions (likelihood an item is a source, likelihood resulting contamination causes harm, and likelihood of person-to-person spread). Confirmatory factor analyses reduced the pool to 41 items and indicated "source likelihood" was redundant. A second sample (N=379) replicated the subscale structure with good fit, and CTBS showed expected convergent and discriminant validity with other disgust measures. CTBS offers a direct, theory-consistent index of trait contamination threat bias that disentangles threat from disgust and has applications exploring, for example, stigma, avoidance, and political policy views.

*POSTER

Speaker



Patrick Oefelein

Graduate Student | Florida State University

Authors

David March, Vincenzo Olivett

[53] Did the Hamas Attack Change Implicit and Explicit Anti-Arab Muslim Biases?

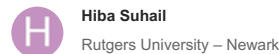
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The Hamas attack in Israel on October 7th, 2023, may have had a global impact on attitudes toward Arab Muslims. Drawing on Social Dominance Theory, we hypothesized that individuals in hierarchy-enhancing roles - such as law enforcement and the military - would be motivated to express stronger implicit and explicit biases against Arab Muslims compared to individuals in hierarchy-attenuating roles. We further predicted that these differences would intensify after the attack. In a preregistered study, we analyzed responses ($N = 1,138$) to implicit (Arab-Muslim Implicit Association Test) and explicit (self-reported preferences) measures from Project Implicit. Results indicated that officers and military personnel exhibited more explicit bias against Arab Muslims relative to educators and students, and that this bias increased in the year following the attack. Additionally, we explored the moderating role of political identification in implicit biases post-attack. These findings highlight the importance of understanding the mechanisms underlying the effect of global events on implicit and explicit biases, which may contribute to disparate and unjust policing outcomes for Arab Muslims.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Luis M. Rivera, Hiba Suhail

[55] Discomfort as a Mediator between Pre- and Post-Intervention Attitudes: Impediments to the Effectiveness of Imagined Contact Among Prejudiced People

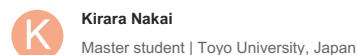
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STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

This study aims to examine the potential impediments of the imagined contact (IC). We hypothesized that the difficulty of imagination and the discomfort of the imagined situation induced by prejudice inhibit the effect of reducing that prejudice. Data was collected via a Japanese crowdsourcing service; the final sample was 383 heterosexual men aged 22-77 ($M = 45.1$, $SD = 10.9$). Participants reported pre- and post-intervention attitudes towards gay men. After the IC, they answered the difficulty of imagination and their level of discomfort with the imagined situation. Mediation analysis showed that, in addition to the direct effect of pre- to post-intervention attitudes, only the discomfort significantly mediated the two attitudes. In other words, the more negative individuals' prior attitudes, the more uncomfortable the imagined situations are, which in turn reduces the effectiveness of the intervention. This indicates that there are impediments to effectiveness among the very targets of the IC (i.e., prejudiced people). Future research should investigate how to enable these individuals to imagine a comfortable contact and maximize the effects of the intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Fumiaki Taka

[56] Disrupting Assumptions: Identity Threat and Science Achievement in U.S. Eighth Graders

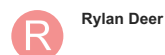
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STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Despite persistent gender disparities in STEM, little is known about how social identity threats affect middle school science achievement. Using nationally representative data ($N=23,861$, $Mage=14.23$, $SDage=0.46$, 51.1% female, 749 schools) from the 2011, 2015, and 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), we examine how students' gender, perceptions of identity threat, teacher gender, and school science resources predicted science achievement among eighth graders in the United States, using hierarchical linear modeling. Although female students consistently performed worse relative to male students ($b=-1.21$, $p<.001$), male students demonstrated greater sensitivity to identity threat ($b=.29$, $p=.011$), potentially driven by higher science liking and confidence. We found no evidence that teacher gender moderated students' achievement ($p=.095$), suggesting that perceived teacher warmth in middle school may buffer students from threat effects. These findings challenge assumptions about who experiences identity threat and when it emerges, and they underscore the need for early, motivation-focused interventions to promote equity in STEM education.

*POSTER

Speaker



[57] Disrupting Assumptions: Identity Threat and Science Achievement in U.S. Eighth Graders

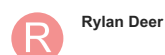
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STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Despite persistent gender disparities in STEM, little is known about how social identity threats affect middle school science achievement. Using nationally representative data ($N=23,861$, $Mage=14.23$, $SDage=0.46$, 51.1% female, 749 schools) from the 2011, 2015, and 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), we examine how students' gender, perceptions of identity threat, teacher gender, and school science resources predicted science achievement among eighth graders in the United States, using hierarchical linear modeling. Although female students consistently performed worse relative to male students ($b=-1.21$, $p<.001$), male students demonstrated greater sensitivity to identity threat ($b=.29$, $p=.011$), potentially driven by higher science liking and confidence. We found no evidence that teacher gender moderated students' achievement ($p=.095$), suggesting that perceived teacher warmth in middle school may buffer students from threat effects. These findings challenge assumptions about who experiences identity threat and when it emerges, and they underscore the need for early, motivation-focused interventions to promote equity in STEM education.

*POSTER

Speaker



[58] OPEN

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

*POSTER

[59] Distinguishing perceived and actual psychological safety: low-status members underestimate the safety

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Psychological safety is a group-level concept defined as the shared belief that a team is safe for interpersonal risk-taking. As this is a shared belief, members of the same team are assumed to perceive similar levels of safety. However, it has been demonstrated that low-status members perceive a lower level of safety than high-status members. Thus, we examined the gap between "actual" and perceived psychological safety among high- and low-status members. We conducted a web survey (N = 641) to measure participants' subjective status and perceived psychological safety (e.g., If I make a mistake on this team, my colleagues will hold it against me). We also estimated actual safety by averaging each participant's attitudes toward others (e.g., If my colleague makes a mistake on this team, I will hold it against them). The results demonstrated that (1) participants' perceived safety was lower than actual safety, (2) this gap was larger among low-status members, and (3) low-status members perceived lower psychological safety. These findings suggest that low-status members underestimate safety, which may inhibit error reporting or voice behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shuma Iwatani

Kwansei Gakuin University

Authors

Ikutaro Masaki, Yukiko Muramoto, Shiho Imashiro

[60] Distributional Hypothesis of Immigrant Stereotypes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Stereotypes of immigrants are shaped by historical affordances; as history changes, so do mental representations. We distinguish two forms of stereotypes. Symbolic representations capture a group through labels and traits (e.g., nationality, competence). Distributional representations capture the network of concepts that co-occur with a group, such as major cities, political events, and public figures, thereby linking the group directly to historical contexts beyond abstract labels. We analyzed two forms of stereotypes of Chinese immigrants using the Corpus of Historical American English from the 1900s to the 1990s. Adjectives associated with symbolic Chinese became more positive over time on warmth and competence. Meanwhile, the distributional concepts shifted (e.g., from railroad construction to world wars, and global trade), but their evaluations remained stably negative. Preliminarily, we found symbolic stereotypes align with friendlier elite rhetoric toward Chinese, while distributional stereotypes reflect limited changes in their economic status. By anchoring group images in history, distributional stereotypes illuminate the socio-structural roots of stability and change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wang Shiyao

The University Of Chicago

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Xuechunzi Bai

[61] Do Ecology Stereotypes Override Race Stereotypes? A Focus on Asian and Latino Americans

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The affordance management approach posits that in the US, social perceivers use race stereotypes as a proxy for ecology stereotypes. Previous research suggests that without ecological information, African American stereotypes reflect harsh ecologies, while White American stereotypes represent hopeful ecologies. When ecological information is provided, the race effect vanishes. The current study extends the prior work and examines this ecology-override perspective in the context of Asian and Latino Americans. Based upon a life history perspective, it was hypothesized that (1) without ecology information, Asian stereotypes reflected hopeful ecologies, highlighting slower life history strategies than those of White/Latino/African American. (2) Latino stereotypes reflected harsh ecologies, highlighting faster life history strategies than those of White individuals and similar to those of African Americans. (3) When ecological information is provided, the racial difference in ecology-related stereotype perception will decline or disappear. A 4×3 ANOVA tested these predictions. Results generally supported our hypotheses; however, more nuanced patterns emerged based on participants' political ideology. Findings will enhance the applicability of affordance management theory and shed light on racial bias reduction in the US.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fan Rex

PHD Student | Tulane University

Authors

Taylor C Richlin, Elle L Foster, Damian R Murray

[62] Do Gay People Face Discrimination in Jobs Perceived as Influencing Others' Values?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Anti-gay rhetoric has dramatically increased, particularly targeting gay people in certain jobs (e.g., teachers). This research examines whether a job's perceived influence on others' values predicts greater anti-gay discrimination by increasing perceptions that gay people in such roles threaten societal norms and values. We first looked at teachers, pretested as a job that shapes values. In Study 1 (N = 274), straight participants who read about teachers' abilities to instill values in students saw gay teachers as more threatening and supported discrimination against gay teachers more than participants who read about teachers in a non-value-related context (e.g., standardized testing). Study 2 (N = 180) examined whether this effect generalizes to journalists, another job pretested as influential to others' values. While we found that participants supported discrimination against gay journalists more than straight journalists, increasing the perceived value influence of journalists had no effect. Together, these findings provide mixed evidence for the role that a job's perceived value influence plays in driving discrimination against gay people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maddie Hammer

Lab Manager | University of Maryland

Authors

Max Miller, Linda Zou

[63] Does Outrage Close or Open Minds? Moral Outrage and Information-seeking

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral outrage is often portrayed as a driver of polarization and hostility. But it may also motivate constructive behaviors like seeking opposing viewpoints. Across two experiments, we examined whether outrage promotes seeking opposing viewpoints (or seeking disconfirming information) and attitude change. In Study 1 (N = 669) we measured information seeking as choosing complex (vs. simple) arguments; and inducing outrage did not increase this preference compared to sadness or control. In Study 2 (N = 905) we measured information seeking as the number of arguments one disagreed with but read anyway. Here, inducing outrage increased seeking disconfirming information compared to sadness, but not control. Moreover, by increasing exposure to disconfirming information, outrage indirectly reduced expected outrage from future disagreements but reinforced participants' support for and confidence in their existing beliefs. These findings partially support the idea that outrage may motivate seeking disconfirming information, and suggest a complex relationship between these constructs, as the effects depend on the comparison emotion and how information seeking is operationalized.

*POSTER

Speaker



Faruk Tayyip Yalcin

Graduate Student | Penn State University

Authors

C. Daryl Cameron

[64] Double Standards and Moral Misperceptions Among Political Partisans

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Double standards seem to arise whereby political partisans permit certain behaviors for their ingroup yet condemn the same behaviors for the outgroup. The current study (N=455) utilized a between-groups design to (i) identify such double standards and (ii) examine whether the size of double standards depends on misperceptions of political ingroups and outgroups in terms of their norm adherence tendencies in presumed responses to moral dilemmas. The results indicate that outgroup partisans were perceived to exhibit more opponent spite and be more likely to support undemocratic candidates than ingroup partisans. Additionally, outgroup members were perceived to be more supportive of partisan violence than ingroup members. Finally, perceived differences in the support for partisan violence were larger among participants who perceived larger differences between typical ingroup and outgroup members in terms of their norm adherence tendencies in presumed responses to moral dilemmas. Counter to our hypotheses, there was little evidence for genuine double-standard effects in which same behaviors were condemned for the outgroup but not the ingroup.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rachel Buterbaugh

Student | University of Texas at Austin

Authors

Bertram Gawronski, Nyx Ng

[65] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

*POSTER

[66] Dynamic Norms Signal Future Group Prototypes: Reframing National Identity to Mobilise national movement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Commitment to one's nation is paramount to sustaining successful national movements. Yet there is limited research on whether national identity can shift and, if so, through what mechanisms this may affect national movements. We propose that dynamic norms—norms that signal how group norms are changing over time—not only provide self-efficacy to overcome challenges and change, but also introduce a novel mechanism whereby dynamic norms can reshape group prototypes and, in turn, strengthen national commitment. Specifically, we argue that dynamic norms highlight shifts in group prototypicality, offering cues about the future ideal member of the nation. To test this, we examined a newly established national movement in Singapore: intergenerational bonding. Participants (N = 300) first read an article about intergenerational bonding, followed by dynamic norm information describing either increasing national commitment as a future national prototype (vs. pet-lover commitment toward a pet-shelter prototype). Results showed that participants who identified as committed to their nation, when exposed to the national prototype condition, reported stronger relatedness across age groups, greater support for government policies on intergenerational bonding, and higher willingness to adopt behaviours aligned with the future prototype of increasing national commitment. These effects were mediated by increased national optimism about the success of the movement. Overall, the findings suggest that dynamic norms can reorient group prototypes and encourage stronger national commitment, offering a novel pathway for mobilising collective action.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hee Seng Ong

Ph.D Candidate | National University of Singapore

Authors

Lile Jia

[67] Effects of Skin Tone on Mind Perception and Occupational Suitability Judgments

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

People form different impressions about and exhibit biases towards others based on skin tone. We investigated whether there is a bias in mind perception (agency, experience; Gray et al., 2007) towards targets with different skin tones and tested a possible mechanism of the relationship between them, as well as one of its downstream consequences. In Study 1, Korean participants perceived lighter-skinned Korean targets as having higher agency (but not experience) than darker-skinned Korean targets. This relationship was mediated by perceived socioeconomic status (SES): Lighter-skinned (vs. darker-skinned) Korean targets were perceived as having higher SES, which was in turn associated with being perceived as having higher agency. Study 2 examined a practical implication of these findings in terms of perceived occupational suitability. Higher perceived agency of lighter-skinned (vs. darker-skinned) Korean targets was associated with higher suitability for occupations requiring high agency.

*POSTER

Speaker



yujin Hong

Master's student | CHUNGBUK NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Authors

ChangHyun Ha, SangHee Park

[68] Environmental Moral Concern in Australian and American Children

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

No group will bear the brunt of climate change more than today's children, so clarifying their environmental reasoning is timely and pragmatically important. Examining children's moral concern in countries with similar per-capita greenhouse gas emissions provides insights into the generalizability of such concern, which is important for global mitigation strategies. 228 children in Australia (N = 74) and the United States (N = 154) ages 5-10 were tested to examine trajectories of moral concern during a sensitive period of development. Children's concern for 24 items falling under the categories of environment, objects, humans, and animals was measured using a child-friendly moral circles paradigm. Children prescribed at least some concern for environmental entities, but less than certain animals and people (e.g., mothers). Children's concern for some, but not all, environmental entities increased with age and did not vary between the two countries. Altogether, these findings present avenues for future research and interventions to promote sustainable behavior, especially before environmentally unfriendly behaviors become ingrained.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lesenia Fish

PhD Candidate | Emory University

Authors

Michael Thai, Karri Neldner, Mark Nielsen, Arber Tasimi

[69] Everyday Moral Disagreement: Context, Content, and Consequences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Everyday life is full of moral disagreements, yet research rarely examines this in context. In a preliminary study, participants (N=82) provided detailed accounts of their most recent disagreement along dimensions of content, context, and consequence. Most disagreements were at least moderate in personal significance (67%) and about the permissibility of actions (63%), although disagreement about the moral traits of individuals (30%) were still notable. The most relevant moral foundations were harm, proportionality, and equality (>45%). Disagreements mostly occurred in groups (66%), with family or friends (35-51%) and in residential settings (50%), but rarely with strangers (4%) or remotely/online (17%). This calls into question the generalizability of research that investigates disagreements with strangers or on online platforms. Most disagreements were resolved by agreeing to disagree without further conflict (57%); however, a fair number of disagreements (28%) resulted in successful moral persuasion. These findings suggest that close relationships and personal settings are the most relevant contexts for studying disagreement and that people may be surprisingly tolerant and open to updating their views.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zachary Grey

Ph.D Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Yoel Inbar, Paul Bloom

[70] Examining Honesty as a Moral Pillar: A Pilot Study

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral foundations theory (MFT) posits that there are six universal pillars of morality: care/harm, fairness/cheating, loyalty/betrayal, authority/subversion, sanctity/degradation, and liberty/oppression. Scholars have argued for the inclusion of honesty as an additional pillar, suggesting it may uniquely inform moral attitudes and behaviors. The present study sought to explore this claim empirically, assessing whether the perceived honesty of an action differentially predicts its perceived morality when controlling for the six established pillars. Participants (N = 105) read a series of 15 scenarios, each of which described behavior relevant to honesty along with at least one other pillar. Participants then rated their overall assessment of the behavior's (im)morality, and indicated to what extent they felt the behavior upheld/violated each of the six established pillars, as well as honesty. Linear regressions revealed that, for 10 of the 15 scenarios, honesty did uniquely predict assessments of morality when controlling for established pillars. We will discuss implications and future directions for research on the inclusion of honesty within the MFT framework.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lauren Woodard

Clinical Psychology PhD Student | American University

Authors

Eli Anish, Anthony Ahrens

[71] Examining political polarization of young people in the United States

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

During the 2024 U.S. presidential election, the political ideology of people under 30 became a popular topic of conversation as the divide between young men and women has begun to diverge. A common narrative explains the difference as emerging from conservative media figures promoting traditional gender roles and political violence towards out-groups.

The present study will examine media trust and political attitudes in a sample of undergraduate students in the U.S. The survey includes measures of political collective narcissism (Golec de Zavala et al., 2009), Ambivalent Sexism (Rollero et al., 1999), zero-sum thinking (Chinoy et al., 2023), and social dominance orientation (Ho et al., 2015) and questions about media trust, status threat, gun interest, and civic engagement interest. We expect to find that white men will have a stronger desire for social dominance, be more likely to trust conservative media, be more interested in guns, and less interested in civic engagement. These results will provide insight on how media consumption, gender attitudes, status threat, and societal perceptions may contribute to political attitudes and behavior among young adults in the United States.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Antognoli

Graduate Student | DePaul University

Authors

Joy Losee, Rebecca Sutton

[72] Examining the Christian-Science Stereotype for Religious "Dones"

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Research supports the existence of a stereotype that Christians are less competent in and trusting of science than Atheists. Christians are aware of these stereotypes, while Atheists also believe in the stereotypes (Rios et al, 2015). Recently, researchers have focused attention on religious "Dones"; those individuals who are formerly Christian believers, but no longer hold those beliefs (Van Tongeren et al., 2021) and a religious residue effect, showing the continued impact of one's Christian affiliation. We examined the residue of being Christian for the descriptive and prescriptive interpersonal stereotypes of one's competence and trust in science. In Study 1, participants rated Always Christians, Former Christians (i.e., "Dones"), and Always Atheists on several traits, including competence and trust in science and analytical thinking. Dones were expected to be significantly more competent and trusting than Always Christians, but still less than Always Atheists. Study 2 examined the impact of one's reason for disassociating with Christianity and demonstrates the impact of intellectual versus moral reasons.

*POSTER

Speaker



Matthew Weeks

Associate Professor of Psychology | Rhodes College

Authors

Sophia Abraham, Jane Golden

[73] Examining the Role of Early Parent-Child Interactions on Moral Judgment: Extending the Scope of the Affective Harm Account (AHA)

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

The Affective Harm Account (AHA) of moral judgment posits that harm and affect jointly contribute to evaluations of immorality. Within this framework, harm perception is theorized to stem from cultural assumptions, but other formative influences remain understudied. Building on research on the effects of secure child-caregiver attachment on social and emotional development, we examined how early parent-child interactions shape the mechanisms proposed in the AHA. Participants (N = 572) completed measures of perceived parental warmth, communication, and control. They then evaluated moral scenarios on harmfulness, disgust, victimhood, and immorality following AHA procedures. Results replicated the AHA's central finding that perceived harm strongly predicts immorality. Early parent-child interactions moderated this relationship: participants who reported more open maternal communication and control, as well as greater paternal warmth and control, judged scenarios as more immoral, but only when they did not perceive them as more harmful. These results expand upon the AHA account by providing novel insights into the roles of parent-child interactions on moral development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elizabeth Greczek

University of San Diego

Authors

Daniel Forster, Grace Trent

[74] Explicit but Not Implicit Bias: White Supremacist Beliefs Predict Discrimination Toward Muslim Men Across Anglo-Saxon Countries

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

White supremacist extremism continues to pose a significant threat to multicultural societies, with a rise in violence and discriminatory rhetoric targeting Muslim individuals across Western nations. White supremacists (WS) believe in the superiority of white people, particularly straight, cisgender Christian men. Yet, there is limited research on biases against Muslim individuals and how WS beliefs may amplify them. Across three pre-registered studies conducted in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, we examined whether WS beliefs moderated implicit evaluations and explicit hiring referrals toward perceived Arab/Middle Eastern and White men based on their religious affiliation. Results were consistent across the three countries: WS beliefs did not moderate implicit evaluations, but they did moderate explicit discrimination. Individuals high in WS endorsement were significantly more likely to discriminate against all Muslim men and to favor White Christians in hiring referrals. Overall, these results highlight the role of WS beliefs in amplifying explicit, but not implicit, biases against Muslim men and reinforcing positive ingroup biases toward White Christian men.

*POSTER

Speaker



Giuditta Scalco

Doctoral Student | University of Delaware

Authors

Pete Simi, Jasmin Cloutier, Jennifer T. Kubota

[75] Exploring caste-based microaggression in India through an intersectional lens

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The caste system, the social stratification in hierarchical order based on birth, has been entrenched in the Indian cultural milieu. It has been explicitly earlier, and is still, although subtly, a dominant state of mind directing perception, leading to biases, stereotypes, and discrimination in Indian society for the marginalized groups. The expression of this subtle, covered, involuntary form of discrimination is called microaggression. Based on the social identity theory, this study explores the caste-based microaggression and its association with other factors affecting social identity as gender, region, class, sexual orientation, and disability. A mixed-method study was designed, and 550 individuals (469 Females & 81 Males) aged 14 to 43 (Mage = 27.68) participated. Surveys and open-ended interviews were conducted. The findings revealed that caste-based microaggression, which is expressed in the form of verbal abuse and many times in non-verbal behaviour as untouchability, is still prevalent in the Indian society, which worsens for those when coupled by gender, class, region, and sexual orientation. Disability in itself showed a lot of prejudice and discrimination, but not particularly with caste-based microaggression.

*POSTER

Speaker



Shruti Narain

[76] Exploring Lived Experiences and Social Perceptions of Fatherlessness on Reddit

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Father absence is a growing dynamic in the United States, yet little is known about how fatherless individuals describe their lived experiences and how they are perceived by others in informal contexts. This study used a qualitative thematic coding analysis to analyze 72 Reddit posts across four threads centered on individual experiences being fatherless as well as the social perceptions of the fatherless. Seven themes emerged: emotional and psychological struggles, identity and masculinity concerns, relational difficulties, maternal influences, stigma, and resilience. Respondents reported issues with self-esteem, intimacy, and trust; men often tied these struggles to issues with their masculinity while women described their challenges as a general consequence of being fatherless. One thread revealed stigmatizing portrayals of fatherless women as unstable or promiscuous in romantic relational contexts, reflecting a gendered double standard in how fatherlessness is viewed and interpreted. Results highlight how stereotypes around fatherless individuals not only shape cultural perceptions, but also how they may be internalized, deepening challenges associated with father absence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sufia Islam

Student | City College of New York

Authors

Ann Marie Yali

[77] Exploring Translational Effectiveness of a Strategic Resource Use Intervention by Examining Heterogeneous Engagement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Psychological interventions have improved student performance in randomized trials, but to establish translational effectiveness, scientists need to distribute these interventions at scale and monitor students' actual use. By examining engagement heterogeneity, researchers can examine the psychological ingredients that support student achievement. Undergraduates (across 76 classrooms and 9 semesters) completed a strategic resource use intervention targeting self-regulation by prompting them to select study resources, explain each resource's purpose resource, and plan their use. Completing the purpose explanation was uniquely associated with increased exam scores. To understand the psychological process of students that benefited from the intervention, we examined their responses to the purpose explanation component using thematic analysis and subsequent word count dictionaries. Students' consideration of exam format, strategies targeting learning, and evaluating strengths/weaknesses were associated with increased exam scores, but social processes were not. Understanding heterogeneous engagement may help pinpoint the effective psychological ingredients in an intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathaniel Woznicki

Postdoctoral Associate | New York University

Authors

Patricia Chen, Luke Rutten, Yang-Hsin Fan, Holly Derry, Desmond O

[78] Extending the Stereotype Content Model to Romantic Dyads across Sexual Orientation

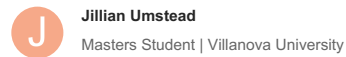
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Although the Stereotype Content Model (SCM) has been widely applied to social groups, the perception of dyads within this framework has yet to be explored. To address this gap, the current study (N = 119) compared perceptions of warmth and competence across sexual orientation for individuals (heterosexual men, heterosexual women, gay men, and lesbian women) and romantic dyads (heterosexual, gay, and lesbian couples). For individuals, results replicated prior work, with heterosexual men being rated as most competent and heterosexual women as most warm. For couples, heterosexual couples were perceived as the warmest and most competent, followed by gay couples, then lesbian couples. Comparisons of individuals and dyads revealed identity-specific effects: heterosexual couples were rated as warmer than heterosexual men and more competent than heterosexual women, gay couples as warmer than gay individuals, and lesbian couples as more competent than lesbian individuals. These findings suggest that relational cues such as coupledness can positively shift stereotype content, though in ways that differ by sexual orientation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jillian Umstead

Masters Student | Villanova University

Authors

Erica Slotter

[79] Extreme Gender Stereotypes in LLMs: Evidence from Semantic and Stylistic Signatures

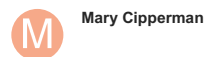
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STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

In over 1000 model queries, we prompted ChatGPT-4o to imitate teenage girls (GPT-Girl) and boys (GPT-Boy) expressing excitement. We extracted semantic and stylistic signatures to reveal stereotypical content and style best described as gender caricatures. GPT-Girl talked about Taylor Swift and puppies; GPT-Boy talked about Spiderman and pizza. GPT-Girl used over twenty times the number of emojis, twelve times the number of exclamation marks, and 1.5 times the interjections compared to GPT-Boy. GPT-Girl uniquely used expressions such as gosh/duh/hehe/soooo/ughhh/omg/bestie compared to GPT-Boy's more limited range of bruh/aw/yo/huh/nah. Additionally, GPT-Girl employed high-frequency nouns like "thing/outfit/concert" and adjectives like "cute/excited/fave" whereas GPT-Boy used "game/video/sport" and "new/crazy/big/instant." Replications with several prompt variations revealed similar stereotypes without abatement. These extreme results, generated by ChatGPT with such ease, raise concerns about gender stereotypes embedded in the LLM, coupled with a lack of accountability as it reinforces and reifies gender stereotypes in the minds of young users.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mary Cipperman

Authors

Mahzarin Banaji, Steve Lehr

[81] Feeling the Truth: Measuring Non-Natives' Affect Toward and Preference for Decolonized History in Textbooks

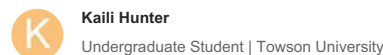
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STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Research shows that K-12 social studies texts are biased in their presentations of history, often favoring Whites and either omitting Native Americans or dehumanizing them. For non-Natives, these texts may be their main source of Native representation and play a powerful role in shaping their understandings of history. Decolonization involves rewriting historical narratives to accurately represent Native Peoples. This study examined how non-Native college students responded to colonized (erasing/dehumanizing) vs. decolonized U.S. history excerpts. Participants (N=227) read both types of excerpts (order randomized), rated their affect (arousal, pleasure), indicated which excerpt they preferred, and stated which should serve as a model for history texts. The decolonized (vs. colonized) excerpts elicited higher arousal and lower pleasure, indicating discomfort. Yet, participants overall preferred the decolonized excerpt and were more likely to endorse it as a model. These findings show that despite initial unease, the inclusion of decolonized narratives in history may encourage critical reflection, helping to reshape harmful narratives about Natives in history curricula.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaili Hunter

Undergraduate Student | Towson University

Authors

Stephanie Fryberg, Kristina Chamberlin, Alana Smutz, Jamie Yellowtail, Kelly House

[82] Fetishized and Blamed: Attitudes Toward Asian American Women as Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The present study sought to investigate whether there are differences in the perceptions of Asian American women as victims/survivors of sexual assault compared to White American women, as well as which factors may influence any differential attitudes. This study utilized an online survey format to present participants with a sexual assault vignette that featured either an Asian American woman or a White American woman as the victim. Participants (N = 256) were asked to assign blame to the victim and the perpetrator. In addition, participants responded to measures of their endorsement of rape myths and stereotypes about Asian Americans. It was found that participants who were neither White nor Asian blamed the Asian American victim significantly more than the White American victim, although no differences in perpetrator blaming were found. Among Asian and White participants, this research did not find significant differential blaming based on victim race. This study demonstrated a tendency to blame Asian American women more than White American women for their sexual assaults, though this effect was not established for all participant groups. This finding has large implications for the healthcare, wellbeing, and legal treatment of Asian American women as survivors of sexual assault.

*POSTER

Speaker



Janey Matejka
Scripps College

Authors

Jennifer Ma, Heejung Park

[83] Filtering Negative Affective Content from Social Media Increases Well-being

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

The influence of social media on well-being remains unclear. While High Arousal Negative (HAN) content (e.g., anger) is linked to lower well-being, causal evidence remains limited. In two pre-registered studies, we examined this using a plug-in that identified and removed HAN content from users' social media feeds in real time. Study 1 (N=217) recruited users over 4 months; in Study 2 (N=92), recruitment occurred during the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election. In both studies, users were randomly assigned to one of three conditions and provided daily well-being reports for four weeks. In the two treatment conditions, we reduced HAN exposure in week 2 or 3 using the filter; feeds remained unchanged in the control condition. Reducing HAN exposure significantly improved life satisfaction in both studies. In Study 2, during the election, it also reduced anxiety and depression. Reductions in HAN exposure mediated these effects and not explained by changes in platform use (e.g., time spent). Importantly, filtering did not reduce political engagement or news knowledge. These findings suggest that user-side interventions targeting affective content can meaningfully support well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jonas Schöne
Post Doc | Stanford University

Authors

Christy Wang, Tiziano Piccardi, Brian Knutson, Jonas Paul Schoene, Jeanne Ts

[84] Finding Focus in an Era of Constant Distraction

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Chronic distraction is a pervasive challenge across all domains of life. It interferes with learning, social relationships, performance, and time management. Therefore, it is useful to find ways to help people learn the self-regulatory skill of focusing on one thing at a time. Drawing on 11 evidence-based design principles, we developed a no-cost, publicly available tool to help people train their attention during routine activities that require concentration. Two naturalistic studies, including a pre-registered direct replication, evaluated this tool with adolescents across multiple public schools. While using the tool, students' focus improved within individual sessions and cumulatively across multiple sessions. Sensitivity analyses confirmed that these improvements emerged early in students' use of the tool and continued to develop over time. Among students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, the across-session improvement remained statistically significant while the within-session effect did not. Students also reported improved overall focus during class and independent assignments, with those who completed more sessions having the greatest gains in focus during independent work. These findings support a scalable approach to training attention and underscores the broader value of theory-driven design principles when building self-regulatory interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alissa Mrazek
Research Assistant Professor | UT Austin

Authors

Alissa Mrazek, Dustyn Ransom, Michael Mrazek

[85] Fostering Student Growth: How Teachers' Mindset Beliefs Shape Classroom Opportunities

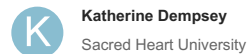
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MOTIVATION/GOALS

A growth mindset is the belief that qualities like intelligence can be developed through effort, exploring new strategies, and help-seeking. At the student-level, this mindset is linked to greater engagement and overcoming academic setbacks. Increasingly, however, research shows that growth mindset beliefs are most impactful when shared at the classroom-level too: when students take part in “cultures of growth” that emphasize mastery, provide learning support, and offer many opportunities to practice. Students see teachers as central to shaping these cultures, yet little is known about how teachers’ own mindset beliefs do—and do not—translate into growth-supportive behaviors. We surveyed 87 teachers across grade levels about their mindset beliefs and classroom practices. Teacher growth mindset was moderately related to some growth-supportive behaviors (e.g., allowing resubmissions, reframing mistakes as productive), but not to others (e.g., offering low-stakes formative assessments). We discuss these mixed findings—for example, some growth practices may not be seen by teachers as expressions of mindset, while others may be constrained by limited agency over teaching decisions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Jenna Costa, Juliana Cotza, Dr. Jonix Owino, Dr. Kathryn Kroeper

[86] Fostering Virtues through Discussions of Moral Dilemmas

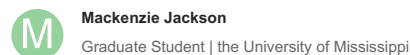
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Engaging with others who hold different beliefs is a particular need in our complex world. We studied the effectiveness of a co-curricular event where participants discuss challenging moral dilemmas to increase virtues such as intellectual humility, civility, and integrity. The study (N=128) compared event participants and a group of students who engaged with the dilemmas individually online, in a quasi-experimental design. Results revealed that event participants reported significantly greater perceptions of learning and higher quality social feedback from fellow students than online participants (who imagined peer discussions). Though we did not see direct effects on our key virtue outcomes, we suspected these cognitive and social perceptions might serve as pathways to virtue development. Through the cognitive pathway, event participants reported greater perceptions of learning than online participants, which was associated with greater perspective-taking, authenticity, and specific interest in further topic discussion. Through the social pathway, higher quality social feedback was associated with greater authenticity and general interest in future civil dialogue. d

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Madelyn Church, Grace Rivera, Deborah Mower, Nathan Oakes, Rachael Cavallaro

[87] From Career Choice Motivation to Work-Related Outcomes via value congruence and Identity Fusion: A One-Year Longitudinal Study of Korean Police Officers

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This study examined the longitudinal relationship between motivation for choosing a police career and subsequent work engagement and emotional exhaustion, focusing on the sequential mediating roles of value congruence and identity fusion. Participants were 194 new police officers in South Korea who completed online surveys at two time points. At Time 1 (one month after academy enrollment), participants reported their career choice motivations, perceived person–organization value congruence, work engagement, and emotional exhaustion. At Time 2 (one year later, six months after departmental assignment), they reported their levels of identity fusion with the police, work engagement, and emotional exhaustion. Results showed that higher intrinsic career choice motivation predicted greater perceived value congruence during early training, which in turn fostered stronger identity fusion one year later. This pathway ultimately led to higher work engagement and lower emotional exhaustion. These findings offer practical insights for recruitment and initial career development in policing.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Sun W. Park, Hyeon Choi, Seonghwan Cho

[88] From High School to Creative Careers: The Role of Gender

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

The explanation of the gender gap in creative occupations is largely centered on the notion that men and women differ in the personality dispositions that lead to creative success. This notion hinges on the assumption that the predictors operate similarly across genders, despite the limited empirical evidence for this assumption. We addressed this omission by testing whether gender moderates the relationships between conceptually relevant predictors of creative achievement (i.e., personality traits, occupational interests, and abilities) and occupational creativity, directly testing the equal-prediction assumption. Using a nationally representative cohort of U.S. high-school students followed for 50 years (1960 to 2010), we tested preregistered Personality $\times$ Gender interactions via hierarchical regressions with robust covariate adjustments. Across 47 interactions, most moderator effects were small and unstable. Overall, we found robust evidence that the personality predictors of occupational creativity are similar for men and women.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rodrigo Fabretti

Graduate Student | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Brent Roberts, Marion Spengler, Rodica Damian

[89] From Principles to Signals: Why Public Virtue Gets Undermined

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Virtue discounting—the tendency to derogate public acts of virtue—has mostly been studied in generosity and fairness, leaving open its generalizability across virtues. We conducted a preregistered, highly powered study ($N = 800$) testing 40 behaviors across 20 virtues. Participants read vignettes of private or public behaviors and rated them on moral goodness, virtue, principled motivation, reputation signaling, and norm signaling. Public behaviors were perceived as more reputation-driven ($d = 0.29$) and more norm-motivated ($d = 0.40$). Private behaviors were seen as slightly more principled ($d = -0.03$). This pattern held for fairness, generosity, honesty, integrity, love, and perseverance, but no condition differences emerged for perceived morality or virtue of the act. Correlations showed that principled and norm-setting—but not reputation—motives predicted greater perceived virtue and morality. Thus, while public virtue invites reputational attributions, it also elicits norm-focused attributions, with these and principled attributions being stronger predictors of virtue/moral goodness, suggesting concerns about virtue discounting may be less severe than previously thought.

*POSTER

Speaker



Seoyeon Bae

Ph.D. Student | Boston College

Authors

Marcus Trenfield, Liane Young, Stylianos Syropoulos, Kyle Law, Seoyeon Bae

[90] From the Cradle to the Crown: A Developmental Perspective on Leadership

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Leadership is an essential element of all human groups. Although much work has examined the consequences of different leadership styles, we know relatively little about the factors that influence people's leadership styles. The current work uses an attachment perspective to develop predictions about developmental underpinnings of leadership. Three studies reveal that attachment insecurity (i.e., anxiety and avoidance) is associated with dominance, a social influence strategy founded on force and intimidation, whereas attachment security is associated with prestige, a social influence strategy founded on wisdom and voluntary deference. Study 1 demonstrated correlations between individual differences in attachment style, dominance, and prestige. Study 2, an experiment, revealed that participants who engaged emotionally with an attachment security (versus control) prime displayed a penchant for prestige. Study 3 replicated findings from Study 1 while also showing that certain aspects of prestigious leadership may be associated with high levels of attachment anxiety. Discussion centers on the contributions of the present work to the literatures on both attachment and group behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Harrison Miller

Florida State University

Authors

Jon Maner

[91] Gender bias in the perception of women with alcohol use disorder

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

People with substance use disorders (SUDs) are described as dangerous, immoral, and of weak character (Fetterhoff 2023). People also see SUDs as a disorder as a mans disorder (Sileo et al., 2020). Research shows that women are seen as more nurturing (Nesdoly et al. 2020). This may result in women with SUDs, especially mothers, to be evaluated more negatively than their men counterparts. Fathers' parenting behaviors are more often goal-oriented, where mothers are expected to provide more emotional support. Our study aims to see if gender differences affect society's prejudice against mothers who use large amounts of alcohol. Participants read a scenario involving men or women parents who used excessive alcohol or not. We then measure attitudes toward the target in the scenario, and repeat the process several times seeing varying conditions. We find strong main effects that people who use excessive alcohol are rated much more negatively compared to control. We also find that, among women who drink excessively, single moms were rated significantly worse than married moms or women without kids. Among men who drink excessively, evaluations were most negative among married fathers relative to single dads and men without kids.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jason Miller

Authors

Caydence McElligott, Chloe Wilson

[92] Gender Differences in Perceived and Actual Moral Behavior

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Who is more ethical, men or women? Prior research suggests both men and women tend to think women are morally superior. But are these beliefs accurate? Across five studies (N = 1910), we test whether people's beliefs about the ethicality of others aligns with true rates. In Study 1, we find that people generally overestimate the unethicality of others' self-reported behavior, but this effect is attenuated when judgments are about women. In Study 2, we replicate this pattern using judgments about hypothetical situations. In Study 3 and 4, we turn to estimating rates of prosociality: We find that people overestimate how often someone would return a wallet—an effect which is greater when estimating the rate for women (Study 3). In Study 4, participants estimated the generosity of others in a dictator game. We found that participants overestimated the generosity of women, but underestimated the generosity of men. In Study 5, we plan to use a dictator game to test if similar patterns emerge when estimating rates of cheating. Overall, people consistently overestimate the ethicality of women, revealing that people are largely inaccurate in predicting gender differences in moral behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tori LeVier

Lab Manager | Cornell University

Authors

Jordan Wylie, Krithiga Sankaran, Paul Bloom, Ana Gantman, Tori Levier, David Tannebaum

[93] Generating Redemption Narratives Buffers the Acute Affective Consequences of Reliving Past but not Ongoing Racism

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Racism threatens the psychological well-being of communities of color. Past work suggests that redemption narratives (RN), a form of positive reappraisal wherein people seek ways they have grown from past adversity, can reduce the negative emotional consequences of re-living experiences of discrimination. The present work examined whether RNs shape responses to ongoing discrimination. Black participants (N = 569) relived an experience of racism and were then assigned to generate a RN or to a control condition. Global positive affect was assessed prior to (T1) and just after (T2) the reliving task and after engaging in the RN or control task (T3). Participants then read an article about federal attacks on DEI/Black history and their global positive affect and coping intentions were assessed (T4). Replicating past work, T1 & T2 affect did not differ by condition, but the T3 positive affect of RN participants was significantly greater than that of control participants. There were not, however, condition differences in either participants' T4 positive affect or coping intentions, suggesting that RNs do not blunt the pain associated with new experiences of racism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Justice Brown

Lab Manager/Research Coordinator | Yale University

Authors

Jennifer Richeson, Ajua Duker, Crystal Shackelford

[94] Generative Artificial Intelligence Dependency: Scale Development, Validation, and its Motivational, Behavioral, and Psychological Correlates

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

As generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into daily life, concerns have emerged about AI dependency and its potential consequences. This research develops and validates the Generative AI Dependency Scale, a multidimensional tool to assess individual differences. Across six studies with 1,333 participants from the United States and Singapore, the scale demonstrated strong psychometric properties, including a stable three-factor structure (cognitive preoccupation, negative consequences, withdrawal) and good test-retest reliability (ICC = .87). Confirmatory factor analysis supported a higher-order construct, and scalar invariance was established across sex and cultures. Convergent and discriminant validity were shown with an AI addiction scale and the Big Five personality traits respectively. Dependency was significantly associated with motivational (lower basic psychological need satisfaction, greater fear of missing out), behavioral (increased procrastination and cognitive failures, lower task performance, critical thinking), and psychological (reduced self-concept clarity, greater loneliness) outcomes. The findings suggest that dependency reflects a misalignment between psychological needs and the strategies employed to meet them. The scale offers a robust basis for future research, and responsible AI design and use.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adalia Goh

Singapore Management University

Authors

Nadyanna Majeed, Andree Hartanto

[95] Goal Disruption Theory: Qualitative Analysis of Daily Life Expectation Violations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

According to goal disruption theory (GDT), when people's expectations about goal pursuit are violated, they experience psychological disequilibrium, a motivational state that drives systemic changes in cognition and behavior to help people regain psychological equilibrium. Despite several laboratory studies providing evidence for these effects, there has been little work examining goal disruption in daily life. We recruited a large Prolific sample (N = 438) for a weeklong daily diary study that longitudinally and qualitatively assessed people's goals, hindrances to goal pursuit, and their experiences of goal expectation violations. We addressed 3 research questions: 1. Do people's goals map onto categories found in prior GDT research? 2. What are the prominent categories of people's goal expectation violations? and 3. How do people respond when they are prevented from working toward their goals? Three independent raters coded the qualitative data. Most goals mapped onto GDT-derived categories (RQ1), goal expectation violations were the most common impediments (RQ2), and people took action in response (RQ3). These qualitative findings help establish the ecological validity of GDT.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jillian Valdez

Senior Admissions Operations Coordinator | Dominican University of California

Authors

Madelyn Ayers, Sarah Gilchrist, Christopher Kenney, Kaylee Norris, Benjamin Rosenberg

[96] Happiness is what happiness does: Inferring happiness levels from situational judgment

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Social cognitive theories contend that lives are built on particular responses to particular situations in much the same way that a wall can be built using individual bricks. Theories of this type can be fleshed out through the use of the situational judgment test method, which asks test-takers how they would respond to concretely described life situations. A general-purpose test of this type was created, following which each participant's vector of situation/response units was correlated with a prototype of the happy person. In two studies (total N = 356), participants received behavioral tendencies of happiness (BT-H) scores on the basis of their responses. As hypothesized, higher-scoring participants experienced higher levels of well-being, partially because they were more successful in satisfying basic psychological needs. A second study linked BT-H scores to key processes involved in self-regulation and to daily behaviors and experiences that have been emphasized in recent theories of well-being. The research demonstrates the value of understanding broad constructs, such as happiness, on the basis of more particular person-situation-behavior units.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hamidreza Fereidouni

North Dakota State University

Authors

Muhammad Asad, Michael Robinson, Irvin Roberta, Lauren Rahier

[97] Health-Related Stigma Consciousness as a Predictor of Health Information Avoidance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Despite the potential benefits of personalized health risk information, some people choose to avoid information about their health. Health-related stigma consciousness, or the extent to which someone perceives discrimination against those who are unhealthy, may motivate people to avoid learning negative information about their health, especially if they perceive their health status as out of their control. Thus, we aimed to understand how stigma consciousness and locus of control relate to avoidance of health information. Participants were undergraduate students ($n = 378$) who completed measures of health-related stigma consciousness, health-related locus of control, and health-information avoidance. Regression analyses indicated that those who were higher in health-related stigma consciousness were more likely to avoid information about their health, even when their internal locus of control is higher than average. These results represent a first step in identifying health-related stigma consciousness as a possible reason for health information avoidance and suggest the need for future research examining whether and how stigma consciousness might cause health information avoidance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlie Coward

Graduate Student | University of California, Merced

Authors

Jennifer Howell, Camryn Hutchins, Sameeksha Panda

[98] Healthy Leaders Change the Game

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Healthy Leaders Change the Game challenges common conventions on leadership, leveraging both audience participation and authentic stories to strategically make the case for a new paradigm for modern business leadership, one that is focused not on results, but on enabling people.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christopher Smith

Authors

Christopher Smith

[99] Heterosexual and bisexual adults' moral and punishment evaluations of identity denial targeting bisexual individuals

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

People with intermediary identities (e.g., outside of binary categories), such as bisexual individuals, often face miscategorization. Prior work suggests that people tend to perceive that common behaviors are morally good (Goldring & Heiphetz, 2020); thus, they may not view common forms of biphobia (e.g., identity denial) as immoral. Yet people are also motivated to perceive the world accurately (Higgins, 2019); therefore, participants may view miscategorization as wrong because it entails inaccurate perceptions of others. Two studies investigating evaluations of miscategorizations showed that straight and bisexual participants responded most favorably to not miscategorizing bisexual targets and least favorably to miscategorizing bisexual targets as straight, with gay/lesbian miscategorizations falling between these two extremes. Bisexual participants also reported harsher responses overall than did straight participants. In line with truth motivation, participants viewed identity miscategorization unfavorably; however, direct experience with this type of miscategorization may have amplified this response. These findings advance research in both social identity and moral cognition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sophie Charles

PhD Student | Columbia University

Authors

Larisa Solomon

[100] Historical Indigenous Knowledge links to Perceptions of Racism and Advocacy for Indigenous People

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Historical erasure is connected to systemic oppression, as research shows that limited historical knowledge of past racism contributes to lower perceptions of racism in current events. This finding has been less studied in Indigenous populations. In study 1 ($N=158$), we demonstrated significantly higher Indigenous historical knowledge in participants that identified as Native American (vs. White) and that more historical knowledge related to lower perceptions of invisibility, higher perceptions of isolated/systemic racism, and more advocacy intentions. Results also indicated those with higher Indigenous historical knowledge attributed more systemic and less individual causes to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Girls and Two-Spirit crisis (i.e., MMIWG2S, high rates of violence toward Native women and two-spirit individuals, with some rates more than 10 times the national average). Study 2 examines whether providing White participants ($N=300$) with information on Indigenous history can increase detection of present-day racism, leading to endorsement of more systemic and less individual MMIWG2S causes, more advocacy support, and greater recognition of systemic racism.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stephanie Miller

Authors

Joseph Wellman, Annastacia Espinoza, Anna Fetter, Stephanie Miller

[101] How & why?: Third-person perceptions of people with terminal illnesses' suicides as a function of suicide method & motive

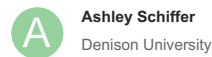
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

We assessed third-person perceptions of people with terminal illnesses' suicides as a function of situational factors related to the suicide. Vignettes were used in between-groups designs to manipulate a target's suicide method (Study 1) and primary motive (Study 2). Both studies also measured perceivers' individual differences. Medical methods (e.g., physician-assisted death) tended to be perceived more favorably than traditional methods (e.g., hanging; Study 1), but minimal differences emerged across motives (e.g., mental health concerns, wanting control over death; Study 2). Masculine Honor Beliefs positively related to stigmatizing attitudes. Free Will Beliefs' effects were often moderated by conditional manipulations. Fear of Death yielded contradictory effects. Suicide Acceptability was consistently positively associated with favorable attitudes. Overall, this research has important implications for understanding the extent to which individual differences and nuanced situational factors contribute to stigma directed toward end-of-life decisions.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Authors

Donald Saucier

[102] How AI-Based Personalized Messaging and Learning Processes Promote Virtuous Behavior

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Virtue ethics and consumer behavior literature suggest that consumers can escape competitive consumption patterns by cultivating virtues, particularly temperance, which in turn promotes temperance-related behaviors. By leveraging AI technologies—such as personalized recommendations, aggregated data, and future impact predictions—this paper proposes potential applications of AI to provide: 1) enhanced future self-continuity, and 2) aggregated climate impact feedback. These applications aim to increase (1) consideration of the future (counteracting present-focused inertia) and (2) collective perspective (counteracting individualistic inertia), thereby encouraging temperance behavior.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Authors

Kihyon Kim

[103] How and why moral judgment influences aesthetic experience

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Open questions remain regarding the role of moral considerations in aesthetic judgments of artists and their products. Here, we systematically investigated the robustness, boundaries, specificity, and moderators of the moralization of aesthetics. Data from five preregistered studies (N = 4,845) show that moral information about creative professionals impact the aesthetic experience of their work. In Study 1, moral evaluations of artists accused of wrongdoing predicted ratings of the enjoyment of their music, evincing a moralization of aesthetics. Study 2 showed the generalization of this effect across different categories of creatives and moral violations. Study 3 demonstrated the specificity of this effect to cases of moral, compared to social, violations. Study 4 showed that the effect was asymmetrical: more pronounced for negative than positive moral behavior. Finally, in Study 5, we show moderation by individual differences in people's valuation of aesthetics. We contextualize this research within the debate between moral primacy and values pluralism as well as the broader literature on moralization.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Authors

Laura Niemi, John Doris

[104] How Cultural Contexts Shape Views on Aging in Emerging Adults in Hawai'i

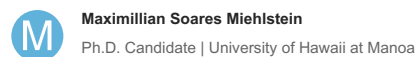
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Aging is a universal process, yet self-perceptions of aging are shaped by cultural contexts. The present study (n = 150) aimed to examine how collectivist and individualist mindsets influence self-perceptions of aging among emerging adults (ages 18–25) in Hawai'i. The quantitative survey assessed cultural mindset and aging perceptions and compared local Hawaii students to those from the continental U.S. and international students. Local students, influenced by collectivist values prevalent in Native Hawaiian and Asian cultures, reported more positive aging perceptions. Mainland students, who held more individualistic mindsets, showed more negative aging perceptions. As opposed to previous mixed findings between collectivism and self-perceptions of aging, the present study's findings illuminate how cultural mindsets are developed within specific geographic contexts, which then shape aging perceptions during emerging adulthood. Results can inform culturally tailored interventions to promote healthy aging attitudes. The findings contribute to the growing literature by integrating cross-cultural and place-based perspectives in a unique multicultural environment.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Authors

Maximillian Soares Miehstein, Ashley Maynard

[105] How Cultural Tightness Alters Gender Norms' Impact on Societal Development?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Societies differ in cultural norms and gender roles, shaping stability and development. Yet research rarely tests their joint impact on happiness and prosperity, leaving macro-level effects understudied. This study investigates how gender norms (GN) and cultural tightness-looseness (CTL) interact to predict societal well-being (SWB) and economic outcomes worldwide. Using World Values Survey Wave 7 data, we constructed country-level GN, CTL, and SWB indices. Preliminary OLS models controlling for sex and income indicate that tightness predicts higher SWB while gender norms predict lower SWB; however, CTL can either amplify or buffer GN effects depending on context. We next incorporate female labor participation as a mediator and link the model to five-year average GDP, with planned multilevel and mediation analyses evaluating labor participation as a pathway to SWB and GDP. The cross-sectional design supports replication but limits causal inference and may mask within-country heterogeneity. Nevertheless, these findings advance cross-cultural theory by highlighting conditions where gender equality promotes well-being and growth, guiding policies on equity and sustainable development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fanxi Wang

Program Manager | The Research Foundation of the City University of New York

[106] How do Companies Discuss the Grand Challenges of Diversity, Environment, Economy, and Governance?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Corporations hold power: controlling resources, employing millions, and shaping public discourse. As calls grow to look beyond profit, it is critical to examine how they discuss Grand Challenges (GCs) of diversity, environment, economy, and governance. Here, we present a methodological framework and empirical findings into 162 international companies' GC communications on social media (Twitter/X) over 14 years (2011-2024). First, we developed and validated a fine-tuned predictive classifier to detect GC content at scale, analyzing ~1.8 million posts and finding that 14.6% reference GCs, with most (70.3%) focused on social/environmental issues. Utilizing transformer-based (BERT) sentiment analysis, we found companies employed more positive sentiment in GC communications than in other posts, with such positive sentiment rising over time, while neutral/negative tones declined. Notably, topic models revealed this positivity often marked celebratory events (e.g., Earth Day), rather than confronting GCs directly. Overall, results underscore how corporate social media both informs and manages impressions, signaling values that shape collective views and actions on societal issues.

*POSTER

Speaker



Roberto Borsetti

Northwestern University

Authors

Tessa Charlesworth, Maryam Kouchaki, Mohsen Mosleh, Celena Sae Hee Kim

[107] How Do Religious Group Identity and Belief Alignment Shape Social and Moral Judgments?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral psychology often investigates transgressions at the interpersonal level, but in everyday life, wrongdoing often occurs in group contexts. Because people often link religion and morality, religion provides an especially useful lens through which to examine how alignment with religious groups shapes moral judgment. We will probe participants' moral judgment about religious and secular transgressors whose beliefs align or misalign with their group. We predict participants will judge belief-misaligned transgressors more harshly than those who are aligned, in line with prior work showing that group misalignment increases negative social judgment (Pinto et al., 2010). We also predict participants will judge targets in the religious group harsher than those in the secular group, because religion elicits expectations of increased moral behavior (Bloom, 2012). This research will illustrate how group alignment informs how people judge transgressors and how religious identity influences this dynamic. We are awaiting IRB approval and will collect data as soon as approved; in past work we have tested hundreds of participants in a week or less using platforms such as Prolific.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jack Halverson

Psychology Post-Baccalaureate Student | Columbia University

Authors

Larisa Solomon

[108] How does academic performance ranking affect students' psychological well-being? A scenario study in Chinese 6th grade classrooms.

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Class and grade level-wide ranking of students' academic performance is common practice throughout China. However, little is known about the effects of such ranking systems on students' psychological well-being.

We use a scenario study to investigate the causal effects of academic performance ranking on students' sense of belonging, self-efficacy, growth mindset, and academic motivation at a Chinese public school.

Sixth grade students (N = 324) at a Chinese public school are randomly assigned to read and respond to control condition with no ranking, low/high ranking, and low/high ranking + explanation. Our primary hypothesis is that both low and high academic ranking, compared to no ranking (control), induces stress and encourages a fixed mindset about self and intelligence, especially for low-ranking students. Moreover, we test whether a statement describing the purpose and reasoning for the ranking (low/high ranking + explanation) mitigates the negative impacts of ranking on students' sense of belonging, self-efficacy, and academic motivation.

Potential implications on Chinese education policy, educator training, student mental health and flourishing are further discussed.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Sophia Wang
Stanford University

[109] How Emerging Adults' Perceptions of Parental Social Dominance Orientation Relate to their Academic Self-Efficacy

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Theoretically, parents' ideological beliefs, including views on social hierarchies, may shape college students' academic confidence. To examine this relationship, this study collected data from college students (N = 211; 61% female; 50% White) and asked: (1) To what extent do students' perceptions of their parents' Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) relate to their academic self-efficacy, and does perceived parental expectation mediate this link? (2) To what extent do students' own SDO or perceived parental SDO relate to their interest in hierarchy-attenuating and hierarchy-enhancing occupations? A mediation analysis (5,000 bootstraps) showed that perceiving their parents as endorsing hierarchical beliefs predicted lower academic self-efficacy ($B = -0.179$, $p = .002$), though perceived parental expectations did not mediate this effect ($B = 0.014$, $p = .556$). A correlation analysis indicated no link between self- or parental SDO and occupational aspirations. These findings suggest implicit hierarchical beliefs shape academic motivation in emerging adulthood and highlight the need for research on sociopolitical influences in students' academic experiences.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Xiaochu Zhu
Undergraduate Research Assistant | Conceptual Development Lab

Authors

Susan Gelman, Lester Mejia Gomez

[110] Human-AI Relationships and the Perception of AI Moral Patency

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Advancements in AI technology have resulted in a growing number of people turning to AI for emotional support and companionship. Although people generally do not perceive AI as moral patients (i.e., deserving moral concern), little work has examined how these emerging relational contexts might impact such ethical judgments. The present work examines how a human's relationship with an AI may influence perceptions of moral patency. Participants will read a vignette in which an individual insults an AI either described as a generic chatbot, or another person's AI companion. Participants will then judge the wrongness of this action either 1) because the AI has moral worth in itself, or 2) solely because of the negative effects on the human who may care for the AI. This distinction elucidates whether relationships increase perceptions of patency because of AI's intrinsic moral value, or simply its extrinsic value based on possible harm to the human companion. Results would help us better understand how we perceive AI as moral entities, providing useful insight as society grapples with how to most ethically integrate this new frontier of human-AI relationship into the social landscape.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Joshua Wenger
PhD Student | Penn State

Authors

C. Daryl Cameron, Ali Ladak, Afroditi Tsourgianni, Zuzanna Farny

[111] Ideological Profiles of Privilege Management

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

A recent theoretical model (Shuman et al., 2024) proposes that White Americans manage their privileged racial identity through four strategies: Deny, Defend, Distance and Dismantle. Across three studies, we investigated how preferences for these strategies are informed by dispositional and situational factors. In Study 1 (N = 248), SDO, system justification, meritocracy beliefs, ingroup identification, and racial threat were associated with privilege-preserving strategies, whereas favorable outgroup attitudes and self-efficacy were associated with dismantling. In Study 2a (N = 706), latent profile analysis of these variables identified five unique ideological subgroups of White Americans with distinct strategy preferences. Study 2b (N = 523) followed participants three months later, experimentally manipulating exposure to ingroup privilege. Strategy preferences remained stable across time and condition, supporting their dispositional basis and complicating their theorized function as flexible coping responses to situational threat.

*POSTER

Speaker



Monica Weedman

Doctoral Candidate | Baylor University

Authors

Jo-Ann Tsang

[112] If The Roles Were Reversed, Would I Still Be The A**Hole?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

People frequently withhold empathy from those perceived as undeserving such as criminals, cheaters, or other moral transgressors. Prior research indicates that perspective-taking can increase empathic responses, though its efficacy with such moral transgressors remain unexamined (Batson et al., 1997). In this study participants will be asked to engage in perspective taking (or remain objective) while reading one of three AITA-style Reddit posts describing a man who abandons his family, later seeks reconciliation, and is rejected. The man's degree of remorse, intentions, and motivations vary across conditions, influencing perceptions of deservingness. Following the assigned AITA-style post, participants will complete Batson's Adjectives Task to assess situational empathy towards the man. A 2 (perspective-taking vs. objective) x 3 (undeserving, neutral, deserving) ANOVA will test main effects and interactions, with post hoc comparisons as appropriate. We hope findings will clarify whether perspective-taking extends empathy to morally transgressive targets and explain the role of perceived deservingness in shaping empathic responses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Caden Vercimak

Student | University of Wisconsin Green Bay

[113] Impact Evaluation of the “Geleceğe Adımlar” Social-Emotional Learning (GASEL) Intervention: A Pilot Study

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Early adolescence is a critical period for developing social and emotional skills especially during the transition to middle school. Social and Emotional

Learning (SEL) programs are designed to support positive development during this critical period. This study assesses the effectiveness of a five-day SEL intervention implemented in Istanbul, Turkey. A randomized controlled trial with 540 students from

economically disadvantaged areas tested the program's impact on competencies such as empathy, emotion regulation, and stress coping. Students in the intervention group showed significant short-term gains in social-emotional skills, empathy, emotion regulation, problem-solving, and social support seeking. At the 10-week follow-up, only gains in overall social-emotional skills were sustained, suggesting that ongoing SEL education is needed. These findings highlight the potential of culturally grounded, school-based SEL programs to strengthen essential competencies among middle school students in a non-Western setting.

*POSTER

Speaker



Irem Tuncer

Teachers College, Columbia University

Authors

Onur Akin, Ece Aksu, Mahinur Tanyeri, Aysu Ecem Sesli

[114] Implicit and explicit attribution of gender stereotypes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Gender shapes social relations, which aligns with the human tendency to categorize others' faces into sex/gender groups spontaneously. However, the socio-evaluative effects of such categorization remain unclear. For example, face perception is thought to activate gender stereotypes implicitly, but the consistency of such activation with explicit evaluations has been questioned. This study introduces a new trait-association task to investigate the links between implicit and explicit processes in gender perception. On each trial, this online computerized task shows participants a face stimulus (male or female) and a stereotypically gendered personality trait (e.g., empathic). Participants attribute the trait to the face from 1 to 7 with a speeded response. Average differences in stereotype attributions (ANOVA) and stimulus discrimination (GLMM) show differences in explicit (1-7 trait attribution) and implicit (response speed) processes aligning with dual models of face perception. By investigating implicit and explicit processes simultaneously, this study promises to clarify contradictions between explicit gender stereotyping, shifting towards neutrality, and societal discrimination.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laeticia Fatima Gibbs

Ph.D Student | Université du Québec à Montréal

Authors

Francesca Capozzi, Juliette Blain

[115] Improving Rural Workers' Mindsets about Conflict Management and Interpersonal Skills

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

In rural workplaces in the U.S., where resources for formal training are often more limited and social ties are especially interdependent, growth mindset or beliefs about the malleability of interpersonal and conflict management-related skills may be critical for worker and organizational wellness. Across two studies, we experimentally tested the effect of a one-time training on rural workers' growth mindset in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (Study 1; N = 991), and are now conducting a survey to examine the extent to which this mindset relates to key work outcomes (Study 2; goal N = 300). As Study 1 results showed, those in the training condition (but not the control condition) reported a stronger growth mindset in the follow-up compared to their baseline. Study 2 (current n = 207) will examine correlates of growth mindset among rural employees (e.g., conflict self-efficacy, stress, job satisfaction, turnover intentions). While Study 1 found that the training improved the growth mindset for rural workers, Study 2 will identify associated worker experiences to illustrate potential training outcomes and practical implications.

*POSTER

Speaker



Franki Kung

Associate Professor | Purdue University

Authors

Kira K. Means

[116] Income Moderates Political Orientation's Effect on Fairness of Distributive Justice

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Political orientation is closely tied to attitudes toward social policy. Liberals often support wealth redistribution, whereas conservatives tend to oppose it. Despite political differences, supporters across the political spectrum vary in socioeconomic status, and income may influence perceptions of distributive justice. The current study examined how income interacts with political beliefs to shape fairness judgments. College students (N= 217; 67% female; 54% liberal-leaning, 23% centrist, 23% conservative-leaning) completed a novel distribution task in which they rated the fairness of equal, proportionate, and need-based financial allocations to families of low, middle, and high income levels. We observed that students with more conservative beliefs from higher-income families perceived giving money to the most disadvantaged families as less fair than did their lower-income conservative peers. These findings suggest that income moderates the association between political ideology and fairness judgments, highlighting the role of socioeconomic background in shaping political beliefs.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ashley Zhang

Post-Baccalaureate Research Fellow | Northwestern University

Authors

Matthew Kersting, Kalina Michalska

[117] Increasing Bias Confrontation Receptivity with the Habit of Mind Model

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

We examined whether embedding a racial bias confrontation within the prejudice habit of mind framework would lead to more confrontation receptivity and less dismissal. The prejudice habit of mind approach conceptualizes bias as an unintentional habit due to socialization that makes bias extremely common and pervasive (Devine et al., 2012). We utilized a between-subjects design (N = 354) where all participants went through a social memory task that assessed anti-Black bias. Once participants finished the memory task, they were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: receiving no result information, receiving a standard confrontation with results indicating that they showed anti-Black bias on the task, or receiving results indicating they showed anti-Black bias embedded in the logic of the habit of mind framework. Aligned with our predictions, we found that participants who received the habit of mind confrontation were more receptive to the feedback, thought the results of the memory task were more consequential, and were more likely to express acceptance in their open-ended responses than participants in the standard confrontation condition. Implications for how to engage in the most effective confrontations are considered.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eamon Bowen

Student | Reed College

Authors

Emily Dix, Megan Bruun, Patricia Devine

[118] Increasing intergroup contact effects: the effectiveness and underlying mechanisms of self-affirmation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Since the development of intergroup contact theory, research has shown that contact between social groups can reduce prejudice, a key contributor to social exclusion and unequal treatment. However, counter-stereotypical contact—such as positive contact with stigmatized groups or negative contact with admired groups—often has weaker effects than stereotype-consistent contact. The present research tested whether self-affirmation enhances the impact of counter-stereotypical contact and examined the mediating roles of state epistemic defense and state self-esteem, as well as the moderating roles of trait epistemic defense. Two experiments in China involved overweight individuals (stigmatized, N = 289) and elite athletes (admired, N = 315) using a 2 × 3 design (self-affirmation × contact valence). Self-affirmation increased positive attitudes following positive contact and buffered declines following negative contact, primarily via reduced state epistemic defense and increased self-esteem. Moderation analyses revealed a marginally significant three-way interaction: under negative contact, self-affirmation enhanced attitudes across all trait epistemic defense levels, strongest among low levels; under positive or neutral contact, benefits appeared only for medium or high levels. These findings clarify cognitive and motivational mechanisms underlying counter-stereotypical contact and suggest interventions to foster constructive intergroup interactions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ling Ding

Durham University

Authors

Patrick Kotzur, Stefania Paolini

[119] Individual Action in Complex Societal Problems: Developing an Integrated Solution Mindset Using the Domain of Fossil Fuel Usage

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Complex societal problems like climate change are often characterized by inaction by individuals. In the transition away from fossil fuel usage, several factors make it difficult to motivate individuals to change their behavior. First, many people perceive the problem as too vast for personal actions to make a meaningful impact and do not see how their actions contribute to broader structural changes they understand are needed. Second, people do not perceive their unsustainable actions as directly harming others. Third, many unsustainable actions are perceived as the norm. These factors undermine personal responsibility in collective action, and lead individuals to wait for systemic change to occur independently—rather than seeing their action as integral to broader changes. To address this, we explore an integral solution mindset—where personal actions are understood as integral to broader societal efforts—that combines key beliefs about efficacy, harm attribution, norms and systems responsibility. We test this in a theoretically grounded and applied context: climate warning labels on gas pumps. Participants (N=3,600) were randomly assigned to warning label conditions in a 2 (direct harm vs. indirect harm) × 2 (norm message vs. no norm) × 2 (broader effort vs. no broader effort) + 1 (control message with no climate label) experiment. Our findings indicate that participants exposed to the direct harm message with public support were more likely to perceive shared responsibility and express intentions to reduce their fossil fuel usage.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fazli Salim

Ph.D. student | Boston College

[120] Individual Differences in Mortality Saliency: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Decades of work investigating terror management theory (TMT) have produced strikingly mixed experimental and meta-analytic results supporting the existence of mortality saliency (MS) effects—the finding that reminders of death produce compensatory behaviors. Little is known, however, about whether potential theoretical mechanisms might explain this heterogeneity. We explored some of these mechanisms by developing an agent-based cognitive model designed to operationalize three potential ways of responding to MS: bolstering one's beliefs, derogating the beliefs of others, and avoiding engagement with MS entirely. We ran 10,000 independent simulations investigating the consequences of these MS response styles. Results showed that these response styles could lead to distinct outcomes in defensiveness: individual differences in responding produced variability in the extent to which worldview and self-esteem defenses were activated. Such individual differences may help explain some contradictory empirical findings in the TMT literature, highlighting a need for greater precision in how the core components of TMT, and other theories of psychological defense, are specified.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nathan Gillespie

Doctoral Student in Cognitive Science; NDSEG Fellow | University at Albany, SUNY

Authors

Joshua Hart, Gregory Cox

[121] Infants Recognize the Emotional Consequences of Unfairness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Do humans rely on multiple innate moral foundations (e.g. harm, fairness, loyalty; Graham et al., 2013) or one harm-based foundation (Schein & Gray, 2018)? Recent studies suggest even infants are sensitive to harm and fairness (Woo et al., 2022). While this could reflect separate foundations (Ting & Baillargeon, 2019), we provide evidence here that infants may recognize unfairness as a form of harm. In S1, 13-17m infants (N=48) were familiarized with an unequal (3:1) cookie distribution in which one actor gave cookies to two other actors. On test trials, infants looked longer ($p < .01$) when the recipients displayed emotions incongruent with the cookie distribution (3 cookies = sad, 1 cookie = happy) than when the emotions were congruent with the distribution (3 = happy, 1 = sad). Consistent with a VOE interpretation (Margoni et al., 2024), this suggests that infants expected beneficiaries of unfairness to be happy and victims to be sad. Thus, infants recognize that unfairness can also cause harm. Additional studies (N=48 each) demonstrated that 11-12m infants did not hold these expectations (S2) and controlled for numerical alternate explanations that do not rely on fairness (S3).

*POSTER

Speaker



Norman Zeng

Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Paul Bloom, Norman Zeng, Aaron Wang, Jessica Sommerville

[122] Integrating Student and Faculty Perspectives on Purpose Reflection to Support First-Generation Students in STEM

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

First-generation students continue to face additional barriers to success in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Purpose reflection, or considering “why” one has chosen to pursue STEM, can help students cope with stressful and threatening academic environments. The present research explores both student and faculty perspectives on purpose reflection to understand how this intrapersonal psychological process can be embedded into the culture of STEM to promote first-generation student success. Study 1 (374 STEM undergraduates) found that students who reported engagement in purpose reflection also reported lower stress and greater authentic belonging in STEM. Higher stress appraisals for first-generation than continuing-generation students diminished when students reported high degrees of purpose reflection. Study 2 (101 STEM faculty) documented faculty beliefs about the implementation of purpose reflection in their classrooms. First-generation faculty especially saw purpose reflection as beneficial for their students. Supporting both students and faculty is needed to adopt purpose reflection into STEM classrooms and support first-generation students.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew White

Assistant Professor | Ball State University

Authors

Shahana Ansari, Maria Velasco, Amanda Diekman, Quang-Anh Tran, Jayshree Seth

[123] Intersectional Political Identities Reduce Moral Bias Against the Outparty

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

People tend to judge moral transgressions more harshly when committed by outgroup members, particularly those from the political outparty. We examined whether political identity complexity, the perceived overlap between one's political ingroup and other social identities (e.g., race, religion, gender, occupation), moderates this bias. Across six studies (N = 3,912), partisans evaluated outparty transgressors across seven scenarios (e.g., dishonesty, corruption). Individuals with higher political identity complexity (who saw their political identity as loosely connected to their other identities) judged outparty members less harshly than those with more tightly integrated identities. This effect was consistently mediated by seeing outparty transgressors as less prototypical outparty members, weaker ingroup attachment, and greater tolerance for group deviance, suggesting that identity complexity attenuates both cognitive and motivational roots of intergroup bias. Finally, we demonstrate a novel intervention to increase political identity complexity by increasing the salience of inparty and outparty heterogeneity, which significantly reduces bias in moral judgments of outparty members.

*POSTER

Speaker



Trystan Loustau

PhD Student | Boston College

Authors

Liane Young

[124] Investigating the Role of Disability Models in Spontaneous Stereotypes About Disability

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

In the US, we use two main models of disability: the medical model, which conceptualizes disability as an individual problem, and the social model, which frames it as due to societal inaccessibility. For example, the medical model would consider hearing impairments inherently limiting, while the social model may suggest limitations arise from not widely offering ASL. The medical model is predominant among laypeople and predicts disability bias. In the present study, we aim to investigate how disability model beliefs shape spontaneously generated disability stereotypes. Participants will be asked to list characteristics that come to mind when they think of a person with a given disability (45 total), then surveyed about their model beliefs. We hypothesize that people who hold higher (vs. lower) medical model beliefs will assign characteristics indicating lower competence and higher deviance to people with disabilities. We further hypothesize that people with mental (vs. physical) disabilities will be assigned characteristics indicating lower competence. Thus, targeting model beliefs could be critical for interventions aiming to reduce negative stereotypes and lessen disability bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tory Benson

Graduate Student | Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Authors

Diana Sanchez, Gandalf Nicolas

[125] Is cognition like emotion: Peak versus typical expressions in daily life

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Recent evidence shows cognitive performance varies within people, challenging the assumption that individual differences in intelligence are stable (e.g., Aschenbrenner & Jackson, 2024; Lovden et al., 2007; Schmiedek et al. 2013). Subsequently, the view that cognitive measures assess individuals' maximum cognitive ability, instead of their typical cognitive level, has been put into question (e.g., Vaughan & Birney, 2023). In the present work, we aim to examine within-person distributions in cognitive performance with respect to these two views. The maximal-level view implies cognitive performance is negatively skewed around individuals' true capacity, with contextual factors (e.g., stress) serving to reduce functioning rather than enhance it. The typical-level view implies a normal distribution, with contextual factors driving cognitive performance above and below typical levels. Our preliminary findings support the maximal view of cognitive expression, unlike the manifestation of personality and affect which typically fall under normal distributions. This conclusion, however, does not hold for all measures, highlighting the functional differences across cognitive measurements.

*POSTER

Speaker



Derek Simon

Graduate Student | Washington University in St. Louis

Authors

Joshua Jackson, Muchen Xi, Andrew Aschenbrenner

[126] Is That What They See?: How Hair Texture Shapes College Students' Depictions of Black Womanhood

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Stereotypes of Black women, while deeply rooted in a history that casts concepts of whiteness and blackness as oppositional, continue to shape portrayals of Black womanhood in TV, media, and film (e.g., Adams-Bass, et al., 2014). But how do these portrayals shape perceptions held by everyday perceivers? This study adapts the Draw a Scientist test (e.g., Chambers, 1983; Newton & Newton, 1988) to examine how college students (ages 18-24) visually represent Black women by focusing on their hair texture portrayals. A planned sample of N= 80 participants will complete a drawing task, followed by a survey probing their elemental choices. Drawings will be coded for hair type (straight vs. natural) and frequency of co-occurring stereotypical elements (e.g., bigger lips, wider nose) using a coding scheme with interrater reliability ($\kappa > .80$). Hypotheses predict that participants will draw more Black women with straight vs. natural hair/hairstyles, and that natural hair/hairstyles will co-occur with more stereotypical elements when compared with straight hair/hairstyles. Findings will shed light on contemporary and emerging stereotypes about Black womanhood through the lens of hair texture.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dominique Powers

Loyola University Chicago

Authors

Janene Cielto, Estelle Cooksey, Tetiana Nikitenko, Ryan Kufner, Ella McGovern

[127] Is the Truth Need Distinct from the Three Needs in Self-Determination Theory? An Examination of Factor Structure and Predictive Validity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Guided by Regulatory Effectiveness Theory and Self-Determination Theory, this study examined the associations between fulfillment of the truth need and the three basic psychological needs proposed by Self-Determination Theory (competence, autonomy, and relatedness). A sample of 341 Japanese adults (aged 20–59; 178 male and 163 female) were asked to complete measures assessing satisfaction of the four psychological needs, trait self-control, and indicators of well-being (life satisfaction, vitality, positive emotions, and negative emotions). Confirmatory factor analyses indicated that a four-factor model, distinguishing between satisfactions of truth, competence, autonomy, and relatedness, provided the best fit; however, a three-factor model combining need satisfactions of truth and competence also showed an acceptable fit. Multiple regression analyses further revealed that satisfaction of the truth and competence needs predicted trait self-control. In contrast, satisfaction with competence, autonomy, and relatedness needs predicted well-being indices (e.g., life satisfaction). These findings suggest that fulfillment of the truth need may primarily contribute to performance-related outcomes rather than to subjective well-being. Implications for education and social support are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hiroki Takehashi

associate professor | Nara Women's University

Authors

Junko Toyosawa

[128] Just World Thinking and Moral Goodness Attributions in Accidental Happiness

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Happy (versus unhappy) people are judged more morally good. Might just world thinking explain this happiness moral boost? Happy people have experienced a valued positive outcome. In a just world, they must be good people. To test this hypothesis, 5 studies (combined N = 5714), tested whether happiness that was a matter of luck enhances moral goodness. Study 1 participants rated happy (versus unhappy) infants more morally good and more likely to engage in good behaviors as adults. In Study 2, targets described in obituaries with a smiling (versus neutral) photo were rated more morally good and more likely to have engaged in good behavior. In Study 3, a target who was rendered happier (versus unhappier) by a TBI, was rated more morally good and more likely to engage in good behavior. Study 4 showed similar effects when targets were prisoners who initiated a fight that caused the TBI. Study 5 replicated Study 1 and assessed indicators of just world thinking. Results showed that rating targets likely to experience random positive events partially explained the effect of happiness on moral attributions. Consistent with a just world account, even when happiness is purely accidental, it enhances moral evaluations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marcus Antu

Graduate Student | University of Missouri - Columbia

Authors

Laura King, Jake Moore

[129] Justice, Just for Me: Identity and Conditional Attributions for Inequality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

This study examines how intersecting identities—particularly among white women occupying privileged (racial) and marginalized (gender) positions—shape discrimination perceptions. Building on evidence that marginalized identities foster Attributional Complexity (motivation to consider contextual forces), this research investigates whether white women's gender identification cultivates broader awareness of structural injustice or whether discrimination detection is more limited to ingroup-relevant cases. The study assesses how white women respond to subtle discrimination claims in corporate contexts with "false diversity cues" obscuring bias. Participants (N=277) will evaluate racial or gender discrimination lawsuits involving a Black male, white female or control (white male) claimant. Dependent variables include attributions for claimant outcomes (personal failings vs. company bias), claimant and company fairness perceptions, and, ultimately, a settlement recommendation. While data collection is forthcoming, the study has been fully developed with pre-registration planned, and seeks insights on whether identity-based marginalization cultivates solidarity with oppressed outgroups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Journey Simmons

PhD Student | University of Colorado Boulder

Authors

Evava Pietri, Journey Simmons

[130] Light in the Dark: Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Investigation of the Network of Dark Triad and Big Five Personality Traits, Resilience and Anxiety

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Multivariate approaches are needed to gain a better understanding of positive and negative impact of Dark Triad traits within personality networks under different socio-cultural and personal conditions. In three studies in two countries (total N = 4,700), we applied network analyses and structural equation modelling to investigate the network of personality (Dark Triad and Big Five), resilience and anxiety. The results confirmed, for the first time with longitudinal evidence, the pattern of indirect associations between the Dark Triad and anxiety through resilience/mental toughness. The findings also emphasized the importance of differentiating the three 'dark traits', as they showed different relations with other traits. For example, narcissism predicted better mental health, whereas Machiavellianism and psychopathy were linked to poorer resilience and mental health. Narcissism was also the most influential node in the network of personality, resilience and anxiety. Considering the consistency of the effects across the samples, the results provide a promising avenue for research into malleability of personality networks and for developing educational and workplace interventions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yulia Kovas

Professor | Hult International Business School

Authors

Yu Luo, Kostas A. Papageorgiou, Maxim Likhanov, Ksenia Bartseva

[131] Linking Perceived Reasons for Discrimination to Varieties of Anger: A Bayesian Approach

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Discrimination is linked to anger—whether suppressed (anger-in), expressed (anger-out), or regulated (anger-control). Less is known about whether the reasons people attribute to unfair treatment shape anger responses. Attributions include personal identity (age, gender, race, ethnicity/nationality, religion, sexual orientation), physical characteristics (appearance, height/weight, physical disability), and socioeconomic status (i.e., SES; occupation, education, finances). Using the Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) data (N = 1,165), we examined how attributions relate to anger types. Effects were estimated via Bayesian regression, with Bayesian model averaging (BMA) used to assess the relative importance of each attribution. Initial results showed that personal and physical attributions were linked to greater anger-in and anger-out, whereas SES attributions were tied to lower anger-control. BMA revealed more distinct patterns: personal identity attributions had a high posterior inclusion probability only for anger-out, physical attributions only for anger-in, and SES attributions only for anger-control. Findings offer new insight into how discrimination attributions shape anger.

*POSTER

Speaker



Seung Eun Cha

Research Assistant | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Authors

Jieun Song, David Kaplan, Carol Ryff

[132] Loneliness and Its Association with Divergent Thinking and Creativity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Prior work suggests that lonely individuals process the world in idiosyncratic ways, in ways that are different not only from non-lonely individuals but also from other lonely individuals. This raises the possibility that lonely individuals have ways of thinking that are significantly more divergent than the rest of the population. In this study (N = 63), participants completed a free association "Forward Flow" task, in which they generated a continuous chain of words starting with a given seed word. For each participant, we calculated the semantic distance between successive responses and summed these values to assess each participant's propensity to divergent thinking. We then related this measure to loneliness using the UCLA Loneliness scale. Results revealed no significant association between a person's propensity to divergent thinking and loneliness (Pearson's $r = -0.037$, p value = 0.77). These findings suggest that creativity and loneliness may be distinct processes and that the idiosyncratic nature of lonely individuals' thought patterns may not be explained by a general tendency toward divergent thinking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jay Campanelli

ACC LASA DC Biotech Student | Austin Community College/Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy High School

Authors

Elisa Baek, Jacob Zimmerman, Jina Chung

[133] Lost in Pronunciation: The Influence of Sociolinguistic Cues on Truth Judgements

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Accent shapes social perception, but mechanisms driving accent-based bias remain unclear and debated. Focusing on truthfulness judgements, this study examined three theoretical explanations: (1) standard language ideology: standard-accented speakers are granted higher credibility due to institutional prestige; (2) accent-based stereotyping: accent evaluations reflect the perceived status of associated ethnic or social groups; and (3) processing fluency: harder-to-understand accents trigger negative evaluations due to increased cognitive effort. One hundred and thirty-seven adults listened to personal anecdotes from: (1) standard-accented speakers, (2) standard-accented speakers with low audio quality, (3) non-standard speakers with high social status, and (4) non-standard speakers with low social status, and rated their perceived warmth, competence, and truthfulness. Standard language ideology best predicted truth judgements. Unexpectedly, however, non-standard-accented speakers were rated as more truthful than standard-accented ones, even though they were seen as less competent. This surprising effect was mediated by higher warmth attributions to non-standard-accented speakers.

*POSTER

Speaker



Irem Kuyucu

University of Southern California

Authors

Junko Kanero, Cigdem Bagci

[134] Cancelled

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

*POSTER

[135] Managers' Motives to Engage in Employee Development: Origins and Consequences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

In three studies, we examine the motives that drive managers to engage in employee development (ED), drawing on Schwartz's theory of personal values.

In Study 1 (N = 43 managers and 94 employees), we show that employees' perceptions of their managers' motives are shaped partly by the motives reported by the managers themselves and partly by the employees' own personal values. Perceived motives interact with managers' actual engagement in ED to predict employees' sense of bonding with their managers.

In Study 2 (N = 75 managers and 199 employees), we find that managers' motives interact with the organization's investment in ED to predict employees' organizational satisfaction, organizational identification, and turnover intentions.

In Study 3 (N = 145 managers), we demonstrate that different types of motives are associated with managers' self-perceived openness about their motives and their general belief about whether employees should be aware of these motives.

Together, our findings highlight the importance of considering the reasons managers engage in ED, and not just how much they engage or how much the organization invests.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eyal Rechter

Senior Lecturer | Ono Academic College

Authors

Noga Sverdlik

[136] Mapping Adolescent Well-being: Latent Profile Analysis of Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Skills

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Adolescents' social, emotional, and behavioral (SEB) skills are widely recognized as critical for well-being, yet little is known about how these skills cluster within individuals and relate to mental health. Person-centered approaches, such as Latent Profile Analysis (LPA), allow for the identification of distinct subgroups of individuals based on patterns of strengths and weaknesses across multiple skill domains. Although commonly used in developmental psychology, these methods remain relatively rare in personality psychology, where they can provide important insights into heterogeneity in individual differences. This study applies LPA to a large and diverse sample of American secondary school students to identify profiles of SEB skills and examine how these profiles are associated with concurrent symptoms of anxiety and depression. By capturing meaningful variation at the subgroup level, the findings will demonstrate how person-centered analyses move beyond average associations to reveal unique configurations of skills that carry implications for both theory and practice. More broadly, this work may shed further light on the role that SEB skills can play in shaping adolescents' mental health and adjustment, highlighting their potential as key targets for educational and clinical support.

*POSTER

Speaker



Avery Bandstra

Doctoral Student | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Christopher Napolitano

[137] Mapping the Link between Emotional Intelligence and Humour Styles: A Systematic Review

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Growing evidence has examined how emotional intelligence (EI) and humour styles interact in shaping adaptive outcomes, yet systematic evidence on this relationship remains limited. This review searched five databases—MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Web of Science, PubMed, and Psychology and Behavioural Sciences Collection—for studies published on or before July 1, 2024. Eligible studies were empirical and quantitative, involved adult participants in non-clinical settings, and used measures explicitly referred to as humour styles or EI tests. Of the 489 records screened, nine studies were included in the qualitative synthesis. Across these, EI was consistently and positively associated with adaptive humour styles (self-enhancing and affiliative) and, in some studies, negatively associated with maladaptive styles (self-defeating and aggressive), with small-to-moderate effect sizes. Trait EI generally showed stronger associations than ability EI. Self-enhancing humour displayed the most consistent links across all adopted EI measures, while aggressive humour yielded few and weak correlations. This review highlights links between emotional competencies and humour, suggesting future research should test whether fostering context-appropriate humour can enhance emotional and social functioning and reduce risks of low mood or anxiety.

*POSTER

Speaker



Rong Xing

University of Glasgow

Authors

Andrea Williamson, Christopher Williams, Jill Morrison

[138] Me, Myself and You: The Role of Self Construal in Perceived Social Support

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Perceiving one's partner as supportive is a crucial component of relationship satisfaction. However, the impact of perceived social support on relationships varies considerably between individuals. One factor that may explain this is relational interdependent self-construal (RISC) (Cross et al., 2000). Individuals with higher RISC define themselves through their relationships, hence they may be more sensitive to changes in them, including fluctuations in social support. Previous research demonstrates that RISC moderates the effects of perceived social support on life satisfaction (Heintzelman & Bacon, 2015). However, no study has examined this moderating effect on relationship satisfaction in romantic dyads and across time. We collected data on perceived social support and relationship satisfaction from 218 romantic dyads ($n = 436$) over 14 days. We anticipate that individuals will experience greater relationship satisfaction on days when they perceive greater social support from their partners, but this within-person association will be stronger for individuals who are higher in RISC. These findings will shed light on the role of the self in relationship outcomes

*POSTER

Speaker



Noa Boker Segal

Graduate Student | University of Michigan

Authors

Noa Boker Segal, Amie Gordon, Anna Luerssen

[139] Metamotivational Beliefs about how Promotion and Prevention Focus Help with Intrinsically and Externally Motivated Activities

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Metamotivational beliefs are about how to get in the right frame of mind to do well at various tasks. This is the first research to examine metamotivational beliefs about how promotion and prevention focus could be useful for doing well at intrinsically and externally motivated activities. Eager, approach strategies and promotion-focused valuation of goals (e.g., as hopes) could help people explore opportunities for growth in intrinsically motivated activities. Vigilant, avoidance strategies and prevention-focused valuation of goals (e.g., as duties) could help people avoid thoughtless mistakes and maintain engagement with externally motivated activities. Four within-subjects experiments (N = 500) showed strong correlations between judged usefulness of intrinsic interest and of eager strategies for creative and careful tasks, and strong correlations between judged usefulness of external reward and of vigilant strategies for these tasks. They also showed that participants viewed promotion focus as more useful and appropriate for their own intrinsically motivated activities, and prevention focus as more useful and appropriate for their own externally motivated activities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Leigh Ann Vaughn

Professor | Ithaca College

[140] Mission Statements and Employee Perceptions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Mission statements play an important role in shaping organizational culture and guiding employee perceptions and behavior, yet little is known in psychological research about how employees perceive and engage with them. In a pilot study, we examined lay beliefs about the purpose and function of mission statements, finding that employees generally value organizations having a mission statement and endorse the importance of established company values. Building on this, we designed a study in which participants (employees) are prompted to revise hypothetical company mission statements. Participants are randomly assigned to evaluate statements from different industries (food and beverage, healthcare, retail) and presented with neutral mission statements to edit. Language analysis captures pragmatic vs. moral edits made by participants. We examined the moral identity of participants as well as other individual differences to predict the likelihood of making moral edits to these statements, where we predict that high moral identity results in more edits with ethical content. This work lays the foundation for a broader research program investigating the influence of moral framing of mission statements on behavioral outcomes in experimental contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Clara Civiero

Graduate Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Shana Cole

[141] Moderators in the Relationship Between Dark/Light Traits and Malicious Compliance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Malicious compliance (MC) is a passive-aggressive subtype of counterproductive work behavior (CWB) in which individuals follow rules, policies, or orders exactly as stated knowing the outcome will be harmful or undesirable. Emer (2020) found workplace characteristics, specifically unionization and degree of centralization, moderated the relationship between dark personality traits, light personality traits, and toxic work behaviors (e.g., mobbing, incivility, and abusive supervision). Using a community sample via Prolific, the current follow-up study examined whether workplace size, workgroup size, and supervisor/coworker gender further moderated relationships between dark traits, light traits, and malicious compliance. Moderator analyses revealed significant effects of gender, workplace size, and unionization. Light and dark triad traits correlated with malicious compliance in larger, but not smaller, work environments. The predictive value of light traits for counterproductive work behaviors, including malicious compliance, was moderated by unionization (holding in non-unionized settings only). Coworker gender also mattered: light traits predicted counterproductive work behavior when coworkers were female or mixed gender, but not when they were predominantly male. Findings suggest the predictive value of dark and light traits depends on organizational context.

*POSTER

Speaker



Denise Emer

Professor/Chair | Daemen University

Authors

Dennis Poepsel

[142] Cancelled

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

*POSTER

[143] Moral Duo: Human Disclosure and AI Guidance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

This project investigates how AI agents advise on complex, low-consensus moral dilemmas and how humans interact with them. Our design enables free-form, multi-round conversations to capture more naturalistic human–AI interaction. This approach allows us to analyze both AI advising patterns and human advice-seeking behaviors in a more realistic setting. We hypothesize that, given their roots in reinforcement learning from human feedback, AI agents are trained to optimize user appeal by aligning with users’ revealed and implicit positions instead of offering principled, consistent counsel. Additionally, we examine how people seek advice—whether they openly disclose their stance to invite agreement or instead conceal to elicit less biased guidance. We also explore whether the degree of moral alignment between AI and human users has a more nuanced, non-linear impact on users’ openness to alternative perspectives suggested by AI agents. By systematically studying human–AI exchanges in this context, our project offers critical insights for the ethical design and deployment of AI agents in human interaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Helen Zheng

Boston College

Authors

Liane Young, Sara Haman, Stefano Anzellotti, Sema Koc

[144] Moral Judgments Follow Schema Violations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

The Habitus Framework proposes cultural schema strength directly modulates moral judgment severity, distinguishing it from theories treating moral judgments as stable and content-specific responses to evolutionary problems. This study tests whether experimentally manipulating schema strength influences moral evaluation intensity through gender role deviations. Participants (n=885) receive traditional masculinity priming or control, then evaluate targets conforming to or deviating from gendered presentation. We predict masculinity priming amplifies negative judgments for gender-deviant targets, strongest for male targets violating the primed schema. This demonstrates moral judgments are dynamic responses influenced by momentary schema accessibility rather than responses to violations of a fixed set of moral concerns. Such findings provide critical evidence that moral psychology operates through flexible, culturally-mediated processes rather than invariant moral intuitions, fundamentally advancing understanding of how cultural learning shapes moral cognition.

*POSTER

Speaker



S. Elisha LePine

PhD Student | University of Florida

[145] Moral language in news headlines

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral Foundation Theory (MFT) posits that conservatives and liberals differ in their moral values: liberals’ morality centers on the individualizing foundations (care and fairness), while conservatives rely more on the binding foundations (loyalty, authority, purity) than liberals do. However, research does not consistently show that moral language use differs by ideology as predicted by MFT. This may be because liberals and conservatives rely on the binding and individualizing foundations similarly but use them to emphasize different issues. We present a study in which we analyze more than two million news headlines from English-language publications published in 2019 and 2021. More specifically, we use Structured Topic Models (STM) combined with a word embedding model to examine the moral language used by news outlets and to identify the issues left-leaning versus right-leaning outlets moralize the most in their headlines. This allows us to examine whether left-leaning and right-leaning news outlets moralize different issues within each of the moral foundations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Éloïse Côté

University of Toronto

Authors

Yoel Inbar, Spike Lee, Claire Robertson, Matthew Feinberg, Éloïse Côté

[146] Moral Relativism Recast: MARS validation and Flexible Harm Inference

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

People’s moral philosophies, i.e., whether they lean toward relativism or absolutism, shape not only policy stances on politicized issues, but also how they interpret everyday conflicts. Yet, no validated scale has systematically captured this distinction. We advance a new conceptualization of moral relativism that unifies measurement and underlying mechanism. Across 4 studies, we formalize relativism as variability across individual, societal, and situational beliefs, developing the Moral Absolutism and Relativism Scale (MARS). In Study 1 (N=649), factor analyses supported a three-factor structure. Study 2 (N=201) established predictive, discriminant, and concurrent validity and strong test–retest reliability. In Study 3 (N=202), the three subscales showed distinct predictive power for domain-specific vignettes. Study 4 (N=100), drawing on dyadic morality, found that relativism correlated with lower perceived victim vulnerability and reduced assignment of agent and patient roles. Together, these studies recast relativism as a flexible, multi-domain mode of harm inference, offering a validated scale and a new lens on moralization and ideological conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lorenzo De Gregori

ESADE Business School

Authors

Namrata Goyal

[147] More Nature, Less Anti-Gay Bias: Individual, County, and State-Level Evidence

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Over the past decade, crimes targeting sexual orientation have consistently ranked among the Top 3 most reported crime categories in the U.S., suggesting pervasive anti-gay bias and posing serious threats to the well-being of sexual minorities. We proposed that nature may help mitigate such bias and tested this proposition across three studies by analyzing existing datasets. In Study 1, by using data from the General Social Survey 2018 (N = 612), we found that people with greater nature contact reported more positive attitudes toward homosexuals. In Study 2, by using large-scale data from Project Implicit (N = 756,285), we found that people living in counties with greater natural land cover showed lower implicit and explicit anti-gay bias, even after controlling for individual demographics and county-level factors. In Study 3, we found that states with greater natural land cover reported lower rates of hate crimes based on sexual orientation. Together, three studies provided correlational evidence linking nature to reduced anti-gay bias across individual, county, and state levels. Future research may examine the mitigating effect of nature on anti-gay bias experimentally.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Menglin He**
Graduate Student | University of Oklahoma

Authors

Yanan Hong, Jingqiao Yuan, Elijah Moore, Huajian Cai

[148] Motherhood Ideologies Shaping Women's Entrepreneurial Career Choices

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Mothers frequently experience conflict between professional and family roles, especially under societal pressures portraying employment as incompatible with childcare. Intensive mothering ideologies contrast with integrated mothering, a framework where women combine maternal and professional identities and delegate childcare without guilt. Such beliefs may shape entrepreneurial motivation, particularly in necessity-driven career transitions. This research investigates links between motherhood approaches and entrepreneurial cognitions among unemployed or career-changing women. In Study 1 (n = 631), motherhood predicted entrepreneurial intentions via more favorable attitudes and stronger entrepreneurial identity fit. In Study 2 (n = 309), salience of intensive versus integrated mothering was experimentally manipulated. Mothers in the intensive condition reported less favorable evaluations of the time and effort required for entrepreneurial activity, which mediated effects on attitudes, self-efficacy, and intentions. These studies represent the first quantitative investigation of integrated motherhood, highlighting how parenting ideologies influence women's work-family arrangements.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Giulio Faccenda**
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart

Authors

Valeria Amata Giannella, Claudia Manzi

[149] Motivating and Inhibitory factors of Collective Action Tendencies for Racially Discriminated Groups in India

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

This study investigates collective action tendencies among two racially discriminated groups in India—northeasterners in the Mainland India and mainlanders in Northeast India. This research extends the Social Identity Model of Collective Action (SIMCA) by integrating fear and helplessness as inhibitory factors in taking collective action. We propose two moderated mediation models. In model 1, anger mediates the relationship between social identification and collective action and in model 2, perceived collective efficacy plays the role of the mediator. In model 1, we hypothesised that fear moderates the relationship between anger and collective action, while in model 2, we hypothesised that helplessness moderates the relationship between perceived collective efficacy and collective action. While SIMCA emphasises motivating factors, this study uniquely integrates inhibitory emotional states and expanding the model's applicability to non-WEIRD contexts. Data from 280 participants (140 per group) has been collected. Participants completed validated measures of social identity, perceived discrimination, anger, fear, efficacy, helplessness, and collective action. Moderated mediation analyses using PROCESS (Model 21) will test both models. By empirically examining both motivating and suppressing factors, this study contributes a grounded understanding of race-based collective action and offers insights for equitable policy-making in India.

*POSTER

Speaker

 **Bhasker Malu**
Assistant Professor | Masters Union

Authors

Sucharita Belavadi

[150] Motivating Pro-Environmental Behavior: Exploring the Interactive Effects of Outrage and Mindful Observation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral outrage and mindfulness are both independent predictors of pro-environmental behavior. Research has shown that mindfulness may counterintuitively increase the experience of moral outrage and subsequent retributive behaviors, but this has not been studied in the context of pro-environmental behaviors. In Study 1, we induced participant (N = 150) outrage through piloted vignettes depicting environmental harm. Participants completed trait measures of mindfulness, reported pro-environmental intentions, and completed a computer-based pro-environmental behavior task. Results were inconsistent, but exploratory analyses revealed a positive correlation between outrage, the observation facet of mindfulness, and pro-environmental intentions. Study 2 aims to follow up on these results with a few key modifications. For one, we employ a within-participants mindfulness induction that specifically targets mindful observation. We piloted videos for a more potent environmental outrage induction, and we increased the difficulty of the computer task to better target costly and retributive pro-environmental behavior. We hypothesize that inducing mindful observation will increase the strength of the relationship between moral outrage and pro-environmental behavior. The expected results would provide a novel approach to motivating pro-environmental behaviors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Erika Blair

Doctoral Candidate | Virginia Commonwealth University

Authors

David Chester, Erika Blair

[151] Motivation differentiation: exploring a new concept

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

While extensive research has examined emotion differentiation and its relationship with well-being and emotion regulation, the concept of motivation differentiation remains largely unexplored. This study aims to investigate individuals' ability to distinguish between different motivational states and to adaptively select motivation strategies. Understanding how people differentiate their motivation may offer valuable insights into how individuals recognize and regulate both the level and type of motivation across varying contexts. This, in turn, could inform interventions and best practices for fostering flexible, adaptive, and effective motivational regulation. A total of 250 university students (N = 250) participated in an online study involving written reflections, individual difference questionnaires, and self-reports assessing motivational awareness, cognition, emotion regulation, personality, and well-being. In addition to quantitative analyses, we also explore the potential of natural language use as an indicator of individuals' motivation differentiation ability.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dung Pham

Ph.D. student | University of Virginia

Authors

Abigail Scholer

[152] Motivational Conflict and Attentional Scope

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Past work has revealed that motivational drives to move towards or away from an object influence attentional scope. Experiencing high-intensity approach motivated states, for example, has been linked with attentional narrowing, while affective states low in motivational intensity have been linked with attentional broadening. Little work, however, has investigated how experiencing motivational conflict (e.g., a drive to simultaneously approach and avoid an object) might influence attentional scope. To investigate this, motivational conflict was manipulated by giving participants a difficult choice between viewing either a positive or negative image. Viewing positive images was associated with 0 reward points, while viewing a negative image allowed participants to earn 0 points (avoidance only), or 2, 4, or 6 points (approach-avoidance conflict conditions with varying intensity). After making this decision, participants engaged in a Navon letter task, a measure used to assess attentional scope. It is hypothesized that experiencing motivational conflict will broaden attentional scope when compared to avoidance only conditions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Micayla Lacey

Assistant Professor | Wilkes University

Authors

Amelia Lawrence, Kendra Hard

[153] Motives, Ambiguity, and Moral Judgment: Shifting Perceptions of Crime Suspects

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

How do motives for a crime impact moral judgments about perpetrators? In two preregistered studies (Study 1, $N = 233$; Study 2, $N = 362$), we investigate how motives shift moral judgments depending on the ambiguity of evidence. In Study 1, participants evaluated a suspect with or without a loyalty motive (harming someone who harmed his sister). We predicted and found that when the evidence made it unclear if the suspect was guilty, a loyalty motive increased perceived guilt and decreased moral character evaluations (because participants assumed the motivated suspect did it). However, once the evidence clearly showed the suspect was guilty, this pattern reversed—they gave more lenient evaluations to the motivated perpetrator. Study 2 tested whether this reversal was specific to loyalty motives by comparing it to no motive or to a self-interest motive (harming someone who harmed the self). Both loyalty and self-interest motives increased guilt attributions and decreased moral judgments under ambiguity, but led to more positive moral judgments once the evidence was unambiguous. Together, these findings show the nuanced ways motives can shape others' judgments of a potential suspect.

*POSTER

Speaker



Iris Chen

University of Chicago

Authors

Alex Shaw, Katie Vasquez

[154] Narcissistic Traits and Academic Outcomes in the First College Semester

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Narcissism is a multifaceted construct with a core of entitled self-absorption (Krizan & Herlache, 2018). When combined with approach-related motivations, this entitlement manifests as grandiosity, which involves an exaggerated estimation of abilities and self-confidence. Although much work has investigated narcissism in the context of social relationships, academic settings are also an important venue in which traits of entitlement and grandiosity may be impactful (e.g., McManus et al., 2022). Using a sample of 1130 first-year college students, the current study investigated associations between grandiosity, entitlement, and academic outcomes. Higher levels of grandiosity were associated with lower class attendance ($r = -.14$, $p < .01$) and lower first-semester Grade Point Average (GPA; $r = -.09$, $p < .01$), though not class preparation ($r = .00$, $p = .96$). The effects with attendance and GPA, though small, remained significant when adjusting for entitlement in multiple regression analyses. In contrast, entitlement showed no significant links (p 's $> .13$). These results suggest that grandiosity may have a modest negative association with academic performance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Asna Mahmood

UT Dallas

Authors

Robert Ackerman, Courtney Brecheen, Asna Mahmood

[155] Navigating Moral Dilemmas in High-Stakes Leadership: A Social Identity Perspective

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

High-stakes leadership—such as during organisational crises, public health emergencies, or disaster response—requires complex moral decision-making under pressure. While ethical leadership is critical, the role of social identity processes in shaping moral choices, particularly across formal and informal leadership roles, remains underexplored.

This poster presents a conceptual framework grounded in existing theory, linking social identity processes to moral decision-making in high-stakes contexts. The model highlights:

1. Formal leaders (positional authority) and informal leaders (influence without formal authority) as distinct sources of influence on ethical outcomes.
2. Psychological mechanisms, including ingroup/outgroup perceptions, identification with followers, and perceived moral norms, that may guide decision-making.
3. Moderating factors, such as contextual urgency, organisational culture, and individual moral orientation, which can shape leader behaviour.

The framework is intended to generate testable hypotheses for future empirical research and to stimulate discussion on practical implications for ethical leadership development.

This poster invites researchers and practitioners to engage with the framework, provide feedback, and explore research directions, fostering an interactive discussion on how social identity processes operate across different leadership roles in high-stakes situations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elaine Kinsella

Associate Professor in Psychology | University Of Limerick

[156] Not all immigration policies are equal: Children disapprove of inequitable policies but not entry regulations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

How do children reason about structural norms that perpetuate social inequality? We examined this question by asking children (5-12yrs; N=138; White=72%) to evaluate various immigration policies. Participants heard vignettes about families that immigrated to evade danger, to reunify their family, or wanting to move, and evaluated how morally acceptable (on a 6-pt scale) they perceived restrictions and financial discrimination due to immigration status. Lower scores represented moral disapproval of the policies. We conducted a linear mixed model, predicting evaluations by age, reason for immigration, policy type, and their interactions as fixed effects, and participants as a random effect. We found a significant main effect of policy type ($p < .001$), indicating disapproval of birthright citizenship and financial discrimination, but approval of barring people from unauthorized entry. An interaction of age and policy type ($p < .001$) indicated that disapproval of financial discrimination increased with age. Overall, these findings indicate that children disapprove of policies that enforce inequality, yet feel that people should follow the rules that these policies establish.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lester Mejia Gomez

Ph.D. Candidate | University of Michigan

Authors

Susan Gelman

[157] Open to interpretation: How the survey question shapes moral judgment and language

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Survey methods often assume objective and uniform respondent interpretation of the questions. Across three analyses, we demonstrate the role of respondent-specific interpretive processes consistent with the multiple levels of speech act theory. In a study with 242 participants, we collected "morality" and "appropriateness" ratings for eight moral scenarios and open-ended responses asking participants to "describe" and "justify" scenario behaviors, with participants' political ideology, assigned perspective, and protagonist identity as independent variables. When asked to "describe" and "justify" the behaviors in a moral scenario, the moral foundation language used in the justification but not description predicted "morality" ratings but not "appropriateness" ratings. Moreover, conservatives used more Purity and Loyalty language in response to "describe" but not "justify" items. Finally, comparing "morality" and "appropriateness" as measures across conditions demonstrated differences in distributions, with appropriateness ratings varying and morality ratings remaining stable. Together, these findings reinforce the importance of respondent interpretive processes in survey responses.

*POSTER

Speaker



Morgan Borders

Wright State University

Authors

Morgan Borders, Valerie Shalin

[158] Overweight or exclude: The role of gender diversity in group norm judgements

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Humans are highly attuned to group norms; however, judgements of what is normative can be biased by the behaviors of those that deviate from the norm (i.e., outliers). While prior research shows that behavioral outliers can shift judgments of norms, it is unknown whether this effect depends on social identity. In the current study, I examine how the behavior of individuals with stigmatized identity can influence norm assessments. That is, I investigate if the social behavior of a transgender individual is excluded from group norm judgements. Participants (N = 250) viewed individuals arriving to a teleconference co-working session, with their arrival time highlighted. The group included one time-based outlier which varied by gender identity (cisgender, transgender). We predict that descriptive and injunctive norms of arrival time will be biased by the time-based outlier insofar as the outlier is cisgender. Such effects may depend on exploratory moderators like entitativity. Results aim to clarify the relationship between behavioral outliers, norm judgements and gender, with a focus on how biased group perception can contribute to the exclusion of marginalized groups.

*POSTER

Speaker



Natalie Miller

Student | University of Denver

Authors

Lindsay Goolsby, Max Weisbuch

[159] Parental Motivations for Adoption and Their Impact on Adoption Stability

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Children and adolescents remain a tragically underserved and under researched population despite the population size and developmental importance. This is especially concerning given the compounding barriers faced by those in child welfare programs. Perhaps the strongest predictor of distress, adjustment challenges, and developmental delays for this population is residential instability. One potentially critical area of research that addresses the barriers and limitations associated with child welfare research relates to theories of motivation. The current study examines motivations for adoption using an adapted Motivation to Have a Child Scale (MCS), distinguishing autonomous and controlled motivations. Results indicated that participants who had considered or acted toward dissolving an adoption reported significantly higher controlled motivations than those who had not. This finding aligns with self-determination theory, which suggests that controlled motivations are less stable and enduring than autonomous ones. Overall, the study underscores the potential role of parental motivational quality as a predictor of adoption stability.

*POSTER

Speaker



Andrew Rooks
Doctoral Student | Wheaton College

Authors

James Cornwell, Jia Anne Heng, Isaiah Proctor

[160] Perceived Latinx: Naming Conventions and Fluency on Identification

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Racial prototypicality research has examined the role of skin color and hair texture on racial identification. This research has found prototypes of racial/ethnic groups, yet these prototypes have largely centered on phenotypic traits. We aim to fill the research gap by using cultural characteristics to examine the role of Hispanic and Portuguese fluency and naming conventions on perceived Latinx identity and the moderating role of Latinx contact and Latinx identity. With a 2 x 5 experimental design, participants will answer items about a vignette, which has the target's name and language fluency varied between participants, and complete measures of intergroup contact, national identity, acculturation, modern racism, prejudice, and social dominance orientation. We hypothesize that (1) Spanish fluency and Hispanic naming conventions will be stronger predictors of perceived Latinx identity than Portuguese fluency and Portuguese naming conventions, and (2a, 2b) Latinx contact and Latinx identity will moderate that relationship, such that those high in Latinx contact or Latinx identity will more strongly associate Spanish fluency and Hispanic naming conventions with Latinx identity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jasmine Diaz
Goshen College

Authors

Christopher Sanders

[161] Perceptions of Asexual and Demisexual People: Gendered Contexts

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The current research investigates how people perceive asexual and demisexual men and women compared to heterosexual targets. There is limited research on perceptions of demisexual individuals versus asexual individuals, who face biases (Iraklis, 2024). We predicted that heterosexual targets would be rated more positively than asexual and demisexual targets, and that female targets would be characterized with more emotions than male targets. Participants (N=170) reviewed vignettes about a person and their sexual identity, then completed feeling thermometers, answered questions about identity, and rated emotions and traits. Results showed no significant differences in feelings toward the targets and strong signs of identity dismissal for asexual and demisexual targets. There was nuance in emotion and trait ratings depending on the target's sexual orientation or gender, including the finding that demisexual targets received higher ratings of human-nature emotions (e.g., love) than asexual targets. The findings will be discussed in terms of theoretical implications related to anti-demisexual bias and how it differs from other forms of sexuality-based prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Levi Rosing
Graduate Student | Clark University

Authors

Ruth Warner

[162] Perceptions of Intersectionality: Beyond Two Identities

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Can people perceive more than 2 social identities simultaneously? Numerous studies have investigated the influence of 2 social identities (ex: race & gender) on social perception. However limited work has investigated past this barrier. Across 3 studies (2 preregistered, 1 ongoing), participants were asked to evaluate the likelihood of targets to experience different aspects of discrimination (e.g. the likelihood of holding a leadership position/being verbally harassed). We manipulated race (black/white), gender (women/men), and sexuality (gay/straight). We find that the number of stigmatized identities are positively correlated with perceptions of experiencing discrimination, however this relationship follows a quadratic pattern with diminishing returns. In Study 3 we will attempt to explain these findings using Intersectional Invisibility (Purdie-Vaughns & Eibach, 2008) as a framework. We predict that those with more marginalized identities are viewed as less prototypical of their respective social groups. These results suggest that the most marginalized members of our society may be overlooked in conversations about discrimination because of their perceived non-prototypicality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Justin Mikell

PhD Student | UCI

[163] Perceptions of Therapy: How Racism Shapes Mental Health Stigma and Trust

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Racism is reinforced through ignorant or purposeful actions that have a devastating effect on black individuals' experience with systems they need to survive. The resulting mistrust in the healthcare system and mental health services exacerbates the lack of access and poorer treatment outcomes for Black individuals. This study explores how structural racism shapes Black individuals' perceptions of and experience with mental healthcare. 350 participants self-identifying as Black/African-American, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latino and African, across two age groups (i.e., 18-24 and 45+) were studied. They completed a survey assessing trust in doctors and therapists, mental health literacy, awareness of structural racism, perceived mental illness stigma, and history of mental health and treatment. Results show that racism undermines perceptions of therapy through mistrust and mental health stigma. Rather than having a direct impact on therapy perceptions, racism linked to both mistrust in therapy and heightened awareness of mental health stigma. These factors, in turn, predicted negative perceptions of therapy. Contrary to lay assumptions about generational gaps in openness to mental health care, the younger group had significantly more negative perceptions than the older group. Limitations and implications for further research are discussed. This is the first in a series of studies to understand the interconnected and compounding effects of racism on mental health help-seeking.

*POSTER

Speaker



Naana Hutchful

Student | Clarkson University

Authors

Lisa Legault

[164] Peril of the mind: The racial triangulation of Asian American vs. Asian immigrant success, threat, and exclusionary policy support

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Despite extensive research on perceptions of Asian Americans as successful and unrestricted by racism (the model minority myth, MMM), perceptions of Asian Americans as foreign (the perpetual foreigner stereotype, PFS) remain understudied. Moreover, few studies test the joint implications of both stereotypes. In this project, we argue that being simultaneously cast as model minorities and perpetual foreigners heightens competition and threat towards Asian Americans. We first constructed and validated a scale measuring PFS endorsement using an online sample of White Americans (S1; N=648). A preregistered online study of White Americans (S2; N=263) found that PFS endorsement positively correlated with anti-Asian threat and exclusionary policy support. In an online experiment (S3; N=626) and preregistered replication (S4; N=840), participants watched a video describing Asian American or Asian immigrant success (vs. a control). Participants in both the Asian American and Asian immigrant conditions reported greater MMM endorsement vs. the control, but only the latter reported greater PFS endorsement, threat, and exclusionary policy support. We discuss implications on theory and policy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Sanji

PhD Student | Northwestern University

Authors

Sa-kiera Hudson, Michael Kraus, Zein Saleh

[165] Philosophical arguments can boost charitable giving

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Do reasoned arguments increase charitable giving? Evidence is mixed. One possible explanation is that arguments vary in effectiveness. We crowdsourced 90 philosophical arguments for charitable giving, coding them for a variety of features. In Study 1 (N=2161, MTurk), participants read either a control text or one of five arguments preselected as especially promising. Participants who read the philosophical arguments expressed more positive attitudes towards donating and donated about \$1 more on average of a potential \$10 bonus. Study 2 (N=8982, MTurk) employed all 90 arguments, with each participant reading one argument. We found arguments to be more effective when they mentioned children, mentioned the specific impacts of donating, and/or emphasized that large benefits can be achieved at low cost. Among the features less predictive of donation: addressing counterarguments, mentioning the equivalence of persons or the participant's own assumed good fortune, appealing to religion or expert authorities, or appealing to the participant's self-interest. Together, these studies provide evidence that reasoned arguments can shift moral behavior, but some are more effective than others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kirstan Brodie

PhD Student | Cornell University

Authors

Eric Schwitzgebel, Jason Nemirow, Fiery Cushman

[166] Pluralistic Ignorance in Academic Self-Efficacy as a Predictor of Study-Related Behaviors

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Pluralistic ignorance refers to the systematic misestimation of the magnitude/direction of a group norm. The current study focuses on students' (mis)estimation of other students' academic self-efficacy (ASE), which represents one's belief about their ability to overcome academic challenges, and its relationship with study behaviors (i.e., office hour visits, tutor visits, class participation, and study time). Students who overestimated others' ASE were expected to engage in more study behaviors to match the group norm. During the first month of the fall term, participants from the Introductory Psychology course completed survey measures of ASE beliefs of themselves and other students. At the end of the semester, they reported study behaviors. After controlling demographics and high school GPA, contrary to our hypothesis, overestimation of others' ASE was associated with lower frequency of office hour visits and higher frequency of tutor visits, but only for those with higher-than-average ASE. Overestimation was also associated with lower class participation rate regardless of one's own ASE. Misestimation of others' ASE was not related to one's study time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tiange Dai

Graduate Student | Miami University

Authors

Jeffery Aspelmeier

[167] Post-War Afghanistan Reports the Lowest Subjective Well-Being in Global History

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

War is devastating, but for Afghans, the end of the War in Afghanistan marked a further decline in subjective well-being. We analyzed data from Afghans surveyed during the latter stages of the war and its aftermath from 2018 to 2022 (N = 4,127) and found that life satisfaction dropped to a low mean of 1.28 (0–10-point scale) in 2022, after the U.S. military withdrawal and subsequent Taliban takeover. Two-thirds of Afghans reported a life satisfaction score of 0 or 1. To contextualize this, we then compared Afghanistan's mean subjective well-being score (i.e., life satisfaction) in 2022 to all 2,213 mean subjective well-being scores in the Gallup World Poll (N = 2,591,054) and all 18,855 mean subjective well-being scores in the World Database of Happiness, together covering more than 170 countries from 1946 to 2022. We found that the life satisfaction of Afghans in 2022 (M = 1.28) is the lowest mean subjective well-being score ever recorded. Furthermore, hope in Afghanistan also dropped in 2022 to a critically low mean of 1.02. Wars are destructive, but the conclusion of war can appear worse from the perspectives of civilians despite the de-escalation of physical violence.

*POSTER

Speaker



Levi Stutzman

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Phyllis Lun, Mei Yang, Kenith Chan

[168] Predicting Anti-Immigrant Attitudes in the U.S. and France

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Hostility towards undocumented immigrants is rising as certain media stoke the anxieties of natural-born citizens. In Study 1, participants (N = 285 U.S.-born citizens; 128 women; 131 racial minority; preregistered) read four randomly-ordered news stories about an undocumented immigrant living in the U.S. and evaluated whether this target should be allowed to stay (along with related attitudes). Overall, we found that older Christian nationalists held the most anti-undocumented-immigrant attitudes compared to other demographic subgroups. Moreover, we found that certain "privilege maintenance strategies" explained these attitudes, specifically defending and denying their privilege over immigrants. In Study 2 (proposed N = 400; 200 U.S., 200 French; preregistered), we extend Study 1 by testing which kinds of anxieties over undocumented immigrants most drive negative attitudes (economic threat, cultural threat, violent threat). Given rhetoric in the U.S. and France, we hypothesize that economic threats will drive negative attitudes in both countries. U.S. participants, however, will be more concerned over violent threats, whereas French people will fear cultural threats more.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zoe Jacques

University of Richmond

Authors

Adam Stanaland

[169] Presidential Election Vote Outcome as a Predictor in County Level Sexual Orientation and Gender Motivated Hate Crimes across the United States

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Animus towards LGBTQ individuals remains high, exemplified through the growing incidence of hate crimes motivated by a victim's perceived LGBTQ identity. The increase in hate crime incidents may seem incongruous given recent polling data suggesting that attitudes towards the LGBTQ community are growing more positive year over year rather than negative. Recent work has proposed the importance of political factors influencing hate crime incidence in the United States, with jumps in occurrences loosely associated with major political events. Thus, our research seeks to clarify how one such event, the 2016 presidential election, may have influenced hate crime incidence for the following four years post-election. To accomplish this, we will utilize a mixed effects regression model analyzing whether Republican voting counties experienced an increased amount of hate crimes motivated by bias towards LGBTQ individuals during the four years following the election compared to Democratic voting counties. Our results will add to the current body of literature by clarifying how macronational events may exert extended influence on intergroup interactions with marginalized communities.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cynthia Blaise

Student | Virginia Commonwealth University

Authors

Jennifer Joy-Gaba

[170] Pride or Prejudice? Consumer Responses to Corporate Activism

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Over the past decade, the frequency of companies taking public stances on social issues, such as BLM, climate change, and LGBTQIA+ rights, has steadily increased. But today's shifting political and cultural climate has complicated this wave of corporate advocacy. How will companies' decision to commit to, or step away from, social advocacy impact perceptions of the causes they supported, their motives, and the company itself? And how do cultural perceptions of companies' political leaning shape these judgments? My study investigates this question using responses to real-world corporate social media posts supporting, or not acknowledging, Pride Month in June 2025. I will examine how their decision shapes support for LGBTQIA+ rights, whether people think their advocacy is self-serving or altruistic, and people's affinity towards the companies. Additionally, I will compare perceptions of these companies in 2023 to now, to examine how companies' decision to continue or stop advocating for Pride Month impacts how people perceive them. This work will help illuminate how the current political and cultural climate has changed the interpretations and impacts of corporate advocacy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Katerina von Helms

Boston College

Authors

Marcus Trenfield, Gregg Sparkman, Liane Young

[171] Principle vs. Loyalty: How Moral Anchoring Shapes Partisan Engagement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral commitments structure political judgment in ways that often override pragmatic considerations. While prior research shows that people derogate political out-groups as immoral regardless of their fair or prosocial behaviour (e.g., Skitka, Bauman, & Sargis, 2005), less is known about how voters evaluate in-party violations of core moral values. This study examines whether voters' responses to morally dissonant representatives depend on how they anchor their morality: internally in personal conscience (autonomy) or externally in group norms (authority). Across three experimental conditions, U.S. participants (N = 250) evaluated a co-partisan representative who (1) privately violated a core moral stance (pro-life/choice/family), (2) benefited from a flawed electoral process, or (3) shared misinformation later flagged by fact-checkers. This design tests whether moral dissonance triggers loyalty or defection, and whether moral anchoring predicts tolerance versus repudiation of the representative. The findings will clarify how voters reconcile moral values with partisan loyalty, with implications for understanding political accountability and the resilience of democratic norms.

*POSTER

Speaker



Saheed Bello

Research Fellow | Rutgers University - Camden

Authors

Michael Olson

[172] Profitable third-party punishment destabilizes cooperation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Third-party punishment is theorized by scholars to be essential to the evolution of cooperation, but empirically, it often fails to bring about its desired effects. Here, we suggest that third-party punishment destabilizes cooperation when third parties have profit motives to punish. Across nine economic games and judgment experiments (including four preregistered studies), we find that when third-party punishment is profitable, rates of cooperation decrease immediately and remain lower even when punishment outcomes are optimized to support cooperative behavior. Profitable third-party punishment causes targets of punishment to anticipate antisocial punishment and perceive social norms in terms of self-interest, suggesting that the introduction of payment degrades the communicative signals that punishment is meant to convey about punishers' intentions and social norms. Critically, participants who would benefit from increased cooperation inadvertently reduce their own monetary compensation by opting in to experimental conditions that pay punishers, suggesting that they intuitively fail to consider the signaling consequences of profit motives to punish.

*POSTER

Speaker



Raihan Alam

PhD Student | UC San Diego, Rady School of Management

Authors

Tage Rai

[173] Promoting Problem-Solving Intra-Team Task Conflict with Innovative Organizational Identity: Mediating Role of Creative Self-Efficacy

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

A problem-solving approach to conflict is essential for high-performing teams, particularly in the context of task-related disagreements that require integrative and creative resolution. This study builds on the idea that problem-solving conflict management is inherently a creative act and examines how organizational identity shapes individuals' psychological readiness to engage in such processes. Study 1 tested whether perceived innovative organizational identity activates a situated self-concept centered on creativity, thereby enhancing individuals' creative self-efficacy. In study 2, it was examined whether individuals high in creative self-efficacy are more likely to exhibit problem-solving approaches to task-conflict situations. Finally, Study 3 investigated the process in which creative self-efficacy mediates the relationship between perception of innovative organizational identity and problem-solving conflict management. With the findings that support the hypotheses tested, this framework contributes to research at the intersection of identity, creativity, and conflict by demonstrating how identity-based signals shape adaptive, collaborative conflict behavior within teams.

*POSTER

Speaker



Na Yoon Kim

Assistant Professor of Management | Wilkes University

[174] Psychological Costs of Convenience: A Cross-cultural Examination of the Impacts of Automation on Everyday Tasks

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Many of our daily task experiences will be altered by the ever-increasing progression and adoption of technology. To date, few studies have examined the tradeoff between ease and agency in automated tasks, with even fewer studies exploring this tradeoff cross-culturally. Previous research conducted with Japanese undergraduates suggests that automation may dampen feelings of agency, self-efficacy, and flow when completing a task, yet overriding automation may restore and even boost them (Oikawa & Oikawa, 2022). The current research compares these effects in a sample of American undergraduates (N = 800) across two studies, examining the effects of automation on experiential feelings of agency, efficacy, meaning, and other variables in AI-assisted learning environments (e.g., studying) and across common daily experiences (e.g., driving). In addition, several individual difference measures, such as cognitive reflection, are assessed to observe their role in the experience of automation. While some psychological costs of task automation may be universal, the present research intends to detect those that may be influenced by cultural nuances.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jennifer Prall

California State University Northridge

Authors

Masanori Oikawa, Abraham Rutchick, John Walkiewicz, Haruka Oikawa

[175] Psychological Predictors of Lying Behaviour

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between different types of lying behaviour (i.e., altruistic, self-serving, vindictive, and face-saving) and various psychological factors (i.e., authenticity, empathy, trust, moral disengagement, and loneliness). 236 participants completed an online survey on Qualtrics consisting of the Three-Factor Lying Scale, the Face-Saving Lies Scale, the Authenticity Scale, the Kernis-Goldman Authenticity Inventory Short Form, the Basic Empathy Scale, the General Trust Scale, the moral disengagement scale specific to lie-telling, the UCLA Loneliness Scale Revised, and the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Short Form. I hypothesized that altruistic and face-saving lies would be positively associated with higher levels of authenticity, empathy, moral disengagement, and loneliness, as well as lower levels of trust. Additionally, I hypothesized that self-serving and vindictive lies would be positively associated with lower levels of authenticity, empathy, and trust, along with higher levels of moral disengagement and loneliness. Results indicated that authenticity was generally negatively associated with lie-telling, while empathy was positively associated with altruistic and negatively associated with vindictive lies. Moral disengagement was positively associated with all types of lie-telling, and loneliness was positively associated with all but vindictive lies. Trust was not significantly related to any type of lying behaviour. These findings suggest that the tendency to tell various types of lies is differentially associated with several psychological factors.

*POSTER

Speaker



Samantha Springs

Graduate Student | Texas Woman's University

Authors

Christian Hart

[176] Psychometric Development and Validation of the LGBTQIA+ Prejudice Scale

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The current study aimed to develop and validate a psychological measure of prejudice towards LGBTQIA+ individuals. While several existing scales measure prejudice towards some sexual or gender minority groups, no comprehensive test was found that includes trans, intersex, and asexual individuals alongside other LGBTQIA+ populations. The LGBTQIA+ Prejudice Scale consists of seven subscales measuring prejudice towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer/LGBTQIA+, intersex, and asexual individuals. Each subscale was individually validated and contains only 10–15 items, allowing flexible use for individual research needs. Strong reliability was found for all subscales, with Cronbach's alpha and McDonald's omega values ranging from .94 to .97. All subscales demonstrated convergent validity with pre-existing prejudice scales as well as scales measuring Religious Fundamentalism and Right-Wing Authoritarianism. Analyses, including Confirmatory Factor Analysis and model-of-fit testing, found adequate validity and suggested differences in complexity and formation of prejudice towards different LGBTQIA+ groups. The LGBTQIA+ Prejudice Scale is a versatile and empirically supported instrument for measuring sexual and gender prejudice. It offers researchers a comprehensive tool to assess attitudes towards diverse LGBTQIA+ identities, with potential applications in both academic research and intervention development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Abigail Gray

Southern Virginia University

Authors

Miranda Johnson, Annalisha Staples, Alison Caldwell-Andrews

[177] CANCELLED

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

*POSTER

[178] Racial Differences in Perceived Passion and Motivation: Exploring Antecedents for Asian American and Asian Dehumanization

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Research indicates that Asian Americans and Asians (AAAs) in the U.S. are often viewed as robot- and machine-like, or mechanistically dehumanized, which has implications for social and workplace dynamics (Bai & Zhao, 2024; Li, 2023). However, little is known about why AAAs are prone to this dehumanization. This study explores perceived passion and motivation at work as antecedents of mechanistic dehumanization. We proposed that perceived lack of passion and intrinsic (versus extrinsic) motivation, an indicator of emotionality, may explain increased dehumanization. We conducted an online survey using a within-subjects design (n= 354) to explore US participants' perceptions of different racial groups in each construct. Results showed that AAAs generally were perceived to have higher extrinsic motivation and lower intrinsic motivation and passion. Among the three factors, higher perceived extrinsic motivation significantly correlated with higher mechanistic dehumanization for AAAs. Future research should continue to explore the role of extrinsic motivation in mechanistic dehumanization of AAAs, along with potential workplace outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hannah Kim
Purdue University

Authors

Franki Kung, Zhixu Yang (Rick)

[179] Racial Trauma, Drinking Motivations to Cope, and Alcohol Use: Testing a Series of Moderated Mediation Models

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The increasing rates of alcohol abuse among college students (SAMHSA, 2021) highlight a public health concern, particularly among historically marginalized racial/ethnic (HMRE) students who experience higher levels of racial discrimination (Lee et al., 2021; Pittman et al., 2019). Race-based traumatic stress symptoms (RBTSS), such as avoidance, depression, and hypervigilance, have been linked to alcohol use (Johnson et al., 2023a; Carter, 2007). Minority stress and racial trauma theories suggest that alcohol may serve as a coping mechanism for race-related stress (Keum & Ángel Cano, 2023; Keum & Li, 2022), yet the specific pathways linking RBTSS to alcohol use remain underexplored, particularly regarding drinking motives to cope and racial/ethnic differences in these associations. A sample of 389 students from a Northeast minority-serving institution completed validated measures assessing RBTSS (Race-Based Traumatic Stress Symptom Scale; Carter et al., 2013), drinking motives (Drinking Motives Questionnaire-Revised; Cooper, 1994), and alcohol use (Trauma and Alcohol Perceptions Scale; NIDA, 2018). Bivariate correlations, MANOVAs, and a series of moderated mediation analyses (Hayes' PROCESS Model 7 and Model 8; Hayes, 2022) were conducted. The study examined whether drinking to cope mediated the relationship between race-based traumatic stress symptoms (RBTSS) and alcohol use, with racial/ethnic differences explored. Mediation analyses showed that depression immediately after (DEP-I: indirect effect = 0.03, $p < .05$) and recently (DEP-R: indirect effect = 0.05, $p < .01$), as well as avoidance immediately after (AVOID-I: indirect effect = 0.06, $p < .001$) and recently (AVOID-R: indirect effect = 0.06, $p < .001$), partially mediated alcohol use. Self-esteem recently (SE-R: indirect effect = 0.04, $p < .001$) fully mediated alcohol use through drinking to cope. Moderated mediation revealed significant racial/ethnic differences, with Black Non-Hispanic and Asian Non-Hispanic participants showing stronger mediation effects, while Bi-/Multiracial Non-Hispanic participants exhibited inverse relationships.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bibi Subhan
Ph.D Student | John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Authors

Bibi Subhan, Kellie Courtney, Ariana Chance, Veronica Johnson

[180] Racialized Peer Dynamics: Responding to the Acting White Accusation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Previous research on the Acting White Accusation (AWA) has focused primarily on its content and psychological effects among Black and Latine students, but its interpersonal and behavioral consequences remain understudied. This study examined interpersonal outcomes and coping strategies following the AWA across four dimensions: motivation to disprove stereotypes, antagonism, freezing, and avoidance (Taylor et al., 2021). Utilizing a 2 (Participant Race: Black, Latine) x 2 (Condition: AWA, no AWA) design, participants (N = 380) were randomly assigned to read a scenario where a same-race classmate either accused them of "acting white" or made a neutral statement. Participants then completed measures assessing identity safety, intergroup anxiety, attitudes (i.e., negative, positive) towards the classmate, and coping strategies. Racial centrality was included as an exploratory moderator. Preliminary findings suggest that those exposed to the AWA scenario showed higher intergroup anxiety, more negative attitudes toward their same-race peer, and greater engagement in coping behaviors. These results highlight the importance of understanding racialized peer dynamics in academic contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Suliarys Contreras
Graduate Student | Tufts University

Authors

Valerie Taylor

[181] Read the Room: Situational Awareness as a Foundation for Virtuous Behavior

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Russell (2009, 20-25), while building on Aristotle's view of practical wisdom, claimed that the traits of comprehension, sense, intelligence, deliberative excellence, and cleverness are needed for one to possess practical wisdom. These traits all have a common foundation of accurate environmental perceptions and assessment of sociocultural contexts. Therefore, it is implied that to possess the virtue of practical wisdom, one must be socially and culturally aware enough to identify appropriate contexts in which to take action. Whole Trait Theory (WTT) also proposes that social-cognitive processes can explain density distributions of states, which are influenced by situational factors (Fleeson & Jayawickreme, 2015). The current poster examines how individuals' personal and environmental situational awareness may be a critical skill needed to enact virtuous behavior. It is hypothesized that individuals with higher levels of trait truthfulness will also have higher levels of situational awareness compared to individuals with lower levels of trait truthfulness. It is also hypothesized that individuals with higher levels of both trait truthfulness and situational awareness will more accurately assess if situations are truth-relevant compared to individuals with lower levels of trait truthfulness and to individuals with higher levels of trait truthfulness and low levels of situational awareness.

*POSTER

Speaker



Peyton Graves

Project Coordinator | Wake Forest University

Authors

Peyton Graves

[182] Reappropriating Fat: The impact of self-labeling on weight-related social identity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The word fat generally has a negative connotation and is used to stigmatize individuals with heavier weights. Previous research with other marginalized groups suggests that reclaiming negative slurs may help individuals feel more powerful by signaling solidarity with the group. Using an exploratory approach, 52 individuals who have used the word fat to describe themselves in a positive way were surveyed on their reasons for doing so. Additionally, 93 individuals who have observed others positively self-label as fat were surveyed on the reasons they think others do so. Results showed that reasons categorized as signaling solidarity with the group ("To enhance the power of overweight and obese people in society") were the least endorsed by self-labelers and observers, while reasons signaling individual self-worth ("To show other people that they (self-labelers) are comfortable with their bodies") were most frequently endorsed. Findings suggest that individuals may not see weight as being a part of their social identity. Our results can help future research better understand the relationship between weight stigma, social identity, and the role of reappropriating fat as a label.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaavya Iyer

Social Psychology PhD Student | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Authors

Luke Miller, Ian O'Dowd, Traci Mann

[183] Recovering from inaction: The effect of self-affirmation following failure to confront sexism

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Confrontations are an effective tool to combat prejudice (Czopp & Monteith, 2006). Although many people intend to confront, few do when given the opportunity (Woodzicka & LaFrance, 2001). Failing to act in line with one's intentions can spark dissonance, increasing tolerance of bias and undermining commitment to opposing bias (Mallett et al., 2019; Szekeres et al. 2022). However, this is not inevitable. Resolving dissonance through self-affirmation reduces the likelihood that people will compensate for failing to confront by increasing their tolerance of bias (Rasinski et al., 2013).

The present research examines whether self-affirmation moderates the effects of failing to confront on participants' intention to confront bias in the future. Approximately 300 participants will be randomly assigned to confrontation condition (confront vs. fail to confront a sexist statement) and to self-affirmation condition (self-affirm vs. control). They will report IMS, affect, evaluations of the interaction partner, endorsement of ambivalent sexism, and future intentions to confront. Data collection will be complete by November 17, 2025.

*POSTER

Speaker



Laura Ruth Parker

Assistant Professor of Psychology | Univ. of Houston-Downtown

Authors

Laura Ruth Parker

[184] Reducing Bias Toward Poverty Through Attributional Interventions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

As wealth inequality rises in the US, the need for prejudice reduction interventions aimed at minimizing class-based bias has become an increasingly important social issue. In the present research, we investigate strategies for reducing stereotyping and prejudice toward unhoused peoples. Prior literature has demonstrated that employing situational attributions reduces derogation and blame toward stigmatized identities that are commonly perceived as "controllable", including low-socioeconomic status targets. Informed by attribution theory, this intervention encourages participants to practice identifying environmental constraints on upward mobility. Participants subsequently report perceptions of blame, class stereotyping, and attitudes toward wealth inequality. Through recognizing situational factors that lead to poverty, participants may more readily identify them in everyday, interpersonal encounters. We further discuss the role of attributional framing for reducing bias toward other forms of identities that are perceived as controllable.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mackenzie McDonald

Assistant Professor | University of Southern Maine

Authors

Mackenzie McDonald

[185] Reframe Your Ex-Partner: A Strategy to Minimize Post-Breakup Digital Engagement in Anxiously Attached Individuals Diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Romantic relationship dissolution is especially distressing for individuals with anxious attachment, often triggering rumination and maladaptive digital behaviors such as monitoring an ex-partner's social media or sustaining text contact—behaviors linked to slower recovery and adjustment. This pilot study investigated a novel CBT strategy integrating cognitive reappraisal with phone-based behavioral cues to reduce these behaviors. Four adults (two male, two female) with recent breakups (≤4 weeks), diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder and anxious attachment, participated in four weekly individual therapy sessions. In session one, clients identified negative traits of their ex and renamed the ex's contact information (e.g., "Alex, Drunk, Immature, Rude") on their phone/apps (i.e., WhatsApp, Instagram). Subsequent sessions reinforced and expanded these descriptors. Clients self-reported digital engagement weekly. All participants reported reductions; three ceased text contact by week two and social media monitoring by week three. By week four, all had ceased both behaviors and attributed the contact-name cue as critical. Control group did not cease behaviors. Findings suggest combining cognitive reappraisal with digital-environment modifications offers practical in vivo support to reduce post-breakup engagement and promote emotional recovery.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jonathon Flores

Doctoral Student | Houston Christian University

[186] Religious Ethnocentrism Scale Predicts Prejudice Beyond RWA, SDO, and Religious Fundamentalism

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Religious ethnocentrism (Altemeyer, 2003), which is the belief that one's own religious group is superior to other religious groups, has been implicated as a significant predictor of prejudice toward both religious and non-religious targets (Budesheim et al., 2024). Altemeyer's 16-item Religious Ethnocentrism (RE) Scale measures religious-based prejudice and hostility against others who differ from them in faith. Across two studies using a college sample (N = 390) and a non-college (Prolific) sample (N = 328), we validated a brief (6-item) measure of Altemeyer's religious RE scale using exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. A third study (N = 347) established that the brief RE scale was a significant predictor of prejudice toward a variety of targets, but especially toward religiously relevant targets (e.g., Jews, Muslims, homosexuals). Moreover, we established significant incremental validity for the brief RE scale in that it was a significant predictor of prejudice above and beyond key religious variables (i.e., religious fundamentalism, religious quest, religious commitment) and ideological variables (i.e., SDO and RWA) typically connected with prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Thomas Budesheim

Associate Professor | Creighton University

Authors

Gary Leak, Laura Finken, Brian Martin

[187] Repainting anatomical models to be identity-safety cues in classrooms

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Underrepresentation of Black students in STEM may be influenced by non-identity-safe classrooms reducing belonging and motivation for POC students. We used Black and White skin-tone anatomical models in a mock biology classroom setting to measure effects on belonging. Online participants viewed a learning video presented with a Black or White anatomical model, took a quiz, and completed surveys to record belonging and other variables. The sample included 373 Black participants 18-30yrs, of which 203 were students. There was a significant 3-way interaction between condition, stigma consciousness, and student status predicting belonging, $F(1, 364) = 5.21, p = .02$. For students there was a simple 2-way interaction between stigma consciousness and condition, $p = 0.13$, such that at high stigma consciousness there was marginally more belonging in the Black model condition than the White model condition, $p = .07$, but not at low stigma consciousness, $p = .63$. Other variables showed similar results. Repainted models alongside other changes, may help increase identity-safety for Black students in STEM settings and in turn help diversify STEM fields by signaling to students that they belong.

*POSTER

Speaker



Julianna Malloy

Centenary College of Louisiana

Authors

Evava Pietri, Veronica Derricks, Peter Zuncik

[188] Representations of possibility in the Moral Domain

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

The ability to represent what is possible is an important aspect of social cognition, and it is shaped by both physical and social and moral laws. Here, we examine how morality influences people's sense of what is and is not possible, testing whether these judgments are linked to imaginative capacity. Across 3 studies ($N = 942$), participants under time pressure judged whether various actions—ordinary, physically impossible, and very morally good ("saintly")—were possible in response to a moral issue. In Study 1, people were more accurate when evaluating the possibility of ordinary or impossible actions compared to saintly ones. Study 2 replicated this and found that the proportion of saintly actions viewed as possible was correlated 1) positively with scores in an alternate use task and 2) negatively with imaginative resistance (p 's $< .029$). Study 3 will examine whether viewing saintly actions as possible is also linked to judgments about immoral actions, moral values, beliefs about societal progress, and additional measures of imagination. Our results will provide a novel examination of the potential role of possibility judgments in moral cognition and imaginative thought.

*POSTER

Speaker



Charlotte Austin

Phd | Cornell

Authors

Charlotte Austin, Gijs Van Houwelingen, Dries Bostyn, Stephen Anderson, Jordan Wyl

[189] Resolving the Attitudinal Versus Behavioral Information Controversy: Experimental and Computational Insights about Social Influence

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Although information about someone's attitudes and behaviors is known to influence others, their relative impact remains unclear. Prior studies intended to compare attitudinal and behavioral information have inadvertently confounded the information or ignored participants' inferences about the behavior of those expressing attitudes. To clarify these effects and better understand social influence, Study 1 ($N = 938$) presented both attitudinal and behavioral information, or attitudinal information alone, as part of a group chat. Study 2 ($N = 300$) introduced social media posts that jointly discussed attitudinal and behavioral information, compared to either attitudinal or behavioral information alone. In both studies, coupling attitudinal and behavioral information had a greater influence than presenting either type alone. Studies 3 and 4 (N s = 50 and 98) presented attitudinal and behavioral surveys while manipulating inferences about people's behavior based on their attitudes. The surveys were most influential when they presented explicitly paired attitudinal and behavioral information or attitudinal information that implied behavior, followed by attitudinal information that did not imply behavior and mere behavioral information. Lastly, Study 5 employed an observational analysis of customer reviews confirmed these findings, highlighting the value of distinguishing between attitudinal and behavioral influences in real-world decisions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yubo Zhou

PHD Student | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Dolores Albarracin, Yubo Zhou, Zihan Yang

[190] Rethinking Sacredness: Domains, Psychological Properties, and Moral Boundaries

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Sacred values research has broadened our view of sacredness, emphasizing resistance to trade-offs. Yet it often overlooks how people actually experience sacredness in daily life. Drawing on developmental psychology and the psychology of religion, we present two preregistered studies suggesting that sacredness is more psychologically diverse and personally grounded than previously assumed.

In Study 1 (N = 117), participants described something they held sacred. Content coding revealed five recurring domains, capturing a wide range of sacred objects and concepts. This highlights the need to explore sacredness beyond abstract value trade-offs.

In Study 2 (N = 163), participants completed the same prompt and then responded to probes adapted from developmental research on moral obligation and spiritual belief. While a few sacred objects (e.g., ecology) were described in universal moral terms, most were rooted in personal meaning rather than moral mandates.

Taken together, our findings suggest that sacredness is not a monolithic moral stance but a richly multidimensional psychological construct. Moving beyond trade-off paradigms, a participant-centered approach better captures the everyday experience of the sacred and reveals its diverse role in shaping how people find meaning and protect what they hold most dear.

*POSTER

Speaker



Starlett Hartley

PhD Student | The New School for Social Research

Authors

Katrina Fincher, Joan Miller

[191] Revealing Invisibility: Tracking Current Perceptions of Black Women in Society

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Black women are one of the most cited instantiations of intersectionality since Kimberle Crenshaw put forth the concept (1989). Holding non-prototypical and subordinate identities in both their race and gender, Black women encounter a unique set of challenges. The misrepresentation, inattention, and understanding of Black women contributes to the idea of intersectional invisibility (Purdie-Vaughn & Eibach, 2008). The current study seeks to expand empirical work on invisibility through the method of spontaneous generation of subgroups for 6 categories (Black/White people, Black/White women, and Black/White men), to see where Black women stand socially in comparison to other identity groups. Supporting the main hypothesis, participants generated the fewest subgroups for the category of Black women. These results imply a type of social invisibility for Black women and indicate that the experiences of Black women are not strictly dictated by the summation of the Black experience and the female experience: Black women's double non-prototypicality exposes them to a complex world of subordination that needs to continue being explored.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yolore Airewele

Graduate Student | Tufts University

Authors

Susan Fiske

[192] Revisiting Samurai virtues: A psychological analysis of Bushido through Large Language Models

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

The longstanding dominance of WEIRD-based values has come under increasing scrutiny in the social sciences. Addressing this imbalance requires attention to non-WEIRD traditions, particularly those that historically influenced WEIRD audiences. Recent advances in natural language processing enable rigorous analysis of classical non-WEIRD texts. This study examines Bushido: The Soul of Japan, a widely read classic that introduced Japanese moral ideals to the West. Using Contextualized Construct Representations (CCR), we assessed how Bushido conveys psychological constructs by referencing established scales of morality and personality. Bushido consistently showed higher semantic alignment with these constructs than texts related to Christianity or Japanese culture, suggesting that it articulates moral and personality structures rooted in Japanese traditions that resonate across cultures and eras. Multidimensional scaling identified Meiyō (名誉) as the central virtue, distinct from Western pride-based honor. These findings demonstrate how classical non-WEIRD texts can reveal enduring, cross-cultural moral frameworks, offering a compelling alternative to the WEIRD-centric paradigm.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ryota Takano

Junior Associate Professor | Nagoya University

Authors

Minoru Karasawa

[193] Robot Bias: Individual Differences Moderate the Uncanny Valley Effect

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Why do some people find robots more unsettling than others? This study tested whether trait differences moderated uncanny valley responses. Participants (N = 169) completed measures assessing pathogen avoidance, disgust sensitivity, creepiness sensitivity, and general threat sensitivity as well as rated the uncanniness and eeriness of realistic and mechanistic humanoid robots. Results indicated that disgust sensitivity, creepiness sensitivity, and threat sensitivity interacted significantly with robot type to predict uncanniness: those higher in these traits rated realistic robots as more uncanny. Disgust sensitivity and threat sensitivity interacted significantly with robot type to predict eeriness, yet subsequent simple slopes were only significant for general threat sensitivity. Pathogen avoidance was not a significant trait moderator for either uncanniness nor eeriness. Overall, results suggest certain threat-based emotional traits may bias perceptions of humanlike robots, explaining why some find robots more unsettling than others.

*POSTER

Speaker



Margaret Amason

Graduate Student | Texas Woman's University

[194] Science of Thriving: Supporting Basic Psychological Need Fulfillment in Transfer Students

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Science of Thriving is a multi-cohort longitudinal field study tackling student persistence. This intervention is developed with Self-Determination Theory (SDT) at its root. We investigate the effects of a non-traditional introduction to college course during a transfer student's first semester in college in a cohort model with other transfer students. Real world incoming transfer students are randomly assigned into one of two courses: Science of Thriving (Experimental) and University Transfer Success (Control). Students in Science of Thriving learn mindfulness techniques, relationship-building techniques, and finding and pursuing strengths. Students in the control condition receive a typical introduction to college course centering on campus resources. We investigate student outcomes at 4 timepoints: course start, course end, 1 semester after course end, 2 semesters after course end. We hope to present considerations for socioemotional interventions aimed at supporting student persistence and preliminary data.

*POSTER

Speaker



Xunzi Hou

Umass Amherst

Authors

Nilanjana Dasgupta

[195] Seeing the Present as Future Memories

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

People engage in various future-preparing behaviors, one of which is documenting daily life for future reflection. Despite growing evidence that such documentation offers psychological benefits, little is known about who is more likely to engage in documenting daily experiences. To address this gap, we introduce a novel psychological construct, Seeing the Present as Future Memories (SPFM), which refers to the tendency to view the present as future memories worth preserving. Across three studies, we verify the positive relationship between SPFM and documenting daily life. First, we develop the SPFM scale and demonstrate that SPFM significantly predicts documenting daily life beyond related constructs—savoring belief and optimism (Study 1). Study 2, using a two-wave longitudinal design, shows SPFM at Wave 1 predicts documenting behavior at Wave 2, which in turn leads to greater well-being at Wave 2. Finally, Study 3 extends these findings by showing that individuals higher in SPFM also perceive greater value in daily records created by others. These results provide initial evidence that viewing the present as a future resource motivates individuals to preserve the present.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chaewoo Lim

graduate student | Seoul National University

Authors

Incheol Choi

[196] Segmenting Chinese Students' Adaptation in Russian HEIs

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

This study investigated adaptation patterns among 500 Chinese students in 4 top Russian HEIs using Kim's cross-cultural adaptation theory. Two-step cluster analysis identified three distinct profiles based on educational satisfaction and cross-cultural adjustment: "Thriving and Integrated" (33.2%) with high satisfaction and adjustment; "Struggling and Discontent" (36.4%) with poor adjustment and satisfaction; "Academically Content but Culturally Challenged" (30.4%) with high educational satisfaction despite poor cultural adjustment. Pre-departure cross-cultural preparation, personality, chronic stress, socioeconomic status, and functioning significantly differed between clusters.

Open-ended responses reveal that cross-cultural adjustment and education satisfaction develop independently, with distinct stress experience/perception and resource utilization patterns across clusters. Findings suggest universities should develop targeted support sources addressing different adaptation needs and ensure adequate information distribution about these resources, allowing the students to choose appropriate support if they want to use it rather than assuming uniform experiences.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yulia Muzychenko

Authors

Elena Bulankina, Sergey Kulikov, Xia Bingyu, Vyacheslav Zadorin

[197] Self-affirmation, Risk-taking, and Socioeconomic Status in a Job Interview Context

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This preregistered study examines the effects of self-affirmation and socioeconomic status (SES) on risk-taking and confidence in a job interview scenario. We hypothesized that self-affirmation would increase risk-taking willingness and job interview confidence. Participants (N = 711) on Prolific were randomly assigned to either a self-affirmation task (writing about personal values) or a control. Risk-taking willingness and confidence were assessed both before and after the task in two ways: (1) self-reported willingness to take a specific risk in a job interview, and (2) general risk-taking tendencies in social and financial domains. Contrary to predictions, self-affirmation did not significantly affect risk-taking or confidence. However, SES positively predicted both financial risk-taking and confidence, both pretest and posttest, with higher SES associated with greater risk-taking and confidence. SES also negatively predicted social risk-taking posttest, though this effect was not significant when controlling for pretest scores. These results suggest that higher SES correlates with increased risk-taking and confidence but self-affirmation does not appear to enhance risk-taking.

*POSTER

Speaker



James Wages

Assistant Professor | University of Central Arkansas

Authors

Mollie Price-Blackshear, Yeseul Nam

[198] Self-Concordance and Positive Affect: Do They Predict Short-Term Goal Achievement?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Self-concordance is the level of alignment of our goals with our interests and personal values. Higher self-concordance is associated with higher achievement. Similarly, higher positive affect is associated with higher achievement. We aimed to examine if self-concordance combined with positive affect predict achievement in short-term goals. On Friday, participants from a large public university (N=96) reported their positive affect using the PANAS, set three weekend goals, and completed the Self-Concordance Scale for each goal. On Sunday evening, they reported their achievement for each goal as a percentage. We hypothesized that self-concordance and positive affect collectively would be positively associated with goal achievement. Using the average self-concordance and achievement level for the three goals, we ran a multiple regression with self-concordance and positive affect as predictors whereas goal achievement was the outcome variable. Results showed that the model was not significant ($R^2=.016$, $F(2,91)=.750$, $p=.475$). We discuss possible interpretation of the results using both the high-performance cycle and expectancy theory.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Stuart

Oregon State University

Authors

Avery Jones, Jose Pullman, Lucienne Dale, Ameer Almuaybid

[199] Self-Control Strategy Selection in Moral and Non-Moral Temptations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Self-control is often studied as a matter of effortful resistance, but less is known about how people choose which strategies to regulate themselves. This project examines whether the moral framing of temptations influences self-control strategy selection. Expanding on recent work by Murray and Bermudez (2023), participants read realistic vignettes describing temptations framed either as moralized or non-moralized. For each scenario, participants rate situational characteristics using the DIAMONDS taxonomy (Rauthmann et al., 2014), and indicate which self-control strategy the protagonist should adopt out of attentional focus, cognitive change, response modulation, situation selection, or situation modification. (Duckworth et al., 2016). We hypothesize that moralized temptations increase the selection of proactive situational strategies (situation selection, situation modification) compared to non-moralized temptations. We also predict that situational characteristics will moderate these effects. Results will shed light on whether morality changes not just the strength of self-control but its architecture, clarifying the interplay of morality, self-control, and situational contexts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Francesca Arioli Montanari

PhD Student | Unimi

[200] Self-Motives Predict Anti-Racist Intentions Following Racism Feedback

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Research finds that people who view themselves as better-than-average (BTAE) are more defensive following feedback about racial biases (Howell & Ratliff, 2017). Self-enhancement underlies BTAE, but other self-evaluation motives may reveal meaningful differences in reactions to feedback about one's racism. The proposed study (n = 400) will measure participants' anti-Black attitudes, self-evaluation feedback goals, and reactions to feedback about these attitudes. We anticipate that people's goals to self-enhance predict more defensive reactions toward feedback about racism (replicating past work), whereas goals to self-assess and improve are anticipated to predict lowered defensive reactions. We also expect different self-evaluation goals (e.g., assess and improve) will predict the extent of people's engagement with anti-racist behaviors. Individuals' awareness of their racial biases is crucial for promoting anti-racist behavior (Howell et al., 2024; Perry et al., 2015), so we seek to understand how people interpret the utility of racism-related feedback in a way that satisfies self-evaluation goals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Adam Chellberg

Western Washington University

Authors

Angela Bell

[201] OPEN

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

*POSTER

[202] Self-Serving CEO Activism? The Interaction of Business-Relatedness and CEO Morality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

When chief executive officers (CEOs) take public stances on contentious social or political issues—i.e., CEO activism—they elicit mixed reactions from stakeholders, resulting in both support and opposition toward the corporation. Drawing on attribution theory, this research examines how the perceived business-relatedness of CEO activism and CEO morality shape stakeholders' inferred motives and corporate reputation. Across survey and experimental studies, we find that as CEO activism is perceived to be more related to the core business, it reduces attributions of a self-serving motive of CEO activism. However, if the CEO's moral integrity is questioned, it does not affect the attribution process. The perceived self-serving motive of CEO activism spills over into attributions regarding corporate social responsibility (CSR), making CSR efforts appear opportunistic and ultimately harming corporate reputation. This study advances understanding of how stakeholders attribute motives to CEO activism, particularly in the context of CEO morality and CSR initiatives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kihyon Kim

Research Professor | Bentley University (Korea University)

Authors

Kihyon Kim

[203] Sensation Seeking Moderates Occipitoparietal Response to Food-Cued Vape Packaging

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Objective: E-cigarette vaping is the most common form of tobacco use among U.S. young adults (YAs). Vape marketing often features colorful food images to increase visual salience. Over 80% of YAs cite flavors as a reason for vaping. This fMRI study tested whether food cues on vape packaging heighten visuospatial attention, whether occipitoparietal responses predict subsequent vaping, and whether impulsive sensation seeking (ISS) moderates this link.

Methods: 67 YA vapers (M_age=20.1, 64.2% female) viewed vape packages with/without food cues during fMRI. Four occipitoparietal ROIs were identified via contrasts of packages with vs. without food cues. One-month vaping frequency was assessed via weekly follow-ups. Regressions tested whether ROI responses predicted vaping and whether ISS moderated effects.

Results: Food cues elicited greater activation in bilateral secondary visual cortex and parietal regions linked to visuospatial attention. Left inferior parietal lobule (IPL)/BA19 response predicted higher vaping frequency ($\beta=.34$, $p=.02$, $\Delta R^2=9.5\%$), but only in low sensation seekers ($\leq 2.72/4$; $\beta=-1.28$, $p=.01$).

Conclusion: Food-cue packaging enhances occipitoparietal salience responses that predicted increased vaping, with effects moderated by ISS. Findings highlight individual differences as critical in understanding neural risk mechanisms for vaping

*POSTER

Speaker



Kaijie Zhang

St. George's School

Authors

Jiaying Liu

[204] Sex Worker Stigma Through the Lens of Morality, Sexism, and Disgust

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

This study is a follow-up to prior research on the predictors of sex worker stigma, with a focus on ambivalent sexism, moral concerns, and disgust. The project replicates and extends earlier findings using a more diverse sample and improved measurement tools. Sex worker stigma has important social and policy implications, making it critical to understand its psychological underpinnings. Specifically, this study examines how purity-based moral concerns and ambivalent sexism contribute to negative attitudes toward sex workers, and whether disgust mediates this relationship.

Two aims guide the project: (1) validating the Sex Worker Implicit Association Test (Sex Worker IAT) by testing it in a more diverse sample and comparing it with established explicit measures, including the Normative/Deviant Subscale of the Attitudes Toward Prostitutes and Prostitution Scale; and (2) assessing relationships among stigma, moral concerns, ambivalent sexism, and disgust sensitivity. Explicit measures also include feeling thermometers, policy endorsement items, and scales of attitudes toward prostitution. Based on prior findings, we expect purity concerns to uniquely predict negative attitudes, beyond hostile and benevolent sexism. The inclusion of disgust allows for testing whether it mediates the link between purity concerns and stigma.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emily Kinzel

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Authors

Tessa Dover

[205] Silence in the Scroll: Psychological Dynamics of Political Self-Censorship

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Political self-censorship – the deliberate decision to withhold one’s political views – threatens democratic discourse. Building on spiral-of-silence and pluralistic-ignorance theory, this research examines how perceived social norms, exposure to misinformation, and trust interact to shape willingness to express political attitudes. Previous work has identified how social media amplifies pluralistic ignorance, suggesting that digital environments may intensify these psychological processes. In this study, U.S. participants report baseline perceptions of norms, trust, and anticipated social/institutional sanctions. We then experimentally manipulate normative climate (perceived approval vs. disapproval), information environment (accurate vs. misleading content), topic (politically polarized vs. low-salience), and context (social media vs. offline) to understand the psychological conditions under which people silence their political views. In doing so, this work advances theory on self-censorship and identifies leverage points – such as norm signaling, interventions, and platform design – for sustaining open political dialogue.

*POSTER

Speaker



Aya Salim

PhD Student | Stanford University

Authors

Jeff Hancock

[206] Single Presenter

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

This study explores employees’ implicit theories of wise management. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 26 employees from an industrial organization, analyzed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. Results revealed three core dimensions of wise management: intrapersonal attributes (e.g., moral reasoning, emotional balance), interpersonal behaviors (e.g., empathy, team development), and job-related skills (e.g., foresight, problem-solving). These domains formed the basis of the Tripartite Model of Wise Management (TMWM), consisting of nine managerial styles, ranging from “wise manager” to “self-centered ineffective,” illustrating variations in wisdom-related competencies. TMWM expands existing leadership frameworks by integrating ethical self-regulation with strategic and relational capacities. It offers a more dynamic and value-oriented approach to management, emphasizing not only how managers act but also why they act in a particular way. This framework informs management development, assessment centers, and selection processes by capturing the complexity of wise behavior in contextually demanding environments.

*POSTER

Speaker



Arezoo Soleimani Dashtaki

PhD student | Cornell University

Authors

Arezoo Soleimani Dashtaki

[207] Skewed Dispositional Regulatory Focus in Citizen Science: Implications for Engagement in Environmental and Public Health Monitoring

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Citizen science faces persistent challenges in sustaining engagement, and understanding drivers of volunteer participation, particularly in digital initiatives addressing environmental and public health concerns. The study offers a novel application of Regulatory Focus Theory to examine the impact of dispositional goal orientations among participants of Mosquito Alert, a transnational initiative tracking invasive disease-carrying mosquitoes. Using mixed-method analysis of survey data and in-platform behavioral metrics, a significant skew towards prevention-focused participants was found. A further discrepancy emerged between self-reported motivations and actual behavior. Notably, heightened dispositional regulatory focus correlated with shorter participation spans. The findings revealed critical gaps between perceived motivations and behavioral outcomes, underscored importance of further integrating psychological constructs into platform design to enable and maintain long-term volunteer participation. The study advances theoretical understanding of volunteer psychology in sustainability contexts offering actionable strategies for improving the efficacy of initiatives.

*POSTER

Speaker



Berj Dekramanjan

[208] Cancelled

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

*POSTER

[209] Social media and perceptions of adulthood

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Social media users post highlights from their daily lives, like personal accomplishments and milestones. However, in doing so, they generate opportunities for social comparison, known to shape users' self-evaluations. This raises an important question: can social media also affect how we view our own rate of development? In this study, we set out to answer this question by randomizing college students (N = ~400) into one of two conditions: one where they view social media posts of similar-aged peers achieving adult milestones (e.g., getting married, having children) and one where they view posts of similar-aged peers doing everyday activities (e.g., visiting the beach). We hypothesize that those exposed to adulthood-salient social media will perceive themselves as younger, less adult-like, more depressed, and more "behind" their peers in adult development. With this research, the field may gain a better understanding of how to support the health and well-being of young people through a largely subjective and socially-influenced life stage, like emerging adulthood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mackenzie Coy

Undergraduate Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Kaylin Ratner

[210] Social Mobility Beliefs Predict Competence Stereotype Gap Between Classes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The poor are often seen as less competent than the rich. This research tested whether social mobility beliefs—the perceived chance of people moving up or down in society—shape these stereotypes. We predicted that high (vs. low) social mobility beliefs would strengthen views of the poor as less competent, due to stronger internal attributions for their low status. Using a mixed experimental design, two studies (Singapore undergraduates, n = 260; UK online sample, n = 201) tested our hypotheses. Participants' social mobility beliefs were manipulated using bogus articles reporting high or low social mobility in their country. Participants then made attributions of social class, and rated the competence of rich and poor targets. Across studies, high mobility beliefs increased internal attributions for both targets. Crucially, high mobility beliefs reduced competence ratings of poor targets compared to low mobility beliefs, mediated by higher internal attributions of social class. Social mobility beliefs did not affect competence ratings of the rich. Findings suggest that believing in high social mobility may inadvertently widen the competence stereotype gap between the rich and poor.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gregory Tan

Post Graduate Student | Singapore Management University

Authors

Jacinth J. X. Tan

[211] OPEN

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

*POSTER

[212] Social Pain Minimization Mediates Discrimination's Effect on Sleep Health

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Discrimination disrupts sleep and contributes to race-based health inequities for Black Americans, but less is known about the psychological processes of this relation. This research tests whether emotion invalidation, termed Social Pain Minimization (SPM), mediates discrimination's disruptive effects on sleep. The current work centers the experiences of Black Americans because of extant evidence of racism and SPM's effects among this group. Four studies using cross-sectional (Studies 1a-1b) and multi-wave designs (Studies 2-3; Ntotal = 1,176) were employed. Discrimination and SPM were measured with validated scales and self-reported sleep quality was assessed with multiple operationalizations including the short form Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) Sleep-Related Impairment (SRI) subscale and composites of the Insomnia Severity Index (ISI). Cross-sectional (Studies 1a-1b) and longitudinal mediation analyses (Studies 2-3) indicated SPM partially mediated discrimination's effects on sleep. Beyond its direct negative effect on sleep, discrimination also operates through SPM to reduce sleep quality. Secondary experiences with emotion invalidation disrupt the sleep of Black Americans and contribute racial deficits in sleep health.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jonathan Kunstman

Associate Professor | Auburn University

Authors

Oliver Gustafson, Maizie Schaill, Isabella Lehman, Thaddeus Lewis, Lydia Smalley

[213] Social Roles and Interpersonal Morality: Moral Ingroup Favoritism Among Chinese and Americans

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Relational and socio-cultural contexts are central to studying interpersonal morality. The current study compared China and United States on how social roles and relationships influence moral decision-making, and perception of interpersonal moral responsibilities. Study 1 used an experimental survey about hypothetical costly decision-making regarding family, friends, colleagues and outgroup members. Study 2 explored people's perception and justification of real-life role-related duties. Chinese and Americans generally differentiated between ingroup and outgroup, suggesting collectivism and in-group preference are cross-culturally universal. Comparatively, Chinese display a greater prioritization of family roles and relations, especially greater concern for parents; Americans value relationships with 'friends' and 'romantic partner'. Cultural differences in interpersonal morality may be related with specific person-construal, moral worldview, and socioecological environments. This study contributes to developing a relational-context-sensitive measure in moral psychology and characterizing cross-cultural patterns beyond the traditional typology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Mei Mei

PhD student | University of Chicago

Authors

Mei Mei

[215] Stereotype Content and Cybervetting: The Effects of Anti-Sexism Social Media Posts on Hiring Evaluations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Cyber-vetting (i.e., evaluating applicants through their online presence) is increasingly common, yet prior research on gender and racial bias in cybervetting has rarely examined how identity-based online advocacy shapes hiring. This study tests how anti-sexism posts, applicant gender, and race affect hireability. Participants with hiring experience recruited from Prolific will review a fictitious resume and cover letter paired with X posts in one of six conditions: White men (anti-sexism vs. neutral), White or Asian women (anti-sexism vs. neutral). Post valence and engagement cues are held constant across conditions. We predict that (1) men posting anti-sexism content will be rated as more hireable than men posting neutral content, mediated by higher perceived warmth and competence; (2) women posting anti-sexism content will be rated as less hireable than women posting neutral content, mediated by lower perceived warmth; and (3) the hireability penalty for anti-sexism content will be greater for Asian than for White women, mediated by a larger reduction in perceived warmth. Findings will show how online advocacy shapes unequal hiring outcomes and inform efforts to reduce bias.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marybella Zhang

Johns Hopkins University

Authors

Dylan Seltermann, Celia Yang

[216] Stereotypes as Shared Cultural Information

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Stereotypes convey explanatory information about groups (Reyna, 2000) and this stereotype information may be widely shared and socially understood within a culture. The current studies tested whether members of a stereotyped group (gay men) and out-members or observers of that group (heterosexual people) differ in their knowledge of that group's cultural stereotypes. Data was collected at 2 time points – in 2009 and in 2023. Data was collected for Study 1 at gay pride events in Chicago, while Study 2 subjects were recruited through the university's subject pool and completed an online survey for course credit. A one-way MANOVA was conducted for both timepoints, and remarkable similarity was found in recognition of gay stereotypes between gay men, bisexual men, and heterosexual individuals ($F(196, 1837) = 1.01, p = .462$), with a few exceptions. Implications for how individuals may leverage this shared cultural knowledge to communicate about their identities are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Megan Stricker

PhD Student | DePaul University

Authors

Christine Reyna, Levi Rosing, Kaelan Vazquez

[217] Stereotypes of Dogs Are Context Dependent

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Research on animal stereotypes often lacks nuance, focusing on animals broadly rather than specific subgroups or contexts. Dogs are often seen as positively stereotyped, which may explain their role as beloved companions. However, this does not explain harm or utilitarian roles (e.g., dog fighting, laboratory research), suggesting a more complex stereotype landscape.

We examined stereotypes about dogs across two studies. In Study 1, participants (N=172) listed stereotypes about Dogs, Aggressive Dogs, and Friendly Dogs in open-ended responses. We identified 17 themes for Dogs (e.g., "good companions"), 15 for Aggressive Dogs (e.g., "dangerous to children"), and 20 for Friendly Dogs (e.g., "affiliative").

In Study 2, we created items from Study 1 responses and asked a new group of participants (N=305) to rate their personal endorsement of stereotypes of one condition (Dogs, Friendly Dogs, or Aggressive Dog). The most endorsed stereotypes were: "good companions," "loyal," "loving," "protective," and "love people" (Dogs); "dangerous to children," "dangerous," "hard to handle," "not properly socialized," and "will bite" (Aggressive Dogs); and "good companions," "loving," "good-natured," "sweet," and "love attention" (Friendly Dogs). We found that dog stereotypes are complex and depend on context. We discuss how stereotypes may influence attitudes toward animal welfare policies.

*POSTER

Speaker



Lindsay Palmer

ASU

Authors

Sophia Ruppel, Andrew Johnson, Clive D.L. Wynne, Remy Frost, Anamarie Johnson

[218] OPEN

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

*POSTER

[219] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

*POSTER

[220] Stigma, Minority Stress, and Mental Health: A Weekly Diary Study

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Stigma exposures (e.g., harassment) among sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth are hypothesized to elicit minority stress reactions—rejection concerns [RC], concealment motivation [CM], and internalized homonegativity [IH]—that contribute to mental health symptoms. Yet their temporal sequencing and covariation remain unclear, hampering causal inference. Using data from the control condition of a trial of 59 SGM youth ages 16-25 (M=21.95, SD=3.48) who completed 10 weekly mood tracking assessments, we examined within- and between-person associations among stigma, minority stress reactions, and depression and anxiety via lagged and unlagged multilevel models. Stigma predicted RC (lagged within: $b=0.2, p=.03$; lagged between: $b=0.65, p=.001$) and CM (lagged within: $b=0.06, p=.02$; lagged between: $b=0.11, p=.01$). RC predicted depression (unlagged within: $b=0.12, p=.046$) and anxiety (lagged between: $b=.43, p=.03$). CM predicted anxiety (unlagged between $b=1.24, p=.01$). IH predicted depression (unlagged within: $b=0.53, p=.049$) and anxiety (unlagged within: $b=0.82, p=.002$). Stigma exposure may generate state-like RC and CM, while IH might operate as a trait, not varying with stigma exposure.

*POSTER

Speaker



Palomi Kurade

Research Associate | Yale University

Authors

Danielle Chiamonte, John Pachankis, Tj Sullivan

[221] Stories of the Self: The Connections Between Narcissistic Personality Traits and Narrative Identity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Background: Individuals differ in how they recognize and reflect on their life stories. Narcissism may shape this awareness by influencing self-perception and interpretation of past experiences.

Objective: We examined the connections that narcissistic traits had with narrative identity facets (awareness, temporal, causal, and thematic coherence) and whether cultural context (Turkey vs. United States) moderates these associations.

Method: Participants were 907 adults (454 Turkey, 453 United States) who completed measures of narcissism and narrative identity.

Results: Extraverted narcissism positively predicted all narrative identity facets, whereas antagonistic narcissism negatively predicted them. Neurotic narcissism showed small negative associations with causal and thematic coherence. Cultural context moderated these patterns: links for extraversion and antagonism were stronger in the U.S., whereas neuroticism's negative associations were stronger in Turkey.

Conclusion: Narcissistic traits relate to narrative identity in distinct and culturally contingent ways. Extraversion facilitates coherent life narratives, whereas antagonism undermines them and neuroticism has mixed associations with them. These results highlight the importance of personality and culture in life story construction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Esat Sanli

Assoc. Prof. (Post-Doc) | Ondokuz Mayıs University

Authors

Virgil Zeigler-Hill

[222] Structural views of prejudice predict engagement in collective action

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Beliefs about the nature of prejudice shape our decisions about how and when to effectively confront it. While interpersonal confrontation may seem sufficient for dealing with prejudiced individuals, widespread forms of bias like systemic prejudice may require larger-scale interventions to create meaningful social change. In an online survey of American adults ($n = 197$), this study examined whether self-reported beliefs about the relative source of prejudice (interpersonal vs. structural) predicted individual intent to engage in collective action behaviors such as boycotts, petitions, and protests. We found that participants with more structural views of prejudice were more likely to report collective action intentions, even when accounting for demographic factors such as gender, race, and socioeconomic status. This research identifies beliefs about the structural or systemic nature of prejudice as a potential target for experimental manipulation and eventually intervention.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cheryl Nong

Graduate Student | Indiana University

Authors

Dorainne Green

[223] Student

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Following the 2020 resurgence of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, a groundswell of people has shown a keen interest in the cause. The present study investigates virtue signaling, specifically, whether it inhibits people from engaging in meaningful direct actions that might promote social change. We tested whether the order in which participants are asked to publicly show support by posting on social media affects their willingness to donate. Participants were less inclined to donate time or money if, first, they were given the opportunity to indicate their support by posting on social media. Posting on social media as a form of virtue signaling is a low-cost action in comparison to donating one's time or money. The results suggest that these low-cost actions satisfy people's self-presentation goals, affirming to others that they, too, are on the right side of history, yet they may undermine more direct and perhaps more meaningful supportive actions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hewan Deyass

Student | University of Mississippi

Authors

Brianna Richmond, Adam Beam, Ana C. Vieira Zaidan, Donna M. Garcia, Joseph D. Wellman

[224] Subjectivity Feels Objective: Moral Evidence Under Emotional Burden

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Trust decides who gets believed in court, at work, and in relationship, but when led by emotion over evidence, it risks favoring sympathy over justice and volume over harm. While emotion shapes trust in legal settings (Ask & Landström, 2010), its role in moral contexts remains unclear, partly due to vague dilemma types. This study examines how emotional burden affects perceived credibility of subjective and objective evidence in a care-related moral dilemma.

We first analyzed 1,794 Reddit posts and over 300,000 comments from the AITA subreddit involving care-related moral dilemmas. As emotional intensity increased, commenters expressed more trust in the posts ($p < .001$), indicating that emotion may amplify the credibility of subjective moral claims.

In line with this pattern, participants ($n=100$) were assigned to high- or low-emotional burden conditions and rated the credibility of subjective and objective statements in a care dilemma. Emotional burden selectively reduced the perceived gap between subjective and objective evidence ($d=-0.46$, $p=.023$), suggesting that emotion can make moral claims feel more objective. This effect was specific to the burden-inducing party.

*POSTER

Speaker



Tianyi Xiong

Authors

Yu Li

[225] Testing the universal model of prejudice: A replication of Hehman and Neel (2024) in Japan

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Hehman and Neel (2024) introduced "Prejudice Model 1.0," which employs elastic net regression to identify key predictors among multiple theories of prejudice. Building on their framework, this study examined the model's cross-cultural validity and context-specific predictors in a Japanese sample ($N = 877$). The models demonstrated strong predictive accuracy for toward Chinese people ($R^2 = .62$) and gay people ($R^2 = .46$). Consistent with prior findings, perceived threat consistently increased prejudice, while high-quality positive contact reduced it, supporting the model's robustness in a non-Western context. Two culturally distinctive findings also emerged. First, the relatively lower accuracy for predicting prejudice toward the wealthy ($R^2 = .26$) suggests that this group may not represent a salient target of prejudice in Japan. Second, Japanese national identity was an exceptionally strong predictor of prejudice against Chinese people, indicating a unique link between nationalism and outgroup attitudes. Overall, the results highlight both universal mechanisms and culture-specific pathways underlying prejudice.

*POSTER

Speaker



Fuko Mizowaki
Kyoto University

Authors

Yusuke Takahashi

[226] The Ambivalence of Proactive Behavior: From Campus to Workplace

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Although proactive behavior is generally regarded as adaptive, it involves challenging the status quo and thus entails the risk of negative reactions or evaluations from others (e.g., Twemlow, Tims & Khapova, 2023), making early-career employees hesitant to engage in. We examined whether positive or negative experiences of interpersonal proactive behaviors in college correlate with subsequent workplace voice behaviors. A semi-structured interview with 10 college seniors confirmed that interpersonal proactive behaviors resulted in both positive and negative outcomes for oneself and others (Study 1). In Study 2, 324 early-career employees completed scales that measured their experience of proactive behaviors in college (newly developed based on Study 1), interdependent self-construals (harmony vs. avoidance orientations), perceived interpersonal risk in the workplace, and their voice behavior. Positive self-change in college experience had the strongest association with workplace voice behaviors. Furthermore, those with a harmony-oriented interdependent self-construal voiced more, while those with an avoidance-oriented self-construal voiced less. The ambivalent nature of proactive behavior itself, as well as its ambivalent associations with the two dimensions of interdependent self-construal, provide critical insights into how such behavior may be facilitated.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eri Shigemasu
Professor | Aoyama Gakuin University

Authors

Yu Niiya

[227] The Amplifying Effect of Self-Quantification on Self-Perception: The Role of Goal Achievement

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Self-quantification, the use of digital technologies to track health and behavior, has been linked to both empowerment and psychological costs. Yet, the conditions under which these outcomes emerge remain unclear. Across two preregistered studies, we investigated how self-quantification moderates the psychological consequences of goal achievement for self-perception. In a cross-sectional survey (N = 1136), we found that goal failure was associated with higher self-objectification and self-optimization pressure among self-quantifiers compared to non-quantifiers, supporting the idea that tracking amplifies the costs of failure. However, contrary to expectations, self-quantification did not enhance empowerment when goals were achieved. A 14-day daily diary study (N = 230) replicated these effects within individuals, demonstrating that on days when goals were not achieved, self-quantification predicted heightened objectification and self-optimization pressure both on the same day and the following day. Together, these findings suggest that the psychological effects of self-quantification are not uniform but contingent on goal outcomes, with tracking functioning primarily as an amplifier of the negative consequences of goal failure.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zifei Li

Authors

Brock Bastian, Fang Wang

[228] The Black Model Minority Myth: Conversations Across the Diaspora

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The Black model minority myth (BMMM) refers to Black immigrants being viewed in more characteristically "positive" traits than Black Americans, which contributes to disparities in treatment and stereotype internalization. This study explores how Afro-Caribbean immigrants, Black Americans, and African immigrants discuss their experiences with Black identity labels on social media forums such as Reddit. To investigate these dynamics, we webscraped and analyzed over 2,500 responses from Reddit threads where people voiced their experiences ranging from not being labeled "Black" until arriving in the U.S to Black Americans being stereotyped as "violent" and "lazy". Our content analysis revealed that themes such as racial history in the US, uniformity, stereotypes, displacement, discrimination, upbringing, and fluidity with race and space are frequently discussed. These findings highlight the complexities of how individuals navigate their Blackness in relation to the BMMM. By centering participant dialogues from online forums, we reveal the intricate dynamics of identity and white supremacy to deepen our understanding of racialized identity construction relevant to intragroup solidarity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sadé Greenidge

Lab Coordinator | Boston College

Authors

Kengthsagn Louis, Azul Wilson

[229] The Cross-Cultural Difference in the Effect of Competence and Benevolence on Preference for Teamwork: The Mediation Effect of Trust in Co-Workers

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

This study will investigate how perceptions of competence and benevolence in organizational relationships influence employees' preference for teamwork, with trust in co-workers serving as a mediator. Focusing on cross-cultural differences, it will test the hypotheses that competence exerts a stronger effect on trust in individualistic cultures, while benevolence is more influential in collectivistic cultures. Two quantitative studies will be conducted: a cross-sectional survey and a scenario-based experiment, both involving employees from Korea and the United States. Measures will assess perceived competence, benevolence, trust in co-workers, and teamwork preference. Data will be analyzed using a serial mediation-moderation model using SPSS Process Macro and multi-group SEM to examine cultural variations in these relationships. By clarifying how culturally shaped trust dynamics affect collaborative preferences, the research will contribute to theory on trust formation and offer practical insights for managing teamwork in culturally diverse organizations.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jae Hyun Cho

Korea University

Authors

Eunsoo Choi

[230] The Effect of Meaning Making on the Emotional Experience of Past Event Recollection

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Meaning-making research has focused on the context of negative events, proving meaning-making to be vital in resilience following these experiences. Less is known about the role of individual differences in meaning-making and their emotional implications in both positive and negative past event recollection. The present study evaluated the effect of individual differences in meaning making on negative and positive emotional responses to recalling past positive and negative life events. Across 2 studies (n = 201; n = 199), people higher in meaning-making reported overall higher positive and lower negative emotions. Multilevel analysis revealed that people higher in meaning-making reported higher positive emotions in response to positive, control, and to a lesser extent, negative conditions. Additionally, people higher in meaning-making had lower negative emotions in positive and neutral conditions, but not in the negative conditions. These findings add new insights to the meaning-making literature by suggesting that while meaning-making increases positive reinterpretation and growth-oriented narratives, it may not fully buffer the emotional impact of recalling negative events.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alyssa Gagnon

PhD Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Meaghan Barlow

[231] The Effects of (Dis)Advantage on Subjective Judgments of Harm

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Across three preregistered experiments, we find that people expect identical acts to cause less harm to advantaged versus disadvantaged targets. In Study 1, participants learned about a target who either won or lost money in an initial lottery (manipulation of advantage) and was then subjected to social exclusion in a game of cyberball. Participants believed that social exclusion caused less harm to advantaged targets. In Study 2, we manipulated the order of the lottery and the cyberball game and found that participants believed that social advantage (being included in cyberball) would inoculate targets against monetary losses. Study 3 used face-valid targets to examine whether these results generalize to a range of social advantages (power, wealth, status, and health). Across contexts, participants expected advantaged targets to be less harmed by social media attacks, and were less likely to support them in the aftermath. These results shed light on how social status shapes moral judgment, adding nuance to our understanding of dyadic harm (Schein & Gray, 2018) and challenging the common narrative that disadvantaged targets are seen as more resilient to harm (Cheek, 2021).

*POSTER

Speaker



Ryan Bruno

PhD Student | University of Southern California

Authors

Emma Levine, Fiona Kazarovytka

[232] The Effects of Observing Constituents' Norm Violations on Trust in Authority

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

The credibility of authorities is fundamental to institutional trust and democratic functioning, as well as life in society. While authority figures are typically judged based on their behavior, we propose that constituents' behaviors also shape their judgments and trust of authority. Five experiments (total N = 2,129) found that observing constituents' norm violations (e.g., cheating on an exam or misreporting taxes) undermined perceived authority's character (i.e., moral integrity) and competence (i.e., expertise), as well as trust in the authority. This effect generalized across experimental paradigms and contexts (i.e., education, business, and government; Experiments 1-5), persisting even when the authority had no power over the constituents' behavior (Experiments 3 and 4). However, messages emphasizing the ethical values underlying the norm effectively curbed the negative impact of constituents' misconduct (Experiment 5). These findings highlight how social contexts shape trust in authority bottom-up and suggest strategies for safeguarding institutional trust when norm violations occur.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jinyi Kuang

Ph.D. Student | University of Pennsylvania

Authors

Dolores Albarracín, Cristina Bicchieri

[233] The Human=Own Group Effect as a Feature of Regionally Dominant Groups: Evidence from Japan

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Despite the equal humanity of all human groups, White Americans associate "Human" more with White and "Animal" more with non-White groups on a measure of social cognition, the Implicit Association Test (IAT; REDACTED, 2023). Strikingly, White respondents from multiple countries (e.g., USA, Canada, UK, Germany) similarly displayed this implicit Human=White effect (IAT $D_s \geq 0.24$). This produced a theoretically interesting question: Are Human=Own Group associations restricted to individuals of European descent, or are they a feature of any regionally dominant group? Across four studies ($N = 412$), we tested this question directly. Specifically, we explored whether Japanese participants, living in Japan and tested in Japanese, display Human=Own Group associations across various White-Japanese/Human-Animal IATs. Providing strong evidence for the generality of the Human=Own Group effect, Japanese participants displayed robust Human=Japanese associations in all four samples (IAT $D_s \leq -0.34$). In fact, stereotype strength was stable across variations in category label ("White" versus "American") and writing system (i.e., Kanji or Katakana), and emerged robustly across demographic groups (e.g., age, gender, education). Together, this work demonstrates that the differential attribution of humanity to one's own group may be a penchant of dominant groups across the globe.

*POSTER

Speaker



Kirsten Morehouse
Harvard Univ.

Authors

Mahzarin Banaji

[234] The Impact of Elaboration and Automatic Thinking on Counterfactual Perception

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Counterfactuals (CF) indicate how past outcomes could have differed (Byrne, 2016). CFs differ in potency (i.e., plausibility), which influences subsequent negative emotions and the strength of future behavioral intentions (Petrocelli et al., 2011). CFs also differ in focusing on actions that should have been taken (additive CF) or not (subtractive CF). We hypothesize that individuals perceive additive CFs ("If only I did X") as more potent than subtractive CFs ("If only I did not do X"), eliciting more negative emotions and strengthening behavioral intentions.

Participants read a series of hypothetical negative events, followed by an additive CF, a subtractive CF, or a control thought. In the CF conditions, they will rate the CFs for potency and how much regret they would feel about the situation. In all conditions, they will rate how likely they would be to enact the implied behavior in the future.

We hypothesize that (1) additive counterfactual statements will be perceived as more potent compared to subtractive counterfactuals and to our control condition statements, and as a result, (2) additive counterfactuals are likely to create higher feelings of regret and stronger behavioral intentions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Gabe Beratio
Graduate Student | University of Wyoming

Authors

Sean McCrea

[235] The Impact of Existential Isolation on Organizational Decision-Making, Behaviors, and Hierarchies

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

This research examines the relationship between existential isolation (EI; Helm et al., 2019; Pinel et al., 2004), the feeling that one is alone in their subjective experience, and organizational decision-making, behaviors, and hierarchies. For study 1, we predicted that people with higher EI would make more selfish decisions, while people with lower EI will make more collaborative decisions. We also predicted that the transparency of decision will result in more prosocial behavior, though only for those high in EI. Study 1 ($n = 400$) found a significant interaction between EI and transparency of the behavior in predicting selfish organizational decision making. Study 2 hopes to further examine the relationship between EI and decision making, while also examining the role of leadership hierarchies and social loafing behaviors. We expect to replicate the relationship observed in study 1, but are agnostic about the potential moderating roles of organization size, leadership position, and other organizational factors. The role of EI in organizational settings has not yet been explored in depth and could yield important implications for community building, team dynamics, and well-being.

*POSTER

Speaker



Emogene Plagmann
Montana State University

Authors

Peter Helm

[236] The Impact of Implicit Theories of Peer Relationships and Social Achievement Goals on the Quality and Quantity of Interpersonal Relationships Among First-Year University Students in Japan

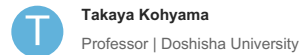
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This study developed a Japanese version of the Implicit Theories of Peer Relationships Scale for university students and examined how implicit theories of peer relationships and social achievement goals relate to friendship satisfaction and number of friends. An online survey was conducted with 843 first-year Japanese university students; after data screening, 275 valid responses were analyzed. Measures included scales for implicit theories of peer relationships, social achievement goals, friendship satisfaction, and number of close friends. Confirmatory factor analyses supported the expected structures. Correlation analyses showed that entity beliefs were positively associated not only with performance-oriented goals but also unexpectedly with mastery-oriented goals. Regression analyses revealed that mastery-approach motivation positively predicted friendship satisfaction, while mastery-avoidance motivation negatively predicted number of friends. Performance-avoidance motivation was positively associated with friend count. Beliefs about the universality of friendships did not significantly influence either the quality or quantity of interpersonal relationships. These findings suggest that achievement motivation plays a more central role in shaping interpersonal outcomes than implicit beliefs about relationship malleability.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Tomoyuki Kobayashi, Miyuki Yukura

[237] The impact of religious identification and narrative perspective taking on empathy and transprejudice

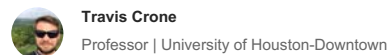
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

The current poster explores the impact of narrative perspective taking on empathy towards transgender individuals and self-reported transprejudice. Participants read a transition story of a youth from the perspective of either the youth, their parent, or a 3rd person perspective. Religious identification of the family was also manipulated. The family was either labeled as religious, nonreligious, or there was no mention of religion. This study plans to expand on previous research showing narrative perspective and religious identification can impact reported empathy. In particular, the presence of control conditions in the current study allows for a better understanding of the direction of change. Previous research has not been able to show if particular conditions increase or decrease reported empathy. Discussion will focus on how to leverage the current findings to bolster empathy for transgender individuals and promote positive mental health outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Daniel Blevin

[238] The Impact of Video Interventions on Attitudes about Undocumented Migrants

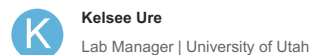
4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

FIELD RESEARCH/INTERVENTIONS

Research suggests that several intervention factors are individually effective at increasing support for an outgroup, including: 1) combining cognitive and affective techniques, 2) being delivered by ingroup members, 3) fostering perspective-taking, and 4) appealing to moral foundations such as ingroup loyalty. Here, we will extend this research by testing novel video interventions to examine the complex interplay between these factors and their effects on reducing support for anti-migrant policies and increasing willingness to help undocumented migrants in a US sample (N=1800). Each video intervention will combine both cognitive and affective approaches and present information from the perspective of 1) ingroup members (U.S. American farmers/employers), 2) outgroup members (undocumented migrant employees), or 3) a combination of both ingroup and outgroup members. We will then assess which intervention, when compared to a no-video control condition, results in the greatest increase in support for undocumented migrants—while also exploring perspective-taking as a potential mediating variable and ingroup loyalty as a potential moderating variable.

*POSTER

Speaker



Authors

Samantha Moore-Berg, Danny Hang

[239] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

*POSTER

[240] The influence of history on moral and legal judgments: How past adversity shapes evaluations of antisocial and prosocial behavior

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Building on our past research, two planned studies examine the role of historical factors in moral judgment. Study 1 ($n = 480$) investigates whether targets from disadvantaged backgrounds (DB), advantaged backgrounds (AB), or a no-background information control (C) are praised more and viewed as having better moral character when they engage in prosocial behaviors related to their disadvantage/advantage. We expect that relative to C and AB conditions, targets from DB will receive greater praise for their actions and will be viewed as possessing more moral character. In Study 2 ($n = 480$), participants will learn about a target described as having come from a DB or AB (vs. C) who commits the same moral infraction (unrelated to their backgrounds). We predict that DB targets will be evaluated less negatively than in other conditions. Sample sizes will be sufficient to find pairwise effects as small as $d = 0.31$. This research has implications for moral and legal decision-making, as emphasizing historical factors might influence moral judgments, resulting in decreased or increased perceived culpability for wrongdoing or greater/less assigned praiseworthiness for prosocial acts.

*POSTER

Speaker



Wiktoria Pedryc

Graduate Student | The Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Sean Laurent

[241] The Influence of Ongoing Adversity on Empathy, Morality, and Prosociality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

A body of research suggests that adverse life events can foster increased prosociality via heightened trait-level empathy. However, little is known about how ongoing adversity might impact people's propensity to exercise empathy in the service of prosocial behaviors.

In two preregistered studies ($n = 403$), we examined whether the severity of ongoing adversity (COVID-19) was positively associated with prosociality via trait empathy (i.e., empathic concern, perspective-taking) as mediators. In Study 1 ($n = 200$), we found that the severity of ongoing adversity was inversely associated with trait empathy. Despite this, the severity of ongoing adversity was still a robust predictor of prosocial behaviors. In Study 2 ($n = 203$), we attempted to replicate the results of Study 1 while uncovering alternative mediators that account for the association between the severity of ongoing adversity and prosociality. We found that moral foundations (i.e., Loyalty) may mediate the positive association between the severity of ongoing adversity and prosocial behaviors in place of trait empathy.

Results from this study may help us understand the motivation underlying adaptive behaviors in the face of adversity.

*POSTER

Speaker



Daniel Lim

Lecturer | University of Newcastle

Authors

David DeSteno

[242] The influence of social context on the consistency of alignment between algorithmic fairness definitions and human moral beliefs

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

The widespread embedding of machine learning (ML) into decision-making processes once managed by humans has elicited concerns about whether common mathematical definitions of fairness align with the notions of fairness held by the people affected by the models. In this research, we investigate two complications in designing fairness metrics informed by non-specialist fairness preferences; that individuals routinely violate their preferred decision-making axioms in practice, and that people's fairness preferences have been shown to be context-dependent.

Through two pre-registered behavioral experiments, we examine the extent to which an individual's preferences for particular fairness definitions align with their behavior in specific choice problems; how they reconcile deviations from their stated preferences; and whether these choices vary systematically over features of social contexts. In the first experiment we embed fairness in a particular context by training classification models constrained by group-based fairness metrics on data from emergency room visits. In the second, we use vignettes to manipulate contextual features of interest (i.e., familiarity).

*POSTER

Speaker



Sara Haman

Research Associate | Boston College

Authors

Liane Young, Jessica Finocchiaro

[243] The Interpersonal Invisibility Measure: Development and Validation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Interpersonal invisibility (feeling unnoticed or ignored) is a potentially detrimental experience that may be particularly likely to affect stigmatized groups. In order to better assess and understand this experience, we generated and validated a 10-item measure of interpersonal invisibility. Study 1 (n = 511) uses exploratory factor analysis on a set of generated items to guide item selection. Study 2 (n = 190) confirms the measure's factor structure. Study 3 (n = 943) examines the convergent and discriminant validity of the measure and tests for measurement invariance by gender, race, and sexual orientation. Study 4 (n = 1000; analysis ongoing) examines the predictive and incremental validity of the measure. Our unidimensional measure displays strict measurement invariance by race, gender, and sexual orientation and can provide an essential tool for understanding a broader array of stigmatization experiences beyond traditional measures of discrimination. Future work will validate context-specific versions of the measure to better capture the nuance surrounding interpersonal invisibility. To this end, we selected 10 items that could be easily modified in future work.

*POSTER

Speaker



Elia Q. Y. Lam

Researcher PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Ashna Nagar, Daliah Marei, Rebecca Neel, K. Colin Li

[244] The Mo Salah Effect: A Muslim Star Footballer's Impact on Islamophobia

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Islamophobia is one of the most common forms of prejudice in the UK (Khattab & Johnston, 2015). Considering that, would a star footballer in the English Premier League – who is also a publicly practicing Muslim – have any impact on Islamophobia in the UK? The current study aims to test the effects of parasocial contact on attitudes and beliefs about Muslims in a real-world, quasi-experimental setting.

Consider the example of Mohamed "Mo" Salah. Mo Salah is a professional footballer who currently plays for Liverpool Football Club (Liverpool FC) – one of Britain's most successful clubs (Dawkes, 2020; McNulty, 2019), and the current league champions. Importantly, supporters of Liverpool FC and their local rivals, Everton FC (also based in the city of Liverpool), are highly similar and nearly homogenous aside from their football loyalties, thus creating a unique field experiment setting. Given the active Muslim faith of Liverpool FC's star player, Salah, it was predicted that identity with a particular football club, and parasocial contact with Mo Salah would have differential effects on pro-Muslim outcomes. Specifically, it is hypothesised that Liverpool fans would express greater pro-Muslim attitudes than non-football watching residents of Liverpool, and even greater pro-Muslim attitudes than fans of rival club, Everton FC.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jesse Reid

PhD Student | University of Toronto

Authors

Elizabeth Page-Gould

[246] The Moderating Role of Perceived Social Support on the Relationship Between Cultural Values and Alcohol Related Problems Among Hispanic Drinkers

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Research has shown that perceived social support may have stronger effects on health due to traditional family values among Latinx. However, there's limited research on how perceived social support moderates the relationship between cultural values and alcohol use severity among Hispanic. We hypothesize that Perceived Social Support will moderate the relationship between Cultural Values and Alcohol use Severity among Hispanics. Participants (n=256) were recruited through Prolific and completed the survey on Qualtrics and completed the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support, Mexican American Cultural Values Scale, Daily Drinking Questionnaire. Simple moderation analysis in MPLUS was conducted to assess any interactions with our variables of interest. Regression Analysis showed that stronger adherence to Hispanic Cultural Values was significantly associated with higher alcohol use ($\beta=0.748$, $p=0.026$). Perceived Social Support from friends was a significant predictor for higher alcohol use ($\beta=0.557$, $p=.007$) suggesting that peer support might increase alcohol use. However, an interaction between Cultural values and friend support ($\beta=-1.295$, $p=.003$) indicated a protective effect. Our study found that stronger adherence to Hispanic values and greater support from friends predicted higher alcohol use. However, high cultural value adherence and support from friends was a protective factor. Future studies should focus on evaluating different types of friends support and its role in alcohol use.

*POSTER

Speaker



Debora Guerrero

Bachelors of Science in Psychology | The University of Texas at El Paso

Authors

Debora Guerrero, Ashley Lindquist, Craig Field

[247] The Moral Foundation of Honesty and Relationship Satisfaction

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Honesty seems important for close relationships because it likely influences communication. Individuals' appraisals of situations where honesty is violated may relate to attachment style. Moreover, individuals with attachment avoidance and/or anxiety may misperceive violations of honesty in their relationship. This study examined how valuing honesty relates to relationship satisfaction and attachment style. Participants ($N = 105$) answered questions about scenarios where honesty was violated. They also completed the Relationship Assessment Scale and Experience in Close Relationship Scale-Short Form. Viewing the scenarios as less in violation of honesty was associated with lower relationship satisfaction and greater attachment avoidance. Also, appraisals of (dis)honesty predicted attachment avoidance (but not relationship satisfaction) even after controlling for appraisals of other moral values. These findings suggest that individuals with higher attachment avoidance may struggle to detect violations of honesty. Thus, they may unknowingly act dishonestly, and/or fail to recognize when their partner acts dishonestly. This may contribute to poor communication and explain lower relationship satisfaction.

Honesty seems important for close relationships because it likely influences communication. Individuals' appraisals of situations where honesty is violated may relate to attachment style. Moreover, individuals with attachment avoidance and/or anxiety may misperceive violations of honesty in their relationship. This study examined how valuing honesty relates to relationship satisfaction and attachment style. Participants ($N = 105$) answered questions about scenarios where honesty was violated. They also completed the Relationship Assessment Scale and Experience in Close Relationship Scale-Short Form. Viewing the scenarios as less in violation of honesty was associated with lower relationship satisfaction and greater attachment avoidance. Also, appraisals of (dis)honesty predicted attachment avoidance (but not relationship satisfaction) even after controlling for appraisals of other moral values. These findings suggest that individuals with higher attachment avoidance may struggle to detect violations of honesty. Thus, they may unknowingly act dishonestly, and/or fail to recognize when their partner acts dishonestly. This may contribute to poor communication and explain lower relationship satisfaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Eli Anish

Student | American University

Authors

Lauren Woodard, Anthony H. Ahrens

[248] The Moral Signaling Effect of Being Busy: The Perspective of Morality-as-Cooperation Theory

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Busy people may be less warm (Jiang et al., 2024), but could they be seen as more moral, and if so, why? This research tested the moral signaling effect of being busy across 4 preregistered studies ($N = 1,500$ Chinese participants, $M_{age} = 31.12$, $SD = 8.25$). Study 1 ($n = 300$) showed that a busy (vs. non-busy) target was rated as less warm (e.g. sociable, funny), but more moral (e.g. principled, just). To identify the key mechanism underlying this moral signaling effect, we used cross-sectional (Study 2, $n = 200$) and block mediation (Study 3, $n = 600$) designs. We found that perceived cooperative intention (morality-as-cooperation theory, Curry, 2016), rather than perceived agency (moral typecasting theory, Gray & Wegner, 2009), played a crucial role in explaining this effect. Study 4 ($n = 400$) found that busy people were more likely to be seen as moral in a non-zero-sum status context that made busyness appear more cooperative. These findings extend the morality-as-cooperation framework to person-perception, showing that busyness can be moralized because it signals a willingness to cooperate by using one's time, a limited resource, to contribute to social production.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ning Li

Student | Texas A&M University

[249] The Motivational Drivers of Adolescent Alcohol Use and the Moderating role of religious attendance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Background: The study investigates the relationship between attendance at religious services and the prevalence of antisocial behaviors and alcohol use among individuals. Research indicates that antisocial behaviors are significant risk factors that contribute to alcohol use among adolescents. In environments where alcohol use is perceived as typical antisocial behavior, it may also act as a potential pull factor that draws adolescents towards environments that use alcohol. Examining the relationship between religious service attendance and its impact on the connection between antisocial behavior and alcohol use among adolescents and young adults is critical.

Method: The 35,545 participants were drawn from the NESARC III public dataset. Pearson correlations assessed bivariate relationships, and the primary and interaction effects of antisocial behavior and religiosity on alcohol use were determined using multiple linear regression.

Results: Our findings indicate that attending religious services means less alcohol use and the antisocial behaviors predicted higher alcohol consumption ($r = -.15$, $p < .001$); regression results revealed antisocial behavior negatively predicted alcohol use ($\beta = -.02$, $p < .001$), whereas religiosity positively predicted alcohol consumption ($\beta = .18-.22$, $p < .001$). The interaction between antisocial behavior and religiosity was significant ($\beta = -.01$, $p < .001$).

Conclusion: Religiosity may amplify the protective association between lower antisocial behavior and reduced alcohol use.

Keywords: antisocial behavior, religiosity, alcohol use, adolescents, young adults.

*POSTER

Speaker



Stella OTAI

Student | Wheaton College

Authors

Dr. James Cornwell, Stormi Blevins, Nick Warren

[250] The Power of Partner Involvement: Goal Pursuit, Self-Control, and Relationship Satisfaction in Romantic Couples

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Romantic relationship partners play a crucial role in shaping goal pursuit, either facilitating or hindering an individual's progress toward their goals. This study investigates how self-control moderates the relationship between active partner involvement in goal pursuit and relationship satisfaction in 148 couples in committed relationships who completed a web-based questionnaire. Results from Actor-Partner Interdependence Models (APIMs) showed a significant actor effect indicating that individuals who frequently discussed their goals with their partners reported higher levels of relationship satisfaction. Additionally, a significant partner effect emerged, suggesting that people reported higher satisfaction when their partners actively involved them in their goal pursuits. Moderation analyses revealed that the actor effect was stronger when paired with higher actor self-control. Results suggest that active partner discussion and integration can bolster perceptions of relationship stability, especially among those high in self-control. These findings highlight the value of open goal-related dialogue and support for relationship satisfaction, with self-control amplifying these benefits. Future research should further examine the mechanisms that connect goal coordination and relationship satisfaction.

*POSTER

Speaker



Maya Goldman

University of Florida

[251] The Prevalence and Relevance of Black Women's Future Goals

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Goals are important for identity, self-continuity, and well-being. Fewer studies address the experiences and goals Black women, and there is value in improving representation in this research space. We were interested in the expressions of specific identity-based, agency-based, communion-based, and health-based goals among young Black women. In a secondary analysis, we analyzed expressions of lifespan goals from 18-to-24-year-old Black women ($n = 80$; $M \text{ age} = 19.71$, $SD = 1.76$), were recruited from multiple college and community sites. Most women expressed goals grounded in identity, agentic motives, communal motives, and health. Multiple factors, including age, were related to the prevalence of life goals. We considered whether women's goals—as reflections of personality differences—were related to psychological well-being and hopefulness. Multiple life goals were positively related to well-being and hope among women, reinforcing the values of life goals for identity and self-continuity. Findings showcase the importance of different types of goals for young Black women and highlight the need to continue addressing the ways life goals emerge and continue to change over time.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ayanna Farmer

University of Missouri-Columbia

[252] The Relationship Between Malicious Compliance and Individual Difference Traits in the Workplace

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Malicious compliance (MC), or the tendency to explicitly follow orders or policies despite knowing that one's behavior will not yield a desired outcome, is a relatively uninvestigated form of counterproductive work behavior (CWB). The inherent contradiction of this construct suggests that factors such as prosocial and sadistic tendencies are able to both predict these actions. This current research utilized a community sample of participants via Prolific. The survey assessed the perceived acceptability and likelihood of performing various forms of workplace behaviors, as well as a variety of individual difference traits, including prosocial tendencies and other dark (e.g., Machiavellianism) and light (e.g., Kantianism) traits. After controlling for general prosocial tendencies, multiple regressions found that light traits negatively predicted MC toward one's supervisor and CWB toward one's organization, while dark traits positively predicted MC toward one's company. Furthermore, organizational citizenship behaviors (OCB) toward one's coworkers were positively predicted by light traits, while OCB toward one's organization was both positively predicted by light traits and negatively predicted by dark traits. Together, this research shows that while employees' light traits do a better job at predicting a range of workplace behaviors, competition between one's light and dark traits may always be a challenge when trying to manage employee behavior.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dennis Poepsel

Associate Professor | Daemen University

Authors

Denise Emer

[253] The Relationship Between Stereotypes About Nationality and Stereotypes About Race/Ethnicity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

In the U.S., nationality is a well-established basis for stereotyping and discrimination. However, the American racial/ethnic hierarchy often subsumes nationality groups under broader racial and ethnic labels. When are nationality groups stereotyped primarily based on their national origin, and when is stereotyping more heavily influenced by their assigned racial/ethnic category? We propose two explanations: nationality groups' prototypicality and racial/ethnic groups perceived likelihood to identify with race/ethnicity over nationality. Across four studies ($N > 7,600$), more prototypical nationality groups (e.g., Mexican Americans) were stereotyped more similarly to their associated racial/ethnic group, and racial/ethnic groups that were perceived as likelier to identify with race/ethnicity over nationality (e.g., Black Americans) were stereotyped less similarly to their associated nationality groups. The amount of similarity in stereotyping between nationality and racial/ethnic groups was predictive of real-world immigration patterns. In a nation shaped by nationality groups, our findings illuminate how nationality and race/ethnicity jointly structure stereotypes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Selin Toprakkiran

Doctoral Student | Rutgers University

Authors

Calvin Lai, Selin Toprakkiran

[254] The Role of Anti-Asian Threat in the Endorsement of the Model Minority Myth and Perpetual Foreigner Stereotype

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Anti-Asian sentiment in the United States has intensified in recent years, reflecting a persistent view of Asian Americans as competitive outsiders. Two central stereotypes define this perception: the model minority myth (MMM), portraying Asians as successful yet socially distinct, and the perpetual foreigner stereotype (PFS), casting them as inherently un-American. Despite their prevalence, limited research has examined how these stereotypes shift under status threat. We tested whether threat-based narratives about Asian success heighten endorsement of MMM and PFS. In an online Prolific experiment ($N = 626$), White American participants viewed one of three videos depicting Asian American success, Asian immigrant success, or a neutral control. Both threat conditions increased MMM endorsement relative to the control, but only the immigrant condition elevated PFS endorsement, heightened perceived realistic threat, and strengthened support for exclusionary social policies (e.g., immigration restrictions). These findings indicate that framing Asian success as immigrant-driven more strongly activates perceptions of foreignness and competition, reinforcing hierarchy-preserving attitudes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Zein Saleh

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Authors

Sa-kiera Hudson, Michael Kraus, Daniel Sanji

[255] The Shifting Landscape of Harm: Investigating the Phenomenon of Concept Creep in Harm Perception

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Concept creep, the gradual semantic expansion of harm-related concepts (Haslam et al., 2020), is a phenomenon garnering increasing attention in the field of psychology and is examined in the context of shifting perceptions of what is considered harmful. While what is considered harmful has shifted throughout generations, why these shifts happen and what motivates society to accept these broadening definitions has yet to be explained. Up to this point individual differences such as activism, left-wing authoritarianism, risk, empathy, stressful life events, and dark triad personality have yet to be investigated as potential contributors to the expansion of harm-related concepts. Thus, this study investigated the influences of generational changes and individual differences on the broadening of harm-related concepts. Results suggest that higher levels of empathy and left-wing authoritarianism were the primary drivers of the expansion of fringe forms of harm.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jefferson Sherwood

Assistant professor | Oklahoma City University

Authors

Kenji Noguchi, Asha Bradley

[256] The Two Forms of Purity: Differentiating Sexual- and Pathogen-Related Morality

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

In moral psychology, purity refers to a range of attitudes concerning sexual conduct, hygiene, food taboos, unnatural acts, and sacrilege. We argue that sexual purity and pathogenic purity are distinct moral domains with separate evolutionary and psychological foundations. In particular, we proposed that sexual purity concerns arose from the adaptive challenges of successful mating and are shaped by mate-guarding psychology and mating strategy, while pathogenic purity arose from the adaptive challenges of avoiding infectious disease and is shaped by disgust psychology.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sajjad Sojoudi

postgraduate researcher | Nottingham Trent University

Authors

Tom Kupfer, Alex Lambert, Zino Brystowski, Joshua Tybur

[257] The White Gaze in Racial Stereotype Research: Sample Bias and its Consequences

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Existing research on racial stereotypes predominantly relies upon White subjects, exploring their perceptions of Blacks and Asians. Do its findings generalize beyond Whites? To find out, we combined insights from the Stereotype Content Model and Gendered-race Theory, exploring the racial stereotypes of Whites, Blacks, and Asians simultaneously as both perceivers and targets. In two studies involving White, Black, and Asian Americans (Study 1, N = 702), and surveys in Australia, Japan, South Korea, and China (Study 2, N = 6508), we found both similarities and differences in how racial groups perceive each other. Asians were consistently seen as more competent but less athletic, while Blacks were seen as more athletic but less competent. Whites fell between these poles. But each group differed in viewing their own race as warmer than other races, suggesting ingroup favoritism. This research demonstrates that diverse racial samples are needed for a less Eurocentric and more accurate understanding of racial stereotypes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cong Peng

Authors

Paton Yam, Peter Gries

[258] The wisdom of the heart: Self-locations and emotional intelligence

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Folk theory links the head to rational abilities and the heart to experiential abilities. Perceiving oneself as an entity that can travel from head to heart or vice versa could allow people to reconfigure oneself such that one's processing strategy (rational or experiential) is matched to the task at hand. Participants in 3 studies (total N = 472) were asked to simulate themselves performing a variety of activities, following which they indicated whether the self would be located in the brain area of the body, the heart area, or somewhere in between. For each participant separately, self-locations per activity were correlated with whether the activities involve feelings, as rated by experts, resulting in heart/feeling scores that varied across participants. Participants whose self was perceived to migrate toward the heart when activities involve feelings scored higher in ability-based tests of emotional understanding (Study 1a), emotion management (Study 1b), and reported feelings that differentiated stimuli more accurately (Study 2). Emotional intelligence appears to benefit from simulations of the self that are flexible in linking feelings to the heart rather than the head.

*POSTER

Speaker



Muhammad Asad

Authors

Hamidreza Fereidouni, Michael Robinson, Pranika Vohra

[259] Trauma, Care, and Morality: Emotions as the Link Between Childhood Adversity and Moral Foundations

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are prevalent predictors of poor health outcomes in adulthood, but their impact on moral foundations remains underexplored. This quantitative cross-sectional study examined the effects of ACEs on adult morality and proposed affective personality traits and caregiving factors as possible mediating mechanisms. The researcher administered a comprehensive online survey to a global sample of $N = 376$ English-speaking adults, comprised of four validated survey measures that assessed both retrospective and present experiences, traits, and character styles. The survey assessed ACE exposure (10-item ACE-Q), species-typical caregiving practices (EDNH), the Affective Neuroscience Personality Scales (ANPS), and the 20-item Moral Foundations Questionnaire (MFQ-20), an assessment of moral intuitions derived from Moral Foundations Theory (MFT). The researcher designed the study to test the trauma/Thriving-Emotions-Morality (tTEM) framework, which posits that emotions are primary in moral beliefs and are cultivated through childhood relationships. Results from group comparisons between high-ACE (≥ 4) and low-ACE (≤ 3) participants indicated small but significant differences, with high-ACE participants tending toward higher Individualizing and lower Binding moral foundations scores compared to low-ACE participants. Structural equation modeling (SEM) indicated a mediated link between ACEs and MFT, where positive personality traits and heightened EDNH scores positively predicted both Binding and Individualizing moral foundations. These results suggest that early nurturance promotes positive emotional development, shaping moral proclivities. Such research is instructive for clinicians, educators, and policymakers alike, informing existing practices and promoting the future development of enrichment programs that support positive childhood experiences and later moral development.

*POSTER

Speaker



Christopher Jones

Doctoral Student | University of the Pacific

[260] CANCELLED:

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

*POSTER

[262] Trust in artificial moral advisors across cultures

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Developers of artificial intelligence are already building prototypes for artificial moral advisors: autonomous systems designed to provide humans with recommendations on ethical issues. Yet it remains unclear whether people will actually trust and adopt these technologies. Here, we investigate perceptions of human and artificial moral advisors in a large-scale cross-cultural experiment (12 countries; $N = 6,896$). We show that people trust artificial advisors less than human ones, especially when their advice aligns with utilitarian rather than deontological principles. Nonetheless, people update their own moral judgments in the direction of the advice – regardless of whether it came from a human or AI advisor – and do so more when the advice is deontological. These findings reveal a psychological paradox: people trust artificial moral advisors less, yet still defer to them in practice. This dissociation raises serious questions about the potential influence of machines on human morality, with implications for AI governance.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jim Everett

University of Kent

Authors

Scott Claessens

[263] Understanding hiring decisions: When the racial composition of the applicant pool biases decision-making

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Understanding how the racial composition of a job applicant pool influences hiring decisions is crucial for addressing racial inequalities in the workplace. In the present research, participants viewed the resumes of equally qualified applicant pairs for a project manager position. In Experiment 1 ($N = 222$), participants showed a pro-Black bias when choosing between a Black and a White applicant; however, this bias did not emerge when the Black applicant was compared with an Asian applicant. Experiment 2 ($N = 330$) was designed to determine whether the pro-Black bias from Study 1 is replicable and whether participants demonstrate a pro-Asian bias when deciding between a White and an Asian applicant. In addition, Experiment 2 will test how participants' motivations (e.g., to diversity in the workplace) influence decision making. The results of these experiments will provide insights into how the racial composition of an applicant pool may bias personnel selection decisions. Furthermore, it will help organizations to identify strategies to mitigate bias and increase equitable outcomes.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nieve Mahood

Tulane University

Authors

Laurie O'Brien, Yvette Bivins-Sanchez

[264] UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES UNDERLYING AFFECTIVE FORECASTING: THE ROLE OF TRAUMA EXPOSURE AND RUMINATION

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Trauma history may influence affective forecasting—the prediction of future emotional responses—by heightening cognitive biases and emotion dysregulation (Fitzgerald et al., 2022). We examined associations among trauma exposure, posttraumatic stress symptom (PTS) severity, and affective forecasting in 130 participants (53% men, 63% white) who rated expected emotional reactions to descriptions of International Affective Picture System images. Trauma exposure was significantly correlated with rumination ($p = .002$), and mediation analyses showed that trauma exposure increased predicted negative feelings both directly and indirectly via rumination. In contrast, affective forecasting accuracy was not significantly related to trauma or rumination, suggesting that these factors shape the intensity of predicted and actual emotions without impairing accuracy. These findings highlight the importance of interventions that focus on regulating emotional intensity rather than assuming forecasting deficits in trauma-exposed individuals.

*POSTER

Speaker



Hiba Alany

Doctoral Student | Northern Arizona University

[265] Understanding the emergence of extraordinary altruism: The case of the independently vegetarian child

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

What drives someone to donate a kidney to a stranger? Prior research links certain personality and cognitive traits that distinguish “extraordinary altruists” from the typical population, but little is known about their developmental origins. Here we examine an unusually altruistic decision that can be expressed in childhood: the decision not to eat animals. Across two studies, we compared independent vegetarians (i.e., vegetarians raised in non-vegetarian households), family vegetarians, and non-vegetarian adults ($N = 284$) and children ages 8–11 ($N = 236$), assessing empathy, disgust sensitivity, cognitive reflection, fearful facial recognition, social dominance orientation (SDO), and speciesism. Independent and family vegetarian adults were less speciesist, lower in SDO, and higher in disgust sensitivity and empathy. Although we expected independent vegetarian children to show especially distinct traits, they differed little from others. Both independent and family vegetarian children were less speciesist than non-vegetarians, with no difference on other measures. These findings suggest dietary choices may reflect specific moral values rather than broad psychological traits.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alexa "Lex" Sacchi

PhD Candidate | University of Toronto

Authors

Paul Bloom, Alexa Sacchi, Matti Wilks, Beatrice Turner

[266] Understanding When Dynamic Norms Flourish or Fail to Promote Sustainability and Social Equity

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

What determines whether a trend grows into a prominent norm or fades away? While prior research has identified factors that moderate conformity to static norms, relatively little is known about moderators for dynamic norms. We test three dynamic norm attributes (specific perceptions about a trend) that may shape conformity: Longevity (will the trend last?), Universality (will it spread widely?), and Sufficiency (is further change needed?). In two studies on adopting novel proenvironmental technologies (heat pumps, $N = 320$; induction cooktop stoves, $N = 940$), perceived high longevity and universality corresponded to increased interest compared. In a third study on reducing peak hour energy use ($N = 380$), perceived sufficiency (when progress was seen as sufficient) predicted less willingness to take action. We then test if these findings replicate in an ongoing national sample in the U.S. ($N = 1,600$) across multiple issue domains (e.g., EV ownership and bail reform). This research will advance understanding of when and why social trends spread or fail to grow, offering psychological insights into the dynamics norms and social change.

*POSTER

Speaker



Yuejiao Jiang

Graduate Student | Boston College

Authors

Gregg Sparkman, Joel Ginn, Janquel Acevedo

[267] Unexpected Advocacy from Right-Leaning Companies Shifts Perceptions of Societal Support for Social Issues

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Increasingly, companies take public positions on social issues. At times, these stances unexpectedly deviate from a company's reputation (e.g., the NFL publicly supporting transgender fans, Fox supporting Black Lives Matter). Using real corporate social media posts, we examined how progressive messages, and their perceived alignment with a company's reputation and subsequent actions, shape perceptions of companies, their motives, and their impact on the broader public. We examine perceptions across four key issues: racial justice, LGBTQ+ representation, transgender rights, and climate action. Study 1 shows that while unexpected advocacy is perceived as inauthentic, importantly, it does not reduce positive perceptions of the company. In fact, unexpected advocacy more strongly increases perceived societal support for issues than expected advocacy. Study 2 finds that when companies' actions deviate from their message, positive perceptions of companies and perceived support for issues decrease. Study 3 explores these effects in the context of recent political shifts that have reshaped the norms and reputational risks of corporate social advocacy.

*POSTER

Speaker



Marcus Trenfield

PhD Student | Boston College

Authors

Gregg Sparkman, Liane Young

[268] Victims of Circumstance, Villains of Choice

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Three studies tested the hypothesis that experiences of interpersonal victimhood affect people's perceptions of their own and others' free will. Study 1 (N = 261) found that participants' tendency for interpersonal victimhood was uncorrelated with their beliefs in their own free will but was positively correlated with their beliefs in others' free will. Study 2 (N = 360) found that, compared to writing about an unspecified interaction with another person, writing about being treated unfairly by another person decreased participants' perceptions of their own free will but increased their perceptions of the other person's free will. Study 3 (N = 367) replicated these results and additionally found that, compared to writing about an unspecified interaction with another person, writing about treating another person unfairly increased participants' perceptions of their own free will but decreased their perceptions of the other person's free will. These results provide evidence that people's beliefs in their own and others' free will can diverge, and that this divergence can result from being the recipient—or the perpetrator—of interpersonal victimhood.

*POSTER

Speaker



Alec Stinnett

Assistant Professor | Monmouth College

Authors

Heidi Martin, Jessica Alquist

[269] Victims or Villains? Social support blurs the lines for deviant goals

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

As digital use and social media exposure increase at younger ages, it is crucial to understand how these platforms shape not only how we perceive events but also how we morally justify them. Goal contagion research shows that people unconsciously adopt others' aims based on subtle cues, particularly in abstract domains like information-seeking. Digital platforms amplify this: peer influence is immediate, constant, and often invisible, making social media uniquely powerful in shaping norms around deviance and prosociality. This project investigates how online discourse influences moral and social judgments around deviant goal pursuit, using crime as a lens to examine how everyday interactions—likes, comments, and shares—shift cognition about deviance. To test this, we designed a fully interactive social media simulation. Participants can scroll, like, comment, and share posts while we manipulate (a) the type of social support expressed (sympathetic, condemning, neutral) and (b) engagement visibility (high vs. low). By mirroring real platforms, this experiment maximizes ecological validity and reveals how online interactions subtly shape moral judgment and goal pursuit.

*POSTER

Speaker



Chris-Ann Bennett

Student | Duke University

[270] Visual Imagery Perspective in Goal Pursuit: The Moderating Role of Self-Concordance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Positive mental imagery can boost motivation, but the role of imagery perspective remains unclear. This study tested whether imagining a personal goal from a first- or third-person perspective affects goal pursuit motivation and whether the effect depends on goal self-concordance, defined as the extent to which the goal is aligned with one's core values and interests. Drawing on process models of imagery perspective, we hypothesized that third-person imagery would be particularly motivating for self-concordant goals. Undergraduate participants identified a current goal, rated why they were pursuing it, and were instructed to visualize their goal pursuit from a first- or third-person perspective. Participants then rated their goal pursuit motivation (i.e., feelings of motivation, commitment, and confidence). Contrary to our preregistered moderation hypothesis, imagery perspective did not interact with goal self-concordance. Exploratory analyses found that third-person imagery sometimes led to greater motivation than first-person imagery, but this effect varied across domains. Overall, there was not consistent evidence that imagery perspective influenced goal pursuit motivation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Cana Reuber

Authors

Roger Buehler

[271] Vividly Imagining Other People's Experiences Reduces Negative Moral Judgments of their Actions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral character assessment is central to person perception. Research indicates that judgments of moral character are even more diagnostic than warmth or competence. Yet little is known about how different methods of eliciting these evaluations shape moral judgment. We provide evidence that vividly imagining another's experience—like an actor playing a role—reduces negative moral judgments in ambiguous cases of wrongdoing. In Study 1 (N = 160), participant pairs were randomly assigned to act out a scene together over Zoom in real time in which one character steals the other's notebook. After receiving instructions to embody their assigned role like an actor, as if they were experiencing it themselves, participants performed the scene live. Those who played the ambiguous thief judged his actions as more moral and rated him as more trustworthy and likeable than those playing the victim. Study 2 (N = 451) replicated this effect with an online sample: participants read their own lines aloud and the other's silently. Those who played the ambiguous thief again evaluated him more favorably than those who played the other role or read the scene silently in a control condition.

*POSTER

Speaker



Jeremy Richardson

Graduate Student / PHD Graduate Student | Cornell University Full-time

Authors

David Pizarro

[272] Weighing Out the Options: The Role of Weight Management Strategy on Weight-based Beliefs and Attitudes

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

Weight loss is a billion-dollar industry; methods of weight loss influence weight stigma and person perception. Loss through bariatric surgery and medications are viewed as "taking the easy way out" while behavior modification is viewed as morally superior. Regardless of method of weight loss, weight regain is the norm for most individuals; however, research has never examined how person perception may change in the context of weight loss and regain. A sample of 297 participants were randomly assigned to view one of three vignettes describing a woman who lost and regained weight through behavior modification, bariatric surgery, or medication. Participants reported on their perceptions of the target, lay beliefs about weight, and effectiveness of weight management strategies. The target was viewed more positively in the behavior modification condition relative to medication, but not surgery. Further, it was clear participants overestimate the controllability of body weight and do not understand the efficacy of weight management strategies. This work highlights the need for empirically informed information on body weight in public health and mitigation strategies for weight stigma.

*POSTER

Speaker



Madelyn Rosenthal

Graduate Student | Kent State University

Authors

Mary S. Himmelstein

[273] OPEN

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Well-Intended, Widespread, and Risky: Labeling Workplace A "Family" May Erode Organizational Commitment and Citizenship

*POSTER

[274] What do free will, moral curiosity, and emotional reaction tell us about a person's moral character when their behavior harms others?

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

The current studies examine three types of information a person might use to assess the moral character of a person whose actions cause harm: That person's belief that they had no choice but to act, how the person responded after hearing that they have caused harm, and a novel individual difference we are calling "moral curiosity."

A correlational study and three initial experiments examined relationships between these three domains by measuring and manipulating each domain separately and examining their impact on moral character judgments and beliefs about the other domains. Building on this, the three experiments we will present each concurrently manipulated two of the three domains (e.g., free will and moral curiosity) and examined their effects on downstream variables.

We found that when targets feel they can act freely, are lower in moral curiosity, or fail to respond with an "appropriate" emotional reaction, they are rated as more immoral, although some nuance also emerged as a function of which domains were manipulated in tandem. We discuss how each domain provides a unique route to moral judgment, but also highlight how each domain is informative about the others.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Iris Sooyun Chung

Graduate Student | Penn State University

Authors

Sean M. Laurent

[275] What drives downward comparison in morality? The effect Narcissistic Personality has

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

People often engage in downward comparison. They are motivated to view oneself as better than others, particularly in the moral domain.

This study explored the relationship between pathological narcissism and social comparison in the moral domain. Previous research demonstrated that pathological narcissism is linked to downward social comparison (Bogart et al, 2004) and moral grandstanding (Şen et al, 2022). Moreover, moral comparisons differ from comparisons in other domains in terms of frequency, perceived threat, and diagnosticity (Fleischmann et al, 2021).

Thus, we examined how pathological narcissism affects downward comparison depending on domain of comparison (moral vs. athletic) and perceived self-threat.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Subaru TAKAHASHI

Student | TOYO University

Authors

Takaaki Hashimoto

[276] What Happiness Means to Gifted Adolescents: Value Profiles and Implications for Motivation

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Do gifted adolescents construe happiness in ways that support intrinsic motivation for learning? We compared gifted high-school students (n=66) and age-matched peers (n=45; 15–17 years) from two urban Russian schools. Participants completed Subjective Happiness and Dispositional Optimism scales and answered "What is happiness?". Two trained judges, blind to group, coded responses into categories (e.g., meaning/self-development, achievement, family/close ties). Groups did not differ in happiness or optimism. However, gifted adolescents referenced meaning/self-development and achievement more often, whereas peers emphasized family/close ties; $\chi^2(7)=27.05$, $p<.001$, Cramér's $V=.39$ (N codes=178). This mixed-methods profile helps explain why gifted youth show stronger autonomous/achievement motivation without higher global well-being and suggests needs-supportive, mastery-oriented classroom practices.

***POSTER**

Speaker



Aleksei Stekhov

[277] What Turns “Us” Into Accomplices? Identifying the Emergence of Corrupt Collaboration

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

How does corrupt collaboration arise? This research explores the micro-mechanisms of this transformation, which stem from a conflict between the norms of honesty and coordination. We hypothesize that social feedback about peers' behavior is the critical catalyst that resolves this conflict, acting as a potent normative catalyst, not merely strategic information. By providing social proof, it reduces the psychological cost of dishonesty and grants implicit permission to prioritize an emergent, local norm of corrupt collaboration over the global norm of honesty.

We conducted a real-time interactive experiment, with 180 adults assigned to 30 six-person groups in a 2 (Social Feedback: With vs. Without) $\times$ 30 (Trials) mixed-design. Using a die-rolling paradigm, participants faced conflicting incentives for individual honesty and collective coordination (a bonus if all six members reported the same number). The key manipulation was social feedback: the “With Feedback” condition saw peers' reports from the preceding trial, while the “Without Feedback” condition did not. We measured individual (honesty, decision time, normative beliefs) and group-level outcomes (corrupt collaboration, group consensus).

At the individual level, social feedback systematically eroded honest behavior ($b = -1.03$, $p < .001$) and reduced decision times ($p < .001$), suggesting it offloaded the burden of moral deliberation. Crucially, feedback also selectively bolstered the belief that corrupt coordination was appropriate ($p = 0.014$). These individual changes aggregated into dramatic group-level phenomena. Feedback triggered an explosive learning curve in corrupt collaboration and fostered rapid behavioral consensus ($p < .001$). The core psychological mechanism was the formation of normative consensus: only in the feedback condition did groups rapidly form a strong consensus that abandoning the honesty norm was acceptable, creating a shared reality that licensed collective corruption.

Our study demonstrates that social feedback is a powerful catalyst transforming individual dishonesty into coordinated group corruption. The mechanism is social influence via social learning. Observing peers' behavior provides the social license for a group to collectively abandon a pre-existing honesty norm for a new, profitable norm of corrupt collaboration, resolving the cognitive and social conflict.

*POSTER

Speaker



Dongyu Gao

Student | Ningbo University

Authors

Weiqiang Li, Bo Yuan

[278] Who Counts as ‘Us’? Latent Profiles of Moral Inclusiveness, Trauma History, and Psychological Wellbeing

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MORALITY

Moral inclusiveness, the scope of people and beings considered worthy of ethical concern, shapes how individuals relate to family, community, humanity, and the natural world. This study applied latent profile analysis to cross-sectional data from 763 U.S. adults to identify distinct patterns of inclusiveness across these domains. Participants completed measures of moral inclusiveness, trauma history, recent adverse events, mental health, and spirituality. Five profiles emerged: from concern confined to close relationships, to concern encompassing all humans and animals. Narrower profiles were associated with higher depression, anxiety, PTSD symptoms, more recent stressors, and greater spiritual decline. Expansive profiles reported low psychological distress and high spirituality, while lifetime trauma exposure was comparably substantial. Thus, trauma alone does not determine the breadth of moral scope. Spiritual injury and ongoing adversity restrict inclusiveness; positive spiritual engagement fosters resilience and universal empathy. These findings extend prior work by showing that moral concern is multidimensional and deeply intertwined with trauma and spirituality.

*POSTER

Speaker



Sasha Stomberg-Firestein

5th Year Doctoral Student | Columbia University Teachers College

Authors

Ertugrul Akin, Briana Cohen, Beata Kosci

[279] Who's at the Door? A Psychogeography of Surveillance

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

NORMS AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

With advancements in technology, home surveillance and other forms of home ‘fortification’ have become pervasive throughout American culture. Neoliberal orientation is proposed to be a motivator of positive attitudes towards and use of home surveillance. The present research uses a mixed-methods approach to examine the predictors of pro-surveillance attitudes in line with a theory of tessellated neoliberalism (Atkinson & Blandy, 2016), wherein neoliberal ideology is instantiated in the fortification of the home, which is reflected in broader social structures. Study 1 ($N=151$) used reflexive thematic analysis to generate three themes from US residents about motivations for home surveillance: a dangerous world, social isolation, and fortified home/fortified self. Study 2 ($N=490$) experimentally manipulated rising (vs. stabilizing) crime rates. The manipulation interacted with certain facets of neoliberal ideology such that those high in neoliberal ideology responded to rising crime with elevated pro-surveillance attitudes. Implications for an empirically validated theory of tessellated neoliberalism are discussed.

*POSTER

Speaker



Harrison Schmitt

Assistant Professor | Skidmore College

Authors

Harrison Schmitt

[280] Why Do People Actively Seek New Opportunities After Setbacks? An Examination Based on Implicit Theories of Opportunity and Intelligence

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

This study examined the relationship between goal strategies for setbacks that cannot be overcome by ability alone and two types of implicit theories. A total of 341 adults ($M = 40.63$, $SD = 10.72$) completed scales measuring implicit theories (the theory of intelligence and the theory of opportunity), and then indicated their goal strategies (active, passive, and abandonment) in response to three hypothetical scenarios involving setbacks. Factor analysis revealed that two implicit theories were distinct factors. Furthermore, both fixed theories of intelligence and opportunity were positively correlated with passive goal strategies and goal abandonment. Regression analysis revealed an interaction between the two implicit theories: the incremental theory of intelligence was negatively associated with goal abandonment among those who held an incremental theory of opportunity, whereas this relationship was not found in those with a fixed theory of opportunity; goal abandonment was lowest when both theories were incremental. The discussion considers the potential impact of cultural factors and social systems on the relationship between goal strategies and implicit theories.

*POSTER

Speaker



Nozomi Tasaki
Master's Student | Nara Women's University

Authors

Hiroki Takehashi

[281] Why Go Green? Unpacking the Motivational Reasons Behind Private and Public Environmental Actions

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

MOTIVATION/GOALS

Drawing on Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 2000), this research explores motivations behind pro-environmental behaviors in Turkey, where an authoritarian political climate may inhibit participation in collective public actions. Study 1 ($N = 375$; $Mage = 22.35$; $SD = 2.38$) revealed that autonomous, but not controlling, reasons uniquely predicted private- and public-sphere behaviors, controlling for connectedness to nature and perceived environmental threat. Participants also responded to vignettes assessing their willingness to act sustainably at personal cost. Together, the results suggest that autonomous reasons predict both actual behavior and intention, even when time and effort are required. Building on Study 1, Study 2 (total $N = 160$; $Mage = 23.55$; $SD = 7.17$) used a six-week diary design and found that weekly variation in autonomous, but not controlling, reasons positively predicted weekly fluctuations in both behavior types. Further, perceived environmental threat also predicted between-person differences in such behaviors across both realms. These findings underscore the role of autonomous motivation in sustaining green behavior, even under restrictive conditions.

*POSTER

Speaker



Ilke Candar
Ph.D. Student | Pennsylvania State University

Authors

Athanasios Mouratidis, Ilke Candar

[282] Women's Weight and Sexual Orientation Judgments in Six Countries

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM

STEREOTYPING/PREJUDICE

In Western culture, higher-weight women are often accused of being unfeminine or even of being lesbians by strangers who know only their photograph. Research conducted in the US has demonstrated this connection, with women of higher subjective weight judged as more likely to be lesbian. This relationship was mediated by perceived gender roles (i.e., femininity and masculinity). However, cultures across the world have different standards for what constitutes a feminine body. We recruited participants from six countries on four continents to react to images of women. In all samples, higher-weight women were judged as more feminine and less masculine than lower-weight women. The relationship between gender roles and sexual orientation judgments was more varied, with both femininity and masculinity predicting sexual judgments only in Brazil. Model fit indices suggested that only Germany, India, and Ukraine fit the predictive model. Overall, our findings suggest that other factors – such as nationwide body norms and LGBT stigma – may be required to understand the relationship between weight, gender roles, and perceived sexual orientation.

*POSTER

Speaker



Bill Silvia
PhD Student | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Authors

Kimberly Rios, Rodrigo Fabretti

Closing Reception

4:40 PM – 6:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall D1, Level 3

Get together one last time with meeting attendees before heading home! A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available.

Menu

(V=Vegetarian | VG=Vegan | GF=Gluten Free | DF=Dairy Free)

Pork Italian Sausage (GF | DF) & Chicago Style All Beef Mini Hotdogs (DF)

- Served with Peppers, Onions, Chicago Chopped Salad, Crispy Tater Tots, Spicy Ketchup, Hot Dog Buns and Traditional Accompaniments

Crispy Vegetable Spring Roll (V | DF), BBQ Pork Steamed Bao, and Crab Rangoon

- Served with Crunchy Ramen Noodle Salad, Classic Dumpling Sauce, Grilled Scallion Ponzu and Spicy Chili-Garlic

Garden Fresh Crudite (V | GF)

- Fresh Cut Vegetables, Buttermilk Ranch Dip and Hummus

Hearts of Palm Ceviche (VG | GF | DF)

- Served with Crispy Tortilla

*NETWORKING

EVENT