

16th Annual

PACE UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE
May 10, 2008

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

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PAPER PRESENTATIONS 10:15am – 12:20pm

10:15am – 10:40am (Room A)

Peering at Sexual Assault through Different Lenses: An Analysis of How Individuals Attribute Blame to the Victims

Lindsay Corman and Gwendolyn Gerber, Ph.D.
John Jay College, New York City, NY

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between an observer's sex, various forms of resistance in a sexual assault and the attribution of blame to the victim. Two hundred undergraduate students were presented with a questionnaire that included a description of a sexual assault with either a male perpetrator and female victim, or a female perpetrator and male victim. In the different scenarios, the victim attempted either verbal or physical resistance, but was unable to stop the sexual assault. The three hypotheses that will be examined are: (a) male participants will attribute more blame to the victims than will female participants; (b) both male and female participants will blame the victim more if the victim was described as using verbal resistance than if the victim was described as using physical resistance; and (c) both female and male participants will place more blame on male victims than on female victims. The findings, which are currently being analyzed, have important implications. Frazier and Schauben (1994) have found that being blamed for a sexual assault is detrimental to the victim's recovery. Thus, by further examining the causes of negative attributional biases towards victims, an increased understanding of what the victim is subject to when disclosing their experiences can be identified.

10:15am – 10:40am (Room B)

Music on MySpace and Its Effect on Person-Perception Towards the Website's Owner

Bryan D. Godduhn and Susanna C. Baranchuk
Faculty Mentor: Richard Velayo, Ph.D.
Pace University, New York City, NY

The study was conducted to determine the effect of music and musical interests embedded within a MySpace page on the perception towards the hypothetical owner of the site. 98 participants were randomly assigned to one of four conditions in a 2 X 2 between groups factorial design. The independent variables were type of music (i.e., mellow vs. non-mellow) and musical interest (i.e., mellow vs. non-mellow), There were four webpages showing the variations based on the two levels of each independent variable. A participant, after having viewed one of four MySpace pages, was required to complete a person-perception questionnaire and the Personal Values Scale (Scott, 1965). Results show that the owner of the MySpace pages in which a mellow song was played tend to be perceived as kinder, $F(1,91) = 8.509; p = .004$, and more religious $F(1,91) = 9.309; p = .003$, and the owner with the non-mellow song tend to be perceived as a more independent $F(1,91) = 7.037; p = .009$.

10:45am – 11:10am (Room A)

Influence of Affect on Listening Comprehension

Kiryl Shada, Paula Petrus, Jennifer Carey, Erica Sheikowitz, Kency Gilet, Samantha Gellman and Sheila Schifftriller

Pace University, Pleasantville, New York

This study is an experiment with the intent to determine whether elements of a recorded story read with positive affect is recalled from working memory more often than elements of a recorded story read with negative affect. Subjects, fifth through eighth grade students, were randomly assigned to one of two conditions. Group A listened to a recording of a story read with positive affect and were administered a test with five multiple choice questions and five fill in questions. Group B listened to a recording of the same story read with negative affect and were administered the same test. The tests were administered immediately following the story. A t-test and ANOVA analysis were conducted on the data. There were no significant differences between the positive and negative conditions nor gender. Implications and limitations are discussed.

10:45am – 11:10am (Room B)

Implicit Association as a Function of Gender-based Color Congruency and Participant Gender

Samantha Boivin, John Ellie, and Constantine Ioannidis

Faculty Mentor: Richard Velayo, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

This experiment aimed to determine the effects of gender based color-congruency and participant gender on implicit association as measured through an implicit association test. 100 participants were administered the Implicit Association Test, a computerized test displaying colored pictures dealing with gender bias. All participants were shown a randomly presented congruent, incongruent and gray scale objects. Within the congruent and incongruent color conditions, blue and pink served as the gender-specific colors and the gray-scale images served as the neutral constructs, devoid of color congruency. The pictures ranged from stereotypical female and male objects. Results indicated a main effect for color congruency. Reaction times were significantly shorter for color congruent objects than for the color incongruent objects.

11:15am – 11:40am (Room A)

Effects of Lyrical Music on Reading Comprehension

Suneel M. Agerwala, Ashley Votta, Briana Hogan, John Yannocone, Steven Samuels and Sheila Schifftriller

Pace University, Pleasantville, New York

This study focused on a commonly experienced distracter in the college setting: music. A total of 145 undergraduate students in a northeastern university participated in this study. They were each given two reading comprehension tests. All individuals were given the first test with no background music. The second test was taken with either no music, non-lyrical music, or lyrical music playing in the background. The study found that participants who took the post-test with no music in the background performed significantly better than participants who took the post-test with non-lyrical or lyrical music in the background. Lyrics within the music, however, did not affect performance on the post-test. There was also no significant difference in performance between males and females in all post-test conditions. The study found that the environment participants studied in did not significantly affect their performance in similar post-test environments.

11:15am – 11:40am (Room B)

Effect of Textual Cue Type and Emotional Tone on Perception Towards Artwork

Nasreen Ghuznavi, Christina Kirsch, Teena Moseley, and Frances Whisnant

Faculty Mentor: Richard Velayo, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study investigated perception of emotional tone of an artwork based on textual cues. An artwork determined to be emotionally neutral was presented to participants. The 163 participants in this study (51 males and 112 females, mean age = 22.4 years) were randomly assigned to one of four conditions in the 2 X 2 between groups factorial design varying according to the emotional tone of and type of cue. Each group viewed an image of a painting with a sad quote, sad title, happy quote, or happy title. The results indicated that there was a significant difference between groups based on the emotional tone, but no significant difference based on the type of cue. No significant interaction effect was found.

11.45am – 12:10pm (Room A)

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*Suneel M. Agerwala, Ashley Votta, Briana Hogan, John Yannocone, Steven Samuels and Sheila Schiffriller
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11.45am – 12:10pm (Room B)

Altruistic Tendencies as a Function of Age and Attire

*Karis Alongi, Iris Colón, and Nicole Paiva
Faculty Mentor: Richard Velayo, Ph.D.
Pace University, New York City, NY*

This experiment measured the effects of age (i.e., 8yo, 35yo, and 75yo) and attire (i.e., well dressed and poorly dressed) on altruistic tendencies, and perceptions toward a hypothetical stranger asking for monetary help. One hundred and seventy-nine participants (60 males, 110 females, and 9 unspecified) were randomly assigned to one of six vignettes, in which a hypothetical stranger, varying in age and attire, asked them for money. The main dependent measure is the amount of money a participant was willing to give. Participants then completed a person perception test and a series of general questions. Results show a significant main effect for age on altruistic tendencies, assumptions made about the hypothetical individual, and on person perceptions. Attire was also found to be significant factor on some perception measures.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Posters set-up by 10:15am

Poster #1

Convergence of Online Marketing and Ads in Social Networks

Dominique Sacco, Richard Velayo, Ph.D., and Dennis Anderson, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

The purpose of this study is to compare targeted marketing strategies between two popular but different social networking sites - Facebook and Second Life. Effective ways in which ads are delivered in both sites will be presented. In addition, advertising strategies (i.e., product placements) on virtual worlds such as Second Life will be suggested given its unique features and constraints. The interfaces in virtual worlds are unlike those of other website-like two dimensional social networking sites. In this environment, navigating through virtual space poses a different challenge for advertisers in how to inform and entice users about the products they sell. In both kinds of social networking sites, it appears that target marketing, possibly through the use of user profiles and "visited" sites may be crucial. However, the strategies on how this may be implemented may differ, not only because the interface between Facebook and Second Life are noticeably different, but also because user demographics and consumer profiles between them may differ. What draws one to having a Facebook site and what draws one to Second Life? This study will show the convergence of marketing in social networks which are already happening on a small scale. It will also discuss how this will shape the future of social networks.

Poster #2

Multimedia in Social Networking Sites: An Exploration of MySpace

Jennifer Mazzetti and Richard Velayo, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

Social networking sites, such as MySpace, are experiencing a tremendous surge in popularity. MySpace offers various multimedia features such as instant messaging, music players, videos, and blogs. The use of multimedia technologies is becoming a staple in learning contexts. This proposed study examines perceived usefulness and feature preferences incorporated in a MySpace site. Participants were asked to view a MySpace site, and were then asked to respond to a series of online surveys to evaluate it. The surveys aim to assess the perceived usefulness of the site and to explore attitudes toward multimedia presentations in general. The focus of the presentation will be to present current literature and propose future areas of research, utilizing the MySpace site we created and all of its surveys as an example. Gaining a better sense of feature preference and usefulness can help incorporate social networking sites into the educational setting.

Poster #3

Global Education: International Classrooms in a Global Village

Antonia Busack and Richard Velayo, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

The present literature review investigates the topic of global education. The paper presents various definitions of the term "global education" and looks briefly into the history of the global education trend. The paper discusses not only the various positive aspects of a global curriculum, but also touches on the challenges that are associated with a strive towards a more global perspective within the school system. The present research paper explores, and tries to understand what global education is, what it means for children and young adults to be educated with an international perspective in mind, what a global curriculum should have to offer, and what constitutes its promise for future generations of students. Furthermore, other issues investigated in this paper include, how global educators are trained, what global educators teach their students, what role technology plays in the advancement of global education, and finally how the field of psychology can be globalized and how to bring about an internationalization of the psychology curriculum.

Poster #4

Exploring Web 2.0 tools for the Internationalization of Psychology education

Ketki Mankame and Richard Velayo, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

Teaching and learning online emerges as a recent tool to educate students. The easy use of internet has transformed the face of information exchange. Internet based technologies such as Blogs, Wikis, Tagging and social bookmarking, Multimedia sharing, Audio blogging and podcasting, RSS and syndication make teaching and learning easy today. In the course like Psychology, the use of textbooks alone then seems disadvantageous for students who otherwise would gain much more information through the use of these internet based technologies. Moreover, the use of internet can prove to be an excellent tool to educate and train students worldwide. Recently, several institutions have attempted to apply technology to teach psychology like web casting, etc. This study then attempts to explore the ways in which these technology have been employed and many different ways in which it can be applied to internationalize the Psychology curriculum.

Poster #5

A Critique on the Design of Effective Multimedia Presentations: Tips that Help

Veasna Tan and Richard Velayo, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study explores the human cognitive capabilities within multimedia learning, that is, learning from words and pictures (Mayer, 2001) focusing on how multimedia instruction may be designed to enhance learning. Based on Mayers (2001) seven main multimedia principles for instructional design – multimedia, spatial contiguity, temporal, coherence, modality, redundancy, and individuals differences, a concoction of Baddeley's working memory, Pavio's dual channels, Engelkamp's multimodal theory, and Sweller's limited capacity theory, a critique on the efficacy of these principles is presented, with particular emphasis on individual differences that may be important determinants of effective learning from multimedia presentations that include self-efficacy, intrinsic/extrinsic motivation, achievement goals, interests, and learning strategies. Pedagogical implications and the development of an assessment tool for multimedia presentations are also discussed.

Poster #6

The Assessment of Risk among Single and Multiple Suicide Attempters

Renee Roberts, M.A. and Elizabeth Jeglic, Ph.D.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York City, NY

The Centers for Disease Control report that suicide is the second leading cause of death between the ages of 25 and 34 (CDC 2005). Suicide also accounts for 12.9% of all deaths among 15 to 24 year olds annually (CDC 2005). Seniors over age 65 make up 14.3 suicides for every 100,000 people (CDC 2005). From a Public Policy perspective this issue is of even greater concern if we consider deliberate acts of self harm which produced 154,598 hospitalizations in 2005 (CDC 2005). The key to effective treatment is to determine the specific variables associated with suicide and self harm.

This project will review the research addressing characteristic differences between single and multiple suicide attempters. These differences are crucial to the development of risk factors which serve as a guide to clinical risk assessment. The goal of future research in this area will be to increase predictability leading to improved therapeutic interventions.

Poster #7

Error Scores as a Function of Gender and Task Complexity: Müller-Lyer and Ebbinghaus Illusion

Shavern Belle, Tanairi Pagan, Dominique Sacco and David Marroof, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

The purpose of this experiment was to determine whether there were significant performance differences between males and females using varying renditions of the Müller-Lyer and Ebbinghaus illusion, while determining whether error scores on the Müller-Lyer and Ebbinghaus illusion tests could be used to predict the participants' gender. Furthermore, an overall examination of performance between the Müller-Lyer and Ebbinghaus illusion was measured. Fifty participants, whom ranged in age from 20 to 40 years, were each tested in two trials. There was a significant difference as a function of task, $t(49) = -5.87, p < .001$. There was no significant gender *task interaction, Wilk's $\Lambda = .967, F(1,48) = 1.63, p = .207$. Logistic Regression was conducted to try and predict gender based on total error scores. Results indicated no significant predictive ability, $\chi^2(1, N=50) = .732, p = .392$. Implications regarding these results were discussed.

Poster #8

The Relationship between Gamers and Non-Gamers on Reaction Time

Jessica A. Campbell and David Maroof, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study was conducted to examine the relation between gamers and non-gamers on reaction time task. The participants included in this study were heterogeneous group of undergraduates, and also people of the general population. Age range(15-60). A complex online reaction time test was utilized to determine the difference between each group. The results concluded that there is no significance between gamers and non-gamers in reaction time, $T(20)=.480, p>.004$. An implication for the results of this study is that the sample size was too small. The online test utilized to determine reaction time was not an appropriate scale.

Poster #9

A Dual Task Paradigm: Varying Levels of Reaction Time Complexity

Tasnid Rashid and David Maroof, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study involved two separate experiments on reaction time. Experiment 1 studied the influence of a dual task paradigm on varying task of reaction time. For Experiment 2 determination of gamers and non-gamers status on the reaction time task was empirically derived (Median split). The participants were a heterogeneous mix of undergraduates, and individuals from the general populations. A stop light reaction time task and complex online reaction time task were administered to test these hypotheses. Both experiments indicated no significance. Experiment 1 [$t(19)=-2.011, p=0.059$; Experiment 2. $t(19)=1.145, p=.268$]. Implications regarding these results were discussed.

Poster #10

An Investigation into the Facilitating Capacity of Imagery with Narrative on Discussion: The Brilliance of Diversity

Tina Mucci and Dr. Gordon (mentor)

Teacher's College, Columbia University

A story of diversity and tolerance using animal characterizations to explore the concept from varied viewpoints is to be tested as a research text to facilitate acquisition of expressive language. This format of images and narrative is a first step toward an attempt to develop a template for varied topics, as a means of investigating and integrating emotional experiences for comprehension and verbal coherence. Advancement of the construct of "multiperspectivism" uses an investigatory text which includes a 7 step, guided, sequential approach to understanding, conveyed through both images and narrative to engage bilateral, hemispheric consideration in the development of language. Systematically incorporating images as an intervention to expand the concept of Joint Attention and promote expressive language capabilities, if successful, could potentially make a contribution to the field of psychology for children diagnosed with Autism or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Poster #11

Processing Speed

Lechelle Lee, Alicia Delgado, Angela Pell and David Maroof, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship among varying indices of attention and processing speed. Thirty participants (15 males, 15 females) from a heterogeneous sample (10 undergrads, 20 general population) participated in this experiment. Participants were administered sub texts from a larger battery (e.g. Trails Making Test (TMT) A and B, Digit Span, and Digit Symbol). Bivariate correlations were conducted to explore the relationship between measures of attention, processing speed, and set-shifting; it also measures the Bonferroni correction to control for type I error indicated by significant correlation for TMT A and B ($.05/6=.008$). A Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) indicated no significant difference across gender (Wilks's $\Lambda = .733$, $F(4, 25) = .267$, $p = .089$). Multiple regression demonstrated that TMT A approached significance in ability to predict digit symbol performance ($F(2, 27) = 3.202$, $p = .056$). Implications regarding results were discussed.

Poster #12

Verbal learning on Intermodality Paradigms

Dimitry Maksakov, Samantha Lipton

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study focused on verbal learning on intermodality paradigms. A between subjects designs was employed, wherein participants were assigned to either an auditory or audiovisual modality condition. The participants consisted of Pace University undergraduate students. A verbal list-learning task which consisted of 12 common words (e.g., egg) from the Selective Reminding test was utilized. The results indicated participants in the auditory task retained more words ($M= 27.36$, $SD= 4.03$) than those in the audiovisual task ($M= 22.00$, $SD=2.83$), $t(21)=3.72$, $p=.001$. Repeated measures Analysis of Variance indicated a significant linear trend in learning, $F(1,22)=26.19$, $p<.001$, where participants recalled a greater number of words over time. Implications regarding these results were discussed.

Poster #13

Serial and Single-Victim Rapists: Differences in Crime-Scene Violence, Interpersonal Intimacy, and Criminal Sophistication

Jisun Park, M.A., M.Sc. and Louis B. Schlesinger, Ph.D.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York New York City, NY

Anthony J. Pinizzotto, Ph.D. and Edward F. Davis, M.A.

FBI Behavioral Science Uni, Quantico, Virginia

The present study aimed to differentiate serial rapists from single-victim rapists by exploring crime scene behaviors. Based on previous literature on rape, three behavioral themes, Violence, Interpersonal Intimacy, and Criminal Sophistication, were compared among 22 serial and 22 single-victim rapists. Findings indicate that serial rapists were more likely to display a higher level of criminally sophisticated behaviors to avoid detection, whereas single-victim rapists were more likely to engage in violent and interpersonally intimate conduct with their victims. The current research findings add to our growing understanding of differences between single-victim and serial rapists, especially their behaviors displayed during a sexual assault. The findings also suggest that samples in previous rape studies consisting of a mixture of single-victim and serial rapists may not represent either group and therefore the results obtained in previous studies should not be generalized to all types of rapists.

Poster #14

Identifying With Perpetrators and Victims of Sexual Assault

Neethu Suresh and Gwendolyn Gerber, Ph.D.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

This study examines the extent to which female and male subjects identify with either the perpetrator of a sexual assault or the victim. The questionnaire modified the Rape Empathy Scale (RES) developed by Deitz et al. (1983). The new questionnaire was gender neutral so it could be used for either a male or female perpetrator. The findings of this study will help to further validate this scale. The two hypotheses are: (1) Females will identify more with sexual assault victims than will males, and (2) Females who have been sexually abused will identify more with sexual assault victims than will females who have not been abused. Further understanding of how males and females identify with victims can help establish a scientific basis for eliminating individuals who are biased toward the defendant or the victim prior to a trial. Therefore, it would increase the number of just convictions in rape cases.

Poster #15

Counseling Older Adults: Implications for Sexual Health

Arien Muzacz and Dr. Adeyinka Akinsullure-Smith

City College of the City University of New York, New York City, New York

Individuals over 65 constitute the fastest-growing segment of the American population; there are currently 35 million older adults in the U.S., and it is expected that there will be twice as many by 2030. Older adults may be reluctant to seek mental health services; potential barriers include self-reliance, emphasis on physical health, preference for community or family involvement, limited health care coverage, or fear that they will be perceived as mentally deficient. However, culturally sensitive counseling may provide older adults an opportunity to express their concerns about sex and sexuality, and may be an entry point for psychoeducational prevention efforts. In discussing the need for mental health counseling to address and promote sexual health in older adults, I will highlight the cultural considerations for counseling various groups of older adults, including ethnic and sexual minorities, and make recommendations for addressing sexual issues within this population.

Poster #16

Verbal Paired Associates

*Nicole Russo, Aisha Shehard, Larissa and David Maroof, Ph.D.
Pace University, New York City, New York*

The study examined sex differences, use of mnemonics and repetition in producing higher recall and recency effect on the verbal paired associates test. The verbal paired associates (VPA) sub-test of the Wechsler Memory Scale was administered to 40 participants (20 females, 20 males) between the ages of 18 and 35. The test consists of four trials of 8 word pair lists (eg: truck-arrow). The participants were read the trial list and then given a refresher word to prompt reproduction of the appropriate word pair (eg: truck- ?). Such tests are vital to the understanding of cognitive ability and functioning of memory.

Poster #17

Effects of Cinematic Films on Perception and Various Social and Behavioral Factors

*Jamie DelBuono, Andrew Lopez, Amy Vallerelli, Joanna Jusis and Ed Swierczewski
Pace University, New York City, New York*

This study will be investigating the effects of cinematic films and various social and behavioral factors. This includes gender perceptions of psychological disorders, the influences on smoking and sexual behaviors, and the stigma of mental health professionals and the seeking of treatment. The sample will consist of fifty to seventy-five college students recruited from a mid-size, private, urban university. We hypothesize that cinematic films contribute to the social stigma of mental illnesses, that women relate to portrayals of mental illnesses more than males; also, that the depictions of mental health professionals and treatment methods contribute to a negative outlook on the therapeutic relationship, and that films have a negative impact on sexual behaviors and how the viewing of smoking behaviors has a negative impact on the general health of the audience.

Poster #18

Gender Trends in Communication

*Cynthia Fox, Nina Patel, Michael Checa and Ed Swierczewski, Ph.D.
Pace University, New York City, New York*

This study will investigate the differences in the quality of relationships by evaluating communication habits between genders. It will examine the amount of time spent communicating using different mediums, as well as the content of the conversations. This study will also investigate if gender differences exist in the use of non-verbal cues during communication. The sample will consist of 100 college students from a mid-size, private, urban university. We hypothesize that differences exist between males and females regarding conversational content addressing interpersonal topics versus non-interpersonal topics. It is also hypothesized that females are more likely than males to use interpersonal communication mediums, emotional/personal topics, and physical contact or gestures.

Poster #19

The Investigation of Virtual and Real Identity

*Jillian Pfau and Ed Swierczewski, Ph.D.
Pace University, New York City, New York*

This study will investigate the relationship between real (offline) and virtual (online) identity by examining the amount of time spent online and the absorption level of each participant. The sample will consist of fifty college age students enrolled at a mid-size, private, urban university. These participants will be administered scales relating to duration and type of online usage, an adaptation of the Tellgen Absorption Scale, and deceptive practices both on- and off- line. It is hypothesized that absorption will be correlated with hours spent online and time spent in virtual space. An exploratory analysis of deceptive on- and off- line practices will be presented.

Poster #20

Perceptions of Art and Music Therapy

Sumi Lee & Yun Hsu and Ed Swierczewski, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, New York

The purpose of this study is to investigate how many persons within our sample have been through art and music therapy, and how this may change their attitudes toward therapy. We are investigating if there is any impact on the participants after they have their therapies done, compared to those who never had art or music therapy. The sample will consist of fifty college students recruited from a mid-sized, private, urban university. The first hypothesis is that perceptions of art and music therapy will be more positive for those who have experienced art and/or music therapy. The second hypothesis is that people who are engaged in musical or artistic pursuits or behaviors will perceive art and music therapy as more positive. A preliminary investigation of associations between psychopathologies and art and music therapy will be conducted.

Poster #21

Alternatives to Pharmaceutical Treatments for Depressive Populations

Nida Ahmed and Ed Swierczewski, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

The intent of this study was to provide a detailed effort to chronicle why people use alternative methods in opposition to, or in conjunction with, antidepressants. In order to legitimize the alternative methods of treatment, the negative aspects of antidepressants will be examined. In addition, statistical data were obtained to measure the growing trend of "pill pushing" as a means of treatment. A survey will be administered to a college sample to measure attitudes regarding alternative methods and the reasons for using them. Alternative treatments for depression reduce the risk of dependency, negative side effects, and are more cost effective than traditional pharmaceuticals, and can be integrated into daily life routines. The results are expected to increase the understanding of the motivations, and inform the current trends within our society behind uses of alternative treatments for depression.

Poster #22

Birth Order, Goal Oriented Behaviors, and Self-Concept

Marika Hinds, Daniel Lenkowsky and Ed Swierczewski, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study will examine the associations between birth order, goal oriented behaviors, and self-concept. The sample will consist of college students from a mid-sized, private, urban university. It is hypothesized that differences exist between first born/only children and latter born children on motivational dimensions as well as on self-reports of self-esteem. The results are expected to be consistent with previous research findings in the extant literature.

Poster #23

The Effects of Idealized Media Images on Self Esteem and Person-Perception

Stella Katsipoutis and Ed Swierczewski

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study will examine the ways in which images of celebrities and non-celebrities with thin body types influence body image, self-esteem, and person-perception. The sample will consist of forty college students from a mid-sized, private urban university. The survey consists of a questionnaire addressing self-perceptions of body image and structure; rating scales, including the *Figure Rating Scale for Women and Men*, the *Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale*, and the *Person-Perception Test*; and visual stimuli depicting images of either thin celebrities or thin non-celebrities. Counterbalancing will be used for exposure to images of either thin celebrities or thin non-celebrities; and also with respect to presenting the rating scales either before or after exposure to the visual stimuli and the completion of the *Person-Perception Test*. It is hypothesized that participants exposed to images of thin celebrities will score lower on measures of body image, self-esteem, and person-perception than participants exposed to images of thin non-celebrities; additionally, that participants who are exposed to images of thin celebrities before completing the rating scales will score lower than the participants who are exposed to the visual stimuli after completing the scales. No differences are hypothesized for the thin non-celebrity condition.

Poster #24

Age and Gender

Farrahann Leconte and David Marook, Ph.D.

Pace University, New York City, NY

This study was conducted in order to depict the relationship between gender and age amongst processing speed. The purpose of this research is to further corroborate past studies that females will score higher than men in general. In addition the study demonstrates the incongruity that can occur amongst different age populations between genders. The experimental group was composed of an equal distribution of male and female participants. The subjects were divided into 2 distinct age groups; 20-25 and age 30-35. Implications of these inclusions are discussed throughout the paper.

Poster #25

Thalamic Neuronal and Oligodendrocyte Counts in Schizophrenia

Smith Kidkarndee and Dr. William Byne

Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center

The anterior principal thalamic nucleus provides a nodal link for intralimbic circuits involved in the execution of multiple complex functions that are impaired in schizophrenia (SZ). Using stereologic sampling procedures, we assessed the volume and the number of neurons and oligodendrocytes in this nucleus in well-characterized postmortem material from 23 neuroleptic treated subjects with chronic SZ (SZs) and 12 comparison subjects (Cs) with no psychiatric history. Volume was decreased on average by 17% in SZ, but this difference was not statistically significant. For neuronal number, there was a significant sex by diagnosis interaction with neuronal number being lower in male ($p = .002$) but not female ($p = .374$) SZs relative to their respective Cs. For the number of oligodendrocytes, there was a main effect of diagnosis and a diagnosis by sex interaction such that number was significantly reduced in male SZs ($p < .001$) with a similar trend in female SZs ($p = .051$) relative to their respective controls. The ratio of oligodendrocytes to neurons was significantly decreased in SZs ($p = .045$) with no sex by diagnosis interaction. These findings are consistent with a previous report of reduced neuronal number in the anterior principal nucleus of male SZs and add to a growing body of evidence implicating oligodendrocyte abnormalities in SZ.

Poster #26

Evaluation of Personal Web Pages with High and Low Levels of Disclosure

A. Arsenlis, V. Gallarello, S Mejia, A., D. Petrosino, S. Rolon and Jennifer Lancaste, Ph.D.

St. Frances College, Brooklyn, NY

With technology becoming more advanced, people are connecting to the Internet for various reasons; one of the more popular reasons is to have a personal webpage. Although researchers have investigated relationships and personal webpages individually, little research has been done on the effects that having a personal webpage might have on aspects of a committed relationship. The present research addressed this issue by sampling 68 female college students who were randomly assigned to view one of four MySpace pages (2x2; male/female, low/high disclosure) Three parts of a MySpace page were targeted: about me section, comments received, and pictures (which included icons). The low level disclosure page had general information, comments, and pictures, whereas, the high level page disclosed more provocative and personal information, comments and pictures. The primary hypothesis was that having a Myspace page which was more revealing in terms of the above aspects would cause negative effects in relationships. More specifically, it was predicted that the participants who viewed the high level disclosure page would rate it as inappropriate, compared to a low level page. Results showed the comments and pictures on the high level pages led to a negative reaction which accounted for a significant difference between the high level pages versus the low level pages (all $ps < .05$). The type of information chosen to be disclosed by a webpage owner has the negative impact on relationships. Additional results indicating a significant gender of page by disclosure level interaction showed that high level disclosure for a female webpage was viewed as more inappropriate compared to high levels of disclosure for a male webpage. This result held for comments and pictures, as well as the overall personality evaluation, but not for the "about me" section.

SYMPOSIA (Concurrent Sessions)
2:30pm – 3:20pm

#1 Professional Concerns and Issues of Psychology Students

Facilitator: Michele Zaccario, PhD (Pace)

#2 Special Launching of the Video – Interviews with International Psychologists

Presenter and Facilitator: Judy Kuriansky, PhD (Columbia)

#3 International Psychology Today and the United Nations

(Sponsored by the APA Division of International Psychology)

Chair: Harold Takooshian, PhD (Fordham).

Presenters:

Janet Sigal, PhD (Fairleigh Dickinson) and Florence Denmark (Pace) – How Students can become involved in the U.N. and international psychology

Elaine Congress, PhD (Fordham), 25 years of Social Work Day at the U.N.

Linda Carpenter (NY Organ Donor Network), 60 Years of Human Rights: The Question of Human Organ Transplantation.

Jasem Al-Khawajah (Kuwait University), Counseling psychology in the Arab world.

How can psychology professionals and students become more involved in international issues? This symposium brings together four experts to review specific topics in this emerging specialty.

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