

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Thursday, February 26, 2026
6:00pm – 7:00pm

Keynote **America Ballroom North**

PSI CHI KEYNOTE: ELIZABETH KENSINGER
Thursday, February 26, 2026
6:00pm – 7:00pm

CHAIR: INGRID TULLOCH

THE LIFE OF AN EMOTIONAL MEMORY

ELIZABETH KENSINGER (BOSTON COLLEGE)

Any experience can become a durable memory, but this transition is more likely to occur when experiences evoke emotion. Emotional memories are born via a cascade of processes that shape what information is retained or forgotten. I will review research with collaborators to understand the life of a negative, positive, or mixed-valence emotional memory. I also consider how an emotional memory differs over the course of adulthood, particularly in how the memory is framed.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Friday, February 27, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

Poster **America Ballroom Center/South**

**SOCIAL/ COGNITIVE/ DEVELOPMENTAL/
 LEARNING/ UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS**
Friday, February 27, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

POSTER 1

HEXACO PERSONALITY TRAITS AND SUBSTANCE USE

CARISSA KANAE (INDEPENDENT), ADAM STIVERS (GONZAGA UNIVERSITY), ISABELLE FRADLEY (GONZAGA UNIVERSITY), HAYDEN KALEIWAHEA (GONZAGA UNIVERSITY), ABI RENNER (GONZAGA UNIVERSITY), MARY MANAVBASI (GONZAGA UNIVERSITY)

As a class project, we distributed a survey to 449 participants using quota sampling across four adult age

groups. The survey measured HEXACO personality traits of Honesty-humility, Emotionality, eXtroversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness as predictors of nicotine, cannabis, and alcohol use. Results showed that honesty-humility and conscientiousness were negatively related to all forms of substance use. Additionally, emotionality and agreeableness were negatively related to alcohol use.

POSTER 2

A GAME-BASED METHOD TO STUDY WHY STUDENTS FALL FOR ONLINE SCAMS

NIRAJ TAMANG (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY - WAYNE, NJ)

This study investigates how university students recognize and respond to online scams using a Qualtrics-based slot machine-style game. Participants place virtual bets, experience small wins, and face withdrawal fees that escalate from \$5 to \$20, simulating real-world scam tactics. Participants reported that they were cautious about online behavior and confident they could spot scams, but the majority of them continued to engage with the scam even as it cost them to do so.

POSTER 3

AI TRANSLATION TOOLS AND THE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

PRINCE GURUNG (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY)

This mixed-methods survey examined how international students use AI translation tools and how this shapes comprehension, confidence, and campus communication. Seven students completed online Likert items and open-ended questions about benefits and challenges. Participants reported frequent academic and everyday use, generally positive effects on understanding and communication, and nuanced concerns about mistranslations, tone, and overreliance.

POSTER 4

AWARENESS OF HEARING LOSS AND LISTENING HABITS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

LEILA GIL (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY), MICHAEL GORDON (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY), IZZY ABERDEEN (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY), AMY LEARMONTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY)

This study explored the relationship between headphone use, hearing-loss awareness, and listening habits. It tested the hypothesis that although young adults understand that loud and frequent headphone use can lead to hearing loss, many still listen at unsafe volume levels. Data showed more than third of students had an average volume higher than recommended for safe hearing habits and two thirds had a maximum volume that was above the safe level.

POSTER 5

FIELDS OR FLOORS? A STUDY OF EXERCISE ENVIRONMENT AND MEMORY PERFORMANCE

ABHASH NIROULA (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY)

This study examined whether exercising outdoors leads to better post-exercise memory performance than exercising indoors. Participants completed a digit-span task immediately after their practice session. Preliminary data from fifteen male athletes showed expected decreases in accuracy as digit length increased. Comparisons between indoor and outdoor exercisers cannot yet be made due to an imbalanced sample, but further data collection is underway to determine whether outdoor activity enhances short-term memory.

POSTER 6

SCAM OR SAFE: A STUDY OF STUDENTS' LINK-CLICKING BEHAVIOR

ALISHA POKHAREL (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY - WAYNE, NJ)

This study explores how undergraduate students distinguish between safe and phishing links. Using an online Qualtrics survey, 61 participants classified real and fake links, with accuracy and decision time recorded. Results showed that students in general were correct more than half the time, and students with prior scam experience and technology-related majors performed like everyone else. Indicating that experience and major did not influence students' vulnerability to online scams.

POSTER 7

THE EFFECTS OF COLOR ON ADVERTISEMENTS OF ENERGY DRINKS

ABIGAIL HAYTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH (COGNITIVE SCIENCE HONORS PROFESSOR)

This study examined college students' preferences for energy drink advertisements, asking them about preferences for different types of ads and color vs black and white versions of those ads. Half of the participants reported they did not drink energy drinks. Participants preferred the color version for most ads and reported that the color was more important than the content of the advertisements. These findings align with and add to previous research.

POSTER 8

THE EFFECTS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON ADHD SYMPTOMS

NOEL DEBONTA (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by persistent challenges in attention, hyperactivity, and impulse control. Verret et al. (2012) found children with ADHD who participated in aerobic exercise, strength training, and motor skill development conducted three times per week showed measurable improvements in attention, impulse control, and overall behavior. Analyses showed that participants both with and without ADHD reported exercise helped them pay attention at least sometimes.

POSTER 9

THE IMPACT OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ON EXECUTIVE FUNCTION IN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS.

JOSEPH QUIMBY (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY)

This study explored relationships between physical activity and self-control among children in elementary school. Impulses were counted using a checklist, including spinning, tapping, vocal outbursts and laying down as the behaviors of interest. Observations occurred before and after physical activity. This data will be compared and inform how movement impacts self-regulation and executive function in young learners. Results indicate that the total number of impulsive behaviors decreased with age and physical activity.

POSTER 10

USE OF AI AMONG WPU STUDENTS

RAUNAK KHADKA (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how college students use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in their academic work. Participants completed a brief online questionnaire measuring frequency of AI use, perceived benefits, ethical concerns, and awareness of institutional policies. Results showed that all students used AI in their academic work and although all students reported understanding the classroom AI policies, less than half knew how to properly cite AI in an academic context.

POSTER 11

TRANS-FOR-TRANS RELATIONSHIPS AND WELL-BEING

LOU RACHWAL (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), SIRUI HUANG (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), COREY FLANDERS (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE)

This study investigates how transgender people define trans-for-trans (t4t) relationships and how these relationships relate to their well-being. Trans relationships provide a powerful site of community building and political imagination. Yet, they also have the potential to reproduce inequalities and promote unsustainable care work. In order to study these relationships, this study utilizes a mixed-methods survey asking 100-125 participants to define t4t relationships and measure their sexual, mental, and physical health.

POSTER 12

STRUCTURAL PREDICTORS OF BURDEN AMONG INFORMAL DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS

ELIZABETH ALDOUS (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), TESS WILD (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), CORINNA LOECKENHOFF (CORNELL UNIVERSITY, WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE)

Informal caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias experience substantial physical, financial, and emotional strain. This study examined how resource access, neighborhood characteristics, material hardship, socioeconomic status, and social support relate to caregiver burden among seventeen caregivers who completed an online survey. Higher income predicted lower burden, while limited neighborhood access and greater material hardship predicted higher burden. Findings highlight structural factors linked to caregiver burden and can inform targeted intervention efforts.

POSTER 13

SLEEP, NAPS, AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION IN YOUNG ADULTS

STELLA HARALAMBOU (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), CAITLIN DOUGHER (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), KAYRI BARTOLOTTA (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), LUCY KOCHMAN-SABBATINO (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), MOLLY ZIMMERMAN (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), HASIB MIA (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY)

The study examined how daytime naps and nighttime sleep relate to cognitive functioning. Participants wore actigraphy devices to measure sleep patterns, then completed neuropsychological assessments of attention and executive function. Findings showed that participants who slept less at night and napped performed worse on cognitive tests. While longer nighttime sleep did not predict performance. The results suggest that naps cannot compensate for insufficient nighttime sleep, highlighting the importance of sleep hygiene for college students.

POSTER 14

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS OF OLDER ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA ENROLLED IN ANXIETY SENSITIVITY TREATMENT

JADYN PAIGE (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), NICHOLAS ALLAN (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), ABIGAIL MARKLEY (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), GRACE CHO (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), HAYOUNG KO (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), SARAH IRVIN (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), LINA HIMAWAN (OHIO UNIVERSITY), JULIA SCHEFFLER (FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY), NORMAN SCHMIDT (FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Baseline data from older adults with mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease and related dementias indicate that anxiety processes are more strongly tied to subjective than objective functioning. Anxiety sensitivity was not related to neuropsychological performance but showed significant associations with participant-reported impairment on the QDRS. PROMIS Anxiety scores were also correlated with lower grip strength, suggesting that anxiety contributes to functional consequences of dementia that extend beyond cognitive decline.

POSTER 15

CAN'T HIDE THE PRIDE: SCHOOL-IDENTIFICATION CORRELATES WITH STIGMA AMONG COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

SARAH YOUNG (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), ERIC MANIA (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

This study examined community college students to determine the relationship between school identification, believing that negative community college stereotypes apply to one personally (stereotype

internalization), and believing that society generally holds negative stereotypes of community college students (meta-stereotype awareness). Data came from a computerized survey of community college students administered by Psi Beta. Correlational analyses indicated higher levels of school identification were significantly associated with lower levels of both stereotype internalization and meta-stereotype awareness.

POSTER 16

EXPECTING THE SAME: IMPOSTOR PHENOMENON, STIGMA-INTERNALIZATION, AND STUDENT'S PERCEPTION OF FUTURE SUCCESS

PAIGE TURCOTTE (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), ERIC MANIA (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

Community college (CC) students persistently face stigma regarding their academic capabilities. This study looks at if stereotype internalization (SI) among CC students correlates with development of imposters phenomenon (IP). A secondary focus investigates the effects IP has on academic success with comparisons between current and expected GPAs. A strong positive correlation was found between IP and SI. Further analyses explored if IP may relate differently to current GPA versus expected GPA.

POSTER 17

PERCEPTIONS OF BIRACIAL PARENTS

AWSAF AHMED (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), ERICA WOJCIK (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), LEIGH WILTON (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

How do physical appearance and behaviors change perceivers' evaluations of biracial parents and their children? The current study manipulated phenotype and cultural practices of an Asian/White biracial parent and measured how the participants perceived the parent's Asian identity and the colorblindness of their children. Results suggest that cultural practices and phenotype shape parental identity, but that phenotype alone shapes perceptions of their children's race beliefs.

POSTER 18

THE EFFECT OF GROUP SIZE ON LEARNING FROM BOOKS

SOPHIE ROTH (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), ERICA WOJCIK (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

This study investigates how group size influences kids' retention of novel words after shared book reading in

preschool classrooms. Children heard two stories read by an experimenter, one with their full class (ten to twenty children) and the other in small groups (two to three children). Each story taught children four unfamiliar noun labels. Children's encoding of the unfamiliar words in the story was tested with a four-alternative forced choice task.

POSTER 19

WORDS IN CONTEXT

EMMA ROTHMAN (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), ERICA WOJCIK (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

We investigate whether different cues to attention in a story impact what information children learn. Four rhyming stories, each with a novel word, are shown to preschool aged children who are randomly assigned to a label-focused condition (that cues them to learn the novel words) or a general-focused condition (that does not direct them to any specific aspect of the story). We measure learning of the novel word label and other information in both conditions.

POSTER 20

CONSTRUCTING COPING STRATEGIES: FIRST-GENERATION LATINO AND LATINA COLLEGE STUDENTS' ROLES AND EXPERIENCES

BAILEY KNOWLTON (CLARK UNIVERSITY), MARLENE CARDOZA (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ARIANA COTTO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ESTEBAN CARDEMIL (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Many first-generation Latinx college students struggle navigating academic and familial roles, but gender may influence these processes. Nine undergraduates (7 female, 2 male) participated in a semi-structured interview. Constructivist grounded theory informed our analytic approach. Preliminary findings suggest first-generation Latinx students react similarly to academic pressure and emotional conflict they receive from family, with gender shaping the underlying motivations for these processes. These findings portray how gender predisposes one's experiences and how support is given.

POSTER 21

NAVIGATING STIGMA: UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS FOR WEST AFRICAN EMERGING ADULTS IMMIGRANTS

AYOMIDE AJALA (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ESTEBAN CARDEMIL (CLARK UNIVERSITY), NICOLAS ALVAREZ FRANK (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Stigma has impacted mental health access for West African Immigrant Emerging Adults because of the internal stigma and education around mental health. Qualitative methods, specifically semi-structured interviews, were used to interview 15 participants from different West African countries. Participants are found through email. Preliminary results show that stigma is coming from thinking that mental health services are only for traumatic cases.

POSTER 22

SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMERICANS' EXPERIENCES WITH RACISM & DISCRIMINATION

JENNIFER NGUYEN (CLARK UNIVERSITY), AIMEE CHAN (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ESTEBAN CARDEMIL (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

The current study aims to explore and understand Southeast Asian American college students' experiences of navigating racism and discrimination. This is a secondary data analysis of a larger study on Asian American college students' experiences in psychotherapy and aims to gain insight into unique perspectives from an underrepresented population. Preliminary findings suggest that participants may face challenges when discussing race-related experiences. These findings highlight the importance of exploring the nuances within Asian Americans' lived experiences.

POSTER 23

EXPLORING EMBRACED EMOTIONAL VULNERABILITY'S ROLE IN LATINA IMMIGRANT MOTHERS' INTERPERSONAL COPING

ARIANA COTTO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), NICOLÁS ALVAREZ FRANK (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ESTEBAN CARDEMIL (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Latina immigrant mothers face disproportionate cultural stressors as they navigate the intersection of cultural values, immigration experiences, motherhood, and gendered expectations. The relational processes that support their interpersonal coping remain underexplored. Fifteen Latina immigrant mothers of adolescents participated in semi-structured interviews analyzed using inductive and deductive Reflexive Thematic Analysis. Findings suggest that embracing vulnerability enhances interpersonal coping and strengthens mother-adolescent bonds. These findings underscore the importance of emotional openness in the mother-adolescent relationship.

POSTER 24

ANDEAN PSYCHOLOGY, BUILDING A BRIDGE TOWARD GLOCALITY IN ECUADOR

EMMA ESQUIVEL-HERRERA (CLARK UNIVERSITY), TAMI TOCAGÓN PIJAL, NICOLÁS A. ALVAREZ-FRANK (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ESTEBAN V. CARDEMIL (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

We gather a group of indigenous scholars and practitioners from Ecuador to articulate the Andean-Amazonian worldview as a psychological framework for healing. We situate this work within a glocal perspective, where psychological knowledge is co-created through dialogue between global science and local worldviews, producing psychologies that are globally informed and locally grounded. We present the philosophical foundations of the Andean-Amazonian worldview, theory of self and personhood, understanding of health and illness, and theory of change.

POSTER 25

DOES SENSITIVITY TO REWARD AND PUNISHMENT MODERATE THE DARK TRIAD AND ANTISOCIALITY?

KARLI F. CHAMBERLIN (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA), RIVER WEBSTER (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA), KATHERINE S. L. LAU (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA), KARA M. VAGTS (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA)

The dark triad refers to three personalities (psychopathy, narcissism, Machiavellianism) that are consistently associated with antisocial behaviors. This study examines the moderating effects of sensitivity to reward and punishment, on the relationship between the dark triad with antisocial behaviors in 739 undergraduates. Interestingly, psychopathy predicted greater levels of reactive aggression and delinquency in combination with high sensitivity to punishment. Similarly, psychopathy predicted higher levels of delinquency with high sensitivity to reward. Implications are discussed.

POSTER 26

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN COLLEGE RELATIONSHIPS

GIAVANNA ENGEL (SUNY ONEONTA), RIVER WEBSTER (SUNY ONEONTA), KARA M. VAGTS (SUNY ONEONTA), KARLI F. CHAMBERLIN (SUNY ONEONTA), KATHERINE S. L. LAU (SUNY ONEONTA)

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is the psychological, physical, or sexual victimization of a partner within an intimate relationship. Victims often report significant long-lasting distress, such as depression, powerlessness, and PTSD. Emerging adults (N = 421; 62.9% female; Mage = 18.84) were recruited from a mid-size northeastern university. Rates of experience

were similar among males and females, nearly a half to over three-quarters of participants reported experiencing violence, emotional abuse, stalking, and reported perpetrating emotional abuse.

POSTER 27

IDENTITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL-BASED PREDICTORS OF SEXUAL DEBUT IN ADOLESCENCE

ALYSSA BRIGHAM (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY), ADITI KODIPADY (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY), ANNABELLE REESE (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA), RACHEL LESHIN (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY), KRISTINA OLSON (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY)

Past work suggests that queer youth are more likely than heterosexual youth to have an early sexual debut and that self-esteem can influence the timing of sexual debut. In a study of 182 heterosexual (N=87) and queer (N=95) transgender and cisgender adolescents at age 16, we observed no significant main effects or interactions between sexual orientation and self-esteem on sexual debut. Future work will examine why our results might differ from past findings.

POSTER 28

MOTHER-CHILD CONCORDANCE OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EMOTIONS

STEFFI THOMAS (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), JESSICA WANG (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), JACOPO TRACCHEGIANI (UNIVERSITY OF PAVIA), LAURA BRUMARIU (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

We examined emotion concordance in mother-child dyads across three tasks (neutral, negative, positive). Mothers and children (n = 112) rated their positive and negative emotions after each task and children reported their attachment security with mothers. Children and mothers experienced positive and negative emotions similarly and had similar emotion change trajectories across tasks. Securely attached children showed more positive emotions and less negative emotions across tasks. Overall, results highlight the importance of shared emotional experiences.

POSTER 29

A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF RACIAL SOCIALIZATION WITHIN FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, AND ONLINE INFLUENCERS

ANGELA LI-MEI YONG (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), YIXUAN (TINA) ZHANG (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), KATHRYN GEERTSMA (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), MARGARET ISACSON (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), KAITLYN WANG

(WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ALICE ZHANG (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ALICE CUI (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), J. MAYA HERNANDEZ (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ALYSSA GRAMAJO (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), LINDA CHARMARAMAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

Asian American adolescents navigate racial-ethnic socialization across home, school, and social media—yet experiences vary. Building on research on parental socialization, school-based identity development, and digital engagement, we conducted semi-structured interviews with 36 Chinese/Taiwanese-American adolescents (ages 12-17). Adolescents discussed race most with parents, less with siblings or extended family; school programs fostered pride, teacher misidentification persisted with psychosocial strains; online influencers offered varied representation. Findings highlight needs for intentional, culturally-sustaining support across these contexts.

POSTER 30

POSITIVE COPING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF ADOLESCENT-DOG RELATIONSHIPS

CECILIA MILLER (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ANNIE CHEN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), GATSBY LANGSTON (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), TENZIN KARMA (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ALYSSA GRAMAJO (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ALICE CUI (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), BETH WILSON (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), J. MAYA HERNANDEZ (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), LINDA CHARMARAMAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

During a period marked by shifting family dynamics and peer relationships, pet dogs may provide adolescents with a familiar source of support while retaining personal autonomy. Based on interviews with 45 parents, the current study examined the impact of pet dog relationships on adolescent coping and social development. Findings suggest that pet dogs help adolescents cope with a variety of stressors (e.g., peer issues) and support social development (e.g., through social media engagement).

POSTER 31

THE IMPLICATIONS OF INSTAGRAM AND TIKTOK USAGE ON PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME

MEGAN COSTIGLIOLA (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), NATALIE CIARROCCO (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

In this study, participants filled out an online survey asking about fear of crime, TikTok and Instagram usage, and support for criminal justice policies. Bivariate correlations and independent samples t-test analyses were conducted. There is a connection between fear of crime and watching crime content on these apps. Those who view more of this content are

more fearful, and in some cases, have stronger support for punitive criminal justice policies.

POSTER 32

HOW DOES GENDER IMPACT ATTITUDES TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTH CARE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS?

MEGAN STADEL (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY)

Gender can influence the attitudes we hold about mental health care. Using a convenience sample, participants read a vignette that described a male or female college student experiencing symptoms of depression. Participants then rated their attitudes towards the student's mental health care. It was hypothesized the male gender identity would have greater treatment seeking and social distancing attitudes than the female student. Results demonstrate gender influences treatment recommendations but not social distancing attitudes.

POSTER 33

EXPLORING IMAGINATION AND THE SENSES

DAEJAH BALDRIDGE (SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY), LINDSEY LEVITAN (SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY)

Mental imagery research focuses mostly on vision, but less on taste and smell. The study examined whether task and content influenced vividness and whether taste and smell could exceed vision. Thirty-six undergraduates completed reading or writing tasks about neutral or sensory content, rating vividness across five senses. Taste and smell-related stimuli generated more vivid imagery, particularly for taste and smell, reducing the dominance of vision in imagery.

POSTER 34

GOLDFISH SCHOOL: CONDITIONING AND SHAPING IN AN UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING CLASSROOM

RAY SANTIAGO (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), RILEY CRAIG (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), LINDSAY MEHRKAM (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

This study demonstrates learning principles are not species-limited and can teach new skills - even to goldfish! In a Monmouth University learning course, four naïve goldfish were trained through step-by-step shaping, reinforcing behaviors that moved them toward the target action. Reinforcers based on preference assessments were delivered on an FR-1 schedule. All four goldfish-student teams mastered new behaviors within 60 trials across three days,

demonstrating shaping as an effective, humane method for animal care settings.

POSTER 35

PURITY CULTURE MESSAGING IN CHILDHOOD: HOW DOES IT AFFECT AUTONOMY & RELATIONSHIP ATTACHMENT?

NAWAL MOID (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), NATHAN GEORGE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

Participants aged 18 - 30 completed measures assessing autonomy, relationship attachment, religiosity, and exposure to purity culture beliefs to examine how early moral messaging shapes adult development. Prior research links purity culture to shame and restricted autonomy, but its long-term relational effects remain understudied. We predict that greater exposure will result in lower autonomy and higher attachment insecurity. These findings may inform clinicians and educators working with emerging adults from restrictive sexual or religious environments.

POSTER 36

EXAMINING SOCIAL COMPARISON AND NEGATIVE AFFECT IN YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL MEDIA USERS

BRIGIDA SIMEONI (WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE), ALAINA LAMBERT (WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE), RICHARD LOPEZ (WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE)

Upward social comparison induced by social media usage is associated with negative emotional consequences. 148 young adults, some of whom were instructed to use a reframing strategy adapted from cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), participated in a survey in which they reported their emotional state following exposure to Instagram posts intended to elicit upward social comparison. Findings suggest that cognitive reframing may buffer against negative affective states, especially for those with higher daily Instagram use.

POSTER 37

AGE AND RACE: CAREGIVER CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DISCUSSING THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

NATALIE HAGERTY (SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY), JESSICA LAFONTAINE (SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY), ALYSSA BOUCHER (SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY), THOMAS NOVY (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), MOLLY BARRY (SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY), LACEY HILLIARD (SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY)

Socialization is a developmental process influencing children's perceptions. Caregiver-child conversations around cultural moments, like the Black Lives Matter Movement, may provide positive socialization opportunities. Conversations about race may occur differently depending on the race of the caregiver or child or the age of the child. This study analyzes responses of 334 hypothetical caregiver-child conversations and age-appropriateness as an influence to these approaches. This study informs researchers of caregiver inclinations when discussing racism with their children.

POSTER 38

DOES AGE AT MIGRATION MATTER? LINKING MIGRATION TIMING TO POST-MIGRATION STRESS

ARIS PAPADIMITRIOU (CLARK UNIVERSITY), RANI PARIKH (CLARK UNIVERSITY), EILEEN RILEY (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ZAINAB SHABBIR (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANA K. MARCELO (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study aims to explore how individuals' age at migration has impacted their post-migration stress. A total of 305 emerging-adult immigrants volunteered to complete a survey detailing their post-migration stress alongside their age at migration. Pearson's Correlational Coefficient was utilized to examine relationships between these stressors and age at migration. Findings found that first-generation immigrants are correlated to higher levels of psychosocial stress, such as work instability, discrimination, and family separation.

POSTER 39

IMPACT OF CHILD HEALTH STATUS ON PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

OLIVIA BOURQUE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), T. CAITLIN VASQUEZ-O'BRIEN (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH RELLINGER ZETTLER (ILLINOIS COLLEGE)

Children with health complications may have more relational difficulties with parents. In an observational longitudinal study, child health and BMI were relatively stable and both high BMI and worse health predicted less warmth and more control from parents. Worse child health also predicted more parent-adolescent conflict, and higher BMIs were linked to more conflict and a lower-quality relationship. Poor child health status may contribute to adverse parental behaviors and a worse parent-child relationship.

POSTER 40

THE ROLE OF SELF-CONTINUITY IN ADVANCE CARE PLANNING IN A LIFESPAN SAMPLE

RIYA KUMAR (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), YI LU (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), ENNA CHEN (STANFORD UNIVERSITY), CORINNA LOECKENHOFF (CORNELL UNIVERSITY)

Self-continuity, the perceived connectedness across past, present, and future selves, is linked to future planning, but little is known about its association with advance care planning (ACP). In a U.S. lifespan sample (N=494), participants reported their past and future self-continuity and completed ACP-related measures. Pre-registered analyses suggested that higher average past and future self-continuity were associated with greater behavioral intention and more time commitment to ACP. Methodological limitations and future directions are discussed.

POSTER 41

OPTIMISM PREDICTS OLDER ADULTS' PRESENT AND FUTURE BEST SELF

STEPHANIE CHAPMAN (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), PATRICIA KAHLBAUGH (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

The current study investigated relationships between optimism, morale, aging mindsets and evaluations of when you have been or will be your "Best Self." Participants (n=123, ages 60-105) completed measures of optimism (LOT-R), Geriatric Morale (PGC), beliefs about aging (NEBA) and Best Self Evaluations (BSE; Best Self age - True age). BSE correlated positively with optimism and morale and negatively with fixed assumptions about aging. Future research should examine links between BSE and health-promoting behaviors.

POSTER 42

IS THERE A PREFERENCE FOR EXPLANATORY DETAIL IN CHILDREN?

NAOMI VAYNSHTOK (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), KARIMA ELGAMAL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), FARI MABUD (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), GIA GUPTA (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), LYNDSEY LYNCH (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), DEBORAH KELEMEN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Children and adults often favor teleological explanations (Kelemen, et al., 1999). But when children are exposed to different explanation types, what do they produce spontaneously? Over Zoom, 119 children heard mechanistic, teleological, or circular explanations about characters performing novel actions and then completed a generalization task. Children

reproduced the explanation type they heard, except circular explanations. These findings show that explanation structure strongly shapes children's reasoning, offering insights for educators seeking to support deeper understanding.

POSTER 43

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE ACADEMIC BEHAVIORS

ANNIKA LAMBERT (COLBY COLLEGE), OLIVIA DOHERTY (COLBY COLLEGE), SARAH WATCHMAN (THE INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM), LUKE BROOKS-SHESLER (COLBY COLLEGE)

The prevalence of artificial intelligence (AI) in academic settings raises concerns about AI-assisted cheating. Survey results of 101 undergraduates found that positive attitudes toward AI increase AI usage, which increases AI-assisted cheating. Furthermore, mastery orientation, risk propensity and GPA also influence AI-assisted cheating. Our findings point not only to individual factors that affect AI-assisted cheating, but also to how institutions might facilitate this behavior inadvertently by failing to provide clear guidelines on AI's ethical usage.

POSTER 44

PERSPECTIVES ON STUDENT USE OF GENERATIVE AI IN HIGHER EDUCATION

EMMANUELA ONYILOKWU (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MAGGIE BILLER (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MARIA FRACASSO (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), RENAE MITCHELL (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) has rapidly expanded into academic spaces, raising questions about its impact on learning. This exploratory qualitative study examines how psychology students and faculty express opinions on students' use of GAI. An open-ended online survey is being distributed and will be interpreted using Reflexive Thematic Analysis. Preliminary responses reveal mixed views, including concerns about reduced critical thinking and recognition of potential learning benefits, providing insight into GAI's impact on higher education.

POSTER 45

RELATING SOCIAL ANXIETY AND SITUATIONAL SELF-AWARENESS ACROSS DIFFERENT CONDITIONS

GRACE BURNETT (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), EMMA GRNIET (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), SAMANTHA EMR (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), LILY PERRIN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE),

LINDEN BURBA (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), ALEXANDRA L. ECKER (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), JOLIE B. WORMWOOD (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE)

Social anxiety is defined as continuous fear across a variety of social situations and may lead to heightened self-awareness in social situations. However, little research has been done to directly relate social anxiety and situational self-awareness. Here, we sought to examine how social anxiety is related to situational self-awareness across two social conditions; alone and interacting with others. Our results expand the current research and may be applied to both educational and therapeutic situations.

POSTER 46

STRIVE, PERSIST, SUCCEED: CAREER OUTCOMES IN SOCIAL ANXIETY

HANNAH COOLEY (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CHRISTOPHER BUDNICK (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Social anxiety disorder (SAD) is characterized by persistent fear and avoidance of social situations due to fears of evaluation by others (Shneider & Goldmark 2015). The current literature demonstrates an association between high social anxiety and poor career performance outcomes. We plan to examine the relationship between SAD and career trajectories with persistence moderating this relationship. This study aims to expand the SAD literature regarding persistence as a potential moderator within a United States population.

POSTER 47

SOCIAL EXPERIENCES AND STRESS REACTIVITY IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

ANTANIA JOHNSON (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), ZANAIAH HAYNES-MARSALIS (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), INGRID TULLOCH (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), TERRA BOWEN-REID (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how perceived racism and everyday stress relate to blood-pressure reactivity in Black college students. Participants complete surveys on stress and discrimination, and a grip-strength task is used to induce physiological stress. Blood pressure is measured at baseline and post-stressor. Analyses will assess links between psychosocial factors and elevated or pre-hypertensive readings. Findings may show that discrimination and stress contribute to early cardiovascular risk, highlighting the need for culturally responsive prevention efforts.

POSTER 48**STIGMA ACROSS "GOOD" AND "BAD" DEBT IN THE UNITED STATES**

MAYA KATES (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), HARRISON SCHMITT (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), GUSTAVO WOOD (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

Financial debt in the United States functions not only as an economic condition but also as a moral and psychological marker shaped by classed and racialized distinctions. Building on the accumulation-dispossession continuum, this study examined how individuals evaluate borrowers based on debt type. In a within-subjects experiment ($N = 51$), participants reviewed five financial vignettes. Results showed consistent stigmatization of "bad" debts—especially legal loans—across approval decisions, perceived risk, social distance, discomfort, and emotional attributions.

POSTER 49**PARENTAL INFLUENCES ON AUTONOMY-RELATEDNESS COMPATIBILITY BELIEFS**

BRIANNA N. TAYLOR (GOUCHER COLLEGE), ALEXANDRA I. DZHYGIT (GOUCHER COLLEGE), BAYLEE A. KLOSE (GOUCHER COLLEGE), MADISON B. QUICK (GOUCHER COLLEGE), ANAKA K. STEINMETZ (GOUCHER COLLEGE), BRIAN C. PATRICK (GOUCHER COLLEGE)

Building on prior research on autonomy-relatedness compatibility beliefs (Winternitz & Patrick, 2019), the current study explored how parenting shapes the development of people's conceptions regarding the harmony between autonomy and relatedness. Participants completed measures of parental attachment, autonomy support, and parental conditional regard as well as assessments of implicit and explicit compatibility beliefs. Results suggested positive parental attachment and autonomy support lead to the implicit belief that autonomy and relatedness go hand-in-hand in close relationships.

POSTER 50**STIGMA AND HELP-SEEKING DIFFERENCES: MENTAL HEALTH IN THE US AND THE UK**

ASHLEY MCGETTRICK (ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY), KELLY BROOKS (ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY)

An online survey was administered to 200 undergraduate students in the US and the UK in order to examine the differences in factors related to mental health stigma and help-seeking. The survey combined 6 scales that measured self-stigma, public stigma, attitudes towards help-seeking, self-reliance, mental

health literacy, and university support and structure. It was found that participants from the UK had significantly lower scores in help-seeking attitudes and perceived university support.

POSTER 51**STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY: IMMIGRANT PRESENCE AND SUICIDE RESILIENCE**

VIOLETT SPRINGATE (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), ALEXIS RICHESON (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), CHARLOTTE MARKEY (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated whether immigrant presence buffers the link between poverty and suicide mortality using county-level data from CDC WONDER and the U.S. Congress's Social Capital Project. Weighted regression analyses of 2,480 counties showed that poverty predicted higher suicide rates, while a larger share of foreign-born residents predicted lower rates. A significant interaction indicated that poverty's association with suicide was weaker in counties with higher immigrant presence, suggesting an important community-level protective effect.

POSTER 52**THE EFFECTS OF MESSAGE FRAMING ON AEROBIC PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SELF MONITORING**

SAMUEL MANSON (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), WILLIAM COLEMAN (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEW BRUNSWICK), DAVID WILDER (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY)

This exploratory study examined whether goal commitment moderates the effect of message framing on intentions to monitor aerobic physical activity. College students read a gain-framed or loss-framed message and reported intentions to monitor their aerobic activities for two-weeks. Although overall effects were small, a moderation analysis showed that loss-framed messages significantly increased monitoring intentions among individuals with low commitment to engaging in physical activity for mental health.

POSTER 53**THE EXCLUDED REBEL: EXPLORING HOW REACTANCE MODERATES THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL REJECTION**

SIERRA RONDEAU (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LOGAN HEHNER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), JUSTIN WELLMAN (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

We examined how exclusion memories and personality differences influenced resume evaluations and mood. Participants were prescreened for narcissism and reactance and assigned to a social exclusion memory condition or a control group. Although the expected effects of reactance, narcissism and condition on resume evaluations were not observed, there were interactive effects between exclusion and reactance on mood, as well as main effects of exclusion on evaluations, with participants experiencing an exclusion memory giving lower evaluations.

POSTER 54

THE IMPACT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS SATISFACTION ON WELLNESS IN LGBTQ+ YOUNG ADULTS

BETTY GAY (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI)

This study explored how parental autonomy support (PAS) relates to psychological needs satisfaction (PNS) and belongingness in over 100 LGBTQ+ college students. This study is grounded in the Self-Determination Theory, as it examined whether PNS is associated with belonging. While the SDT model has been studied in a general population, less is known about how it applies to LGBTQ+ students. Findings aim to extend SDT by highlighting factors that foster belongingness in this population.

POSTER 55

THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF MENTAL HEALTH

JOY KRUMENACKER (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ZOE KING (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON), MADISON HOYT (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON), MONJEANA HENDERSON (PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY), ALINA NESTLERODE (PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY), JENNIFER CROYLE (PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY), RICHARD HARNISH (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON)

This community engagement project explored how social determinants of health affect mental health and wellness. Findings emphasized that access to basic needs (in particular, food and transportation) plays a central role in supporting mental health recovery.

POSTER 56

THE MEDIATING ROLE OF PEER SUPPORT BETWEEN TRANSITION AGE AND MENTAL HEALTH

JEN L. SIMONS (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY), NATALIE M. GALLAGHER (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY), GREY F.

RABER (UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON), KRISTINA R. OLSON (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY)

This project investigates whether peer support for transgender youth varies by age of social transition and whether peer support predicts short and long-term mental health. Using data from parents of binary transgender children who socially transitioned by age 12, preliminary findings show that distant peer support mediates the relationship between transition age and wellbeing in the short-term. Next, we will analyze whether peer support following social transition predicts youth's self-reported mental health at age 16.

POSTER 57

THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE FROM THE 2023 SAMHSA FINDINGS

EMILY LOPEZ (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), KARINA DE LOS SANTOS (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), ANA KASPER (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), NOAH JORDAN-ALFORD (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

Substance use evokes significant consequences to communities that need to be addressed in order to improve the global drug use pandemic. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) presented a clear intersection between substance use and mental health challenges across the United States. We will be interpreting statistical data from NSDUH to understand the current substance use distribution in the country and how people are being affected by it.

POSTER 58

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF INITIATING AND EXPERIENCING GHOSTING IN ADULT FRIENDSHIPS

CAYLEIGH O'CONNELL (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), SOPHIA TRINDADE (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), CLARE MEHTA (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), LINDA LIN (EMMANUEL COLLEGE)

This study examined the psychological correlates of perpetrating and being the victim of ghosting in adult friendships. Participants were 400 adults aged 18–64 who completed measures of ghosting behavior, well-being, self-esteem, social support, loneliness, and social anxiety. Results indicated that both ghosting others and being ghosted were independently associated with poorer well-being, lower social support, and higher loneliness and social anxiety. Ghosting others was additionally associated with lower self-esteem.

POSTER 59**THE LINK BETWEEN ATTACHMENT STYLE AND EMPLOYEE-SUPERVISOR RELATIONSHIPS**

ROMAN EINHORN (MANHATTAN COLLEGE), ARNO KOLZ (MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY)

This present study looked at the relationship between employee attachments and their opinion on their job and supervisor across 4 generational groups (Z, millennial, X, and baby boomer and older). Ninety-two participants completed measures on General Job Satisfaction, Affective Commitment, perceived supervisor Task and Relationship Orientations, Anxiety, and Avoidance. Greater avoidance predicted greater perceived relationship orientation, and greater anxiety predicted decreased affective commitment. Generation predicted several variables: job satisfaction, affective commitment, task orientation, and anxiety.

POSTER 60**THE ROLE OF CALORIE TRACKING PATTERNS IN EATING ATTITUDES**

HARRIET BUTSCHER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JULIA LAWRENCE-RIDDELL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ANDREA MERCURIO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

We examined how different calorie tracking histories relate to eating attitudes among young women. Participants were classified as current external trackers, current mental-only trackers, past trackers, or never trackers. Current external and mental-only trackers showed similarly elevated dieting attitudes and reduced intuitive eating. Past trackers scored between these groups and never trackers. Never trackers showed the most adaptive attitudes. These findings highlight the importance of assessing past and mental tracking in research on eating-related cognition.

POSTER 61**TOUCH HUNGER, SELF-PERCEPTION, & BODYMIND: REVISITING A FORGOTTEN VARIABLE IN HUMAN FLOURISHING**

MIKE MILLER (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ZAINAB SHABBIR (CLARK UNIVERSITY), LAWRENCE MENDEZ (CLARK UNIVERSITY), SARA PARVIN (CLARK UNIVERSITY), HAILEY PELICANO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), KARINA FISCHMAN (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

We examine the emotional, relational, and cultural dimensions of touch hunger, defined as the unmet desire for meaningful physical contact. Expanding prior research, we introduce a survey incorporating body image, gender norms, and cultural belonging. Data collection begins Spring 2026 at Clark University.

Analyses will explore how touch giving, receiving, and desire intersect with identity, emotional well-being, and belonging. We frame touch as both a behavioral signal and a site of regulation, rupture, and resonance.

POSTER 62**THE IMPACT OF PARTISAN STRENGTH AND PARTY ALIGNMENT ON PERCEPTIONS OF BIPARTISANSHIP**

OLIVIA JACOBSON (INDEPENDENT)

Political polarization in the United States is increasing, making bipartisanship rare yet critical. Two experiments investigated how party alignment, candidate partisanship, and voter partisanship strength shape perceptions of bipartisan candidates. When presented with a neutral issue, bipartisan candidates were favored regardless of party. However, on a polarizing issue, this shifted to a preference for co-party partisans and opposing-party bipartisans. These findings suggest that the impact of bipartisanship is contingent on issue and party alignment.

POSTER 63**SCIENTIFIC AWE**

DANA WALL (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), GEOFFREY MUNRO (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), ISABELLA NIXON (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), EMANUEL GARCIA SERVELLON (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CLAIRE GANDIONKO (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), GABRIELA CANIZALES-ORTEZ (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

Awe was induced through a brief scientific video to investigate its potential in reducing politically motivated evaluations. Participants viewed either a neutral or awe eliciting video before rating a neuropsychological report suggesting the replacement of an impaired politician. The politician's party was randomly assigned as Republican or Democrat, and the replacement would benefit the opposing political party. Participants in the awe condition were predicted to indicate less biases in their judgement than the control condition.

POSTER 64**A NOVEL MOBILE PLATFORM FOR INVESTIGATING LATENT TIMING IN AVOIDANCE LEARNING**

JUAN M. ROSAS (UNIVERSIDAD DE JAEN), CARLOS VEGA-SILVESTRE (UNIVERSITY OF JAEN)

To increase ecological validity, latent timing was assessed using a fully online avoidance-learning task designed as a traditional arcade-style game, completed

on participants' own mobile phones or computers inside or outside the laboratory. With slight differences, instructions successfully reversed the temporal discrimination between reinforced and nonreinforced warning signals across devices and settings, demonstrating that the task reliably supports the study of learning and memory processes under ecologically valid conditions.

POSTER 65

AI USE AMONG FIRST-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS: EARLY PATTERNS AND PRESSURES

SALIH MANSUR (TOURO COLLEGE), SALIH MANSUR (TOURO UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (TUNY))

This study examines how first-year students at LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) use AI for coursework and which pressures predict greater use. Using Fall 2025 Student Experience Research Group (SERG) data, students who reported exam stress and heavier workloads showed higher AI use, while ACE scores had minimal effects. Comparisons with Fall 2024 SERG data revealed consistent patterns. Findings indicate that AI functions mainly as a coping resource for students managing academic pressure and limited time.

POSTER 66

ASYMPTOTIC ASSOCIATIVE VALUES UNDER A DISCRIMINATION TRAINING: A KERNEL MACHINE APPROACH

NATHAM AGUIRRE (INDEPENDENT)

Discrimination trainings (e.g., biconditional discrimination, parity discrimination) are benchmarks for models of associative learning. Simulations and ad-hoc assumptions are often used to study models under such trainings, limiting the generality of conclusions. In this poster I present a theorem allowing to determine analytically the long time evolution of associative values under a discrimination training. The result applies to models which can be considered kernel machines, and include Rescorla-Wagner's (1972) and Pearce's (1994) models, among others.

POSTER 67

ATTENTION TO STIMULI, RESPONSES, AND OUTCOMES DURING DISCRIMINATED OPERANT LEARNING IN HUMANS

LUCY BARRINGER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), LIANA CAYER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), VICTORIA TRAINOR (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), HUNTER HOULOBK (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), MARK E.

BOUTON (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), ERIC A. THRAIKILL (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

Most behavior occurs under discriminative stimulus control. Successful learning involves learning about stimuli (S), reinforcing outcomes (O), and the appropriate response (R). This study used eyetracking to record attention as undergraduate participants learned to press a button (R) to steal snacks (O) from a virtual vending machine (S). Data suggest that participants readily acquired the response. Eyetracking data and the workability of wearable eyetracking to study attention to S, R, and O will be discussed.

POSTER 68

DISCRIMINATIVE CONTROL OF RESPONSE CHUNKS DETERMINES PREFERENCE DURING CONCURRENT VI VI SCHEDULES

TEOMAN SOYDAN (VASSAR COLLEGE), J. MARK CLEVELAND (VASSAR COLLEGE)

We present evidence that changeover delays (CODs) create response chunks and that the discriminative control of these units contributes to observed preference during concurrent variable-interval (VI) VI schedules of reinforcement. Two experiments were conducted with pigeons. Both utilized multiple VI 30-s VI 60-s, VI 30-s VI 60-s schedules of reinforcement. One VI 30 was paired with a COD. Probes paired the VI 30 stimuli, and suggest that discriminative control of response units determines obtained preference.

POSTER 69

EFFECTS OF MATURATION AND EXPERIENCE ON DELAY DISCOUNTING

EMMA CAFFREY (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), ADAM FOX (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY)

Rats completed a delay discounting task for different durations of time, creating three groups of the same age but with varying levels of experience. Proportion of larger, later choice was compared across time and between groups to determine if age, experience, or some combination effected discounting behavior. Findings may help clarify whether possible differences in discounting across the lifespan are because of differences in age or because of differences in life experiences.

POSTER 70

EXPLICITLY UNPAIRED CONDITIONED INHIBITION OF FEAR PRODUCES LEARNED "SAFETY"

NORMAN TU (GRADUATE CENTER CUNY), ANDREW DELAMATER (BROOKLYN COLLEGE)

The conditioned inhibition of fear reflects an organism's ability to predict the absence of an aversive outcome. Characterizing the principles that underlie this type of learning is essential for developing interventions for those that fail to use "safety signals" effectively, leading to poor fear management. Using an explicitly unpaired procedure in a rodent model, we observed robust conditioned inhibition, providing a platform for future studies on the neurobehavioral correlates of safety learning.

POSTER 71

FEATURE-POSITIVE OCCASION SETTERS MODULATE DISCRIMINATION LEARNING TO AVERSIVE TASTE US IN HUMANS

VICTOR FLORES (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), HYUNGJUN CHOI (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

This study examines whether humans can modulate predictive responses to a potentially aversive taste event (i.e. US) through an auditory contextual cue. Across three days, participants underwent discrimination training to a conditioned threat cue. Preliminary data suggests robust aversive and differential learning to the conditioned threat cue as exposure to the contextual cue increases. Participants were able to modify their response with regard to the presence and absence of a contextual cue.

POSTER 72

GENERALIZATION OF RESPONDING BETWEEN TONE-OFF CUES IN FEMALE VS MALE RATS

WILLIAM MEYER (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), SUSANNAH ANDRESS (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), NATALIE TRUELOVE (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW CAMPOLATTARO (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether generalization of tone-off eyeblink differs between male and female rats. Both sexes received delay conditioning, followed by generalization testing as well as extinction training. Both sexes showed similarly low levels of immediate generalization and comparable transfer of learning to a different tone-off CS. Extinction rates were also similar between the sexes. These results indicate that tone-off eyeblink conditioning is not sex-specific. Future work will investigate the neural mechanisms underlying tone-off conditioning.

POSTER 73

GOAL-DIRECTION AND HABIT IN HUMAN DISCRIMINATED OPERANT LEARNING

KATIE MATTHEWS (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), ERIC THRAILKILL (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), MARK BOUTON (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

Two experiments examined goal direction and habit with discriminated operant behavior with online samples of human participants. Participants pressed a button to steal snacks from a virtual vending machine. Outcome devaluation reduced responding after brief but not extended training suggesting a transition from goal-direction to habit. Habit, however, was only observed with predictable reinforcers and not unpredictable reinforcers. The results are consistent with observations with rats in parallel tasks.

POSTER 74

IMPACT OF HIGH-FAT DIET ON DELAY DISCOUNTING OF FEMALE RATS

AGATA FARAN (SAINT LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), ADAM FOX (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY)

Excessive discounting of delayed reinforcers has been defined as a trans-disease process and linked to adverse health-related behaviors. High-fat diet has been associated with a range of physical, cognitive, and behavioral impairments. Previous research found that long-term high-fat diet (HFD) causes steeper delay discounting male rodents. This study investigated whether the delay discounting of female rats increased after exposure to HFD, and if its negative impact could be reversed by a change to standard diet.

POSTER 75

RESURGENCE IN RATS USING BETWEEN- AND WITHIN-SS TESTS IN AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE

D. CODY BROOKS (DENISON UNIVERSITY), WENDY PHAM (DENISON UNIVERSITY), ANNEISE BENTLEY (DENISON UNIVERSITY), CELESTE BOHN (DENISON UNIVERSITY), QUINN BROWN (DENISON UNIVERSITY)

Wistar rats were lever-press (R1+) trained via FR schedules, followed by extinction (R1-) and concurrent reinforcement of pole-pushing (R2+). Next, Test 1 involved either R1- and R2- (Group Resurg) or continued R1-, R2+ (Group Cntrl); Test 2 involved R1-, R2- for both groups. Strong resurgence occurred in both tests (between- and within-Ss comparisons). Discussion includes conduct of the experiment in an undergraduate research setting where student success occurred with minimal technical instruction.

POSTER 76**STIMULUS SIMILARITY AND TRAINING INTENSITY SHAPE GENERALIZATION AND INHIBITION IN HUMAN-FEAR-LEARNING**

GONZALO MIGUEZ (UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE),
ESTEBAN KASELY, QUEZADA-SCHOLZ VANETZA
(UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE), MARIO LABORDA
(UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE)

We examined whether fear generalization and inhibition co-occur within a discriminative fear-learning design manipulating stimulus similarity (similar vs. different) and training intensity (few vs. many trials). Across acquisition, extinction, and rapid reacquisition, generalization varied with perceptual similarity and trial number, whereas inhibition emerged only in retardation tests. Generalization correlated with state anxiety, but not with inhibition, suggesting partially independent processes relevant to anxiety-related learning.

POSTER 77**A MULTIMETHOD EXAMINATION OF THE MECHANISMS UNDERLYING THE MISINFORMATION EFFECT**

HOLLY RAHURAHU (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), JESSICA
KARANIAN (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

The current study uses multiple methods, including electroencephalography (EEG), psychophysiology measures, and clinical measures to examine the misinformation effect and the moderating effect of stress. Consistent with existing literature, memory accuracy decreased on misleading trials and reported confidence was higher on misleading trials than control trials. Additionally, moderate levels of perceived stress were associated with fewer misinformation errors, a finding consistent with previous studies.

POSTER 78**AGING IS ASSOCIATED WITH LESS PRECISE TEMPORAL MEMORY**

ABIGAIL MALLIA (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), CHLOE OTT
(ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), FEDERICA PROCIDA
(UNIVERSITY 'G.D'ANNUNZIO' OF CHIETI), KAROLINA
LEMPERT (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

While the ability to recall episodic memories has been shown to decline with age, less is known about how age affects memory for time for naturalistic stimuli. Participants watched a sitcom episode. We then assessed their memory for when things happened in the episode. Older adults had less precise time memory than young adults. Their memory for time duration was also altered. This suggests that aging

influences both objective and subjective measures of time memory.

POSTER 79**ALCOHOL USE, STRESS, AND INHIBITORY CONTROL: AN FNIRS STUDY OF COLLEGE STUDENTS**

MARY JANE SKELLY (IONA UNIVERSITY), SHANIAH
ALAGO (IONA UNIVERSITY), ALINA NAWAZ (IONA
UNIVERSITY), MADISON ADAMS (IONA UNIVERSITY)

College students experience high stress and engage in risky alcohol use, both of which increase vulnerability to alcohol use disorder. This study examines whether stress, alcohol intake, and alcohol craving predict impaired inhibitory control and altered prefrontal connectivity during an alcohol cue go/no-go task. Participants complete the PSS, AUDIT, AUQ, a go/no-go behavioral task, and fNIRS recording. We hypothesize that higher stress and alcohol involvement will correspond to poorer task performance and weaker prefrontal connectivity.

POSTER 80**ARTICULATORY SUPPRESSION AND POST-ENCODING INTERFERENCE AFFECT SEMANTIC AND PHONOLOGICAL SHORT-TERM FALSE MEMORY**

ASHLEY KWON (COLBY COLLEGE), JILAN CHEN (COLBY
COLLEGE), FERNANDO AGUILAR (COLBY COLLEGE),
OTTAVIA CODERONI ROUSSO (COLBY COLLEGE),
BRENDEN TRODDEN (ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY),
MADELYN HENRY (ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY),
DAWN M. MCBRIDE (ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY),
JEN COANE (COLBY COLLEGE)

Articulatory suppression (AS) was used to examine semantic and phonological false memories in short-term (STM) and long-term (LTM) memory. AS during encoding or retention lowered STM hit rates. Disrupting phonological coding during encoding decreased phonological short-term false memories and increased semantic short-term false memories. In the long term, AS during encoding selectively increased false memories for both list types. Compared to phonological hits, semantic hits were higher in LTM tasks and AS had no effect.

POSTER 81**HOW DO CHILDREN REMEMBER TEMPORAL ORDER OF EMOTIONAL EVENTS?**

JOHN ARRUDA (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOSTON), QUE ANH PHAM (UNIVERSITY OF

MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON), TASHAUNA BLANKENSHIP
(UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON)

In our study we investigate how children's temporal memory is affected by the emotional valence of events. We examine how personal subjective ratings predict temporal order performance in a board game paradigm. We hypothesize children's temporal memory performance to improve as they age, and that their performance will increase in the negative valence conditions.

POSTER 82

MAPPING AMBIGUITY IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK: FACULTY INTENTIONS AND STUDENT RESPONSES

ISAAH SAMPSON (EAST STROUDSBURG
UNIVERSITY), MABEL MONTIEL (EAST STROUDSBURG
UNIVERSITY)

This study explores how undergraduate psychology faculty either reduce or intentionally preserve ambiguity in coursework and how students perceive and respond to these environments. Drawing on research in ambiguity tolerance, cognitive rigidity, and critical thinking, the project examines where pedagogical choices align or conflict with students' expectations for clarity and support. By comparing faculty intentions with student experiences, the study investigates whether ambiguous, real-world learning activities can promote greater critical thinking and schema flexibility.

POSTER 83

THE POWER OF NEGATIVITY: BETTER RECOGNITION OF NEGATIVE FACE-TRAIT PAIRINGS

KAYLEE SCALA (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KIMERY
LEVERING (MARIST UNIVERSITY), AVA CARIONE
(MARIST UNIVERSITY)

Conflicting research suggests memory may be strengthened for faces and person-related information both when that information is negative (e.g., cheating) or prosocial (e.g., helping). In the current study, participants viewed six neutral faces paired with negative or positive behavior descriptions and later selected the correct descriptions from a set of four options. We found that accuracy was marginally higher for negative pairings, suggesting even brief exposure to negative behaviors can bias person-related memory.

Friday, February 27, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

Paper

Independence A

COGNITIVE PAPERS: MEMORY
Friday, February 27, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

CHAIR: ALEX DANIEL

8:00am – 8:10am

EFFECTS OF RATING POSITIVE IMAGES ON AUTHENTIC PRIDE, RECALL, AND RECOGNITION MEMORY

AJANTHAN ARULANANDAM (THE CHICAGO SCHOOL),
ALISON FEDIO (THE CHICAGO SCHOOL), MARINKA
GADZICHOWSKI (THE CHICAGO SCHOOL)

Present study investigated the effects of participants' emotional ratings of positive and negative images on their state authentic pride and their ability to recollect and recognize the images. Participants completed the authentic pride scale before and after the experiment, rated the emotional pictures on the dimensions of pleasantness and arousal before proceeding to the memory tests. Participants recalled more positively valenced high-arousing images than negatively valenced high-arousing images and recognized more positive than negative images.

8:15am – 8:25am

ON THE EVIDENCE OF FLEXIBLE SCAFFOLDS IN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY RETRIEVAL

REYYAN BILGE (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), TUGBA
UZER (BILKENT UNIVERSITY)

This research examined spatial information's role in episodic memory through four experiments with Northeastern University students recalling personal memories. Participants were prompted to think of place, people, and activity before writing memory narratives and completing phenomenological ratings. Experiment 1 studied everyday memories (N=83), Experiments 2-3 examined significant memories (N=114, N=149), and Experiment 4 (N=112) compared significant memories involving physical moves versus those without moves. These findings provide insight into spatial information's role in autobiographical recall.

8:30am – 8:40am**LEVELS OF PROCESSING IN SYNESTHESIA**

SHAUN COOK (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), CLAIRE SUBE (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), VICTORIA MCGINN-VANBUREN (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

Research shows that synesthetes recall more words than controls but do not demonstrate some memory effects, like the Von Restorff effect. Synesthetes might focus on visual properties of presented words at the expense of the word's meaning. We investigated this by having synesthetes and controls complete a Levels of Processing task. Results show an attenuated LOP effect in synesthesia, suggesting that synesthetes might have fewer attentional resources available to process the deeper meanings of words.

8:45am – 8:55am**THE IMPACT OF NATURE ON LONG-TERM MEMORY**

QUINLAN GERVASIO (BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY), CHUN-YI LEE (NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY), JOSHUA GOH (NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY), ANGELA GUTCHESS (BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY)

We investigated the effects of environmental exposure and environmental preferences on long-term memory. Participants ($n = 58$) completed questionnaires to assess preferences, watched nature and urban environment videos, and completed an abstract object recognition task. Nature-preferring participants performed better than urban-preferring participants on long-term memory measures after nature exposure. Our findings suggest that even a brief video exposure to nature environments can affect memory performance, when it is aligned with individuals' environmental preference.

Friday, February 27, 2026**8:00am – 9:00am****Paper****St. George C****APPLIED PAPERS: THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE****Friday, February 27, 2026****8:00am – 9:00am**

CHAIR: JENNIFER WADE

8:00am – 8:10am**AN INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS ACADEMIC STRESS IN UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE & NURSING MAJORS**

SUMMER WILLIAMS (WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY), PRINCY MENNELLA (WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY)

To help students navigate the challenges of coping with stress, a 90-minute interactive workshop was given to educate students about transforming their stress mindset. Students were administered pre- and post-surveys measuring perceived stress, anxiety, coping strategies and perceptions regarding stressors. While students' stress levels did not necessarily change from pre-to post-workshop, how they viewed that stress did, as they adopted different coping strategies and experienced reduced anxiety as a result, 3 months post-workshop.

8:15am – 8:25am**MAPPING BELONGING AND BURDENSOMENESS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT WELL-BEING**

CHRISTOPHER WHIPPLE (PENN STATE HARRISBURG A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), EMILY KIEFER (PENN STATE HARRISBURG)

This study examined how thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensomeness influence academic and mental health outcomes in college students. Using latent profile analysis, three profiles emerged: low burdensomeness/thwarted belongingness, high burdensomeness/thwarted belongingness, and low burdensomeness/high thwarted belongingness. Class membership predictors included stress, social support, and hope. Students with low burdensomeness/thwarted belongingness reported better academic and mental health outcomes than the other groups. The results highlight the need for interventions that reduce thwarted belongingness in college students.

8:30am – 8:40am**PRACTICAL PERSUASION: AUTOCLITICS IN TEACHING PEDAGOGY**

JENNIFER WADE (CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE)

The current paper presentation emphasizes the importance of empirically supported theories related to persuasion in teaching psychology courses at the undergraduate level. Wade's (2018) behavior analytic model of flirtation, Wade's conceptualization of humor (2024), and pedagogical practices that emphasize saying, doing, application, and creation are discussed in a translational approach to teaching undergraduate

students. Preliminary analyses support that course assignments incorporating opportunities to demonstrate skills are superior to traditional assessment methods such as formal exams.

8:45am – 8:55am

STEM UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE: BOLSTERING SELF-CONFIDENCE, BELONGING, COMPETENCY, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY THINKING

MEGAN MCCARTY (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), ARPITA SAHA (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), DONNA BEERS (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), MEGHAN JOHNSTON (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), JANE LOPILATO (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY)

A NASA-MUREP funded summer research program for first-year undergraduate STEM students at a women-centered institution was developed. This three-week program differs from many undergraduate research programs as it involved a student-led project on local water quality that was intentionally interdisciplinary, integrating chemical, biological, and statistical components. Students completed self-report surveys at both the beginning and end of the program. Participating in the program was associated with increased self-confidence, belonging, STEM competency, and interdisciplinary thinking.

Friday, February 27, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am

Workshop

Great Republic

EPA 101

Friday, February 27, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am

CHAIR: DEBORAH HARRIS-O'BRIEN PHD

EPA 101

DEBORAH HARRIS-O'BRIEN (TRINITY UNIVERSITY_DC)

This interactive session is designed to help attendees plan their conference experience for maximum benefit. A regional conference like EPA can be overwhelming for first-time attendees and students. Which sessions should I go to? How do I meet other students and professors? These are some of the common questions. The workshop includes tips for choosing sessions, networking, and conference etiquette. All students are welcome.

Friday, February 27, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am

Paper

St. George A/B

CLINICAL PAPERS: PROCESS-BASED APPROACHES AND THERAPEUTIC INNOVATION

Friday, February 27, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am

CHAIR: USHA BARAHMAND

8:00am – 8:10am

LINKING AVOIDANT PERSONALITY TRAITS AND WELL-BEING THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL AVOIDANCE AND INTERPERSONAL DISTRESS

JANNAY MORROW (VASSAR COLLEGE), MADELINE HSIAO (VASSAR COLLEGE)

Our study examined whether experiential avoidance (EA) and interpersonal problems help explain the link between avoidant personality traits (AvPD) and psychological well-being. AvPD, EA, and interpersonal distress were strongly intercorrelated and each predicted lower well-being, with AvPD being the strongest predictor. Serial mediation revealed that AvPD predicted lower well-being through higher EA and increased interpersonal problems, with EA emerging as the stronger pathway. We discuss the implications of these findings.

8:15am – 8:25am

PSYCHOLOGICAL FLEXIBILITY IN WRITTEN LANGUAGE: ASSOCIATIONS WITH POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS SYMPTOMOLOGY AND IMPAIRMENT

STEFPHANIE GAMBRELL (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), OLIVIA BRADY (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), KAPIL CHAUHAN (YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE), JOHN DONAHUE (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE)

Written exposure therapy is an evidence-based intervention for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and preliminary research suggests the content of written narratives may be useful in identifying important indicators of clinical change. The primary aim of this study is to examine the validity of psychological inflexibility as coded in a written expressive writing exercise. Preliminary results suggest consistent associations between written psychological inflexibility and anxiety-related functional impairment, with associations with PTSD symptomology more mixed.

8:30am – 8:40am**A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY FOR OLDER ADULTS**

JENNIFER KRAFFT (LE MOYNE COLLEGE), CARTER DAVIS (VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM), M. LINDSEY JACOBS (UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA), VALERIE LUSKEY (UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA), HANNAH APOSTOLOU (UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA), NATALIE TADROS (MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY), KATHERINE LUCI (SALEM VETERAN AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE CENTER, VIRGINIA TECH CARILION SCHOOL OF MEDICINE)

This presentation will present results from a systematic review and meta-analysis summarizing the impact of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) on the mental health of older adults. Combining across randomized and nonrandomized trials, ACT had a large and significant impact on targeted outcomes in older adults including depression, anxiety, pain, and quality of life. Notable limitations of the existing literature include small sample sizes, inconsistency between trials, and the use of heavily female samples.

8:45am – 8:55am**ATTITUDES TOWARD USING GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY**

LINDA LIN (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), CLARE MEHTA (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), SOPHIA TRINDADE (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), CAYLEIGH O'CONNELL (EMMANUEL COLLEGE)

This study examines the prevalence, perceived effectiveness, and psychological correlates of using generative AI platforms for psychological counseling or therapy. In a sample of 400 adults, 34% reported using AI therapy in the past month. Use of AI therapy was associated with higher well-being and lower social support. People who have used both AI and human therapy rated their experience with AI therapy as equally or more helpful than their experience with human therapy.

Friday, February 27, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

Paper**Independence B**

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS
Friday, February 27, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

CHAIR: TOMOKO HASHIMOTO

8:00am – 8:10am**DIALOGUES ACROSS ENEMY LINES: YOUTH DIALOGUE AMONG RUSSIANS, UKRAINIANS, AND BELARUSIANS**

VIOLETTA SOBOLEVA (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), PETER J. JOHNSON (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER)

This study examines the Eastern European Youth Dialogue (EEYD), a peacebuilding initiative uniting young leaders from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus amid war and repression. This study explores how young people from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus negotiate moral responsibility and civic identity across conflict lines. Through facilitated dialogue and collaborative projects, the study reveals how empathy, irony, and shared vulnerability can restore communication and foster civic language between youth from historically antagonistic societies.

8:15am – 8:25am**PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS' PERCEIVED ENGLISH ABILITY, MINDSET, AND AGE-SENSITIVITY BELIEFS: IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING**

TOMOKO HASHIMOTO (INDEPENDENT)

This study examined relationships among perceived English ability, language mindset, and age-sensitivity beliefs in pre-service teachers. Students with higher perceived ability showed stronger growth orientations in general and second-language mindsets, whereas those with lower ability endorsed more fixed views. Perceived ability did not significantly influence age-sensitivity beliefs. Findings suggest that growth mindsets may shape perceived English competence. For future educators, recognizing their own mindset orientation is important for supporting students, underscoring the study's relevance.

Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

Poster**America Ballroom Center/South**

UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS I
Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

POSTER 1**SOCIAL SUPPORT BUFFER: PARENT PERCEIVED STRESS, CHILD BIOLOGICAL STRESS, AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS**

LE YEN KHANH VU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), AYAH ABOUYOUSSEF (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), YUCHEN LOU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ZEYNEP KOMBE-ELAZAB (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ASHLEY ST. JOHN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JERROLD S. MEYER (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST), AMANDA TARULLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Early childhood development of executive functions (EF) may be sensitive to chronic biological stress and parent perceived stress, with parental social support being a possible protective factor. Sixty-eight children provided samples for hair cortisol concentration (HCC) and completed attention and inhibition tasks; parents reported on their perceived stress and social support. HCC and social support independently predicted accuracy. Post-hoc analyses linked economic strain to higher HCC and social support to lower parent perceived stress.

POSTER 2

THE INFLUENCE OF MULTIFACETED SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON CHILD SLEEP QUALITY

AVA ESPINOZA (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SHAINA BRADY (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ARCADIA EWELL (MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY), SARAH WATAMURA (UNIVERSITY OF DENVER), AMANDA TARULLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study investigates how specific socioeconomic (SES) factors relate to child sleep to inform programs supporting low-resourced families. Low-SES caregivers (N=113) reported on family dynamics and housing situations. Actigraphy was collected from their toddlers. Parent education predicted child sleep onset latency and bedtime range. Home ownership predicted an earlier sleep midpoint. Pest presence predicted a later sleep midpoint, while having enough money for food and reliance on government-based food programs predicted earlier sleep midpoints.

POSTER 3

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY RECALL AND GAMMA ACTIVITY IN THE BRAIN

SARA BUNZEY (MARIST COLLEGE)

This study shows that gamma oscillations in the brain are a neural marker of memory recall for negative emotional memories. We conducted Autobiographical memory interviews to examine the amount of episodic and non-episodic details present during memory recall for negative emotional memories, positive memories, and a control condition. We hypothesize that the more episodic details used during verbal recall will correlate with an increase in gamma power.

POSTER 4

DO INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN IMAGERY SHAPE NEURAL ENCODING OF TRAUMATIC EVENTS?

KYRA CHEN (MARIST UNIVERSITY), ANNA BLUMENTHAL (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

We used EEG to measure neural activity while participants watched a trauma-analog video and a neutral video. We found that individuals have higher gamma activity when watching the trauma-analog video. Additionally, participants experienced more intrusions after the trauma-analog video. This research offers insight into how our brains encode traumatic events differently from other events, and can serve as the foundation to explore individual differences to understand why some people are more likely to develop PTSD.

POSTER 5

AGE OF ONSET AND MENTAL HEALTH'S INFLUENCES ON MARIJUANA USE AND MOTIVATION

GRACEANNE WALSH (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), SAGE MCKIM (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), BRIGID BALDWIN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), AUDREY WEIL (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

Recent changes in access and perceived risk for marijuana have led to changes in use and motivations for use, particularly with adolescents. We surveyed college students to assess their age of onset, frequency of use, anxiety, depression, and reason for use. We found that participants who started during adolescence used more frequently and were more likely to have a nicotine dependency. Age of onset, depression, and anxiety related to different motivations for marijuana use.

POSTER 6

TO CONCEAL OR REVEAL: QUALITATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF UNDERGRADUATE MENTAL HEALTH DISCLOSURE DECISIONS

NORAH JANKEY (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), DELANEY SWAIN (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), TESS MALLOY (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), CASEY A. SCHOFIELD (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

This study presents results from qualitative interviews probing what messages students with psychological disorders encounter when negotiating whether to conceal or disclose in the undergraduate application process. Initial results suggest that students are overwhelmingly influenced to either disclose or conceal by college counselors. Disclosure is often motivated by

a need to explain academic challenges on a transcript, while concealment is often motivated by a desire to not be seen as incapable.

POSTER 7

UNDERSTANDING MESSAGES APPLICANTS RECEIVE ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

DELANEY SWAIN (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), NORAH JANKEY (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), TESS MALLOY (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), CASEY SCHOFIELD (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

Approximately 20% of undergraduates suffer from psychological disorders, with the majority reporting pre-matriculation onset. This study presents descriptive data concerning the college admissions process in order to better understand the context in which students choose to either disclose or conceal psychological disorders on undergraduate applications. Of the 42.9% of participants who reported a psychological disorder, 56.5% disclosed their diagnosis. Results of qualitative analyses concerned with this decision will be presented at the conference.

POSTER 8

TESTING THE SHIFTING STANDARDS MODEL IN PEER EVALUATIONS OF MENTAL HEALTH

BELDINE WASONGA (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), CASEY SCHOFIELD (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), LEIGH WILTON (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

This study examines how the Shifting Standards model shapes peer perceptions of mental health symptoms on social media. White, college aged participants will view an Instagram post describing depression, schizophrenia, or subclinical distress from a White or Black peer. We predict race-based differences in symptom severity, attribution, dangerousness, treatment recommendation, and emotional pain tolerance. Findings will clarify how stereotypes influence peer judgments and may inform stigma-reduction efforts.

POSTER 9

CLINICAL OUTCOMES FOLLOWING TREATMENT IN A SPECIALIZED PERINATAL OCD INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT PROGRAM

MORGAN HOYT (BUTLER HOSPITAL), KATHRYN FORCHE (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND INFANTS HOSPITAL), ANDREA VIJIL MORIN (BUTLER HOSPITAL), MAGGIE O.T. ALLEN (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND INFANTS HOSPITAL), ZOBIDA M. DIAZ (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND

INFANTS HOSPITAL), CYNTHIA L. BATTLE (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND INFANTS HOSPITAL, BUTLER HOSPITAL)

Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and subthreshold OCD symptoms are common in the perinatal period, however there are no established guidelines for treatment of perinatal OCD and few specialized programs exist. We will conduct an initial evaluation of the effectiveness of an intensive outpatient program (IOP) designed to treat perinatal OCD and anxiety based at an obstetrical hospital in the Northeastern US by examining change of clinical symptoms over time. Data collection for this project is ongoing.

POSTER 10

PROGRAM CONTENT AND PATIENT FEEDBACK FOLLOWING CARE IN A PERINATAL OCD IOP

ANDREA VIJIL MORIN (BUTLER HOSPITAL), MAGGIE O.T. ALLEN (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND INFANTS HOSPITAL), MORGAN N. HOYT (BUTLER HOSPITAL), KATHRYN R. FORCHE (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND INFANTS HOSPITAL), ZOBIDA M. DIAZ (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND INFANTS HOSPITAL), CYNTHIA L. BATTLE (BROWN UNIVERSITY, WOMEN AND INFANTS HOSPITAL, BUTLER HOSPITAL)

This poster presents a novel model of care for perinatal anxiety and OCD implemented at an obstetrical hospital in the Northeastern US. OCD symptoms occur in one of six women, however there are no guidelines for treatment in this period. Anonymous program feedback was assessed using the CSQ-8 and thematic analysis of written responses. This revealed high levels of patient satisfaction and appreciation for the program and the support provided.

POSTER 11

BRIDGING DIFFERENCES ON CAMPUS: PERSONALITY PREDICTORS OF CROSS-GROUP FRIENDSHIPS AND PREJUDICE

VANESSA GUEVARA (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ANDERSON BASTIEN (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ERIKA BROST (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), KAITLIN SOLT (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), DAVID LIVERT (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Intergroup friendships play a crucial role in reducing prejudice, yet individual differences may influence receptivity to forming these friendships. This study

examined how the Big Five traits (Openness, Agreeableness), Social Dominance Orientation, and Right-Wing Authoritarianism relate to outgroup friendships and prejudice toward outgroups based on sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health status, and political orientation. Participants completed online surveys, and mediation and moderation models evaluated how personality and individual differences shape intergroup attitudes and friendships.

POSTER 12

PERSONALITY AND CROSS-GROUP FRIENDSHIPS: A MODEL TEST OF MEDIATION AND MODERATION ANALYSES

KAITLIN SOLT (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ANDERSON BASTIEN (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ERIKA BROST (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), VANESSA GUEVARA (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), DAVID LIVERT (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Engaging in cross-group interactions with outgroup members is crucial for mitigating intergroup prejudice. Previous literature indicates that the relationship between individual differences, cross-group friendships, and prejudice can be mediated or moderated. This study seeks to empirically determine which model, mediation or moderation, best captures the correlation between these variables, based on model fit. Students at Pennsylvania State University's Lehigh Valley campus will complete a Qualtrics survey. Data collection and analysis will be finished by February.

POSTER 13

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS IN ESCAPE ROOMS?

MARLENE REYES (PENN STATE LEHIGH VALLEY A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), MIA MANCEBO (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), JENNA SALEM (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), DAVID LIVERT (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

The study explores team roles in a live escape room, and examines how team cohesion, network density, and the Big Five personality traits correlate with team roles. Sessions in a commercial escape room will be observed in order to reveal which informal roles arise (Gander et al. 2018, & Kim et al. 2014). Data collection will be mixed-methods: a pre- and post-questionnaire as well as a behavioral observation.

POSTER 14

HISTORICAL LOSS THINKING & CORTISOL REACTIVITY AMONG URBAN-DWELLING AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKA NATIVES

MALWINA KOLODZIEJCZYK (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MARTINA DEBUGLIO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CHRISTIAN MARINO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ASHLEY JAWAHIR (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), RISHELLE PERSAUD (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), BIANCA CORREA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MILENA V. TUTIVEN ALARCÓN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MELISSA K. PECKINS (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), IRENE BLAIR (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CHAD DANYLUCK (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

The present study examined the association between historical loss thinking (HLT) and cortisol reactivity among 303 American Indian/Alaska Natives in Colorado. Participants completed stress-inducing tasks and provided 4 saliva samples (baseline and 15, 30, and 45-minutes post-stressor). Generalized linear models found that HLT was not associated with cortisol reactivity, suggesting other factors may be involved in the relationship of HLT and physiological stress.

POSTER 15

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN AFFECTIVE COHERENCE: ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN EMOTIONS AND BLOOD PRESSURE

LINDSAY BONN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANA CHKHAIDZE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LAUREN AVILA-SIMONETTE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CHELSEA LAMAR (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), GABRIELA IGNATOWICZ (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SOPHIA RIVERA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), BRIANNA MANNINO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW J. ZAWADZKI (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED), JENNIFER E. GRAHAM-ENGELAND (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

It is not well understood how shifts in momentary affect relate to changes in ambulatory blood pressure (BP). We studied this affect-BP coherence in daily life, estimating the group-level average coherence across all people and person-to-person differences in coherence. At the group level, higher negative emotions predicted increased BP, and higher happiness predicted lower BP. Yet, people varied widely on their individual patterns. This substantial heterogeneity underscores the need to model individual differences.

POSTER 16**RACIAL DIFFERENCES IN ESI AND TIME TO ECG AMONG CHEST PAIN PATIENTS**

NUZHAT JANNAT (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ELAINA PONDE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JUSTIN DUNN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), AIMALOGHI EROMOSELE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CELESTE GABLE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JULIETTE PAULUS (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SHERFRAN LOUHS (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MARCUS JOYNER (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), NATHANIEL ROTH (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CHELSEA DAWN WITTEN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), KAYLENE BANANIA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

The Emergency Severity Index (ESI) is a triage assignment tool assessing the acuity and severity of illness. Patient race/ethnicity has been associated with ESI assignment in the emergency department, with implications for treatment outcomes. In an urban teaching hospital, we found Latino patients received less acute ESI scores than patients from other racial/ethnic groups, but there were no racial/ethnic differences in time to electrocardiogram, a key component of chest pain evaluation.

POSTER 17**IN-CLASS CBT SKILLS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

CARLY ESPOSITO (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), EMILY GENTES (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), MICHELLE STAGE (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

This mixed-methods study examined the impact of CBT skills in an undergraduate course. One class section received standard CBT instruction ($n = 25$), while another practiced CBT skills ($n = 25$). The practice group reported a significant increase in positive affect during the semester, whereas the traditional class demonstrated a significant decline. Students in the CBT section more frequently reported using specific strategies to regulate emotions while traditional-section descriptions were more broad.

POSTER 18**MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS' SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION PRACTICES**

JENNA GOMEZ-NIETO (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), EMILY GENTES (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), PRACHI KENE (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE), GABRIELLA YACOVELLI (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE)

Clinicians utilize different methods to assess suicide risk. The present study surveyed 159 mental health providers to identify their routine suicide assessment and intervention practices. Results showed near

universal use of evidence-based best practices for suicide assessment and intervention, with $> 90\%$ of providers always or often evaluating current and historical risk factors and utilizing safety planning intervention. Providers who had previously lost a patient to suicide demonstrated significantly higher adherence to evidence-based assessment protocols.

POSTER 19**REPETITIVE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS META-ANALYSIS**

JULIETTE BONCHONSKY (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), EMILY GENTES (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE)

Metacognitive beliefs are beliefs people have about their own thoughts. This study used meta-analysis to examine how strongly different types of repetitive negative thought (obsessions, worry, rumination) relate to each belief measured on the Metacognitions Questionnaire. Results show beliefs about uncontrollability and danger of thoughts are most strongly associated with obsessions, worry, and rumination, suggesting this belief is important to understanding all three types of repetitive negative thought.

POSTER 20**HOW DOES PHONE USAGE PLAY A ROLE IN COLLEGE STUDENT WELL-BEING?**

RAYNE BEISHLIN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), LYS MAURER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

We explored the link between college students' screen/social media use and well-being using survey data. We hypothesized (H1) that social media apps negatively affect college students' well-being. We also hypothesized increased screen time negatively impacted college students' ability to flourish (H2) and satisfaction with life (H3). We found H1 was not significant and H2 and H3 were significant. We concluded that problematic phone usage is a predictor of negative outcomes.

POSTER 21**NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA; THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT**

MEL DEAN (ITHACA COLLEGE), ALYSSA LAIRD (ITHACA COLLEGE), PATRICK MONAHAN (ITHACA COLLEGE), NATHAN CONNORS (ITHACA COLLEGE), HUGH STEPHENSON (ITHACA COLLEGE)

The current study, using a sample of 1,069 college students, explores the relationships between self-reported childhood trauma and aggression, impulsivity,

anxiety, and depression. The role of social support also was assessed in mitigating the impact of childhood trauma. Results suggested that childhood trauma is reliably associated with these variables and that strong social support provides a protective effect for those impacted. Limitations of the study are discussed.

POSTER 22

PATTERNS OF SOCIAL SUPPORT IN QUEER AND STRAIGHT STUDENTS

LIAM PARKER (ITHACA COLLEGE), CHLOE SEXTON (ITHACA COLLEGE), KATIE OLIVER (ITHACA COLLEGE), HUGH STEPHENSON (ITHACA COLLEGE)

Previous literature suggests differences in perceived social support (PSS) between queer and straight people. There may be costs and benefits to social support networks depending upon sexual identity. In the current study, queer participants reported lower PSS levels than their straight counterparts. There was no evidence that support from friends was greater for queer participants, a finding reported in previous studies.

POSTER 23

THE ROLE OF INTEROCEPTIVE AWARENESS AND ANXIETY SENSITIVITY IN PREDICTING IMPULSIVITY

NINA ANDRADE (ITHACA COLLEGE), ABBY LANGE (ITHACA COLLEGE), JAYDA MILLER (ITHACA COLLEGE), TAYLOR RICE (ITHACA COLLEGE), HUGH STEPHENSON (ITHACA COLLEGE)

The current study explored the roles of interoceptive awareness (IA) and anxiety sensitivity (AS) and their relationship to impulsivity in a college-age population. The sample consisted of 1,069 college participants who completed measures for the three variables. Results indicated a significant, negative relationship between IA and AS. Both IA and AS were found to predict impulsivity; additional analyses finding that IA is a more robust predictor of impulsivity than AS.

POSTER 24

ATHLETIC IDENTITY, BODY IMAGE, AND EATING CONCERNS IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETES

KATE BRISCOE (BELMONT UNIVERSITY), JESSICA HOCKING (BELMONT UNIVERSITY)

This study investigates how athletic identity relates to body image/disordered eating through social comparison in collegiate athletes (N=150). Mediation analyses indicated that stronger athletic identity predicts greater social comparison, which is

significantly associated with increased body image concerns and disordered eating. Findings highlight social comparison as a key intervention target, offering insight into improving mental health strategies for athletes facing sport-specific appearance pressures.

POSTER 25

EXAMINING BODY IMAGE DISTURBANCES, DISORDERED EATING, AND SPLITTING IN BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER

CAELEY SULLIVAN (BELMONT UNIVERSITY)

This study examines relationships between Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), splitting, body image instability, and eating disorder (ED) symptomatology using a mediation model path analysis. Although BPD has been linked to body image disturbances and ED symptomatology, the mechanisms remain unclear. Results indicated the overall path linking BPD to disordered eating symptomatology was partially mediated by increased splitting behaviors and subsequent unstable body image. There was also a direct path found from BPD to ED symptomatology.

POSTER 26

CONFIDENCE IN EMOTION PERCEPTION BETWEEN CLOSE FRIENDS AND STRANGERS

GRETA BAKER (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), BELLA R. CANNON (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), KAITLYN M. MCMULLEN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), JOLIE B. WORMWOOD (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE)

The purpose of this study is to examine whether self-confidence predicts improved emotion perception abilities between close friends vs. strangers, across posed and naturalistic expressions. This study builds on pre-existing literature that familiarity can help self-confidence in emotion perception. Results could suggest that confidence in accurate emotion perception can strengthen interpersonal relationships.

POSTER 27

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN EMOTION PERCEPTION BETWEEN CLOSE FRIENDS

KYLE MITTELMAN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), ZOE L. HANNUKSELA (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), AIDAN L. DUN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), KAITLYN M. MCMULLEN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), JOLIE B. WORMWOOD (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE)

Research has shown that those in close relationships are better at perceiving a close other's emotions

compared to a stranger. There are varying results surrounding the connection between emotion perception and relationships between close friends, and further limited research on the influence of gender within these close friendships. We hypothesize that women will be better at perceiving the emotions of close friends compared to other genders.

POSTER 28

PERCEPTION OF NATURALISTIC EMOTION EXPRESSIONS: THE ROLE OF FRIENDSHIP LENGTH

ERIN DALY (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), GIGI B. PERRY (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), KAITLYN M. MCMULLEN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), JOLIE B. WORMWOOD (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE)

There is growing evidence that those in close relationships tend to understand each other's emotions expression. In this work we examine how emotion perception is influenced by the length of a close friendship. We predict that when perceiving naturalistic expression of a close friend, those in relationships of 5+ years will be more accurate in their emotion perception abilities.

POSTER 29

COMPULSIVE SCROLLING ON ALGORITHM-DRIVEN SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

OLAIDE OLATUNBOSUN (WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY), MARY KATE RICHARDS (WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY), OLIVIA WARR (WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY), LUCAS CHACON (WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY)

This study introduces a new measure of compulsive scrolling behaviors, the Compulsive Scrolling Index (CSI), examining relationships between psychological health outcomes, social media addiction, and screen-time behavior. Two studies will be presented. Study 1 surveyed 332 young-adults recruited through Prolific, completing the CSI and three validated well-being and social media use measures. Study 2, to be completed in early 2026, will involve 100 undergraduates completing the CSI and providing three days of tracked-smartphone usage data.

POSTER 30

SEDENTARY BEHAVIOR AND THE LINK BETWEEN SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

DANI HACKMAN (INDEPENDENT), SARAH CLARK (INDEPENDENT), TOLUWALOPE BAKARE (INDEPENDENT)

This study explores sedentary behavior as a potential moderator for the relationship between social media use and mental health outcomes. 100 undergraduate students wore an actigraphy sensor for four days, completed anxiety and well-being self-report surveys, and collaborated with researchers to record social media screen time from their phones. Correlations between high social media use and measures of anxiety and well-being are expected in students with high (but not low) levels of sedentary behavior.

POSTER 31

ADVERSITY AND AGGRESSION: INSIGHTS FROM HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN PRIMATES

EMILY DRUCKER (HUNTER COLLEGE (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), YALE UNIVERSITY), ELENI CHRISTOFILEA (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON), GLADYS VENEGAS (YALE UNIVERSITY), KIZZY VASQUEZ (HUNTER COLLEGE (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)), KARIM IBRAHIM (YALE UNIVERSITY), AMANDA DETTMER (YALE UNIVERSITY)

Exposure to early-life stress (ELS) may influence aggression and neurobiology across species. In this cross-species study, 21 children and 61 rhesus macaques were assessed for aggression and stress-related biomarkers. In humans, ELS predicted greater aggression and altered amygdala connectivity. In monkeys, differential rearing conditions influenced aggression and hair cortisol concentration, suggesting the impacts of ELS on neurobiological development across species. This study highlights the translational value of animal models in developmental research.

POSTER 32

METHAMPHETAMINE CONDITIONED PLACE PREFERENCE IN ADOLESCENT MICE: INTERACTION BETWEEN SEX AND STRAIN

ISABELLA BODZIONY (HUNTER COLLEGE CUNY), LEWIS NUNEZ SEVERINO (BROWN UNIVERSITY), ANDRE TOUSSAINT (ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI), RACHAEL LANGA (HUNTER COLLEGE CUNY), GRACE MCKENNA (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), NESHA BURGHARDT (HUNTER COLLEGE CUNY)

Methamphetamine (METH) use is higher in adolescent women than men. While rodent studies support a sex difference in the rewarding effects of METH, few investigated the underlying neural circuits, none of which tested adolescence. Using conditioned place preference and c-Fos immunostaining in adolescent C57Bl/6 and 129Sv/Ev mice, we found sex- and strain-specific differences in the rewarding effects of a low-dose of METH associated with increased neural activity in the nucleus accumbens and hippocampus.

POSTER 33**ASSESSING BIAS IN STUDENT RESPONSES TO UNLABELED INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**

ISABELLA MORAN (KEENE STATE COLLEGE), HARLAN FICHTENHOLTZ (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

In the current age of neurodivergent awareness, it is important to monitor the effect advocacy and representation has on the public. Three surveys adapted from Scior & Furnham (Intellectual Disability Literacy Survey, 2011) were given to students at Keene State College to assess gender and treatment bias towards unlabeled intellectually disabled individuals. Significant differences in attitudes towards the prompt character were found between groups that identified Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) versus those that did not.

POSTER 34**COLOR AND LOCATION MANIPULATION IN A CHANGE BLINDNESS PERSON SWAP PARADIGM**

KATHRYN WOODS (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), LILY HARLIN (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), EDWIN RAMIREZ (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), LEILANI GOODMAN (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

This study investigated how change location (central vs. peripheral) and clothing color (red vs. grey) affect change blindness rates during person-swap scenarios. Approximately 40 college students participated in a 2x2 between-subjects experiment where a person ducked behind a counter and swapped with another individual. Results were expected to show higher change blindness rates for peripheral swaps and attention-grabbing red clothing. Findings have implications for eyewitness testimony reliability and understanding perceptual limitations in legal contexts.

POSTER 35**CROSS RACE EFFECT'S IMPACT ON CHANGE BLINDNESS IN A CRIME SCENARIO**

TKEYAH ANDERSON (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), LEILANI GOODMAN (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), MEHDINI URS (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

We aimed to identify differences in change blindness rates as a function of the perpetrator's race/ethnicity in a person swap - change blindness paradigm involving a crime. The rate of change-blindness was high at 88%. The results are partially consistent with the cross-race effect, suggesting that witnesses may be less accurate at identifying a perpetrator who is outside of their race when the crime event includes more than one possible outside race perpetrator.

POSTER 36**THE EFFECT OF POLITICAL SKILL AND POLITICAL WILL ON STUDENT'S MOTIVATION**

MAIRA VASQUEZ (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

Student success in higher education relies not only on academic ability but on motivational experiences shaped by the instructor's behavior. Understanding which faculty characteristics best support student motivation is crucial for improving teaching. This study investigates how a professor's political skill and political will influence students' autonomy, competence, and relatedness. Using a 2x2 mixed-subject factorial design, 80 undergraduates viewed manipulated instructional videos. Results are expected to show the strongest motivational gains under high-skill/high-will professors.

POSTER 37**THE IMPACT OF BLUE-MIND AUDIO-VISUALS ON WELL-BEING IN COLLEGE STUDENTS**

SRIYA JUPALLI (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), ELLA PORTER (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), DR. LEILANI GOODMAN (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

College students experience rising mental health challenges, underscoring the need for accessible well-being strategies. This study examines whether brief Blue Mind-based water based videos paired with natural water sounds or water-inspired instrumental music enhance well-being among undergraduates from diverse majors. Participants completed baseline and post-intervention surveys after random assignment to different experimental conditions. Preliminary findings indicate that water-based audiovisual exposure may promote short-term improvements in well-being, highlighting its potential as a practical mental health tool.

POSTER 38**LINGUISTIC SCOPE MATTERS: CHILDREN'S RESPONSES TO PARENTAL GENDERED LANGUAGE**

YIJUN ZHOU (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), CYNTHIA BOO (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), MARJORIE RHODES (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined 192 parent-child dyads during storybook reading. Parents' gendered utterances were coded by scope (generic or specific), children's responses by stance (agree, disagree, neutral), and stimuli coded by their consistency with gender stereotypes. Overall, children were less likely to disagree when parents used specific statements, especially when the content aligned with gender stereotypes. These findings suggest that gender beliefs

are negotiated in parent-child interaction, and that linguistic scope can influence early gender-norm development.

POSTER 39

ASSESSING GUILT IN AN ARSON CASE

LEAH DUNCAN (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE), MARK RIVARDO (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE)

Previous research has established that limiting instructions to disregard prior record evidence in a criminal trial are ineffective. Participants read a transcript of a mock court case, then answered questions about their judgments of the guilt and credibility of the defendant. There were no significant differences in perceived guilt, verdict confidence or defendant credibility in different prior record conditions. There was a small effect of prior record on prior record influence of final verdict.

POSTER 40

HOW POSITIVE TRAITS RELATE TO ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND RELIGIOSITY

KELCIE HERRMANN (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE)

This study examined how resilience, optimism, gratitude, and subjective social status relate to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and religiosity. A sample of 345 adults completed validated measures of these traits. Subjective social status significantly predicted ACE scores, with lower perceived status linked to more adversity. Resilience and gratitude significantly predicted higher religiosity, while optimism did not. A 2 × 2 MANOVA showed no effects of gender or parental divorce on resilience, optimism, or gratitude.

POSTER 41

PERSONALITY AND PERFORMANCE: EXAMINING TASK-SWITCHING IN EXTRAVERTS AND INTROVERTS

MADISON SCOLA (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE), MARK RIVARDO (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE)

I investigated whether task-switch cost varied by extraversion level, reading difficulty, and gender. Previous research established that extraversion is linked to how individuals handle cognitive demands. I created a task-switching paradigm where participants read a passage while responding to text message interruptions. Task-switch cost was measured using eye-tracking software. The majority of findings did not support my hypotheses. Results could inform strategies for improving focus and productivity.

POSTER 42

PERCEPTIONS OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: HOW STIGMA CAN IMPACT PERCEPTIONS OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

MIA MCREYNOLDS (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), NANCY DORR (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES)

Examined how stigma can affect people's views of medical malpractice. Participants read a scenario that varied if damage to the patient occurred and if the patient had a previous abortion that was causing her pain. Participants answered questions regarding whether the physician was at fault. Results showed participants who read the scenario where the woman had recent abortion rated the physician as more at fault and deserving of punishment than if she had uterine fibroids.

POSTER 43

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITIVENESS: HOW RESPONSES DIFFER WHEN ANSWERED INDIVIDUALLY AND COMPETITIVELY

ESHAAN TOLANI (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), NOLAN NGUYEN (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDER ROMERO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), NATHAN GREENAUER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE MELLO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Previous literature suggests a competitive situation creates anxiety, worsening both cognition and overall performance. In this experiment, we assessed whether the number of correct responses given in a competitive scenario would differ from those given in an individual scenario, using overall competitiveness as a moderating factor. Results indicated that participants answered significantly more questions correctly and took more time during the competitive situation and that overall competitiveness was unrelated to the results.

POSTER 44

BEATING BURNOUT: BUILDING A HEALTHIER CAMPUS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

NOLAN NGUYEN (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDER ROMERO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ESHAAN TOLANI (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), NATHAN GREENAUER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE MELLO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how workload quantity, perceived work quality, and effort–reward imbalance relate to burnout among university students and faculty. Participants completed validated self-report measures assessing work hours, work-life quality, resilience, and burnout risk. Regression analyses indicated that resilience was the only significant predictor of burnout, although burnout correlated strongly with work-life quality and effort–reward imbalance. Findings suggest resilience plays a central role in burnout risk despite substantial overlap among work-related predictors.

POSTER 45

BLINDED BY BEAUTY: THE INFLUENCE OF DEFENDANT ATTRACTIVENESS ON JURIDIC ATTITUDES

KEIRA PELKER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), MASON SOUCHAK (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), MADISON CONSTEIN (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ASHLEY MUSANTE (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), NATHAN GREENAUER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE MELLO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how defendant facial attractiveness influences perceived crime severity, justification, verdicts, sentencing, and decision satisfaction across misdemeanor and felony cases. Using experimental vignettes, we assessed conditions that produce leniency or boomerang effects and evaluated the role of juror characteristics and contextual factors. Significant effects of defendant attractiveness were observed across most outcomes, and crime severity shaped verdicts and sentencing decisions. These results demonstrate robust appearance-based biases that systematically influence legal decision-making.

POSTER 46

DOÂ GENDER AND EMPATHY PREDICT GUILTY VERDICTS FOR SEX TRAFFICKED SURVIVORS?

ALEXIS PAGE (KEENE STATE COLLEGE), PAUL HENNIGAN (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

This study examined whether gender and empathy predict guilty verdicts for a sex-trafficked survivor in a

mock trial. Using data from 196 U.S. adults, results showed that women reported greater empathy for the survivor, and individuals with lower empathy were more likely to render a guilty verdict. Men were 181% more likely than women to find the survivor guilty. Findings highlight the importance of empathy in legal judgments involving trafficked survivors.

POSTER 47

TITLE: DEVELOPING THE ORIGINS OF SACRED PERCEPTIONS SCALE

MATTHEW ST.ONGE (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

Sacredness as a psychological construct has incorrectly been reduced in the literature to be primarily related to Christian spirituality. Recent endeavors have moved towards a more wholistic, secular definition, but it has not been operationalized in a psychologically useful manner. One hundred and seventy two participants completed the prototype Origins of Sacred Perceptions Survey. Key findings suggest that sacredness is a multidimensional construct originating from social, moral, and practical factors alongside the traditional spiritual ones.

POSTER 48

THE IMPACT OF PARENTING STYLES ON PERFECTIONISM IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

HALEY GENDRON (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), PHYLLIS LEE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Parenting styles are linked to the development of perfectionism. Forty-two participants from Eastern Connecticut State University completed an online survey assessing the three parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive, as well as levels of perfectionism. Key findings suggest authoritarian parenting is associated with higher levels of perfectionism, whereas authoritative and permissive parenting are associated with lower levels of perfectionism. Parenting can have an everlasting impact on adulthood, and parents should be educated on potential complications.

POSTER 49

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GUILT, SHAME, AND NICENESS

GABRIELLE PAPALE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), PHYLLIS LEE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study explored guilt and shame in relation to niceness, a specific type of prosocial behavior.

Previously, guilt and shame have been researched with varying definitions of prosocial behavior. Guilt-repair was significantly positively correlated to niceness, while shame and niceness had no significant relationship using data from 44 college students. Expanding the literature on how guilt and shame are related to niceness can help form a better understanding of each emotion and prosocial behavior.

POSTER 50

EYEWITNESS MEMORY FOR CENTRAL AND PERIPHERAL DETAILS OF A ROBBERY

ANGELINA KOUDRIASHOVA (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), ROBERT FLINT (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), TAMARA ALYAZJEEN (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), GRACE BOYLE (MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY)

Examined the effect of false information provided during initial testing on eyewitness memory for central and peripheral details. Participants viewed a bank robbery video followed by true, or true and false statements regarding central and peripheral details and a test 1-week later. There were more hits for central and more false alarms for peripheral details. More false alarms for peripheral details were made by the group that were presented with false statements at initial testing.

POSTER 51

MOCK JURORS' PERCEPTIONS OF CREDIBILITY, BELIEVABILITY, AND GUILT: VICTIM SEX/AGE EFFECTS

PRIYASHA SETIA (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), BRIDGET LONGDEN (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), LILLIAN A. RODRIGUEZ STEEN (YORK UNIVERSITY), ROBERT FLINT (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES)

Participants (n=656) read a brief case note describing the victim of a violent robbery. Sex (male or female) and age (25, 45, 70, 80, or 90) of the victim was randomly assigned. After reading a transcript of a Cognitive Interview between the victim and a detective (same for all participants), participants completed a detailed questionnaire. Results revealed main effects of sex and age on several variables, but no sex by age interactions.

POSTER 52

TACTILE SPATIAL MEMORY: IMPLICATIONS FROM INCREASED TASK DIFFICULTY AND DETAILED TRACK PLOTS

JUSTIN MOREHOUSE (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), LANCE MOTLAGH (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY), ROBERT FLINT (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES)

Non-visual tactile spatial learning was examined using a challenging novel task. Participants located a small target stimulus among numerous distractor stimuli across 2 blocks of 5 trials each. The location of the target stimulus was moved, without participant knowledge, following the 5th trial of the first block. Results revealed a main effect of trial indicating improved performance across trials, but no effect of block or trial by block interaction.

POSTER 53

COLLEGE-SPECIFIC MODEL OF SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

CHRIS ACOSTA (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), SOPHIA BARRETT (CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY)

The rise of loneliness in young adults necessitates tailored understandings. This study seeks to create a college-specific model of social connectedness, analyzing the effects of various risk factors and mediators on academic and health outcomes. Linear regression data analysis of college-students using the Healthy Minds Study will be conducted to test the validity of the model. We hypothesize peer connectedness and college campus sense of belonging will have independent significant effects on outcomes.

POSTER 54

DIET QUALITY, MENTAL HEALTH, AND CHRONIC DISEASE RISK AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

GÉVELLE-MARIE LEZAMA (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), ROBERT MELARA (CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), SOPHIA BARRETT (CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

Using national data from the 2023–2024 Healthy Minds Study (N=3,092), this study examined whether fruit and vegetable intake predicts depressive symptoms, anxiety, and loneliness among U.S. college students. Although the role of nutrition has gained attention, few investigators have tested these associations using contemporary, post-pandemic samples. Linear regressions showed that higher daily intake significantly predicted lower mental health symptoms. Findings suggest that even incremental dietary improvements may offer meaningful mental health benefits.

POSTER 55**EXERCISE AND STIMULANT MEDICATION ON HOLISTIC OUTCOMES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH ADHD**

ALEXANDRA MINDNICH (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), ITEOLUWA ADEROUNMU (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), SOPHIA BARRETT (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

College students with ADHD often struggle academically and emotionally, yet it remains unclear whether stimulant medication improves broader well-being. Using 2023–2024 Healthy Minds Study data from over 4,000 students with ADHD, we compared exercise frequency and medication use as predictors of flourishing, depression, and academic impairment. Exercise predicted better outcomes across domains, whereas stimulant use did not provide unique benefits. Results suggest exercise offers a more effective, holistic intervention for ADHD-related challenges in college.

POSTER 56**FLOURISHING, LONELINESS, AND RACE-BASED-TRAUMA: PREDICTORS OF MENTAL-HEALTH-SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT-ENGAGEMENT AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

MOHAMED ELGHAMRY (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), SOPHIA BARRETT (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), ROBERT MELARA (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), JAZMINE TAYLOR (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY)

Depression and anxiety were strongly associated with flourishing, loneliness, and race-based traumatic stress among 44,713 U.S. college students from the 2023–2024 Healthy Minds Study. Higher flourishing predicted fewer symptoms, whereas loneliness and racial trauma predicted greater distress. However, none of these factors meaningfully predicted therapy use, indicating that students experiencing the highest levels of distress were no more likely to seek counseling. These findings highlight a persistent gap between mental-health need and service engagement.

POSTER 57**DO WORDS IMPACT ACTIONS? DIABETES ADVOCACY EFFORTS ON GENERAL PUBLIC AWARENESS**

ISABELLA RAYMOND (NAZARETH COLLEGE)

Diabetes is widely misunderstood, in terms of complication severity and importance of management and support. To better understand general public misconceptions, lack of awareness was identified as a

possibility. This considered the idea that advocacy can improve overall public awareness. Sixteen participants were randomly assigned to either a diabetes or non-diabetes related video and then answered questions to assess their opinions on diabetes. Results supported that exposure to diabetes related content improved knowledge of diabetes.

POSTER 58**DIFFICULTY ADAPTING IN THE U.S. AND A LANGUAGE BARRIER CAUSED BY AGE-OF-ARRIVAL**

SUJIN BAE (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY)

Using data from the 2023–2024 Healthy Minds Study (N = 39,116), this study examined whether age of arrival in the United States differentiates depression, anxiety, and loneliness among college students. One-way ANOVAs revealed significant group differences across all outcomes ($p < .001$). Students who immigrated at age 18 or older reported lower symptoms than U.S.-born. Findings suggest that developmental timing of immigration, rather than immigration status, contributes to mental health variation on college campuses.

POSTER 59**INTENTIONAL INSOMNIA: VOLUNTARY SLEEP DEPRIVATION AS A MALADAPTIVE EMOTION REGULATION STRATEGY**

JEZELLE SHEVCHUKEVYCH (BARUCH COLLEGE CUNY), TIFFANY NARAIN (BARUCH COLLEGE CUNY)

This introduces a framework conceptualizing voluntary sleep deprivation as a coping mechanism rather than an unintentional sleep disturbance. It integrates research in emotion regulation, sleep science, and behavioral addiction to present "intentional insomnia" as a maladaptive reinforcement cycle where individuals deliberately delay sleep to manage distress, sustain avoidance, and achieve relief. The model parallels reward, tolerance, and withdrawal patterns seen in behavioral addictions and identifies diagnostic gaps highlighting implications for CBT, MI, and emotion-focused interventions.

POSTER 60**RELATIONS BETWEEN VEGETABLE INTAKE, MEMORY PERFORMANCE, AND CORTICAL THICKNESS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**

LEAH FREISINGER (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), TAMARA ALLARD (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), TRACY RIGGINS (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

Structural variations in memory-related brain regions have been linked to vegetable intake in adults. However, few studies have explored associations in early childhood. In a sample of 57, 3–5-year-old children, participants completed an episodic memory task followed by a structural MRI scan. Parents also reported their child's vegetable consumption during the past month. Vegetable intake was positively associated with memory performance and cortical thickness in the medial temporal lobe, entorhinal cortex, and lateral occipital cortex.

POSTER 61

THE EFFECTS OF GENDER AND SUBCLINICAL AUTISM SYMPTOMS ON CONVERSATION DYNAMICS

ZOE APPIO (COLBY COLLEGE), VERONICA ROMERO (COLBY COLLEGE), ISABEL CLARE (COLBY COLLEGE)

Women with autism are underdiagnosed and the working theory is because they show camouflaging behaviors during social interactions. So far, masking behavior has only been measured using subjective surveys. Participant pairs, categorized by their gender and Autism Quotient (AQ) scores, had an ice breaker conversation. Non-verbal behavior extracted using a pose estimation algorithm was used to measure interpersonal coordination. We propose an objective measure for camouflaging in women with higher AQ scores.

POSTER 62

EXPLORING THE LINKS AMONG RELATIONAL CATALYST SUPPORT AND ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

NATALIE WEBER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), ANGELINA DANUBIO (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), W. JOHN MONOPOLI (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Relational Catalyst (RC) support—encouragement to pursue goals—may reduce internalizing symptoms above and beyond general social support. In a sample of 68 college students, RC support was negatively correlated with depression but not associated with anxiety. Hierarchical regression showed that RC support was not uniquely associated with depression, perhaps due to shared variance. Findings highlight conceptual overlap and suggest future work should further clarify RC support's distinctiveness.

POSTER 63

"WHY" IS IMPORTANT WHEN EXAMINING HOW FOLLOWING INFLUENCERS AFFECTS MENTAL HEALTH.

RISHPA BAIDYA (HARTWICK COLLEGE), SHELBY K. SWARTZ (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LOGAN A. HEHNER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ALEXANDRA S. LYNCH (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LEAH E. SCHOONOVER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), KALISSA ZAIKOFF (HARTWICK COLLEGE), RAVEN JAMES (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ANGELINE M. MCGRAW (HARTWICK COLLEGE), URSULA SANBORN-OVERBY (SUNY ONEONTA), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

Developing parasocial relationships with social media influencers is thought to be problematic for mental health, but the motivation behind following influencers could affect these relationships. At the bivariate level, evidence for closeness to influencers impacting mental health was weak. Moderation analyses indicated that the degree to which people seek positive emotions, entertainment, and inspiration from their influencers changed the closeness mental health relationship. Motivations add nuance to the relationship between following influencers and mental health.

POSTER 64

THE EFFECT OF INFLUENCER-CREATED FITNESS AND FOOD CONTENT ON MENTAL HEALTH.

GAVIN PHILLIPS (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ALEXANDRA S. LYNCH (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LEAH E. SCHOONOVER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), SHELBY K. SWARTZ (HARTWICK COLLEGE), KALISSA ZAIKOFF (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LOGAN A. HEHNER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), RAVEN JAMES (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ANGELINE M. MCGRAW (HARTWICK COLLEGE), RISHPA BAIDYA (HARTWICK COLLEGE), URSULA SANBORN-OVERBY (SUNY ONEONTA), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

Exposure to social media influencers and their content can lead to greater mental health issues for many people. Two types of content that are believed to be bad for mental health issues are fitness and food social media content. Exposure to fitness and food content both lead to social comparison. However, in this study, only food content was associated with a host of mental health difficulties.

POSTER 65

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS MEDIATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

ASHLEY BUK (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), GRACE QINGYI ZHANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

Little is known about the mechanisms by which perceived discrimination and hate are associated with psychological distress amongst Chinese international

students. 130 U.S. Chinese international students completed an online survey. Both perceived discrimination and hate were associated with lower social connectedness, and in turn associated with higher levels of loneliness, anxiety, and depression. The results offer insight into how discrimination and hate contribute to psychological distress and highlight social connectedness as key for intervention.

POSTER 66

THE INFLUENCE OF CREATIVE HOBBIES ON STRESS AND CONNECTEDNESS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS.

AUBREE SCHNAARS (MARIST COLLEGE), YASMINE AWAIS (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

Artistic activities have been shown to positively influence overall well-being, lowering stress and increasing connectedness. We surveyed over two hundred college students, asking them to describe their engagement with creative hobbies, current levels of stress, and levels of connectedness. Significance was found in why participants started their creativity hobby session, and the stress and connectedness scores. Findings highlight stress relief as an important factor for creative hobbies engagement.

POSTER 67

"IS WHAT I DID MORALLY WRONG?" EMERGING ADULTS' CONFLICTS IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS.

SAMANTHA TEAGUE (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA), YOKO TAKAGI (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA)

This study examined 183 emerging adults' reasons for interpersonal and romantic conflicts using a narrative inquiry approach. Participants described real-life dilemmas, identified moral and non-moral issues, and explained their resolutions. Preliminary findings show that 26.2% of narratives involved romantic themes, with participants positioning themselves as active moral agents. The values analysis shows that by genre emerging adults' construed relationship conflicts in terms of different moral values which reflect their unique cultural value and life.

POSTER 68

ASSESSING THE RELIABILITY OF STUDENT- AND FACULTY-DEVELOPED OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) SCALES

DELIA WOOD (DEAN COLLEGE), AISLINN MACSTRATIC (DEAN COLLEGE), RON BROWN (DEAN COLLEGE)

This project assessed the reliability and factor structure of two student-developed OER scales: a 10-item faculty OER attitudes and adoption survey and a 4-item student OER experience survey. We tested two hypotheses: H1 predicted acceptable reliability for the faculty scale, and H2 predicted acceptable reliability for the student scale. Results supported H1 ($\hat{\alpha} = .701$; $\hat{\alpha} = .886$ after item removal) but not H2 ($\hat{\alpha} = .178$). Recommendations for improving both measures are discussed.

POSTER 69

EXAMINING OER INTEGRATION IN CANVAS COURSES: A CONTENT ANALYSIS APPROACH

JUSTIN TAVARES (DEAN COLLEGE), RYLEE DUMOND (DEAN COLLEGE), RONALD BROWN (DEAN COLLEGE)

This study used a hybrid approach incorporating both inductive and deductive content analysis to examine the extent to which faculty integrate Open Educational Resources (OER) into their Canvas courses. We will use convenience sampling, and our sample size will be supplemented by a small sample of Creative Commons OER pages. Data will be coded before the EPA conference to establish themes related to OER use in higher education.

POSTER 70

EXPLORING EFFECTS THAT LEAD TO THE MISUSE OF STIMULANTS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

ISABELLA PALIOTTI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), KATHLEEN PALM REED (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Stimulant misuse is a significant problem on college campuses. We will examine whether perceptions of normative behavior influence college students' stimulant use and perceptions of stimulant misuse. Approximately, 100 college students will be invited to participate in an online study in which they will be randomly assigned to read either a vignette that portrays stimulant misuse or correct usage. Participants will be asked if the vignette represents misuse.

POSTER 71

FAMILISMO AND RESPETO IN CHILDHOOD

CAROLINE ALVAREZ (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), JESSICA GRADY (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), MICHELE SANTAMARIA (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

Children within the Latino community are raised to hold strong values that guide their behavior in day-to-day life. These beliefs are related to familismo and respeto. The proposed study will measure instances of

talk reflecting cultural values in mother-child conversations engaged in a storybook task. Using existing video data from prior research stored in Databrary, instances of familismo and respeto will be recorded in Spanish-speaking families and their children aged 36-52 months.

POSTER 72

FRIENDSHIP CHOICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD: IS DISABILITY A FACTOR?

JASON SCHAUB (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), ALYSSA EGENOLF (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), JULIA SYKES (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), RILEY PERRON (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), HELANA GIRGIS (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined children's friendship judgements based on gender (Male, Female), race (White, Black), and disability status (Intellectual, Physical, Typical). A total of 64 three- to-five year - olds viewed pairs of pictures of children that varied based on these characteristics, and were asked who they wanted to be friends with. The results showed that participants preferred the same gender, however there were no preferences regarding race or type of disability compared to typical development.

POSTER 73

FROM VICTIM TO VIEWER: ANALYZING VICTIMIZATION, FEAR OF CRIME, AND MEDIA CONSUMPTION

RYLIE LUSCH (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY), ELLI CHEW (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY), AMBER NORWOOD (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how prior victimization and perceived fear of crime influence crime media consumption among adults. While crime media has become increasingly more popular and captivating over the years, limited research explores the relationship between prior victimization and fear of crime on its consumption. By exploring this relationship, the study adds to the discussion of what drives individual media preference and the specific factors that contribute to the increase in crime media consumption.

POSTER 74

GENDERED BIAS IN PERCEPTION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

SOMER HART (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), SALLY FARLEY (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE)

Gender often impacts how autism is both perceived and expressed, which may contribute to the delayed

identification of autistic women today. This study tested whether identical behaviors (which signaled potential autistic traits) were perceived differently when attributed to a woman versus a man. Participants were slightly more likely to perceive autism-related traits in "Michael" than "Michelle", but these perceptions were moderated by participant gender.

POSTER 75

HISTORY OF INTERSPECIES COMMUNICATION IN COLEOID CEPHALOPODS

KAYLA IRIZARRY (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY)

This poster offers a review of the recorded interspecies communication between coleoid cephalopods and other fauna in their ecological niches. Communication, wherein there is an intentional signal that is perceived by another organism that elicits a cooperative response.

POSTER 76

IDENTITY AND DISCLOSURE EXPERIENCES AMONG INTIMATE PARTNER STALKING VICTIMS

ALYSSA CUMMINGS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CARSON BROOKS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CHRISTINA DARDIS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

Intimate partner stalking is prevalent among young adults and often misunderstood, normalized, or romanticized. There is limited qualitative research examining disclosures of intimate partner stalking, including how disclosure might uniquely affect survivors of intersecting marginalized identities. Among college survivors of intimate partner stalking, results of a thematic analysis identified that survivors reported myriad ways in which their identities shaped their disclosure-related fears and experiences, bearing implications for supporting diverse campus survivors of intimate partner stalking.

POSTER 77

IN WHAT LANGUAGE DOES YOUR BRAIN TALK TO ITSELF? AND WHEN?

DILA BOSTANCI (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ANGEL LEE (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), BEHNOOSH SABERINEZHAD (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), CEM ERALP (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), LUNA LENZI (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), MIN ZENG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), NILSU BUYUK (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SILA ACAR (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SEOJIN SONG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study explores the role of bilingualism during inner speech: language in the absence of overt/audible articulation. We hypothesized that having a learned foreign language would be a useful tool to talk back to negative inner speech in one's first language (L1), thus being able to rationalize in the foreign language (L2) using a survey and focus groups. Differences in inner speech language usage ranged from criticism to environmental context.

POSTER 78

METACOGNITION AND TRUST AS A MEDIATOR OF CAM BELIEFS AND USAGE

BRADEN WEBSTER (SUNY ONEONTA), ERIN MADISON-HANDEL (SUNY ONEONTA), ANNETTE MACKAY (SUNY ONEONTA)

In the United States, the tendency to distrust the healthcare system is associated with an increase in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM; Barbieri et al., 2024; Blendon & Benson, 2022). We explore the relationships between CAM beliefs and usages, metacognition, and trust in sources. This study gathered 134 participants and found that both metacognition and trust in online sources predicted higher CAM use. This research highlights the need for information literacy.

POSTER 79

THE EFFECTS OF VIRTUAL REALITY NATURE ON STRESS AND ANXIETY

EMELY LARIOS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), SAMANTHA DESI (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), GIGI GALLAGHER (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CHRISTOPHER GREEN (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), ELLA HOFFMAN (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

This study aims to explore the relationship between virtual reality nature, stress, anxiety, and cognition. Participants are connected to a Biopac to gauge stress via Electrodermal Activity and Heart Rate Variability. Participants completed the Trier Mental Challenge Test, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory, and viewed the waterfall nature scene using either the VR headset or on the desktop. Qualitative post questions gauge cognition. Repeated measures ANOVAs analyzed changes throughout phases.

POSTER 80

UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GROSS MOTOR AND EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE IN AUTISTIC CHILDREN

LAURA KEEGAN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SIMONE V. GILL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), KAREN CHENAUSKY

(MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS)

Introduction: Gross motor differences may influence language outcomes in school-aged minimally verbal autistic children. Methods: Using remote, home-based methods, we collected walking and balance performance in minimally verbal autistic children and linked these measures to expressive language, derived from natural language samples during parent-child interactions. Results: Longer balance times, faster gait speeds, and reduced walking variability were associated with stronger expressive language. Discussion: Results demonstrate a significant motor-language relationship using naturalistic, accessible approaches.

POSTER 81

WHY DOES THE WRONGED HAVE TO BE THE BIGGER PERSON

EMILIA PERRONE (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), JOHN PROTZKO (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Why is it often the wronged party that has to 'be the bigger person' and apologize? This study examines the relationships between contexts of the insult as well as personal and cultural honor values influencing a person's moral conscience, in relation to being the bigger person, apologizing, or seeking revenge.

POSTER 82

IS BRIEF IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING EFFECTIVE?

ISABELLA WINTERBAUER (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), ELLA PORTER (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), LEILANI GOODMON (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), ELIZABETH GENNARI (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

Implicit bias is an unconscious preference towards or prejudice against people of a certain race, ethnicity, or group. The purpose was to determine if implicit bias training could reduce bias, utilizing a paper-and-pencil Implicit Association Test (IAT). There were significant improvements in speed from baseline to post-test in the training group and the control group, with no significant difference between groups, suggesting that brief training was ineffective, or the paper IAT was an ineffective method.

POSTER 83

STRESS AND MEDITATION INFLUENCES ON FOOD CHOICES

JUDA FRIEDMAN (TOURO UNIVERSITY), SARAH WEINBERGER-LITMAN (TOURO UNIVERSITY)

Acute stress has been linked to shifts in eating behavior. This study examined how a modified Trier Social Stress Test for online participation versus a guided meditation relaxation task influenced perceived stress and food preferences in 114 participants. The stress condition produced significantly higher post-task stress levels. While no significant differences emerged in overall food preferences, participants in the stress condition showed a significantly stronger preference for chocolate.

POSTER 84

ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE AND STEREOTYPE THREAT AMONG NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

CAITRIONA ANDRE (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

NCAA student-athletes with learning disabilities may face added academic challenges when stereotype threat affects confidence and class participation. Although stereotype threat is documented among college athletes, those with learning disabilities remain underrepresented in research. This study examines how stereotype threat, identity processes, and gender relate to academic self-efficacy, class comfort, and service use. Rostered athletes (18+) with a documented LD completed an anonymous survey, and findings will inform academic and disability-support services for this population.

Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

Keynote

America Ballroom North

**R. L. SOLOMON BEHAVIORAL
NEUROSCIENCE/LEARNING KEYNOTE: MICHAEL
FRANK**

Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

CHAIR: ROBERT ASTUR

DISENTANGLING WORKING MEMORY CONTRIBUTIONS TO REINFORCEMENT LEARNING USING COMPUTATIONAL MODELING AND EEG

MICHAEL J. FRANK (BROWN UNIVERSITY)

Learning from rewards and punishments is essential to survival and facilitates flexible human behavior. We leverage methods for extracting trial-by-trial indices of

reinforcement learning (RL) and working memory (WM) in human electro-encephalography to reveal single-trial computations. Within- and across-trial dynamics revealed a cooperative interplay between systems for learning. These results provide a deeper understanding of how multiple neural systems interact for learning and decision-making and facilitate analysis of their disruption in clinical populations.

Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

Talk

Independence A

TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY INVITED SPEAKER: SUE FRANTZ

Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

CHAIR: SHLOMIT FLAISHER-GRINBERG

AN INTRO PSYCH COURSE THAT MATTERS: WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS NEED TO KNOW

SUE FRANTZ (HIGHLINE COLLEGE)

For most of the 1.5 million students who take Introduction to Psychology in the U.S. every year, it will be the only psychology course they will ever take. Our non-majors are neighbors, police officers, healthcare providers, librarians, engineers, business owners, and politicians. What do they need to know about psychology? Rather than default to teaching Introduction to Psychology as we always have, let's consciously choose to cover the psychological concepts our neighbors need to know.

Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

Talk

Great Republic

PSI CHI FROM NICE TO NICER: EXPANDING ACCESS TO OPEN AND INCLUSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Friday, February 27, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

CHAIR: BRIANNA FRITAPPELLI

FROM NICE TO NICER: EXPANDING ACCESS TO OPEN AND INCLUSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

BRIANNA FITAPPELLI (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This session introduces Psi Chi's NICE initiative and the newly developed NICER program, which applies NICE's inclusive, open-science model within the Eastern United States. We will outline the annual NICE workflow, from project selection to data collection and writing, while highlighting NICER's role in evaluating and scaling these practices regionally. Attendees will learn about past projects, current opportunities for involvement, and how NICE/NICER fosters collaborative, accessible, and culturally informed research training for students and faculty.

Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Paper **St. George A/B**

SOCIAL PAPERS: PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR
Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: WALEED JAMI, PHD

10:20am – 10:30am

FROM AWE TO ACTION: HOW AUTHENTIC-SELF PURSUIT IMPACTS PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

JOHN SCHWOEBEL (UTICA UNIVERSITY), JOCELYN SPIEZIO (UTICA UNIVERSITY), LENA PREZEAU-PHILBROOK (UTICA UNIVERSITY)

Why does awe increase prosocial behavior? We induced awe with a nature video accompanied by an excerpt from Carl Sagan's Pale Blue Dot. Compared to controls, participants in the awe condition reported increased importance of authentic-self pursuit, reduced prosocial intentions that conflicted with authentic-self, and increased prosocial behavior aligned with authentic-self (i.e., donating to a food pantry). Findings extend prior work and suggest that awe fosters alignment between core values and behavior.

10:35am – 10:45am

LEGALITY IS NOT MORALITY: THE LEGAL SOCIALIZATION OF PROSOCIAL RULE-BREAKERS

PAUL HENNIGAN (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

Prosocial rule-breaking—violating rules to help others—has been largely overlooked in legal socialization research, which traditionally treats all rule-breaking as antisocial. Across three studies, this research distinguishes morality from legality, develops a new measure of moral and legal alignment, and tests two major legal socialization models. Findings reveal that

prosocial rule-breaking is psychologically distinct from antisocial behavior and arises from unique moral, cognitive, and socialization processes, clarifying why helpful rule-breakers differ from harmful ones.

10:50am – 11:00am

TAKING THE OUTGROUP'S VIEW ON COVID-19 POLICIES: PERCEPTIONS OF NORM-VIOLATING GROUP MEMBERS

KELLY BROOKS (ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY)

The present research examined how politically affiliated group members are evaluated when violating a group norm, expressing a position on COVID-19 restrictions typically held by members of the other political party. In an online study of 400 self-identified Republicans, there was no evidence of a Black Sheep Effect – harsh disapproval of an ingroup deviant – but ratings were impacted by the position taken and its interaction with ingroup-outgroup status.

11:05am – 11:15am

A POPULIST PARADOX: DIVERGENT PSYCHOLOGICAL PATHWAYS FROM GRIEVANCE TO POLITICAL ACTION

WALEED JAMI (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY)

I tested a grievance-populism-action model using SEM with cross-national participants (USA, Canada, Australia). Both relative deprivation and social anomie successfully predicted both left-wing populist attitudes (LWP) and right-wing populist attitudes (RWP). Critically, LWP was a strong positive predictor of non-violent political action, but RWP was an equally strong negative predictor. I argue that LWP provides a mobilizing frame of hope, while RWP channels grievance into political resignation, highlighting a fundamental psychological divergence in populist consequences.

Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Paper

Independence A

TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY PAPERS: THE SCIENCE OF TEACHING
Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: AMANDA SECCIA, PHD

10:20am – 10:30am

"I CAN'T DO MATH, I'M RIGHT-BRAINED:" TEACHER BELIEFS IN NEUROMYTHS

AMANDA SECCIA (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY)

Though there have been increased efforts to minimize neuromyths, misinformation about the brain continues to spread, especially within the field of education. Most studies that investigate neuromyths use Likert-scale surveys that do not address how myths develop. In this study, preservice teachers and their instructors were interviewed to get a holistic, elaborative understanding of their beliefs in neuromyths. Findings indicate that educators' understanding of the brain and its relationship to learning is complex and multidimensional.

10:35am – 10:45am

A MODEL FOR AN INTENSIVE, RESEARCH-DRIVEN BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE SKILLS COURSE

DANIEL KOCHLI (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

We discuss the structure and outcomes of an upper-level research-intensive laboratory course in behavioral neuroscience. Neuroscience Research Methods is a course built around a research question within the faculty's area of expertise. It is a comprehensive experience in which students learn to synthesize primary literature, design experiments, utilize laboratory techniques, analyze data, and communicate findings outside of the classroom. It provides high-quality training for students and generates valuable pilot data for faculty.

10:50am – 11:00am

INFUSION OF DATA SCIENCE INSTRUCTION IN AN UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING COURSE

AILEEN BAILEY (SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND), JAMES MANTELL (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND)

This presentation will cover the value and pedagogical examples of an undergraduate psychology laboratory course with embedded data science instruction (scaffolded Python coding instruction within Jupyter Notebook). Specific examples of infused data science content and activities will be highlighted in the presentation. Selected data from our pre-posttest research project (NSF IUSE #2235645) will also be presented.

11:05am – 11:15am

A CRITICAL QUANTITATIVE APPROACH TO RETHINKING NORM-REFERENCED TESTING

BENJAMIN BRUMLEY (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

Modern testing and assessment practices reflect early 20th-century measurement traditions notably norm-referenced testing. This tradition was shaped by figures like Henry Goddard, Edward Thorndike, and Carl Brigham whose work helped entrench norm-referenced psychological testing in schools. These practices, later embedded in classroom grading culture and institutional testing, carry sociopolitical assumptions about ability and merit. Emerging critical assessment approaches offer alternatives that challenge the legacy of eugenically-influenced norm-referenced assessment.

**Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am**

Paper

Independence B

DEVELOPMENTAL PAPERS: MEASURING AND MODELING SOCIAL PROCESSES

**Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am**

CHAIR: KELSEY DAVISON

10:20am – 10:30am

HOW MUCH DO PREPROCESSING CHOICES MATTER FOR EEG IN 6- TO 9-WEEK-OLDS?

KELSEY DAVINSON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), LAUREN J BRYANT (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), SILVIA CLEMENT-LAM (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ROSS VANDERWERT (CARDIFF UNIVERSITY), KIMBERLY CUEVAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

EEG preprocessing choices shape conclusions about infant brain activity, yet few studies systematically compare pipelines in young infants. Using continuous low-density EEG from 6- to 9-week-olds during facial gesture observation and production, we compare traditional preprocessing with manual artifact rejection to recent automated developmental pipelines. We assess data retention, artifact and noise indices, and mu-band power to examine how research goals (here, changes in mu rhythm) should guide preprocessing decisions for continuous infant EEG.

10:35am – 10:45am

CONVERSATIONAL DYNAMICS IN INFANT- TODDLER CLASSROOMS: EDUCATORS SCAFFOLD LANGUAGE WITH SIMPLIFIED SPEECH

RACHEL ALBERT (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), SARA DINTIMAN (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), SEAN DROMS (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), NAOMI SWELLER (MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY), SHEILA DEGOTARDI (MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY)

Simplified contingent responses to infant vocalizations support infant language development, but this simplification effect has not been investigated in polyadic interactions, specifically in early childcare classrooms. We examined educator speech in turn-taking conversations with infants during normal classroom play. The results indicate that educators simplify to begin conversations, but expand their speech over the course of the conversation. Speech simplification is robust across contexts, and infant vocalizations function to elicit learnable information in complex environments.

10:50am – 11:00am

THE EFFECT OF LIFE STRESSORS ON SYNCHRONY WITH FRIENDS

EMILY COOK (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE), EMMA LEWIS (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE), ELLA SCHMIDT (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE)

The current study contributes to the literature by examining synchrony in friendship dyads and if synchrony of positive and negative states is impacted by current and past life stressors during emerging adulthood in a sample of 25 friendship dyads.

11:05am – 11:15am

INFANT TEMPERAMENT PREDICTS LANGUAGE OUTCOMES: A REPEATED MEASURES STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODEL

NICOLAS ZAPPARRATA (NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH S. CHE (THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND), ATARA ELLENBERG (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), PATRICIA J. BROOKS (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER, THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND)

This study examines the stability of temperament (positive/negative emotionality) in relation to language development outcomes at 14, 24, and 36 months of age using data from Early Head Start Research Evaluation Study (N = 970). Structural equation modeling established stability in temperament from 14 to 36 months of age. Infant temperament predicted language outcomes concurrently at each timepoint and longitudinally at subsequent timepoints. Influences of emotion regulation on vocabulary knowledge emerged at 24 months.

Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Paper

St. George C

APPLIED PAPERS: COMMUNITY VIEWS AND BEHAVIORS

Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: JOSHUA REYNOLDS

10:20am – 10:30am

CHANGING VIEWS OF SEX OFFENDER POLICIES: A COUNTEREVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTION

JOSHUA REYNOLDS (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), VICTORIA ESTRADA-REYNOLDS (KING'S COLLEGE)

Sexual offender policies, like registration, are popular, but generally ineffective. Past attempts to reduce support for these policies have resulted in only modest effects. In two studies, participants either read an enhanced refutation-style text that provided counterevidence to misconceptions about sexual offenders and offenses or received general sex offense definitions. The counterevidence led to only a modest decrease in policy support, increased knowledge of policy outcomes, and increased support for treatment.

10:35am – 10:45am

COUNTRY SATISFACTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A 2 YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY

MIKE MORRISON (INDEPENDENT), NOAH LASKEY (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

An international longitudinal study (May 2020–May 2022) examined predictors of country satisfaction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Patriotism was the strongest and most consistent predictor, followed by national attachment and perceptions of government competence and care. Notably, objective measures of pandemic severity, such as regional COVID-19 death rates, did not significantly predict country satisfaction. These findings suggest the possibility that leaders who foster more positive national identification can potentially enhance collective resilience and satisfaction during crises.

10:50am – 11:00am

FROM INFECTION RATES TO SOCIAL NORMS: WHAT DRIVES MASK-WEARING CHOICES?

KATHERINE LACASSE (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE),
KATHRYN FARIA (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE), ZOEY ST.
JEAN (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE)

A discrete choice experiment examined how disease factors and social factors influence mask-wearing decisions during a hypothetical bird flu outbreak. Participants (N = 551) read paired scenarios and indicated in which they preferred to mask. Five factors varied across scenarios: infection rate, mortality rate, mask mandate, presence of vulnerable others, and social norms. Conditional logit and latent class models will identify which factors most strongly predict masking and clusters of individuals with different preferences.

11:05am – 11:15am

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL MEDIA, MENTAL HEALTH, POLITICAL ACTION AND POWERLESSNESS.

WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LIAM M. BROWN (HARTWICK COLLEGE), DYLAN DWYER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), EMMA R. COHEN (HARTWICK COLLEGE), URSULA A. SANBORN-OVERBY (SUNY ONEONTA)

The political news cycle is thought to demonstrate our powerlessness over the government while causing us stress and to spur us into action. The present study examined the relationship between political media, mental health, political action and powerlessness over the US government. It was found that exposure to political media is associated with political action and poorer mental health. More so, it exerts some of this effect indirectly through increased feelings of powerlessness.

Friday, February 27, 2026

10:20am – 11:20am

Poster

America Ballroom Center/South

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY POSTERS I

Friday, February 27, 2026

10:20am – 11:20am

POSTER 1

MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH & CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL OUTCOMES IN A COMMUNITY SAMPLE

JULIA PERALTA (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), MINDY ROSENGARTEN (TEACHERS

COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), KIMBERLY NOBLE (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

Maternal depression and anxiety at 15 months postpartum were examined as predictors of children's social-emotional outcomes at 24 months in a diverse community sample of 65 mother-child dyads. Neither maternal depression nor anxiety significantly predicted children's problem or competence scores. Maternal education, child gender, and race/ethnicity showed stronger associations with outcomes. Findings suggest non-clinical maternal symptoms may have limited observable effects in community samples, highlighting the importance of socioeconomic/demographic factors in early development.

POSTER 2

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE AND ANXIETY IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

CASSIDY PICCIANO (UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), ZHENG YAN (UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

This study investigates the relationship between social media usage frequency, content type, and anxiety among 85 undergraduate students aged 18–34. Participants completed the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) and surveys measuring social media activity. Findings revealed a moderate, nonlinear link between usage frequency and anxiety. Content focused on politics, influencers/celebrities, and art/music corresponded with the highest anxiety levels, emphasizing the need to address specific content-related mental health risks in young adult social media use.

POSTER 3

EVALUATING EXPERIENCES OF EMBODIMENT IN TRANSFEMININE INDIVIDUALS UNDERGOING SURGICAL TRANSITION

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UNIVERSITY LANGONE HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE HEALTH)

This study explored gender dysphoria (GD) and embodiment in transfeminine individuals during surgical transition to inform more comprehensive treatment approaches. Preliminary findings suggest consistent GD and embodiment levels pre- and post-surgery. Qualitative interviews highlighted variability in recovery experiences, indicating individualized responses. Results suggest the need for larger, longer-term studies to inform personalized treatments and whole person health support that target both physical and psychological well-being following gender affirming surgeries.

POSTER 4

MINDFULNESS, EEG AND STRESS AMONG WOMEN IN STEM

SOPHIA LOWE-HINES (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), JENNIFER MCDERMOTT (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), SAMANTHA BALDACCIO (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST)

Relatively little is known about the neural changes accompanying short-time mindfulness used to alleviate acute stress experiences. Therefore, this on-going study examined changes in electroencephalogram (EEG) before and after a brief stereotyped threat episode designed to induce acute stress among females working toward completion of STEM degrees. Results showed a brief mindful breathing exercise while finger tracing significantly reduced an EEG marker of negative affect whereas a comparable tracing exercise without mindful breathing did not.

POSTER 5

FACETS OF MINDFULNESS PREDICTING SOCIAL FUNCTIONING ACROSS GENDERS IN A LOW-INCOME POPULATION

MADELYN DINGMAN (HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES), ASHLEY SEELMANN (HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES), MAYA JOY (HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES), JAMIE BODENLOS (HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES)

The current study examined how facets of mindfulness relate to social functioning while controlling for stress in a low-SES community and exploring gender differences. Adults (N = 177; 49.7% female, 50.2% male) completed validated measures of mindfulness, stress, and social functioning. Acting with awareness was found to predict better social functioning for females, whereas nonjudging predicted better outcomes for males. Stress was associated with poorer social functioning for both genders.

POSTER 6

AFFECTIVE CORRELATES OF TOBACCO-USE MOTIVES IN DUAL USERS' DAILY LIFE

MARIYAM ABBAS (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), ALEXANDER W. SOKOLOVSKY (BROWN UNIVERSITY)

Dual users of combustible and electronic cigarettes smoke and vape for different reasons, yet little is known about how motives align with momentary emotional states. Using EMA data from 68 young adults, we found that endorsing coping motives were associated with increased negative affect whereas reward motives corresponded to increased positive affect. These findings highlight distinct emotional "signatures" of tobacco-use motives, offering new insights for personalized cessation approaches.

POSTER 7

FACIAL EMOTION RECOGNITION AMONG FEMALE AND MALE ADULTS WITH AND WITHOUT ADHD

ERICA FERRARA (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), RITA GOODWIN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), JENNIFER MCDERMOTT (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST)

Individuals with ADHD may show deficits in important facial emotion recognition skills, but research focused on adults is limited and often fails to consider potential sex differences. Our findings show that young adults with ADHD are less likely than those without ADHD to identify angry facial expressions accurately. Specifically, females with ADHD misidentified anger at levels comparable to males with or without ADHD, whereas females without ADHD had the highest levels of accurate anger recognition.

POSTER 8

A SCOPING REVIEW OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH ON DOWN SYNDROME

SAMANTHA ZAKRZEWSKI (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), SALLY GRAPIN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

School psychologists are critical service providers for individuals with Down syndrome (DS), who present with unique cognitive, academic, and social strengths and needs. This scoping review examined the extent to which research published in eleven major school psychology journals between 2008-2024 addressed service delivery for youth with DS. Only four articles focused on individuals with DS, highlighting the need for an increased focus among school psychologists on assessment and intervention services for this population.

POSTER 9**THE INFLUENCE OF CAREGIVER RESPONSE TO NEGATIVE EMOTIONS ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL COMPETENCE**

ISABEL CLARE (COLBY COLLEGE), TABITHA CLARK (COLBY COLLEGE), KATE SAHAGIAN (COLBY COLLEGE), STEPHANIE SMITH (COLBY COLLEGE), MICHAEL SANDERS (COLBY COLLEGE, GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT DARTMOUTH)

The ways in which parents respond to children's emotions in times of stress are important predictors of social competence. This study examined how parent supportive and nonsupportive strategy use at home predicted teacher ratings of social competence mediated through emotion regulation. Results revealed fully mediated paths through emotion regulation, suggesting that strategies parents use at home impact prosocial skills development in other contexts. Implications for intervention and school-family partnerships are discussed.

POSTER 10**INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: FINANCIAL AND DEBT STRESS IN GRADUATE STUDENT WELL-BEING**

HELENA SANCHEZ (HOWARD UNIVERSITY), DARREN BERNAL (HOWARD UNIVERSITY), JOSHUA DICKERSON (HOWARD UNIVERSITY), JANEEN LOUIS (HOWARD UNIVERSITY)

The student loan crisis in the United States is currently at a critical turning point, with stricter criteria for borrowing limits and modified categorization of professional degrees. Psychology graduate students have largely been excluded from research examining the relationship between debt and well-being. The current study, utilizing the Stress Process Model, aims to understand the relationships among financial- and debt-related stress in psychology graduate students and what additional factors may mediate or moderate this relationship.

POSTER 11**PROFESSIONAL SELF-DOUBT, SELF-COMPASSION, AND RUPTURE REPAIR IN WHITE THERAPIST TRAINEES**

NEGAR AGHASSIZADEH (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), LUKE RYAN (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), EMMA FREELY PORTER (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

There is evidence that therapists and therapy trainees vary in terms of their effectiveness, but less is known about which therapist traits may predict these differences. This study explores two traits among

novice (i.e., trainee) therapists— professional self-doubt and self-compassion— in terms of their association with therapists engaging in rupture repair strategies in the context of video-simulated cultural ruptures with mock clients.

POSTER 12**TESTING PERSONALITY IN ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL DEFICITS: BEST PRACTICES**

KATHLEEN TORSNEY (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY)

Assessment of personality in individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is an understudied topic that is crucial to effective treatment for persons with ASD. This systematic review of literature explored the best practices for assessing personality among adults with ASD and without intellectual deficits. Results indicated that studies of women and adults are lacking. Personality tests need to develop norms of persons with ASD. Suggestions for the clinical assessment of persons with ASD were offered.

POSTER 13**THE IMPACTS OF RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS ON TRUST DURING NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING**

NOOR-UL-AINE IQBAL (RIVIER UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH HARWOOD (RIVIER UNIVERSITY)

Trust is vital in therapy, but microaggressions can harm trust in racially discordant interactions, impacting well-being. 180 participants who underwent neuropsychological testing within the last year completed a demographic questionnaire, the Trust in Physicians Scale, and the Racial and Ethnic Microaggressions Scale. Results showed psychologist race and microaggression exposure significantly predicted REMS Total scores, and TPS and REMS Totals were moderately negatively correlated, highlighting how microaggressions harm alliance, increase cognitive load, and threaten assessment validity.

POSTER 14**FATHER-CHILD ATTACHMENT AS A PREDICTOR OF ADOLESCENT SOCIAL ANXIETY**

DANA LANE (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), ROHINI BAGRODIA (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), ANN-CHRISTIN HAAG (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), GEORGE BONANNO (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

Adolescence is a critical developmental period, where parent and peer relationships play a central role. Both parent and peer relationship quality have been linked to social anxiety, but findings on which may be more influential are inconclusive. This study explored associations of adolescent-reported mother, father, and peer attachment on social anxiety, with follow-up analyses on attachment dimensions (alienation, trust, communication). The findings suggest father-child attachment, and alienation in particular, play a unique role.

POSTER 15

UNVEILING THE UNSPOKEN: WHEN FAITH STIRS COUNTERTRANSFERENCE IN PSYCHOTHERAPY

FARAH ALSHALLASH (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), FAI ALBAWARDI (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This convergent mixed methods study examined how Saudi psychologists' religious and spiritual (R/S) struggles contribute to countertransference (CT) using Hayes's (1995) framework. Nineteen licensed clinicians completed semi-structured interviews and the Religious and Spiritual Struggles Scale. Qualitative findings showed that therapists' R/S histories shaped CT triggers, manifestations, and management. Therapists reported withdrawal, discomfort, and limited confidence with R/S content. Findings highlight the need for culturally grounded R/S competence in clinical training.

POSTER 16

EMOTION RECOGNITION IN POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

GÖKÇE ELIF YILMAZ (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), JILL LAQUIDARA (CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY), EMELINE GAUNCE (CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY), ALEX KUKOFF (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), KRISTEEN GUERRA (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), SARAH HOPE LINCOLN (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined differences in social cognitive ability in individuals with and without a history of postpartum depression. Specifically, we examined emotion recognition using the Emotion Recognition Assessment by Multiple Modalities to evaluate differences in emotion recognition via audio and video stimuli. We find no significant differences between the two groups, which suggests in remitted states, that individuals with a history of PPD do not differ in emotion recognition relative to controls.

POSTER 17

EXPLORING DEPRESSION-RELATED CONCERNS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SPOUSES

JESSICA BRADLEY (MARSHALL UNIVERSITY), SABEL PETERSON (MARSHALL UNIVERSITY), LINDSEY BAKER (MARSHALL UNIVERSITY), RACHAEL ENGLUND (MARSHALL UNIVERSITY)

Ministry is considered a lifestyle beyond just a profession. Due to the comprehensive duties of ministers, their families are often impacted. This research aims to identify factors that contribute to the mental health and well-being of ministry spouses. The research sample of minister spouses, on average, endorsed moderately severe depression. Of those spouses experiencing depression, those without access to mental health care endorse higher depression scores.

POSTER 18

PSYCHOMETRIC REFINEMENT AND ITEM REDEVELOPMENT OF THE COGNITIVE TRAINING USABILITY SCALE

CHRISTIAN ZABALLOS (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), CHLOE LOCKE (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), GERALD VOELBEL (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

This study evaluated the psychometric structure and predictive validity of the Cognitive Training Usability Questionnaire (CTUQ) in 26 adults with Traumatic Brain Injuries ranging from mild to severe. Factor analysis identified distinct Satisfaction and Planning dimensions, with stronger reliability for Satisfaction. Satisfaction was significantly associated with subjective cognitive improvement ($r = .56$), whereas Planning was not. Findings support refining the CTUQ to improve measurement precision and clinical utility.

POSTER 19

BODY MASS INDEX ACROSS ALCOHOL USE DISORDER PHENOTYPES IN A REAL-WORLD COHORT.

KARI ALLEN (BROWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH), ISABELLE KATZ (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH), LEWIS NUNEZ SEVERINO (BROWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH), STEPHANIE FOSTER (BROWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH), BRIAN GULLY (BROWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH), CARA MURPHY (BROWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH), CHRIS DORVAL (OCEAN STATE RECOVERY CENTER), CAROLINA HAASS-KOFFLER (BROWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH)

Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs), prescribed for diabetes/obesity are emerging treatment for alcohol use disorder (AUD). Yet, little is known about how body mass index (BMI) varies across AUD phenotypes, which may affect eligibility and generalizability in GLP-1RAs trials. We investigated whether BMI differs among individuals entering a treatment program according to their AUD diagnoses and evaluated sex and age as moderator. Clarifying BMI-AUD relationships will guide evidence-based inclusion criteria for GLP-1RAs AUD trials.

POSTER 20

CONCURRENT BODY DYSMORPHIC DISORDER WITH OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER: CLINICAL RISK FEATURES

AYAN BHATNAGAR (JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY),
KAYLEE NGUYEN (JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY),
MARCO GRADOS (JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE)

Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and body dysmorphic disorder (OCD+BDD) use the OCGAS sample: 1,657 adult OCD probands, 136 (8%) with concurrent BDD. Depression, generalized anxiety, social anxiety, panic and phobia are higher in OCD+BDD. Sexual ($p = 0.008$), hoarding ($p = 0.006$), somatic ($p < 0.001$) and miscellaneous obsessions ($p = 0.013$), and hoarding ($p < 0.001$), miscellaneous compulsions ($p = 0.009$) are higher in OCD+BDD. Concurrent BDD confers depression/anxiety risk in adults with OCD.

POSTER 21

GENERATIONAL PATTERNS OF PHOBIC FEAR: A MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS OF FAMILY TRIADS

SARA RUPERTUS (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY),
AUDREY SICKEL (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY),
STEFANY PUCA-LLERENA (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY),
KATE MAKAREC (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY),
JAN MOHLMAN (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY)

Anxiety is believed to be transmitted through families, most often from parents to their children. There is a need to enhance what is currently known about inter-familial characteristics, as they may function as risk factors for anxiety disorders, particularly specific phobias. Fear Survey Subscale-III subscale level analysis of 17 triads of probands, biological mothers, and biological grandmothers indicated a significant difference between probands and their grandmothers on the social concerns subscale, specifically fear of failure.

POSTER 22

CASE CONFIDENTIAL: ETHICAL DILEMMAS REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY IN MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE

ERIN SMITH (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY),
COURTNEY STATON (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY)

This study examines confidentiality-related ethical dilemmas in the practice of mental health professions. Participants included clinical social workers, clinical psychologists, professional clinical counselors, and marriage and family therapists. Narrative responses from those who endorsed a confidentiality dilemma within the past two years were coded into ten subcategories. Results are presented and discussed with attention to differences by professional specialty and career level.

POSTER 23

THE MORAL COMPONENT OF COMPULSION: PREDICTORS OF COMPULSIVE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN MEN

ALBARAA GEBRIL (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), USHA BARAHMAND (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated predictors of Compulsive Sexual Behavior (CSB) in 447 men. A multiple regression analysis explained 56.0% of the variance in CSB, identifying moral sexual incongruence as the strongest predictor, followed by shame, self-critical rumination, and impulsivity. Mediation analysis revealed that moral incongruence influences CSB directly and indirectly through a serial pathway of shame and impulsivity. Findings suggest CSB is primarily driven by moral conflict rather than emotion dysregulation or mindfulness deficits.

POSTER 24

WHEN COPING GOES WRONG: THE ROLE OF MALADAPTIVE STRATEGIES IN STUDENT WELL-BEING

COURTNEY FORBES (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY), RYAN O'LOUGHLIN (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY)

The current study evaluated coping as a potential mediator between mental distress and wellbeing in 103 first year college students. Mental distress was found to predict worse college well-being. Those with higher mental distress in our sample did not differ in use of adaptive coping, however, they appear more likely to utilize maladaptive coping styles – and these maladaptive coping styles mediated the relationship between mental distress and decreased well-being.

POSTER 25**USING THE SMILING MIND APP TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

JACQUELINE FISHER (MERCY UNIVERSITY), LUISANNA REINOSO MEDINA (MERCY UNIVERSITY)

College students face rising mental health challenges, including anxiety and stress, often exceeding campus counseling capacity. This randomized controlled trial examines whether daily use of the free mindfulness app, Smiling Mind, for two weeks improved mental health symptomatology and healthy habits among a sample of undergraduates. Pre- and post-surveys were analyzed using difference-in-differences regression to assess app effectiveness and explore interactions with demographics and exercise habits. Findings will inform scalable, accessible interventions for student well-being.

POSTER 26**PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT AS A MODERATOR OF TRAUMA PERPETRATOR AND INTEROCEPTIVE AWARENESS**

JESSICA NASSAU (LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY BROOKLYN), CAROLINE CLAUSS-EHLERS (LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY BROOKLYN), SARA HADEN (LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY BROOKLYN)

The current study compared interoceptive awareness among young adults who experienced childhood trauma perpetrated by family versus non-family members and tested whether perceived social support moderated this relationship. Among 95 young adults, no significant group differences or moderation effects emerged. Findings suggest interoceptive disruptions may be a general consequence of interpersonal trauma rather than specific to perpetrator relationship. Future research should investigate whether factors such as trauma chronicity or resilience factors better predict interoceptive outcomes.

POSTER 27**ASSESSING FREE-RESPONSES AS A METHOD OF LEARNING GATEKEEPER SKILLS FOR SELF-INJURY INTERVENTION**

ABIGAIL ALLEN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), AUDREY BURRAN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), JOI ARTIS (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), CATHERINE BRICK (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), SUMMER RICHARDSON (CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY), AISHWARYA RAJESH (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), EMMA SIMMONS (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), ELIZABETH LLOYD-

RICHARDSON (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH)

Nonsuicidal self-injury (NSSI) and suicidal thoughts and behaviors (STB) are becoming increasingly common among university students. This study seeks to evaluate free-response vignettes from a novel gatekeeper-based intervention to determine whether they were an effective method of practicing gatekeeper skills. The results suggest that responses that better demonstrated gatekeeper skills were associated with lower levels of stigma. Implications of these findings are discussed.

POSTER 28**PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION & AFFECTIVE COHERENCE: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ANGER AND BLOOD PRESSURE**

ANA CHKHAIDZE (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CHELSEA LAMAR (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), GABRIELA IGNATOWICZ (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LAUREN AVILA-SIMONETTE (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LINDSAY BONN (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), BRIANNA MANNINO (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SOPHIA RIVERA (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW J. ZAWADZKI (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED), JENNIFER E. GRAHAM-ENGELAND (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

People with a history of discrimination may have different psychobiological profiles that explain risk for disease. Black and Latino adults provided repeated ratings of emotions and ambulatory blood pressure (BP), and discrimination history. The coherence between momentary shifts in emotion and variation in BP were calculated for each individual. Higher perceived discrimination predicted stronger anger-BP coherence, especially among Latino adults. Results suggest that discrimination shapes psychophysiological risk in daily life.

POSTER 29**PREDICTING AGING VETERANS' SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LONELINESS: THE ROLE OF MILITARY FRIENDS**

MELISSA TANDY (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), CHRISTINA M. MARINI (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the role of social support from other Veterans (i.e., network size, engagement, support, strain) in predicting loneliness (emotional and social) among aging Veterans (60+) using self-report measures completed by participants (N = 91). Findings suggest that aging Veterans report more social loneliness when they have smaller networks of military friends and more strain from military friends. Further,

Veterans report more emotional loneliness when they have less emotional support from military friends.

POSTER 30

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM USE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AMONG UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN AND MEN

KARLA MURDOCK (WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY), WYTHE WHITING (WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined associations of five popular social media platforms (Messages, Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube) with psychological well-being among women and men. Outcome measures included depression (negative affect, positive affect, and daily function) and anxiety (cognitive and somatic symptoms). Simultaneous regression models revealed that for women, Snapchat was associated with greater symptoms of anxiety. For men, Messages was inversely associated with depression and TikTok was positively correlated with symptoms of depression and anxiety.

POSTER 31

SHARED TASKS AS CONVERSATION SCAFFOLDS: LOWERING BARRIERS TO INTIMATE DISCLOSURE

LEVI ASK (CLARK UNIVERSITY), JAMES CORDOVA (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Participants (N = 48; 24 dyads) engaged in an intimate conversation during a shared repetitive task or a control conversation. Linear mixed models tested whether self-esteem and social interaction anxiety shaped outcomes. Higher self-esteem predicted lower perceived listening of a partner across conditions. Social interaction anxiety moderated perceived partner comfort: higher-anxiety participants felt partners were more comfortable in the shared task than the control conversation. Shared tasks may support vulnerable conversations for socially anxious individuals.

POSTER 32

THE GREEN SPACE GAP: RACE, ACCESS, AND MISSING MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

IRENE FUEYO-GOMEZ (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), MAYA SIKORA (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), JAKE SIEGAL (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), LI JEANNE CHEAM (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), ANDREA VITERI FERNANDEZ (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), LAURA BAUTISTA (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA

UNIVERSITY), JULIDE GENTRY (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), JOHN PARK (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), SUSAN BODNAR (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

This study of 141 diverse U.S. adults examined relationships between greenspace access, connectedness to nature, demographics, and mental health. Results suggested racial and ethnic disparities in neighborhood greenery, with non-White and Hispanic participants having less. Although no mental health benefits emerged, connectedness to nature unexpectedly predicted higher anxiety and ADHD symptomatology. Findings suggest structural inequities in access to greenspace, and that psychological benefits of nature access and connection may be more nuanced than assumed.

POSTER 33

CONNECTION TO SOCIAL MEDIA AND ITS EFFECT ON BODY IMAGE AND ORTHOREXIA

RILEY FINN (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), KAYLEE HESLIN (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), JULIA SYKES (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), JENNIFER LYKE (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), HELANA GIRGIS (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how emotional reliance on social media versus routine daily use, was associated with body image and orthorexic tendencies among young adults (N = 259). Emotional reliance predicted lower body appreciation, while routine integration was linked to higher body appreciation and fewer behavioral problems tied to rigid healthy eating. These findings suggest that emotionally driven social media use may increase vulnerability to negative body image, whereas habitual use could be less harmful.

POSTER 34

PERCEIVED STRESS AMONG BIOLOGICAL DAUGHTER, MOTHER, AND GRANDMOTHER TRIADS

DOMINIQUE HARRIS (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), ALANA POWELL (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), KATE MAKAREC (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), JAN MOHLMAN (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY)

This study compared cohort versus familial self-reported anxiety scores and associations among daughter, mother, and grandmother triads. Data from 17 biological triads revealed no significant differences in scores or associations between daughter and family cohorts, casting doubt on the assumption that 'anxiety runs uniquely in families.' Scores and associations also did not differ between triads who reported either a

parent or child with mental health problems or not, or those with different levels of education.

POSTER 35

INTERNALIZING SYMPTOMS AND PARENTING: MODERATION BY SOCIAL SUPPORT AND ITS SUBTYPES

ANH VAN NGUYEN (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA), JENNIFER BOSSON (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA)

This study examined whether social support and its subtype buffer the association between parental internalizing symptoms and parenting behaviors. Among 101 parents, internalizing symptoms were unrelated to positive parenting but predicted higher negative parenting. Overall social support and two subtypes - tangible support and social integration - moderated this link, buffering distressed parents against negative parenting. Findings highlight the importance of practical assistance and social belongingness in reducing negative parenting among psychologically distressed parents.

POSTER 36

PERPETRATORS AND RELATIONSHIP CONTEXT IN CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

REBECCA BONOMO (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), KARYNA FOWLER (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), ZOE MENDEL (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), MARGARET SANCHEZ (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), OLIVIA DELOCA (BUCKNELL), PIPPA THOMAS (BUCKNELL), CAROLINE WIELAND (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), ERICA DELSANDRO (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM FLACK (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY)

It is a common misconception that campus sexual assault (CSA) most often occurs between strangers. Survey data from Bucknell University in 2025 showed CSA typically occurs within other relationship contexts. For both men and women victim-survivors, their perpetrators were most likely to be hook-ups or friends-with-benefits. Other relationship types accounted for about one-fifth of cases, indicating a need for further research into what those relationship dynamics may be.

POSTER 37

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND AMBULATORY BLOOD PRESSURE IN BLACK AND LATINO ADULTS

LAURISA PETERS (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JAKE GERGYES (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CODY CRISTI (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), GUNNAR HOOKS

(JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

This study explores associations between multiple socioeconomic status (SES) indicators and ambulatory blood pressure (ABP) among 662 American-born Black and Latino adult. Mixed-model analyses revealed a significant poverty-by-time-of-day interaction for diastolic pressure, with higher income associated with lower values, especially nocturnally. No other SES indicators were associated with systolic or diastolic BP, and no race differences emerged. Findings offer mixed support for Minority Diminished Returns and highlight the importance of nighttime BP in SES-health disparities.

POSTER 38

THE NATURE OF DISTRESSING DIGITAL CONTENT EXPOSURE AMONG YOUTH

LYSANDRA PEREZ-STRUMOLO (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

Internet usage has been associated with negative mental health outcomes among youth. In a retrospective study, a convenience sample of 205 college students described digital content they recalled being exposed to during youth, the perceived impact of these experiences, and the strategies used for coping with them. Thematic analyses revealed four primary types of content. The reported impact of these experiences is summarized and primary coping methods are identified. Implications for clinical practice are presented.

POSTER 39

PRELIMINARY VALIDATION OF THE GERIATRIC INTELLIGENCE TEST IN OLDER ADULTS

ABIGAIL KREMPA (CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY), SAMANTHA WISE (CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY), AMIR POREH (CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY)

Twenty-five participants completed the Geriatric Intelligence Test (GIT) which de-emphasizes the need for manual dexterity and subtests of the Wechsler Intelligence Test and the abbreviated 2 subscales WAIS-4 Intelligence. The WAIS Block Design and Vocabulary subtests highly correlated with the GIT General Information subscale. The study provides preliminary data showing that the GIT may be used to substitute the abbreviated WAIS-V when conducting older adult evaluations.

POSTER 40

THERAP-E? AI, THERAPY, AND THE FUTURE OF CARE

SAMISHTI BHATIA (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SADIYA BUCCINO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), DOMINICK STUHL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SEOJIN SONG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SAHAR SHAKIB (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ANSHI BHATT (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), FAVOUR ADIAGWAI (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JESSY WANG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), YAN TO CHEUNG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

AI integration in healthcare is expanding, yet its application in mental health therapy remains underexplored. Despite the growing mental health crisis, few AI products address psychotherapy properly, raising questions about their effectiveness and accessibility. This study examines public perceptions of AI-based mental health support, with a focus on cultural stigma and therapy preferences. An online survey assessed Boston University students' preferences across multiple therapeutic scenarios, collecting data on demographics, stigma perceptions, and mental health history.

POSTER 41

NAVIGATING TRAUMA ACROSS CULTURES: THE ROLE OF BILINGUALISM, ACCULTURATION, AND COPING STRATEGIES

ANNA GIANNICCHI (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JASMINE RAFAI (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA MUNDY (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), RAFAEL JAVIER (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

Bilingualism may shape how individuals process trauma, regulate emotions, and adapt across cultural contexts. This study examined links between language background, PTSD symptoms, personality traits, coping strategies, and acculturation in English-Spanish bilingual and English-monolingual adults. Across analyses, monolingual speakers reported significantly higher PTSD symptoms, while bilingual participants showed comparatively lower distress. However, no single variable uniquely predicted language group in multivariate models, suggesting broader patterns underlie observed differences and highlighting the need for further research.

POSTER 42

ATTITUDES TOWARDS PSYCHEDELIC ASSISTED THERAPY

RACHEL KENDAL (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), MICHAEL MOORE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

Major Depressive Disorder affects over 21 million adults annually, and about 30% do not respond to treatment. Psychedelic-assisted therapy (PAT) shows promise as an antidepressant, yet public willingness to pursue it remains low. This study examined attitudes towards PAT and related factors. Key findings showed

that higher depressive symptoms predicted more favorable PAT attitudes. Results highlight the need for broader research and a validated English Attitudes Towards Psychedelics (APQ) scale.

POSTER 43

SYMPTOM SEVERITY ON THE IMPACT OF COGNITIVE REMEDIATION ON COGNITION IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

JASMINE LUU (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW KURTZ (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY)

This study investigates whether symptom severity in schizophrenia influences cognitive improvement following cognitive remediation and whether education moderates this relationship. Patients completed cognitive assessments before and after a 12-week intervention. Data will be analyzed using a moderated-mediation path model in R. Findings may help clarify inconsistent results in the literature, identify which patients benefit most from cognitive remediation, reveal symptom-specific effects on cognitive domains, and determine whether education offers a protective influence despite symptom severity.

POSTER 44

EVALUATING A PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL BOOKLET ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH CULTURALLY-TAILORED TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY

CHRISTANDLIE BACKER (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SAQIB RAHMAN (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MICHELLE NGUYEN (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), EMILY GAO (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ALDONA CHORZEPA (JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), IVY CHEN (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), AMANDEEP KAUR (JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), DANIEL CHEN (JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

Discrimination is consistently associated with poor mental health, including depressive symptoms. However, data on effective strategies to mitigate the adverse mental health effects of discrimination are limited. We evaluated the effects of a culturally-tailored psychoeducational booklet focusing on discrimination and mental health for the Black community. Quantitative findings suggest the booklet was associated with increased patient-activation, and decreased discrimination-related and mental health-related stigma ($p < .03$). Qualitative data highlighted barriers to mental health care.

POSTER 45**SOCIAL PARTICIPATION'S IMPACT ON STRESS AND WELL-BEING IN MINDFULNESS INTERVENTIONS**

JOON LEE (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), LINA NURHUSSIE (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL BIOSTATISTICS DEPARTMENT), DUSTIN RABIDEAU (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL BIOSTATISTICS DEPARTMENT), ANDREW NIERENBERG (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), LOUISA SYLVIA (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL)

This was a secondary analysis examining whether baseline social participation moderated changes in perceived stress and well-being among participants randomized to either a 3-session or 8-session web-based mindfulness. Baseline social participation did not moderate 8-week changes in stress or well-being by randomization group. High attrition and lack of diversity limit the generalizability of the results. More research is needed to better understand the potential role of social participation as a moderator of outcome in psychotherapy.

POSTER 46**MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY AND ATTITUDES IN ADULTS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS**

JESSICA DAPRILE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), CAROLYN SPRINGER (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study explored whether adults with lived experience of homelessness differ from those without in mental health literacy (MHL) and attitudes toward mental illness. Fifty adults completed the MHLq and CAMI scales. Independent-samples t-tests showed significantly lower overall MHL among previously homeless participants ($p=.03$), driven by lower Self-Help Strategies scores ($p<.001$). No group differences emerged on CAMI attitudes. Findings suggest domain-specific MHL gaps and highlight the need for targeted self-help interventions.

POSTER 47**IDENTIFYING AUTISM IN MINORITY CHILDREN IN THE U.S. AND CANADA**

HELEN LEE (SUNY AT OSWEGO), A. LYNN HART (DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY), JILLIAN FILLITER (DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY), JULIE MARCOUX (DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY), ISABEL M. SMITH (DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY), MADISON FLOOD (SUNY AT OSWEGO), GRACIE RENDEL (SUNY AT OSWEGO), ISABELLA SHERMAN (SUNY AT OSWEGO), JONAH BAIRD (SUNY AT OSWEGO)

This scoping review analyzed 179 studies on autism identification among racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse children in the United States and Canada. Most studies were empirical, with qualitative work offering contextual depth. Diagnostic research dominated, followed by screening and surveillance. Sample sizes, geographic settings, and group representation varied widely. Overall, findings reveal substantial heterogeneity in identification pathways and highlight persistent gaps in population coverage, methodological approaches, and contextual factors affecting minority children in North America.

POSTER 48**DATA-DRIVEN STORYTELLING CLARIFYING VARIABILITY IN STUDIES ON TRANSGENDER PATIENTS RECEIVING HORMONE THERAPY**

LESLIE ALHAKIM (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CELESTE GABLE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SYDNEY GUSTER (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MARTONE OLSAVSKY (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LORINA MNELA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), AYOMIDE ADEREMI (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LYLE YAP-SEPAROVICH (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

Transgender patients (TP) represent ~1.6 million people in the U.S., yet 500,000 TP experience health care disparities. Gender-affirming hormone treatment (GAHT) produces substantial hematologic and physiological changes; however, reference ranges do not reflect these changes. Our study consolidates post-2018 research on hematologic values for TP and visualizes methodological variability through interactive dashboards, providing a comprehensive tool to clarify GAHT-related laboratory changes and highlight gaps requiring evidence-based clinical guidance.

POSTER 49**A PSYCHONEUROIMMUNOLOGICAL APPROACH TO HUMAN HEALTH OUTCOMES FROM CYANOTOXIN EXPOSURE**

ALEX ROCKENSTYRE (UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA), REBECCA KOSZALINSKI (UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA), MALCOLM MCFARLAND (FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY), MICHAEL PARSONS (FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY)

Introduction: CyanoHABs are hazardous to human and environmental health. However, understanding is limited. A psychoneuroimmunological analysis of existing literature can elucidate pathways for advancing interdisciplinary, translational, and applied knowledge. Method: A narrative review was conducted. Articles were included if they reported data on cognitive-behavioral, neurological, and/or

immunological outcomes from cyanotoxin exposure. Results: 30 studies were analyzed. Discussion: Data analysis using psychoneuroimmunological highlights opportunities to deepen understanding of cognitive-behavioral and physical HHOs from cyanotoxin exposure.

POSTER 50

ATTACHMENT AND CAREGIVER BURDEN: GENDER AS A MODERATOR

AMY NI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), GRACE ZHANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

Introduction: This study investigated gender's moderating role in the relationship between insecure attachments and caregiver burden. Method: 144 cancer caregivers completed an online survey measuring anxious and avoidant attachment and caregiver burden. Moderation was tested using Hayes's PROCESS macro. Results: Both anxious and avoidant attachment was associated with greater caregiver burden. Gender moderated the anxious-attachment and burden link. Discussion: Finding shows a significant moderating effect of gender on caregiver burden and offers important clinical implications.

POSTER 51

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USE AS MODERATORS OF MENTAL HEALTH AMONG NURSES TREATING COVID-19

ALEXANDER PERAZZO (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), BRIAN AYOTTE (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), ANNA SCHIERBERL SCHERR (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH)

Nurses (N=201) were assessed on measures of depression, anxiety, and alcohol/tobacco use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two hierarchical regressions examined if alcohol and tobacco use moderated the relationships between treating COVID-19 patients and mental health outcomes. Results indicated that alcohol and tobacco use exacerbated depression and anxiety, respectively, among nurses who treated patients with COVID-19. These results indicate a possible self-medication effect, where nurses use substances to ameliorate stress, but result in long-term negative outcomes.

POSTER 52

USING PLAN-DO-STUDY-ACT CYCLES TO INCREASE SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT IN AN OUTPATIENT CLINIC

JULIA DELUCA (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), NAIA WOLFENZON (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), MARIA ZAHIR (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CHRISTINA TEMES (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL), ANDREW A. NIERENBERG (MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL)

To improve population-level insight into patient wellbeing, our team initiated a Quality Improvement project to increase clinician completion of the Clinical Global Impressions Scale for Bipolar Disorder after each psychiatry visit. We implemented a series of Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles to iteratively test and refine workflow and engagement strategies. Our results showed that implementing strategies to increase ease and efficiency, as well as clinician-level value of the CGI-BD, was correlated with increased CGI-BD completion rates.

POSTER 53

EXPLORING PARENTAL UPHEAVAL AND ITS EFFECT ON PAIN-RELATED COGNITIONS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

CAITLIN CURRY (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), GUILLERMO CENIZA-BORDALLO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL), EMMA COSTELLO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), DIRICHI EZEH (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), MARGARET MORELAND (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CHRISTINE SIEBERG (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT MEDICINE, DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS, BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL)

Chronic post-surgical pain is a widespread public health concern affecting patients and their communities. One potential factor influencing its development is exposure to traumatic events in childhood. This study sought to consider the impacts of exposure to parental upheaval on pain experiences and cognitions. 65 individuals were included in this sample. Results found pain catastrophizing to be a key feature,

which appears to be developmentally modulated in the non-upheaval group, but not the upheaval group.

POSTER 54

EMOTION REGULATION AND SELF-PERCEPTION IN CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND DISSOCIATION

MORGAN G. ROSEN (LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY - BROOKLYN), SARA C. HADEN (LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY - BROOKLYN)

This study investigates the role of childhood trauma in dissociative experiences, difficulties in emotion regulation and negative alterations in self-perception. Using a moderated-mediation model, we found in our sample of undergraduate students (N=259) that difficulties in emotion regulation positively and significantly mediates the relationship between childhood trauma and dissociative experiences. We further found that negative self-perception significantly and negatively moderates the relationship between childhood trauma and difficulties in emotion regulation.

POSTER 55

DEVELOPING A COUNSELING ASSESSMENT FOR PARAPHILIAS AND PARAPHILIC RISK FACTORS

KATHERINE VELEZ (RIDER UNIVERSITY), MICHAEL CARLIN (RIDER UNIVERSITY)

While there are many assessments in the field for paraphilias, existing tools have limitations. Counselors can have difficulty assessing paraphilias due to stigma. The current study proposes a tool that could assist clinicians with making decisions about clinical interventions for clients with paraphilias. Correlations were discovered between ACES, sexual consent, relationships with others, and paraphilias.

POSTER 56

A PILOT STUDY OF HAIR CORTISOL, PERCEIVED STRESS, AND CHRONIC POST-SURGICAL PAIN

EMILY GUO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CAITLIN CURRY (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), GUILLERMO CENIZA-BORDALLO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), SKYLAR PILE (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), ZIYAN WU (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CHRISTINE SIEBERG (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL)

Hair cortisol concentration (HCC) reflects chronic stress and may predict postoperative outcomes. This pilot study examined whether preoperative HCC and Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) scores were associated with cold pain sensitivity and chronic postoperative pain (CPSP). Adults undergoing surgery completed stress measures, provided hair samples, and underwent cold pressor testing, with CPSP assessed 3–6 months later. No significant associations emerged. Sample size and HCC variability limit conclusions, highlighting the need for larger, multimodal risk-screening approaches.

POSTER 57

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA PREDICTS COGNITIVE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING IN ADULTHOOD

JACQUELINE CARRILLO (YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE), CELINENE M. LAY (YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE), RAJITA SINHA (YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE)

This study examined links between childhood trauma and adult cognition in 284 adults. Higher trauma was linked to lower cognitive flexibility with no effects on working memory or inhibitory control. Trauma types revealed emotional abuse is associated with lower cognitive flexibility, selective attention, sexual abuse to reduced working memory, and physical abuse to better inhibitory control. Findings show trauma impacts adult cognitive abilities, with specific types having unique affects on executive functioning domains.

POSTER 58

CANNABIS USE IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC POST-SURGICAL PAIN

SKYLAR PILE (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CAITLIN CURRY (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), GUILLERMO CENIZA BORDALLO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), EMILY GUO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), ZIYAN WU (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF

PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CHRISTINE SIEBERG (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL)

Chronic post-surgical pain (CPSP) affects 20–40% of surgical patients, and 80% receive opioids, contributing to significant overdose deaths. Cannabis has emerged as a potential alternative. This preliminary study examined cannabis use and psychological variables in 40 adults with CPSP. Participants who tried cannabis for CPSP reported higher perceived stress, though no other psychological differences emerged. Acute and perceived stress were positively correlated. Findings, limited by sample size, highlight the need for further research.

POSTER 59

ACCULTURATION AND MENTAL HEALTH IN A VIRTUAL GRATITUDE INTERVENTION AMONG HISPANIC/LATINE ADULTS

INGRID MORALES-RAMIREZ (UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO), MOJISOLA F. TIAMIYU (UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO)

This study examines whether acculturation influences mental health outcomes during the implementation of a two-week virtual gratitude intervention for Hispanic/Latine adults. We focus on life satisfaction and depressive symptoms, two core indicators of psychological adjustment, and analyze how intervention condition and acculturation orientation shape changes across time. Findings will contribute to the design of culturally responsive, digitally delivered mental health strategies for underserved populations.

POSTER 60

DIGITAL FITNESS TRACKING AND DISORDERED EATING RISK AMONG ATHLETES

SEBASTIAN SPADAVECCHIO (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH)

Eating disorder symptoms among athletes remain understudied, particularly in relation to digital fitness platforms. This study examines how Strava use predicts disordered eating symptoms in athletes using hierarchical regression models. Strava use was associated with higher EAT-26 scores, while greater self-efficacy predicted lower scores. A significant Strava x competition interaction indicated that competitive athletes using Strava showed heightened risk. Findings highlight how digital training environments may amplify or buffer vulnerability to disordered eating in athletes.

POSTER 61

CAUGHT IN TRANSITION: PERSISTENT MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AMONG EMERGING ADULTS POST-COVID-19

DEEYA MITRA (BOSTON COLLEGE), JACK CAVANAUGH (BOSTON COLLEGE)

This study investigates the enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of emerging adults (ages 18-29) in the U.S. Using a nationally representative sample (N=500), we found high rates of anxiety and depression, with financial pressure, sense of purpose, and achievement as key stressors. These challenges intersect with developmental tasks such as identity exploration, autonomy, and career preparation, highlighting the need for targeted support to promote wellbeing during this critical period.

POSTER 62

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN EMOTION REGULATION, DEPRESSION, AND PTSD IN BIPOC SURVIVORS OF RAPE

ANANYA SHARMA (CLARK UNIVERSITY), KATHLEEN PALM REED (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Emotion regulation difficulties are well-documented as a risk factor for post-traumatic psychopathology, yet their impact on BIPOC survivors of rape is understudied. This study examines the association between difficulties in emotion regulation, depression, and PTSD in 115 BIPOC women rape survivors. Difficulties in emotion regulation were significantly and positively associated with both depressive and PTSD symptoms. Notably, it also predicted PTSD symptoms when the time since the event was accounted for.

POSTER 63

POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH IN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS: ASSOCIATION WITH IMPACT AND MEANING

SAMANTHA WINEGARD (TOURO UNIVERSITY), REBECCA HOROWITZ (TOURO UNIVERSITY), ELISHEVA HOFFMAN (TOURO UNIVERSITY), KERRY CANNITY (TOURO UNIVERSITY)

This study examined post-traumatic growth (PTG) in breast cancer survivors and its relationship with age, time since diagnosis, impact of the event, and purpose of life. Results shows that younger age and more time since diagnosis was associated with higher PTG. Also, higher purpose of life was associated less intense psychological impact of one's diagnosis. These findings emphasize the need for interventions that reduce trauma-related symptoms and foster PTG throughout survivorship.

POSTER 64**TEACHER BURNOUT AND DEPRESSION:
EXAMINING COGNITIVE, CONTEXTUAL, GENDER,
AND GRADE LEVEL FACTORS**

JAMES BAREFOOT (THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), IRVIN SCHONFELD (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), RENZO BIANCHI (NORWEGIAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

Burnout and depression are concerning in teachers. This secondary analysis examined whether cognitive vulnerabilities, workplace stress and social support explained depressive symptoms beyond burnout in a sample of 1,386 teachers. Rumination, dysfunctional attitudes, and job stress predicted higher depressive symptoms in participants. Teacher gender and grade level did not moderate the burnout-depression relationship. Physical fatigue showed the strongest relationship with depression compared to other burnout subcomponents. Findings reveal potential risks related to teacher well being.

POSTER 65**SELF-COMPASSION, CAREGIVING BURDEN, AND
WELL-BEING AMONG CANCER CAREGIVERS:
BROODING AS A MEDIATOR**

CAIWEI PENG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), SHUTING YANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), CHEN-CHUAN WANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), QINGYI ZHANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether brooding mediates the relationship between self-compassion and caregiver outcomes among cancer caregivers. Participants completed measures of self-compassion, brooding, caregiver burden, depressive symptoms, and life satisfaction. Brooding significantly mediated the effects of self-compassion on caregiver burden and life satisfaction, but not depressive symptoms. Findings suggest that lower brooding may be one mechanism through which self-compassion reduces caregiving burden and improves well-being in cancer caregivers.

POSTER 66**THE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DIFFICULTIES IN
EMOTION REGULATION AND CANCER
CAREGIVING BURDEN**

WEIRAN WANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), WALLINGTON LIN (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), KELLY KWONG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), GRACE ZHANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how difficulties in emotion regulation shape caregiving burden among cancer caregivers, with attention to demographic patterns and the type of support received as a mediator of the relationship between emotion dysregulation and caregiving burden. Caregivers who reported greater emotion regulation difficulties experienced higher caregiving burden. Instrumental support significantly mediated the association between emotion regulation difficulties and caregiving burden, highlighting the role of practical support as a buffer against stress experienced by caregivers.

POSTER 67**INTIMATE PARTNER STALKING: FIRST
DISCLOSURES AND THE SOCIAL REACTIONS
RECEIVED**

NIYA PAXTON (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MALLORY FARMER (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW ABELL (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), KANDACE SCIONEUX (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CHRISTINA M DARDIS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

This study examines to whom survivors of intimate partner stalking (IPS) first disclose their victimization, and the social reactions they receive. Our study includes 311 students who disclosed IPS to at least one formal or informal support. Infantilizing reactions were most common among parents and formal supports, controlling reactions from romantic partners, and distracting reactions from parents. Results suggest a need for educational programming to improve disclosure reactions and support campus IPS survivors.

POSTER 68**ADULTS WITH IMAGINARY COMPANIONS:
PREVALENCE, CHARACTERISTICS, AND CROSS-
NEUROTYPIC DIFFERENCES**

ANN-CORALIE DANIEL (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), MADELEINE HANSEN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), QINGRONG YANG (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), CHELSEA CHENG (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), MARCELLA STONES (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), TRACY GLEASON (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

Anecdotal accounts suggest that imaginary companions (ICs) exist in adulthood, but they have not been systematically studied. To further understand ICs in adulthood and cross-neurotype differences, this study examines the creation rate of ICs in adulthood, their association to childhood ICs, and their functions in autistic and non-autistic adults. Participants (autistic: n = 86, non-autistic: n = 91) completed an online survey where 9.5% of non-autistic and 22% of autistic participants reported having an IC.

POSTER 69**CLINICIANS' CONFIDENCE IN ASSESSING SUICIDE AND CASE STUDY RISK**

GABRIELLA YACOVELLI (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE),
EMILY GENTES (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), JENNA
GOMEZ-NIETO (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE)

Two studies examined mental health providers' attitudes and effectiveness in evaluating suicide risk. Results from Study 1 (N = 159) show clinicians prioritize suicide assessment and report confidence in their abilities, but feel less confident with higher risk patients and report uncertainty about clinical decisions. Study 2 showed clinicians (N = 20) accurately identified risk of suicide when presented with validated "high" and "moderate" risk case studies, and selected treatment plans based on risk assessment.

POSTER 70**REDUCED CEREBRAL LATERALIZATION, PSYCHOPATHY, AND AGGRESSION: A BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE PERSPECTIVE VIA HANDEDNESS**

ANAHITA SHERIYARJI (KEAN UNIVERSITY), ERICA
BAER (KEAN UNIVERSITY), JOSEPH H. PRECKAJLO
(FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY), JAMIE
SMITH (KEAN UNIVERSITY), RICHARD P. CONTI (KEAN
UNIVERSITY)

The present study examined the relationship between handedness, aggression, and subclinical psychopathy. Participants completed the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory (EHI), Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ), and Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRP). Participants reporting inconsistent handedness, often considered a form of mixed-handedness, scored higher on the BPAQ Physical Aggression subscale and the LSRP secondary psychopathy scale. These findings suggest that inconsistent handedness, potentially reflecting reduced cerebral lateralization, may be associated with elevated aggression and certain psychopathic traits.

POSTER 71**FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADUATES: BURNOUT AND ACCEPTANCE MEDIATED THE THREAT APPRAISAL – WELLBEING RELATIONSHIP**

ANGELINA MOJOMICK (WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE),
CHAMPIKA SOYSA (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY),
CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ (WORCESTER STATE
UNIVERSITY), ETHAN GAGE (WORCESTER STATE
UNIVERSITY)

This study examined mediators of the dispositional threat appraisal – psychological wellbeing relationship

in 215 first year undergraduates. Burnout and acceptance, but not test anxiety and gladness, concurrently and fully mediated the threat appraisal - wellbeing relationship, in men and women (in Hypothesis 1), as well as in first and continuing generation college students (in Hypothesis 2), partially supporting both hypotheses. These findings could inform interventions to increase wellbeing in undergraduates.

POSTER 72**STUDENT REFERRALS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AMONG UNIVERSITY FACULTY: BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS**

NAWAL MOHAMAD (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK,
GRADUATE CENTER), RONA MILES (CITY UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN COLLEGE), ANJALI
KRISHNAN (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), LAURA
RABIN (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN
COLLEGE)

This study investigated rates of student referrals to a college counseling center by full-time faculty (N=63) at an urban public college and the barriers that contribute to making such referrals. Results of an online survey were that ~33% had never made a student referral, with 86% reporting that they lacked training to do so. This study identifies gaps in the student referral process with the goal of prioritizing strategies to improve student mental health support.

POSTER 73**HOW PERSONALITY SHAPES DEPRESSION: A PATHOPLASTIC ANALYSIS OF SYMPTOM EXPRESSION**

JENNA SCHUGART (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), WILSON
MCDERMUT (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

Personality traits show strong associations with psychopathology and may shape how depressive symptoms are expressed. Depression is heterogeneous, with symptoms clustering into Affective, Somatic, Internalizing, and Sensorimotor domains. Informed by the pathoplasticity model, this study investigated whether Big Five and PID-5 traits predicted PHQ-9 symptom clusters in 1,030 undergraduate students. Linear and logistic regressions revealed both universal and cluster-specific trait associations, highlighting how personality traits can influence the manifestation of depressive symptoms.

POSTER 74**AN ANALYSIS OF STRESSORS EXPERIENCED BY FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS**

LAUREN REINHART (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), CATALINA CRUZ (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), KARENA RUSH (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), DEBRA VREDENBURG-RUDY (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), CHASE BELL (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

First-year college students face unique challenges that can culminate into heightened stress levels and lower emotional well-being (Garett et al., 2017). Due to these unique challenges first-year students face, they are at higher risk for academic concerns and mental health struggles. The purpose of this study is to examine different stressors first-year students face, and how they change over time. The results will inform a first-year seminar course and interventions to better support first-year students.

POSTER 75

MEASURING STIGMA TOWARD SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CLIENTS AMONG MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROFESSIONALS

ELIZABETH KATZ (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), JEREMY BALDA (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

Substance use disorders (SUD) are highly stigmatized and about 40% of mental health patients have a SUD. This study had undergraduate psychology majors, graduate students in mental health programs and licensed mental health professionals complete direct and indirect measures of SUD stigma. While direct measures found no bias, the indirect measure showed significant bias toward SUD patients among the student groups. These findings suggest the need for SUD-bias-reduction interventions among students in mental-health-oriented programs.

POSTER 76

LOW SELF-CONCEPT CLARITY AND NEGATIVE AFFECTIVITY: THE MEDIATIONAL ROLE OF EMOTION DYSREGULATION

SEBASTIAN PATINO (SUNY CORTLAND), ALEXANDRA VIZGAITIS (SUNY CORTLAND)

This study examined whether emotion dysregulation mediates the relationship between low self-concept clarity and negative affectivity. A sample of 197 undergraduates completed measures of self-concept clarity, emotion dysregulation, and negative affectivity. Results showed that low self-concept clarity was strongly associated with higher negative affectivity, and emotion dysregulation partially mediated this relationship. These findings aid our understanding that having an unclear sense of self is linked with negative affectivity partly through difficulties regulating emotions.

POSTER 77

PROBLEMATIC SOCIAL MEDIA USE AND SLEEP PROBLEMS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

NICHOLAS TARANTINO (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), KATHERINE WOODWORTH (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), CAROLINE POTVIN (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), CHARLENE COLLIBEE (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE)

Introduction We explored the association between problematic social media use (PSMU) and sleep problems among college students. **Method** Participants completed surveys assessing PSMU, sleep problems, and associated factors. **Results** An indirect association between PSMU and sleep problems via diminished mental health (e.g., loneliness) was found. **Interactions** between PSMU and moderators also predicted sleep problems. **Discussion** Mental health issues may partly explain the PSMU-sleep problems association. Sleep interventions should consider targeting mindfulness, self-compassion, and emotion regulation.

POSTER 78

IDENTIFYING SYMPTOM-LEVEL DRIVERS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SLEEP HEALTH AND DEPRESSION

JULIANA TROIANO (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH PANTESCO (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

Previous studies have linked sleep health domains to depressive symptoms, but it is unknown which depressive symptoms may be driving this relationship. This study examined which CES-D depressive symptoms most strongly relate to actigraphy-assessed sleep health in 138 undergraduates. Canonical correlations revealed that somatic complaints and sleep timing are the strongest contributors, followed by interpersonal difficulties and sleep regularity. Regression analyses reveal that somatic complaints were associated with later sleep timing.

POSTER 79

PET POSITIVE: IMPACT OF INTERACTION WITH PETS ON WELL-BEING IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

LORAINA GHIRALDI (SAINT LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), MARK OAKES (SAINT LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), SOPHIA GIANOULIS (BOSTON COLLEGE), CAROLINE DOOLAN (BOSTON COLLEGE)

This study investigated how interaction with pets affected college students' well-being, and if outcomes were related to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Blood pressure, heart rate, and psychological self-assessments were collected before and after a pet interaction session. Results showed reductions in

students' stress-related physiological and psychological measures following pet interaction. Students categorized with medium ACEs showed more positive outcomes. Results demonstrate the health benefits of animal-assisted activities and encourage integrating pets into on-campus wellness programs.

POSTER 80

MEASUREMENT INVARIANCE IN REPETITIVE NEGATIVE THINKING AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY ACROSS RACE/ETHNICITY AND GENDER

WILLIAM ROZUM (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), MILAGROS GRADOS (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), ISABELLA AGUDELO (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), CHRYSTAL VERGARA-LOPEZ (THE WARREN ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL OF BROWN UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL), HECTOR LOPEZ-VERGARA (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

Repetitive negative thinking is frequently explored within internalizing symptoms, but less so within externalizing symptoms, while often neglecting intersectional identity differences. Measurement invariance of repetitive negative thinking and psychopathology across six racial/ethnic and gender groupings was tested and established, as well as associations using latent variable analyses. Results showed significant mean differences across groups. Black women were the only group to not show significant, positive, associations between repetitive negative thinking externalizing symptoms.

POSTER 81

EXPLORING COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEEDS

RICHARD HARNISH (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), MONJEANA HENDERSON (PENN STATE GREAT ALLEGHENY), ALINA NESTLERODE (PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY), ZOE KING (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON), MADISON HOYT (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON), ANTONIA VELASQUEZ (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON), JOY KRUMENACKER (PENN STATE NEW KENSINGTON), JENNIFER CROYLE (PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY)

This community engagement project examined mental health and wellness needs within a local community. Findings highlighted the importance of care that is personalized, accessible, and holistic, reflecting the diverse experiences and priorities of participants

POSTER 82

SEXUAL FLUIDITY, CONNECTEDNESS, AND SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AMONG ADOLESCENTS

LAURYN HOY (THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY), MARIA WARNICK (GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY), JOHN GUNN (GWYNEDD MERCY UNIVERSITY)

Sexual fluidity (SF) is common among adolescence and is linked to experiences of psychological distress and suicidal thoughts (ST). Using W1 and W2 of the ADD Health, participants were categorized into SF groups. After accounting for social connectedness, school belonging, and parental relationship, the risk among the sexually fluid group (Het-SM) was no longer significant. Findings suggest that sexual fluidity is related to suicidal thoughts only through its shared relationship with belongingness and connectedness variables.

POSTER 83

UNDERSTANDING THERAPY DROPOUT FROM CLIENTS' AND THERAPISTS' PERSPECTIVES

FULYA MERCAN (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), EMMA FREELY PORTER (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study explored why clients discontinue therapy by examining experiences from ten clients and ten therapists. Findings showed that dropout is shaped by therapist-client fit, session structure, goal alignment, and early signs of disengagement. Clients emphasized emotional safety and feeling prioritized, while therapists highlighted readiness, logistical barriers, and reflective practice. Integrating these perspectives suggests that structured, attentive, and goal-oriented therapy may reduce dropout and improve engagement.

POSTER 84

THE MEDIATING EFFECTS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY ON VETERANS' TRANSITION OUTLOOK

YUK SHING TANG (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), JIAXIN YU (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether psychotherapy use mediates the link between veterans' health and their transition outlook, defined as perceptions of future work, emotional well-being, and life satisfaction. Using 2023 NSDUH data, mediation models showed that better health predicted more positive outlooks but lower psychotherapy use. Psychotherapy was negatively associated with outlook, reflecting need-based selection. The indirect effect was small but significant, suggesting partial mediation without eliminating health's positive influence.

Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Talk **Great Republic**

APA'S EDUCATION RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES
Friday, February 27, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: SHLOMIT FLAISHER-GRINBERG

APA'S EDUCATION RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES

BETH SCHWARTZ (AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION)

APA's Senior Director of Pre-College and Undergraduate Psychology Education shares information and updates on APA's areas of focus with regard to education, including some recent reorganization of teams, upcoming initiatives that would be of interest to educators, and the many resources APA provides to support teaching and learning.

Friday, February 27, 2026
12:30pm – 1:30pm

Keynote **America Ballroom North**

PRESIDENTIAL INVITED KEYNOTE: NATHAN M. HOLMES
Friday, February 27, 2026
12:30pm – 1:30pm

CHAIR: JEF LAMOUREUX

TWO STATES OF INFORMATION PROCESSING IN THE BASOLATERAL AMYGDALA AND PERIRHINAL CORTEX

NATHAN HOLMES (UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES)

Using sensory preconditioning protocols, we have shown that the spread of fear is due to formation of mediated associations involving past associates and danger; and these mediated associations are supported by two regions of the medial temporal lobe - the basolateral amygdala complex and perirhinal cortex. Specifically, the basolateral amygdala instantiates a focal state of information processing with limited capacity and the perirhinal cortex instantiates a peripheral state of information processing with much greater capacity.

Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

Poster **America Ballroom Center/South**

SOCIAL POSTERS I
Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

POSTER 1

"WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT BODIES": TRUST IN CONTRACEPTIVE INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES

THERESA JACKSON (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY), MADISON FREEL (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY), AUTUMN AYERS (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY), ANNA DYKHOFF (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY), RYAN HEALY (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY)

Research demonstrates that social media plays a dominant role in shaping contraceptive attitudes. Our research examined how contraceptive messaging influenced trust in healthcare providers and social media. Participants (N = 25 women) completed semi-structured interviews analyzed with Thematic Analysis. Results indicated that social media highlights negative contraceptive information and favors experience-based content. Trust in healthcare providers increases with personalized relationships and decreases with patient dismissal or the need to advocate for oneself.

POSTER 2

A DEATH AWARENESS PILOT STUDY ON INTERTEMPORAL CHOICE AND HEALTH INTENTIONS.

XAVIER PARKER (INDEPENDENT), KHLOE SALPID (INDEPENDENT), VINCENT MEDINA (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE)

Mortality salience, or the awareness of death, is a powerful psychological influence. The current study tests the effect of mortality salience on both regulating intertemporal choice between smaller-and-sooner rewards versus larger-and-later rewards (i.e., delay discounting), as well as regulating health intentions. Abstract reasoning and consideration of future consequences are tested as potential mechanisms in both. This study builds on mortality salience research by providing novel contributions about mechanisms and domain-general health intentions.

POSTER 3

BODY APPRECIATION AND WELL-BEING: EXPLORING CONNECTIONS WITH SELF- DETERMINATION THEORY

MEGHAN GILLEN (PENN STATE ABINGTON A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), DIANE ROSENBAUM (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY ABINGTON)

Body appreciation reflects positive attitudes toward the body and is linked to well-being. We know less about its links to self-determination theory (SDT) including relatedness, autonomy, and competence. Diverse undergraduates (N = 145) completed an online survey on body appreciation and aspects of SDT. Body appreciation was related to all aspects of SDT. Perceiving a more meaningful existence in relation to others and perceiving greater control over life were the strongest predictors of body appreciation.

POSTER 4

A METHODOLOGICAL BLIND SPOT: MENTAL CALORIE TRACKING AND IMPLICATIONS FOR EATING-RELATED RESEARCH

JULIA LAWRENCE-RIDDELL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY),
HARRIET BUTSCHER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ANDREA
MERCURIO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Calorie tracking research typically defines tracking as logging intake through external tools, overlooking individuals who track calories mentally. This study compared college women who tracked externally, tracked mentally only, or had never tracked. Mental-only trackers (n=158) would be misclassified as non-trackers using standard questions in other studies. Both external and mental trackers reported lower appearance evaluation and higher weight-related preoccupation than never trackers. Findings highlight mental tracking as an unrecognized form of calorie monitoring.

POSTER 5

A MIXED-METHODS ANALYSIS OF RACIAL IDENTITY AND BELIEFS ABOUT A POST-RACE WORLD

LAUREN BERNSTEIN (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY),
ANALIA ALBUJA (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Race relations in the United States remain divisive, with differing opinions on interventions and the likelihood of progress towards equality. This study analyzes open-ended data from 258 participants and corresponding quantitative measures of racial attitudes. While all participants identified actionable solutions for improving race relations, many expressed

cynicism about progress. This research explores how racial identity influences these contradictions and illustrates how entrenched inequalities fuel hopelessness about progress and the future of race relations.

POSTER 6

A BITTERSWEET EXPERIENCE: LANGUAGE BROKERING ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES AMONG LATINX YOUNG ADULTS

NICOLE FERNANDEZ (THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA)

This mixed-methods study investigated psychological and sociocultural factors that influence language brokering among Latinx young adults. Findings revealed that parent-child relationships had a significant impact on feelings of burden in the broker role. Higher psychological distress was associated with more unfavorable attitudes. However, personality factors had minor effects, with the exception of neuroticism's link to distress. Overall, the findings indicated that language brokering is a complex experience dependent on family dynamics, cultural norms, and well-being.

POSTER 7

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS' RESPONSES TO CAMPUS RACIAL INCIDENTS

ALISON MCNAMARA (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

The present study is a systematic review and analysis of responses to racial incidents from college presidents or equivalent leadership over the span of eight years (2016-2023). Findings reveal that college presidents tend to most commonly address the campus community and only broadly reference the occurrence of the incident, while failing to acknowledge the systemic issues and constraints that limit the efficacy of the statement and any potential interventions.

POSTER 8

ASSESSING IMPLICIT AND EXPLICIT BIASES ON MENTAL HEALTH STATUS AND INTELLIGENCE LEVEL

KRISTEN VINCIGUERRA (MARIST UNIVERSITY),
ELIZABETH MENDE (MARIST UNIVERSITY),
CHARLOTTE PIKE (MARIST UNIVERSITY), E. G.
FREDRICK (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

The derogatory language that is commonly used to describe the intelligence of people with mental health disorders spurred this study's investigation into the

potential existence of an implicit association between mental illness and unintelligence. Ninety-nine participants completed an Implicit Association Test and answered questions to gauge explicit bias. Their results indicated that an implicit association between mental illness and unintelligence exists, but is not correlated with explicit bias. There were differences by some demographics.

POSTER 9

MICROAFFIRMATIONS FOR RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY STUDENTS: A FOCUS GROUP STUDY

ELIZABETH URDANETA (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), KENADIE LYON-MESSICK (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), DEZ AKANO (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), JUSTIN BUCKINGHAM (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CHRISTA SCHMIDT (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

Racial microaffirmations are behaviors and environmental cues that help communicate to minoritized individuals that they are included, appreciated, and cared for. We conducted focus groups (N = 12) to explore racial/ethnic minority students' perceptions of microaffirmations in a university setting. Our qualitative analysis identified 11 themes, which include an emphasis on context, diversity on campus, and taking initiative to be inclusive. The present study will help inform the development of a quantitative measure of racial microaffirmations.

POSTER 10

MICROAGGRESSIONS IN HEALTH COMMUNICATION UNDERMINE SELF-EFFICACY AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE FOR BLACK ADULTS

AMANDA ALMOND (NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY CUNY), NICOLE SANCHEZ FLORES (SMITH COLLEGE)

Persistent racial disparities in cardiovascular health reflect not only structural inequities but also racialized meanings reproduced in health communication. Across two mixed-methods experiments (N = 374, N = 589), we tested how racial microaggressions in clinical messages shape Black adults' self-efficacy and decisional balance for exercise and weight management. Racialized messages reduced efficacy, especially among individuals rejecting biological views of race. Findings highlight clinical communication as a modifiable target for anti-racist intervention.

POSTER 11

BLESSED OR BIASED? RELIGIOUS IDENTITY, SEXISM, AND CONTRACEPTIVE ACCESS

ALEXIS RICHESON (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), VIOLETT SPRINGATE (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), CHARLOTTE MARKEY (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether religiosity and sexism predict attitudes toward birth control access and whether these attitudes differ across religious groups. A sample of 612 adults completed measures of religiosity, hostile and benevolent sexism, and contraceptive beliefs. Higher religiosity and sexism were linked to lower support for birth control access. Christians reported higher sexism and less support for accessibility than atheists and agnostics. Findings demonstrate how religious identity and gender ideology shape contraceptive policy attitudes.

POSTER 12

CHANGES IN STIGMA TOWARD INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

ROBERT HAYES (WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE), MICAH SCOTT (WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY), KAITLYNN BROOKS (WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY), CHERYLANN SKROCKI (WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY)

Previous research reported that people living with HIV were viewed differently on measures of competence, depression, morbidity, dependance and moral worth when compared to those living with heart disease and/or cancer. This cross-sectional replication determines any changes over the last 25 years. 500+ participants were surveyed using the identical instruments in earlier research. The usefulness of imaginal exposure, i.e., imagining a loved one living with HIV produced more favorable attitudes toward those living with HIV.

POSTER 13

MAPPING HOW MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES PREDICT BELIEF AND KNOWABILITY OF A HIGHER POWER

SCOTT CARROLL (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), JOSHUA UHALT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE)

This research examines the relationship between belief, knowability, and mystical experiences in the context of a higher power. Across two studies, belief and knowability were strongly correlated, however experimental manipulations did not influence either construct. Structural equation modeling revealed that mystical experiences powerfully predicted belief and knowability, substantially reducing their direct association. These findings suggest personal mystical experiences serve as a core psychological mechanism shaping views about the existence and knowability of a higher power.

POSTER 14**BANNED IDEAS: SCIENTIFIC IMPACT OF CANCELLED US FEDERALLY FUNDED PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE SCIENCE**

THOMAS TOMCHO (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), MAKENZIE MULL (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), EMMA CAREY (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), KATE GERLUS (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), EMILY BONIFACE (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), JOSIE D'AQUILA (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), PAIGE MAGILL (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), EMILY NORMAN (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), JOHANA CONSTANTINO (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), LYDIA WALTER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), LANYA JOHNSON (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY)

In 2025 the US federal government cancelled billions of dollars in science funding, including for climate-related research, whereas foreign governments continue to support climate science. We used the Web of Science database to identify articles and found that the scientific citations for US funded climate-related research in psychology are significantly greater than the scientific citations for foreign government funded research. We discuss potential policy and economic implications of ending grant support for climate-related research.

POSTER 15**COLLEGE STUDENTS' VIEW JANE ELLIOT'S BROWN-EYE BLUE-EYE EXERCISE AS ETHICAL**

JOSEPH VAZQUEZ (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), JESSICA NOLAN (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), GABRIELLE JAMIESON (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON)

Jane Elliot's exercise is widely cited in psychology textbooks as a prejudice reduction tool, but the technique has been criticized for its ethicality. Participants were 30 college students who were surveyed to determine their attitudes toward the video, specifically about the ethicality of the exercise. Results revealed that a majority of participants believed that the exercise was an ethical way to reduce prejudice, and the lessons the students learned in the video justified their discomfort.

POSTER 16**ENVIRONMENTAL CREATIVITY: THE MISSING PIECE IN CHILDREN'S CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT**

QIN LI (CUNY QUEENSBOROUGH), FANLI JIA (SETON HALL)

This study introduces Environmental Creativity" (EC) in children. Using a mixed-methods approach with 187 children, we analyzed essays for EC and measured pro-environmental behavior, knowledge, and nature

affiliation. Preliminary results show strong intercorrelations among these measures. Our ongoing analysis investigates how these factors relate to EC, providing evidence that internalizing environmental values can relate to creativity. This highlights a new direction for fostering innovation in the next generation.

POSTER 17**IDLE TALK: ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDES AND ENGINE IDLING**

SUSAN FIELD (GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY), KAREN KELLY (GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY), CHAD KINNEY (GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY), MADISON O'DONNELL (GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY), ISABELLA CARD (GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY)

Idling parked cars is rampant on our campus. A survey of 257 undergraduates revealed that 87.1% of drivers indicated that they sometimes idled their car > 1 minute. Idlers did not differ from non-idlers in pro-environmental attitudes, but non-idlers were more likely to engage in other pro-environmental behaviors. Common reasons for idling included being early for class, wanting comfort/privacy, and using phones. Many participants knew of the environmental and financial costs of idling.

POSTER 18**A COMPARISON OF WORK VALUES BETWEEN MILLENNIALS AND GENERATION Z**

INDYA DEVONISH (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CANDICE WALLACE (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), HELENA SWANSON (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study compared the workplace values between millennials and Gen Z using an online survey of 63 participants. Results showed that Gen Z prioritized bonuses, positive feedback, and schedule flexibility, while millennials valued on-site mental health support. Gen Z is often more idealistic as many are just entering the workforce, while millennials prioritize well-being along with fair pay. These findings suggest potential differences in lived workplace experiences that contribute to differing perspectives of workplace desires.

POSTER 19**ANIMAL HOUSE: REVEALING HUMANS' BIASES TOWARDS ANIMALS THROUGH EVALUATIONS OF ANIMAL ENCLOSURES**

NICHOLAS ROSE (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KRISTY BIOLSI (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated whether animal stereotypes, based on competence and warmth, affected how adults perceived animals' welfare in an enclosure. Participants were split into three groups based on enclosure quality, shown images of enclosures, and asked to assess each. Results indicate that individuals feel animals with high competence/warmth need more from their enclosures than other animals. This work can be utilized to improve perception of zoos/aquariums and correct public misconceptions about animal welfare.

POSTER 20

ACADEMIC ENTITLEMENT IS A PREDICTOR OF INCOME EXPECTATIONS AFTER GRADUATION

CAREY FITZGERALD (SUNY ONEONTA), MICHAEL FABER (SUNY ONEONTA), BRIAR ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ (SUNY ONEONTA)

Two studies were conducted across a 5-year period to examine whether undergraduate students' academic entitlement was a predictor of the income they believe they will earn after graduation. Results from both studies found a significant positive correlation between academic entitlement and income expectations, as well as academic entitlement and perceived average salary for one's desired career. Academic entitlement was also significantly negatively correlated with age.

POSTER 21

ADOLESCENT PERCEPTIONS OF HOW SOCIAL MEDIA AFFECTS THEIR WELLBEING: A QUALITATIVE INQUIRY

LINDA CHARMARAMAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), MELANIE ALBANESE (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ZHAMILYA BILYALOVA (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

This qualitative study analyzes open-ended survey responses from adolescents to understand how they believe social media helps or hinders their wellbeing. We found that youth more often described benefits such as entertainment, social support, and connectedness, while a smaller proportion reported hindrances including bullying, social comparison, and "brain rot". Many responses emphasized both the positive and negative effects simultaneously, highlighting the complexity and mutability of their experiences, and few reported "no effect".

POSTER 22

ADULT SIBLING PLAY AND RELATIONSHIP CLOSENESS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

LUCIA DAHER (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ), DOUG MAYNARD (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ)

This study aimed to investigate the relationship between play and relationship quality among adult sibling dyads within the United States and Mexico. Participants (N = 189) completed an online survey including measures of sibling play/playfulness and sibling closeness. For each aspect of sibling closeness, increased sibling play/playfulness was associated with more positive attitudes towards one's sibling. Additionally, sibling play/playfulness was more strongly associated with aspects of sibling attitudes in the US as compared to Mexico.

POSTER 23

ALTERNATIVE PARTNER INVESTMENTS AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP COMMITMENT IN TWO EMERGING ADULTS SAMPLES

ARIANNA ARTIS (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), GARY GLICK (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), CATHERINE BAGWELL (DAVIDSON COLLEGE), KAREN KOCHER (UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND), PAULA YUST (DICKINSON COLLEGE)

Alternative Partner Investments (API) are when someone in a relationship spends time with someone else they are attracted to. In Study 1 (Mage = 25.6 years; 68% married or cohabitating) API predicted 10% of the variability in commitment to one's partner, after controlling for satisfaction, quality of alternatives, and prior investment in the relationship. In Study 2 (Mage = 18.2; incoming first-year students) API added no variance, suggesting the impact of API may be context-dependent.

POSTER 24

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN COLLECTIVISTIC VALUES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD HPV VACCINE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

ZIQI LIN (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), XUQIAN LI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), JASON PAN (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether collectivistic values are associated with HPV-related health beliefs through the Health Belief Model (HBM) among 340 U.S. college students. Relational self-construal was significantly positively correlated to all HBM constructs, while

interdependence and collectivistic beliefs predicted severity, benefits, and subjective norms. These findings highlight the role of cultural orientation on vaccine-related cognitions and suggested that public health interventions focused on the interdependent self may be more effective than the traditional individual-risk messaging.

POSTER 25

ASSOCIATIONS OF COMORBIDITY, NEIGHBORHOOD DISADVANTAGE, AND MORTALITY AMONG RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY COVID-19 PATIENTS

ELISSA CARCAMO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), PATRICK DAWID (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), GREGORY URENA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), BRANDON FERNANDEZ-SEDANO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SHERFRAN LOUHIS (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), PABLO GONZALEZ (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), BRYTON PAK YAO CHOW (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SEUNGHYUP BAEK (THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL), ROBERT CRUPI (NEWYORK PRESBYTERIAN QUEENS), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

We examined racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19 comorbidities and relationships with mortality and neighborhood context in 2,811 hospitalized patients in Queens. Hispanic and Asian patients had lower odds of cardiovascular and pulmonary disease than non-Hispanic Whites, despite residing in more disadvantaged neighborhoods. Diabetes and renal disease increased mortality odds, but this did not differ by race/ethnicity. Neighborhood factors had limited impact, suggesting other protective influences and that equitable in-hospital care may mitigate disparities.

POSTER 26

ATTENTION CHECKS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ONLINE AND IN-PERSON DATA

BERKLEY SMITH (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), EMMA ROBERSON (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), KALA MELCHIORI (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)

The current research takes advantage of a unique dataset in which participants completed surveys both in-person (T1) and online (T2). Each dataset included multiple attention checks, allowing us to directly compare attention patterns across modalities and to evaluate how failing attention checks might influence outcomes. Participants were more likely to fail attention checks online vs. in-person. Furthermore, participants who failed attention checks had significantly different scale responses compared to participants who passed all checks.

POSTER 27

BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO ACCESSING CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

SOPHIA LOZADA-DELZELL (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), NATALIE WEBER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), ABBY BLANEY (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), RYLIE LACH (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), ANNIE WEGRZYN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Sexual violence, dating violence, and domestic violence (SV/DV) pose significant public health and safety issues on college campuses. While campus-based prevention and intervention services are available, research suggests these resources are markedly underutilized. This study explored students' perceptions of barriers and facilitators to accessing campus-based SV/DV prevention services and programming. Findings from qualitative interviews with 28 undergraduate college students reveal logistical factors and social influences that may promote or preclude access to resources

POSTER 28

BOUND BY ATTACHMENT? PREDICTING RELATIONSHIP EXPECTATIONS AND THE TENDENCY TO SETTLE

GIULIANA ROBLES (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), HANNAH COOLEY (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CHRISTOPHER BUDNICK (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study aims to confirm and expand on the novel expectations toward romantic relationships (ETRR) measure to better understand why someone might expect and therefore settle for less in their romantic relationships. Using attachment style as the primary predictor, we will assess how each of the attachment styles will significantly differ in stability, conflict, and caregiving expectations.

POSTER 29

BUILDING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: META-SYNTHESIS OF QUALITATIVE STUDIES OF VOTER MOTIVATION & BEHAVIOR

B FLINT (INDEPENDENT), MARK WALTER (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY)

Smets and van Ham (2013) used six broad theories of voting as a framework to meta-analyze factors associated with voting behavior. We meta-synthesized common voting behavior themes from 22 qualitative studies (n=687) and found similarities and differences

with Smets and van Ham's findings. Our findings may be attributable to differences between qualitative and quantitative approaches. Future research should resolve discrepancies between these findings, particularly in the areas of voter facilitation, political discussion, alienation and trust.

POSTER 30

BYSTANDER BEHAVIOR IN IPV/SA: WHO OBSERVES AND INTERVENES?

RUISHA PRASAI (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), NIYA PAXTON (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW ABELL (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CHRISTINA DARDIS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

The study examined how often students witness intimate partner violence and sexual assault (IPV/SA) events and whether they intervene. Most observers acted, though rates varied by behavior. Women, prior IPV/SA victims, and prior IPV/SA perpetrators were significantly more likely to witness IPV/SA events than others. Additionally, engagement in prosocial behavior generally did not differ by gender or prior IPV/SA victimization or perpetration, except in instances when a friend was being physically hurt by their partner.

POSTER 31

CAMPUS POLITICAL CLIMATE AND MENTAL HEALTH AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ASLI YUKSEL (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE), ANDREA CHEAH (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE), ANNIE LIU (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE), BARBARA THELAMOUR (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE)

This study examined whether perceived campus political bias relates to international students' well-being via perceived discrimination and social support. 131 international students at U.S. colleges completed a survey measuring political bias, discrimination, support, and mental health. Political bias was not directly linked to mental health but was associated with greater perceived discrimination, which in turn related to worse psychological functioning. Findings highlight felt discrimination, not general campus political climate, as a key intervention target.

POSTER 32

WHY DO HUMANS HELP OTHERS? A CROSS-LEVEL THEORETICAL MODEL OF ALTRUISTIC BEHAVIOR

YUNYAN ZHOU (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

Why do humans help others. This study proposes a cross-level integrative framework to explain altruistic behavior from five interlocking mechanisms, including

evolutionary kin selection, social norm regulation, emotional resonance, moral identity, and existential meaning-making.

POSTER 33

WHO HELPS STUDENTS BECOME STUDENTS? THE SOCIAL FOUNDATION OF ACADEMIC IDENTITY

WARREN REICH (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), ALINA OGOLTSOVA (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), ARI'YANAH WHEELER (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), VILMA PANIAGUA (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), GABRIELA GONZALEZ (HUNTER COLLEGE CUNY), KEYANNA ALFORD (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY)

We examined social cognitive predictors of academic flourishing among first-year students. At T1 (first month freshman year; n = 333) and T2 (April freshman year; n = 139) first-year undergraduates described social network members, their own academic identity, and measures of academic engagement. Students with more T1 academic confidante relationships and more academic possible identities showed more elaborated trait content in their academic identities at T2. Aspirations and confidante support yielded richer academic role identification.

POSTER 34

WE WENT THERE: FREQUENCY AND CORRELATES OF DIRECTLY EXPERIENCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE STIGMA

ERIC MANIA (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), AMY COLEMAN (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), PAIGE TURCOTTE (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), JENNER GAITAN (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), SARAH YOUNG (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), MARIA SNELL (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE), MEGHAV PATEL (QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

Stigma emerges when a social identity is devalued by others. This study shows that community college (CC) students frequently encounter this kind of devaluation tied to their CC identity. Multiple regression analyses further indicate that the negative outcomes seen in other stigmatized groups also appear here. Specifically, more frequent direct experiences of CC stigma predicted increased internalization of negative stereotypes and stress, as well as lower cognitive well-being and expected career success.

POSTER 35

UNDERGRADUATES' BELONGING AS A MEDIATOR OF GENERATIONAL STATUS, ACADEMIC SATISFACTION, AND FLOURISHING

HELEN MACDONALD (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), DOMELY SALCEDO (EMMANUEL COLLEGE)

First-generation college students (FGCS) are at heightened risk for poorer academic and psychological outcomes. Students' sense of belonging within different college contexts may partially explain the relationship between generational status, academic satisfaction, and flourishing. Participants in the current study were 329 college students. Mediation analyses revealed that FGCS status was indirectly associated with lower academic satisfaction and flourishing through classroom and faculty belonging. Fostering FGCS' sense of belonging may bolster academic success and psychological health.

POSTER 36

BURNED OUT BUT STILL SHOWING UP: THE COLLEGE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

JAELYN WESLEY (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), KAYDEN CANDELARIO (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), JOSEY SPIERS (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), AMY PATEL (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), ROBERT ALEXANDER (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Social burnout, which involves feeling drained from ongoing social interaction, is common among college students but has not been studied in depth. This study examined how social burnout changed across a semester and how it related to course comprehension and classroom engagement. Students completed repeated surveys based on the Social Burnout Scale. The findings helped identify factors that contributed to burnout and how these experiences influenced students academically.

POSTER 37

COMPASSION FATIGUE AND HUMAN SERVICE WORKERS' FAMILY AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

NATALIE BUCKLEY (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), EMILY TAYMAN (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), ANNIE MOSKAL (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), GARY GLICK (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE)

Human Service Workers (HSWs, e.g., nurses, teachers, mental health counselors) are at heightened risk of compassion fatigue, defined by symptoms of burnout and secondary traumatic stress, which may impact their personal relationships. In a sample of 139 HSWs, compassion fatigue was strongly associated with work-family conflict and romantic relationship conflict. Compassion fatigue also was associated with more maladaptive coping (e.g., substance use, venting) but unrelated to most adaptive/neutral coping strategies, with the exception of humor.

POSTER 38

CISGENDER/HETEROSEXUAL ATTITUDES AS BARRIERS TO LGBTQ+ INTERGROUP ALLYSHIP IN HEALTHCARE

MICHELLE STAGE (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), MOLLIE RUBEN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

Intergroup allyship in healthcare depends on how cisgender/heterosexual (cishet) individuals respond to LGBTQ+ allyship cues, which may provoke resistance when perceived as challenging dominant norms. We tested whether gender essentialism, LGBTQ+ prejudice, and LGBTQ+ contact shaped cishet adults' (N = 203) impressions of clinics displaying allyship, dominant-group, or neutral cues. Lower essentialism and prejudice predicted positive impressions of allyship cues, while contact showed nonsignificant positive associations only for allyship cues, highlighting ideology's effects on inclusion.

POSTER 39

COMPENSATORY RECOGNITION OF PERCEIVED CREATIVITY IN RATINGS OF BLACK FEMALE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

DANIELA MARTIN (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), JENNIFER KATZ-BUONINCONTRO (DREXEL UNIVERSITY), SUE PAK (UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO)

Creativity is central to understandings of effective teaching and school leadership. Prior research suggests that creativity is often implicitly associated with masculine-stereotyped traits, particularly in business settings. The current study investigated whether perceptions of educators' creativity is perceived differently depending on their gender, race, and professional status (teacher vs. principal). Our results suggest that women—and particularly women of color—may benefit from heightened perceptions of creativity in education, depending on the role they occupy.

POSTER 40

COUNTERFACTUAL THINKING FOLLOWING A VIOLENT EVENT: CAUSAL ATTRIBUTION, GENDER, AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

RODNEY KLEIN (INDEPENDENT), MACIE CLINE (CONCORD UNIVERSITY)

People often generate alternative outcomes to a situation by wondering, "What ifâ€¦" or "If onlyâ€¦" These alternative outcomes are referred to as counterfactuals. The participants in our study read one of two short stories and were then asked what they would change so that the central character did not die.

The pattern of results are interpreted in terms of the gender of the central character, the gender of the participant, and their political ideology.

POSTER 41

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND MORTALITY RISK: THE INFLUENCE OF RACE/ETHNICITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

SHERFRAN LOUHI (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), PATRICK DAWID (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), GREGORY URENA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), BRANDON FERNANDEZ-SEDANO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ELISSA CARCAMO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), KATIE AYALA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), BIANCA CORREA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SEUNGHYUP BAEK (THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL), PHYLLIS AUGUST (NEWYORK PRESBYTERIAN/ WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER), CYNTHIA PAN (NEWYORK PRESBYTERIAN QUEENS), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

This study examined racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19 symptom presentation and associations with mortality and neighborhood context in 2,811 hospitalized patients in Queens. Hispanic and Asian patients had higher odds of systemic and respiratory symptoms than non-Hispanic Whites, and neighborhood disadvantage modestly increased respiratory symptom risk for Hispanics. Despite elevated symptom burden, mortality did not differ by race/ethnicity, possibly reflecting the impacts of younger age, lower comorbidity burden, and equitable in-hospital care.

POSTER 42

CRIMINAL REHABILITATION AND PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

HAYLEY MILLS (BRYANT UNIVERSITY), MELANIE MAIMON (BRYANT UNIVERSITY)

Employment barriers have been found to lead to a heightened risk of recidivism after incarcerated individuals re-enter their community. This study examined if knowledge of rehabilitation has an effect on an individual's decision to hire a formerly incarcerated individual. Participants were more likely to recommend hiring someone who underwent rehabilitation while incarcerated. Hiring recommendation was linked to lower criminal stigma and greater perceived candidate competence and warmth.

POSTER 43

CULTURAL BELIEFS ABOUT THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF INDIVIDUALS RELATE TO GROWTH-FOCUS VALUES

EMMA DESSUREAU (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARY TOWNSEND (ITHACA COLLEGE), HALEY PETRUCCI (ITHACA COLLEGE), SIENNA BERKHEISER (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARY SIMPSON (ITHACA COLLEGE), CHASE BRECHBIEL (ITHACA COLLEGE), LEIGH NATURALE (ITHACA COLLEGE), CAMILLA HILL (ITHACA COLLEGE), LAUREN PLUNKETT (ITHACA COLLEGE), ELIZABETH EDMONDS (ITHACA COLLEGE), SPENCER ELLIS (ITHACA COLLEGE)

Personal values that emphasize growth and freedom from anxiety are openness to change (self-direction, stimulation) and self-transcendence (universalism, benevolence). Openness-to-change values emphasize the self, whereas self-transcendence values emphasize society. We examined how these values relate to self- and other-focused cultural logics of dignity (intrinsic worth of people), honor (worth determined by reciprocity) and face (worth determined by roles and obligations). In multiple regressions, only dignity-self related to openness-to-change, and only dignity-other related to self-transcendence.

POSTER 44

CULTURAL MISMATCH AFFECTS LIFE SATISFACTION AND HAPPINESS ACROSS 77 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

WALEED JAMI (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY), SHAFAG GURBANLI (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY), SRESHTHA CHATTERJEE (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY), ALLIE LASOSKIE (BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY)

People's values often diverge from their environment's norms, creating mismatches that affect well-being. Prior research links such incongruence to stress, lower belonging, and even reduced longevity. We examined cultural mismatch using individualism-collectivism across 77 countries in the World Values Survey. Results showed individualistic people were happier in individualistic cultures but less so in collectivistic ones, whereas collectivistic people maintained high happiness and life satisfaction regardless of cultural context, suggesting that collectivism may buffer mismatch effects.

POSTER 45

DELAYED DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT: HOW TIMING AND REASON AFFECT PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

ADA JOHNSTON (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), ROSS KRAWCZYK (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), NANCY DORR (INDEPENDENT)

Examined the effect of delayed disclosure on perceptions of a rape victim. Participants read a vignette which manipulated length and reason for the delay. Results suggest participants viewed the rape victim as less trustworthy when she didn't report the rape because of shame and stigma

POSTER 46

"MAGICAL": USING SUBSTANCES DURING SEX AMONG SUBSTANCE-INVOLVED SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

ERIN O'CALLAGHAN (INDEPENDENT), LAUREN FISHEL (UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA)

This presentation will cover qualitative data from an interview study of a community sample of substance-involved sexual assault survivors about their wanted/consensual sex that involved substance use.

POSTER 47

DIMENSIONS OF BISEXUAL IDENTITY ON SEXUAL COERCION VICTIMIZATION AND ALCOHOL USE

JESSICA GLENN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), ANNA SHERMAN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), BETHANY NORDSTROM (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), AMY STAMATES (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), SARAH EHLKE (OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY), MICHELLE KELLEY (OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY)

Bisexual women are at risk of poorer outcomes due to minority stress. The present study utilized regression analyses to examine the relationship between bisexual identity facets, past month sexual coercion, drinking to cope motives, and alcohol use in a sample of 225 bisexual women. Findings revealed greater illegitimacy of bisexuality was related to higher likelihood of past month sexual coercion. Greater illegitimacy of bisexuality and anticipated binegativity were associated with stronger drinking to cope motives.

POSTER 48

DESIRED AND EXPERIENCED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATES WITHIN DARK PERSONALITY ARE SOMEWHAT EGO-SYNTONIC

GREGORY TORTORIELLO (CALDWELL UNIVERSITY), HALEIGH FISHER (CALDWELL UNIVERSITY), ISABELLA BILLE (CALDWELL UNIVERSITY)

Dark personality expressions should harmonize with antagonistic psychological experiences. To test this ego-syntonic view, we analysed profiles of dark personality constructs on 45 desired and experienced psychological states. Generally, as dark personality scores increased, undergraduate participants ($N = 283$) were more tolerant of unpleasant emotional states, desired more superiority, and had a reduced preference for pleasant emotional states and high self-worth. Patterns were somewhat similar on experienced states. Dark personality is somewhat ego-syntonic.

POSTER 49

CAN RATERS ACCURATELY DIFFERENTIATE THE LIGHT AND DARK SIDES OF LAUGHTER?

SALLY FARLEY (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), KALVIN GARRAH (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), KAHYSHA PATTERSON (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), SOMER HART (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), STEPHANIE GAMBRELL (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), ZACHARY BAKER-SALMON (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE)

This research aimed to investigate raters' ability to differentiate joyful, affiliative, schadenfreude, and posed laughter using a novel story-telling paradigm. First, research assistants interviewed their loved ones ($N = 100$) who recounted three emotionally charged stories meant to elicit different kinds of laughter. Listeners of these laughs ($N = 101$) accurately identified joyful, affiliative, and posed laughs, but schadenfreude accuracy was below chance. An additional planned replication will investigate context-"pure" laughs on accuracy and pleasantness.

POSTER 50

CORRELATION OF COOL SCALE WITH TYPE A & TYPE B PERSONALITIES

BROOKE O'CONNOR (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), JYH-HANN CHANG (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), NATASHA MERCHANT (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), JACQUELINE COLON (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), GOLD ALUKO (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), PERLA GARRIDO (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY)

This study examined Type A & Type B Personality and compassion in college students. Bortner Type A Rating Scale and Compassion of Others' Lives (COOL) Scale were used to identify the relationship between compassion and personality type. A One-Way ANOVA revealed a statistically significant difference in compassion and personality, $F(3, 189) = 8.486$, $p = .017$, $\eta^2 = .053$. A Pearson correlation coefficient found a significant positive correlation between Type A personality and the COOL Scale $r(190) = .181$, $p < .012$.

POSTER 51**DIFFERENCES IN BIG FIVE PERSONALITY DIMENSIONS BY ETHNICITY IN A LARGE SAMPLE**

TAUPA FOGO-TOUSSAINT (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), ELIJAH BYRD (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), TERESA ANDERSON (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), JENNIFER AYERS (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), STEVEN HOWELL (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how Big Five personality traits vary across fourteen ethnic groups in a large international sample ($N = 19,719$). Although we found significant differences across all traits, the variations in Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Neuroticism were quite small. Openness showed the greatest spread, suggesting possible cultural influences on curiosity and creativity. Overall, the findings support the universality of the Big Five while revealing subtle, culturally shaped variations that merit further study.

POSTER 52**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PERSONALITY AND COMPETITIVENESS IN A DYADIC STUDY OF COMPETITION**

KAIA TAKAHASHI (VASSAR COLLEGE), ATIA GUZMAN BRIONES (VASSAR COLLEGE), VICTOR DEANDA (VASSAR COLLEGE)

This study uses the CSIP and MCOI scales to examine gender differences in personality and competitiveness. College students completed a pre-game survey for the experiment, which focused on personality and interpersonal relationships. Results showed a significant relationship between gender and self-sacrifice on the CSIP. There was also a significant relationship between gender and hypercompetitive orientation and anxiety-driven competition avoidance on the MCOI subscales. Overall, findings both support and challenge simplistic personality assumptions.

POSTER 53**HOW PERSONALITY SHAPES VIDEO GAME GENRE PREFERENCES**

JARED RIVERA (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY), AMY LEARMONTH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY)

Video game research explores how individual differences in personality and behavior traits from the Five-Factor Model influence gaming preferences. Extraverted individuals favor social or action games and open individuals drawn to creative or narrative genres. This study looked at a general college

population and failed to find those relationships predicted by the literature. These findings indicate that video game choices may not mirror deeper psychological tendencies in a general population as they do in gamers.

POSTER 54**INTERNET USE IN SUBSISTENCE SOCIETY: PERSONALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THE MAYANGNA**

NATHALIE ARRUA (EMERSON COLLEGE), CAMERON JAMES BUNKER (EMERSON COLLEGE), DIEGO GUEVERA BELTRÁN (THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA), CÉSAR IVÁN OJEDA LINARES (NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO)

This study examines who uses the internet in a subsistence society. Mayangna participants ($N = 174$) with little but varied internet exposure (60% never; 7% yearly; 33% monthly) reported their personality and mental health. Findings showed that personality traits showed significant, moderate relationships with internet use ($r_s = .19-.31$), but none of the mental health variables did ($r_s = -.09-.00$). These findings test the generalizability and replication of common claims about who uses the internet.

POSTER 55**RECRUITING A FRIEND: PERSONALITY AND INTERPERSONAL PATTERNS IN UNDERGRADUATE FRIENDSHIP DYADS**

ABIGAIL SCHWARTZ (VASSAR COLLEGE), ELISÉE MORA (VASSAR COLLEGE), BRENNAN CHAPKIN (VASSAR COLLEGE), ALLAN CLIFTON (VASSAR COLLEGE)

This exploratory study examined whether friendship-based recruitment in a dyadic design reflects personality or interpersonal problem patterns. Introductory psychology students completed measures and attempted to recruit a friend. The only significant difference found was that successful recruiters scored higher than unsuccessful recruiters in the productivity facet of conscientiousness. Pre-existing dyads also did not differ from randomized pairs on interpersonal problem dimensions. Findings suggest friend-based sampling may subtly reflect sample characteristics.

POSTER 56**THE EFFECT OF TATTOOS AND RACE ON PERCEPTIONS OF INCOME AND PERSONALITY**

KATHRYN PROFITT (NAZARETH COLLEGE)

This study assessed the possible negative impacts of tattoos and race on impressions of others via perceived income and personality traits. Participants viewed images of women with tattoos or with their tattoos digitally removed. Results indicated that tattooed women were viewed as making significantly less money than a non-tattooed counterpart. The findings indicate remaining stigma toward women with tattoos. Real world implications will be discussed.

POSTER 57

THE EFFECTS OF MISLABELING: A FALSE FEEDBACK PERSONALITY STUDY

DANIEL ROZENBERG (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), WILLIAM COLEMAN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), SHANNON HART (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), DAVID WILDER (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK)

This study examined whether false personality feedback can shift self-concept over time. Drawing on labeling theory and stereotype threat research, 60 undergraduates completed the BFI-2 twice, with participants receiving fabricated introversion or extraversion feedback plus three weeks of daily trait-focused self-monitoring. Introversion-feedback participants showed significant decreases in extraversion, whereas extraversion-feedback participants showed negligible change. Findings suggest that even mild mislabeling, when paired with self-monitoring, can alter the self-concept in the direction of the false label.

POSTER 58

TYPOLGICAL ANALYSIS WITH PREVALENCE RATES FOR A LARGE BIG-5 PERSONALITY DATASET

TERESA ANDERSON (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), JENNIFER AYERS (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), ELIJAH BYRD (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), TAUPA FOGO-TOUSSAINT (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY), STEVEN HOWELL (FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY)

We created a typological coding system combining the five dimensions of the Big-Five model of personality (Extraversion/Agreeableness/Conscientiousness/Neuroticism/Openness). Using data from a large personality assessment dataset, we classified participants as High or Low on each trait which resulted in 32 types (like EACNO or IDUST). We calculated prevalence rates for these 32 types. Types were significantly different in prevalence rates, $\chi^2(31) = 41213$, $p < 0.001$ and type

prevalences were significantly different by Gender, $\chi^2(93) = 1053.244$, $p < 0.001$.

POSTER 59

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAMPUS-BASED INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

KATRINA PASCUA (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), ABBEY MOONEY (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), LENNY MACHESIC (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), ANNIE WEGRZYN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Sexual, dating, and domestic violence (SV/DV) pose serious risks to student safety on college campuses. Since SV/DV rates differ across institutions, the needs and gaps in support also vary. This study looked at students' perspectives on available SV/DV resources and insights on how to strengthen campus support. Through qualitative interviews with 28 undergraduates, students emphasized increasing the visibility of services, clarifying their purpose, and building frequent collaborations, especially with organizations that support minoritized student communities.

POSTER 60

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: REACTIONS TO NORMALIZING MESSAGES ABOUT MEN'S SEXUAL FLUIDITY AND BISEXUALITY

MEGAN CARPENTER (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), CHANTEL MCCARTHY (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY)

The precarious sexuality effect highlights how straight men face increased scrutiny and negative mental health outcomes when their sexuality questioned. Eighty-seven male participants were randomly assigned to read a fake news story about men's sexual fluidity that was either framed as normalizing or stigmatizing. The normalizing condition reported lower sexual desires and fantasies about men, while the stigmatizing condition reported higher past penetrative sex experiences with men than the normalizing condition.

POSTER 61

THE ROLE OF SEXUALITY AND RACIAL IDENTITY ON PERCEPTIONS OF GRADUATE APPLICANTS

ARIANNA VOTTA (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), MICHELE VAN VOLKOM (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the effects of racial identity and sexual orientation on perceptions of a male graduate school applicant. Utilizing a 2 X 2 between-subjects factorial design, it was found that Black applicants were rated higher on deservingness, prototypicality,

and competence (but not sociability) versus White applicants. No main effects were found for sexual orientation (straight or gay) on any of the outcome variables, and no significant interaction effects were found.

POSTER 62

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ON ATTITUDES TOWARD AND BEHAVIORS IN SUPER SMASH BROS MELEE

JACOB SCATAGLINI (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ALFRED MINGRONE (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), GAYLE BESSENOFF (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), KELLY STIVER (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

We examined individual demographic characteristics on attitudes toward and behaviors in Super Smash Bros Melee. We used principal component analysis to identify underlying components from responses to an online survey and examined age, gender, and race as predictors of the components of investment, commitment, and in-game behaviors. Age was a predictor of overall time investment and in-person investment, and race predicted online investment and ambiguous in-game behaviors.

POSTER 63

DISCRIMINATION PREDICTS PREGNANCY-SPECIFIC DISTRESS AMONG BLACK BIRTHING PEOPLE

MADELYN CORRELLUS (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY), TOLULOPE ARIYO (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY), CHAMI LIFULA (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY), BETTY LIN (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY)

Pregnancy-specific distress involves concerns about pregnancy-related health, changing roles, and relationships. Drawing on the stress proliferation theory, this study examines discrimination as a predictor of pregnancy-specific distress and the moderating role of racial identity among Black birthing people (N = 104). Experiences of sexism, racism, and gendered racism each independently predicted distress, and racial centrality moderated the association between sexism and distress. Findings highlight how discrimination and racial identity interact to shape pregnancy-related distress.

POSTER 64

DOES EMPATHIZING WITH POSITIVE EMOTIONS OF OTHERS REDUCE PHYSIOLOGICAL PRECURSORS OF BURNOUT?

ANGELINA GONZALEZ (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MICHAEL ANDREYCHIK (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Burnout involves emotional exhaustion and negative health outcomes. This study examined how empathic focus influences burnout. Participants (N=173) viewed emotional videos under one of four empathic perspective conditions. Self-reported burnout was highest among those focusing on negative emotions and lower among those focusing on positive emotions or remaining objective. Stroop accuracy showed similar patterns, while physiological effects were nonsignificant. Findings provide some evidence that empathizing with struggling others' positive emotions may protect against burnout.

POSTER 65

DYNAMIC NORMS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS HEALTHCARE PRACTICES

CECILIA RABAYDA (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), MAGGI PRICE (BOSTON COLLEGE), GREGG SPARKMAN (BOSTON COLLEGE)

This survey experiment investigates whether framing trends as due to perceived updating (learning new information) increases the influence of dynamic norms (observing the collective change) on attitudes towards gender-affirming care (GAC). We found participants who received information about growing support for GAC supported the cause more than those who did not, and the effect was larger when that growth was attributed to people learning new information about GAC.

POSTER 66

BETWEEN FREE WILL AND FATE: LOCUS OF CONTROL AND THE RELIGIOUS MIND

JACQUELINE CHELEDNIK (MARIST UNIVERSITY), ERIK MOODY (MARIST UNIVERSITY), ALEXIS FUHR (MARIST UNIVERSITY), MEGAN SAVAGE (MARIST UNIVERSITY), HONORINE PERERA (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

Locus of control is a measure of where people perceive the power in their lives. Prior research has shown a higher external locus of control in spiritual and religious individuals. Recent evidence suggests a change in Americans' relationship with religion nationwide. This study was conducted to re-examine the historical trend seen between locus of control and religiosity. Researchers created a survey collection including Julian Rotter's locus of control scale and the Centrality of Religiosity Scale.

POSTER 67**DO MORAL AND PRAGMATIC JUDGMENTS DIFFER IN THEIR PHYSIOLOGICAL CORRELATES?**

KEILY BARRERA (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY),
 MARCUS BELL (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY),
 BRITTANY HANSON (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY),
 DANIEL WISNESKI (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY)

Based on theories arguing that moral judgments result primarily from affect-laden, "moral intuition", the current study tested whether people exhibit greater physiological arousal when judging behaviors in moral terms. Specifically, participants evaluated a series of 60 different behaviors while we collected data on their skin conductance levels. Furthermore, we also measured several individual difference variables related to affective/intuitive responding to help validate any skin conductance results we found.

POSTER 68**EFFECTS OF GRATITUDE EXPRESSIONS AND VOICING CONCERNS ON WELL-BEING AMONG CANCER CAREGIVERS**

CHEN-CHUAN WANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY),
 CAIWEI PENG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), SHUTING
 YANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), CECILIA CHEN (NEW
 YORK UNIVERSITY), QINGYI ZHANG (NEW YORK
 UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK
 UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether interpersonal openness—gratitude expression and voicing concerns—predicts well-being among cancer caregivers. Regression analyses revealed that both predictors were associated with a greater level of life satisfaction and a lower level of depression. Voicing concerns also predicted a higher level of received social support and a lower level of caregiving burden. Findings suggest that emotionally open communication can strengthen social connections and promote psychological resilience in caregiving contexts.

POSTER 69**EFFECTS OF MEDIA VALENCE ON POLITICAL SELF-EFFICACY, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, & CIVIC PRIDE**

SIERRA MICHEL (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), NATALIE
 CIAROCCHI (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

In this study, participants were randomly assigned to view a video that cut to advertisements that aligned with, or contradicted, the original video's tone. They were either assigned to a fully positive, fully negative, or mixed-toned condition. Participants provided ratings of civic pride, civic engagement, and political self-

efficacy. No significant differences in these variables were found based on video condition.

POSTER 70**EFFECTS OF NARRATIVE REFLECTION ON STEM IDENTITY AND BELONGING IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS**

ZAINAB FAISAL (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF
 TECHNOLOGY), MELISA SHARKLY (FORDHAM
 UNIVERSITY), JAELYN WESLEY (NEW YORK
 INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), AHAYLEE RAHMAN
 (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), ROBERT
 ALEXANDER (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

This study examines whether creating reflective narrative posts on social media strengthens undergraduate students' sense of identity and belonging in STEM. Participants were assigned to either narrative—single platform, narrative—transmedia, or non-narrative conditions and instructed to complete three structured reflection tasks. Pre and Post-surveys measured STEM identity and belonging. The project investigates how storytelling across varied communication formats may support feelings of inclusion, confidence, and long-term engagement for emerging scientists.

POSTER 71**EFFECTS OF SELF-COMPASSION ON NARCISSISTIC DEFENSIVENESS**

ADRIENNE CROWELL (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY),
 SOPHIA IANNELLI (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY),
 ISABELLE SONDHOF (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY),
 CHLOE BRIGGINS (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY),
 MADISON CONKLIN (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY),
 ISABELLA ORYBKIEWICZ (SACRED HEART
 UNIVERSITY), CAROLINE WOELFEL (SACRED HEART
 UNIVERSITY)

This study tests whether inducing self-compassion reduces defensiveness following threat, particularly among individuals high in vulnerable versus grandiose narcissism. Participants from Sona and Prolific complete narcissism measures, a threat scenario, a self-compassion or control writing task, and defensiveness items. Findings will clarify whether self-compassion buffers against maladaptive threat responses in vulnerable narcissism. Future work should incorporate behavioral or physiological indicators of threat to move beyond self-report and examine responses to real, personally meaningful threats.

POSTER 72**EMERGING ADULTHOOD SUBSTANCE USE MOTIVES AND THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WITH SIMULTANEOUS USE**

MELISSA ROTHSTEIN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), SABRINA TODARO (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), AMY STAMATES (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

The current study examined emerging adult motives for alcohol, cannabis, and simultaneous use frequency and consequences among college students. Developmental strain was related to alcohol use, cannabis use, and simultaneous use frequency, while normative expectancy was related to cannabis use only. No motives were associated with simultaneous use consequences. Findings suggest developmental strain is a common stressor of substance use behaviors, whereas simultaneous use consequences may reflect contextual/behavioral factors beyond the developmental motives assessed.

POSTER 73**EVALUATING THE CONSTRUCT VALIDITY OF THE AVOID, REDIRECT, CONFRONT (ARC) SCALE**

CAMRYN BLAIR (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), KATHERINE HOGAN (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), DELIA GALLAGHER (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), KALA MELCHIORI (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)

The present research assesses the construct validity of the Avoid, Redirect, Confront (ARC) scale. The ARC scale measures common target responses to discrimination: Avoidance (i.e., ignoring bias), Redirection (i.e., continued engagement but not addressing the bias), and Confrontation (i.e., addressing bias with the perpetrator). We found that the ARC subscales were reliable and correlated with several scales of interest, including the Prejudice Confrontation Styles Scale (Chaney & Sanchez, 2022) and the COPE Inventory (Carver, 1988).

POSTER 74**EXAMINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAYPEOPLE AND PROFESSIONALS' ENDORSEMENT OF MEMORY BELIEFS ON TIKTOK.**

SKYE MARTIN (PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST), JACK GANGWISCH (PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST), CHRISTINA PEREZ (ARCADIA), ABIGAIL DEMPSY (PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST)

The debate regarding the legitimacy of repressed memories, termed the "memory wars", persists today. The present study examined the information shared about memory by professionals and laypeople on

TikTok. We found 24.30% of videos endorsed the belief that memories for trauma can be repressed and then recovered. This message was more commonly expressed by professionals (44%) than laypeople (21.45%). Our findings suggest social media platforms may be contributing to the continued discourse surrounding repressed memories.

POSTER 75**EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP OF PERFECTIONISM WITH RUNNERS' PREFERENCES AND EXPERIENCES.**

OLIVIA JOHANSSON (PACE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined perfectionism's relationship with runners' characteristics and preferences. Previous research has shown that perfectionistic tendencies can be both adaptive and maladaptive, and different levels may influence runners' experiences. Eighty runners completed an online survey. Results showed that different types of perfectionism correlated with runner characteristics, including the types of races they participate in, injury status, and age. This study enhances our understanding of how perfectionism operates in an understudied athlete population.

POSTER 76**EXPLORING PARENT-FOR-CHILD OPIOID STORAGE AND DISPOSAL THROUGH THE PROTOTYPE WILLINGNESS MODEL**

MAEVE MCGOWAN (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), BRADLEY TRAGER (LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY), OLIVER HATCH (LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY), SARAH BOYLE (LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY), MELANIE SIEGEL (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), JOSEPH LABRIE (LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY), LUCY NAPPER (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY)

Parents struggle to safely store and dispose of prescription opioids. Using the Prototype Willingness Model, the current study explores how attitudes, norms, and risk images impact parents' willingness and intentions to store and dispose of opioids properly. Results suggest perceived norms and prototype favorability and similarity predict willingness to engage in unsafe behaviors. Importantly, willingness mediated the effect of predictors on intentions, such that greater willingness to behave unsafely predicted weaker intentions to behave safely.

POSTER 77**EXPLORING THE REDUCTION OF COLONIAL MENTALITY WITH A CRITICAL HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVENTION**

ALANIS CAMACHO-NARVAEZ (BOSTON COLLEGE),
DIANE-JO BART-PLANGE (BOSTON COLLEGE)

Colonial mentality (CM), the psychological consequence of colonialism through the internalization of systemic oppression, has a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of people with a colonial history. Successful decolonizing initiatives have educated about colonial history and drawn parallels between the past and present. Research shows knowledge of past racism positively associates with perceptions of racism today. We explore whether CM in Puerto Ricans can be reduced by teaching critical historical knowledge of colonial history.

POSTER 78

FAMILIAL INCARCERATION, BELONGING, AND JUSTICE REFORM AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

BEYANIA DOVER (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY),
SAIGE REIPH (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), MYA
BROWN (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), ROBBINS
EDWARDS (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), AMBER
HODGES (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how familial incarceration impacts college students' social relationships, sense of belonging and engagement with justice reform. Students from two Maryland universities (an HBCU and PWI) will be surveyed. We hypothesize that students with incarcerated family members will report lower belonging, greater stress, and stronger support for reform. Findings will indicate that there is a need for campus environments that address stigma, strengthen community connections, and empower students impacted by the system.

POSTER 79

FAMILY LONELINESS MATTERS: THE BENEFITS OF UTILIZING MULTIDIMENSIONAL METRICS OF LONELINESS

DANIEL DISTEFANO (UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), JENNIFER MCDERMOTT
(UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST)

Contemporary research analyzing loneliness tends to utilize unidimensional metrics that potentially overlook unique relationship struggles the LGBTQ+ population experiences, including identity concealment and family rejection. In an online survey of 77 undergraduates ($M = 19.74$ years, LGBTQ+ = 44.2%), a unidimensional metric of loneliness failed to detect group differences, whereas a family subscale of a multidimensional metric revealed a moderate-to-large group difference. Future research of LGBTQ+ individuals may benefit from using multidimensional loneliness metrics.

POSTER 80

FRIENDING BIAS AND THE LINK BETWEEN CHILDHOOD UPWARD EXPOSURE AND ADULT DEPRESSION

ANDREA SANTALLA ESCOBAR (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-
CAMDEN)

Social determinants of health shape mental wellbeing, yet evidence is mixed on whether early cross-class exposure benefits adult mental health. Using cross-sectional county-level data ($N = 2,113$), I found that counties with higher childhood upward exposure had lower adult depression rates, and this association was strongest where friending bias was low; that is, where social networks were less segregated by class. Findings suggest that social integration may condition the mental health relevance of early exposure.

POSTER 81

GENDER AND DOMAIN STEREOTYPES IN ADULTS' EVALUATIONS OF CHILDREN'S ABILITIES

TAYLOR STONE (BOSTON COLLEGE), KATHRYN
JACOBY (CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY),
SOFIA SMITH (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SARA CORDES
(BOSTON COLLEGE)

Adult's perceptions shape the feedback and opportunities children receive. Across two studies, adults ($N = 358$) judged children's intelligence and effort when girls or boys either excelled or struggled in math and reading. Adults attributed success in math more to natural talent than success in reading, and struggles in stereotype consistent domains (e.g., girls struggling in reading, boys in math) to low effort. Findings highlight how domain, gender, and effort shape adults' evaluations of children.

POSTER 82

WHEN NOSTALGIA BACKFIRES: HEIGHTENED STIGMA TOWARD AUTISTIC INDIVIDUALS

ELIZABETH MENDE (MARIST UNIVERSITY), JAMES
HALL (MARIST UNIVERSITY), EMMA FREDRICK
(MARIST UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether inducing nostalgia could reduce stigmatization towards autistic individuals. Twenty-eight participants were randomly assigned to experimental or control groups and completed a writing task designed to induce nostalgic or neutral memories of an autistic individual they knew well, then completed measures of acceptance and stigma. The manipulation failed, resulting in no group differences. However, using the manipulation checks as a proxy for nostalgic feelings showed that higher nostalgia correlated with higher stigma.

POSTER 83**EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MASKING BEHAVIORS AND WELL-BEING AMONG ADULTS WITH AUTISM**

JILLIAN RIGGIO (CALDWELL UNIVERSITY), LILY TSOI (CALDWELL UNIVERSITY)

Autistic traits (e.g., repetitive motions or intense, narrow interests) are often stigmatized. Individuals with autism are often encouraged to "mask" or suppress these traits. Our correlational study examines the relationship between masking behaviors and well-being in adults with autism (N=100). Data collection and correlational analyses will be complete prior to the conference. Results will enhance our understanding of experiences faced by people with autism and help reduce associated stigma.

POSTER 84**POWER, SOCIAL ROLES, AND SANCTIONS IN COLLEGE RESIDENCE HALLS**

DAVID LIBERATORE (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANDREW STEWART (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study focuses on dormitory resident advisors' attitudes and justifications regarding resident advisors' interactions with residents. Literature regarding power notes the propensity for empowered individuals to choose action over inaction and apply different justifications for the use of punishment. David Liberatore and Professor Andrew Stewart will perform a 2x2 ANOVA regarding the influence of restorative justice attitudes and power roles on students' and RAs' responses to a vignette regarding a rulebreaking student.

Friday, February 27, 2026

1:40pm – 2:40pm

Paper

Independence A

**TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY PAPERS:
PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES
Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm**

CHAIR: MARIANNE E LLOYD, PHD

1:40pm – 1:50pm

FROM SCREEN TO THEORY: TEACHING A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY ELECTIVE THROUGH REALITY TV

DARYA LIKHACHEVA (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDRA ANTHONIOZ (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY)

Students often struggle to apply social-psychology concepts to real, ambiguous situations. Psychology Behind Reality TV, an upper-division social-psychology elective, addresses this gap by using full reality-TV seasons as authentic cases that foster evidence-based analysis, written reasoning, and consideration of alternatives. Designed online-first yet modality-flexible, it supports sustained engagement across formats. We present assessment data from two iterations, including objective outcomes, student evaluations, and outline limitations and future directions for broader testing and curricular refinement.

1:55pm – 2:05pm

SHOULD YOU GIVE A KAHOOT!?

MARIANNE LLOYD (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), AMY HUNTER (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), BRIDGET KENNEY (PACE UNIVERSITY)

Although Kahoot! is a popular way to review material, there is a lack of research regarding its efficacy in controlled studies. We will present the results of several experiments comparing a Kahoot! to individual testing before a final test one week later. Overall, with both recognition and recall memory, performance is higher for individual review than Kahoot! games. Potential reasons for this difference and additional reasons to still consider game-based reviews will be discussed.

2:10pm – 2:20pm

PROMOTING AI LITERACY ACROSS THE PSYCHOLOGY CURRICULUM

KARYNA PRYIOMKA (LEHMAN COLLEGE CUNY)

As generative AI becomes integrated across professions, psychology is uniquely positioned to provide students with both content knowledge and skills necessary to succeed across fields. This presentation shares two assignments that develop AI literacy while centering psychological constructs. One examines AI's impact on skills in psychology-related careers; the other analyzes AI responses for cognitive and behavioral patterns. Attendees will receive ready-to-use materials and strategies for integrating AI literacy across the psychology curriculum.

2:25pm – 2:35pm

STUDENTS' ADHERENCE TO AI COURSE POLICY AND THEIR BELIEFS ABOUT ETHICS

LUCY CUI (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ), SHANKAR VELUDANDI (RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE), OMRI MAOR (RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE)

Our study collected students' use of AI for various academic tasks, their adherence different AI course policies, and their beliefs about the ethics of academic AI use. Wording of the course policy does not change how often students adhere to course policy. Only a minority of students thought AI gives an unfair advantage. Those that believe AI use is ethical and not unfair will use AI regardless of policy.

Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

Paper

Independence B

LEARNING PAPERS: ASSOCIATIVE LEARNING
Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

CHAIR: JENNIFER ABRAMS

1:40pm – 1:50pm

EXTINCTION CONTEXTS AND THE TRANSFER OF INHIBITION FROM ONE CS TO ANOTHER

TRAVIS TODD (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), DANIELLE FOURNIER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), SHAINA WEINGART (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), EMERY HARLAN (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), SAMANTHA MORIARTY (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), NEIL WINTERBAUER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), JOHN GREEN (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), MARK BOUTON (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

Pavlovian extinction is thought to produce context-specific learning akin to negative occasion setting. In experiments with discrete cues, occasion setters transfer control to targets of other occasion setters. However, it is less clear if such transfer occurs with extinction contexts. Here we report a within-subject experiment with rats in which we test renewal of an extinguished CS in a context that was home to extinction of another CS, and thus a putative negative occasion setter.

1:55pm – 2:05pm

ASSESSING CONDITIONED INHIBITION: COMPARING BIVALENT RATINGS WITH SUMMATION AND RETARDATION TESTS

RAFI ARNOB (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY), DAVE JIANG (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY), EDWARD COOK (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY), JIM WITNAEUR (SUNY BROCKPORT), ROBIN MURPHY (OXFORD UNIVERSITY), RALPH MILLER (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY)

Summation and retardation tests for condition inhibition are influenced by test parameters and variables outside of the associative status of the target cue being tested. Prior work suggested an approach/withdrawal measure might provide an efficient alternative. After negative contingency training, our participants evaluated cues on a bivalent rating scale and summation and retardation tests. Negative ratings on the bivalent scale measured associative inhibition similar to summation and retardation tests, but without contamination from other factors.

2:10pm – 2:20pm

DO CONDITIONED STIMULI AND REWARDS THEY PREDICT ACTIVATE THE SAME INTERNAL REPRESENTATION?

JENNIFER ABRAMS (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), NORMAN TU (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), DANIEL SIEGEL (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), ANDREW DELAMATER (CUNY BROOKLYN COLLEGE)

Three groups of rats were trained in a Pavlovian-Instrumental Transfer (PIT) paradigm with an incongruent biconditional operant task, in which some received a delay between response and outcome and some were given non-differential Pavlovian conditioning. We evaluated these data with permutation analyses and found that training with delayed rewards produced greater variability of PIT scores than would occur by chance. This suggests that rats trained with delays processed the Pavlovian outcomes in qualitatively different ways.

2:25pm – 2:35pm

A KERNEL MACHINE APPROACH TO THREE VARIANTS OF RESCORLA-WAGNER'S MODEL

NATHAM AGUIRRE (INDEPENDENT)

The Replaced Elements Model (Wagner, 2003), the Inhibited Elements Model (Thorwart and Lachnit, 2020), and the Context-Dependent Added-Elements model (George, 2020) are variants of Rescorla-Wagner's (1972) model. In these variants, stimulus representation is context-dependent, which makes them interesting but difficult to study in full generality. In this talk I present a formalization of these models as kernel machines, translating psychological principles into mathematical formulations well suited to perform analytic manipulations.

Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

Paper

St. George C

APPLIED PAPERS: COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH
Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

CHAIR: TAMARAH SMITH

1:40pm – 1:50pm

**IMPACTS OF VICTIM AND HARASSER GENDER IN
 SEXUAL HARASSMENT AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
 CASES**

KATLYN FARNUM (SIENA UNIVERSITY), LILIA LIVOLSI
 (SIENA UNIVERSITY)

The current study examined perceptions of a sexual harassment case that utilized an affirmative defense to remove liability from the defendant. The study was a 2 (harasser gender) x 2 (victim gender) between participants design. Blame attributions, reasonableness, and verdict were collected along with attitudes about reporting harassment. Participants perceived and treated the male victim more favorably than the female victim, particularly if they endorsed beliefs about the importance of reporting harassment.

1:55pm – 2:05pm

**SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY
 ENGAGEMENT AMONG VULNERABLE
 POPULATIONS: A CASE STUDY**

TAMARAH SMITH (THE RESEARCH SCHOOL), JIA-HAN
 YANG (TEMPLE UNIVERSITY), FRAN HELD (MITZVAH
 CIRCLE), JOESPH CIMAKASKY (MITZVAH CIRCLE)

We examined how families in an economic crisis experienced changes in their mental health after receiving support in accessing essential goods. Results from pre (N = 606) and post-surveys (N = 249) and 13 interviews showed that receiving essential items reduced emotional stress and financial burdens, which helped participants engage in work/school and social activities. The findings suggest that access to essential goods supports mental health and encourages participation in daily life and community engagement.

2:10pm – 2:20pm

**THE POWER WITHIN: MAKING POSITIVE
 PSYCHOLOGY REAL, RELEVANT, AND RELATABLE
 FOR ADOLESCENTS**

ANGELA M. DESILVA MOUSSEAU (MERRIMACK
 COLLEGE)

This pilot study evaluated The Power Within, a brief, strengths-based, school-based, experiential psychoeducational program grounded in PYD. Using an embedded mixed-methods design, session ratings and focus group interviews from the larger study indicated strong goodness of fit, with content described as real, relevant, and relatable—consistent with research showing that adolescent interventions aligned with interests, identity, and context enhance outcomes. Findings support further research using a larger, controlled trial to examine longitudinal effects.

2:25pm – 2:35pm

**TRADING RIGOR FOR REALITY: ANALYZING
 PROTOCOL ADAPTATIONS IN COMMUNITY-
 PARTNERED RESEARCH**

CATHERINE MELLO (PENN STATE COLLEGE OF
 MEDICINE A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE
 UNIV), CHRISTINE LEFEBVRE (UNIVERSITÉ DU
 QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL), MÉLINA RIVARD (UNIVERSITÉ
 DU QUÉBEC À MONTRÉAL)

Community-based participatory research requires balancing methodological rigor with stakeholder needs, yet no framework exists for systematically documenting research protocol adaptations in these contexts. We extended and applied FRAME (Framework for Reporting Adaptations and Modifications) to a three-year trial of a positive behavior support intervention within public early intervention services for developmental disabilities. Analysis of protocol adaptations revealed decision-making patterns prioritizing community-based participatory research values and implementation outcomes over research indicators.

Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

Event

Great Republic

PSI CHI AWARDS CEREMONY
Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

CHAIR: INGRID TULLOCH PHD

PSI CHI AWARDS CEREMONY

INGRID TULLOCH (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

The Psi Chi President-Elect (Dr. Darren Bernal) and Eastern Region Vice President (Dr. Ingrid Tulloch) will recognize the winners of the Regional Chapter Award, Eastern Regional Research Awards, and Regional Travel Grants. Regional Chapter Award and Research Award winners will receive their certificates and monetary awards. Research Award winners will present their work during a data blitz. Hors d'oeuvres will be available for Psi Chi students, their faculty sponsors, and advisors.

Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

Symposium

St. George A/B

**CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM: CHILDHOOD ABUSE
PREDICTS ADULT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS - A
MULTI-STUDY MEDIATION ANALYSIS**
Friday, February 27, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

CHAIR: USHA BARAHMAND

**CHILDHOOD ABUSE PREDICTS ADULT PHYSICAL
SYMPTOMS – A MULTI-STUDY MEDIATION
ANALYSIS**

USHA BARAHMAND (QUEENS COLLEGE CUNY,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

Four studies examined childhood emotional and sexual abuse predicting adult physical symptoms through hostility, stress, loneliness, lifestyle quality, and sleep disturbances using parallel and serial mediation models. Emotional and sexual abuse showed robust total effects with persistent direct paths and significant indirect effects via stress and sleep. Loneliness produced suppressive effects. Serial models confirmed stress-to-sleep and hostility/lifestyle-to-stress pathways, advancing trauma-somatization mechanisms for targeted interventions.

Presentations

**Childhood Abuse Predicts Adult Physical
Symptoms – A Multi-Study Mediation Analysis**
by Usha Barahmand (City University of New York and Columbia University), Stanley William Davis (Columbia University), Aldiona Daulle (City University of New York), Helena Huynh (Columbia University), Ilirian Traga (Columbia University), Chinonye Omeirondi (Columbia University)

Discussant

Usha Barahmand (City University of New York and Columbia University)

Friday, February 27, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

Symposium

St. George C

**SOCIAL SYMPOSIUM: HOW SOCIAL CATEGORIES
ALTER CONCEPTUALIZATION, PERCEPTIONS,
AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION**
Friday, February 27, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

CHAIR: BALBIR SINGH

**HOW SOCIAL CATEGORIES ALTER
CONCEPTUALIZATION, PERCEPTIONS, AND
RESOURCE ALLOCATION.**

BALBIR SINGH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE)

Three speakers share unique perspectives related to social categorizations from their respective intergroup relations, cognitive psychology, and health psychology subfields. The first speaker will discuss the underlying mechanism in race essentialisms. The second speaker will discuss how race impacts perceptions of highly familiar racial outgroup targets. The third speaker will discuss how the category labels researchers use alter how resources are allocated to individuals.

Presentations

**What lies beneath the perception of racial
categories as fixed?**

by John Tawa (Mount Holyoke College)

**Testing the categorization-individuation model:
How race alters the individuation for familiar
individuals**

by Balbir Singh (Mount Holyoke College), Joshua Correll (University of Colorado Boulder)

**Intracategorical intersectional design and sexual
violence disparities among young bisexual people**

by Corey Flanders (Mount Holyoke College), Nicole VanKim (University of Massachusetts Amherst), RaeAnn Anderson (University of Missouri - Kansas City)

Friday, February 27, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

Poster

America Ballroom Center/South

UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS II
Friday, February 27, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

POSTER 1**DUAL-LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS IN PRACTICE: INVESTIGATING THE PREVALENCE OF CORE TEACHING STRATEGIES**

VIVIAN PAIZ (CLARK UNIVERSITY), SOFIA GUZMAN-FARIAS (CLARK UNIVERSITY), EMMA ESQUIVEL-HERRERA (CLARK UNIVERSITY), CALLIE MCCARTHY (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ALENA ESPOSITO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), AMBER WESTOVER (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHAPEL HILL), JENNIFER COFFMAN (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA GREENSBORO)

This study investigates the prevalence of teachers' use of district-required teaching strategies in bilingual elementary classrooms. Using 60 minutes of video-recorded classroom instruction from seven teachers in dual-language classrooms, transcripts are coded for five targeted instructional strategies: Language Objectives, Academic Vocabulary, Background Knowledge, Group Work, and Discussion Protocols. By comparing district expectations with documented instructional practice, the project aims to clarify alignment between professional development and classroom realities and inform more responsive multilingual-education training.

POSTER 2**GENDER AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION: ASSESSING INFLUENCES OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

CALLIE MCCARTHY (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ALENA ESPOSITO (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated whether bilingual education can mitigate the education gender gap for bilingual students. In one reading measure, girls outperformed boys, though gender effects were absent in the other measures. Participation in bilingual programs significantly improved math performance, but not reading. No interaction was found between gender and language programs, indicating that bilingual education does not significantly reduce the gender gap. Findings highlight program benefits for math and call for broader research.

POSTER 3**INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF MUTUAL AID IN MITIGATING SCARCITY-RELATED COGNITIVE OUTCOMES**

JOSEPHINE LIBONATE (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ALENA ESPOSITO (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Greater perceived financial scarcity leads to heightened fatigue and reduced attentional control,

lessening inferential learning. Experiences of financial scarcity create barriers to academic success. This study examines mutual aid programs as a potential moderator of the relation between scarcity and cognitive functioning. Participants completed questionnaires on mutual aid use, perceived scarcity, multidimensional fatigue, and attentional control. We hypothesize that mutual aid use will minimize fatigue and strengthen attentional control. Potential findings may guide future interventions.

POSTER 4**SOCIAL MEDIA "SLUDGE CONTENT": EFFECTS ON ATTENTION AND MEMORY**

CAMILLA VITOLA-FRANCHI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ALENA ESPOSITO (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study examines the effects of a split-screen short-form video phenomenon referred to as "sludge content" on attention and memory. Participants' eye movements were recorded as they viewed either single-stream media or media with sludge content, and a test was administered to measure content recall across conditions. While research has been done on social media, multitasking, and general split-screen viewing, the effects of the sludge content phenomenon specifically on cognitive processes have been insufficiently explored.

POSTER 5**EVALUATING THE PARKINSON'S ANXIETY SCALE IN OLDER ADULTS WITHOUT PARKINSON'S DISEASE.**

MATISSE NASH (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), NISHAAT MUKADAM (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ALICE CRONIN-GOLOMB (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

The Parkinson's Anxiety Scale (PAS), which was developed for use in persons with Parkinson's disease (PwPD), has not been applied to other populations, restricting group-comparison possibilities. We administered the PAS and a general anxiety measure, the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI), to 13 healthy older adults (HOA) and 347 PwPD, and found significant correlations between the scales within both groups. The PAS may capture meaningful aspects of anxiety in HOA, supporting its use for cross-group comparisons.

POSTER 6**WHAT YOU TELL THEM FIRST MATTERS: LEARNING OBJECTIVES ON LEARNING AND PERCEPTIONS**

JIA YI SHI (COLBY COLLEGE), KATE SAHAGIAN (COLBY COLLEGE), TIMO RADINOV (COLBY COLLEGE),

ADDISON SCHONEWALD (COLBY COLLEGE), ALYSSA LAWSON (COLBY COLLEGE)

We examined whether the presence and placement of learning objectives (LO), or statements that explain what students should understand by the end of a lesson, affect learning outcomes and lesson perceptions. We were interested in whether attentional strength moderated this relationship. Students watch a series of video clips on eclipses then completed a posttest. Students who received LOs at the beginning of the lesson had marginally higher posttest scores and interest in the lesson.

POSTER 7

THE INFLUENCE OF DEFENDANT GENDER ON MOCK JUROR INSANITY PLEA DECISION MAKING

ELLI CHEW (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY), ALEXIS KEEFER (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), RYLIE LUSCH (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), THOMAS HATVANY (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), AMBER NORWOOD (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

This study examined whether defendant gender (cis-male, cis-female, trans-male, trans-female) influenced mock jurors' verdicts in an insanity defense case. Participants read a vignette describing a person with schizophrenia charged with assault and selected a legal outcome. A chi-square analysis showed no significant differences in verdict across gender ($\chi^2(12) = 12.99$, $p = .3694$). These findings suggest jurors prioritized psychiatric evidence over gender. Exploratory and Bayesian analyses will further evaluate whether subtle underlying relationships may exist.

POSTER 8

MULTIPLE EXPOSURE TO CRIMINAL SUSPECTS: DOES DOUBLE-BLIND ADMINISTRATION PREVENT EYEWITNESS ERRORS?

SOPHIE RASOL (BATES COLLEGE), AMY DOUGLASS (BATES COLLEGE)

Psychological scientists recommend that eyewitnesses view a criminal suspect only once. The current research tests the impact of multiple exposures to a suspect as a function of whether a photospread administrator actively chooses an intervening image to show participant-witnesses (i.e., a single-blind condition) or whether it is randomly determined (i.e., a double-blind condition). Findings are expected to show that witnesses choose an innocent suspect more frequently in the single-blind (vs. double-blind) condition.

POSTER 9

DIVERGENT THINKING: EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CREATIVITY AND PLAY IN CHILDREN.

LEAH BIBULA (CLARK UNIVERSITY), HANNAH HOGAN (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANA K. MARCELO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), TUPPETT M. YATES (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE)

This research aims to identify a correlation between children's expressed affect and imagination in play and their later creativity, as measured by divergent thinking, to provide a deeper understanding of their relationship as it pertains to child development. We found that expressed affect in play is related to divergent thinking, and these relations vary by gender. From this, we can foster productive play environments for all children.

POSTER 10

EXAMINATION OF UBE3C: LOOKING DEEPER AT SUBSTITUTIONS RELATING TO AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

VICTORIA QUAGENTI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), EMILY SCHAFFTER (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANNA TINKLENBERG (CLARK UNIVERSITY), DONALD SPRATT (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

UBE3C, an important ubiquitylation enzyme, has been previously genetically linked to ASD (autism spectrum disorder), specifically in two key substitutions, F996C and S845F. This study aims to investigate this relationship deeper on a molecular level through concentration-dependent FRET assays and Nano Differential Scanning Calorimetry (Nano DSC). Results have suggested a decreased thermostability among ASD linked substitutions in comparison to the WT UBE3C extended HECT. This research aims to understand the UBE3C function relating to ASD.

POSTER 11

EXAMINING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SELF-ORIENTED PERFECTIONISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

STEVEN FILIPE (PACE UNIVERSITY)

Perfectionistic students may use social media in different ways than less perfectionistic students. Students ($N = 120$) completed an online survey on perfectionism and social media use (image-, comparison-, belief-, and consumption-based use). Findings suggest that the variables are not significantly correlated with each other. Despite the small effect size, social media still has immediate effects on students. Other factors, like mental health, may be

involved. More research should be conducted to examine this further.

POSTER 12

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN MECHANISMS OF POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

AMIRAH KRAFT (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA GIANNICCHI (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JASMINE RAFAI (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA MUNDY (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA AGUIRRE (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MELANY GODINEZ (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), DANISHA SANTOS (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), RAFAEL JAVIER (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

This study examined gender differences in PTSD symptoms, coping, emotional regulation, and personality. Using validated measures and regression analyses, we found women reported higher PTSD symptoms and scored higher in Conscientiousness and other resilience-related traits, while men reported earlier trauma exposure, greater emotional-regulation difficulties, and higher coping scores. Findings suggest women may exhibit stronger long-term resilience, whereas men may rely on short-term coping despite regulatory challenges. Results highlight gender-specific patterns relevant for future PTSD research.

POSTER 13

AN EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH TO INVESTIGATING ANTICIPATED INTERACTION AND THE CROSS-CATEGORY RECOGNITION DEFICIT

ANTARA TRIPATHI (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), BALBIR SINGH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE)

The Cross-Category Recognition Deficit (CRD) refers to a well-established phenomenon in which individuals recognise ingroup faces better than outgroup faces. Motivation can moderate the CRD (Hugenberg et al., 2007). This study investigates whether anticipated interaction serves as motivation reducing the CRD. Participants took a survey with a manipulation to imagine themselves as a teacher and performed an encode-recognition task for imagined students. The CRD was replicated but anticipated interaction did not moderate this effect.

POSTER 14

EXPLORING HOW RACE, GENDER, AND FAMILIARITY AFFECT THE PERCEPTUAL CATEGORIZATION OF FACES

REMI BUNTING (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), BALBIR SINGH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE)

A single object can bring many different words to our minds. For instance, a single face evokes category words like person, man, White person, or Brad Pitt. The category term that comes first to mind has been found to vary as a function of typicality and the expertise of the viewer. This study will use a free-response paradigm to explore how differences in race, sex, and familiarity affects the categorization of faces.

POSTER 15

SIMULATED IEP MEETINGS FOR PRESERVICE TEACHERS

JULIETTE SAVARINO (MARIST COLLEGE), JOELLE FINGERHUT (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether pre-service teachers who engage in simulated IEP meetings gain confidence, knowledge and perceived usefulness around IEP meetings. 157 pre-service teachers participated in a simulated IEP meeting and completed questionnaires before and after. Participants demonstrated an overall decrease in worry and nervousness, and an increase in their knowledge, confidence, and feelings of usefulness regarding IEP meetings. These findings suggest that engaging in simulated IEP meetings supports early skill development of pre-service teachers.

POSTER 16

PAIN SENSITIVITY AND CATASTROPHIZING IN MENSTRUATING WOMEN WITH AND WITHOUT POST-SURGICAL PAIN

TRU ADAMICK (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CAITLIN CURRY (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CENIZA-BORDALLO GUILLERMO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL), NATALIE AFONSO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CHRISTINE SIEBERG (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL)

Many factors influence individual experiences of pain. For those with chronic pain, feelings associated with pain experiences are attributable to many internal factors. In the present study, we compared heat pain sensitivity and pain catastrophizing in menstruating women with and without chronic postsurgical pain. No group differences or associations with menstrual pain

were found. Larger studies are warranted to clarify these relationships and better understand pain processes in women and people assigned female at birth.

POSTER 17

PAIN THAT LASTS: CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND ADULT PAIN-RELATED COGNITIONS

NATALIE AFONSO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CAITLIN CURRY (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), GUILLERMO CENIZA-BORDALLO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), TRU ADAMICK (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), ZIYAN WU (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CHRISTINE SIEBERG (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL)

This study aimed to examine the relationship between childhood trauma and pain-related cognitions. Ninety-six participants, with and without chronic pain, completed self-report measures on trauma, pain, and resilience. Exposure to three or more traumas was significantly associated with elevated pain interference scores. Catastrophizing and pain interference scores were significantly higher in the pain group. Findings suggest that higher levels of childhood trauma may increase maladaptive pain cognitions, highlighting the importance of trauma-informed care.

POSTER 18

PRIOR HEAD TRAUMA AS A RISK FACTOR FOR CHRONIC POST-SURGICAL PAIN

PILAR LEBER (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CAITLIN CURRY (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), CHRISTINE SIEBERG (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL), DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT MEDICINE, BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL),

GUILLERMO CENIZA-BORDALLO (CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL)

Previous research has found relationships between head trauma and decreased pain thresholds and increased sensitivity to pain. This study aims to investigate potential relationships between head traumas and the development of chronic post-surgical pain (CPSP), and if altered pain thresholds may play a role in these relationships. 100 individuals were included in this sample. Heat and pressure pain sensitivity were measured. Head trauma was related to CPSP endorsement, but not experimental pain data.

POSTER 19

PARENTIFICATION AND RECALLED CHILDHOOD ANXIETY: ATTACHMENT STYLE, BIRTH ORDER, AND PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

SOPHIA FARIAS (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), GIULIANA ROBLES (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CHRISTOPHER BUDNICK (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study aims to support and expand upon existing literature regarding attachment styles, parentification, recalled childhood anxiety, and birth order. Using correlational and linear regression models, we will identify existing relationships between attachment styles and recalled childhood anxiety, birth order and expected responsibilities, birth order and its moderating effect on attachment style and parentification, and the moderating effect of both birth order and attachment style on the relationship between parentification and recalled childhood anxiety.

POSTER 20

IMPULSIVITY'S ROLE IN RURAL SUICIDE: A META-ANALYSIS

BRIAN SMITH (WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY), CROSBY HIPES (WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY)

Rural areas have heightened suicide rates. The Integrated Motivational-Volitional (IMV) model explains suicide by feelings of entrapment and defeat. Some research has demonstrated that those who were impulsive and felt entrapment and defeat would experience higher rates of suicide. This study compares correlates of suicide by region of the United States, including veteran status, suicide method, demographic factors, and other psychosocial factors.

POSTER 21**CLASSROOM CLIMATE: EFFECTS OF PROFESSOR SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC PRESSURE ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

PARIS WIESNER (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY)

Academic dishonesty is a prevalent issue, and classroom contexts may shape students' ethical choices. We manipulated academic pressure and professor support in hypothetical courses to examine their effects on students' intentions to cheat and anticipated guilt, perceived likelihood of being caught, and academic self-efficacy. Preliminary findings suggest supportive professors reduce cheating intentions and boost self-efficacy, whereas higher pressure lowers confidence. Results highlight how social and structural features of learning environments may influence academic integrity behaviors.

POSTER 22**FACTORS PREDICTING FEAR OF BEING SINGLE IN COLLEGE WOMEN**

EMMA SINGER (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY)

Fear of being single can influence emerging adults' relationship decisions, sometimes promoting riskier dating behaviors. The present study examines personality and situational factors that predict fear of singlehood among college women. Specifically, we assess whether insecure attachment, future orientation, and year in school contribute to greater fear of being single. Understanding how these factors shape concerns about singlehood can inform efforts to reduce stigma, promote healthier relationship decision-making, and support students navigating romantic development.

POSTER 23**COMPETING DESCRIPTIVE VERSUS INJUNCTIVE NORMS AND STUDENT WILLINGNESS TO CHEAT**

ALEXANDER COOKE (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY)

Academic dishonesty involving artificial intelligence (AI) use is increasingly common among college students. The present work examines how conflicting classroom norms shape students' willingness to use AI in a dishonest manner. Specifically, we examine whether saliency of pro-cheating descriptive norms increases students' willingness to violate an instructor's anti-cheating injunctive norm in a hypothetical college class. Understanding how norm salience influences students' decisions can inform the design of classroom environments to more effectively discourage misconduct.

POSTER 24**HOW DO HUMANS EXPERIENCE SOCIAL REJECTION AND ACCEPTANCE FROM ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENTS?**SALVATORE BONASIA (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY),
DOMINIC FARERI (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study investigates human emotional and behavioral responses to social acceptance and rejection from Artificial Intelligence agents. While human-human rejection is well-documented, responses to AI rejection remain underexplored. Participants interact with three chatbots programmed for acceptance, rejection (simulated via response delays and tone), or neutrality. We anticipate AI rejection will elicit negative affect and lower re-engagement willingness, mirroring human social dynamics. These expected findings would highlight the increasing psychological impact of AI as social partners.

POSTER 25**COLLECTIVE DECISIONS**

KATHARINE FRANKLIN (INDEPENDENT), ADAM STIVERS (GONZAGA UNIVERSITY)

In our study, we use asymmetric Prisoner's Dilemma Games to test how dependence on a player's choice and responsibility for another player's outcomes influences cooperation. Using Social Value Orientation, we examine whether these structural differences affect prosocial (cooperative), individualistic, or competitive players differently. In an earlier auditorium study ($N = 345$), higher dependence, but not responsibility, increased cooperation, especially among prosocials. We are now replicating these effects in a new undergraduate sample.

POSTER 26**THE POWER OF A QUESTION: HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES MINDSET RESPONSES**

LAUREN VARAGNOLO (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE), THOMAS KLUNE (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE), KAYLI VILLALTA (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE AND STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), DOMINIC LOZITO (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE AND STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), BRIANNA GONZALEZ (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE)

This study examined whether the wording of growth-mindset items influences how college students report their beliefs about intelligence and abilities. Participants completed two versions of the Implicit Theories of Intelligence Scale, one using global language ("you") and one using self-referential

language ("I"), in a counterbalanced, within-subjects design separated by one week. Responses differed slightly across versions, but the variation was not large enough to reach statistical significance.

POSTER 27

WHEN SLEEP AND DAILY LIFE COLLIDE: COGNITIVE FAILURES AND FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY

SUSAN LEACH (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY), KASSEM ELCHEIKHALI (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY), NICOLE VALDEZ-BEJARANO (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY), CHRISTIAN HOLLE (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY)

We analyzed data from a sample of undergraduate students who completed self-report measures of everyday cognitive failures, functional disability, sleep disturbances, and sleep quality. Students who reported cognitive failures showed more attention related symptoms, functional disability, and worse sleep quality. Women reported more cognitive failures than men and this difference remained after controlling for sleep disturbances and disability. These findings highlight strong links between everyday cognitive slips, sleep, and gender in college students.

POSTER 28

MEDIATION BETWEEN DRINKING MOTIVES IN BLACK COLLEGE STUDENTS AND PARENTAL ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

ASHLEY SCOTT (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), ASHLEY SCOTT (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH KATZ (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether drinking motivations (i.e., coping, enhancement, sociability, and conformity) mediated the association between Black-identified parent's and their college-aged (18 to 25) children's drinking. Results found that social and enhancement motives partially mediated the association between mothers' drinking and Black college students' drinking. Father's drinking was unrelated to black college students' drinking motives or alcohol consumption. This research adds to the literature by focusing on factors that influence drinking among Black-identified college students.

POSTER 29

LOCUS OF CONTROL: A VALIDATION STUDY USING SNADDS-6S

SEBASTIAN NUSIMOW (MARIST COLLEGE), ERIK MOODY (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

Self-regulated internet use and Locus of Control LOC are permanent components of regulation and decision-making. However, limited research has been reviewed between the constructs of LOC and internet addiction. We investigate Social Network Addiction Scale (SNAddS-6S; Cuadrado et al., 2020) subscale scores and Rotter's (1966) LOC orientation, reviewing SNAddS-6S domains as predictors for internal or external control. This work contributes to literature connecting addiction-self-regulation patterns with personality-based control orientations.

POSTER 30

THE IMPACT OF NEURODIVERGENCE ON REACTIONS TO HAZING

MARLEY FLYNN (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), FOMONYUY WIRBA (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), MARK CABRERA (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), ARCHIE BIRD (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), JAMIE GOODWIN (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated neurodivergent individuals' differences in reactivity to a video depicting hazing, as compared to neurotypical individuals. Past research identifying deficits in self-esteem and self-advocacy provides reason to investigate reactionary differences between neurotypes. The current study asked undergraduates to watch a hazing video and complete surveys assessing their responses related to intended help-seeking, affect, and peri-traumatic distress. Non-significant findings warrant further investigation on the impact of neurodivergence across complex social dynamics and groups.

POSTER 31

CAMOUFLAGING AND MENTAL HEALTH IN AUTISTIC ADULTS ACROSS SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH

DINA NEMTSOVA (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), KAREN SIEDLECKI (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY)

Camouflaging behaviors facilitate social inclusion but have demonstrated negative associations with mental health in autistic individuals. We administered an online survey to 508 autistic adults, diagnosed or self-identifying, and found that, after controlling for covariates, higher levels of camouflaging were associated with higher levels of stress, but not higher levels of depression or anxiety. Subsequent analyses examining the associations between camouflaging subscales and mental health showed domain-specific links, with masking-depression associations stronger for males.

POSTER 32**EMPATHY AND SOCIAL ANXIETY OVERRIDE**

SADIE SWANK (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN)

Individuals with anxiety disorders may experience situations where one fear overrides another, or can be overcome to help someone. Twenty-five participants (74% women) responded to vignettes about overcoming fears alone, or to help someone else, and answered questions on social anxiety, empathy, and altruism. More social anxiety was related to more helping behavior if they were also higher in empathy. About half indicated they had experienced overruling one fear to deal with a second.

POSTER 33**LISTENING TO A SELF-SELECTED SONG BEFORE AN EXAM: A FOCUS GROUP STUDY**

KATELYN O'DONNELL (INDEPENDENT), ELIZABETH DONOVAN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GREGORY FELDMAN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GEOFF TURNER (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY)

Goal: Explore students' experiences of listening to self-selected music for five minutes before a classroom exam. Students (n=41; 100% female, M = 18.44 years) participated in 60-minute focus groups. Two researchers used reflexive thematic analysis to organize the data. Themes: (1) Calmer and happier, (2) Benefits from positive associations, (3) Prepared and grounded, (4) Musical choice and time considerations are important. Music before exams is a practical way to support students' wellbeing.

POSTER 34**EFFECTS OF MUSICAL MODE AND NEUROTICISM ON DYSPHORIC MOOD AND MUSIC ENJOYMENT**

ZOE HABEL (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GREG FELDMAN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), LILY BRYANT (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), NICOLE CHRISTMAS (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), JULIA JACOBS (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GEOFF TURNER (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY)

Past research suggests neuroticism is associated with music-listening behavior that may worsen negative mood states. In the present study, seventy-four college students rated both their enjoyment of clips of popular vocal songs that were experimentally-altered to be in three musical modes and their post-listening mood states. Mode manipulations produced small mood effects and large enjoyment effects; however, neuroticism had a trivial effect on both outcomes. Implications for therapeutic music recommendations are discussed.

POSTER 35**EFFECTS OF MUSICAL MODE, OPENNESS, AND MUSICAL EXPERIENCE ON SPATIAL REASONING**

LIANNE TRAN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GREGORY FELDMAN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), KAYLA NOONAN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), VICTORIA TORKORNOO (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), EMILY ESCOBAR RUIZ (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GEOFF TURNER (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY)

Previous literature suggests that openness to experience and musical experience are linked to cognitive performance. We examined whether popular music in major versus minor modes influences spatial reasoning and whether openness to experience and musical training moderate this effect. Seventy-four college students completed a spatial reasoning task after listening to clips of popular vocal songs experimentally-altered to be in major and minor modes. Openness but not musical mode or experience predicted better spatial reasoning.

POSTER 36**THE EFFECTS OF EXTROVERSION AND MUSICAL EXPERIENCE ON MUSIC ENJOYMENT**

CARLY (MAX) POULIN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GREG FELDMAN (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), CORINNE COLE (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), KATELYN O'DONNELL (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), NICOLE KIM (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), GEOFF TURNER (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY)

We examined musical and individual difference predictors of musical enjoyment. Seventy-four college students rated their enjoyment of clips of popular vocal songs experimentally-altered to be in major, minor, or Locrian modes. Participants enjoyed music in major over minor mode. Participants with greater musical experience showed stronger relative enjoyment for consonant over dissonant music. Results replicate and extend on past research on instrumental classical music and expand our understanding of individual differences in musical perception.

POSTER 37**MOTHERS AS SHIELDS AGAINST A SOCIETY THAT BREAKS THEM**

AYON ROBERTS (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), GWEN PURSELL (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), ASIA WATSON (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), IESHA THOMAS (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), KEJI OLAGBAJU (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), JAIDEN PALMER (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY)

Mothers are expected to be responsible and knowledgeable. Teen motherhood can lead to mother-blame. However, could teen motherhood be associated with protective factors? Data was collected from college students. A mother over 30 at birth was associated with more psychological abuse and neglect. Having teen mothers was associated with higher levels of feeling special and protected by family. Teen motherhood was associated with feeling the family was a source of strength and support.

POSTER 38

IMPACT OF EVENING MEAL TIMING ON SLEEP, COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE, AND PHYSIOLOGICAL AROUSAL

ERIN PLUMMER (KEENE STATE COLLEGE), HARLAN FICHTENHOLTZ (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

This study examined how late-night eating influences stress, sleep, and cognitive performance in college-aged individuals. Participants consumed a final early (7-8pm) or late (10pm-12am) meal. The next morning, they completed a Go/No-Go task, mood, and physiological measures. The early group shows higher baseline systolic blood pressure, indicative of increased stress. Integrating physiological, cognitive, and self-reported data, this project highlights meal timing as a factor in stress resilience and performance.

POSTER 39

IMPACT OF TYPE OF SPORT ON ANXIETY IN FEMALE ATHLETES

ALLISON GOUGH (KEENE STATE COLLEGE), MAYA WEDGE (KEENE STATE COLLEGE), HARLAN FICHTENHOLTZ (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

Research shows anxiety varies for female athletes depending on their type of sport; team or individual. 30 female varsity/club athletes were surveyed using the GAD-7 and SAS-2. The correlation between the GAD-7 and SAS-2 was significant for individual sport athletes, but not team athletes. For individual sport athletes, as generalized anxiety levels increase so does their anxiety around athletic performance, supporting the hypothesis of team sports acting as a buffer.

POSTER 40

MORAL DISGUST AND THE CAD HYPOTHESIS

SAMANTHA GOLDBLATT (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

Disgust is a complex emotion that can be activated in both physical and moral situations. Through the CAD hypothesis, different moral disgust situations will reveal different emotions such as contempt, anger,

and disgust. Participants had to read through 100 different scenarios that presented different types of moral disgust and rank how much of each emotion they felt by the scenario. Electrodermal activity (EDA) was also collected while participants were ranking the scenarios.

POSTER 41

THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC OF PERCEPTION OF ART

KEIRA GRUPE (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

Music and visual art evoke emotion, yet less is known about how they interact when experienced simultaneously. This study examined whether upbeat or sad music alters perceived positivity of Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, and Surrealism while recording eye-tracking. Impressionism was rated significantly more positive during upbeat music; Impressionism and Fauvism were rated more positively overall than Cubism and Surrealism. Eye-tracking analyses of fixation duration and feature attention will also be analyzed.

POSTER 42

PERCEPTUAL AND EMOTIONAL RESPONSES TO AI.

TRINITY ALLEN (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), MIRELLE OLOKE (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines perceptions about AI-mediated romantic and interpersonal interactions. Participants interact with an AI chatbot in one of two scripted scenarios. Their perceptions about the interactions will be assessed using survey measures. Findings will be discussed in the context of how they can inform research on varying types of AI interactions and the effects on users.

POSTER 43

RULES DON'T GROW ON LLMs

IOANNA DAMIANOV (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), IRIS BERENT (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Humans generalize linguistic knowledge to new forms (e.g., blix → blixes), as do large language models (LLMs). But whether such generalizations require rules is controversial. To find out, we tested the doubling rule (e.g., slaflaf vs. slaflmat) in humans and machines. Humans freely apply the rule to novel words and signs in American Sign Language. None of the tested models (ChatGPT4, ChatGPT5, and Gemini) matched human behavior. We conclude that rules don't grow on LLMs.

POSTER 44**PARENTS AND POLITICS: ONLINE AND OFFLINE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ADOLESCENT DIGITAL SOCIALIZATION**

CHLOE GUNTRIP (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), NATALIE HUYNH (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), J. MAYA HERNANDEZ (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), BETH WILSON (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ALYSSA GRAMAJO (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ELANA PEARL BEN-JOSEPH (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), LINDA CHARMARAMAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

Recent political dynamics in the US have shifted various online and offline civic behaviors, especially among parents and their children. There remains a limited understanding of how parents' political behaviors are linked to conversations about their children's social media use. To address this gap, the study examined survey data from 271 US parents and found associations between parents' political expression on social media, offline civic engagement, and their perceptions of their children's social media behaviors.

POSTER 45**ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT AND LONELINESS IN OLDER ADULTS: DIFFERENCES BY GENDER**

FATIMA HERNANDEZ TORREZ (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), OLUWATOBI WILLIAMS (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT ST. VINCENT), CAROLINE GOMEZ (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT ST. VINCENT), JAYLEN MARTINEZ (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT ST VINCENT), CHARLOTTE WARMAN (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT ST VINCENT), JACLYN KEENOY (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT ST VINCENT)

The purpose of our study was for us to explore the relationship between neighborhood contextual factors and loneliness in older adults, while considering the moderating role of gender. Data from 3,768 participants aged 55 and older from the 2020 wave of the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project were analyzed. Significant associations were found between neighborhood cohesion and social ties with loneliness. Gender was found to moderate the association between neighborhood danger and loneliness.

POSTER 46**BIG FIVE TRAITS' ASSOCIATIONS WITH DIMENSIONS OF SEXUAL SATISFACTION IN OLDER ADULTS**

CAROLINE GOMES (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), JAYLEN MARTINEZ (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), CHARLOTTE WARMAN (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), FATIMA HERNANDEZ

TORREZ (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), OLUWATOBI WILLIAMS (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), JACLYN KEENOY (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT)

This study examined how Five Factor Model traits relate to physical and emotional sexual satisfaction in older adults using data from 801–843 respondents aged 55+ in the 2020 National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project. Conscientiousness, extraversion, and agreeableness predicted both types of satisfaction, while openness predicted emotional only and neuroticism predicted neither. These findings clarify how personality shapes sexual well-being and overall quality of life in later adulthood.

POSTER 47**EFFECTIVENESS OF SELF-CARE APPLICATIONS**

GAVIN HONG (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Mobile self-care applications have rapidly expanded as alternative avenues for supporting mental health – especially as specific limitations to traditional care such as financial burden, accessibility, and stigma concerns arise. This correlational survey collected data from 210 adults. They were surveyed on their perceptions of effectiveness related to various application types (self-care, mental health, and gamification). Analyses may inform the clinicians and application designers about users' engagements with and perceptions of emerging digital self-care tools.

POSTER 48**THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PSYCHOTIC-LIKE EXPERIENCES AND EMOTION REGULATION**

JOSEPH GIACOBBE (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), JOSEPH DELUCA (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Psychotic-like experiences (PLEs) may be associated with greater difficulties in emotion regulation. Nine-hundred and thirteen young adults (aged 18–35) completed the Prodromal Questionnaire-Brief (PQ-B) to assess PLEs, and the Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale (DERS-8) to assess emotion regulation difficulties. Key findings suggest that greater emotion dysregulation is associated with higher PLE frequency and higher PLE distress. These findings highlight the importance of emotion regulation and its potential influence on PLE symptoms.

POSTER 49**THE IMPACT OF STIGMA ON INDIVIDUALS WITH PSYCHOTIC-LIKE EXPERIENCES**

EMILY LAMOUREUX (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), JOSEPH DELUCA (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Even though psychotic-like experiences (PLEs) are somewhat frequently experienced in society, the stigma surrounding them may prevent awareness of them and impede help-seeking. We administered a survey to 916 participants, and assessed self-stigma through the SSOSH scale and PLEs through the Prodromal Questionnaire-Brief (PQ-B). Our findings indicated that higher ratings of self-stigma were associated with higher PLE scores. This highlights the importance in stigma reduction, as it often can deter help-seeking behaviors.

POSTER 50

THE INFLUENCE OF CONTEXTUAL AND CONFIRMATION BIAS ON VIEWS OF SOURCE PROBABILITY

CONNOR GANNON (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), ANNABELLE BERRY (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), ANNA GOWARTY (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), JOSHUA REYNOLDS (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON)

This study investigates the influence of contextual and confirmation bias on mock jurors' perception of source probability for fingerprint evidence. A representative sample of participants (N=420) were randomly assigned to one of five vignette conditions and asked to assess source probability and guilt. Using Bayesian modeling, we assess the influence of those biases compared to blinding and a control condition, adding to the research on how jurors interpret evidence in situations when bias is present.

POSTER 51

PERFORMING UNDER PRESSURE: THE EFFECT OF STRESS MINDSET INTERVENTIONS ON EXAM-WEEK OUTCOMES

KENNETH WRIGHT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE), LEAH KING (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE), JOSHUA UHALT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE)

This study conceptually replicated stress-intervention research among performing arts students at a small liberal arts college. Dance and theater majors (N = 45) were assigned to a stress-mindset intervention, a stress-management intervention, or no intervention. Students completed baseline surveys, optional booster sessions, and twice-daily exam-week reports of affect, sleep, and well-being, followed by self-reported exam grades. We predicted that intervention groups, especially the mindset condition, would show more adaptive stress responses and stronger exam-week performance.

POSTER 52

ABSENCE OF MIRROR RECOGNITION IN NORTHERN WHITE-CHEEKED GIBBONS (NOMASCUS LEUCOGENYS)

DANIELLE DINOME (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ADRIANA LAVARCO (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ANTHONY MINERVINI (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), SYDNEY ASH (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), SAM ZORNS (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW PARDILLO (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), CLAUDIA SIERZPUTOWSKI (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), JULIAN PAUL KEENAN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

Mirror self-recognition (MSR) is widely regarded as an indicator of self-awareness, and has not been consistently expressed by white-cheeked gibbons. In this study, we aimed to determine if white-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus leucogenys*) possess the ability to recognize themselves. Self-awareness was tested through the mirror-mark test in 4 adult gibbons. The gibbons did not engage in any noticeable self-directed behaviors in front of the mirror, nor were any mark-directed responses made.

POSTER 53

POLITICAL ORIENTATION, OPTIMISM, AND WILLINGNESS TO ENDORSE TORTURE

LOGAN HEHNER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), JUSTIN WELLMAN (HARTWICK COLLEGE), SIERRA RONDEAU (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

Students evaluated a ticking-bomb scenario where a terrorism suspect was framed as either a left- or right-wing extremist. Participant ideological traits did not predict torture endorsement and suspect political identity had no effect. Instead, dispositional optimism was the only reliable predictor, with optimists expressing greater support for torture. These findings contrast with past work linking authoritarianism to endorsement of harsh interrogation and suggest that outcome-focused expectations may shape judgments in extreme moral contexts.

POSTER 54

BEYOND THE FIRST YEAR: LONGITUDINAL ACADEMIC SELF-EFFICACY IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

SOPHIA REPHOLZ (JUNIATA COLLEGE), JILLIAN DALANSKY (JUNIATA COLLEGE), ZOE BILES (JUNIATA COLLEGE), DANNY ORTEGA (JUNIATA COLLEGE), KATHRYN WESTCOTT (JUNIATA COLLEGE)

This study builds on earlier research that academic self-efficacy is associated with one's academic and

career goals and outcomes, and academic adjustment. The aim of this study is to examine self-efficacy across students' undergraduate education, as previous research focused primarily on first-years. An Academic Experience Questionnaire was used to assess seven domains of academic self-efficacy. Results showed no significant differences in domains of academic self-efficacy over time.

POSTER 55

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF EXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINE AND ADULT CRIMINALITY

ZOE BILES (JUNIATA COLLEGE), KATHRYN WESTCOTT (JUNIATA COLLEGE)

This systematic review aims to summarize previous research related to the school-to-prison pipeline. Specifically, it examines the relationship between exclusionary discipline and adult criminality. A search across databases using selected keywords identified articles related to the topic. Content analysis of the final articles will reveal the key themes and outcomes of this research.

POSTER 56

THRIVING OR SURVIVING? THE REALITY OF STUDENT STRESS AND COPING

JILLIAN DALANSKY (JUNIATA COLLEGE), KATHRYN WESTCOTT (JUNIATA COLLEGE)

Rising levels of stress, anxiety, and depression, in college students affect both academic and well-being outcomes. This cross-sectional study aims to gather a deeper understanding of the differences between and the relationship of perceived stress, psychological well-being, and coping at two points in time (2019 and 2025). Understanding how stress, coping, and well-being may have changed and how they interact is critical to addressing growing mental health challenges in college students.

POSTER 57

AFFILIATION MOTIVATION AND WELLBEING

ABIGAIL BLANEY (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), NATALIE WEBER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), CHARLES SEAWRIGHT (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), GEORGE SHEARER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), NICK UNGSON (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Perceived similarity powerfully affects social connection. We prompted 101 college students to recall similarities or dissimilarities within their social groups and examined if increased friendship-seeking

behavior mediated the effect of this manipulation on anxiety. We did not observe the predicted mediation. However, correlations suggest that more extraverted students engaged in more friendship-seeking and had higher friendship network satisfaction. Higher network satisfaction also predicted lower anxiety. These results suggest important links between personality and friendship dynamics.

POSTER 58

PRETTY PRIVILEGE MEETS THE PRICE TAG: ATTRACTIVENESS VS. STATUS ON PERSUASION EFFICACY

BAILEY MULLEN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), RYLIE LACH (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), EMMA CAMPITELLI (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), LYDIA STEFANIK (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), NICK UNGSON (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Social media advertising relies on influencers to direct consumer purchasing. We examined influencer-level variables in college students by manipulating influencer attractiveness (attractive vs. unattractive) and status (high vs. low). Influencers with high social status elicited higher willingness to purchase; there was no significant effect of attractiveness. However, attractive influencers were perceived as more trustworthy, regardless of status. The current results suggest that physical and social characteristics of influencers affect distinct social judgments.

POSTER 59

WHAT WOULD YOU DO? THE EFFECT OF RELATIONAL ESTEEM ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

ABIGAIL ERICKSON (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), AMBER PARKIN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), SE'ANIE RIOS (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), LUKE RYAN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), NICK UNGSON (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Conflict is integral to relationships. The current study examines how people resolve conflict. We examined how relational esteem (positive, negative, neutral) and conflict resolution style (competing, avoiding, accommodating, collaborating) affect conflict resolution style preferences. Although relational esteem did not affect resolution, we found that Collaboration and Accommodation were the most popular. Additionally, personality traits such as extraversion and agreeableness significantly predicted conflict resolution. These results shed light on the dynamics of interpersonal relationships and conflict.

POSTER 60**DISCLOSURE IN YOUNG ADULTS' FRIENDSHIPS AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

LAUREN BRUCK (ITHACA COLLEGE), ALLIE SPIEKERMAN (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA), EMMALYN GERHARDT (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA), AMANDA ROSE (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA)

During adolescence and through young adulthood, friendships and romantic relationships become pivotal to mental health and quality of life. However, few studies have focused on examining disclosure during young adulthood. We sought to understand how disclosure to friends and romantic partners affects depressive symptoms in emerging adulthood. In addition, we were determined to understand how gender affects these relationships. Results suggest that disclosure to romantic partners led to lower depressive symptoms, specifically for men.

POSTER 61**HOW RESPETO CONNECTS TO LATINX COLLEGE STUDENTS' RISKY BEHAVIORS AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS**

VALERIA VALENTIN (INDEPENDENT), SARAH KILLOREN (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA), EDNA ALFARO (TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY), NICOLE CAMPIONE-BARR (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA)

Respeto, a cultural value, may protect Latinx youth against depressive symptoms and risky behaviors. Using existing survey data from 225 Latinx college students, a mediation model examined whether respeto influences these outcomes indirectly through parent-child relationship quality. Key findings suggest that respeto may act as a protective factor primarily through paternal warmth. Findings may help inform practitioners of the importance of considering cultural values and fathers' influence on Latinx youth's mental health and well-being.

POSTER 62**EXAMINING THE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN PREADOLESCENT SOCIAL MEDIA USE, BODY SATISFACTION, AND SELF-ESTEEM**

VANESSA LEE (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), RACHEL MACINTYRE (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), KARENA RUSH (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), SHAUN COOK (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

Even though social media is increasingly common among preadolescents, there is limited research on

social media use in this population. We examined the correlations between social media use (frequency and active use [i.e., posting, commenting]) and self-esteem and body satisfaction among eighteen summer camp participants. Participants who engaged in more active social media also reported lower self-esteem and body satisfaction. Active social media use may be particularly important when studying maladaptive patterns in this population.

POSTER 63**DIFFERENCES IN EMOTIONAL RESPONSES TO TRAUMA AMONG STUDENTS AND NON-STUDENTS**

MELANY GODINEZ OSPINO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA GIANNICCHI (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JASMINE RAFIA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA MUNDY (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA AGUIRRE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), AMIRAH KRAFT (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), DANISHA SANTOS (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), RAFAEL JAVIER (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

Trauma carries unique psychological effects, yet differences between students and non-students remain understudied. This study compared 46 emerging adults on PTSD symptoms, emotional regulation, and personality traits. Students and non-students reported similar PTSD severity, but differed significantly in agreeableness and impulsivity, with non-students showing higher impulsivity and students showing higher agreeableness. This suggests that while trauma severity is consistent across groups, personality traits, not PTSD symptoms, distinguish students from non-students in their responses to trauma.

POSTER 64**ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN CLUSTER B PERSONALITY DISORDERS, IMPULSIVENESS, AND SLEEP DISTURBANCES**

KATHERINE WOOD (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), REBECCA HOUSTON (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Sleep disturbances are linked to adverse health outcomes and have been associated with Cluster B personality disorders (PD) and impulsivity. In a non-clinical sample, young adults completed self-report measures of Cluster B symptoms, impulsivity, and sleep disturbance. Regression analyses indicated Borderline Personality Disorder symptoms and Lack of Perseverance consistently predicted sleep problems, while Negative Urgency was uniquely associated with somnolence, and Antisocial Personality Disorder was negatively associated with sleep adequacy.

POSTER 65**MINDFULNESS AS A PROTECTOR: NONJUDGING BUFFERS LINKS BETWEEN PTSD SYMPTOMS AND NIGHTMARES**

MATTHEW SHULMAN (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), ALBERT HARRIS (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), CYE ZHANG (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), ETHAN SEVERANCE (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), CHARLIE MCDONALD (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), RICHARD MATTSON (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), FIONA SLEIGHT (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

We discovered evidence for a strong link between mindful nonjudging and PTSD symptoms, as well as an association between nonjudging and lower nightmare frequency/severity. We conducted a moderation analysis using 527 undergraduate participants, revealing that nonjudging significantly weakened the association between PTSD symptoms and nightmares ($B = -.003$, $p = .004$). Implications of these findings are substantial, as they support possible implementations of mindfulness interventions for those suffering from nightmares as a prominent PTSD symptom.

POSTER 66**TESTING NIGHTMARES AS A MODERATOR FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PTSD AND DISSOCIATION**

ETHAN SEVERANCE (SUNY BINGHAMTON), CYE ZHANG (SUNY BINGHAMTON), ALBERT HARRIS (SUNY BINGHAMTON), MATTHEW SHULMAN (SUNY BINGHAMTON), CHARLIE MCDONALD (SUNY BINGHAMTON), RICHARD MATTSON (SUNY BINGHAMTON), FIONA SLEIGHT (SUNY BINGHAMTON)

We conducted moderation analysis on 527 undergraduates, revealing that nightmares did not moderate the PTSD-dissociation relationship ($B = .008$, $p = .336$). Despite this, we found significant correlations between nightmares and dissociation, nightmares and PTSD, and PTSD and dissociation. This indicates that further research is necessary to investigate what influences the interplay identified between all three factors, moving past the possibility of nightmares as a moderating influence.

POSTER 67**SOCIAL STATUS AND PROSOCIAL PREFERENCES**

WILLIAM KARR (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), SALLY FARLEY (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE)

Piff et al. (2010) found a negative correlation between increased social status and prosocial behavior; however, subsequent researchers have challenged the replicability of those assertions. To conceptually replicate and expand on these studies, 65 adults completed an online questionnaire modeled on the original. We failed to replicate the primary findings of Piff et al. (2010) due in part to a failed manipulation, but importantly, annual income was uncorrelated with donation behavior. Implications are discussed.

POSTER 68**FIRST YEAR STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CHALLENGING AND ENJOYABLE ASPECTS OF COLLEGE**

ANNE NOONAN (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), VILMA PANIAGUA (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), NICOLE D'ANDREA (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), JOSELISH DE POOL MAISONET (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), AMY DOMBACH (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), WARREN REICH (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), SAMANTHA MATTHEISS (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how students' perceptions of challenging and enjoyable aspects of college change throughout freshman year. A content analysis on data from a larger project on academic flourishing showed that students with more academic confidantes more frequently reported enjoying learning new things at follow up, whereas those who failed at least one course by follow up less frequently reported enjoying learning new things at baseline. These patterns can inform school policies and support programs.

POSTER 69**BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS PATTERNS AMONG ADOLESCENTS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS**

CHELSEA OHENE-ADDO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SAMUEL MEISEL (DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES, BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JUSTIN STRICKLAND (KAHLERT INSTITUTE FOR ADDICTION MEDICINE, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE), SAMUEL ACUFF (RECOVERY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL AND HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL), JILLIAN HALLADAY (ST JOSEPH HEALTHCARE HAMILTON)

This study examined where adolescents with substance use disorders (SUDs) enter the behavioral healthcare system, addressing gaps in prior literature on entry points and reflecting shifting prevalence trends. Using data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health ($N = 42,362$), Wald Chi-Square tests indicated that

adolescents with SUDs were more likely to present to mental health treatment. These results highlight the need to train mental health providers in treating adolescents with SUDs.

POSTER 70

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CONCUSSIONS AND CTE: A LITERATURE REVIEW

EVE RYAN (LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), SCOTT CARNICOM (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA - LOCK HAVEN)

Repeated concussions are highly correlated with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a neurodegenerative dementia (McKee et al., 2016). Research on non-human subjects has shown that concussions cause a cascade of neuropathological changes in the brain, including the abnormal accumulation of p-tau proteins (McCrory et al., 2017). CTE is also characterized by cortical atrophy and the accumulation of p-tau proteins in the perivascular depths of the prefrontal cortical sulci, suggesting a strong connection with concussions.

POSTER 71

ADOLESCENT SOCIAL ISOLATION AND RESVERATROL TREATMENT: EFFECTS ON BEHAVIOR IN MALE RATS

MIA VAN MATER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MARIKATE KENNY (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), CLAIRE SURPRENANT (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MARIA JOBES (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), SHANNON HARDING (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Adolescent social isolation can increase the risk of developing anxiety and depressive disorders later in life. Resveratrol, a naturally occurring polyphenol, may mitigate these effects. This study examined social isolation and resveratrol treatment in adolescent male Long Evans rats. Anxiety-like behaviors and spatial learning were assessed with the elevated plus maze, marble burying task, and Morris water maze. Preliminary data analysis indicates that isolation impairs these measures and that resveratrol may not be restorative.

POSTER 72

EFFECT OF GBG MODIFICATIONS ON PARTICIPATORY BEHAVIOR IN A SHY PRE-K STUDENT

MADELYN HART (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), DREW HUNTER (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF

PENNSYLVANIA), SHAUN COOK (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

Shyness in young children is linked to social, academic, and self-esteem struggles, yet many interventions are constrained to clinical settings. This study evaluated a modified Good Behavior Game (GBG) to increase hand-raising in a shy pre-k student using a single subject withdrawal design. Ten-minute classroom observations were analyzed through visual inspection and statistical indices. Results demonstrated a functional relationship between the modified GBG and hand raising, with strong social validity supporting its effectiveness.

POSTER 73

CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY, PAIN SCHEMAS, AND THE POTENTIAL OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CHRONIC PAIN TREATMENT

JALEXIE URENA (HAVERFORD COLLEGE), AMOR BATTLE (HAVERFORD COLLEGE), SHU-WEN WANG (HAVERFORD COLLEGE)

The connection between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and chronic pain may be explained by the development of dysfunctional pain schemas. Trauma-informed care (TIC) may lessen their burdens on patient care experiences. Thirty four college students (Mage = 20.1) with chronic pain completed questionnaires and open-ended prompts on their experiences with chronic pain. Results suggest that pain schemas have negative effects on health outcomes even in young populations and that TIC may improve chronic pain care.

POSTER 74

LIKES, LINKS, AND LONELINESS: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS RESHAPING ADOLESCENT LIVES

ALEXIS FUHR (MARIST UNIVERSITY), SIERRA TRUDEL (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

Adolescents report having a complex relationship with technology – one that is intertwined with their livelihood, and that they try and escape from when possible. Roughly 80 adolescents participated in a survey designed to assess their honest attitude towards technology. Key findings suggest adolescents are at a crossroads with technology, as they find it necessary for survival and detrimental to their mental health. These findings highlight the need for more adolescent based research on technology.

POSTER 75

SCAVENGER HUNT OF FAMILIAR PLACES

LILLIAN JUGASEK (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), MAKENNA REEKIE (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), ABIGAIL FARILLAS (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), VICTORIA GAMARRA (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT)

This experiment explored the photo impairment effect for familiar places comparing social media photo taking, non-social media photo taking, and observation. In Part 1, participants observed or photographed 10 campus locations. In Part 2, participants completed a photo recognition test and answered factual questions about each location. We expect to replicate the photo impairment effect and also find that social media photos are recognized better because of the attention given to taking photos for posting.

POSTER 76

BIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF PARENTAL BINGE DRINKING ON CHILDREN'S STRESS RESPONSE

EMILY WOOD (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), STEPHANIE GODLESKI (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), JOSEPH S. BASCHNAGEL (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), REBECCA HOUSTON (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Using various survey measures, salivary cortisol samples, and Heart Rate Variability (HRV) data from electrocardiograms (EKG), the biological and psychological effects of parental binge drinking were examined on parent-child dyads ($n = 31$), while considering the role of the child's biological sex. Preliminary analyses indicate potential blunting of baseline cortisol in children with parents who demonstrate patterns of binge drinking and suggest possible sex-based differences in child stress responses.

POSTER 77

PERSONALITY TRAIT LANGUAGE IN BOARD GAME RULEBOOKS: A CONTENT ANALYSIS USING LIWC-22

SANDRA ELGIZOOLI (MERCY UNIVERSITY), LILIANA CABALLERO (SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE), DEA SHEHU (MERCY UNIVERSITY), DELTA AUQUI (SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE), MATTHEW ALARCON-GONZALEZ (MERCY UNIVERSITY), STEPHEN O'ROURKE (SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

We investigated the extent to which modern board games include evidence of the Big Five personality factors (Soto & Jackson, 2020). We used BoardGameGeek.com to identify the top 50 family and

top 50 strategy games. A quantitative content analysis using LIWC-22 (Boyd et al., 2022) showed that family game rulebooks contained significantly higher levels of positive emotion language, whereas strategy game rulebooks contained significantly more interpersonal conflict language.

POSTER 78

TOY CHOICES: DOES GENDER MATTER?

CAROLINE WEHINGER (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY), JOHN EIERS (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY), MAYLENE QUINTANILLA (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY), BESJANË KRASNIQI (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY), MICHELE STITES (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY), SUSAN SONNENSCHNEIN (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY)

The toys children play with can influence their development and self-identity. Although parents recognize the developmental value of toys, gender may still influence their choices. This study explored how 38 U.S. parents of children aged 4-9 would select toys if their child were the opposite gender. Results showed that 45% would offer the same or child-preferred toys, while 34% of parents would choose different toys, suggesting parents are giving children opportunities to explore developmental activities.

POSTER 79

EVALUATING STUDENTS' COLLABORATIVE EXPERIENCES WHILE LEARNING SCIENTIFIC REASONING THROUGH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

DAKOTA STANLEY GALANGUE (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE), ERIC GRINNAGE (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE), SYDNEY YVONNE WOOD (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE)

We are interested in how students' collaborative experiences predict their learning effectiveness in project-based learning classes. We collected data from 45 students in an upper-division Agent-based Modeling for Social Science Research class. We compared students' scientific reasoning from the first week to the last week of the course and found that students performed significantly better on the measure in the last week of the project-based learning course compared to the first week.

POSTER 80

EXAMINING HOW GENDER AND COACHING STYLES INFLUENCE ATHLETE PERFORMANCE AND ENJOYMENT

RYAN HEALY (BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE),
THERESA JACKSON (BRIDGEWATER STATE
UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how gender influences coaching styles and performance and enjoyment of sport among NCAA athletes. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 15 participants. Transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis. Results revealed three themes: Caring coaches have higher performing athletes; controlling styles can be effective for high performers; and athletes disapprove of coaches who drastically change their style according to athlete gender. Coaches must better understand athlete's unique needs regardless of gender differences.

POSTER 81

DISTRACTED STUDYING HABITS AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

MALAKI SCHAEFFER (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY),
THOMAS HATVANY (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY)

This correlational study looks at the relationship between academic performance and studying habits. These habits are mainly focused on how often students listen to music and other media while they are studying or completing schoolwork. Self-reported study habits and academic performance were measured to examine real-world effects of distracted listening while studying. Results indicated a relationship between distracted listening while studying and academic performance. The presentation discusses these results and implications.

POSTER 82

EXPERTISE AND MEMORY: SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DISTORTED MEMORIES OF ITEMS AND THEIR SOURCES

ABIGAIL SWANEY (DREXEL UNIVERSITY), ALEXA
TOMPARY (DREXEL UNIVERSITY)

This study explores the benefits and drawbacks of expertise in memory. Experts' prior knowledge boosts new memories related to their field of expertise but makes them more susceptible to false memories. We present experts (psychology students) with psychology and physics terms and test memory for their definitions as well as their source (whether the term was presented). We predict that experts will be more susceptible to false memories involving psychology terms relative to physics terms.

POSTER 83

PALESTINIAN NOSTALGIA

AAYA NASSARALLAH (RAMPOL COLLEGE OF NEW
JERSEY), JAMES MORLEY (RAMPOL COLLEGE OF NEW
JERSEY)

This study explores how nostalgia emerges in the daydreams of Palestinian participants reflecting on childhood, loss, and intergenerational memory. Using a descriptive phenomenological method, I analyzed one in-depth interview to identify how imagination reanimates landscapes of home, war, and future hope. Findings reveal that daydreams function as symbolic spaces where past destruction and future longing intertwine, offering insight into the emotional life of displacement and the persistence of cultural identity.

POSTER 84

COMPARTMENTALIZATION AND ANXIETY, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS WITH ADHD

ANNA CAVANAGH (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ALENA
ESPOSITO (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Compartmentalization, the use of different spaces for unique activities, may help to reduce anxiety. Anonymous survey participants completed a survey gauging baseline anxiety on a day-to-day basis, in addition to marking how often they spend time in certain spaces in a typical day across activities. We hypothesize that the more frequently the participant spends time in one space, the more likely the participant is to experience higher levels of anxiety in that particular space.

Friday, February 27, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

Keynote

America Ballroom North

**TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY HARRY KIRKE
WOLFE LECTURE: BRIDGETTE MARTIN HARD**
Friday, February 27, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

CHAIR: SHLOMIT FLAISHER-GRINBERG

BETTER TOGETHER: EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES TO FOSTER COLLABORATIVE THINKING

BRIDGETTE HARD (DUKE UNIVERSITY)

Effective collaboration is crucial for students' future success. This presentation offers innovative, evidence-based strategies to nurture collaboration in the classroom. We will explore methods for scaffolding collaboration in group projects to improve student

outcomes and a reimagined framework for class participation that transforms discussions into collaborative learning experiences.

Friday, February 27, 2026

2:50pm – 3:50pm

Workshop

Great Republic

THE GLOBALIZATION OF PSI CHI

Friday, February 27, 2026

2:50pm – 3:50pm

CHAIR: ANI KALAYJIA PHD

THE GLOBALIZATION OF PSI CHI

ANI KALAYJIA (MEANINGFUL WORLD/ PCUN)

In 2009, Psi Chi chapters voted to transform from the national to the International Honor Society for Psychology (Davis, 2019). This workshop will include presenters Dr. Harold Takooshian, Dr. Celia Sen, and Brianna Fitapelli, who will discuss early and current strategies for the organization's globalization initiatives.

Friday, February 27, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Paper

St. George C

SOCIAL PAPERS: THE SELF

Friday, February 27, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: DEBORAH WARD, PHD

4:00pm – 4:10pm

CAMERA ON OR OFF? APPEARANCE-BASED REJECTION SENSITIVITY IN VIRTUAL SETTINGS

DEBORAH WARD (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), LORA PARK (UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

We examine how Appearance-based Rejection Sensitivity (Appearance-RS) shapes reactions to visibility of one's appearance in virtual settings. College students (N=202) and adults (N=316) imagined joining a virtual class or work meeting with their camera on or off. Having higher Appearance-RS

predicted lower state self-esteem—especially when one's appearance was visible—which predicted decreased academic/job engagement intentions. These findings reveal how videoconferencing may be costly for those sensitive to appearance-based rejection, undermining participation in virtual environments.

4:15pm – 4:25pm

STUDENT MOTIVATION TOWARD ACADEMIC FLOURISHING: AN IDENTITY ELABORATION MODEL

WARREN REICH (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), AMY DOMBACH (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY), SAMANTHA MATTHEISS (FELICIAN UNIVERSITY)

We synthesize findings from three studies in our laboratory on student engagement and well-being. In two studies we found robust links between academic confidante support and academic identity congruence--a sense that the student role expresses "real me." Both predicted academic flourishing. In the present study we found that incoming first-year student aspirations and confidante support independently predicted subsequent academic identity elaboration. We conclude by proposing an identity-theoretical process model of student onboarding and flourishing.

4:30pm – 4:40pm

UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE STUDENTS USE OF THE TERMS "SOFT LAUNCH" AND "HARD LAUNCH"

NICOLE CAPEZZA (STONEHILL COLLEGE), CAYLA BEVERLY (STONEHILL COLLEGE), NAOMI LIN (STONEHILL COLLEGE), BOTOND RICE (STONEHILL COLLEGE), TOBY O'NEILL (STONEHILL COLLEGE)

Through a self-report survey, we assessed how college-aged participants (n = 200) differentiated between the concepts "soft launch" and "hard launch" in a dating context. Participants rated 20-items such as commitment, uncertainty, and hiding a relationship. "Soft launches" were more strongly associated with uncertainty in defining the relationship, and hiding the relationship, whereas "hard launches" were more strongly associated with high commitment.

4:45pm – 4:55pm

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN BMI, APPEARANCE PRESSURES, AND BODY IMAGE

ELENA CABRERA (FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY), MAUREEN KENNY (FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY)

Body ideals vary across individuals due to historical and cultural influences. This study considered body shaming among White Hispanic, Black Hispanic, White non-Hispanic, and Black non-Hispanic females (N = 389), examining body esteem and appreciation, BMI, ideal body images, sociocultural attitudes towards appearance, and mother's body messaging. Results showed that higher BMI predicted lower body esteem and appreciation, and sociocultural appearance pressures varied by group. Results indicate the importance of culture in body image research.

Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Poster **America Ballroom Center/South**

PSI CHI/ UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS
Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

POSTER 1

THE MEDIATING ROLE OF STRIVING IN LINKS BETWEEN DISCRIMINATION AND DEPRESSION

OLIVIA MUSCATELL (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDRA BURGESS (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), GRACJAN GAJDZINSKI (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), MARIA CAIRES (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY)

The study examined whether striving mediates the link between discrimination and depression. Prior research shows discrimination can activate perfectionistic tendencies linked to poorer mental health. Using survey data from 186 college students, we measured discrimination, striving, and depression. Key findings were that discrimination correlated with higher striving and depression, and striving was related to depression. These findings suggest striving may be one pathway through which discrimination harms well-being, highlighting targets for support and future intervention.

POSTER 2

ADAPTIVE VS. MALADAPTIVE BOLDNESS: EXPLORING POTENTIAL MALADAPTIVE CORRELATES TO BOLDNESS

MIRANDA ALDRICH (SUNY CORTLAND), ALEXANDRA VIZGAITIS (SUNY CORTLAND)

Much literature suggests boldness is an adaptive trait, but some literature highlights potential maladaptive correlates of boldness. We investigated relations

between boldness and several constructs, including interpersonal problems, self-concept clarity, emotion regulation, and maladaptive personality traits. In a sample of N = 197, correlation analyses revealed boldness was associated with the adaptive end of each construct investigated. Based on these results, boldness appears to be purely adaptive, at least in a general, non-clinical sample.

POSTER 3

COMPARISON OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTING THE SELF AND PERCEPTIONS OF OTHERS

DESIREE COTTO (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ALICIA DRAIS-PARRILLO (THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how racial, cultural, and gender-based life experiences predict cultural identity development and socially wary personal constructs among Latina and white women. Using hierarchical regressions, support, adversity, and Latina/white status predicted identity development, with adversity decreasing development and Latina identity strengthening it. Neuroticism and adversity predicted socially wary constructs. Findings suggest cultural identity formation is shaped through contextual support and ethnicity, whereas personal constructs are driven by emotional reactivity and lived adversity.

POSTER 4

FRONTAL ALPHA ASYMMETRY AS A MARKER OF BIS-DRIVEN VIGILANCE TO NEGATIVE IMAGES

ANNA LYONS (MERRIMACK COLLEGE), AUTUMN VANCE (MERRIMACK COLLEGE), LAURA B. F. KURDZIEL (MERRIMACK COLLEGE), ALLISON E. SEITCHIK (MERRIMACK COLLEGE)

We tested whether motivational dispositions (BIS/BAS measure) predict attention to negative stimuli and whether frontal alpha asymmetry (FAA) moderates these effects. Twenty adults completed an eye-tracking task viewing negative IAPS images; fixations within the image's most aversive region in the first second indexed vigilance. Higher BIS predicted greater fixation percentage. Moderation showed BIS predicted greater engagement under left-frontal activation. Findings implicate FAA as a marker of vigilance.

POSTER 5

EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILDREN'S VOCABULARY, MINDSET BELIEFS, AND PERSISTENCE IN STEM

KATELYN BAGLEY (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MORGAN ZICKENDRATH (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), KAYLEIGH

MEZICK (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), GRACE ALLEN (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), EILEEN RUSSELL (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), AMANDA HABER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Although children are interested in STEM during the preschool years, by the time they enter middle childhood, their sense of belonging in STEM declines, especially for children who are from groups underrepresented in STEM careers. Our study examines how receptive vocabulary in children (n = 76) from linguistically, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds relates to children's persistence in and their mindset beliefs in STEM.

POSTER 6

THE IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC STORYBOOKS ON CAREGIVER-CHILD MINDSET AND FAILURE BELIEFS

KARA BODE (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), THERESA OSHATZ (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), JULIA TOMCHO (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), BROOKE BENZ (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), EMILY HANGEN (SUNY BROCKPORT), AMANDA HABER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

In this study, we investigated how scientific storybooks may affect caregiver-child dyads' (N = 140; aged 6-7) mindset beliefs and engagement during a STEM activity. Caregivers and children were asked about their views of intelligence and failure, and children's persistence on a science activity was assessed. Overall, the results suggest that caregivers hold moderate expectations that aligned with children's perceptions, and children generally demonstrate a growth mindset rather than a fixed mindset.

POSTER 7

SOCIETAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCES ON POSTPARTUM ANXIETY

JULIET EKBORG (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how societal expectations and social media shape maternal mental health in women experiencing postpartum anxiety (PPA). Building on research linking social media pressures to perinatal distress, we interviewed nine mothers about their experiences with PPA. Key themes identified include internalization (judgment, guilt, and self-doubt, and expectations) and social media influences (support and isolation). Findings suggest these pressures influence PPA experiences and underscore the need for awareness and research across more diverse groups.

POSTER 8

PATTERNS OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GLAUCOMA AND SOCIAL ISOLATION: REVIEW STUDY

SOREL PERDOMO FLORES (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), ELLIOTT EVANS-SAFFEE (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), ANNA EGBERT (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY)

Glaucoma has been more often considered to have important associations with the mental health and social well-being of patients. This review study coordinated six previously published original research studies. The current study found consistent correlations of asocial behaviors and emotional struggles in individuals living with glaucoma, including social isolation, emotional functioning, activity restriction, resilience, and social participation. These results highlight the need to further integrate the assessment of social functioning into glaucoma care.

POSTER 9

FIVE-MINUTE MINDFUL PRACTICE DURING COLLEGE LECTURES: CHANGES IN STUDENT STRESS PERCEPTION

MARION NAPLE (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY), AUDREY HAGER (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY)

Students who engage in brief in-class mindfulness practice over one semester may be better equipped to manage stress. It is hypothesized that self-reported mindful tendencies will increase while stress decreases with intervention compared to controls. Initially, 169 undergraduate students were recruited. Data collection across pre, mid, and post-semester surveys measured mindfulness and stress. Results may suggest reduction in self-reported stress, indicating that mindful practice would be valuable to integrate into college lectures.

POSTER 10

CRITICAL CONNECTION: CHALLENGING STRUCTURAL INEQUITY WITH CRITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

BAILEY MCGARRY (DEPAUL UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE PIERRE-LOUIS (DEPAUL UNIVERSITY)

This study examines critical consciousness (CC) within the context of social determinants of health (SDOH) Neighborhood & Built Environment and Social & Community Context. Based on a selection of literature from these domains, preliminary findings suggest that CC enables individuals impacted by structural inequity and systems of oppression to recognize marginalization as the result of systemic, rather than personal failures and develop the critical reflection, agency, and

collective action necessary to effectively challenge these conditions.

POSTER 11

TRENDS IN MEDIA USE AND SOCIAL SUPPORT BEFORE AND AFTER COVID-19

SAMANTHA KOTKIN (SMITH COLLEGE), CHARLES HILL (WHITTIER COLLEGE)

Trends in media use and social support before COVID-19, and changes due to COVID-19, were explored in new analyses of data from a Multiple Identities Questionnaire answered by 2704 women and 1554 men in Intro Psych classes over 25 years. The questionnaire asked about eight types of media use including cellphones, and about social support from ten types of relatives and friends. Correlations and t-tests explored trends before and changes after COVID-19.

POSTER 12

ORDER OR OVERLOAD? THE INFLUENCE OF LEARNING SYSTEMS ON PRODUCTIVITY AND STRESS

SHERIA NEWSOME (TOURO UNIVERSITY), RIRATOU LAMARRE (TOURO UNIVERSITY), CHERYL DYM (TOURO UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the effects of different learning notes systems (salient Color, standard Bulleted, control Freestyle) and studying stress (Timed vs Untimed) on students' academic performance, state anxiety, feelings of support, and study habit change. Contrary to the hypotheses, Bulleted was most effective on academic performance and feelings of support. Timed condition outperformed Untimed condition on Academic Performance. This study showed the importance of structure and constraints on how students learn best.

POSTER 13

ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF STYLE-DEPENDENT MUSIC-SYNTACTIC PROCESSING

KE XU (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), TERRENCE GATTON (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN), BRYAN DENG (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), AMELIA HALL (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), RACHEL MONSER (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), CAT SCALES (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), LEILA TURET (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), STEFAN TZAPREV (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), BRYN HUGHES (UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE), DOMINIQUE T. VUVAN (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

This study used event-related potentials to investigate how listeners process style-dependent music-syntactic violations. Seventy-two participants heard a musical context (classical or rock) followed by a cadence (V-I or bVII-I). Preliminary analyses showed that the Early Right Anterior Negativity and P600 responses were largest for bVII-I cadences in classical contexts, where they are stylistically unexpected. These findings suggest that cultural exposure to musical style shapes neural responses to music syntax and informs style-specific expectations.

POSTER 14

EFFECTS OF A BRIEF MINDFULNESS PRACTICE ON STRESS REACTIVITY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

SUNAYNA AVILALA (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY), KHYLEE BRAHAM RIVERA (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY), NOELLE D'AMICO (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY), OLIVIA DOSHER (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY), KATHRYN O'FARRELL (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY), ISABELLA IACOBUCCI (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY), ISABELLA MEIER (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY), ILANA HALIWA (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY)

College students report elevated stress, and prior research shows that mindful interventions can be beneficial. This study tested the effects of a short meditation on stress reactivity among undergraduate students, using a pair of stressor tasks with eye-tracking. Pupil dilation in the mindfulness condition trended lower than the control, but no significant differences emerged across outcomes, suggesting that longer meditations may be needed to elicit effects.

POSTER 15

EXAMINING SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AMONG PARENTS IN FAMILY SHELTERS

SARAH ELMER (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEW BRUNSWICK), JANETTE E. HERBERS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

Shelter community may provide protective social support for parents staying in homeless shelters. A sample of 56 parents across four family shelters completed measures evaluating sense of community, psychological distress, and reasons for shelter stay. Using linear regression, we identified an association between high distress and low sense of community that was moderated by interpersonal reasons, where parents with interpersonal reasons reported a similar sense of community regardless of distress level.

POSTER 16**EXAMINING RISK FACTORS FOR SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG COMMUNITY-DWELLING HISPANIC OLDER ADULTS**

VICTORIA MICHA WAISS (WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE), NANCY WANG (WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE), TALYA WAXENBERG (WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE), CLARE CULVER (WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE), ISABEL ROLLANDI (WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE), JO ANNE SIREY (WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE)

Spanish-speakers may face specific risk factors for suicidal ideation (SI), including individual characteristics, social support, and cognitive function. We examined SI in a sample (n=62) of depressed Hispanic seniors enrolled in free psychotherapy. Logistic regressions showed that living alone, lower cognitive functioning, and higher depression severity were associated with greater odds of SI. Findings highlight the need to identify risk factors, given the high prevalence of SI in Hispanic populations, to guide screening and interventions.

POSTER 17**SELF-BLAME, SHAME, AND PTSD SYMPTOMS AMONG ACKNOWLEDGED CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS**

SHANE MANDIA (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), JOANNA HERRES (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

This study examined whether acknowledgment of sexual assault (SA) victimization during college is associated with more severe PTSD symptoms and whether self-blame and shame influence this link. Across 122 students who reported SA, acknowledgement was associated with severe PTSD symptoms; however, self-blame and shame did not moderate this relationship. These findings highlight the importance of victims' perceptions and responses to SA in informing targeted interventions.

POSTER 18**THE MODERATING ROLE OF DISTRESS TOLERANCE BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AND SLEEP QUALITY**

JESSICA SAMBORSKY (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), MIKAYLA RENZI (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), JOANNA HERRES (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

This study examined poor sleep quality and psychological distress among college students, hypothesizing that distress tolerance (DT) would moderate the relationship. Findings revealed that increased distress was associated with poor sleep

quality and that the relationship between distress and sleep quality was moderated by DT. Students experiencing distress will have better sleep quality if they have high DT, highlighting the crucial role DT has on the psychological impact of distress on sleep quality.

POSTER 19**EFFECTS OF PEER COMPARISON ON TASK PERFORMANCE AND STRESS RESPONSE**

KAITLYN MCGONIGAL (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), REBEKAH ANTHONY (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), KEVIN MORRIN (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

This study examined how peer comparison and executive function influence task performance and stress response. Building on research linking executive skills, emotion regulation, and social comparison, sixty undergraduates completed cognitive, self-report, and physiological measures under peer comparison or control conditions. Peer comparison did not affect accuracy or heart rate, though state and trait anxiety differed significantly. These findings highlight the need for stronger peer-comparison manipulations and suggest future applications in academic and workplace evaluation settings.

POSTER 20**LINGUISTIC STYLE MARKERS AS RISK FACTORS FOR ANXIETY CONTAGION IN ANXIOUS ADOLESCENTS**

SAMANTHA CIPOLLA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KIMBERLI TREADWELL (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

The present study examined linguistic style matching (LSM)—a validated indicator of convergence—in conversations between emerging adults with elevated GAD symptoms and their best friends. 52 emerging adults scoring high in anxiety were recruited and asked to bring their best friend to the experiment. Consistent with Communication Accommodation Theory, dyads showed significant linguistic convergence. Contrary to predictions, LSM did not correlate with individual differences of anxiety, depression and worry content.

POSTER 21**DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT AND THE ADJUDICATION OF GOAL CONFLICT**

NINJIN TUMURBAT (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARY TURNER DEPALMA (ITHACA COLLEGE)

Present bias has been predominantly measured with behavioral economic tasks or inconsistent self-report items. This study replicated and extended prior research by exploring present bias with validated self-control measures and examining specific behavior change tools in the context of diabetes self-management. In a sample of 541 adults (297 with a diagnosis), present bias predicted poorer diet and exercise adherence and was strongly associated with lower self-control, grit, and self-efficacy.

POSTER 22

PLANNING MEDIATES THE EFFECT OF PRESENT BIAS ON DIABETES SELF-CARE

RUBY CZARNIAWSKI (ITHACA COLLEGE), NICOLE KORNWEISS (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARCY KUMIEGA (ITHACA COLLEGE), AENESSA RYLSKI (ITHACA COLLEGE), MALAYA FLUELLEN (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARY TURNER DEPALMA (ITHACA COLLEGE)

Prolific volunteers (N = 249; 47% male, 52.2% female) with a diabetes diagnosis completed our survey. Participants with higher present bias reported fewer days/week maintaining their diet and exercise routine, as well as less use of planning as a form of coping. Planning served as a mediating factor between present bias and diabetes self-care. Reducing present bias and increasing planning strategies may promote behavioral change towards better diabetes self-care.

POSTER 23

THE IMPACT OF OUTSIDE TIME ON ADJUSTMENT AND EMOTION REGULATION IN CHILDREN

ZOE DODGE (COLBY COLLEGE), KATY JANE HARDENBERGH (COLBY COLLEGE), MARIA CARRASCO (COLBY COLLEGE), LINDSAY WHELAN (COLBY COLLEGE), MICHAEL SANDERS (COLBY COLLEGE, GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT DARTMOUTH)

School outdoor play has been linked to positive outcomes, but its role on classroom behavioral adjustment and self-control remain understudied. Participants included 57 caregiver-child dyads and teachers who reported outside time, emotion regulation, classroom adjustment, and self-control. Results revealed significant associations between school outside time and behavioral adjustment and self-control, especially in the morning, but not mediated by emotion regulation. Implications for the importance of scheduling early outside time during the school day are discussed.

POSTER 24

"AN INTIMIDATING DECISION": HOW ESTABLISHED ADULT WOMEN THINK ABOUT REPRODUCTION.

ADA NICODEMUS (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), AUTUMN RUGGLES (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), ZOE LIN, CLARE MEHTA (EMMANUEL COLLEGE)

We interviewed 16 currently child-free established adult women (30-45) about reproductive decision making. Participants described social and structural influences on their reproductive decision-making (e.g. parental pressure, financial concerns), reasons to forgo/delay reproduction (e.g. reducing environmental impact and enjoying a child-free lifestyle) and emotional responses to reproduction, (e.g. ambivalence, anxiety, fear).

POSTER 25

"I'M ABLE TO SORT OUT MY PROBLEMS": ESTABLISHED ADULTS' MARKERS OF ADULTHOOD

AUTUMN RUGGLES (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), ADA NICODEMUS (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), ZOE BERG, CLARE MEHTA (EMMANUEL COLLEGE, ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

We interviewed 30 heterosexual established adults (30-45) about their perceptions of markers that indicate having reached adult status. Participants described adult status as being related to self-regulation (both cognitive and emotional), and meeting developmental milestones, including independence from parents, financial independence, and meeting traditional developmental milestones.

POSTER 26

"I CAN'T ACCESS WHAT I NEED": SERVICE ACCESS DIFFICULTIES & LIFE EXPECTATIONS

EILEEN RILEY (CLARK UNIVERSITY), RANI PARIKH (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ARIS PAPADIMITRIOU (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ZAINAB SHABBIR (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANA KAMILLE MARCELO (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

The present study examines how difficulties accessing post-migration healthcare and legal services shape immigrants' life expectations. Using a diverse sample of 305 emerging adult immigrants who completed an online survey with the Pre-Migration History Index, a simple linear regression analysis showed that greater service access stress significantly predicted lower life expectations. Findings underscore the importance of reducing structural barriers to essential services to better support the long-term well-being of immigrants.

POSTER 27**"WHAT COULD GO WRONG?" PERFECTIONISM, COUNTERFACTUAL THINKING, ACADEMIC MOTIVATION ON TEMPTING-FATE BELIEFS**

ANGELINA MEMMI (PENN STATE HARRISBURG A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY),
LAURA HEISICK (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY - HARRISBURG)

Why do we believe it is possible to "tempt fate" when we know it is illogical? The current study was a replication and extension to deepen understanding of cognitive processes behind tempting-fate beliefs. Participants reviewed scenarios in which they or "a friend" could feel as though they invited negative outcomes. We investigated how this belief relates to academic motivation, perfectionism, and counterfactual thinking. We interpret findings with emphasis on proposed explanations for belief patterns.

POSTER 28**A PILOT STUDY: EFFECTS OF EMOTIONAL REGULATION TRAINING ON RUGBY PERFORMANCE**

ALEX J. VALERY (SUNY BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY),
JILL M. NORVILITIS (SUNY BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY)

Examined whether a brief emotional regulation intervention could influence performance and stress in women's university rugby players. Ten athletes were randomly assigned to either an emotional regulation session or a control video before participating in a simulated match. Results showed a trend toward higher tackling performance in the emotional regulation group. Importantly, participants reported that they liked the emotional regulation skills and tried to use them during the match.

POSTER 29**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN SOCIAL MEDIA BEHAVIORS AND WELL-BEING MEASURES**

KINSEY LESHER (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), RACHEL MACINTYRE (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

Active social media use (i.e., posting) and passive use (i.e., scrolling) have been linked with different well-being outcomes. The present study examined the associations between active and passive use and well-being outcomes (e.g., depression, self-esteem), appearance comparison tendency, and social network reassurance seeking. College students (N = 98) who engaged in more active use, also engaged in greater reassurance seeking. Those who engaged in more

passive use, also reported a greater appearance comparison tendency.

POSTER 30**ASSESSING SATISFACTION WITH SUPPORTIVE LIVING SERVICES AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS**

ANGELICA SAUER (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY),
CADENCE BROWN (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY),
JONATHAN MEDINA (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY),
KIM WEIKEL (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY)

Satisfaction with both supportive housing services and clubhouse services for individuals with serious mental illness was investigated using a 5-subscale survey. Alphas indicated acceptable internal consistency, and intercorrelations indicated some distinction between the subscales as well as distinction between the subscales and an item measuring satisfaction with housing. This study provides support for the helpfulness of a multiple-scale survey assessing distinct aspects of support services and for assessing support services separately from satisfaction with housing.

POSTER 31**ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN MORAL INJURY AND COLLEGE MALE SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

KEVIN WOODEN (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW ABELL (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH KATZ (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

The purpose of this study is to explore associations between morally injurious experiences and male college students' substance use and mental health symptoms. Data was collected from 66 men enrolled in a predominantly white university. Results found that various types of morally injurious experiences are differentially associated with alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis use as well as anxiety and depression. Future research, using a longitudinal design, should examine the direction of these effects.

POSTER 32**ATTACHMENT QUALITY AND TECHNOLOGY: ASSOCIATIONS WITH EMOTION REGULATION AND PEER RELATIONSHIPS**

AMELIA SAGGIO (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY),
ELAINA GEORGELIS (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY),
ASHLEY SEIBERT (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY)

This study examined associations among attachment, emotion regulation, peer competence, and technology

use among undergraduate students. Secure attachment correlated with positive friendship qualities and engagement coping, whereas anxious attachment correlated with negative friendship qualities, disengagement coping, and self-defeating technology use. Avoidant attachment correlated with disengagement coping. Positive friendship qualities were associated with engagement coping, while negative friendship qualities were associated with self-defeating technology use. Future research should examine potential mediators between attachment and digital behavior.

POSTER 33

CHILD AND PARENT TEMPERAMENT IN MALADAPTIVE EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES

RYAN PATTERSON (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KYRA CHEN (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KRISTEN DOVGAN (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how child and caregiver temperaments impact emotional and behavioral outcomes in children aged 2-6 years old. Across 23 caregiver-child pairs, difficult child temperament was associated with greater emotional and behavioral difficulties. Caregiver temperament did not add explanatory power. Findings emphasize the central role of child temperament in early development and highlight the importance of caregiver-child fit in shaping personality outcomes.

POSTER 34

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO GENDER DIFFERENCES IN EMPLOYABILITY OF AUTISTIC ADULTS

KACIE ALLEY (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), DEBRA VREDENBURG-RUDY (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), SHAUN COOK (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

We aimed to examine the effects of diagnostic disclosure of ASD on participants' ratings of job candidates. Participants responded to four vignettes of job candidates in which ASD diagnosis was revealed or a health condition such as corrected vision or seasonal allergies was identified. Further, ASD knowledge and benevolent sexist attitudes were assessed to examine whether these variables would influence ratings of candidates. This research has implications for hiring decisions in the workplace.

POSTER 35

DAYCARE EXPERIENCE, PARENTAL SENSE OF COMPETENCE, AND THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

SOPHIE GILLIGAN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SHAINA BRADY (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SARAH WATAMURA (UNIVERSITY OF DENVER), AMANDA TARULLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study explores independent and interactive relations between the hours children spend at daycare, parental sense of competence, and the parent-child relationship. Parents completed the Parenting Sense of Competence and Adult Child Relationship Scales. No links were found between time at daycare and warmth or conflict in the parent-child relationship. Time at daycare was negatively correlated with PSOC. A regression found PSOC was the only significant predictor of Warmth and Conflict in the parent-child relationship.

POSTER 36

DIAGNOSTIC AWARENESS AND EMOTIONAL FUNCTIONING IN ITALIAN ADULTS WITH ADHD-RELATED SYMPTOMS

ABRAHAM RAHMAN (CLARK UNIVERSITY), EYAL ROSENSTREICH (UMBRA INSTITUTE), ANDREW STEWART (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Adult ADHD is both overlooked and stigmatized in Italy. This study examines how impactful diagnostic status (formally-diagnosed, self-diagnosed, undiagnosed) is, among Italian adults exhibiting ADHD-related symptoms, when predicting emotion regulation, self-efficacy, hope, and self-advocacy. In a distributed questionnaire (N = 195), participants will complete validated scales, alongside reporting health-related factors. Undiagnosed adults are expected to demonstrate reduced regulation and self-advocacy, suggesting that diagnostic awareness is a potential protective factor in an under-studied context.

POSTER 37

DISENTANGLING PARENT AND CHILD CONTRIBUTIONS TO WARMTH AND CONFLICT IN EARLY RELATIONSHIPS

SOPHIA LOMBARDO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), NOORA SALO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ZEYNEP KOMBE-ELAZAB (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SARAH WATAMURA (UNIVERSITY OF DENVER), AMANDA TARULLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined parent-reported predictors of parent-perceived warmth and conflict in relationships between low-income parents and their toddlers using

hierarchical regression. Socioeconomic, parent, and child factors collectively showed meaningful associations with warmth and conflict. Warmth was associated with parent-reported child age, child externalizing behavior, and child emotion regulation, whereas conflict was associated with child emotional lability, child sex, parent cognitive functioning, and parent emotional functioning. Findings illuminate distinct patterns regarding positive and conflictual parent-child interactions.

POSTER 38

DYSLEXIA IN THE WORKPLACE

ETHAN COSCIA (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ESTELA BAKA (PENN STATE UNIVERSITY), AKAASH VINCENT (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Dyslexia is a learning disability characterized by difficulties in reading. Text-to-speech (TTS) technology is an effective intervention for dyslexia in students. However, few studies examine the benefits of TTS for adults with dyslexia at work. This study examines the relationship between TTS, perceived relationships, competence, and performance in the workplace. The research design for our study will be a two-by-two factorial design. The statistical methods will be an independent means t-test and standard factorial ANOVA.

POSTER 39

EARLY HOME ENVIRONMENT AND SEX DIFFERENCES IN HIPPOCAMPAL SUBREGION VOLUMES

ZOE SANDERS (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), AMELIA RAFALO (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), LINDSEY MOONEY (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), REBECCA M.C. SPENCER (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), TRACY RIGGINS (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

Early home experiences influence brain development, yet links to hippocampal volume remain unclear. MRI scans were acquired from 55 children (29 male) aged 3-5.5 years and parents completed the HOME-SF questionnaire. Preliminary analyses indicated marginal correlations between sex and HOME-SF scores and suggested sex differences in hippocampal volume. Correlational analyses showed that males left hippocampal body volume was marginally negatively associated with HOME-SF scores ($r = -0.33$, $p = 0.08$). Future analyses will include additional participants and HOME-SF subscales.

POSTER 40

EARLY NEURAL MIRRORING AT 6-WEEKS AS A PREDICTOR OF LATER IMITATION ABILITIES

FAITH ZHAO (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), MICHELLE JIMENEZ (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KELSEY DAVINSON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), DELANEY MENDOZA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), LAUREN BRYANT (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), KIMBERLY CUEVAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

The sensorimotor EEG mu rhythm, a neural marker of the mirroring system, may provide insight into early social learning and imitation. This study examines whether mu rhythm desynchronization (MRD) measured during the observation of facial gestures at 6-9 weeks predicts 12-month imitation abilities. We hypothesize that infants showing greater early MRD will demonstrate higher imitation scores at 12 months. These findings may shed light on how early neural mirroring supports social-cognitive systems in infancy.

POSTER 41

EEG MU RHYTHM AS A NEURAL MARKER FOR SOCIAL LEARNING IN 6-MONTH-OLDS

MICHELLE JIMENEZ (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), FAITH ZHAO (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), DELANEY MENDOZA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KELSEY DAVINSON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), LAUREN BRYANT (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), KIMBERLY CUEVAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Measuring changes in EEG mu rhythm during early infancy can reveal developmental variations in how infants process others' actions. This study investigates whether early mu rhythm desynchronization (MRD) during facial action perception at 6-9 weeks functions as a developmental marker for emerging imitation skills. We hypothesize that infants with stronger MRD at 6-9 weeks will demonstrate robust imitation skills at 6 months. These findings may provide insights into how MRD supports social learning development.

POSTER 42

EFFECT OF POST-TYPE AND LOCATION ON FOMO AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

ARCHIE BIRD (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), MICHELE VAN-VOLKOM (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

The present study evaluated the effect that post-type and location of photos have on fear of missing out and mental well-being. One hundred and twenty-two undergraduate college students viewed one of four conditions of photos that included having one or multiple individuals within the photo, along with the photo being in either a more favorable location or

neutral location. The study was a true experiment using a two-by-two factorial design.

POSTER 43

EFFECTS OF MUSIC AND STRESS ON FUNCTIONING

KAYLA LANDRY (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CONNOR CORRENTE (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), PATRICIA KAHLBAUGH (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Music supports cognition, emotional balance, and stress reduction (Delleli et al., 2023; de Witte et al., 2020). Participants (n=134) completed a cognitive task and reported their arousal and levels of peace while listening to instrumental music (metal vs. hymnal). Stress was either measured before (n=69) or while music was played (n=65). Metal music increased cognitive performance and for those already high in stress, metal music increased arousal.

POSTER 44

EFFECTS OF YOUTH EXPOSURE TO VIOLENT DIGITAL CONTENT

TAMSIN CURTIS (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), LYSANDRA PEREZ-STRUMOLO (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), DYAMI EFROIMSON (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), JULIANNE GERRITSEN (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), ADISHA KAGHADO (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), RACHEL KOBELSKI (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), GABRIELLA KULICK (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

Exposure to violent digital content is common among youth. In this retrospective study, a convenience sample of college students enrolled in introductory psychology courses described distressing digital content they recalled being exposed to during their youth and completed the PTSD Checklist for DSM-5. Qualitative analyses identified three themes related to violent content and long-term effects. PTSD symptoms were more prevalent among those exposed to violent content during youth $t(193)=2.77, p=.003$.

POSTER 45

EVALUATING THE EFFECTS OF LION'S MANE MUSHROOM ON COGNITION IN MICE

JASMINE WINDHAM (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), INGRID TULLOCH (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

The effects of voluntary oral treatments with lion's mane mushroom (*Hericium erinaceus*) on learning and

memory in animal models are not well studied. Discussed in this presentation are spatial and object recognition memory performance across different lion's mane administration methods in a rodent model of learning and memory. The findings will provide evidence for whether voluntary oral intake of lion's mane is effective in pre-clinical models of cognition.

POSTER 46

EVERYDAY DISCRIMINATION, POLICE SURVEILLANCE, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS IN NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

JULIA QUETELL (LEHMAN COLLEGE CUNY), MARTIN DOWNING (LEHMAN COLLEGE), MIA BUDESCU (LEHMAN COLLEGE)

This study seeks to analyze associations of everyday discrimination and police surveillance on psychological distress for adult residents of several neighborhood tabulation areas (NTAs) in New York City. Previous research has shown that adults experiencing discrimination or excessive policing also experience higher levels of psychological distress. Data collection includes street-intercept surveys with NTA residents. This study expands on previous research by focusing on potential associations of omnipresent policing and collecting daily diary data.

POSTER 47

FACTOR ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL RESTLESSNESS, INATTENTION, AND HYPERACTIVITY SYMPTOMS

ANNA SHERMAN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), JESSICA GLENN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), MAEVE SQUIRE (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), AMY STAMATES (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

The present study used a principle components analysis to examine the factor structure of the Internal Restlessness (e.g., the mental discomfort experienced by an individual when they suppress hyperactive behaviors) Scale (IRS) in relation to ADHD symptoms on the Current Symptom Scale (CSS). A five-factor structure emerged; internal restlessness symptoms loaded separately from ADHD symptoms, suggesting that internal restlessness is not captured by the CSS. Studies examining ADHD symptoms might consider including the IRS.

POSTER 48

FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS EXPERIENCES AND HELP-SEEKING

SARAH AL MOZANI (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study explores first generation college students' experiences, mental health, and coping. Research suggests that first generation college students are at elevated risk for a variety of mental health challenges, yet they have lower use of mental health services. 11 semi-structured interviews were conducted and preliminary findings include identity negotiation, additional invisible burdens, and seeking help as a final resort. This suggests the need for universities to provide ongoing support tailored to these unique experiences.

POSTER 49

FROM NARRATIVE PROCESSES TO IDENTITY COHERENCE: QUIET EGO MODERATES CLEAR SELF-CONCEPT GROWTH

ANARA ADYLBKOVA (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), MARWA ELHAWWAM (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), GABRIELLE NEAL (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), CADE MANSFIELD (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), LEIGH SHAW (WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how narrative processes contribute to clear self-concept. We investigate whether distinct self-event connections (Explain/Illustrate, Dismiss, Cause) predict Self-Concept Clarity (SCC) and whether this relationship is moderated by the Quiet Ego (QE)—a balanced, growth-oriented identity orientation. Using a longitudinal design, we examine how QE shapes the translation of narrative meaning-making into identity coherence.

POSTER 50

HIPPOCAMPAL REPRESENTATIONS AND BEHAVIORAL STATE MODULATION

LINDSAY FOMUNDAM (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), PEYMAN GOLSHANI (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES), MARY JENSON (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY)

The hippocampus consolidates spatiotemporal representations, yet how behavioral states modulate this process remains unclear. We developed a head-fixed treadmill paradigm where mice navigated visuotactile cues for sucrose rewards. Across three sessions, mice showed spatial learning through anticipatory licking and slowed locomotion near reward sites. This approach enables future high-resolution voltage imaging of OLM \pm 2 interneurons to uncover state-dependent mechanisms of memory consolidation.

POSTER 51

HOW DOES CAREGIVER EMOTION DYSREGULATION SHAPE CHILDREN'S EMOTION KNOWLEDGE?

PREETI BACHU (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANA K. MARCELO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), TUPPETT M. YATES (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - RIVERSIDE)

Emotion regulation is often referred to as processes responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and adapting emotional reactions. In this study, caregivers' emotion regulation is measured in order to see its effects on a child's ability to recognize and label their own emotions. Caregivers' difficulties with emotion regulation were significantly positively correlated with child's emotion recognition, also moderated by gender and race. Findings highlight the nuanced ways caregiver emotions and cultural context can shape children's emotional competencies.

POSTER 52

HUMAN PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF NATURE AND FUTURE CONSEQUENCES

TARA MAHON (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), MEGAN DELANEY (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

Humans are defined in previous literature as part of nature, or biocentric. A higher consideration of future consequences has been suggested to lead to better pro-environmental behaviors. One hundred undergraduates completed questionnaires regarding these two topics. Key qualitative findings suggest a strong human-nature connection and concern for the planet. This suggests that those who consider themselves part of nature will carry out environmentally positive behaviors that impact the long-term effects of climate change.

POSTER 53

I'LL DO IT LATER: EXPLORING ACADEMIC PROCRASTINATION, ANXIETY SYMPTOMS, AND COLLEGE MAJOR

SOPHIA LYONS (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), ASHLEY JOSEPH (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), AMBER HODGES (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

Research demonstrates relationships between procrastination and anxiety in college students. This research project compares self-reported procrastination and anxiety levels in STEM versus non-STEM students. Additionally, anxiety levels across institutional context will be measured in URM STEM students. Utilizing a quantitative, cross-sectional design, participants will complete surveys measuring procrastination habits, anxiety levels, and sense of

belonging at their university. Results can inform the development of campus-wide supports and resources promoting mental health and academic success.

POSTER 54

IMPACT OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING ON STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

SAMANTHA BRADY (WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE),
PRINCY QUADROS-MENNELLA (WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY)

The present study explored culturally responsive teaching (CRT) experiences of students and faculty in higher education. Students completed assessments on academic self-efficacy and exposure to CRT. Faculty completed a scale assessing self-efficacy using CRT. Positive correlations between academic self-efficacy and each subscale of the CRT were observed. Positive correlations between time in higher education and self-efficacy using CRT were found. These findings highlight the need to research the impacts of CRT in higher education.

POSTER 55

INTENTIONAL VERSUS UNINTENTIONAL MIND-WANDERING: A DIRECT REPLICATION OF SELI ET AL. (2016)

TABITHA BOLEN (EASTERN UNIVERSITY), ELLA GAMBER (EASTERN UNIVERSITY), TARA STOPPA (EASTERN UNIVERSITY)

We conducted a replication of Seli et al.'s (2016) study on mind-wandering. Participants ($n = 96$) completed either an easy or difficult sustained-attention-to-response (SART) task, along with measures of intentional or unintentional mind-wandering. Similar to the original findings, our results indicated no significant differences in overall mind-wandering between easy and difficult SART conditions. However, in contrast, participants in our study tended to report higher levels of intentional mind-wandering compared to unintentional mind-wandering.

POSTER 56

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN CAFFEINE CONSUMPTION, SLEEP QUALITY, AND SUICIDAL IDEATION IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

MELIA SWENSON (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY),
SAMANTHA SULLIVAN (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY),
QUINCY PALMATEER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY),
PAULINE GOGER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Excessive caffeine use has been shown to impact sleep, stress, and mental health symptoms. Emerging young adults may use caffeine to mitigate sleep problems caused by depression or suicidal ideation, which might in turn be associated with lower quality sleep. In a study of college students, we investigated the relationship between caffeine use, sleep quality, depression, and suicidal ideation. Participants with the highest sleep impairment and caffeine withdrawal symptoms reported the highest suicidal ideation.

POSTER 57

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE CIRCADIAN RHYTHM SYSTEM AND ETHANOL SENSITIVITY IN DROSOPHILA MELANOGASTER

ELIZABETH HANLON (WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE),
PRINCY QUADROS-MENNELLA (WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY)

Circadian rhythm dysfunction influences behavioral and physiological symptoms of alcohol consumption, potentially increasing alcohol addiction, a relationship also observed in *Drosophila melanogaster*; we aimed to further examine these interactions. In *Drosophila*, period and timeless genes are part of a clock mechanism which regulates circadian rhythm. We found a significant difference in sedation time across strains, with per loss-of-function flies sedating slower than wildtype flies.

POSTER 58

INVESTIGATING ADULT'S STABILITY OF SELF PERCEPTIONS

JESSICA S. LEFFERS (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND), EMMA SCHNEIDER (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND), MARY GOVAN (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND), TAYLOR BASSO (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND), PILLAR DYSON (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND), AMY LUDDEN (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND)

While self-concept appears early in childhood and remains fairly stable throughout the lifespan, distinct changes occur throughout adulthood. Younger adults focus on future events while older adults have a present orientation. The current study investigated the extent to which adults perceive changes between their current, past, and future selves. We examined whether psychological essentialist beliefs about self-stability predicted perceived changes. This study has implications for how adults view themselves and their overall life satisfaction.

POSTER 59**LIGHTS, CAMERAS, MENTALIZATION!
EXAMINING GENDER DIFFERENCES IN
MENTALIZING USING THE MASC.**

NICOLETTE DECICCO (SUNY CORTLAND), ALEXANDRA VIZGAITIS (SUNY CORTLAND)

A key component of social cognition is mentalizing, the ability to understand others' mental states. We examined gender differences in mentalizing using the Movie for the Assessment of Social Cognition (MASC) in 180 undergraduate students. Specific error types (hyper mentalizing, under mentalizing, no mentalizing) and incorrect responses were examined. Men made significantly more total and hyper mentalizing errors than women, while no significant gender differences emerged for under mentalizing or no mentalizing responses.

POSTER 60**LINKS BETWEEN THEORY OF MIND, SCREEN
TIME, AND SLEEP IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN**

GIAVANA CARACCIOLI (FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY), DANIELLE DENIGRIS (FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY)

The current study explores the links between theory of mind (ToM), screen time use, and sleep problems in school-aged children. 87 children completed an online measure of ToM; parents completed questionnaires on children's sleep habits, and screen time. Results linked ToM to both sleep and screen time, above and beyond the influence of age and control variables. Understanding how sleep problems and screen time affect ToM can help identify factors to support children's social-cognitive development.

POSTER 61**LISTENING TO MUSIC DECREASES DISTRESS
UNLESS ENGAGING UNHEALTHILY**

NATALY LUKONIN (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), MIKAYLA RENZI (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), JOANNA HERRES (THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

This study examined music listening and psychological distress among college students, hypothesizing that unhealthy engagement (e.g., escapism, rumination) would moderate the relationship. As expected, music listening was associated with lower distress. However, listening to music was associated with more distress among students who engaged with music in unhealthy ways, highlighting the complex role of engagement motives in determining music's overall psychological impact.

POSTER 62**MAPPING SOCIAL NETWORKS: DEMOGRAPHIC
CHARACTERISTICS AND RELATIONSHIP TYPES
ACROSS SOCIAL DISTANCES**

JUSTIN TAVERAS (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), MICHAEL ZHONG (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), RIYA KUMAR (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), YI LU (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), CORINNA LOECKENHOFF (CORNELL UNIVERSITY)

The composition of social networks shifts across adulthood, but little is known about variations in social partners' relationship types and demographics across perceived social distances. A U.S. adult lifespan sample (N=457) reported the age, gender, and relationship type of social partners at five social distances. At closer distances, social partners were older and more likely to be family ties, and these patterns were more pronounced among older participants. Methodological limitations and future directions are discussed.

POSTER 63**MOCK JUROR PERCEPTIONS OF EVIDENCE ERROR
RATES AND DELIVERY MODALITY**

SERENA VAN ENGELHOFEN (EASTERN UNIVERSITY), TABITHA BOLEN (EASTERN UNIVERSITY), KELSEY HESS (EASTERN UNIVERSITY)

We explored the effects of jury instruction and expert testimony on mock jurors' interpretation of DNA evidence and toolmark analysis in a capital case. Participants (N=67) read a vignette about a possible murder and either read expert testimony or received jury instructions. These contained information about either DNA or toolmark analysis. Preliminary results showed marginal effects when assessing the association between evidence type and verdict, and a correlation between jury instructions and culpability ratings.

POSTER 64**PARENT-CHILD PHYSICAL CLOSENESS AND
AFFECTION IN THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY**

KARYNA FOWLER (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), CHRIS BOYATZIS (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW BUCALOIU (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), EMMA SMITH (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), MASON KLOTZ (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY)

We tested cultural differences in physical closeness, affectionate touch, and attentiveness between parents and young children in the U.S. and Italy by naturalistically observing mothers and fathers with children in public spaces in both countries. U.S. fathers were physically closer to their children than Italian

fathers were. U.S. parents were more attentive to their children than Italian parents were. Italian mothers had more affectionate touches with their children than American mothers did.

POSTER 65

PEER MENTORING: ASSOCIATIONS WITH ATTACHMENT, SELF-EFFICACY, AND SOCIAL ANXIETY

ELAINA GEORGEIS (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY),
ASHLEY SEIBERT (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY)

Peer mentoring programs can be beneficial for first-year students to help them adjust to the academic and social demands of college. In this study, mentors and mentees completed surveys assessing their attachment style, relationship quality, self-efficacy, and anxiety. Findings suggest that mentors with greater self-efficacy provide more authentic and community support while challenging their mentees, and that mentees with secure attachment report lower levels of social anxiety compared to those with anxious and avoidant attachment.

POSTER 66

PHENOMENOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SELF-DEFINING MEMORIES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING IN LGBTQ+ EMERGING ADULTS

AUDREY GOMEZ (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), KAREN SIEDLECKI (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY)

We investigated the relationship between psychological well-being and the phenomenology of self-defining memories (SDMs) among LGBTQ+ emerging adults. Participants (n=313) recalled two SDMs related to their LGBTQ+ identity and completed measures of well-being and memory phenomenology. Depressive symptoms were the most consistent predictor, associated with lower coherence, increased distancing, and a third-person perspective. Other predictors (e.g., positive and negative affect, identity disclosure/concealment) demonstrated mixed associations, reflecting the complex influence of identity-related experiences on autobiographical processing.

POSTER 67

POTENTIAL AI USAGE TO INCREASE HELP-SEEKING, MODERATED BY HIKIKOMORI AND INTERNET ADDICTION

MAI TRAN (UNION COLLEGE), D. CATHERINE WALKER (UNION COLLEGE)

This study investigated whether ChatGPT's emotional support was viewed as supportive, would encourage people to seek professional help, and whether Hikikomori, extreme social withdrawal, and internet addiction moderated this effect. Results showed that ChatGPT may be an effective temporary aid for individuals when traditional help is inaccessible to encourage help-seeking in traditional settings, regardless of levels of Hikikomori and internet addiction.

POSTER 68

PREVALENCE RATE & TEMPORAL RISK FOR CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

ZOE MENDEL (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), REBECCA BONOMO (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), KARYNA FOWLER (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), MARGARET SANCHEZ (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), ALLISON BATES (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), MORGAN DAILY (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), CHARLOTTE HIGGS (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), ERICA DELSANDRO (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM FLACK (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY)

Research identifies the early fall of the first year of college as a "red zone" for high rates of campus sexual assault (CSA). In Summer 2025, Bucknell University's CSA research team conducted a campuswide survey. The findings showed that a high percentage of students reported incidents in the early fall. The prevalence of CSA was extended beyond the first year, and rates were still high in the second year, informing targeted inquiry and prevention efforts.

POSTER 69

PROMOTING FLOURISHING AND THRIVING: PERCEPTIONS OF COLLEGE SENIORS

OLIVIA HARDIN (JUNIATA COLLEGE), LUKE BITTNER (JUNIATA COLLEGE), WALLECIA BYFIELD (JUNIATA COLLEGE), MAKENNA HARTMAN (JUNIATA COLLEGE), EMMA KULISEK (JUNIATA COLLEGE), KATHERINE WINSTEAD (JUNIATA COLLEGE), KATHRYN WESTCOTT (JUNIATA COLLEGE)

This study examines factors that promote flourishing and thriving and how they are reflected in college seniors' experiences. Interviews conducted with 13 college seniors were analyzed using both content and thematic analysis. Content analysis was used to identify key components of flourishing versus thriving, while thematic analysis revealed aspects of college students and their environment that promoted success. Increased understanding of how to promote optimal functioning can help colleges better support their students.

POSTER 70**PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGICAL STRESS AND POLITICAL CANDIDATE CHOICE IN HBCU STUDENTS**

ZIPPORAH OGABO (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

American politics has been shown to present heightened psychological and physiological stressors for young voters during election seasons. 45 HBCU students were surveyed during and retrospectively for stress, anxiety, and physiological symptoms in relation to the 2024 presidential election. Key findings suggest that HBCU students experienced elevated election-related psychophysiological stress, with anxiety emerging as a strong predictor of perceived stress. Future research should expand sample diversity and examine psychophysiological stress and political anxiety post-presidential election.

POSTER 71**RACIALIZED SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CORTISOL LEVELS IN COLLEGE AGED BLACK WOMEN**

SALENA CHEESEBORO (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

Black women face disproportionate sexual violence and stress shaped by intersecting both racial and gender discrimination. Despite research connecting trauma to stress responses, very little is known about how racialized sexual violence specifically affects biological stress markers in Black women. Findings may clarify links between racialized sexual trauma and physiological stress, informing efforts to address related health disparities.

POSTER 72**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRAUMA PROXIMITY, EMOTION REGULATION, AND PTSD SYMPTOMS IN EMERGING ADULTS**

QUINCY PALMATEER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MELIA SWENSON (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), SAMANTHA SULLIVAN (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), PAULINE GOGER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Building on prior literature investigating associations between trauma, emotion regulation, and PTSD, these relationships were investigated within emerging adults who were in middle school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Emotion dysregulation interacted with proximity to trauma, such that having experienced potentially life-threatening trauma first hand was associated with the highest PTSD symptoms. Amount of different kinds of traumas endorsed and emotion dysregulation were also positively related. These findings may help inform trauma interventions.

POSTER 73**SCHIZOID PERSONALITY DISORDER AND PET-HUMAN ATTACHMENTS: THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF REDDITS POSTS**

KALVIN GARRAH (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), S. RUDD, KAHYSHA PATTERSON (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE)

Individuals on the Schizoid Personality Disorder (SzPD) spectrum often prefer social isolation and avoid intimacy. Yet, little is known about their attachments to animals. To investigate this, we conducted a thematic analysis of 20 threads from Reddit's r/Schizoid. Many users reported meaningful, emotionally significant bonds with pets; others expressed ambivalence or distress related to pets. Findings suggest that animals provide an alternative attachment pathway through offering safety and predictability in connection.

POSTER 74**SLEEP QUALITY AND EMOTION REGULATION AMONG YOUNG ADULTS USING ECOLOGICAL MOMENTARY ASSESSMENT**

SARA BERNARDI (SUNY CORTLAND), XIAOYE XU (SUNY CORTLAND)

This study used a 14-day ecological momentary assessment (EMA) design to examine sleep quality and emotion regulation among 34 undergraduate students. Multilevel models showed bidirectional, between-subject relationships: better sleep predicted lower use of behavioral avoidance and distraction, and greater use of these strategies predicted poorer sleep. Findings highlight EMA's value for capturing daily emotional processes and emphasize the importance of supporting young adults with academic and mental health challenges through healthy coping and sleep behaviors.

POSTER 75**SOCIAL SUPPORT MODERATES EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY AND DISTRESS IN PARENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

CHLOE YADAV (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), NATALIE GUGGINO (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDRA STEFANOVICI (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), JANETTE HERBERS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

Parents experiencing homelessness often report multiple adverse childhood experiences linked with higher levels of psychological distress. However, access to social support may serve as a protective factor, mitigating distress. We evaluated social support as a potential protective factor among 83 parents

residing in family shelters with their children. Findings indicate that more childhood adversity predicts higher levels of psychological distress while more social support predicts less distress. We discuss targeting social support in intervention efforts.

POSTER 76

THE HALO EFFECT AND HEALTH STIGMAS

JOHN DEPALMA (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), TRAVIS TODD (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), SHAHRZAD AHMADKARAJI (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), ANTONIO CEPEDA-BENITO (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

The purpose of this study was to analyze if perceived attractiveness plays a role in judgments of health-related behaviors. Prior literature showed that the halo effect influences initial judgments, and this work expands upon that research. Eighty-six college students participated in a Qualtrics survey, where they rated conventionally attractive and unattractive individuals on their likeliness to perform health-related behaviors. Findings suggest that the halo effect does play an important role in these implicit judgments.

POSTER 77

THE IMPACT OF BODY SCANNING ON PESSIMISM AND PERFORMANCE IN COLLEGIATE STUDENT-ATHLETES

MACKENZIE HALLIDAY (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY)

Does a body scanning mindfulness intervention decrease pessimism and increase perceived performance in collegiate student-athletes? While it did not impact perceived performance, pessimism was affected. There was a trend for the treatment group to think negative situations were less intentional over time. Conversely, the control group afforded more importance to negative situations over time compared with the treatment group.

POSTER 78

THE ROLE OF EMPATHY IN RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION

SHELBY PALMIERI (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), PHYLLIS LEE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Previous research suggests women report higher empathy levels and men report higher relationship satisfaction. Thirty-three undergraduate students completed questionnaires assessing empathy and relationship satisfaction. Results indicated no significant relationships between empathy, gender, and relationship satisfaction except for females reporting

higher personal distress than males. These results highlight the need for further research on the role of empathy in young adult romantic relationships.

POSTER 79

THE ROLE OF INTERNALIZED TRANSPHOBIA IN PAST STRESS AND FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

MARIBELLE ALMONACY (BARUCH COLLEGE CUNY), CHRISTOPHER STULTS (BARUCH COLLEGE CUNY)

Transgender and Non-Conforming (TGNC) young adults are more likely to face traumatic life experiences, develop internalized shame, and view the future negatively. A sample of 200 TGNC young adults, ages eighteen to thirty, completed measures related to proximal stress and outlooks. Findings suggest a partially mediated relationship between stressful past experiences (SPE), internalized transphobia (IT), and negative future expectations (NFE). These findings highlight the importance of addressing trauma and shame to promote positive life expectations.

POSTER 80

THE VALUE OF MULTIPLE INFORMANT REPORTS OF CALLOUSED SEXUAL ATTITUDES IN MEN

CHASSIDY HICKS (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), JASON SIKORSKI (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

87 male participants and informants they had known well for at least six months completed multiple response inventories. When informants reported participants as displaying high levels of calloused attitudes towards women, the men themselves displayed difficulties compromising and solving small problems in romantic relationships. Additional research is required to elucidate the value of multiple informants, as part of a comprehensive protocol, to more reliably assess internalizing and externalizing clinical outcomes in varying types of men.

POSTER 81

UPWARD SOCIAL COMPARISON MEDIATES THE CLOSENESS TO INFLUENCERS AND MENTAL HEALTH RELATIONSHIPS.

ANGELINE MCGRAW (HARTWICK COLLEGE), RAVEN JAMES (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LOGAN A. HEHNER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), KALISSA ZAIKOFF (HARTWICK COLLEGE), SHELBY K. SWARTZ (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LEAH E. SCHOONOVER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ALEXANDRA S. LYNCH (HARTWICK COLLEGE), RISHPA BAIDYA (HARTWICK COLLEGE), URSULA SANBORN-OVERBY (SUNY ONEONTA), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

It is widely believed that followers of social media influencers make comparisons between themselves and the unattainable bodies and lifestyles they see on social media and these comparisons lead to mental health difficulties. The present study examined closeness to influencers, social comparison and a host of mental health variables. For all mental health variables there was evidence that upward social comparison mediates the relationship between closeness to influencers and mental health.

POSTER 82

YOGA: COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH PRACTICES TO COMBAT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

DANIELA MARTIN (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ANDREA RANDOLPH (PENN STATE UNIVERSITY), KENDALL TAYLOR (PENN STATE UNIVERSITY), CHERYL SPERA (HIGHER GROUND YOGA), MARK KILLION (R & D RECOVERY CENTER)

Individuals recovering from substance use often experience higher rates of trauma than the general population. Yoga has been identified as a complementary modality used in conjunction with other traditional substance use treatment methods. In this study of 20 individuals receiving outpatient and inpatient treatment, we collected psychosocial and physiological data over a six-week period to examine similarities and differences between participants who received yoga as a part of their treatment and those who did not.

POSTER 83

YOUNG ADULTS' RELATIONSHIP QUALITY WITH FATHERS AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION STRATEGIES

AIDIN MACKENZIE (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), GARY GLICK (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE)

Prior research suggests the influence of fathers, beyond that of mothers, impacts development of their children's emotional regulation strategies (Kiel & Kalomiris, 2015). Young Adults self-reported on two emotional regulation strategies: 1) Expressive Suppression and 2) Cognitive Reappraisal, as well as on quality of their relationships with mothers and fathers, each assessed separately. Relationships with each parent were associated with suppression. Only positive relationship quality with fathers was associated with higher rates of reappraisal.

POSTER 84

UNIVERSITY BELONGING AMONG STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

EMMA EITMANN (FORDHAM UNIVERSITY), JINJIN YAN (UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN), TIFFANY YIP (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

The present study investigates university belonging and social barriers that students with disabilities may face on college campuses. Participants (N = 11) signed up for an interview to discuss how disability impacts students' sense of belonging on university campuses and the services provided by their university. Transcriptions were coded using thematic analysis. Preliminary findings suggest that students with disabilities encounter a variety of social experiences that may be connected or independent from their disability status.

Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Symposium

Independence A

TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM: TABLETOP PLAY FOR MEANINGFUL LEARNING AND BELONGING

Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: LUCY CUI

TABLETOP PLAY FOR MEANINGFUL LEARNING AND BELONGING

LUCY CUI (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ)

Integrating games in the classroom doesn't need to be difficult. Card games and board games can be easily incorporated into the classroom. In this symposium, we will talk about the benefits of using physical games in the classroom. We will provide a resource for selecting card and board games that are appropriate for your psychology class and within the class time constraints and budget constraints, and an example ice-breaker game to help students feel connected.

Presentations

A Curated Library of 50+ Physical Games for Psychology Teaching

by Lucy Cui (State University of New York at New Paltz)

Tarot Reading for Classroom Environments

by Leslie Zeng (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

Discussant

Lucy Cui (State University of New York at New Paltz)

Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Paper

Independence B

BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE PAPERS
Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: ROBERT ASTUR

4:00pm – 4:10pm

STRESS-INDUCED POTENTIATION OF FREEZING TO TEMPORALLY DISTANT THREAT

JACOB KAY (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), NEIL WINTERBAUER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), SAYAMWONG HAMMACK (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), TRAVIS TODD (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

Our lab has interest in temporally distant threat as a model for anxiety-like behavior. We present recent experiments demonstrating increased freezing to distant contextual threat following prior stress treatment, in line with known potentiation effects of stress observed when contextual threat is imminent in nature. Results are then discussed in light of evidence for distinct neural correlates for these effects, despite similar outward appearance to behaviors induced by acute threat.

4:15pm – 4:25pm

THE NUCLEUS REUNIENS IN OPERANT AND PAVLOVIAN APPETITIVE EXTINCTION AND RENEWAL

EMERY HARLAN (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), JOHN GREEN (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

We investigated the role of the nucleus reuniens (RE) in extinction and renewal. In all experiments, conditioning was in Context A, extinction in Context B, and tests occurred in both contexts. RE inactivation prior to test reduced operant, but not Pavlovian appetitive, renewal in Context A. Inactivation of RE prior to operant extinction enhanced renewal during drug-free testing. There was no effect of RE inactivation on responding in the extinction context in any experiment.

4:30pm – 4:40pm

ACUTE SOCIAL CUES REGULATE NAKED MOLE-RAT PARTICIPATION IN SUBSEQUENT COOPERATIVE NESTING

ANTONELLA GUADAGNINO (GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY), DANA DELGRASSO (COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), DAN MCCLOSKEY (GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY)

Acute social experiences may regulate the motivational state underlying cooperative behavior in naked mole-rats. We examined small and large worker responses following brief familiar or foreign conspecific exposure prior to a nesting assay. Latency to nest occurrence, nest disruptions, and attempts to join the nest were measured across trials. Our findings suggest the existence of a subcaste • social cue interaction demonstrating a differential sensitivity of colony members to social context, influencing downstream cooperative behavior.

4:45pm – 4:55pm

A NEUROIMAGING ANALYSIS OF THE TEMPORAL AVERAGING PHENOMENON IN RATS

RANIA FREDERIC (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), RANIA FREDERIC (THE GRADUATE CENTER), NORMAN TU (THE GRADUATE CENTER), DANIEL SIEGEL (THE GRADUATE CENTER), ANDREW DELAMATER (THE GRADUATE CENTER)

This temporal averaging study used a peak procedure to test whether rats average timing cues from tone (5s) and flash (30s). In the 80s group, rats showed unimodal responses during compound cues, indicating temporal averaging, specifically in female rats. In the 120s group, responses were bimodal, showing separate expectation. This suggests that stimulus durations support the integration of temporal information, whereas longer durations lead rats to maintain distinct timing representations.

Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Symposium

St. George A/B

DEVELOPMENTAL SYMPOSIUM: AGING AND AGEISM ACROSS THE LIFESPAN - SELF PERCEPTIONS

Friday, February 27, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: HELENA SWANSON

AGING AND AGEISM ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: SELF PERCEPTIONS AND SHIFTING VIEWS

HELENA SWANSON (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

By 2030, one in six people will be 60+, underscoring the urgency of understanding perceptions of aging and ageism. This symposium presents research on how older adults perceive their own aging and mechanisms to shift ageist beliefs. Presentations will showcase older women's self perceptions of aging (Talk 1), as well as educational (Talk 2) and intervention-based approaches to reduce ageism (Talk 3). Symposium attendees will learn research insights that promote more positive views of aging.

Presentations

Grandmother Caregivers: Aging Attitudes and Well-Being

by MaryBeth Apriceno (Farmingdale State College)

Reducing Ageism through Education: Courses Impacting Ageist Beliefs

by Helena Swanson (Central Connecticut State University), MaryBeth Apriceno (Farmingdale State College), Ashley Lytle (Stevens Institute of Technology), Isabella Krumm (Central Connecticut State University), Erica Dewey (Central Connecticut State University), Yein Cho (Central Connecticut State University), Cailee Sheehan (Central Connecticut State University)

Art and Movement: An Intergenerational Contact Program

by Ashley Lytle (Stevens Institute of Technology)

Discussant

Helena Swanson (Central Connecticut State University)

Friday, February 27, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Workshop

Great Republic

APPLIED WORKSHOP: THE IMPACT OF STIGMATIZATION ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH - A GLOBAL FOCUS

Friday, February 27, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: COMFORT ASANBE

THE IMPACT OF STIGMATIZATION ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH: A GLOBAL FOCUS

COMFORT ASANBE (COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND CUNY)

Mental health and social protection issues are complex and benefit from interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches. Analyzing the critical issue of stigmatization through multiple lenses can help build

integrated and sustainable support to advance youth mental health, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The workshop will draw on the expertise and participation researchers, clinicians, a young adult, and a policy maker. Key words: Global mental health, marginalization, young people

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am

Paper

Independence B

COGNITIVE PAPERS: METACOGNITION AND PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am

CHAIR: ALEX DANIEL

8:00am – 8:10am

INVESTIGATING CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS' LEXICAL NETWORKS USING A REPEATED WORD ASSOCIATION TASK

CHRISTOPHER GRAVELLE (THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CUNY & CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), PATRICIA BROOKS (THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CUNY & CUNY GRADUATE CENTER)

We used a repeated word association task to investigate how lexical organization might change from childhood to adulthood. Children (mean age = 9.5 years) and adults (mean age = 20.3 years) responded to a list of cues (24 nouns, 24 verbs, repeated three times) with the first word coming to mind. Children's responses had stronger sound-based associations while adults' responses had stronger meaning-based associations, suggesting increased reliance on co-occurrence and categorical information in lexical retrieval.

8:15am – 8:25am

VOCABULARY AND THEORY OF MIND: COGNITIVE FOUNDATIONS OF ADULT ONLINE SOCIAL REASONING

MIKAELA ELLIOTT (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK - GRADUATE CENTER), C. DONNAN GRAVELLE (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK - GRADUATE CENTER), ARSHIA LODHI (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK -

GRADUATE CENTER), PATRICIA J. BROOKS (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK - GRADUATE CENTER)

Although robustly studied in childhood, the relationship between vocabulary and theory of mind in adulthood remains under-researched. We examined associations among receptive vocabulary knowledge, theory of mind, online privacy awareness, and parasocial involvement in college students (N= 85) using structural equation modeling. Vocabulary and theory of mind were positively correlated and associated with greater privacy awareness and lower parasocial involvement. Findings suggest vocabulary and theory of mind act as cognitive foundations of online social reasoning.

8:30am – 8:40am

FACE MASKS, RACE, GENDER, AND SEXUAL DIMORPHISM AFFECT FACE RECOGNITION AND ATTRACTIVENESS

JOY HANNA (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY), SHANNON LUPIEN (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY), SHELBY KERSTEN (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated how face masks interact with race, gender, and sexual dimorphism on face recognition and attractiveness. Participants first rated the attractiveness of faces that varied in race, gender, and sexual dimorphism, both with and without face masks, and then took a recognition test. Mask wearing increased overall attractiveness ratings, but decreased recognition ability; additionally, while sexual dimorphism enhanced own-race and gender biases for recognition, mask wearing diminished these effects for attractiveness.

8:45am – 8:55am

PHONETIC FEATURE PROCESSES SHAPE FACILITATION AND INTERFERENCE ACROSS PRODUCTION TASKS

MO CHEN (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY)

Phonetic feature processes are still neglected in accounts of language production. Two experiments manipulated the number and type of features shared by word onsets in masked onset priming (facilitation expected) and a fully-fledged two-word production procedure (interference expected). Both one and two shared features elicited facilitation in masked priming, and so the interference patterns in the production data will be very revealing. The research supports incorporating feature processes in word-form encoding models.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am**

Poster

America Ballroom Center/South

DEVELOPMENTAL POSTERS Saturday, February 28, 2026 8:00am – 9:00am

POSTER 1

CHILDREN AT PLAY: PARENTS' PERSPECTIVES ON KEY AREAS OF PLAY AND ATTACHMENT

NAVA SILTON (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE), KARINNA CHAVEZ (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), MINA CANDELARIO (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN), JESSICA BRENNER (BARNARD COLLEGE)

Fifteen mothers (6 White [40%], 4 African American [28.7%], 3 Latina [20%], 1 indigenous White [6.7%] and 1 with multiple ethnicities [6.7%]) reported that their children not only enjoyed playing with an adult present, but that the adult's presence extended their play time. Children also preferred pretend play, followed by tactile play, cognitive play, digital media and functional play. Future studies could incorporate a larger sample size and could include reports from fathers, as well.

POSTER 2

VERBAL AND NONVERBAL GENDER DIFFERENCES IN TODDLERS' SPATIAL SKILLS

YUSHU ZUO (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH), JOEI CAMAROTE (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH), DANIELLE FOX (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH), KALINA MCNEIL (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH), HEATHER BACHMAN (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH), ELIZABETH VOTRUBA-DRZAL (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH), MELISSA LIBERTUS (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH)

Spatial skills are fundamental to early cognition and predict later achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math. By adulthood, males tend to outperform females on spatial tasks, although evidence on when these differences first emerge is mixed. The current study investigates gender differences in toddlers' spatial skills, finding no gender differences in toddlers' spatial assembly skills and receptive spatial vocabulary, but a significant difference favoring girls in expressive spatial vocabulary.

POSTER 3**SOCIALLY GUIDED OBSERVATIONAL LEARNING: RELATIONSHIPS PREDICT INFANTS' LEARNING FROM OVERHEARD SPEECH**

SARAH GOODMAN (THE NEW SCHOOL), ISHA RAWAL (ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY), RUTHE FOUSHEE (THE NEW SCHOOL)

Children learn new words not just from child-directed speech but also via overhearing. Whilst the social determinants of pedagogical learning are well-documented (Koenig & Harris, 2005; Csibra & Gergely, 2009), social motivations for observational language learning are underappreciated. In a Tzeltal Mayan community where infants primarily learn from overhearing, we investigated how social relationships drive attention to and learning from overheard speech, finding that infants learn better from overheard speech directed to their caregivers.

POSTER 4**CAREGIVER WARMTH MODERATES ASSOCIATION BETWEEN STIGMA AND CHILD LANGUAGE IN LATINO FAMILIES**

KLAIRA ARREGUIN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SHAINA BRADY (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), DIANA LOPERA PEREZ (UNIVERSIDAD DEL NORTE), SARAH WATAMURA (UNIVERSITY OF DENVER), AMANDA TARULLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study examines the independent and interactive effects of parent-reported child-parent relationship and parental perceived social stigma, measured by the Parents' Perceived Stigma of Seeking Services scale, on toddler language development in Latino low-income families. Findings revealed that caregiver warmth plays a significant moderating role in the negative correlation between perceived stigma and child language. High levels of stigma in conjunction with low warmth were linked to fewer total child utterances and lower linguistic diversity.

POSTER 5**LOCUS OF CONTROL DEVELOPMENT IN ADOLESCENTS: THE POWER WITHIN PILOT FINDINGS**

JENNA AMARA (MERRIMACK COLLEGE), ANGELA DESILVA MOUSSEAU (MERRIMACK COLLEGE)

This pilot study evaluated the feasibility, preliminary efficacy, and developmental appropriateness of The Power Within, a brief strengths-based psychoeducational program grounded in PYD. This poster looks at locus of control, the belief adolescents can influence life outcomes, supports wellbeing and

academic success. Ninth graders completed two 20-minute locus-of-control sessions within the program. Quantitative trends reflected small significance, while qualitative trends indicated growing agency. Findings highlight the value of proactive school-based prevention and warrant extended research.

POSTER 6**EXAMINATION OF IQ AND SOCIAL SKILLS RELATIONSHIP, SEX AND NEURODEVELOPMENT AS MODERATORS**

AMY BISHAY (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ZEINA GHANEM (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ERIN KANG (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether IQ is associated with autism-related social skills in neurodiverse youth, and whether autism diagnosis or sex moderates this relationship. Higher IQ was significantly associated with fewer social skill deficits across overall and subdomain scores. Neither autism status nor sex moderated these associations, indicating a consistent pattern across groups. Findings suggest that IQ contributes meaningfully to social functioning, highlighting the importance of integrating cognitive and social assessments in clinical and educational contexts.

POSTER 7**ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PARENTING AND PARENTS' PHYSIOLOGY REGULATION**

MAXINE BAILEY (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), KATHY SEM (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), KENNETH RUBIN (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK), ANDREA CHRONIS-TUSCANO (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK), NICHOLAS WAGNER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Behavioral inhibition (BI) in early childhood is shaped by parent-child interactions. In parents of highly inhibited preschoolers, we examined whether mindful parenting behaviors predict physiological regulation. Greater use of prosocial parenting language predicted lower sympathetic reactivity while observing children in a stress task. Positive affect predicted greater vagal flexibility only when moderated by parent anxiety. These findings suggest that mindful parenting may support regulatory functioning in anxious parents, with potential downstream benefits for BI children.

POSTER 8**SELF-ESTEEM, INTERNALIZING, AND EXTERNALIZING BEHAVIORS AMONGST YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE**

JACOB SOLOMON (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), CONOR JOHNSTON (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), ERICA FERRARA (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), CIARA VENTER (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST), JENNIFER MCDERMOTT (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST)

Over 150,000 children enter foster care annually, with many facing high levels of adverse childhood experiences (ACES). Since ACES can increase risk for internalizing and externalizing behavior problems, understanding modifiable buffers, such as child self-esteem, is important. Using a national dataset of children in care (NSCAW II), this study showed that higher child self-esteem was linked to significantly lower rates of internalizing ($B=.569$, $SE=.159$, $p<.001$) and externalizing ($B=.490$, $SE=.140$, $p<.001$) among youth in foster care.

POSTER 9

PARENTAL ATTITUDES ON RISKY OUTDOOR PLAY IN ITALIAN AND U.S. PLAYGROUNDS

EMMA SMITH (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), CHRIS BOYATZIS (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), MASON KLOTZ (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY)

We tested cultural differences in parental supervisory behaviors and the tone of voice used with their children in an outdoor playground setting, by naturally observing parents with their children in the U.S. and Italy. Italian parents were more likely to be distracted while with children at the playground than American parents, whereas the tone of voice did not differ significantly.

POSTER 10

ENHANCING SENSE OF PURPOSE IN ADOLESCENTS THROUGH A SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTION

DIANNA INGERSOLL (MERRIMACK COLLEGE), ANGELA DESILVA MOUSSEAU (MERRIMACK COLLEGE)

This mixed-method pilot study evaluated The Power Within, an eight-week, school-based intervention designed to enhance adolescents' sense of purpose through experiential psychoeducation. High school students ($n=4$) completed the Claremont Purpose Scale before and after the program. One-tailed analyses showed a trend toward improvement in the beyond-the-self dimension, $t(3) = -2.32$, $p = .051$. Qualitative reflections indicated increased clarity about what gives students purpose in life. Findings suggest promise for school-based purpose-building interventions.

POSTER 11

THE EFFECT OF SELF-TALK AND PERSONALITY TRAITS ON BEING BULLIED

JANIYA REDFURN (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), HELANA GIRGIS (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how personality traits and self-talk predict bullying experiences among 314 college students. Using regression analysis, we found that openness, extraversion, self-critical self-talk, and self-management self-talk significantly predicted higher incidences of bullying. These findings suggest that beyond personality, cognitive processes like self-talk may influence vulnerability to bullying.

POSTER 12

EMBODIED COMMUNICATION: EXPLORING BREASTFEEDING AND ATTACHMENT FORMATION IN A TSELTAL MAYA CONTEXT

ANNA MERCIER (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH), SYDNEY SEGAL (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH), SILVER LIFTIN (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH), NATHAN SIMON (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH), ALEXANDRA KAHN (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH), SAM MELIN (FERKAUF GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY), SYLVIE SCHRUM (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH), EVA PIRAS (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH), RUTHE FOUSHEE (THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH)

Little research has considered the dual function of breastfeeding as a physiological and psychological experience, let alone in non-Western contexts. Our study utilizes a novel method to explore evidence of caregiver-infant contingency in Tzeltal Mayan dyads, where face-to-face communication is rare, with a particular focus on breastfeeding interactions. We hope to shed light on the role of breastfeeding in attachment formation, and on ways that embodied communication shapes human development across the world.

POSTER 13

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND CORTISOL REACTIVITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ALCOHOL USE

NATALIE FORNIERI (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), NATALIE FORNIERI (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), STEPHANIE GODLESKI (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), JOSEPH BASCHNAGEL (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), REBECCA HOUSTON (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

To explore the specific impact of physiological stress patterns, we examined how parents' stress-task-induced peak cortisol moderated the relationship between ACE exposure and substance use. The results suggest that parents with higher ACE scores exhibit hypoactive baseline cortisol. However, parents' stress-induced cortisol responses did not moderate the relationship between ACE exposure and alcohol use. We plan to examine the impact of ACEs and cortisol with parent cannabis use as the outcome.

POSTER 14

ROOTS TO WINGS: HOW PARENT EXPECTATIONS, MOTIVATION, AND MENTORS IMPACT COLLEGE ADJUSTMENT

GWEN PURSELL (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), NYLA CHENEY (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), AYON ROBERTS (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), ZOE GARRETT (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), LAYLA GREEN (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), JAIDEN PALMER (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), KEJI OLAGBAJU (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), PAOLA PAGAN MORALES (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), JADA ASHFORD (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY)

Parents' own college experiences and expectations have been associated with student academic success. This study investigated students' perceptions of parent expectations, student motivation, and having a role model/mentor for socio-emotional adjustment. Participants included approximately 100 students enrolled in an Academic Success course. Results found significant differences on risk-taking behaviors, indices of mental health, and homesickness when comparing student perceptions of parent expectations, reasons for attending college, and the experience of having a role model.

POSTER 15

PROVIDER SUPPORT FOR BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS AMONG BLACK AND WHITE BIRTHING MOTHERS

KATHERINE BRESNAHAN (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), IMANI SYKES (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), ARIANA ADILI-KHAMS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), JULIA HNELESKI (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), NATALIE GUGGINO (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), TESHANEE SEALY (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), KALYANI HALSBAND (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), REBECCA BRAND (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

Black women in the U.S. face disproportionate maternal health risks, which may be a result of insufficient psychological support during childbirth. Researchers assessed 274 mothers' perceived support for Basic Psychological Needs (autonomy, competence, and relatedness) during childbirth. Among the 274

mothers (234 White, 40 Black), relatedness satisfaction was significantly predicted by race, even after controlling for other demographic factors, showing lack of warmth and empathy from providers may contribute to racial disparities in childbirth.

POSTER 16

FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY OF THE INSULA-AMYGDALA RELATED TO PARENTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

ALEJANDRA TOVAR ARGUETA (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), ALEYAH PERRY (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), ERIN RATLIFF (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), TRACY RIGGINS (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

In 42 typically-developing children ages 4–8 years, the relation between parenting and functional connectivity (FC) across time was examined. Early supportive parenting measures predicted later stronger left anterior insula–bilateral amygdala FC, highlighting limbic circuitry in early emotional development. Frontoparietal connectivity was unrelated to parenting. These results reveal neural mechanisms linking caregiving behaviors with children's socioemotional development.

POSTER 17

EVALUATION OF A SHORT-FORM PARENT SURVEY FOR CHILD AGENCY IN PLAY

ARIANNA ROSAS (HUNTER COLLEGE CUNY), RACHEL THIBODEAU-NIELSEN (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA), SHANNON DIER (TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY)

Guided play, where parents scaffold play while preserving child agency, is essential for learning. We evaluate a parent-report survey assessing play engagement styles across different contexts. Seventy parents completed a survey regarding play interactions, and parent-child dyads were observed for parent engagement style and play theme. Findings show responses were consistent with observed engagement for medical play contexts, but not for non-medical play contexts. This supports using a parent-report survey to assess guided play.

POSTER 18

HOUSEHOLD CHAOS AND PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES: ROLE OF CAREGIVER COMPETENCE

EMILY LABOSSIERE (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ZEYNEP KOMBE-ELAZAB (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SARAH

WATAMURA (DENVER UNIVERSITY), AMANDA TARULLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study examines the relationship between household chaos and parent-child relationship quality, as well as the moderating role of caregiver competence. In a sample of 170 low-income caregiver-toddler pairs, higher chaos was linked to greater conflict except when caregiver competence was high, and reduced warmth emerged only among caregivers with lower competence. These findings highlight the importance of strengthening caregiver competence and household organization to promote positive parent-child relationships in stressful environments.

POSTER 19

WITHIN AND BETWEEN ADOLESCENT ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN EMOTION REGULATION, EMPATHY, AND PERSPECTIVE TAKING

CHRISTINE MERRILEES (SUNY GENESEO), JACOB BANCROFT (SUNY GENESEO)

This study examined links between emotion regulation and empathy among 41 adolescents attending a summer camp designed to foster empathy. Using 14 days of diary data, multilevel models show that adolescents who typically used more emotional avoidance showed slower gains in cognitive and emotional empathy. Within-person associations suggest that greater emotional acceptance is linked with higher emotional empathy. Findings highlight the importance of separating within and between associations between emotion regulation and empathy.

POSTER 20

EXAMINING SOCIOECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PREDICTORS OF RETENTION IN A MULTI-VISIT PARENT-CHILD STUDY

SARAH MILLER (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE), ISABELLE COURTNEY (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE), EMILY DEMERS (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE), AFYA ZAKIRHUSHEN KAREEMKHAN (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE), JEFFREY SPIELBERG (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE)

Longitudinal studies face high attrition, particularly among socioeconomically disadvantaged families. This study examined whether parent mental health mediated the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and retention across one year in a parent-child research study (N = 136). Parent education significantly predicted retention, whereas income-to-needs ratio, work stability, and parent mental health (stress, emotional reactivity, anxiety sensitivity) did not. Mental health variables also failed

to mediate SES-retention associations, indicating education as the primary retention predictor.

POSTER 21

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT TRAJECTORIES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH COGNITIVE OUTCOMES IN A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

TESS WILD (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), CORINNA LOECKENHOFF (CORNELL UNIVERSITY)

Socializing is associated with cognitive resilience in old age, but specific pathways remain unclear. Using three waves of the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (N = 1,538; Mage = 67), we explored how changes in different domains of social engagement relate to cognitive trajectories. Findings suggest that engaging with one's broader network of ties is associated with cognitive resilience, whereas increasing interaction with one's closest ties may indicate greater dependency and cognitive decline.

POSTER 22

CHILD TEMPERAMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS AS PREDICTORS OF EARLY EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL ADJUSTMENT

KRISTEN DOVGAN (MARIST UNIVERSITY), ANYA AGASTHI (MARIST UNIVERSITY), JULIA LONCAR (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how child temperament and demographics relate to emotional and behavioral adjustment in 2-6-year-olds using caregiver report. Difficult child temperament predicted greater emotional and behavioral problems, poorer regulation, and lower prosocial behavior, with significant interactions indicating age differences in these associations. Demographics showed small but significant effects above temperament. Findings highlight the role of temperament and caregiver perceptions in early development.

POSTER 23

CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOOD AND BAD IN AMBIGUOUS MORAL SITUATIONS

KATHERINE CHOE (GOUCHER COLLEGE), KATELYN CONRAD (GOUCHER COLLEGE), CHARLIE BEREZNEY (GOUCHER COLLEGE), HAILLEY CATRON (GOUCHER COLLEGE), REBECCA KATZ (GOUCHER COLLEGE)

In the current study, we examined four-to-six-year-olds' concept of moral dilemmas towards inconsistent intentions and outcomes. In the Good-to-Bad condition, the protagonist's positive intention led to a negative outcome while, in the Bad-to-Good condition,

a bad intention resulted in a good outcome. The results showed significant differences across age groups between the conditions. Implications of the findings were further discussed.

POSTER 24

ASSOCIATIONS WITH POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AND INFANT OUTCOMES VIA TEXT-BASED ECOLOGICAL MOMENTARY ASSESSMENT

SASHA ANDREWS (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), ANNIE AITKEN (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), NATALIE BRITO (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK)

The postpartum period poses distinct challenges for traditional maternal mental-health screening. We examined maternal depression continuously up to 14 weeks using text-based ecological momentary assessment (EMA). In a sample of 48 mother-infant dyads, EMA Mean Depression Scores measured postnatally were highly correlated with Edinburgh Postnatal Depression (EPDS) Scores measured at a single time point when infants were 4 months. EMA Mean Depression Scores were also positively associated with infant negative affect scores.

POSTER 25

INVESTIGATING THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AND THE MOTHER-INFANT RELATIONSHIP

NICOLE AMOACHI (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), RICA MONAGHAN (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH GRAY (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDRIA YANG (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), GRACE LAFOND (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), REBECCA BRAND (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

Postnatal depression may influence how mothers perceive their infants and their shared relationship. This study examined how first-time mothers' ($n = 78$) postpartum depressive symptoms (Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, 1 month postpartum) correlated with the warmth and negativity they express about their infant and their shared relationship (Five-Minute Speech Sample, 3 months postpartum). We found that higher postpartum depressive symptoms predicted higher negativity and lower overall relationship quality in the Five-Minute Speech Sample.

POSTER 26

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN FAMILY DYNAMICS AND TEMPERAMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

ALEIA GOODISON (MARIST COLLEGE), JUSTINE COLE (MARIST COLLEGE), KRISTEN DOVGAN (MARIST COLLEGE)

This study examined how caregiver demographics and household composition relate to emotional regulation and behavioral outcomes in 2–6-year-olds. Caregiver reports indicated that children in higher-occupancy households showed stronger regulation, while marital and employment status were associated with emotional problems, conduct issues, and prosocial behavior. Child temperament showed robust associations with all outcomes, whereas socioeconomic status and race were unrelated. Findings underscore the combined influence of household context and child characteristics on early adjustment.

POSTER 27

PARENTAL INFLUENCE AND CULTURAL SOCIALIZATION IN EAST ASIAN EMERGING ADULTS' NARRATIVES

LINGYI YU (TUFTS UNIVERSITY), JAYANTHI MISTRY (TUFTS UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how emerging adults of East Asian heritage interpret parental cultural socialization during acculturation. Using narrative accounts and guided by the Integrated Conceptual Framework (Mistry et al., 2016), analyses focus on cultural beliefs emphasized by parents, how immigrant parents adapt their parenting in the U.S., and how children negotiate, merge, or reinterpret these values.

POSTER 28

MATERNAL SENSITIVITY MODERATES ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN MATERNAL ANXIETY AND CHILD EMOTIONAL LABILITY

KYRA LEININGER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), AMANDA TARULLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ARCADIA EWELL (MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether maternal sensitivity during mother-child reminiscing style conversations moderated the association between maternal anxiety and children's emotional lability in 62 dyads. Maternal anxiety was associated with greater child lability only under conditions of low maternal sensitivity, suggesting a compounded risk effect. This pattern may suggest low sensitivity as a potential area for targeted support in families with anxious mothers, a direction that should be explored further in future research.

POSTER 29**"WE WILL BE SOMEBODY": SOCIETAL AND SCHOOL FACTORS PREDICTING IMMIGRANT STUDENTS' PERSEVERANCE**

ALLISON MORALES (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE),
BARBARA THELAMOUR (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE),
ELAINE ALLARD (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE)

Perseverance is a solution-focused determination to overcome adversity. This study examined societal and school factors predicting immigrant students' perseverance. Results revealed that higher perceived societal hostility predicted lower perseverance specifically by predicting less positive student-teacher relationships and school racial climate. These school factors ultimately rendered the negative association between societal hostility and perseverance non-significant. Findings underscore the importance of supportive school environments that promote immigrant youth well-being in the current U.S. hostile sociopolitical context.

POSTER 30**PREPARING FOR FUTURE COPARENTING RELATIONSHIPS? NON-PARENTS' FAMILY-OF-ORIGIN PERCEPTIONS AND SIMULATED CO-CAREGIVING DYNAMICS**

REGINA KUERSTEN-HOGAN (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY), AIDAN KEEFE (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY), SINDI TANE (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY), SAMANTHA GOLEMO (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY)

Even prior to becoming parents, young adults form mental representations of coparenting relationships. Non-parents' co-caregiving dynamics were observed to explore whether perceptions of family-of-origin coparenting and expressiveness were reflected in their actual caregiving coordination during a simulation task. Findings indicated that negative perceptions of coparenting and greater expressiveness experienced in their families of origin correlated with antagonistic co-caregiving observed during simulated caretaking of a computerized doll and with pessimism about non-parents' own future coparenting relationship.

POSTER 31**SUCCESSFUL AGING IN LONGEVITY (SAIL): CHARACTERISTICS, NEEDS, OUTCOMES FOR URBAN OLDER ADULTS**

MILENA TUTIVEN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY),
AMANDA KAUR (JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), AMANTIA NAKO (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY),
MIA RODRIGUEZ (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY),
MADELINE MILLER (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), HAILEY

FOX (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), PABLO GONZALES (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), FELICIA MEYERS (JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), JUNETTE WILLAMS (JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), DANIEL CHEN (JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

Aging-in-place requires the physical and mental capacity to care for oneself independently. Biopsychosocial needs, including multimorbidity, difficulties with social and physical functioning, and restricted financial resources can restrict older adults' ability to care for themselves and access needed services. Understanding these biopsychosocial needs is critical for prevention and intervention. We describe characteristics and needs of patients in the Successful Aging in Longevity (SAIL) program which aims to support successful aging through an integrated care model.

POSTER 32**CAN MUSIC LISTENING INFLUENCE COGNITION AND BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN? A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW**

JAI SURYA ARAVALA (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), SKYLAR D. CHARLES (BRYANT UNIVERSITY), JONATHAN LABRIE (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), ANGELINA R. DAVIS (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), ELISSA JOHNSON-GREEN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), JIABIN SHEN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL)

Music has the potential to influence child development. This project aimed to conduct a systematic review on the use of music listening to influence cognition and behavior in children. 24 articles were included, following the screening and data extraction processes. The results suggest that music listening may influence academic, behavioral, emotional, and mental health-related outcomes. The findings of this review communicate potential benefits of using music listening as a tool to enhance child outcomes.

POSTER 33**THE ROLE OF CHILDHOOD MALTREATMENT IN NEURAL RESPONSES TO TRUST AND RECIPROCITY**

LEAH LAVOIE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), LENA LIM (KING'S COLLEGE LONDON), DOMINIC FARERI (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

Childhood trauma results in difficulties with trust in interpersonal relationships. In this study, we are investigating trust behavior in individuals with a history of adverse childhood experiences using a validated economic trust game task in conjunction with

fMRI while participants interact with close friends, strangers, and a computer. Preliminary results show increased rates of investment with friends relative to others, and increased activation in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex during experiences of reciprocated versus violated trust.

POSTER 34

THE WEIGHT OF EMOTIONS: ALEXITHYMIA AND SUICIDALITY IN EMERGING ADULTS

MARY POIRIER (CLARK UNIVERSITY), HANNAH FREMMER (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANA K. MARCELO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), TUPPET YATES (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE)

Alexithymia may inform prognosis for many issues, including suicidality. This study aimed to test the hypothesis that alexithymia and suicidality are directly related in emerging adults after observing a connection in existing literature (Calaresi et al., 2025). After analyses, alexithymia significantly correlated with suicidal behavior and ideation ($r = .246$, $p < .001$; $r = .250$, $p < .001$). This did not vary by sex. Results encourage the implementation of alexithymia-informed treatments to reduce suicidality.

POSTER 35

BASIC PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS SUPPORT TACTICS IN HEALTHCARE

MADISON KOONS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), LYNX GABINET-BETHOUILLE (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), GABRIELA FERRARA (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), REBECCA BRAND (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

This study developed and evaluated the Practitioner Techniques for Patient Care survey (PTPC), a 38-item measure assessing providers' use of techniques to support patients' basic psychological needs. A total of 90 lactation care providers completed the survey. Exploratory factor analysis revealed these factors: Planning/Structure (resembling competence), Empathic Communication (resembling relatedness), and a third factor we describe as Unconditional Positivity. Findings suggest measurement refinement and further validation are needed.

POSTER 36

CHARACTERIZING RESTING-STATE EEG ALPHA RHYTHM IN 18-MONTH-OLD INFANTS

SIQI LIANG (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KELSEY DAVINSON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), LIVIA TRINDADE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), J. DOUGLAS HARRISON JR. (VIRGINIA TECH), LESLIE PATTEN (VIRGINIA TECH), ZHE WANG (TEXAS A & M

UNIVERSITY), MARTHA ANN BELL (VIRGINIA TECH), KIMBERLY CUEVAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

The adult EEG alpha rhythm is prominent over parietal-occipital regions during homogeneous visual input and suppressed by visual stimulation (eyes-open/eyes-closed). In infancy, the suitable alpha frequency range and procedures remain unclear. Our goals are to identify age-appropriate measures of alpha frequency at 18 months and assess its functional properties and topography using lights on/off and screen bright/dark paradigms. Establishing reliable resting-state measures for toddlerhood will enhance cross-age comparisons and promote standardization in the field.

POSTER 37

EXPLORING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND RESPIRATORY HEALTH PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

SAMIKA SEQUEIRA (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), SU BIN AN (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), ANSLEY HERRON (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), JANETTE HERBERS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and respiratory health problems are higher amongst children experiencing homelessness. Our prediction that total ACEs would be positively associated with children's respiratory problems was significant ($\beta = 0.275$, $p = 0.049$). However, our prediction that shelter support would moderate this relationship was not a good fit ($R^2 = 0.109$, $F(3, 47) = 1.922$, $p = 0.139$). Overall, our findings suggest that ACEs may be important risk factor for respiratory health problems.

POSTER 38

UNDERSTANDING HOW OBSERVATIONAL MEMORY IMPACTS CHILDREN'S EPISODIC FUTURE THINKING

SOPHIE NAGARAJAN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON), QUE ANH PHAM (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON), TASHAUNA BLANKENSHIP (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON)

Our research investigates how observational memories impact children's episodic future thinking (EFT). We test whether emphasizing the social and causal components of episodic memory (EM) benefits EFT. We hypothesize that these EM emphases will result in better task performance than no emphasis, advancing understanding of how children learn from observation. We also expect children to use EFT more effectively to imagine someone else's future versus to imagine a future scenario for themselves.

POSTER 39**EMPATHY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN AUTONOMY-SUPPORTIVE YOUTH ENVIRONMENTS**

MEGAN HOWARD (SUNY GENESEO), ELLA ROSS (SUNY GENESEO), MARISSA CLARKE (SUNY GENESEO), CHRISTINE MERRILEES (SUNY GENESEO)

This study examined how cognitive and emotional empathy relate to adolescents' conflict resolution experiences. Thirty-four campers (ages 9-17) completed post-camp surveys assessing empathy, positive and negative affect, and perceptions of conflict resolution. Path analyses indicated that emotional empathy predicted lower perceived resolution in conflicts with other campers, whereas cognitive empathy marginally predicted lower resolution with friends. Across models, positive affect strongly supported better conflict outcomes. Findings highlight nuanced socio-emotional processes shaping adolescents' conflict experiences.

POSTER 40**HOW THE AGING BODY AFFECTS THE SPIRITUAL MIND: A MIXED-METHODS PILOT STUDY**

SANDRA OUAFI (UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD), LYDIA K. MANNING (MIAMI UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW C. COSTELLO (UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD)

Aging involves compensatory adjustments to help offset both physical and cognitive declines. This mixed-methods pilot study examines whether such compensatory reliance extends to spirituality. We tested older adults through surveys, cognitive and physical tests, and semi-structured interviews. Prior research suggests age-related increases in spiritual engagement, and we explore whether psychological and social virtues may mediate this relationship. This pilot study features an innovative methodological approach that connects spirituality to the embodiment of aging.

POSTER 41**LINKS BETWEEN INFANT ATTENTION AND SOCIOEMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN PHYSICAL AND TEMPORAL VARIABILITY**

TRAM VO (HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION), NATALIE BRITO (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), DENISE WERCHAN (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE)

The current study's ultimate goal is to elucidate the role of the home environment in moderating the relationship between infant attention and socioemotional outcomes. 82 4-month-old infants

participated in the remote attention task, and when they reached 24 months old, caregivers filled out a follow-up socioemotional outcome questionnaire. We found no significant interactions with total looking time in predicting socioemotional outcomes in models that have physical stimulation and temporal disorder as moderators.

POSTER 42**PROSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AUTONOMY-SUPPORTIVE YOUTH PROGRAMMING**

GEORGIA ROSS (SUNY GENESEO), NATALIE CASEY (SUNY GENESEO), CHRISTINE MERRILEES (SUNY GENESEO)

Supporting youth prosocial attitudes and behaviors is essential for peaceful communities. This study examines data from a two-week sleepaway camp emphasizing autonomy, creativity, and restorative practices. Thirty-four campers completed a post-camp survey assessing creativity, internal motivation, and experiences with restorative circles. Path analyses showed that creativity predicted prosocial behavior and social conscience, while internal motivation predicted social conscience. These findings suggest youth programming should center autonomy and creative expression for the promotion of prosocial youth.

POSTER 43**COMPLIANCE TO AUTHORITY STABILIZES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELF-REGULATION AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS**

ABIGAIL M. LOCKE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), T. CAITLIN VASQUEZ-O'BRIEN (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH RELLINGER ZETTLER (ILLINOIS COLLEGE)

Children who obey directives even when asked to do something they know is wrong are showing compliance rather than morality. We hypothesized that higher child compliance would moderate the link between temperament and behavior problems. In a sample of 290 children, observationally measured compliance counteracted the effect of negative reactivity on behavior problems. Measuring compliance may be advisable when investigating how a child's internal state translates into outward behavior.

POSTER 44**PATTERNS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL AROUSAL AND EMOTION PROCESSING ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDREN'S SADNESS**

CLAIRE LEAMON (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), AMY PALUMBO (UNIVERSITY OF

MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), ROBIN L. LOCKE
(UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH)

This study examined whether sadness in unexpected situations, context-incongruent (CI) sadness, amplifies the link between cortisol, emotion knowledge (EK), and internalizing behaviors in preschoolers (N=74; ages 4-5). CI sadness predicted higher internalizing symptoms, whereas cortisol did not directly predict internalizing behavior or EK. Instead, CI sadness acted as an emotional bridge for children with difficulty regulating arousal, suggesting that children with both CI sadness and high cortisol may have deficits in EK and internalizing outcomes.

POSTER 45

FEAR IN THE FAMILY: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF SIBLINGS AND ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

KATE PARADISE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), T. CAITLIN VASQUEZ-O'BRIEN (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH RELLINGER ZETTLER (ILLINOIS COLLEGE)

The Yerkes-Dodson law (1908) suggests a quadratic (inverted-U shape) relation between fear and academic performance. We hypothesized that both child and sibling fear responses would predict child academic outcomes quadratically. Using both observed and parent-reported fear, we found that child fear linearly predicted academic outcomes 1.5 and 6.5 years later. We also found a marginal sibling effect between parent-reported fear and academic outcomes in female sibling pairs.

POSTER 46

SEX DIFFERENCES IN AGEISM: TESTING MEASUREMENT INVARIANCE OF THE AMBIVALENT AGEISM SCALE

CARLY PULLEN (WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY), JULIE HICKS-PATRICK (WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY)

The current study examined whether the Ambivalent Ageism Scale (AAS) measures the same construct across sex groups (i.e., male and female). A confirmatory factor analysis of the 13-item AAS, with a two-factor structure, produced good psychometric properties: $\chi^2 (df = 61) = 153.82, p < .001$; CFI = .962, TLI = .952, RMSEA = 0.071. Measurement invariance (MI) was then conducted to determine if the AAS was consistent across sex groups. Strict MI was achieved.

POSTER 47

EARLY STRESS, LASTING EFFECTS: EXAMINING HOW CHILDHOOD STRESSORS PREDICT ADULT DEPRESSION

JOSEPH CICCONE (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

This study examined whether life stressors and anxiety experienced in early adolescence predict depression later in life. Using longitudinal data from 930 New Hampshire middle school students, results showed that higher childhood stress and higher anxiety were each associated with greater depressive symptoms in later waves. These findings highlight adolescence as a sensitive developmental period and emphasize the importance of early stress reduction, coping support, and mental health intervention.

POSTER 48

PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS AND BREASTFEEDING SUCCESS: AUTONOMY, COMPETENCE, AND RELATEDNESS IN LACTATION CARE

SOPHIE ALTHAUS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), MADISON KOONS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), MARYLIN JAMES (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), BROOKE WALKER (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), REBECCA BRAND (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether support for mothers' basic psychological needs from lactation providers enhances breastfeeding outcomes. Guided by Self-Determination Theory, we assessed breastfeeding duration, self-efficacy, and perceived psychological need support among 83 breastfeeding mothers using online surveys. Composite and individual need-support factors were analyzed. Regression results showed that greater psychological need support significantly predicted higher breastfeeding self-efficacy and longer breastfeeding duration. Findings highlight the potential role of psychological support in breastfeeding success and maternal well-being.

POSTER 49

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SKILL ACQUISITION AND PLAY-BASED LEARNING

LAURETTA RUSSELL (MARIST COLLEGE), SIERRA TRUDEL (MARIST COLLEGE)

What is the relationship between play-based learning in elementary classrooms and displayed self-regulatory and empathetic behaviors? Existing studies suggest that play-based learning facilitates students' ability to display developmentally appropriate social emotional skills. This study, conducted in an early elementary classroom, used mixed methods to determine students displayed social emotional age. Data suggests that

over a six week period, students experienced significant growth in both observed behaviors.

POSTER 50

MOTHER-CHILD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHEN YOUNG CHILDREN LEARNED THINGS AND EXPERIENCED EVENTS

CONNIE TANG (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), BEYONCE LINO (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), LORIE HORTA (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), MICHELLE RICHELSON (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), DAYANARA VILLANUEVA (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), KAYLA LAWSON (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY)

The current research examines how linguistic experiences shape children's time concept. Data were taken from the CHILd Language Data Exchange System. Compared to mothers, young children made more temporal distance than temporal location utterances. Children also used time words a lot more with physical events than learning events. This research thus uniquely solidified the ecological validity of the phenomenon that children develop the understanding of temporal distance earlier than temporal location.

POSTER 51

NAVIGATING POLITICAL UPHEAVAL: SELF-PRESERVATION IN YOUNG WOMANHOOD

J'LYN WILSON (CLARK UNIVERSITY), SAANVI SINGH (CLARK UNIVERSITY), LAWRENCE MENDEZ (CLARK UNIVERSITY), KYLEIGH GOMES (CLARK UNIVERSITY), SARAH AL MOZANI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), AMY HEBERLE (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how young women make sense of their identities and futures during ongoing social and political upheaval. Building on research on identity development and the pressures of young adulthood, we conducted interviews exploring participants' lived experiences (N = 10). Self-preservation emerged as the central theme, expressed through limiting connection, self-censorship, and cautious activism. Findings show how young women protect their well-being amid uncertainty and underscore the need for supports that strengthen their agency.

POSTER 52

ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SENSE OF PURPOSE AND ACADEMIC IDENTITY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

FERESHTEH AZIZI-BARENJI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), NANCY BUDWIG (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

While prior research has revealed that both sense of purpose and academic identity are connected to student success, prior research has not studied their connection. This study asked 174 college students to complete a survey including a multi-dimensional sense of purpose scale (SOP-2) scale, an academic identity scale (AAIS) and demographic questions as part of a larger study of college student learning. Findings revealed only a significant relationship between awakening of purpose and academic identity.

POSTER 53

COMPARING OBSERVATIONAL CODING SYSTEMS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF PARENTING AND CHILD ANXIETY

LAUREN KRAMER (UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO), SARAH FRANCIS (UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO)

This study examined whether the Tangram Coding System or the Maternal Behavioral Coding Scheme better aligns with parent-reported measures of parenting and child anxiety in 41 dyads. The Tangram Coding System showed stronger reliability and more consistent correlations with parenting beliefs, autonomy support, control, and child anxiety. Findings highlight modest but meaningful convergence between observational and parent-report methods and support the Tangram Coding System as the more robust observational tool.

POSTER 54

HOW DOES LOVE EMERGE? A STUDY OF HOW EMERGING ADULTS DEFINE LOVE

JENNIFER LESZCZYNSKI (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), EMMA KATHERINE SMITH (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

The definition of love has been much-debated within psychology (e.g., Lee, 1977; Sternberg, 1986). Qualitatively, we examined how emerging adults define love and where they believe love comes from. Thematic analyses indicated that love comes from respect, commitment and biological / emotional desires of the heart and brain. Love is putting others' needs before their own and from deep friendship. We will highlight the importance of using a qualitative and social constructionist approach to love.

POSTER 55

MORPHING SUPPORT

KIMBERLY FALLAS (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), COLLIN SHERMAN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), TALI FILSTEIN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), LAURA LAKUSTA (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

We examined how labels affect 3.5-5-year-old children's representations of support configurations. Children judged whether intermediates matched standards in three conditions: Same Label, Different Label, or No Label. Unlike adults, children showed elevated acceptance in both Same and Different Label conditions versus No Label. This suggests children may interpret different novel labels as variants of "on", creating higher acceptance even when labels differed, indicating undifferentiated linguistic categories despite differentiated non-linguistic representations.

POSTER 56

FEAR OF AGING, SOCIAL MEDIA CONSCIOUSNESS, AND BEST SELF IN YOUNG ADULTS

LOREEN HUFFMAN (WESTMINSTER COLLEGE - PA), MARLOWE FRELIN (WESTMINSTER COLLEGE - PA), PATRICIA KAHLBAUGH (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined fear of aging in young adults and asked at what age they believe was or will be their Best Self (Kahlbaugh et al., 2024). Given the importance of social media, we also assessed appearance-related social media consciousness and self-esteem. Results showed that young adults with more self-consciousness regarding their appearance on social media had lower self-esteem, were more fearful of aging, and believed their Best Self was in the past.

POSTER 57

WHEN PARENTS GIVE THEMSELVES GRACE: SELF-COMPASSION MODERATING CHILD FRUSTRATION AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

LAUREN ROTH (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), T. CAITLIN VASQUEZ-O'BRIEN (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH RELLINGER ZETTLER (ILLINOIS COLLEGE)

Previous research links child frustration to child behavioral outcomes, but rarely considers parental self-compassion. We hypothesized that parental self-compassion would moderate the link between child frustration and child behavior problems. Using parent-reported data from a longitudinal study with 145 families, we found a significant interaction: high parental self-compassion buffered the longitudinal effect of child frustration on later child behavior problems. Findings implicate parental self-compassion as a resilience factor for child frustration.

POSTER 58

NURTURANCE AND TEACHING: A POTENTIAL MECHANISM LINKING SRQ AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

CLAIRE HARRIES (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), LAURIE KRAMER (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Although intriguing correlations between the quality of children's and adolescents' sibling relationships and mental health outcomes have been found, the mechanisms that underlie these associations have yet to be identified. Guided by family systems theory and Vygotsky's learning theory, this poster will review research demonstrating how interpersonal processes of sibling nurturance and teaching may support better mental health outcomes. Implications for future research and the design of prevention and intervention tools will also be discussed.

POSTER 59

BENEVOLENT VERSUS HOSTILE: AGEIST ATTITUDES AND IMAGE OF AGING IN YOUNG ADULTS

CAILEE SHEEHAN (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ALICIA DESROSIERS (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), HELENA SWANSON (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how ambivalent ageism, categorized as either hostile or benevolent, differentially impacts an individual's image of aging. Multiple linear regression analyses revealed that neither hostile nor benevolent ageism significantly predicted either positive or negative image of aging. These findings suggest that other factors besides ageist beliefs influence a young adult's image of aging. Future researchers should consider educational knowledge, intergenerational contact, and the impact of context-dependent stereotypes as predictors of image of aging.

POSTER 60

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN: HOW AGING ANXIETY IMPACTS INTERGENERATIONAL TENSION

ERICA DEWEY (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CAILEE SHEEHAN (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), HELENA SWANSON (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study explored the relationship between younger adults' quantity and quality of contact with older adults and intergenerational tension, with aging anxiety as a mediator. Three mediation analyses revealed no

significant indirect effect of aging anxiety on the relationship between contact and intergenerational tension. These findings suggest factors other than aging anxiety, like macro-level factors including intersecting marginalized identities with older adulthood, may better explain the relationship between contact and intergenerational tension.

POSTER 61

WHAT DO EMERGING ADULTS WORRY ABOUT? A MIXED METHODS APPROACH

ROSALIND TAVAREZ (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), RYAN TUXPAN-TEPATZI (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KIMBERLI TREADWELL (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Anxiety among emerging adults is rising, yet little is known about their specific worries. This study examined self-generated worry topics in 258 undergraduates and their associations with gender, ethnicity, depression, and friendship quality. School, friendships, the future, and romantic relationships were the most common worries. Worry content predicted depression and friendship quality. Findings suggest that emerging adults' worries remain primarily personal, academic, and relational and are meaningfully related to psychosocial functioning.

POSTER 62

FRIENDSHIP QUALITY AND SATISFACTION, SOCIAL LONELINESS, AND WELL-BEING DURING ADULTHOOD

LISA GOGUEN (PENN STATE HAZLETON A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated adulthood friendship quality, satisfaction, and loneliness, and how these variables relate to well-being. Emerging (age 18-29), established (age 30-44), midlife (age 45-64), and older adults (age 65+) were surveyed. Emerging adults reported significantly greater negative friendship qualities compared to midlife adults. Established adults reported significantly lower friendship satisfaction compared to all other adult age groups and significantly greater social loneliness compared to midlife adults. Age and loneliness were related to well-being.

POSTER 63

IMAGINATIVE ACTIVITY IN AUTISM: AN EXPLORATION THROUGH IMAGINARY WORLDS

MARCELLA STONES (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), RACHEL BLAKE (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), XIMENA SANCHEZ (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), SAGE LEVY (WELLESLEY

COLLEGE), ANN-CORALIE DANIEL (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), CHELSEA CHENG (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), TRACY GLEASON (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

Autistic children are characterized as having imagination deficits, but their imaginations are often evaluated in social settings that are challenging for them. Paracosms, private imaginary worlds, afford exploration of imagination in solitary contexts. Autistic and non-autistic adults (N=122) described their paracosms and autistic traits via online survey. Higher proportions of autistic than non-autistic individuals created paracosms, suggesting against autistic imagination impairments. Further, paracosms may facilitate self-regulation, as paracosmists displayed greater self-regulatory behaviors than non-paracosmists.

POSTER 64

SLOW AND STEADY: SUPPORTING PRESCHOOLERS' STRATEGIES FOR INHIBITORY CONTROL

LAUREN BRYANT (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), SIERRA DOUGHTY (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), ELLA DAHL (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), GIOVANNA DE OLIVEIRA (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), ISABELLE NAPIER (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), DANA PETTERSON (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), AMANDA ROBINSON (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), ALLISON SCHWARZ (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY)

Executive functions (EFs) have traditionally been characterized as domain-general, higher-order cognitive processes that support thought and behavior. More recently, context-specific models frame these processes as the assembly of control processes (e.g., strategies) pursuant to a specific goal. The present pilot study examines whether supporting children's use of control strategies (e.g., slowing down) on one inhibitory control task transfers to a similar activity.

POSTER 65

EFFECTS OF SCHOOL FUNDING AND GRADUATION RATES ON MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

GREGORY PRIVITERA (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY), MADISYN BLAMOWSKI (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY), FAITH CALDWELL (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY), RYLIE HEFFERNAN (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY), BIANCA MASON (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY), SOPHIA OLIVIERI (SAINT BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY)

The hypothesis that school funding and graduation rates are related to mental and physical health outcomes in communities was tested. Data were analyzed using a path analysis model from valid and

reliable population-based census and county health rankings data. Results indicate that increasing funding in schools per pupil can not only strengthen school graduation rates but is also associated with more positive mental and physical health outcomes for these children.

POSTER 66

EXPLORING THE LASTING EFFECTS OF WEIGHT TEASING FROM CHILDHOOD IN ADULTS

DAISY NGUYEN (BELMONT UNIVERSITY)

Previous research has focused on the relationships between family weight talk, body satisfaction and disordered eating, but these studies have been limited to adolescents. The purpose of this study is to have participants recall family weight talk from their childhood and examine how it relates to body image and eating habits in adulthood. Results indicated that those who experienced parental discussion of dieting from childhood reported higher levels of disordered eating in adulthood.

POSTER 67

FOLLOWING THE HEART: IDENTIFYING SUSTAINED ATTENTION IN 6- TO 9-WEEK-OLD INFANTS

DELANEY MENDOZA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KELSEY DAVINSON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), LAUREN J. BRYANT (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), KIMBERLY CUEVAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Research suggests that looking behavior alone does not capture the multi-phasic nature of infant attention, whereas heart-rate patterns reflect distinct attentional phases. This study will examine heart rate-defined sustained attention in 6- to 9-week-old infants with tightly controlled non-auditory stimulus types. It is hypothesized that infants will spend larger amounts of time in heart rate-defined sustained attention when presented with dynamic facial gestures or non-biological stimuli as compared to still stimuli.

POSTER 68

PARENTAL DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT PREDICTS SIBLING VIOLENCE: A CURVILINEAR ANALYSIS

HAMIDE GOZU (THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY)

Sibling violence is one of the most common yet least studied forms of family violence. Drawing on adults' reports of childhood experiences, this study examined whether parental differential affection and control contribute to physical and verbal sibling aggression. Results showed that unequal parental control was a

consistent predictor of both perpetration and victimization. Affection differences, however, did not explain sibling violence. Findings highlight the importance of parental control patterns in shaping sibling dynamics.

POSTER 69

HOW PROVIDER GENDER SHAPES MOTHERS' PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS DURING CHILDBIRTH

EARL MCBRIDE (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), REBECCA BRAND (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), NIKKI AMOACHI (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), KATHERINE BRESNAHAN (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), MARTINA PENELAS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how obstetrician gender relates to first-time mothers' satisfaction of their basic psychological needs during childbirth. We collected survey data from mothers across the United States and compared autonomy, relatedness, and competence support across all-male, all-female, and mixed-gender obstetrician teams. Results showed no overall group differences, but relatedness support was significantly higher with all-female teams. Provider gender may influence mothers' childbirth experiences and highlights the need for further research on this clinical issue.

POSTER 70

THE EFFECTS OF PARENTING STYLES ON ATTENTION-DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

KARA M. VAGTS (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA), RIVER WEBSTER (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA), KATHERINE S. L. LAU (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ONEONTA)

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. Parenting may influence the development of ADHD and increase associated issues, including anxiety, depression and conduct problems. In 600 emerging adults between 18-27 years-of-age recruited from a mid-size northeastern university, we tested the moderating effects of parenting styles on ADHD and behavioral health outcomes. Behavioral control and helicopter parenting appeared to impact alcohol-use, drug-use, and antisociality for those at clinically significant levels of ADHD.

POSTER 71

PARENTS' ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, SELF-EFFICACY, AND CHILD SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL FUNCTIONING IN HOMELESS SHELTERS

SU BIN AN (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), EARL MCBRIDE (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), NIKKI AMOACHI (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY), JANETTE HERBERS (VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether parents' adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and parental self-efficacy predicted child social-emotional functioning residing in homeless shelters. Higher parental self-efficacy was associated with more child social-emotional resilience. Parent ACEs also significantly predicted child social-emotional functioning. Unexpectedly, more parent ACEs were linked to slightly higher child social-emotional functioning scores, indicating a possible unmeasured buffer. Parental self-efficacy did not moderate the relationship. Findings highlight the need to identify protective factors for families experiencing homelessness.

POSTER 72

HOW A DUCK CAN BE A RABBIT: METALINGUISTIC AWARENESS IN AMBIGUOUS FIGURES

JOSHUA YOU (SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY), JAY KOSEGARTEN (SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY)

Ambiguous figures have interested psychologists since the 19th century. Developmental studies have found children experience "reversals" around age six or seven. This study examined cognitive prerequisites, teasing apart the importance of visual-perceptual aspects against linguistic ones. Children ($n = 101$) aged 3.6-7.4 were assigned to production task, metalinguistic awareness (synonyms), or control conditions, then tested on reversing six figures. Results showed synonyms had a stronger priming effect ($F(2,98)=13.540$, $p=.000$; $\hat{\eta}^2=.220$), suggesting metalinguistic awareness is key.

POSTER 73

INFANT-TODDLERS' RACE AND GENDER INFLUENCE PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS' RESPONSES TO INFANTS' BEHAVIORS

LYDIA CRESPO (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), EMMA RJEPAJ (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), RACHEL ALBERT (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE)

Early childhood education (ECE) teachers' practices are shaped by biases that can negatively impact children and families of color. White female undergraduates with ECE career interests completed an online survey where vignettes of infants in potentially problematic classroom behaviors (e.g., hitting another child) were accompanied by images and descriptions manipulated for infant race and gender. Responses suggest that subtle implicit biases based on infant race and gender

shape responses and interpretations of infants' behaviors.

POSTER 74

HOW TO PROMOTE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM FOR DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES

JANET FRIEDLAND (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), EMILY LOPEZ (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

Pre-existing research shows that socioeconomic, cultural, and language barriers delay autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis in the U.S. We aim to explore these challenges by conducting a systematic literature review of relevant studies involving later ASD diagnoses or misdiagnoses. Studies were reviewed to understand the experience of families, and severe barriers were identified. This provided us with a clear resolution to early and equitable detection and intervention for children with ASD.

POSTER 75

"JUST GETTING OLDER?": CHALLENGING MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT DEMENTIA & AGING IN THE U.S.

CAMDEN SULLIVAN (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), REBEKAH SWANWICK (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), ALEKSANDRA KOZAK (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), AVA KATIS (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), SOFIA ELIAS (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), ALEXA CHARLEUS (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), JONIX OWINO (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY)

Dementia is greatly misunderstood amongst older adults, who often think it is an inevitable part of aging. In this study, forty-nine United States residents over the age of fifty were interviewed regarding aging. Thematic analysis showed that ambiguous conceptualizations of dementia, limited community dialogue and heightened anxiety around cognitive changes impact how adults perceive and understand dementia.

POSTER 76

CROSS-CULTURAL IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES ON INTERCULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND OPENNESS

KENDYLL WARD (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), KATHERINE GRUVER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), JAYDEN CHECKET (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), NICHOLAS ARANGO (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Cross-cultural immersive experiences impact one's openness to cultures other than their own, as well as their intercultural sensitivity. We predicted that

attitudinal and activity-contingent openness, and intercultural sensitivity would increase after completing an immersive experience. After data collection, it was determined that none of our hypotheses were statistically significant. Future research should consider how participants' programs allowed them to interact with the culture they experienced and how much they reflected on their experiences.

POSTER 77

PARENTING STYLES AND THE EFFECTS ON RISKY BEHAVIOR

CLAYTON FAWVER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), TAYLOR POELMA (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), ANA DREIBELBIS (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), EMILY CHRISTY (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

An individual's upbringing can influence personal development. In this study, we looked at how parenting styles like authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive impact the likelihood of engaging in risky behavior. Students completed our survey, and we analyzed the data using a multivariate linear regression. We found that positive parenting styles negatively affect risky behaviors ($p = .048$). Our additional hypothesis was not supported. Based on this, it would be beneficial to promote positive parenting outcomes.

POSTER 78

MATERNAL INTRUSIVENESS MODERATES ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN TODDLER EFFORTFUL CONTROL AND CHILDHOOD SOCIAL PROBLEMS

CHANGYU CUI (VIRGINIA TECH), ISABELA M DE LA ROSA (VIRGINIA TECH), MARTHA ANN BELL (VIRGINIA TECH)

Developmental literature emphasizes that temperamental traits do not operate in isolation; instead, certain maternal behaviors may play a vital role in shaping the development of social competence in childhood. Participants included 187 mother-child dyads; measures were parent-report and behavior observations. Results shared effortful control at 24-month negatively predicted social problems at 6-year in children whose mothers demonstrated moderate and high levels of MI. Research highlights how early temperament and parenting practices jointly shape social development.

POSTER 79

PARADOX OF TIME SPENT ALONE: CONDITIONAL SOLITUDE IN OLDER ADULTHOOD

NANTU CHENG (MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE), VIRGINIA THOMAS (MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE)

Older adulthood brings increased capacity for positive solitude and a heightened risk for loneliness and isolation. Our study aimed to investigate this paradox in a sample of 20 older adults ($M_{age} = 82.45$). Qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews yielded eleven themes, of which Conditional Solitude was identified as a novel contribution to the literature: the capacity to enjoy solitude is conditional upon the availability of close relationships, underscoring the importance of both self-determination and attachment.

POSTER 80

CHILDREN'S INVOLVEMENT IN HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES IN MIDDLE CHILDHOOD

GRACE FADAHUNSI (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), ANOKHI BAFNA (GORDON F. DERNER SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY, ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), EDWARD MCDERMOTT (GORDON F. DERNER SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY, ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), LAURA BRUMARIU (GORDON F. DERNER SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY, ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study evaluated chore distribution between mothers and early adolescents and how this relates to child gender, age, and mothers' number of work hours. Using a sample of 112 mother-child 55 boys; ($M(SD)$ child age = 11.69(1.06)) dyads, we found that parents primarily managed heavy, routine, and family care responsibilities, although early adolescents were also involved to some extent. Findings highlight the need for more research on parent-child collaboration in household responsibilities.

POSTER 81

MATERNAL BURNOUT AND THE PARENT-ADULT CHILD RELATIONSHIP

TIA MURPHY (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), EMILY BOGGS (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), TIANA MOREL (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

This study examined the associations between maternal burnout and the quality of the parent-adult child relationship. Mothers reported their burnout and their college-age children reported their relationship quality with their mother (attachment, autonomy support, involvement, warmth, and support). Results demonstrated the expected negative associations between perceived maternal burnout and relationship quality, indicating that parental burnout may have harmful effects on parent-adult child relationships.

POSTER 82**WITHIN REACH OF UNDERSTANDING: 6-MONTH-OLDS REACH TOWARD IMPOSSIBLE BUT NOT POSSIBLE EVENTS.**

WILLOW ALBEE (VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY), IDA EAMES (VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY), KATALINA CORP (VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY), SIERRA REED (VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY), GARRETT BIANCHI (VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Infants look longer at events that violate expectations, but less is known about their active responses. We presented 6-month-olds ($N = 88$) with physically impossible (VOE) and possible (control) events and recorded reaching. Infants reached significantly more toward VOE than control events suggesting that infants not only detect anomalies but actively engage with them, revealing infants' early exploratory motivations consistent with recent predictive-processing theories.

POSTER 83**INFLUENCE OF EARLY AUDITORY EXPERIENCE ON INFANT TEMPERAMENT**

SURAIYA PERRETT (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), CYNTHIA ROESLER (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEWARK), NASEEM CHOUDHURY (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), APRIL BENASICH (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEWARK)

The effects of an Interactive Auditory Experience (IAE) intervention on temperament in 7-month-old infants with (FH+) and without (FH-) family history of language-learning difficulties were examined. Results revealed that FH+ infants receiving IAE demonstrated profiles that were similar to FH- peers, including improved effortful control and perceptual sensitivity, compared to naïve FH+ controls. Results suggest targeted auditory interventions during critical developmental periods may moderate temperament-linked risks for language difficulties in at-risk populations.

POSTER 84**EXPLORATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS OF THE ATTACHMENT STYLE QUESTIONNAIRE**

CHLOE LIGHTNER (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY), AMANDA HOLMES (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY), TORU SATO (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY), ASHLEY SEIBERT (SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the factor structure of the Attachment Style Questionnaire, ASQ (Feeney et al., 1994) from a sample of 482 undergraduate students at Shippensburg University. An exploratory factor analysis was conducted to see if the original five-factor structure was supported. The results suggested a five-

factor solution that was mostly consistent with Feeney et al., (1994) and the coefficient alphas for each factor were comparable to the original study.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

Paper

Independence A

LEARNING PAPERS: EXTINCTION
Saturday, February 28, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

CHAIR: SHAINA WEINGART

8:00am – 8:10am

INVESTIGATION OF CS/CONTEXT PERCEPTUAL INTERACTIONS IN THE RENEWAL EFFECT

JAMES NELSON (UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (EHU)), MARIA DEL CARMEN SANJUAN (UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (EHU))

In an online video game participants received sensor CSs paired with an attack and learned to suppress responding in anticipation. Conditioning and extinction were conducted in Contexts A and B, respectively. Testing was in A and C. Sensor-clarity was manipulated as Opaque or Transparent across each phase between 8 groups (OOO, OOT, OTO, OTT, TTT, TTO, TOT, TOO). Transparency, which should allow CS/Context perceptual integration, affected training but minimally affected renewal.

8:15am – 8:25am

RENEWAL AFTER EITHER EXTINCTION OR COUNTERCONDITIONING

SHAINA WEINGART (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), MCKENNA SMITH (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), ZITA VINCZE (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), NEIL WINTERBAUER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), JOHN GREEN (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), TRAVIS TODD (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

Both counterconditioning and extinction are effective at reducing conditioned responses. However, it is less clear if one method is more effective at preventing relapse. In three experiments we examined the impact of extinction or aversive-to-appetitive counterconditioning on renewal. Similar levels of renewal were observed across either response reduction methods in all three experiments. We additionally tested methods to reduce relapse after counterconditioning.

8:30am – 8:40am

EXTINCTION-RELATED ENHANCEMENT OF CONTEXT-DEPENDENT MEMORY MAY REFLECT IMPROVED RECOGNITION OF CONTEXTUAL FEATURES

JUAN ROSAS (UNIVERSIDAD DE JAEN), JOSÉ E. CALLEJAS-AGUILERA (UNIVERSITY OF JAEN), SOFIA M. ROSAS-AGUADO (UNIVERSITY OF JAEN)

Across four experiments, we examined whether the attentional boost produced by extinction strengthens memory for contextual details or instead promotes cue-context integration. Although element recognition did not improve, context-switch effects correlated with recognition when participants were trained in two contexts. These findings suggest that extinction supports configural learning when training occurs in a single context, but encourages attention to specific contextual elements when exposure involves two distinct contexts.

8:45am – 8:55am

CAN INDUCED STRESS BEFORE EXTINCTION CREATE A CONTEXT-INDEPENDENT EXTINCTION MEMORY?

BORJA NEVADO (UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (UPV/EHU)), OSCAR VEGAS (UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (UPV/EHU)), ESTÍBALIZ MUÑOZ (UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (UPV/EHU)), JAMES BYRON NELSON (UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (UPV/EHU))

Stress is suggested to reduce renewal by generalizing extinction. One experiment recruited 56 participants to replicate one experiment using a predictive learning paradigm. Critical analysis expected a significant Group x Context x CS, which was absent, $p = .125$. Furthermore, we replicated author's analyses to obtain a Group effect or a Group x Context interaction which were also absent. $p \geq .242$. Implications for alternative hypothesis that could explain current results are discussed

Saturday, February 28, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

Paper

St. George A/B

APPLIED PAPERS: TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION AND ANALYSIS
Saturday, February 28, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am

CHAIR: CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS

8:00am – 8:10am

CHATGPT CAN USE YOUR HISTORY OF INTERACTIONS TO HILARIOUSLY ROAST YOU

CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), NATHALY ALVARADO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ISHA BORKAR (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), EVIE COOPER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), RENEE TSUI (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), YUTONG WU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), KAICHUN XU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

AI excels at many categories of humor. But can AI create humor by drawing on an on-going user relationship? Research interns with a history of ChatGPT interactions prompted GPT to "roast" the user. GPT correctly focused on details from the prior history (e.g., enjoying Bollywood movies). AI-generated roasts were generally less funny than roasts downloaded from online compilations. AI roasts frequently achieved near-professional humor ratings when users repeatedly prompted, "Make these roasts edgier."

8:15am – 8:25am

FROM UNCOMFORTABLE TO CONNECTED: FATHERS' PERSPECTIVES ON A SEXUAL HEALTH COMMUNICATION INTERVENTION

MICHELLE SULLIVAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), ELLERY S. GLEASON-KAISER (SMITH COLLEGE), JENNIFER M. GROSSMAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

Father-teen sexual health communication benefits teens, but few programs exist to support these conversations. This qualitative study included interviews with 25 fathers who participated in Connected Dads, Healthy Teens, an online intervention promoting father-teen sexual health communication. Fathers described the program as impactful, citing improved knowledge and communication, mindset shifts regarding teens' sexual health, and stronger connection with their teens. These findings highlight father-based interventions' potential to improve father-teen engagement to support teens' sexual health.

8:30am – 8:40am

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SCREENING MEASURES: PIZZA TEST VERSUS CLOCK DRAWING TEST

TANU KUMAR (WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE)

This study examines gender differences in performance on the Clock Drawing Test (CDT) and the Pizza Test (PT) in clinical patients and healthy controls. Participants completed the CDT using two scoring systems and the PT using one scoring system. Results showed minimal gender differences on CDT, but

slightly greater variability on the PT. Findings suggest subtle differences in visuospatial and planning processes and highlight the need for gender-responsive normative data in emerging cognitive screening tools.

8:45am – 8:55am

MULTISOCIAL: AN OPEN-SOURCE TOOLBOX TO FACILITATE TIME-SERIES DATA ANALYSIS FROM VIDEO RECORDINGS

VERONICA ROMERO (COLBY COLLEGE), MUNEEB NAFEEES (COLBY COLLEGE), TAHIYA CHOWDHURY (COLBY COLLEGE), ALEXANDRA PAXTON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Human interaction is intrinsically multimodal. Systematically investigating the richness of these episodes has been until now reserved to a small number of researchers due to its complexity and obstacles that included expensive equipment and/or too much computing power. Here, we introduce an open-source tool to extract rich time series data from video files without any coding knowledge necessary, as well as a sample study investigating the influence of previous relationships on interpersonal coordination.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00am – 9:00am

Symposium

St. George C

**CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM:
REPETITIVE THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS:
PHENOMENOLOGY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS
Saturday, February 28, 2026
8:00am – 9:00am**

CHAIR: USHA BARAHMAND

**REPETITIVE THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS:
PHENOMENOLOGY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS**

MARTIN FRANKLIN (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

Repetitive thoughts and behaviors are core symptoms of several psychiatric conditions. Talks will be presented on: 1) trichotillomania (Dr. Franklin); 2) adult obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD; Dr. Siwiec); 3) pediatric OCD (Dr. Franklin) and 4) anxiety/depressive disorders (Dr. Farchione). Phenomenology and treatment data will be presented, and similarities in symptom forms and functions discussed. Discussant Dr. Richard McNally will offer his perspective on diagnostic and functional overlap

among these presenting symptoms and discuss clinical implications.

Presentations

Trichotillomania and Its Treatment: Review and Recommendations

by Martin ,Douglas Franklin,Woods (University of Pennsylvania,Loyola University Chicago), Martin ,Douglas Franklin,Woods (University of Pennsylvania,Loyola University Chicago)

Application of Measurement-Based Care in Intensive OCD Treatment

by Stephan Siwiec (Rogers Behavioral Health)

Effects of Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor Dose on Pediatric OCD Treatment Outcomes

by Martin Franklin (University of Pennsylvania), Jeffrey Engelmann (Rogers Behavioral Health), Stephan Siwiec (Rogers Behavioral Health)

Technologically-enabled Treatment Outcomes for Anxiety and Depression Using the Unified Protocol

by Todd Farchione (Boston University)

Discussant

Richard McNally (Harvard University)

Saturday, February 28, 2026

8:00am – 9:30am

Event

Great Republic

**PSI CHI ADVISOR MEET-UP
Saturday, February 28, 2026
8:00am – 9:30am**

CHAIR: INGRID TULLOCH PHD

PSI CHI FACULTY ADVISOR MEET-UP

INGRID TULLOCH (MORGAN STATE/PSI CHI)

Are you a Psi Chi faculty advisor? We would love to take a moment to say thank you and invite you to a relaxed Psi Chi Advisor Meet-Up at the conference hotel café. This informal event is a chance to unwind, connect, and celebrate your guidance and occasional miracle-working as a Psi Chi advisor. Let's meet, share ideas, and enjoy coffee (or tea) and pastries. No agenda, no pressure, just warm drinks and good company.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am**

Poster America Ballroom Center/South

**TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY/
BEHAVIORAL/NEUROSCIENCE / INTERNATIONAL
POSTERS**

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am**

POSTER 1

**DISSERTATION TOPIC COMPARISONS BETWEEN
CLINICAL AND COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY PHD
AND PSYD PROGRAMS**

KIMBERLY DASCH-YEE (HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY),
JAMEZ BASH (HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY), BRIAN LEE
(HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY), TAINA DORVIL (HOLY
FAMILY UNIVERSITY), NICOLE GONZALEZ (HOLY
FAMILY UNIVERSITY)

Dissertation topics from APA-accredited Clinical and Counseling PhD and PsyD programs were compared. Keywords were gathered from dissertation titles and abstracts accessible on ProQuest from each type of doctoral program. Thematic analysis was used to arrive at frequent dissertation topics within each type of program. Chi square analyses were then conducted to examine for significant differences in frequency of dissertation topics between the four program types. Implications about the types of training offered are discussed.

POSTER 2

**COMPARING MEMORY AFTER LEARNING WITH AN
INTERACTIVE NARRATIVE GAME OR TEXTBOOK
CONTENT**

NICOLE CALMA-RODDIN (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY), GIANNA SALIB (NEW YORK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY)

Games can engage students and be useful for aiding students' learning. Here, we assess how a narrative game related to biopsychology compares to more traditional textbook content. In this experiment, we measure students' enjoyment and performance on an assessment of the educational content immediately after participation in their assigned activity. We predict students who complete the game will enjoy this more and perform better on an assessment compared to those who experience the textbook content.

POSTER 3

**THE BLACK HISTORY KNOWLEDGE IMPACT
SCALE: EXPLORATORY EVIDENCE OF ITS
CONSTRUCT VALIDITY**

THOMAS ROBINSON III (KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA)

This study was an exploratory test of a new scale ("Black History Knowledge Impact Scale") created to measure the effectiveness of applying the Black History Knowledge (BHK) paradigm to a multiracial composition of undergraduate students (N = 158) at a Predominantly White institution. Cronbach alpha and principal components analysis of the 11-item scale demonstrate its ability to both capture the BHK paradigm constructs and to predict students' overall self-esteem and ethnic identity.

POSTER 4

**CAN COLLEGE PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS TELL
CHATGPT APART FROM STUDENT WRITING?**

JONATHAN AUBE (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS),
RENEE HUNSBERGER (UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS), LISA GERACI (UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS)

Since ChatGPT's release, educators increasingly judge whether writing is AI-generated, yet their ability to accurately do so is unclear. This study tested professors' and students' ability to distinguish student essays, ChatGPT essays, and "hybrid" (ChatGPT-written, student-revised) essays. Both groups performed only slightly above chance, with highest accuracy for student essays and lowest for hybrids. Students—but not professors—performed better if they had prior ChatGPT experience. The findings have implications for academic integrity and assessment.

POSTER 5

**ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF INTERTEACHING ON
LEARNING PERFORMANCE**

HODA BARAKAT (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT
JOHNSTOWN), KELLY HUTCHINSON (UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH JOHNSTOWN), STEPHANIE JIMENEZ
(UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH JOHNSTOWN),
CATHERINE GAYMAN (TROY UNIVERSITY)

Interteaching is a pedagogy that is designed to increase engagement of students in classrooms, where students answer study guide questions, discuss the information in small groups, and end with a short lecture, which clarifies difficult concepts. The goal of the present study was to systematically replicate Saville et al. (2005), who assessed the impact of interteaching on learning by comparing four methods:

a control group, a lecture group, a reading group, and an interteaching group.

POSTER 6

BATTLESHIP AND BRAINS: EFFECTS OF GAME PLAY ON SPATIAL LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

KAITLYN FLACK (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), CAMRYN NOLTE (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), EMMA KAISER (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), KEIRA MCCARRICK (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), PATRICK SMITH (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

The current study investigated whether a modified version of the game Battleship improved spatial learning and confidence for such learning. The effects from playing the game improved on locating structures within the brain, and confidence scores elevated in those who played the game using anatomically-oriented feedback. This would suggest that the modified game has strong value for developing stronger spatial learning abilities and the elevated confidence when showing spatial learning abilities.

POSTER 7

CAREERS COURSE AS A METHOD OF BUILDING SELF-EFFICACY IN PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

DOROTHY CHARBONNIER (DREXEL UNIVERSITY), LEELAND ROGERS (DREXEL UNIVERSITY)

Analysis of 200 psychology students showed a careers course significantly enhanced career-related self-efficacy across three domains: career planning clarity ($d = 0.77$), knowledge/resource awareness ($d = 1.16$), and career outlook ($d = 1.14$). Effects were especially pronounced for graduate school-bound students.

POSTER 8

COLLEGE STUDENTS' POLITICAL ORIENTATION INFLUENCES ADOPTION OF CIVIC ONLINE REASONING STRATEGIES

RIYA M. ANJARIA (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER & THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CUNY), ELIZABETH S. CHE (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER & THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CUNY), C. DONNAN GRAVELLE (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER & THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CUNY), DONNA SCIMECA (THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CUNY), PATRICIA J. BROOKS (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER & THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, CUNY)

Civic online reasoning curricula encourage students to use Wikipedia and other search tools to read laterally. We examined whether political orientation influenced undergraduates' ($N = 364$) Wikipedia use and lateral

reading in a semester-long course. Liberals and unaffiliated students increased Wikipedia use following instruction, while conservatives did not. Although groups performed similarly on multiple-choice assessments, only liberals improved in applying lateral reading strategies. Findings suggest that political biases may pose challenges for media literacy efforts.

POSTER 9

COMPARING NARRATIVE GAMES AND TEXTBOOK-BASED LEARNING: EFFECTS ON LONG-TERM MEMORY RETENTION

GIANNA SALIB (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), NICOLE CALMA-RODDIN (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Narrative games are effective tools for engaging students while supporting learning. This study compares an interactive narrative game to a textbook-like module teaching the same psychology content and a textbook-like module on an unrelated topic. Long-term retention is assessed through immediate and delayed assessments. We predict that the game condition will exhibit the smallest decline in scores after 10 days compared to both text-book based groups.

POSTER 10

COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL AND SPECIFICATIONS GRADING POLICIES ON STUDENT ATTITUDES AND OUTCOMES

AILEEN BAILEY (SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND), JENNIFER TICKLE (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND)

The goal of the present research is to explore the impact of traditional and alternative grading systems on students' engagement with the course material in a statistics and research methods course. We evaluate grading system effects on confidence in understanding the course material, learning of the course material, motivation, anxiety, effort in the course, enjoyment of the course, and the connection between students' efforts and their grades.

POSTER 11

COURSES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

ERICA C. CZERWINSKI (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), JOHN C. NORCROSS (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), MICHAEL A. SAYETTE (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH)

Surveyed APA-accredited doctoral programs in clinical psychology (94% response) and compiled the psychology courses required or recommended prior to admission. Statistics and Research Methods were required/recommended by the vast majority of programs, and Psychopathology by over half. Few differences were observed in prerequisite courses across the practice-research continuum, except practice-oriented programs more frequently required/requested psychopathology, personality, and developmental. Since 2014, requiring/ recommending Personality and Psychological Testing has decreased while Cognitive Psychology has increased.

POSTER 12

EFFECT OF NEUTRAL AND NEGATIVE IMAGES ON GALVANIC SKIN RESPONSE

ROBERT FLINT (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), SHANIA JAGDA (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES)

Galvanic skin response (GSR) has provided important scientific insight in a wide range of contexts. In this activity, participants viewed a slideshow containing negative and neutral images after being connected to a GSR biofeedback monitor. The mean GSR for images rated as negative was significantly higher than for images rated as neutral. Participants reported a better understanding of the use of GSR in neuroscience and considered this activity a valuable experience in their neuroscience class.

POSTER 13

EMERGING ASSESSMENT TOOLS AND FACULTY PERSPECTIVES IN THE AGE OF AI

JOLIE BELL (IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY), ROBERT PLEIS (IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY), MARY KATE BOLAND (IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH BENNETT (IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY)

This mixed-methods investigation, conducted through the Immaculata University Center for Advancement in Scholarship, Teaching, and Learning Excellence (CASTLE), examined faculty assessment practices, perceived effectiveness of key tools, and readiness for emerging innovations. Findings reveal faculty reliance on multidimensional, authentic, and feedback-rich assessments, alongside concerns about digital competencies, academic integrity, and AI. Completed data collection and analysis highlight strong faculty interest in AI-informed assessment redesign, forming the basis of the project's next research phase.

POSTER 14

EVALUATION OF SPSS AND METHODS TRAINING ACROSS PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM CHANGES

JOY HANNA (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY), KANZA KHAN (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY), SHANNON LUPIEN (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY), DENNIS POEPEL (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY)

Typically, Psychology majors receive training in statistical software during statistics and/or research methods courses. At Daemen, SPSS was originally introduced in the semester following statistics, during the first (of two) research methods courses. In 2017 we began introducing SPSS during Statistics; in 2024, we streamlined content into two combined research design/analysis courses, introducing SPSS in the first. Previous results demonstrated improved student performance after the first curricular change; here we assess data from the second.

POSTER 15

GET WELL CARDS: A PEDAGOGICAL TOOL IN UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIES

PAYTEN KARASTURY (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), REYNA MUCK (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), JASON ROWE (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), VIVIEN CHARVATOVA (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), PATRICK SMITH (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

The current study investigated whether Get Well Cards, a matching game, better familiarized students with pharmacological and psychological treatments for common mental illnesses. The effects from playing the game increased understanding of different mental health therapies and their side effects while decreasing a perception of drug therapies as first-line treatments. This would suggest that card games are effective tools to instill a more critical evaluation about how mental health should be treated.

POSTER 16

GETTING CLUE'D INTO ETHICS: GAME-BASED LEARNING TO PROMOTE ETHICAL AWARENESS

PATRICK SMITH (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), ELLA PORTER (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), REYNA MUCK (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), TRINITY KNIGHT (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), EDWIN RAMIREZ-HERNANDEZ (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), KATHERINE EMERICK (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), LEILANI GOODMAN (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

The current study investigated whether a modified version of the board game Clue increased ethical

awareness behind mental health diagnoses. The effects from game play (in which intuitive judgements on mental health were penalized) included higher rankings of ethical training in clinical work and reductions of overconfidence when making quick diagnoses from mental health symptoms. These findings provided a promising strategy to instill greater professional responsibilities within undergraduates who aspire to become future clinicians.

POSTER 17

ADHD AFFECTS COLLEGE FRESHMEN'S SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH BOREDOM

ASHTON TRICE (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), LILY SCHUMACHER (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), ALLISON DICARLO (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)

We examined boredom proneness, leisure boredom, and classroom boredom among college freshmen with and without ADHD. Participants with ADHD ($N = 24$) has significantly higher rates of all three forms of boredom than a comparison group ($N = 87$). Freshmen with ADHD engaged in less social activity and more solitary activity than controls. For the total group, boredom was correlated with low social activity, low academic engagement, and high rates of solitary behavior.

POSTER 18

IMPACT OF A DIFFICULT DIALOGUES EXERCISE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE ATTITUDES

E. TISH HICKS (UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY), MARÍA DE LA CARIDAD ALVAREZ (UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY), MELANIE M. DOMENECH RODRÍGUEZ (UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY)

We evaluated the impact of adding a skills-focused "Difficult Dialogues" (DD) group assignment on students' social justice attitudes compared to students in control group course sections. Students in the DD groups had significantly greater pre- to post- increases on social justice attitudes. Results support the value and impact of learning and practicing specific skills to promote social justice. The strategies utilized to promote effective dialogues are particularly relevant in the current social climate.

POSTER 19

INCLUSIVE INSTRUCTION IMPACTS STUDENT CONNECTION AND CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

KAITLYN GONZALEZ (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ALICIA DRAIS- PARRILLO (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This research examines how inclusive teaching behaviors impact students' sense of belonging and fitting in. Prior research shows that connecting diversity and visibility, or supportive relationships, is linked to student belonging and progress. Information was gathered through objective class observation and student surveys. Results show instructors who offer more validation, build better connections, allow fair input, or include varied materials increase student belonging, suggesting deliberate inclusivity supports bonding, drive, and progress.

POSTER 20

INCLUSIVE TEACHING PRACTICES AND IMPACT ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE, ATTENDANCE, AND GROWTH MINDSET

SHELSY CAMPOS PEREZ (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ALICIA DRAIS-PARRILLO (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how inclusive teaching practices relate to college students' grades, attendance, and growth mindset. Drawing on research emphasizing engagement and motivational factors, instructor behaviors were objectively coded as well reported by students. Diverse examples predicted higher attendance; real-world connections and growth-focused messages predicted stronger growth mindset among students. Grades were not predicted by any assessed practices. These findings highlight the motivational value of inclusive instructional strategies and their potential to foster student resilience.

POSTER 21

INCLUSIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES: PREDICTORS FOR STUDENT MOTIVATION AND SUCCESS

PAIGE BROWN (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ALICIA DRAIS-PARRILLO (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Previous research suggests that classroom engagement through active learning, real-world connections, and growth mindsets have a significant impact on student motivation and academic achievement. Teaching methods of university professors were observed, after which students completed a survey on their motivation and perceived ability to succeed. Key findings suggest student perceptions of classroom engagement predict success and motivation, illustrating the direct influence teaching practices can have on student progress and performance.

POSTER 22**INTEGRATING SHELTER CATS INTO THE "PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING" COURSE**

SHLOMIT FLAISHER-GRINBERG (SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY)

Students enrolled in the Psychology of Learning course learned to design, conduct, analyze and report research projects based on the training and socialization of shelter cats. The assessment of learning outcomes demonstrated that in comparison to an equally challenging course, Learning course participation was associated with enhanced confidence in cat-training skills, understanding of the scientific methodology, and beliefs in the emotional capabilities of cats. The construction, delivery and implications of the program will be discussed.

POSTER 23**IT'S MY "POCKET PROFESSOR": COLLEGE STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF AI**

LAURA HEISICK (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), MISTY CURRELI (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), ADDISON LARGE (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), JOY AJAYI (PENN STATE HARRISBURG)

Availability of AI platforms pose both benefits and risks in academic environments. Many higher education policies emphasize teaching students ethical use of AI and/or encourage students to consider AI a supplemental tool. The current study investigated students' understanding of what AI can and should be used for in higher education. Our findings suggest students do not agree about what constitutes socially responsible AI use in academia, and their perspectives may diverge dramatically from faculty.

POSTER 24**LEADERSHIP ROLES SUPPORT STUDENTS OF COLOR FACING MARGINALIZATION AT PWIS**

MADELINE ROSS (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), DEMET BASAR (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ALICIA DRAIS-PARRILLO (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Students of color at PWIs may experience marginalization that accumulates over time but can be buffered by leadership roles. In a survey of 224 non-White undergraduates, a 2 × 3 ANOVA showed that leaders reported significantly less marginalization than non-leaders, with marginalization peaking in the third year for non-leaders. These findings suggest leadership provides protection against discriminatory experiences, highlighting the value of institutional

support that fosters leadership opportunities for students of color.

POSTER 25**LIGHT, SOUND, SEIZURES: A LOW-COST MODEL FOR TEACHING NEURAL PLASTICITY WITH DROSOPHILA**

ALEJANDRO GILI OLIVARES (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), JULIAN KEENAN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), VERONICA ZANCA (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), LAUREN RIVERA (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ASHTON MORANTE (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study introduces an innovative, low-cost, classroom-ready module that pairs optogenetics with Pavlovian conditioning in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Using blue-light activation of ChR2-expressing neurons as the unconditioned stimulus, students will assess whether a tone could elicit a conditioned seizure response. Results show positive conditioning and sex-related differences, illustrating neural plasticity and offering a strong platform for teaching experimental design and quantitative reasoning.

POSTER 26**MENTORING UNDERGRADUATE PARTICIPANTS IN AN NSF-FUNDED REU PROGRAM: A MULTI-MENTORSHIP APPROACH**

LAURA RABIN (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF CUNY), HANNAH BODEK (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF CUNY), STEPHANIE SANTIAGO-MICHELS (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF CUNY), RONA MILES (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF CUNY), JIN KANG (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF CUNY), JENNIFER DRAKE (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF CUNY)

As part of an NSF-funded program, the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) trains students from underserved backgrounds to conduct research. Housed within a Psychology Department at a public college in the US, undergraduates receive mentoring during an intensive semester-long laboratory experience. We utilize a multi-mentorship approach using mentors with differing areas of expertise. Participant feedback indicates that such mentorship provides important support, leading to successful project outcome while fostering a sense of self-efficacy in STEM.

POSTER 27**PHINEAS GAGE CASE STUDY: A HYPERBOLIC DEPICTION ACROSS INTRODUCTORY TEXTBOOKS**

JOSEPH BATTAGLIA (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), GIANNA ASSUNCAO (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON),

EMMA CALDWELL (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), LEAH NEALON (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), EDISA REYNOSSO (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), SOPHIA DA COSTA (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), MARIA VYZANIARIS (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), PATRICK ORR (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON)

An array of Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychology Textbooks (N=29) was reviewed to investigate the misrepresentation of the Phineas Gage case study. A group of 6 members reviewed these books to identify recurring themes. The questions asked to examine the data include: (1) whether the text exaggerates or overstates Gage's behavioral symptoms, and (2) whether it mentions the pain or fungal infection at all.

POSTER 28

REFUTATION RETENTION: THE DURABILITY OF MYTH-BUSTING AFTER A MEMORY COURSE

JENNIFER MCCABE (GOUCHER COLLEGE), ERICA ADAMSON (GOUCHER COLLEGE), NAILA LAPIERRE (GOUCHER COLLEGE), JULISSA TREJO-LOPEZ (GOUCHER COLLEGE), MAX DAVIS (GOUCHER COLLEGE), REBECCA SIEMERS (GOUCHER COLLEGE)

This survey study explored durability of "myth-busting" refutational teaching in a Human Memory class over 10 years. Former students rated agreement with eight memory misconceptions addressed in the course, amongst filler items, and completed Intellectual Openness (IO) measures. Results showed durable myth-refutation retention compared with average pre-class scores, but accuracy declined with more time since course completion. Correct myth refutation was correlated with academic performance (GPA), but not with IO.

POSTER 29

STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD AND UNDERSTANDING OF AI USE IN MULTIPLE CONTEXTS

SUZANNE BAKER (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), DANA S. DUNN (MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY)

Building on our previous work (Baker & Dunn, 2025), we present new survey data on student attitudes toward generative AI use by both faculty and students in academic contexts. Our current survey contains some previous questions (to identify any acceptability shifts), items on evolving uses of AI, what students learn about acceptably using and documenting their AI use, and some scenario-based questions. We also assessed student attitudes towards faculty use and misuse of AI.

POSTER 30

UNDERGRADUATE TAS IN RESEARCH METHODS: A REVISED PROGRAM EVALUATION

CELESTE GABLE (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), NICOLE BENJAMIN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), GREGORY URENA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JULIETTE PAULUS (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), DAVID LEBLANC (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), THEODORA BAKTIDY (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MARTONE OLSAVSKY (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JHAVON CLAUTHER (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ZUZANNA KROMCZYK (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LUKE KEATING (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

We previously found evidence for the efficacy of our psychology research methods UTA program in building student human capital and reducing course failure rates. This study updates our initial program evaluation and additionally examines UTA and course student satisfaction. In updated analyses across 15 semesters (n=1975), we replicated previous findings and found high satisfaction rates for both UTAs and course students. Findings suggest UTA inclusion can be mutually beneficial for students and UTAs.

POSTER 31

WHICH TYPE OF STUDY GUIDE BEST SUPPORTS APPLICATION OF THE MATERIAL?

ARIEL KERSHNER (NEUMANN UNIVERSITY), SEAN CARROLL (NEUMANN UNIVERSITY), IAN TORELLO (NEUMANN UNIVERSITY), NICOLE BURCHETT (NEUMANN UNIVERSITY)

Does the testing effect extend to applying knowledge, beyond simple fact-based knowledge? In two experiments, participants completed one of three study guides (fact statements, multiple choice questions, or short answer questions) before applying their knowledge on a later exam. In Experiment 1, knowledge application was better after multiple choice questions, however Experiment 2 showed no difference amongst the study guides after corrective feedback. Using corrective feedback eliminates a testing format effect on knowledge application.

POSTER 32

YES, AND: THE ALGORITHM OF IMPROV AND STORYTELLING IN HIGHER-EDUCATION PEDAGOGY

REBECCA BONCODDO (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), JASON SNYDER (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

How can improvisation and storytelling transform student engagement and instructional design in higher education classrooms? Improv skills build adaptability, spontaneity, and real-time thinking, while storytelling fosters reflection and meaning making. This poster will share insights from the training and implementation of these practices in courses across multiple disciplines including Psychology, Management and First Year Experience courses. We will present initial pilot study findings that demonstrate how these methods enhanced student engagement, communication, and collaboration.

POSTER 33

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE MODEL IN RATS: THE IMPACT OF MICROPLASTICS ON WORKING MEMORY

ERIN K. FREDERICK (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), DAVIS K. SMITH-CORBIN (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), MACKENZIE TREADWAY (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), CARLY T. DIXON (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), CAROLINE G. HOGIE (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), SARA O'BRIEN (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), MATT L. ECKARD (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), DAYNA M. HAYES (RADFORD UNIVERSITY)

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is associated with impairments to the cholinergic system, a crucial network for working memory (WM) with deficits in WM being a hallmark of the disease. Further, exposure to environmental pollutants, such as microplastics, may exacerbate damage and worsen symptoms in AD patients. The current study aims to examine cognitive alterations following polyethylene-microplastic exposure in a scopolamine-induced model of AD in rats using a delayed-match-to-position task to assess working memory.

POSTER 34

ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF ATYPICAL DAT INHIBITOR GBR12909 USING MOUSE TOUCHSCREEN PROCEDURES

LILLIAN PERRY (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), MYA DAVIS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ALEXANDRA O'BOYLE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), JENELLE MILLER (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), GAYLE EDELSTEIN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), JOHN SALAMONE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Motivational dysfunction symptoms of depression are extremely debilitating and not effectively attenuated by first-line antidepressants (i.e., selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors). GBR 12909, an atypical DAT inhibitor, is being assessed as a potential therapeutic agent for depression. Animal models of effort-based choice have shown that GBR 12909 increases motivation; however, the majority of these studies

have been done in rats. The current study aims to assess GBR 12909 in mice on an optimized effort-based choice task.

POSTER 35

AUDITORY ENRICHMENT MAY INCREASE ANXIETY-LIKE RESPONSES FOLLOWING STRESS-EXPOSURE IN ZEBRAFISH.

ALEXANDRA DRUM (DAEMEN COLLEGE), KANZA KHAN (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY)

We examined the influence of repeated auditory enrichment (AE) on responses to an acute future stressor in zebrafish. Previous reports indicate that auditory enrichment normalizes behavioral responses following chronic stress. In the current study, adult zebrafish were exposed to an acute mild stressor following repeated AE. Preliminary findings confirm that the stressor induced anxiety-like responses, and suggests an anxiogenic response in AE-animals. This may suggest a "removal of enrichment" stress response in AE exposed fish.

POSTER 36

BEHAVIORAL FLEXIBILITY IN ADOLESCENT DECISION-MAKING DURING APPROACH-AVOIDANCE CONFLICT

GABRIELLE MAGALHÃES (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), MADISON SOARES (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SURINA PRABHU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), HEIDI MEYER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Adolescent and adult mice learn cue-based reward seeking and shock avoidance at similar rates, but adolescents showed higher reward seeking. During approach-avoidance conflict, adults were more likely to choose avoidance, especially females, while adolescents responded more evenly between seeking and avoiding without compromising threat avoidance. Fiber photometry revealed prelimbic parvalbumin interneuron activity decreases during reward pursuit and increases before avoidance. Together, these findings suggest adolescent reward sensitivity may enhance flexible decision-making during approach-avoidance conflict.

POSTER 37

CAFFEINE AND CONVICTION: CAFFEINE'S EFFECTS ON SELF-ESTEEM, SELF-EFFICACY, AND LOCUS OF CONTROL.

DYLAN DWYER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), SHELBY K. SWARTZ (HARTWICK COLLEGE), MALIA S. DAKE (HARTWICK COLLEGE), JACQUELINE A. DROWN

(HARTWICK COLLEGE), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

Caffeine enhances alertness and mood, and self-confidence has similar effects. However, no studies have examined whether caffeine directly influences components of self-confidence: self-esteem, self-efficacy, and locus of control. This study uses a within-subjects caffeine-placebo design to test acute effects of caffeine on these self-confidence components. Results will offer the first direct evidence on whether caffeine can have acute influences on self-confidence.

POSTER 38

CANNABIDIOL (CBD) DOES NOT REDUCE SELF-REPORTED ANXIETY DESPITE PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

MIA TZIKAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), NOHA MYREEN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), SARAH FRANZEN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), GABRIELLA HARMON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), RUSHIL BIST (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), FINIAN ZAKAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), RILEY MCNABOE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), HUGO POSADA-QUINTERO (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KIMBERLI TREADWELL (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), DAVID TOLIN (ANXIETY DISORDER CENTER, HARTFORD HOSPITAL), ROBERT ASTUR (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

CBD was tested as a potential adjunct to strengthen extinction learning in socially anxious participants. In a fear-conditioning paradigm, CBD did not reduce subjective anxiety or shock expectancy, and explicit ratings were comparable to placebo across all phases. Although CBD showed a modest reduction in physiological reinstatement, this effect did not align with self-report measures, suggesting a dissociation between autonomic and conscious responses and unclear clinical promise for CBD in enhancing exposure-based treatments.

POSTER 39

CANNABIGEROL (CBG) ENHANCES VISUAL ATTENTION IN RATS

AMBER MCKAY (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY - EDINBORO), PETER MCLAUGHLIN (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY - EDINBORO), LANEY BURNS (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY - EDINBORO), LILY BEMENT (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY - EDINBORO), KATARINA LORDS (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY - EDINBORO), SHALI SLATER (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY - EDINBORO)

Cannabigerol (CBG) is a non-intoxicating cannabinoid that was studied for its potential to improve sustained and divided attention in female and male Long-Evans

rats. CBG is a potent $\hat{1}\pm 2$ -adrenergic agonist, as are non-stimulant ADHD medications. CBG enhanced divided attention, but not sustained attention, and was not sedating. CBG's beneficial effects and non-sedative qualities highlight its potential as an alternative compound for future attention and ADHD research.

POSTER 40

CBD REDUCES PHYSIOLOGICAL REINSTATEMENT OF FEAR IN SOCIALLY ANXIOUS YOUNG ADULTS

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Cannabidiol (CBD) may help reduce the return of fear after extinction. Undergraduates with elevated social anxiety completed a fear-conditioning task and received 600 mg of CBD or placebo before extinction and reinstatement. CBD did not alter extinction but significantly reduced reinstatement-related increases in galvanic skin response, especially to the CS- cue. These results suggest CBD suppresses physiological fear reinstatement and may be a useful adjunct to exposure-based therapies.

POSTER 41

CHARACTERIZATION OF MOUSE INSULA-FRONTAL CORTEX CIRCUITRY DURING ATTENTION

LAUREN KARWACKI (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), JAKE RIGGI (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), CATHERINE SOERGER (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), MATTHEW O'LEARY (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), ISABELLA BOXER (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), HENRY HALLOCK (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE)

We examined how the insula and frontal cortex (FC) contribute to attention by selectively inactivating insula neurons projecting to the FC before an attention task in male and female mice. This inactivation impaired performance in a high-demand sustained-attention task, with stronger effects in females. Molecular profiling showed many of these projection neurons are GABAergic. These findings provide mechanistic insight into how cortical circuits support attention-guided behavior.

POSTER 42**CHEMOGENETIC INTERROGATION OF BASOLATERAL AMYGDALA CONTRIBUTIONS TO STRESS-ENHANCED FEAR LEARNING**

KATRINA CALLAHAN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), DANIEL KOCHLI (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), GRACE BROWN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), CAROLINE DRUPKA (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), NOAH GIBSON (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), OLIVIA ALLEN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

The present work uses chemogenetic inactivation to investigate the contributions of the basolateral amygdala (BLA) to the stress-enhanced fear learning effect. BLA inactivation prior to a massed 15-shock contextual fear conditioning session blunted responding in a subsequent context test but did not prevent stress-enhanced potentiation from a mild stressor in a novel context. This preliminary data suggests that while BLA inactivation blunts strong contextual fear conditioning, it does not prevent non-associative enhancement effects.

POSTER 43**COMPETITION IN FEMALE RATS: DYNAMICS AND STABILITY**

BRIELLE PIERRE PHILIPPE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), GIANNA LAURETANO (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ETHAN BERI (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ETAN MARKUS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Social hierarchies are a fundamental aspect in the life of social animals. Previous work in rodents has focused on male, this study explored dominance hierarchies among female rats. Female rats performed a competitive water maze task, with pairs having eight daily encounter sessions which were repeated approximately one year later. Dominance patterns developed over the eight-day period and remained consistent over time, suggesting that individual differences in competitive behavior are stable.

POSTER 44**DIFFERENTIAL ACTIVITY OF CHOLINERGIC AND GABAERGIC BASAL FOREBRAIN NEURONS DURING EXTINCTION LEARNING**

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EKATERINA LIKHTIK (BIOLOGY PROGRAM, NEUROSCIENCE, THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

Fear extinction depends on the infralimbic cortex (IL), yet circuitry supporting its role in extinction learning remains unclear. We previously showed that IL projections to the ventral pallidum/substantia innominata (VP/SI) support extinction learning. Here, we demonstrate that IL contacts VP/SI cholinergic and PV cells, that cholinergic cells are more active early whereas PVs are recruited later in extinction, and that inhibiting PVs slows extinction, suggesting that IL-VP/SI(PV) coordinates extinction learning.

POSTER 45**DOI BLUNTS STRESS ENHANCEMENT OF FEAR LEARNING**

SARA SYPOLT (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), GRACE BROWN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), GRAHAM HALFPENNY (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), KATRINA CALLAHAN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), DANIEL KOCHLI (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

DOI to reduce potentiated fear in a stress-enhanced fear learning (SEFL) paradigm. Rats underwent a 15-shock contextual fear conditioning session. DOI administered 24 hours later attenuated potentiated fear to a subsequent single shock in a novel context, but only in rats that did not undergo a post-injection extinction session. A sucrose preference test yielded no evidence of anhedonia, regardless of condition.

POSTER 46**DOSE-DEPENDENT EFFECTS OF DEGARELIX ON SEXUAL INCENTIVE MOTIVATION IN MALE RATS**

ANNMARIE PFIESTER (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), AUTUMN BURKETT (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), JODI THOMAS (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), CARA DELLA TOFFALO (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), WAYNE HAWLEY (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO)

This study determined the dose-dependent effect of degarelix on sexual incentive motivation (SIM). Experiment 1a investigated the short-term effects on SIM of low doses of degarelix that have been shown to temporarily reduce hormone release for 24 hours. Experiment 1b and 1c investigated the short-term and long-term effects, respectively, of a high dose of degarelix on SIM. SIM was reduced by a high dose of degarelix, but the effect emerged several weeks after treatment.

POSTER 47**EFFECTS OF ACUTE PROGESTERONE ON STATE-DEPENDENT PAVLOVIAN FEAR CONDITIONING**

CALEB FREEMAN (ALLEGHENY COLLEGE), ANGELINA LAUFER (ALLEGHENY COLLEGE), SHELBY BLAIR (ALLEGHENY COLLEGE)

Recent studies demonstrate that neuroactive metabolites of progesterone and testosterone can confer state dependence to contextual fear conditioning (CFC) in adult rats. However, results using acute progesterone treatment were mixed, possibly due to the overshadowing effect of a cue used during conditioning. The present study aims to determine if acute progesterone following ovariectomy can confer state dependence to CFC using a 2x2 design, expecting higher rates of freezing in same-state subjects than mixed-state subjects.

POSTER 48**EFFECTS OF GONADAL HORMONES IN DISCRIMINATION AND REVERSAL LEARNING ON TOUCHSCREEN APPARATUS.**

JENNA JONES (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), OWEN HENKE (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), MARIAM USMAN (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), MÍA ESTES (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), ALLISON MALMQUIST (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY), OLGA LIPATOVA (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY)

Flexibility is a fundamental cognitive function that allows organisms to adapt to changing conditions. To explore these processes, we employed visual discrimination and reversal learning tasks in hormone-treated female and male rats. Our findings suggest that estrogen and testosterone have differential effects on reversal learning. These results indicate that subregions of the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) involved in cognitive flexibility may be differentially modulated by gonadal hormones in males and females.

POSTER 49**EFFECTS OF KISSPEPTIN AND TESTOSTERONE ON COPULATORY BEHAVIORS AND SEXUAL MOTIVATION**

JODI THOMAS (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), CARA DELLA TOFFALO (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), WAYNE HAWLEY (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO)

Previous studies have shown that kisspeptin impacts sexual motivation. The goal of this study was to expand these findings by examining the effects of

kisspeptin and testosterone on copulatory behaviors and sexual incentive motivation (SIM) in male rats. Testosterone increased both copulatory behaviors and SIM, but kisspeptin only significantly increased SIM in rats not treated with testosterone. Kisspeptin may be able to enhance sexual motivation in men undergoing testosterone deprivation therapies to treat prostate cancer.

POSTER 50**EFFECTS OF NARRATIVE FRAMING ON ALCOHOL-SEEKING BEHAVIOR**

FINN MCGINN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KAITLYN VITUCCI (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), FIN ZAKAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ELLISON APELIAN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), MAHATHI GORRE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), YUZHUI LU (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ZEXIN MA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ROBERT ASTUR (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

College students often encounter unavoidable alcohol cues, which can heighten cravings. Using a VR conditioned place preference paradigm, we examined whether narrative framing could alter alcohol-paired place preferences. Forty frequent-drinking undergraduates completed VR conditioning and then read either a neutral or anti-alcohol narrative. While all participants showed strong CPP, the anti-alcohol narrative reduced explicit preference for the alcohol-associated room. Narrative framing may help shift conscious evaluations of alcohol-related contexts even when implicit behavior remains unchanged.

POSTER 51**EFFECTS OF OCCIPITAL (V1) TMS ON MOTOR PERFORMANCE FOLLOWING COGNITIVE GUIDED VISUALIZATION**

NATALIA CIFUENTES (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ATHENIA IBRAGIMOV, DANIELLE DINOME (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ALLY ALCANTARA, CAVEL TAUPPER, ANDREA GIRALDO-PUERTA, JULIAN KEENAN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how occipital lobe modulation influences the effectiveness of guided visualization on motor performance. Participants completed a dart-throwing task following excitatory, inhibitory, or sham TMS paired with either visualization or control audio. Preliminary data from two participants showed the highest performance during visualization combined with inhibitory stimulation, contrary to predictions. These early findings highlight the need for a larger sample to clarify these relationships.

POSTER 52**EVALUATING DYADIC INTERACTIONS AS PREDICTORS OF OBSERVATIONAL LEARNING SUCCESS IN RATS**

ETHAN BERI (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ABI SADINSKY (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), TY WRENN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ETAN MARKUS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Observational learning is a mechanism by which a learner observes an actor and enacts a behavioral change due to their observations. Rats completed an observational learning task by using another rat or a light cue to guide their response. Our analysis focused on how nuanced interactions predict task success, and refining our DeepLabCut tracking protocol (Mathis et al., 2018) to reduce error, allowing real-time tracking and accurate classification of dyadic interactions.

POSTER 53**EVIDENCE OF ANXIOLYTIC RESPONSES DURING WITHDRAWAL FROM LOW-DOSE REPEATED ETHANOL IN ZEBRAFISH**

ALEXIS NGUYEN (DAEMEN COLLEGE), KANZA KHAN (DAEMEN UNIVERSITY)

The current study examined the alcohol withdrawal phenotype in the zebrafish model. Previous studies have reported anxiogenic behavior and tightening of shoal cohesion during withdrawal, but our understanding of the time-related phenotype changes during withdrawal remains poorly understood. A 2x2 design was used to examine how repeated ethanol exposure impacts anxiety- and social-behavior at two withdrawal timepoints. Preliminary findings suggest an anxiolytic effect, contrasting earlier reports. Variability may be due to strain and dose differences.

POSTER 54**EXAMINING OVERLAP IN VH-PL PROJECTING NEURONAL ENSEMBLES LINKED TO FEAR OR SAFETY**

VIVIANA CASTRO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SURINA PRABHU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SOPHIA FRANCISCO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), HEIDI MEYER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

It is unknown whether VH-PL projecting neurons linked to fear or safety are distinct populations, or if they overlap and function through an on/off mechanism. Using a cFos-driven tagging system, fear and safety ensembles were labeled, and their overlap quantified across development. Adolescents (PND35) and adults (PND70) show similar VH-PL projection numbers, indicating the circuitry is anatomically

present. Comparable overlap between fear and safety cells suggests ensembles exhibit activity along a sliding scale.

POSTER 55**HOUSING CONDITIONS IMPACT PAVLOVIAN FEAR CONDITIONING IN FEMALE SPRAGUE-DAWLEY RATS**

ANGELINA LAUFER (ALLEGHENY COLLEGE), CALEB FREEMAN (ALLEGHENY COLLEGE), MADISON LEMANSKI (ALLEGHENY COLLEGE), SHELBY BLAIR (ALLEGHENY COLLEGE)

In humans, social support is known to have a positive effect on mental well-being, such as reduced anxiety. However, in rat models, there are conflicting results, so this study further explores the role of social isolation on Pavlovian Fear Conditioning in male and female Sprague-Dawley rats. Our results show that housing conditions have an effect on female rats, such that pair-housed females showed reduced cued fear behavior, while males did not, regardless of housing condition.

POSTER 56**INACTIVATION OF HIPPOCAMPAL-FRONTAL CIRCUITRY DURING A TOUCHSCREEN-BASED SPATIAL WORKING MEMORY TASK**

JAKE RIGGI (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), CATHERINE SOERGER (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), TATE BROWDER (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), ROSETTA SERRANO (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), LAUREN KARWACKI (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), OLIVIA CHIOCCARIELLO (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), FINIAN ZAKAS (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE), HENRY HALLOCK (LAFAYETTE COLLEGE)

Rodent spatial working memory tasks require navigation to real locations and depend on hippocampal-frontal circuits, whereas human tasks involve remembering on-screen positions and rely on non-hippocampal networks. Using a touchscreen TUNL task with DREADD-mediated inhibition of hippocampal-frontal projections in mice, we found impaired performance only when stimuli were closely spaced—and only in females—while delay changes had no effect. These findings support TUNL as a translational assay for screen-based spatial working memory.

POSTER 57**INFLUENCE OF ENRICHMENT CONDITIONS IN KETAMINE ABUSE AND ITS EFFECT IN DECISION-MAKING**

ERYN MARQUARDT (REED COLLEGE), DIEGO LIEVANO PARRA (REED COLLEGE), SUN KIM (REED COLLEGE), VALERIA GONZÁLEZ (REED COLLEGE)

Ketamine is known to enhance plasticity, however, its impact on decision-making and anxiety remains underexplored. Environmental enrichment (EE) has demonstrated benefits in enhancing cognitive and emotional behaviors, depending on the type. In an information-seeking task, we found that social EE affects information preference, though ketamine had no significant effect on task performance in rats. Additionally, the elevated plus maze revealed that ketamine appears to decrease anxiety-like behaviors and increase some risk-avoidant behaviors.

POSTER 58

INTERHEMISPHERIC COORDINATION IN LEFT- AND RIGHT-HANDED ADULTS PERFORMING BIMANUAL TASK WITH DISTRACTIONS

ARWA ADAWI (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), SHAZIELA ISHAK (RAMAPO COLLEGE)

We examined the interplay between handedness and attention during drawing and tapping tasks under auditory distraction conditions. Adults completed drawing and rhythmic tapping tasks under music, counting, dual-stream, or no audio conditions. Left-handed participants tapped faster, showed shorter tapping intervals, and drew more triangles compared to right-handed participants. However, none of the auditory distractions impacted performance. Findings suggest handedness influences motor timing and fine-motor output, whereas bimanual tasks were resistant to auditory interference.

POSTER 59

INTERMIXED SAFETY CUES FACILITATE FEAR REGULATION DURING RENEWAL IN FEMALE ADOLESCENT MICE

CRYSTAL LIN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), HEIDI MEYER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Current treatments for fear-related disorders rely on principles of extinction, where a new "safe" memory is formed to compete with the original fear memory. Long-term efficacy of extinction remains a challenge. 40 mice completed behavioral training to determine whether the introduction of a learned safety cue during extinction facilitates fear regulation in male and female adolescents. Findings suggest intermixed safety cues facilitate fear regulation during renewal among female adolescents, but not in males.

POSTER 60

INVESTIGATING AGE DIFFERENCES OF STRESS-ENHANCED FEAR LEARNING IN MICE

HANNAH BURNELL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), HEIDI MEYER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) often follows severe stress, and adolescence may represent a unique window of vulnerability and plasticity. We examined how stress-enhanced fear learning (SEFL) influences later fear regulation, depending on the timing of stress. Mice underwent SEFL, discrimination training, summation, and extinction. SEFL reliably increased freezing across ages, with the strongest effect in mice stressed during adolescence and tested in adulthood. These findings suggest adolescent trauma can produce enduring deficits in fear regulation.

POSTER 61

INVESTIGATING IMPACT OF MGLU5 RECEPTOR EXPRESSION ON PV-FSI CONNECTIVITY IN THE MPFC

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The medial prefrontal cortex relies on balanced excitation and inhibition, with parvalbumin interneurons (PV-FSIs) playing a key role in regulating pyramidal output. We investigated how PV-FSI-specific loss of mGlu5 affects circuit maturation using whole-cell patch clamp recordings and post-hoc morphological analysis. Disruption of mGlu5 altered PV-FSI arborization and connectivity, indicating that mGlu5 is necessary for proper inhibitory circuit development. These findings highlight a potential mechanism linking disrupted PV signaling to neurodevelopmental disorders.

POSTER 62

KISSPEPTIN OR TESTOSTERONE MAINTAINS PARTNER PREFERENCE IN SEXUALLY NAIVE MALE RATS

JADE HUDSON (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), SAMANTHA SCHMIDT (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), JODI THOMAS (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), ANNMARIE PFIESTER (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), AUTUMN BURKETT (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), CARA DELLA TOFFALO (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO),

WAYNE HAWLEY (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO)

Kisspeptin (KISS) enhances sexual motivation in sexually experienced male rats. As an extension of these studies, this study investigated whether KISS and testosterone have similar effects on partner preference and sexual incentive motivation in sexually naive male rats. KISS or testosterone maintained partner preference in sexually naive rats. These results have important clinical implications, as they suggest that KISS has the potential to enhance sexual motivation in those suffering from hypoactive sexual desire disorder.

POSTER 63

NOVELTY-BASED APPROACHES TO ENHANCE EXPOSURE THERAPY OUTCOMES IN SOCIAL ANXIETY

TAYLOR GAUDIOSI (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), SKYLER SKLENARIK (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), SARA JOHNSON (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), MIA TZIKAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), FIN ZAKAS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), SARAH FRANZEN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), RILEY MCNABOE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), HUGO POSADA-QUINTERO (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KIMBERLI TREADWELL (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), DAVID TOLIN (HARTFORD HOSPITAL), ROBERT ASTUR (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Exposure therapy is widely used to treat anxiety disorders but is ineffective in preventing relapse. Participants with social anxiety completed either a standard extinction protocol in which the feared stimulus was omitted, or an augmented extinction protocol in which a novel tone replaced the feared stimulus. While both groups showed similar patterns of extinction, those who underwent augmented extinction demonstrated reduced reinstatement and lower shock expectancy compared to participants in the standard extinction condition.

POSTER 64

OBSERVATIONAL LEARNING IN RATS: IMPACT OF OBSERVER SOCIAL DOMINANCE

SRINITYA KAMMA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), BRIELLE PIERRE PHILIPPE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), TY WRENN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ETAN MARKUS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Observational learning occurs when a task is watched and imitated, reduces the time and energy that is wasted upon trial-and-error. We are interested in

understanding what factors make for better observational learning in rats. The current experiment examined whether the dominance/submissive status of the student-teacher dyad is important. We found that rats exhibit higher performance when observing a rat demonstrator (teacher) compared to a light cue (non-social teacher) this was especially true for submissive animals.

POSTER 65

OREXIN MODULATION OF SEX DIFFERENCES IN OUTCOME DEVALUATION

SARA KEEFER (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE), HILLARY LE (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE), KILEY FLINN (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE)

Motivation for rewards depends on both the value of the outcome and its associated cues that predict their availability. Devaluation of the reward usually results in decreased behavioral responding to the associated cues, but some individuals fail to show this decrease in responding. Here, we examined devaluation sensitivity between male and female rats and the role of orexin/hypocretin signaling into the ventral tegmental area, which is shown to differentially mediate behavioral flexibility based on sex.

POSTER 66

OXYTOCIN SIGNALING IN THE VTA MODULATES ANXIETY-LIKE, BUT NOT SOCIAL PLAY, BEHAVIORS

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Social play is a highly rewarding and motivated behavior expressed by nearly all juvenile mammals. Oxytocin (OT) signaling in the ventral tegmental area (VTA) had been implicated in social reward and social motivation, but its involvement in juvenile social play behavior was unknown. Contrary to our predictions, pharmacological manipulations of OT signaling in the VTA did not alter social play behavior, but did modulate the expression of anxiety-like behavior in juvenile Wistar rats.

POSTER 67

PARVALBUMIN INTERNEURONS' ROLE IN FEAR AND SAFETY SIGNALING IN ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

BECKETT BLOCKER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), RYAN SENNE (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), RUTVI JAIN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), CRYSTAL LIN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY),

DAREEN AL HUMAIDI (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ANNAMARIE MAGANA (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), DALTON TAHY (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), HEIDI MEYER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

We explored the role that Parvalbumin interneurons (PVIs) in the Prelimbic prefrontal cortex (PL) play in fear and safety signaling in adult and adolescent mice. We used fiber photometry to record from PVIs in the PL while adolescent and adult mice underwent four days of fear and safety discriminative conditioning, followed by a summation test, wherein fear, safety and compound (combination of fear and safety played simultaneously) tones were played.

POSTER 68

PSYCHOLOGY OF MEDIA FANDOM: ANALYZING THE VIEWING BEHAVIOR OF FANS VS NON-FANS

EDRICH SILVA (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), STEVIE ANN HILL (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), AYESHA MULLA (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), CHAKRADHAR SAI VALLURU (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN FACTORS AND NEUROSCIENCE LAB), AZIZA SWIFT (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN FACTORS AND NEUROSCIENCE LAB), ABE LEITE (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY AND HUMAN FACTORS AND NEUROSCIENCE LAB), JESSICA HAUTSCH (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), ROBERT ALEXANDER (HUMAN FACTORS AND NEUROSCIENCE LAB AND NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

This study examined how fans and non-fans visually interpret character interactions in the show Supernatural using an EyeLink1000 Plus to track eye movements. We previously found that fans displayed quantifiably different viewing behavior than non-fans, demonstrating that fandom fosters specific gaze patterns. Here, we explored how fans' gaze differs for meaningful versus non-meaningful images and how fan viewing behavior evolves over time.

POSTER 69

RESPONSE-ALTERNATION PROCEDURE DISSOCIATES MOTIVATIONAL AND ATTENTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS DURING CANNABINOID WITHDRAWAL IN RATS

MACKENZIE TREADWAY (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), MATT ECKARD (RADFORD UNIVERSITY)

A novel response-alternation procedure was developed to measure motivational and attentional impairment post-cannabinoid withdrawal in rats. Initial experiments validated the procedure by reducing food motivation and increasing attentional demand followed by pharmacological manipulations to replicate these

disruptions to motivation and attention. Following validation, a pilot study determined the efficacy of the procedure in assessing the effects of synthetic cannabinoid withdrawal. Preliminary findings suggest cannabinoid withdrawal causes robust motivational disruption with minor effects on attention.

POSTER 70

SELF-PERCEPTION AND SELF-RECOGNITION WHILE LOOKING IN THE MIRROR ON PSILOCYBIN

LAUREN RIVERA (MONTCLAIR STATE), SAM ELIAS (MONTCLAIR STATE), STEPHANIE SPIVAK (MONTCLAIR STATE), ALEXA ALVAREZ (MONTCLAIR STATE), ALEJANDRO GILI OLIVARES (MONTCLAIR STATE), MARIA FERROL (MONTCLAIR STATE), JULIAN KEENAN (MONTCLAIR STATE)

The manner in which people interpret their own image while under the influence of psilocybin is unknown. Here we examined social media posts from individuals who took psilocybin and later looked in a mirror. It was found that users rarely saw a completely different face and many reported seeing their normal appearance or distortions. Reactions were generally more positive than negative, demonstrating that psilocybin produces diverse, often pleasant but widely varying self-face experiences.

POSTER 71

SENSORY PRECONDITIONING IN MICE: INSIGHTS INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER ORDER LEARNING

SURINA PRABHU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), HEIDI MEYER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Associations between neutral stimuli can shape adaptive and maladaptive behaviors throughout life. To investigate this ability, adolescent and adult mice underwent an 8-day sensory preconditioning protocol which showed that adolescent mice do not demonstrate latent learning between neutral cues whereas adult mice do. This finding informs the developmental timeline of associative learning processes and opens the opportunity to elucidate the circuitry by which these associations happen.

POSTER 72

SEX DIFFERENCES IN ENDOCANNABINOID-MEDIATED SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY IN ADOLESCENT RAT HIPPOCAMPUS

DANIEL MERCADO (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), VICTORIA SMITH (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), GABRIELLA PETROVA (RAMAPO

COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), CHRISTIAN REICH
(RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

Work in our lab demonstrated a robust sex difference in rat endocannabinoid signaling at hippocampal dendritic GABAergic synapses (Ferraro, 2020). We hypothesize that this sexual divergence across the somatodendritic axis in adolescent hippocampal pyramidal cells translates into differences in eCB-mediated synaptic plasticity. Our findings suggest CB1-mediated suppression of GABAergic neurotransmission, via tonic and ERK-dependent endocannabinoid activity, lowers LTP induction thresholds in females.

POSTER 73

SEX DIFFERENCES IN OUTCOME DEVALUATION BASED ON THE OREXIN-DOPAMINE SIGNALING PATHWAY

HILLARY LE (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE), SAIMA SIDDIQUI (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE), SARA KEEFER (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE)

Recently, our lab showed sex-specific differences in behavioral flexibility, and we wanted to examine the role of dopamine (DA) in these behaviors. Female rats normally do not display outcome devaluation, but do when DA 1 receptors in the NAc are blocked. Males do display outcome devaluation, and DA 1 receptor blockade does not alter this behavior. Further studies are examining the interaction with DA and orexin/hypocretin.

POSTER 74

SEX DIFFERENCES IN PASSIVE AVOIDANCE RETENTION IN RATS CONSUMING HIGH-FAT, HIGH-SUGAR DIET

MADISON L. SPENCER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), BETHANY K. GROVE (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), JAMES F. BRIGGS (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), STEPHEN H. ROBERTSON (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

Research has shown that consuming a diet high in fat and sugar leads to cognitive impairment, including fear retention. Here, we investigated whether a 60-day high-fat, high-sugar (HFHS) diet would impair fear conditioning and extinction in male and female rats using a passive avoidance paradigm. Results showed that the HFHS diet appears to impair fear retention in males, but not female rats. Extinction learning was not affected by diet.

POSTER 75

SEX-SPECIFIC EFFECTS OF LION'S MANE ON THE CIRCADIAN RHYTHM IN MICE

JAYLIN BABB (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), BRIAN ELLIS (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

Lion's Mane mushroom is an anti-inflammatory fungus known for its ability to support neural repair and cognitive function. Recent studies suggest that Lion's Mane could indirectly influence sleep quality through neuropeptide signaling, though sex-specific effects remain unclear. We will administer Lion's Mane mushroom via oral gavage and assess male and female mice's circadian activity, bradykinin, and PER expression. We hypothesize Lion's Mane improves circadian regulation in a sex-specific manner, providing additional insight for neurocognitive health.

POSTER 76

THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE FOR CONTAGIOUS YAWNING IN WHITE-CHEEKED GIBBONS (NOMASCUS LEUCOGENYS)

ALEYNA USLU (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), DANIELLE DINOME (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), ALEJANDRO GILI OLIVARES (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), JULIAN PAUL KEENAN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

Contagious yawning, yawning triggered by observing another individual yawn is linked to empathy and self-other distinction in humans and several great apes, but remains understudied in gibbons. We presented white-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus leucogenys*) with yawning and control videos of humans, chimpanzees, and conspecifics. Across all conditions, gibbons did not increase yawning in response to yawning stimuli. These findings provide no evidence of contagious yawning in gibbons and raise questions about its evolutionary origins.

POSTER 77

THE EFFECTS OF DIET ON DELAY DISCOUNTING AND SENSITIVITY TO HALOPERIDOL

STEPHEN ROBERTSON (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), TRISTAN HUGHES (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), VICTORIA MILBURN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), ASH STRYKER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

We examined the extent to which a high-fat, high-sugar diet altered delay discounting in male and female rats exposed during adolescence or adulthood. We found female rats but not male rats exposed to a high-fat, high-sugar diet showed greater sensitivity to haloperidol relative to rats fed a standard diet.

POSTER 78**UNDERSTANDING NEUROPLASTICITY IN JUVENILE MICE AS IT RELATES TO FEAR LEARNING**

SOPHIA FRANCISCO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), VIVIANA CASTRO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SURINA PRABHU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), HEIDI MEYER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

It is unknown how, and if, juvenile mice can discriminate between fear and safety compared to the more-studied adolescent and adult ages. To understand how the developing brain processes fear and safety learning, juvenile mice underwent discriminative conditioning where they learned to distinguish between fear and safety cues. Juveniles were successfully able to discriminate between the two, suggesting that circuitry involved in fear inhibition is present by this stage of development.

POSTER 79**BODY IMAGE REPRESENTATION IN KOREAN POPULAR MUSIC: CONTENT ANALYSIS OF MUSIC VIDEO**

ZIYAN XIE (TUFTS UNIVERSITY), LAURAN MARTIN (TUFTS UNIVERSITY), CALVIN GIDNEY (TUFTS UNIVERSITY)

This study addresses the gap in research on body image within non-Western media through a content analysis of K-pop music videos. Analysis of 184 idols and 571 clothing instances revealed a preference for a thin-ideal, light skin tone and a gendered pattern for muscularity and clothing sexualization. These findings establish the specific body image ideals presented in K-pop media and provide a foundation for future research investigating K-pop media influence on youth body image.

POSTER 80**HIKIKOMORI AND THE GLOBAL RISE OF LONELINESS: AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW**

NADINE JANZ (FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AT NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY)

Hikikomori, a phenomenon of prolonged social withdrawal first identified in Japan, is increasingly recognized globally. This integrative review synthesizes literature from 2000–2025, examining psychological vulnerabilities, cultural and societal pressures, digital engagement, and cross-cultural prevalence. Findings highlight how individual, social, and digital factors interact to sustain extreme isolation and loneliness. A conceptual framework is proposed for understanding hikikomori worldwide, with implications for culturally

informed interventions and future research on social withdrawal and global mental health.

POSTER 81**INVESTIGATING WORKPLACE RELATIONSHIPS AND SELF-EFFICACY AMONG VIETNAMESE TEACHERS: A MULTILEVEL ANALYSIS**

JOSEPHINE LOBOSCO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), NAZLEE ABRIL (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), DAVID LEBLANC (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MARTONE OLSAVSKY (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), RANDY JEREZ (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), AMIRAH KRAFT (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ERICA PHUA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MICHELLE NGUYEN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LUKE KEATING (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), TOAN KHUC (HANOI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

This study examines between-school and within-school effects of workplace relationships (i.e., overall trust and relationships with colleagues, students and administrators) on Vietnamese teacher self-efficacy. In a sample of 1,398 Vietnamese teachers across 86 schools, multi-level model analyses were conducted. The quality of both between-school and within-school relationships were positively associated with teacher self-efficacy. Individual level scores accounted for greater variance in this relationship than school-wide scores. Work relationships are important for teacher self-efficacy.

POSTER 82**NOISE EXPOSURE AND JOB SATISFACTION: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING**

NAZLEE ABRIL (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), JOSEPHINE LOBOSCO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MARTONE OLSAVSKY (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), DAVID LEBLANC (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), RANDY JEREZ (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), AMIRAH KRAFT (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ERICA PHUA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), MICHELLE NGUYEN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), LUKE KEATING (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), TOAN KHUC (HANOI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

This study aims to understand the mediating effects of affective, cognitive, and physical functioning on the relationship between noise and job satisfaction among teachers in Vietnam. Using a sample of 1,554 Vietnamese teachers, parallel mediation analyses were conducted. The relationship between noise and job satisfaction was mediated by functioning, with cognitive impairments and physical symptoms having the strongest mediating effect. These findings

contribute to efforts to reduce the effects of noise on teachers' functioning.

POSTER 83

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN CHILDHOOD: PARENT PERSPECTIVES FROM A JAPANESE ENGLISH IMMERSION CLASSROOM

TOMOKO HASHIMOTO (INDEPENDENT)

This study examined the impact of an SEL-oriented English immersion program in Japan using parental questionnaires. Results showed that parents perceived their three-year-olds' SEL skills (particularly globalism, challenge-taking, and identity) significantly improved after one year. Language abilities and familiarity with English also increased. These findings suggest that SEL-supportive environments strengthen young children's socio-emotional competencies and enhance foreign language acquisition. It is implied that teachers create such environments to support children's holistic growth as global citizens.

POSTER 84

THE ROLE OF RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT AND MULTIPLE PROCESSES IN IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION

NADER SAHLOUL (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), MARGARET INGATE (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), BRIANNA TSIMERMAN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), LAKSHMI ADHIKARLA (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), CHARLES CONNER (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), GRACE GERHARDSTEIN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), ANASTASIIA SMYKAVCHUK (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK)

This study aims to replicate Sternberg's Memory Scanning Experiment, which revealed how sequence length affected reaction time, and examine the effect of response assignment on reaction time. Over the course of two weeks, eight subjects completed four separate trials, resulting in a total of 576 randomized digit sequences. Results showed that reaction time increased in direct correlation with sequence length. Additionally, differences in results between response assignments suggest that two distinct systems contribute to recognition.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

Keynote

America Ballroom North

DEVELOPMENTAL KEYNOTE: ELIZABETH SPELKE
Saturday, February 28, 2026
9:10am – 10:10am

CHAIR: LAUREN BRYANT

EDUCABILITY

ELIZABETH SPELKE (HARVARD UNIVERSITY)

All healthy infants and preschool children have numerical and geometrical concepts that can support learning of mathematics in primary school. Despite this endowment, however, many children fail to learn math up to their potential. By drawing on the results of studies of learning of mathematics in preschool children, as well as some randomized evaluations of recent curricular interventions for mathematics in primary schools, I discuss some factors that may foster all children's learning in school.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Poster

America Ballroom Center/South

SOCIAL POSTERS II
Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

POSTER 1

POLITICS FOR THE UNENGAGED: MAKING THE OTHER SIDE LOOK WORSE

LILY MACNAMARA (MARIST UNIVERSITY), MAKAYLA LAGUERRE (MARIST UNIVERSITY), JANE SWYKOWSKI (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KIMERY LEVERING (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

Work on false polarization shows that people routinely overestimate how extreme the other side is and that this misconception is more pronounced in those who are ideologically extreme themselves. Here we explored how political engagement may moderate this relationship by surveying a census-matched online sample. We found that self-extremity predicted perceived outgroup-extremity only among those who reported not closely following politics, suggesting that projection or schema processes may be strongest when political knowledge is low.

POSTER 2**THE POLITICS OF SUSPICION: PARTY AFFILIATION AND THREAT PREDICTS CONSPIRACY BELIEFS**

MADISON BORIS (JUNIATA COLLEGE), OLIVIA GRAY-HIGGINS (JUNIATA COLLEGE), LILLIAN JAMES (JUNIATA COLLEGE), ALEXANDRA E. OWEN (JUNIATA COLLEGE), COLIN WIBLE (JUNIATA COLLEGE), PHILIP T. DUNWOODY (JUNIATA COLLEGE)

This study examines how political party affiliation and perceived threat from the opposing party predict conspiracy beliefs in the United States. A sample of 306 adults completed measures of party identity, perceived Democratic and Republican threat, and endorsement of six conspiracy theories. Results showed that Republican affiliation and higher perceived Democratic threat significantly predicted greater conspiracy belief, while perceived Republican threat did not. Findings show how intergroup threat shapes modern political polarization and conspiracy adoption.

POSTER 3**FROM PARALYSIS TO ACTION: ASPIRING ANTIRACIST WHITE PARENTS' EXPERIENCES RAISING RACE-CONSCIOUS CHILDREN**

MARLENE CARDOZA (CLARK UNIVERSITY), KHALED ELAZAB (CLARK UNIVERSITY), OLIVIA THOMPSON (CLARK UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM PULVINO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), AMY HEBERLE (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how aspiring antiracist White parents navigate guilt and uncertainty around Whiteness and how these experiences shape efforts to raise race-conscious children, addressing gaps in research on parents' emotional processes. We analyzed focus-group transcripts from nine participants in a 20-week intervention using constructivist grounded theory within a symbolic interactionism framework. Findings reveal processes of parental paralysis and pathways toward action. These findings highlight the role of structured support in fostering sustained antiracist parenting.

POSTER 4**INFLUENCE OF IDENTITY CENTRALITY ON CROSS-CATEGORY RECOGNITION DEFICITS IN RACE AND GENDER**

MAYA ORNSTON (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), BALBIR SINGH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE)

This study explores the influence of identity centrality on cross-category face recognition deficits (CRDs) in race and gender. Through an online questionnaire, utilizing an encode-recognition paradigm and identity

centrality survey, this study assesses whether individual variability in category affiliation impacts the intensity of CRDs. Analyses explore gender and race CRDs as well as the moderation by identity centrality.

POSTER 5**INVESTIGATING THE CROSS-RACE RECOGNITION DEFICIT IN RACIALLY AMBIGUOUS FACES**

MINSEO KIM (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), ELIZABETH ALZAWAHRA (DUKE UNIVERSITY), BALBIR SINGH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE)

This study investigated whether racialized names of White and Middle Eastern, North African, and Arab (MENA) induce the Cross-Category Recognition Deficit (CRD) in a face and name recognition task involving MENA and White participants. No CRD was found for face recognition. However, a significant CRD was found for name recognition, suggesting names successfully triggered social categorization. Results show the potent racializing effect of names and the complexity of MENA identity.

POSTER 6**RACE & SENTENCING: HOW RACISM IMPACTS ATTITUDES TOWARDS PRISON POLICIES**

JORDAN CAMBRE (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANDREW STEWART (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Racial bias influences the public's view of criminal justice policies. Using existing data from university students, the present study examined whether attitudes toward Black people correlated with views on prison-related policies. Participants completed surveys during a mass testing session. Correlations were analyzed in SPSS. Results showed a significant relationship between anti-Black attitudes and support towards prison-related policies ($p = -.040$). These findings underscore the impact that racial bias has on the implementation of prison policies.

POSTER 7**RACE IMPACTS AVOIDANCE & REDIRECTION FOLLOWING DISCRIMINATION**

MAXIMILIAN FRUTOS (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), CAROLINE PRAED (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), EMMA ROBERSON (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), KALA MELCHIORI (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)

The present study examines people's likelihood to avoid (i.e., leave an interaction), redirect (e.g., change the subject) or confront (e.g., tell someone they are biased) personal discrimination. We found that, overall, participants were most likely to Avoid, followed

by Redirect, and least likely to confront. People of color, however, were most likely to Avoid, but equally likely to Redirect or Confront.

POSTER 8

INTERACTIVE EFFECTS IN RAPE EVALUATIONS: EVALUATOR GENDER, VICTIM RACE, AND REPORTING STATUS

CLAIRE GRAVELIN (SUNY GENESEO), NIEVE MAHOOD (SUNY GENESEO), ADELE BELTRANI (SUNY GENESEO), AVA FRANKS (SUNY GENESEO), EVA ELLIOT (SUNY GENESEO), ELISABETH LERSCH (SUNY GENESEO), EMMA MICHALAK-BROWN (SUNY GENESEO), SABONNE SCHUMAN (SUNY GENESEO), RILEIGH LEVAN (SUNY GENESEO)

This study examined how participant gender, victim and assailant race, and reporting shape perceptions of rape. Men endorsed higher rape myth acceptance and blamed victims more than women. Reporting generally reduced blame and increased perceived seriousness, particularly for Black victims. Black non-reporting victims were especially disadvantaged, with men showing the strongest biases. The absence of assailant effects underscores victim-focused judgements, reflecting compounded gendered and racialized stereotypes with implications for prevention and justice.

POSTER 9

PREDICTING ASIAN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR BLACK ORGANIZATIONS

UDDIPTO NANDI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANDREW STEWART (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study analyzes contact between Asian and African Americans, particularly Asian American attitudes towards African Americans, structural awareness, and support for Black organizations. Results showed that structural awareness and attitudes were significant predictors of support, while contact was not. Intergroup contact was a significant predictor for attitudes, but not for structural awareness, which raises questions about where structural awareness originates from since it was the single largest predictor for support.

POSTER 10

LATINAS' SEXUAL DOUBLE STANDARD: NAVIGATING SEXUALITY WITH MARIANISMO

FRIDA RODRIGUEZ SANTOS (THE GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY), TANIA CAMARILLO CONTRERAS (THE GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY), YANA KUCHIRKO (BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CUNY)

Latinas navigate cultural tensions between Globalized hypersexual stereotypes and Marianismo expectations. We examine whether Marianismo predicts endorsement of the Sexual Double Standard and the moderating role of relationship status. 1,017 Latinas completed an online survey. Results showed Marianismo predicted the double standard ($b=0.98$, $p<.001$). Findings highlight the cultural negotiation of gender norms and sexuality, providing a better understanding of Latinas' context and their agency in challenging the norms.

POSTER 11

LATINE ETHNOLINGUISTIC IDENTITY: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND IDENTITY CENTRALITY

YURIM OH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), LAUREN MACIAS SEVERINO (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), BALBIR SINGH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE)

This study examined how language proficiency shapes identity centrality among 285 Latine adults in the United States. Spanish proficiency strongly predicted Latine identity centrality, while English proficiency was associated with stronger American identification. Hispanic-American identity centrality, however, was linked to lower objective bilingual proficiency and a larger English-Spanish skill gap. Findings highlight language as a core component of ethnolinguistic belonging and underscore the cultural importance of supporting heritage Spanish across generations.

POSTER 12

SEXUAL ORIENTATION SHAPES AVOIDANCE, REDIRECTION, AND CONFRONTATION (ARC) RESPONSES TO DISCRIMINATION

CIERRA BOLSTER (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), AUTUMN RUDICK (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), SAVANNAH HUGHES (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), KALA MELCHIORI (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)

We investigated how LGBTQ+ individuals respond to bias using the ARC scale (avoid, redirect, confront). Utilizing the SONA pool, we asked participants to imagine a situation in which they were faced with bias and then surveyed the ways in which they would respond. We found that LGBTQ+ individuals were more likely to avoid confrontation than straight individuals and equally likely to confront and redirect. These findings show how identity-related risks shape bias-response in marginalized groups.

POSTER 13**PREJUDICE OR PROTECTION? THE ROLE OF AMBIVALENT AGEISM IN INTERGENERATIONAL TENSION**

YEIN CHO (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ABIGAIL FRAME (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), HELENA L. SWANSON (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how benevolent and hostile ageism relates to intergenerational tension, including domains of consumption, succession, and identity. Analyses from 75 college students showed hostile ageism to be the best predictor of the consumption tension and benevolent ageism to be the predictor for the identity and succession tensions. These findings indicate that both forms of ageism (i.e., benevolent and hostile) shape intergenerational tension in different ways and can inform strategies to reduce ageism.

POSTER 14**GENDER AND SPORT TYPE EFFECTS ON SMILING BEHAVIOR IN SPORT ROSTER PHOTOS**

ANDREW TALBOT (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), MASON NOVOBILSKI (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), BRIANA CATANZARO (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), ALEXA LLOYD (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), KYLA FANNING (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), HALIE MARRIOTT (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), HALEY HIMES (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), ALEC MADDEN (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), VIRGINIA GAVEK (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN), MIKEY LAWRENCE (COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY-LOCK HAVEN)

Collegiate athletes' roster photos (N=378) were analyzed to determine the degree to which gender and sport aggression impacted smiling behavior. Results confirmed women's tendency to smile more than men. Additionally, smiling behavior varied significantly based on the aggression level of the sport: collision (ice hockey), contact (basketball), and non-contact (cross-country running). This finding was moderated by a significant interaction in which women were unaffected by aggression level, while men's smiles significantly changed across sports.

POSTER 15**HOW GENDER IDENTITY AFFECTS JURY DECISION MAKING**

JAEDAN CARNAHAN (KEAN UNIVERSITY), ERICA BAER (KEAN UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether a defendant's gender identity influences jury decision-making. Participants read a summarized rape case involving a 25-year-old female victim, with the defendant described as a cisgender male, cisgender female, transgender male, or transgender female. After reviewing the case, participants assigned a prison sentence length in years and completed two measures: the Just World Belief Scale (JWBS) and the Revised Legal Attitudes Questionnaire (RLAQ).

POSTER 16**RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING AS A PREDICTOR OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS MARRIAGE AND GENDER ROLES**

MOLLY BRENNAN (MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY), ELLA RICHMOND (MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY), ARNO KOLZ (MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether religious upbringing in childhood predicts adult attitudes towards marriage and gender roles, independent of current religiosity. One hundred eight participants completed measures of childhood religiosity, gender role attitudes, and perceptions of marriage. Higher childhood religiosity was related to more traditional gender role attitudes and perceiving marriage as meeting cultural, familial, and religious expectations. Regression analyses indicated that childhood religiosity predicted attitudes towards gender roles, while current religiosity predicted attitudes towards marriage.

POSTER 17**STUCK IN THE FRIENDZONE: AN EXAMINATION OF PLATONIC PERCEPTIONS IN CROSS-CISGENDER FRIENDSHIPS**

IRIS OWEN (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), GRACE DATTA (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), JOSHUA UHALT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE)

Men and women often claim to be "just friends," but what does that truly mean? Using responses to two open-ended prompts from male and female participants, we conducted first- and second-cycle qualitative coding with double-coding and Krippendorff's $\hat{\kappa}$ to ensure reliability. Emerging themes highlight how participants define boundaries, navigate attraction, and construct cross-gender friendship. These findings clarify the specific ways gender shapes perceptions of and conditions for being "just friends."

POSTER 18**THE IMPACT OF COMEDIAN GENDER ON PERCEPTIONS OF HUMOR AND SEXISM**

GRACE DATTA (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), FABIHA KHAN (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE), JOSHUA UHALT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE)

We tested how comedian gender alters sexist joke perception. College students ($N = 120$) listened to 10 sexist jokes delivered by either a male or female narrator and rated funniness, sexism, and offensiveness. Jokes were perceived as more sexist and offensive when delivered by men, while female delivery was perceived as more funny. Listener gender also showed impacts, where men perceived jokes to be funnier than women did. Findings extend research on sexist joke perception.

POSTER 19**COMMITMENT ISSUES: BRAND LOYALTY ON RECALL OF BRAND INFORMATION AND POST-EXPOSURE ATTITUDES**

FABIHA KHAN (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE), KENNETH WRIGHT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE), JOSHUA UHALT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE)

This quasi-experiment examined whether brand commitment buffers the effects of negative publicity. College students reported Adidas commitment, read a positive, negative, or neutral article, and completed attitude, ambivalence, and memory measures immediately and two weeks later. Low-commitment consumers showed sharper attitude declines and greater ambivalence following negative publicity. High-commitment consumers exhibited attitudinal resistance and stronger delayed recall, supporting motivated reasoning and extending negativity-effect theory to consumer-brand relationships.

POSTER 20**EXAMINING HABITUATION MECHANISM UNDERLYING THE SHIFT FROM PASSIVE SCHADENFREUDE TO ACTIVE SADISM**

EMILY PAPPALARDO (VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY), DREW PARTON (VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY), DAVID CHESTER (VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY)

Schadenfreude is the pleasure one feels when passively watching the suffering of another. Sadism is the tendency to experience pleasure when inflicting harm onto others. The present study examined sadistic habituation as a possible mechanism leading sadistic passive enjoyment to actively pursuing harm. Sadism

was positively correlated with habituation to harm stimuli. However, this greater habituation among relatively sadistic participants did not predict their subsequent desire to harm others. Other findings and implications are discussed.

POSTER 21**FAN VIDS, AMERICAN ANIMATION, AND FAN IDENTITY**

CULIANDRA NERO (TUFTS UNIVERSITY)

Fan vids are a common form of fan engagement, but little research includes fan vids watchers or fan vids of American animated content. Twelve college students answered questions about the role of fan vids in fandoms and in their identities as fans of American animated content. Preliminary findings suggest that fan vids play several roles in fandom spaces and that there are conflicting opinions about the role of fan vids in fan identities.

POSTER 22**FUNCTIONS OF EVERYDAY WISDOM**

ALEXANDRA SCIALLA (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), RACHEL BARRIOS-HAZ (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), NEESHA MELENDEZ (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), PATRICIA KAHLBAUGH (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Wise sayings are commonplace in social media, posters, and home decor, but do they impact us in meaningful ways? Participants ($n=98$) read wise quotes or random phrases and completed measures of empathy, optimism and wisdom. Findings indicate that after reading wise quotes, facets of wisdom such as emotional regulation were predictive of greater empathy. Our research provides preliminary evidence of the function of wise quotes for important aspects of social life.

POSTER 23**FROM SMOKING TO RULE-BREAKING: HOW IMPULSIVITY FUELS ADOLESCENT RISK**

ANDREW DECARLI (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

This longitudinal study used data from 839 New Hampshire adolescents to examine how cigarette smoking and impulsivity predict adult antisocial rule-breaking. Adolescent smokers were more impulsive and later engaged in more antisocial rule-breaking than non-smokers. Impulsivity also predicted adult antisocial behavior, and this relationship was stronger among smokers. Findings suggest that adolescent

smoking both reflects and amplifies impulsive tendencies, increasing risk for later rule-breaking and antisocial outcomes.

POSTER 24

GO FOR GERO: MASTERS STUDENTS PERCEPTIONS OF CAREERS IN GEROPSYCHOLOGY

ANTONIA WEISSMEIER (BARUCH WEISSMAN SCHOOL OF ARTS), JAMIE MACDONALD (SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT), MARYBETH APRICENO (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE, PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT), ASHLEY LYTLE (STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES), LEENA QAMAR (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE, PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT), JONATHAN COLQHOUN (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE, PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT), OLIVIA TURI (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE, PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT), CAITLIN MONAHAN (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT)

There is a shortage of geropsychologists. Most mental health counselors choose their specialty in graduate school. We surveyed mental health counseling Masters students (N=110) about their perceptions of and interest in geropsychology. Participants estimated careers in geropsychology to pay significantly less and be significantly less flexible compared to other specialties. Additionally, knowing there is a growing shortage of geropsychologists, and having more contact with older adults previously predicted more interest in geropsychology careers.

POSTER 25

GRANDMOTHER CAREGIVERS: AGING ATTITUDES & WELL-BEING

MARYBETH APRICENO (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE A CAMPUS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), LEENA QAMAR (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE), HALEY VAZQUEZ (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE), KARITIKA KUMARI (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE), BRIDGET THEARLE (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE)

As the need for dual-income households increases, more grandparents are providing childcare. While research on grandchildren care has generally found positive effects, a more interdisciplinary examination of this practice is needed. Compared to grandmothers who do not provide childcare (N=78), grandmother caregivers (N=106) reported more positive self-perceptions of aging and better self-reported health. Among grandmothers who provide childcare for their grandchildren, more positive self-perceptions of aging predicted more life satisfaction and less depression.

POSTER 26

HIDDEN VOICES, VISIBLE IDEOLOGIES: A CDA OF CAMPUS DISCOURSE ON YIK YAK

RUBY DIVRIS (HARTWICK COLLEGE), INDIGO SHEPARD (HARTWICK COLLEGE), SILENCE BAGGESSE (HARTWICK COLLEGE), COOPER COHEN (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LOGAN A. HEHNER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ADILYAM IMYAROVA (HARTWICK COLLEGE), JULIA WEINSCHREIDER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ZACHARY MCKENNEY (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

Yik Yak is an anonymous social media platform that is largely known for facilitating negative behaviors. The current study utilizes Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to analyze the discursive strategies through which college students construct meaning, shape interpretations of social issues, and circulate ideologies while retaining anonymity. Preliminary analyses suggest that media reports condemning Yik Yak may be overblown. While posts tend to be negative, others seem to provide interpersonal support to members of the community.

POSTER 27

HOW COGNITIVELY DISTORTION AND PATRIARCHAL BELIEF INFLUENCE VICTIM BLAMING AMONG JAPANESE MALES?

MARI MORIMOTO (PACE UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH JEGLIC (JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE)

Sexual violence against women is under-researched in Japan despite its global prevalence. This study surveyed 234 Japanese men to examine links between cognitive distortions, patriarchal beliefs, and rape myth acceptance. Results showed significant positive associations among these beliefs, while age and employment status showed no effect. Findings suggest that, as in Western societies, distorted and patriarchal views may reinforce rape myths, highlighting the need for prevention strategies in Japan.

POSTER 28

OVERLAP BETWEEN NCII VICTIMIZATION AND PERPETRATION

KANDACE SCIONEUX (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), RUI SHA PRASAI (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), ANNA SOPHIA CLAUDIO (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW ABELL (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), CHRISTINA DARDIS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

The present study assessed the relationship between victimization and perpetration of non-consensual distribution of intimate images (NCII) among undergraduate students (N=1,095). Using chi-square

tests, NCII victimization was significantly associated with perpetration. Experiencing victimization alone was more common among women and LGB individuals, while reporting neither victimization nor perpetration was more common among men and heterosexual individuals. Using one-way ANOVAS, perpetrators were more accepting of NCII compared to victims and non-victims, supporting social norms theory.

POSTER 29

HOW CULTURAL LOGICS OF DIGNITY, HONOR, AND FACE RELATE TO PROTECTION-FOCUS VALUES

CHASE BRECHBIEL (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARY SIMPSON, LAUREN PLUNKETT, ELIZABETH EDMONDS, SIENNA BERKHEISER, SPENCER ELLIS, LEIGH NATURALE, CAMILLA HILL, HALEY PETRUCCI, EMMA DESSUREAU, MARY TOWNSEND

Personal values that emphasize self-protection and avoidance of anxiety are self-enhancement (power, achievement) and conservation (conformity, security). We examined how these values related to cultural logics of dignity (intrinsic worth of people), honor (worth determined by reciprocity) and face (worth determined by obligations). In multiple regressions, dignity-self related positively to self-enhancement values, whereas dignity-other related negatively to self-enhancement values. In contrast, only face-self and face-other related significantly to conservation values.

POSTER 30

HOW CULTURAL MISMATCH AND FAMILY SUPPORT SHAPE STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN COLLEGE

LUIS GOMEZ GORGONIO (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), LUCY NAPPER (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), QUANG LUONG (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether cultural mismatch among undergraduates is associated with lower institutional belonging and flourishing, and whether family emotional and academic support moderates this relationship. We found that greater cultural mismatch predicted lower belonging and flourishing, higher emotional and academic support was positively associated with belonging and flourishing, and although emotional support did not moderate the association between cultural mismatch and belonging, higher academic support strengthened the negative association between cultural mismatch and flourishing.

POSTER 31

HOW STUDENTS PERCEIVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

ELAINA VEROSTICK (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN), STEVEN STERN (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN)

We explored student perceptions of accommodations (extended time, note-taking assistance, no accommodation) for disabilities (cerebral palsy, ADHD) in higher education. Participants watched a film of a person with a disability and were asked four questions assessing the appropriateness of the accommodation suggested. Either accommodation was viewed more positively than no accommodation. This was particularly for cerebral palsy. Implications for accommodations at universities will be discussed.

POSTER 32

PREDICTORS OF BEHAVIORAL REASSERTION POST-IDENTITY DENIAL IN THE BICULTURAL POPULATION

CLAIRE PARK (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), BRENDA STRAKA (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS- URBANA-CHAMPAIGN), ANALIA ALBUJA (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

When do bicultural (i.e., people who identify with multiple cultures) behaviorally reassert their identity after facing identity denial? Bicultural populations experience identity denial when personal identification misaligns with external perceptions. People who experienced a higher frequency of identity denial, positive curiosity towards denial, and perceived benefit to reasserting reported more behavioral reassertion. Predictors of verbal reassertion following identity denial should be examined.

POSTER 33

RESPECT MY AUTHORITY: THE EFFECTS OF CULTURAL VALUES ON ADHERENCE TO AUTHORITY

GABRIELA CANIZALES-ORTEZ (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

This study examines whether Latino cultural values, specifically Respeto, influence perceptions of authority, credibility, and persuasion. Participants evaluate a university policy proposal attributed to either a high- or low-authority source and complete the Latinx Respeto Values and Behaviors Scales. Outcomes include credibility and persuasion ratings. Data collection is in progress; approximately 90 non-Latino and 50 Latino participants have been collected. Planned analyses include factorial ANOVAs and

regression analyses testing authority, ethnicity, and Respeto effects.

POSTER 34

FROM CURIOSITY TO COURTROOM: DOES TRUE CRIME INTEREST SHAPE LEGAL DECISIONS?

ERICA BAER (KEAN UNIVERSITY), ANAHITA SHERIYARJI (KEAN UNIVERSITY), RICHARD CONTI (KEAN UNIVERSITY)

This study explores engagement with true crime media and its possible influence on sentencing recommendations. Participants read one civil and criminal case vignette before being asked to assign a monetary compensation amount and sentencing length, respectively. Results demonstrated a small, significant interaction between true crime and compensation recommendations, but no significance for the criminal case. Implications may encompass higher levels of empathy or risk sensitivity in individuals with higher true crime engagement.

POSTER 35

HOW THE TYPE OF EXPERT WITNESS INFLUENCES VARIOUS FACTORS OF JURY DECISIONS

JAMIE SMITH (KEAN UNIVERSITY), ANAHITA SHERIYARJI (KEAN UNIVERSITY), ERICA BAER (KEAN UNIVERSITY), JOSEPH H. PRECKAJLO (FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), RICHARD P. CONTI (KEAN UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether expert type influences juror perceptions in a juvenile mock-trial case. Expert profession did not significantly affect culpability, sentencing, or credibility, though medical doctors showed a nonsignificant trend toward reducing support for adult-court transfer. Culpability strongly predicted sentencing outcomes, and jurors favoring transfer imposed longer sentences and viewed neuroimaging as less reliable. Women recommended longer sentences than men. Overall, juror decisions were driven more by perceived culpability than by expert credentials.

POSTER 36

PARENTAL CRITICISM, PERFECTIONISTIC CONCERNS, AND DEPRESSION ACROSS ETHNIC GROUPS: A MEDIATION ANALYSIS

MARIA CAIRES (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), OLIVIA MUSCATELL (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), GRACJAN GAJDZINSKI (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDRA BURGESS (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether parental criticism relates to depressive symptoms through perfectionistic evaluative concerns across four ethnic groups (White, African American, Asian American, Latino/Hispanic; $N = 308$). Parental criticism significantly predicted evaluative concerns and depression in all groups, with the strongest effects among Latino/Hispanic students. Evaluative concerns were consistently associated with depression across groups. Findings highlight cultural variation in how parental criticism is internalized and suggest the importance of culturally informed approaches to perfectionism-related depression.

POSTER 37

PERFECTIONISM, PROBLEMATIC SOCIAL MEDIA USE, AND DEPRESSION: MEDIATING ROLE OF CONTINGENT SELF-WORTH

MONICA SCHNEIDER (SUNY GENESEO), GABRIELLE DIVERDE (SUNY GENESEO), LIANNA MASTRO (SUNY GENESEO), GRACE CLEMENT (SUNY GENESEO), SABREEN ABID (SUNY GENESEO)

We examined rumination and contingent self-worth as mediators of the relationship between perfectionism (self-oriented, socially prescribed) and problematic social media use (addiction, stalking) and assessed whether these relationships explained their risk for depression. Only socially prescribed perfectionism predicted addiction and stalking, with contingent self-worth emerging as the only significant mediator. Furthermore, serial mediation analyses indicated that socially prescribed perfectionism significantly predicted contingent self-worth, which significantly predicted addiction, which was associated with higher depression.

POSTER 38

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERFECTIONISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE

LILY CALLAGHAN (PACE UNIVERSITY), ANGELA LEGG (PACE UNIVERSITY)

This study explores different types of perfectionism and social media use to interpret the relationship between evaluative concern (maladaptive) perfectionism with comparison-based and image-based social media use. In total 130 college students completed an online survey. The results indicated that evaluative concern has a moderate positive relationship with comparison-based social media use, and does not relate to image-based social media use. These findings illuminate the nuances between perfectionism and social media use.

POSTER 39**IMPLICIT PSYCHOPATHY PREDICTING RULE VIOLATING BEHAVIORS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS**

ISABELLA TOMMILA (KEENE STATE COLLEGE), PAUL HENNIGAN (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

This study tested whether an implicit measure of psychopathy—indexed by the percentage of immoral scenarios judged as "possible" under time pressure—predicts rule-violating behavior among college students. Across 216 undergraduates, higher implicit psychopathy scores predicted more university rule-breaking as well as lower perceived professor legitimacy and procedural justice. These findings suggest that the implicit possibility paradigm may be a reliable tool for detecting psychopathic traits and forecasting morally relevant behaviors.

POSTER 40**IMAGE OF AGING PREDICTING AGEISM IN YOUNG ADULTS**

ISABELLA KRUMM (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), SAGE VAVOLIZZA (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), HELENA L. SWANSON (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study explored how view of aging predicts intergenerational tension (prescriptive ageism) in young adults. Results from a multivariate multiple regression indicated that negative images of aging appear to increase intergenerational tension, while positive images do not. These findings support current literature about perception of older adults and prescriptive ageist beliefs in young adults. Future research should explore interventions for reducing prescriptive ageist beliefs in young adults.

POSTER 41**THE BLACK SHEEP EFFECT: PERCEPTIONS OF BEHAVIOR ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

LAUREL LEES (ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY), KELLY BROOKS (ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY)

This study investigates the relationships between deviance, morality, and likability. Participants were randomly assigned to vignette conditions varying in deviancy (whether a college student committed a moral or neutral norm violation) and group status (ingroup/outgroup). We hypothesized that moral deviance would be viewed more negatively and that the ingroup-identifying student would be evaluated more harshly, especially in the moral condition. Findings revealed no effect of group status but did show effects of violation type.

POSTER 42**IMPROVING THE SELF-EFFICACY OF BLACK UNDERGRADUATES WITH INTERSECTIONAL SUPPORT**

TROKON MACAULEY (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY), EDITH TETTEY (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY), AUBREY EASON (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY), LAUREN BRUMLEY (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY)

Given that academic thriving and psychological well-being are key social determinants for health, it is essential to understand how Black undergraduates utilize support networks. This study examines five support types and their links to self-efficacy among Black undergraduate students. Findings revealed complex within-group effects, maternal and peer support boosted academic confidence while sibling and partner support showed minimal or negative impact, highlighting the need to consider support quality, context, and universities as interpersonal environments.

POSTER 43**MOTHERHOOD CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND SCHEMA ENDORSEMENT AMONG COLLEGE WOMEN**

MONICA REIS-BERGAN (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), MIRANDA CHAUSTRE (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), KAMERON STROSNIDER (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)

Mothers often share parenting experiences on social media, yet little research examines how this affects women who are not mothers. We surveyed 146 college women on their frequency of viewing motherhood content and endorsement of motherhood schemas. Viewing frequency was positively associated with traditional motherhood beliefs. Women who acknowledged social media's influence on their beliefs were more likely to endorse a traditional schema and less likely to endorse a flourishing schema.

POSTER 44**INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO BIAS: IMPLICATIONS FOR BELONGING AND IDENTITY SAFETY**

MAYA NIEMEYER (BRYANT UNIVERSITY), MELANIE MAIMON (BRYANT UNIVERSITY), JOHN RAYCROFT (BRYANT UNIVERSITY)

This research investigated how university techniques for addressing campus bias can affect identity safety for stigmatized identity groups. We found that participants exhibited identity safe outcomes when they perceived a more effective bias response. Punitive

sanctions were perceived as more effective than educational or ambiguous sanctions regardless of bias type and resulted in perception of less bias and less diversity dishonesty. Participants indicated similar preferences for punitive and educational sanctions.

POSTER 45

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SEX, PEER INFLUENCE, AND HEALTH BEHAVIORS

JOSHUA PRICE (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH), BRIAN AYOTTE (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH)

We examined how perceived peer influence from same-sex and other-sex friends was related to health-related behaviors among emerging adults. Data from 243 participants indicated that for males and females, only perceived influence by males was significantly related to exercise. For nutrition-related behavior, results found that for females, influence by males was significantly related to nutrition. This study provides more detailed insights on health communication and influence in emerging adults.

POSTER 46

INTEGRATING STEREOTYPE EMBODIMENT AND LAY REPRESENTATION MODELS OF HEALTH AND AGING

MARY JENSON (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), DEMIA GIST (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY)

This poster integrates Levy's Stereotype Embodiment Model with Lay Representation Models to explain how cultural beliefs and social networks shape recovery in older adults. Across three studies, findings reveal that positive aging stereotypes and adaptive illness representations predict better functional outcomes and greater rehabilitation engagement, while negative views hinder recovery. Results underscore the psychosocial dimension of aging and suggest interventions targeting stereotypes and lay beliefs may improve health trajectories and support systems for older adults.

POSTER 47

TOUR IT, PLEDGE IT, WORKOUT: PROMOTING STUDENT FITNESS CENTER USE

ELYSIA SABA (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), JULIANNE DIGIORGIO (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT PLATTSBURGH), GRAHAM RICHARD (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT PLATTSBURGH), NATHAN MCCARTHY (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT PLATTSBURGH), RENEE BATOR (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT PLATTSBURGH)

This experiment examined whether public commitment and in-person tours can increase college students' intentions to use their campus fitness center. We predicted both interventions would increase intention compared to a waitlist control. Results showed that the tour plus commitment condition, and the tour-only condition both reported significantly higher fitness center intentions than the control. These findings suggest even a simple tour can effectively reduce psychological or logistical barriers and promote plans for healthy behavior.

POSTER 48

FORWARDS IS BACKWARDS: YOUNG WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF CYCLICAL PROGRESS

SAANVI SINGH (CLARK UNIVERSITY), J'LYN WILSON (CLARK UNIVERSITY), LAWRENCE MENDEZ (CLARK UNIVERSITY), SARAH AL MOHZANI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), KYLEIGH GOMES (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Young women today witness both social progress and dramatic backsliding in women's rights. Through interviews with emerging adult women, we examined how participants make meaning of non-linear progress. In our analysis, results revealed three patterns: encountering "misogyny in modern clothing" through social media and revived gender stereotypes, experiencing algorithmic amplification of hateful content, and fluctuating between hope and hopelessness. Findings illuminate how cyclical political change shapes identity development and future orientation during emerging adulthood.

POSTER 49

JOKES ON ME: SELF-DEPRECATING HUMOR AND HOPELESSNESS

ISABELLE BAGON (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), JACLYN KEENOY (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT)

This study investigated the association between self-deprecating humor and hopelessness. Prior research suggests that self-deprecating humor can reinforce negative self-beliefs, increasing vulnerability to hopelessness. We hypothesized a positive association between the two variables. Sixty-five participants ($M = 20.49$, $SD = 2.81$; 82% female) completed a survey. Preliminary analyses showed a significant positive association between self-deprecating humor and hopelessness, supporting our hypothesis. Follow up analyses will explore this association, accounting for covariates in a hierarchical regression.

POSTER 50**LAUGHTER CONTAGION VARIES BY LAUGHTER TYPE AND PERCEIVED AUTHENTICITY**

KALVIN GARRAH (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), SALLY FARLEY (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), DEBORAH CARSON (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE), ANTHONY GAROVE (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK), SOMER HART (UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE)

Laughter contagion is known for its remarkable ability to promote social bonding, yet remains understudied. In Study 1, 79 participants were filmed as they rated three types of laughs on pleasantness; "friend" laughs elicited more laughter contagion than "stranger" laughs, but there were no other differences. In Study 2, additional perceptual and acoustic analyses were conducted, which revealed that highly authentic and highly inauthentic laughter elicit significant contagion.

POSTER 51**LAKATOSIAN METRICS FOR THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR AND INTEGRATED THREAT THEORY**

JOSHUA UHALT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE)

Psychological theories are rarely evaluated on predictive accuracy. Using likelihood-based hypothesis-quality metrics, we quantified how well two major frameworks, the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and Integrated Threat Theory (ITT), successfully predict meta-analytic effect sizes. Results showed that ITT demonstrated consistently high predictive calibration and minimal error across time, whereas the TPB family exhibited substantial variability. These findings illustrate the feasibility of quantitative theory evaluation and identify ITT as a comparatively progressive research program.

POSTER 52**LONGITUDINAL IMPACT OF CLUBHOUSE MEMBERSHIP ON ADULTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS**

MACKENZIE BAILEY (MARIST COLLEGE), JACQUELINE CHELEDNIK (MARIST COLLEGE), MARY STONE (MARIST COLLEGE)

This mixed-methods study evaluated the impact of membership in a New York state clubhouse, a non-clinical work-based psychosocial rehabilitation program serving adults with serious mental illness. Statistically significant quantitative improvements in participants' perceptions of belonging within and outside the clubhouse, impact of their mental illness on daily wellbeing, quality of life, and thriving were substantiated by qualitative sentiments

shared during semi-structured interviews.
 Â Implications for research and practice are explored.

POSTER 53**LOOKING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL: ASPIRATIONAL AND FEARED FUTURE SELVES IN SMOKERS**

MAEVE MCGOWAN (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), LUCY NAPPER (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY)

Smokers often develop a smoking identity, making it more challenging to quit. Expanding upon previous work, the current study aimed to test whether reflecting on one's most feared and aspirational future selves impacted smokers' identity, smoking intentions, and willingness to make a quitting plan. Results suggest identity conflict tasks can help smokers strengthen nonsmoker identity, boost quit intentions, and encourage planning to quit, particularly for those who do not yet intend to quit.

POSTER 54**LOVE, NOT MONEY: IMPLICIT ASSOCIATION TEST**

AVERY FINDLEY (STONEHILL COLLEGE), KEVIN CARRIERE (STONEHILL COLLEGE), AURORA FERREIRA (STONEHILL COLLEGE)

Gendered perceptions shape associations between care-based and skill-based careers, which lead to pay discrepancies. Ninety-two students participated in an Implicit Association Test (IAT) in which they sorted men, women, care-based jobs, and skill-based jobs. Key findings suggest that students are quicker to associate women with care-based careers and men with skill-based careers, predicted by correlated individual difference measures. These findings highlight the importance of challenging gender stereotypes and promoting a more equitable labor market.

POSTER 55**LOVE NOT MONEY: RESUMES AND COVER LETTERS**

AURORA FERREIRA (STONEHILL COLLEGE), KEVIN CARRIERE (STONEHILL COLLEGE), AVERY FINDLEY (STONEHILL COLLEGE)

Care-focused professions often face wage penalties compared to others, but it's not clear if cover letter language and gender moderate this. 92 students rated job applications in a 2x2x2 design. Key findings suggest that women are more likely to be hired for "care-based" careers than men and receive negative evaluations when using incongruent language

depending on job role. These findings highlight the implications of these perceptions on workplace treatment and career advancement.

POSTER 56

LOWER DARK TRIAD TRAITS IN SORORITY MEMBERS: A SOCIAL IDENTITY PERSPECTIVE

DANIEL AKE (SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND),
ANANDI EHMAN (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND)

This exploratory study investigated associations between Greek life membership, cyberbullying experience, and Dark Triad personality traits among 748 college students. Sorority members showed significantly lower levels of cyberbullying victimhood and perpetration, along with psychopathy and Machiavellianism scores, than Fraternity members or non-Greek peers. Patterns suggest that social norms and peer environments of different college organizations may correspond with differing levels of antisocial traits and cyberbullying behavior.

POSTER 57

MALADAPTIVE DAYDREAMING IN THE WORKPLACE

HEATHER RAE GAYDOWEN (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CHRISTOPHER BUDNICK (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Maladaptive daydreaming (MD) is intense and excessive daydreaming that leads to extreme distress and poor interpersonal relationships. An overarching theme within MD predictors is stress, which suggests it is a coping mechanism. A prevalent stressor, especially within the United States (US), is work. Therefore, this study examined the relationship between the workplace, maladaptive daydreaming, and its emotional and wellbeing outcomes through an online cross-sectional design.

POSTER 58

MEASURING THE COMPONENTS OF TRUST AMONG TEAMMATES IN COMPETITIVE SITUATIONS

FRIEDRICH FELDRAPPE (UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH), KRISTIN CISTULLI (UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, CONNECTICUT)

This study is an effort to develop and validate a scale measuring trust among teammates in competitive situations with five factors: competence, conscientiousness, pro-social, preparedness, and competitiveness. The results suggest construct validity of the measure, high reliability across all five proposed

domains, and discriminant validity when compared with other personality traits. The current sample consisted of men's basketball players, so future directions include validating the scale in other sports.

POSTER 59

IS NARCISSISM INCREASING IN FOOTBALL? AN ANALYSIS OF TOUCHDOWN CELEBRATIONS FROM 1980-2021

BENJAMIN CROW (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), WAYNE HAWLEY (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO)

Younger generations seem more likely to exhibit narcissistic behavior than older generations (Twenge, 2013). In addition, the lyrics of more recent popular music were shown to be more narcissistic than lyrics from earlier decades (DeWall et al., 2011). As an extension of these studies, we found, through a content analysis of 200 randomly selected National Football League games, that touchdown celebrations were more likely to occur in recent decades than they were in the past.

POSTER 60

ONLY CONFIDENT AVOIDANTS THRIVE: LOW SELF-ESTEEM MAKES INDEPENDENCE COLLAPSE INTO IMPOSTORS

LEAH KING (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE), IRIS OWEN (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), JOSHUA UHALT (MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE)

This study examined whether self-esteem moderates the link between attachment avoidance and impostor syndrome. College students completed measures of avoidant and anxious attachment, self-esteem, and impostor feelings. Anxious attachment and low self-esteem independently predicted higher impostor scores. Avoidant attachment showed no main effect but significantly predicted impostor syndrome at low, but not high, levels of self-esteem. These findings support attachment-based models of self-doubt and highlight self-esteem as a key protective factor in students' impostor experiences.

POSTER 61

PARALLEL PIONEERS: COMPARING THE LEGACIES OF INEZ PROSSER AND MAMIE CLARK

LEILA THOMAS (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), ZARIA KIMOTHU (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), KYJAE REESE (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY), MARY JENSON (DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY)

Inez Beverly Prosser and Mamie Phipps Clark were groundbreaking psychologists whose work revealed different psychological impacts of race and schooling. Prosser's research showed that Black children in segregated schools often benefited from supportive Black teachers. Clark, however, demonstrated through the Doll Test that segregation produced internalized racism and lowered self-esteem. While Prosser highlighted the protective strengths of segregated environments, Clark exposed segregation's broader psychological damage, shaping the fight for educational equity

POSTER 62

PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HELPING BEHAVIOR

CHRISTIAN CRUZ (UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH),
KRISTIN CISTULLI (UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH)

The purpose of the current study was to investigate the effect of bystander age and race on the anticipation of receiving help from strangers in a non-emergency situation. Results suggested that participants expected a Black bystander to notice that they needed help, offer help, and provide help more than a White bystander. Additionally, participants anticipated that a middle adult bystander would be more likely to provide help than young and older adults.

POSTER 63

IMPULSIVITY AND PREDICTING PROSOCIAL AND ANTISOCIAL RULE-BREAKING

AMELIA CLEMENT (KEENE STATE COLLEGE), PAUL
HENNIGAN (KEENE STATE COLLEGE)

People break rules left and right, often driven by emotion, necessity, or values. From covering for a coworker or speeding to get someone to the hospital, to trespassing to help an injured animal, these actions reflect prosocial intentions—breaking rules for the benefit of others. This presentation explores the psychology of rule-breaking, focusing on impulsivity as a key factor in both prosocial and antisocial rule-breaking, highlighting how context and intent differentiate these behaviors.

POSTER 64

MORAL FOUNDATIONS IN BILINGUALS - HINDI

RAJVI MISHRA (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JATIN PUNJABI
(BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ANANYA LAMBA, SUNANDA
GURUPRASAD, CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS
(BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether language influences moral judgment among Hindi-English bilinguals, South-Asian English-dominant speakers, and North American monolinguals. Using the Moral Foundations Questionnaire and Cultural Value Scales, no foreign-language effect emerged. Instead, cultural orientation, particularly collectivism and Asian values, predicted variations across moral foundations. These findings suggest that in simultaneous bilinguals, moral reasoning is shaped more by cultural identity than by the language of assessment, challenging assumptions about the universality of the Foreign Language Effect.

POSTER 65

IDENTIFYING SOCIAL COMPUTATIONAL PHENOTYPES IN PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

ARIANNA A. SAMAROO (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY),
DAMIAN A. STANLEY (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), THEO J.
ANDRE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

Social learning and decision-making (sLDM) is critical for healthy functioning and impairments are prominent in many mental disorders. We will investigate how aspects of sLDM are influenced by psychopathology. Participants (N = 1000) will complete online tasks to assess social and nonsocial LDM. We will investigate how LDM model parameters covary with spectra of the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology – a data-driven psychopathology framework. Findings will aid and inform psychopathological intervention and treatment.

POSTER 66

RADICALIZATION ON THE RIGHT-WING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TRUTH SOCIAL

OLIVIA BOGLE (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANDREW
STEWART (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

As the American right wing becomes increasingly violent, we must understand how they proliferate their ideology. Using Kruglanski et al.'s (2014) model of radicalization, we analyzed posts on the right-wing alternative social media platform "Truth Social" using LIWC-22 to learn more about the character of right-wing radicalization present. Users appear to be radicalized by the time they arrive on the platform, but how they continue this process on the platform is less clear.

POSTER 67

PERCEPTIONS OF CHILDREN IN CONTEXTS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

ISABEL SAFAR (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANDREW
STEWART (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

In an online survey study, participants answered questions related to several degrees of harm, reunification, and recovery after reading about the transfer of children in two historical case studies: the Armenian genocide and Nazi Germany's Lebensborn program. The participants' social dominance orientation, dehumanization, essentialism, and paternalism toward children were measured. The focus of this poster presentation is this study's results about reconciliation and recovery: the two case studies largely yielded similar correlations for these items.

POSTER 68

RIGGED SYSTEMS

NAOMI COTTO (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), JOHN PROTZKO (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

We look at why people decide to stay in a rigged system or not. We look at personality measures and analyze their personality and their choice of staying in a rigged system. We saw with a sample of students ($N = 138$) that there was significance for one of the personality measurements. Planning on doing future testing with a wider population.

POSTER 69

SHOULD FRIENDS TELL EACH OTHER SECRETS?

CATHERINE PARKER (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), EVAN PADDOCK (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), ALLIE MCCORMICK (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), ISABELLE DIEHL (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), KEVIN MCKILLOP (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

This study explored how secret keeping versus secret sharing shapes friendship perceptions. Fifty-six participants completed a staged interaction where a friend either disclosed or withheld a secret. While overall friendship measures did not differ across conditions, friends in the revealed condition reported greater confusion, worry, and upset. These findings suggest that being entrusted with a secret may create short-term emotional strain, challenging assumptions that secret-sharing consistently strengthens friendships.

POSTER 70

NEGATIVITY BIAS: SEQUENTIAL EFFECTS OF NEGATIVE STIMULI ON POSITIVE VALENCE RATINGS

JILIAN JONES (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), KRISTEN PETAGNA (THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), JOLIE WORMWOOD (THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE)

The general negativity bias suggests that early negative stimuli hinder the reception of subsequent positive information (Norris, 2021; Parker, 2025). This study ($N=75$) examines if preceding negative emotional videos reduce subsequent positive valence ratings. Participants view sequential videos and report how pleasant they feel across three social contexts: alone, mere presence, or interacting. Using mixed effects models, we hypothesize that negative videos will significantly reduce pleasantness ratings for immediately following positive videos.

POSTER 71

NEED FOR COGNITION INDIRECTLY HEIGHTENS AFFECTIVE POLARIZATION THROUGH PERCEPTIONS OF OUTGROUP EXTREMITY

KIMERY LEVERING (MARIST UNIVERSITY), LILY MACNAMARA (MARIST UNIVERSITY), MAKAYLA LAGUERRE (MARIST UNIVERSITY), JANE SWYKOWSKI (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

We examined whether cognitive motivation shapes affective polarization through misperceptions of the political outgroup. A census-matched online sample completed measures of affective polarization, need for cognition, working memory, and perceptions of negative traits and attitude strength of their political outgroup. NFC predicted greater perceived outgroup attitude strength, which increased negative trait attributions and fully mediated AP. Reverse models were unsupported. Findings suggest cognitive engagement contributes indirectly to polarization by amplifying social perceptions of political opponents.

POSTER 72

MEDIATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WEIGHT-RELATED INFORMATION AVOIDANCE AND INTENTIONS MONITOR AEROBIC PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

RACHEL WAPNER-MOL (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), WILLIAM COLEMAN (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), DAVID WILDER (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether theory of planned behavior (TPB) constructs (attitudes, perceived behavioral control, and subjective norms) mediate the relationship between weight-related information avoidance (WIA) and intentions to monitor aerobic physical activity. A parallel mediation analysis showed that, among college students, WIA predicted weaker intentions indirectly through poorer attitudes. Other TPB constructs did not significantly mediate this relationship.

POSTER 73**PEOPLE BELIEVE INTRINSICALLY (VS. EXTERNALLY) MOTIVATED ACTIVITIES BENEFIT FROM EAGERNESS (VS. VIGILANCE)**

SPENCER ELLIS (ITHACA COLLEGE), CAMILLA HILL (ITHACA COLLEGE), ELIZABETH EDMONDS (ITHACA COLLEGE), LEIGH NATURALE (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARY TOWNSEND (ITHACA COLLEGE), HALEY PETRUCCI (ITHACA COLLEGE), CHASE BRECHBIEL (ITHACA COLLEGE), EMMA DESSUREAU (ITHACA COLLEGE), LAUREN PLUNKETT (ITHACA COLLEGE), SIENNA BERKHEISER (ITHACA COLLEGE), MARY SIMPSON (ITHACA COLLEGE)

This research examined people's metamotivational beliefs about how to get in the right frame of mind to do well at activities that are intrinsically motivated (done because of enjoyment) versus externally motivated (done because of external pressure). Three within-subjects experiments (N = 300) showed that participants viewed eager strategies (e.g., trying possibly good ideas) as more useful intrinsically motivated activities, and vigilant strategies (e.g., avoiding mistakes) as more useful externally motivated activities.

POSTER 74**REPLICATING THE SOCIAL STRUCTURAL HYPOTHESIS THROUGH A PREREGISTERED EXPERIMENT**

JASON NIER (CONNECTICUT COLLEGE)

Previous research in intergroup relations has found considerable support for the Stereotype Content Model (SCM). To further extend previous research examining the SCM, we conducted a replication of our earlier preregistered experiment of the SCM through the Open Science Foundation (OSF). We specifically tested whether we could replicate the Social Structural Hypothesis, as well as the link between stereotype content and appraisal theories of emotion.

POSTER 75**SINGLE, STIGMATIZED, AND SEARCHING: MOTIVATIONS FOR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP PURSUIT.**

CASEY CASCIO (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), ERIN HUGHES (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Study 1 examined whether singlehood stigma and social factors predict romantic motivation. Single college students completed measures of singlehood stigma, romantic motivation, and social network relationship status. Greater perceptions of singlehood stigma significantly predicted greater extrinsic

motivation to pursue a romantic relationship, while social networks showed no effect. These results suggest that motivation is influenced by stigma rather than network composition. Study 2 is a replication to test age differences using an older sample.

POSTER 76**SOCIAL DESIRABILITY OR MISPERCEPTIONS: PLURALISTIC IGNORANCE WITHIN MENTAL HEALTH ATTITUDES**

IVY PHILLIPS (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), ZACHARY LEWIS (RADFORD UNIVERSITY), JEFFERY ASPELMEIER (RADFORD UNIVERSITY)

The present study investigates pluralistic ignorance (PI) within mental health stigma and willingness to seek services. A sample of 109 college students reported their own mental health attitudes, made estimates for their peers, and reported their own social desirability. Participants underestimated their peers' willingness to seek mental health services and overestimated stigma. When considering social desirability as an explanation for students' mental health attitudes, results suggest limited effects of social desirability on mental health attitudes.

POSTER 77**THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF "UNSAFE SEX" INCREASES THE PROBABILITY OF DISCOUNTING "SAFE SEX"**

KARALYN SCHWARTZ (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), HANNAH PARILLO (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), GREGORY MORROW (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), WAYNE HAWLEY (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO)

Using a behavioral economics framework, the goal of this study was to examine the role attractiveness plays in the willingness to engage in unprotected sex. Results of our novel probability discounting task revealed that the willingness to have unprotected sex to be perceived as more attractive decreased as the likelihood of being perceived as attractive for doing so also decreased, an effect that was more pronounced for men and more sexually desirable (i.e., attractive) partners.

POSTER 78**THE EFFECTS OF HEAT-RELATED PRIMING ON CONCERN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

SEAN BOGART (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), MARLEY FLYNN (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), MARIE-ANNE JEAN (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), EMMA VINCI (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

UNIVERSITY), MICHELE VAN VOLKOM (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), NATALIE CIAROCO (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

In this study, 82 undergraduate students received a temperature-related word-search priming task before completing a climate change attitude questionnaire and a behavioral measure evaluating willingness to donate to a climate change-related campus fundraiser. While no significant overall effects were observed, heat-related priming significantly increased reported belief in global warming in comparison to cold-related priming. Continuing to build an understanding of the factors that influence concerns for climate change remains a critical focus for future work.

POSTER 79

WARMING UP TO THE FUTURE: TEMPERATURE MODERATES TEMPORAL DISCOUNTING

ADAM FAY (SUNY AT OSWEGO), AMIRAH RIDDICK (SUNY AT OSWEGO)

We investigated how temperature and time perspective (moving-time vs. moving-ego) influence thinking about the future. Study 1 revealed a significant interaction: warmer temperatures reduced temporal discounting, specifically for individuals with a moving-time perspective. There were no effects of temperature on discounting in the moving-ego perspective. Study 2 (ongoing) extends the investigation by manipulating temperature and time perspective experimentally. Findings suggest that embodied states and conceptual metaphors interact to signal temporal distance and alter financial decision-making.

POSTER 80

PSYCHOLOGICAL REACTIVITY AND BELIEF IN CLIMATE CHANGE

MARK WALTER (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), DAISY HERMOSILLO-WILLET (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), TYLER HUMMER (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), THOMAS TOMCHO (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY)

This study applied the principles of psychological reactance to climate change communication. In an experimental study, we found that a hypothetical climate change mitigation plan that threatened personal freedoms (as opposed to one that didn't) activated psychological reactance and led participants to reduced belief in climate change. Implications focus on how best to communicate climate change ideas to others.

POSTER 81

SORRY FOR BUSTING YOUR BALLS: ASSESSING AFFECTIVITY AFTER PRESENCE OF BLAME

BENJAMIN MCCUMBER (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), KEVIN MCKILLOP (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), FINNEAS BILES (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), LILLIAN WENZEL (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), TIYABA JAMIL (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

Undergraduate participants completed a study where they filled out a personality assessment, then played with a stress ball, then filled out an affectivity measure. The stress ball was rigged to break by the experimenters, and the experimenters then placed high blame and low blame on the experimental and control conditions respectively. We found a marked lack of apologies from participants, but we did find differences between affectivity and certain personality traits.

POSTER 82

THE EFFECT OF ORAL STIMULI AND EXPOSURE ON PERCEIVED ATTRACTIVENESS

ALMA MARROQUIN (DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY), KELLY M JOHNSON (DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY)

Repeated exposure to a target increases its attractiveness. Does crossing repeated exposure with type of oral stimuli also influence perceived target attractiveness? Investigating this phenomenon, 46 university students savored a sweet or sour candy while viewing an image one or three times. A large, significant effect of oral stimuli on attractiveness such that sweet candy caused higher perceptions of attractiveness highlights the influence of multi-sensory experiences on interpersonal evaluations.

POSTER 83

THE INFLUENCE OF BIRTH ORDER AND SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS ON AFFECT AND ADJUSTMENT

MICHELE VAN VOLKOM (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), CHRISTOPHER GERAUD (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY), JESSICA MAGNAYE (MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY)

In this study, 285 emerging adults completed questionnaires related to the warmth and conflict in their sibling relationships as well as demographics such as birth order to investigate their influence on affect and adjustment. It was found that as sibling warmth increased, so did positive affect. Also, as sibling conflict increased, so did negative affect and psychological maladjustment. In addition, middle siblings reported significantly higher sibling conflict than younger siblings.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Paper

Independence A

**TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY PAPERS:
 PEDAGOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**

Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: JASMINE MENA, PHD

10:20am – 10:30am

**IMPROVING CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH
 LATINE PSYCHOLOGY**

JASMINE MENA (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY)

Exposing students to psychological science through Latine Psychology is an excellent way to increase student critical thinking and consolidate their understanding of psychological concepts and principles. In this talk, I will describe my approach to teaching a Latine Psychology course geared towards undergraduate students majoring in psychology.

10:35am – 10:45am

**THE IMPACT OF BLACK HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ON
 THE PSYCHOSOCIAL COMPETENCE OF
 UNDERGRADUATES**

THOMAS ROBINSON III (KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF
 PENNSYLVANIA)

This study tested the effectiveness of applying the Black History Knowledge (BHK) paradigm to the teaching of a Psychology of the Black Experience course to a multiracial composition of undergraduate students (N = 129) at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). Using a pretest/posttest design, both before and after the Covid pandemic, the results supported the BHK model demonstrating increases in students' self-esteem and ethnic identity, as well as psychosocial and psychological competence.

10:50am – 11:00am

**SUPPORTING NEURODIVERSE AND DISABLED
 STUDENTS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

NICOLE CALMA-RODDIN (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF
 TECHNOLOGY)

Although psychology, as a field, should have a greater understanding of neurodivergence, psychological diagnoses, and ableism (as a form of prejudice), this is not always evident in the practice of psychology

education. Research situations may be especially challenging for disabled/neurodivergent students. Here, I share data related to student and faculty experiences navigating accessibility while conducting psychological research, as well as actionable strategies for greater inclusivity based on the literature and my experience.

11:05am – 11:15am

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETENCES FOR
 UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY AND THE UN
 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

FANLI JIA (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), SUSAN NOLAN (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), VALERIE SORRENTINO (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), NOELLE VARGHESE (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), LINDSEY AVELAR (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), ARI KADRIJA (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), THOMAS O'BEIRNE (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), SAMUEL SHABO (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY)

This presentation examines the connections between psychological science and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting the International Competences for Undergraduate Psychology (ICUP; icupo.org) as a framework for integrating SDGs into psychology curricula. The presentation includes practical teaching and assessment examples demonstrating how educators can explicitly address SDGs while developing foundational psychology competences in undergraduate students.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Paper

St. George C

APPLIED/SOCIAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PAPERS
Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: JONIX OWINO

10:20am – 10:30am

**INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HEALTH: THE
 ROLE OF AGE AND EMOTIONAL CLOSENESS**

TESS WILD (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), CORINNA
 LOECKENHOFF (CORNELL UNIVERSITY)

Social relationships influence health through communication, which is shaped by developmental and interpersonal processes. In a longitudinal dataset (N =

6,201, Mage = 71), we examined how age and emotional closeness predict likelihood of discussing health with social partners. Age showed a small negative between-person association and no within-person effect, whereas closeness predicted greater discussion likelihood between and within people, particularly as people aged. Findings highlight relational factors shaping health communication in later life.

10:35am – 10:45am

THE SILENT STRUGGLE: OLDER ADULTS' PATHWAYS THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

JONIX OWINO (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), REBECCA SWANWICK (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), ALEKSANDRA KOZAK (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), CAMDEN SULLIVAN (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), AVA KATIS (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), SOFIA ELIAS (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY), ALEXA CHARLEUS (SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated how older adults perceive and navigate mental health services. Forty-nine participants aged 50 and above completed in-depth interviews about their experiences with mental health care. Thematic analysis revealed that generational and cultural influences, perceived systemic barriers, and self-reliance as a coping framework all play key roles in shaping how older adults engage with mental health services.

10:50am – 11:00am

NAVIGATING PURITY, DESIRE, AND IDENTITY: MARIANISMO'S ROLE IN LATINA SEXUAL EXPERIENCES

TANIA CAMARILLO CONTRERAS (CUNY, GRADUATE CENTER), YANA KUCHIRKO (BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CUNY)

Latinas often navigate two competing narratives: U.S. stereotypes that cast them as hypersexual and marianismo ideals that call for purity and selflessness. To better understand how these beliefs shape sexual experiences, we surveyed 1,017 Latinas, using measures of Marianismo and Sexual Excitation/Inhibition. Analyses showed a link between them, with differences between queer and not queer groups. These results highlight the importance of culturally sensitive research that reflects Latinas' diverse perspectives on sexuality.

11:05am – 11:15am

POLICE, EMS, AND FIREFIGHTERS: A CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY ON GALLOWES HUMOR

JUSTINA OLIVEIRA (SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY), DERRICK LOUGHLIN (NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL), KAYLA PINARD (AMOSKEAG HEALTH), CAITLIN O'CONNOR (HELPGRID, IRELAND)

First responders' use of gallows and light-hearted humor was examined in the U.S. (n=281) and Ireland (n=316). Gallows humor was used significantly more with coworkers than the public, to cope with stress. Light-hearted humor was related to positive work outcomes while gallows humor wasn't. Irish first responders used gallows humor with the public significantly more than the U.S. sample, suggesting cultural differences in perceptions of its appropriateness. U.S. participants reported higher trust/cohesion, and work-life quality.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am**

Workshop

Great Republic

**LEADERSHIP BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:
INTEGRATING NON-ACADEMIC INFLUENCES
INTO PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND SUCCESS
Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am**

CHAIR: AMBER HODGES PHD

**LEADERSHIP BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:
INTEGRATING NON-ACADEMIC INFLUENCES
INTO PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND SUCCESS**

AMBER HODGES (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

Practical strategies for developing leadership skills by Amber Hodges (Morgan State University) Transform one's passion into a fulfilling career by Kyle Nolla (Morgan State University) Interdisciplinary collaboration and emotional intelligence in leadership and the development of professional identity by Anita Wells (Morgan State University)

Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Paper

St. George A/B

**CLINICAL PAPERS: TRANSDIAGNOSTIC
 PREDICTORS OF CLINICAL AND COGNITIVE
 OUTCOMES**

Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: USHA BARAHMAND

10:20am – 10:30am

**USING SEM TO PREDICT COGNITIVE DECLINE
 AMONG ETHNORACIAL AND SEXUAL MINORITY
 GROUPS**

LAUREL WEAVER (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER),
 NICOLAS ZAPPARRATA (NEW JERSEY CITY
 UNIVERSITY), PATRICIA J. BROOKS (THE COLLEGE OF
 STATEN ISLAND, CUNY GRADUATE CENTER)

Using data from the 2023 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, we applied structural equation modeling to examine associations between psychological distress, racial minority stress, and cognitive decline in Black/Hispanic individuals, some of whom identified as members of sexual minority groups. Results indicated that psychological distress, along with sexual identity, were significantly associated with increased likelihood of self-reported cognitive decline. In contrast, racial minority stress (i.e., experiences of discrimination) was unrelated to cognitive decline.

10:35am – 10:45am

**DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, AND METACOGNITIVE
 BIAS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE**

KAITLYN ANDERSON (BOSTON UNIVERSITY),
 COURTNEY GUIDA (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ALICE
 CRONIN-GOLOMB (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Metacognitive bias, the mismatch between subjective and objective cognition, occurs in PwPD and may be influenced by mood. We assessed 37 PwPD and found that higher depression and anxiety correlated with more negative bias (underestimation of cognitive abilities), explaining 30% of variance. Anxiety was the strongest predictor, with contributions from age and sex. Findings suggest that subjective cognition in PwPD should be interpreted in the context of mood symptoms.

10:50am – 11:00am

**BEYOND PTSD: TRANSDIAGNOSTIC PATHWAYS
 TO PSYCHOSIS VIA COGNITIVE, AFFECTIVE, AND
 PERSONALITY FACTORS**

USHA BARAHMAND (QUEENS COLLEGE CUNY),
 STANLEY WILLIAM DAVIS (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
 AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY), UNA ALEKSIC (COLUMBIA
 UNIVERSITY), JENNA D'ONOFRIO (CITY UNIVERSITY
 OF NEW YORK), TAHMINA PAINDA (COLUMBIA
 UNIVERSITY), LIANTING HUANG (MOUNT HOYOKE
 COLLEGE), JESSICA ZODICOFF (COLUMBIA
 UNIVERSITY), PRESLEY LIBERTY (COLUMBIA
 UNIVERSITY)

This study examined psychological mechanisms linking PTSD symptoms to psychosis proneness. Using a non-clinical sample of 289 adults, we tested whether post-traumatic cognitions, experiential avoidance, borderline personality features, and dissociative experiences sequentially mediate this relationship. Serial mediation analyses revealed full mediation with significant indirect pathways involving dissociation, experiential avoidance, and borderline traits. Findings highlight dissociation and borderline personality features as key mechanisms in trauma-related psychosis vulnerability, underscoring the importance of trauma-informed interventions targeting these factors.

11:05am – 11:15am

**ATTACHMENT ANXIETY DRIVES DIGITAL PHOTO
 HOARDING THROUGH COGNITIVE MEDIATORS**

SHOLEH LIVARJANI (INDEPENDENT), SHOLEH
 LIVARJANI (BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF
 CLINICAL COUNSELLORS (BCACC)), AMAL BHALLI
 (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), USHA BARAHMAND
 (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND COLUMBIA
 UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how attachment anxiety and avoidance predict digital photo hoarding through serial mediation involving object attachment, perfectionism, and indecisiveness (PROCESS Model 80, N=225). Attachment anxiety showed a significant total effect fully mediated by these pathways, particularly through possessions as memory, discrepancy, and indecisiveness (total indirect $b=0.32$, 95% CI [0.17, 0.49]). Attachment avoidance had no total effect but a small indirect effect via discrepancy-indecisiveness. Findings highlight emotional and cognitive mechanisms underlying digital hoarding.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

Paper

Independence B

LEARNING PAPERS: ACTIONS & HABITS
Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:20am – 11:20am

CHAIR: DANIEL SIEGEL

10:20am – 10:30am

NUMERICAL OCCASION-SETTING IN RATS

DANIEL SIEGEL (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), ANDREW DELAMATER (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE GRADUATE CENTER), TAJFATIMA ASIF (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN COLLEGE), LINEN LI (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN COLLEGE)

Studies have shown that many species can learn about numbers. Comparative work in rats, however, has hinted at this capacity but has struggled to unconfound numerical sense from other task features. We visited this question in an occasion-setting task where a tone was followed by food only when an earlier light flashed either one or six times. Rats learned the rewarded numerosity, but only weakly generalized their learning after flash durations were equated.

10:35am – 10:45am

ACTIONS AND HABITS: ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE EXPERIENCED RESPONSE-REWARD CORRELATION

ANDREW DELAMATER (BROOKLYN COLLEGE & CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), NORMAN TU (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER)

One popular way of describing when animals act in goal-directed or habitual ways relates to the organism's experienced response rate – reward rate correlation, with high correlations predicting actions and low correlations habits. As appealing as this idea is, few authors have attempted to measure this correlation. We assessed this in several ways in rats performing under various interval and ratio schedules and found little evidence to support the basic claim. We discuss alternative frameworks.

10:50am – 11:00am

FRUSTRATION-INDUCED OVEREATING: AN ANIMAL MODEL FOR STUDYING MOTIVATIONAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPONENTS

GONZALO MIGUEZ (UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE), MATÍAS SERAFINI (UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE), MARIO A. LABORDA (UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE), JAVIERA OSSES (UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE)

The Frustration-Induced Binge Eating Model generates overeating through reinforcer delay. We evaluated whether repeated frustration modulates liking (lick microstructure) and wanting (sign-tracking during extinction). Rats exposed to repeated delays showed increased consumption and lever pressing during extinction, without significant changes in burst size. Open field testing revealed increased locomotor activity without anxiety changes. Results suggest repeated frustration enhances incentive motivation toward reward-associated cues. The role of hedonic mechanisms requires further investigation with standardized microstructure parameters.

11:05am – 11:15am

A TEST OF THE SUBSTITUTABILITY BETWEEN COCAINE AND SOCIAL INTERACTION IN RATS

DAVID KEARNS (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY), ELIZA BROOKS (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY), TONI BIRD (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY), FELIPE REGO (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY), CLAUDIA OLIVERO-GAMEZ (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY)

Rats chose between cocaine and social interaction available at varying prices. In male rats, the allocation of behavior shifted towards the cheaper option upon price changes, indicating that cocaine and social interaction were partial substitutes. In contrast, female rats did not systematically alter their allocation of behavior, suggesting cocaine and social interaction were independent goods for them. Extended, intermittent access to cocaine self-administration did not change the way the reinforcers interacted in either sex.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
12:30pm – 1:30pm

Keynote

America Ballroom North

PRESIDENTIAL KEYNOTE: JEF LAMOUREUX
Saturday, February 28, 2026
12:30pm – 1:30pm

CHAIR: JENNIFER TICKLE

CONTEXT AND ATTENTION IN EXTINCTION: A FIRST-GENERATION SCIENTIST'S STORY

JEF LAMOUREUX (BOSTON COLLEGE)

First-hand experience in research increases a sense of academic belonging for under-represented students. Here, I describe my journey as a first-generation college student into science and academia, including my current work supporting students from a variety of under-represented groups. I will focus on the research my colleagues and I have conducted suggesting that a change in learned predictive contingencies (e.g., extinction training) causes both humans and non-humans to increase their attention to environmental context cues.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

Paper

St. George C

SOCIAL PAPERS: PREJUDICE
Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm

CHAIR: BALBIR SINGH, PHD

1:40pm – 1:50pm

CONTACT & THE CRD: HOW CONTACT REDUCES CROSS-ETHNIC RECOGNITION DEFICITS IN FACES.

BALBIR SINGH (MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE), MICHAEL BERNSTEIN (PENN STATE ABINGTON), JOSHUA CORRELL (UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER)

Many theories propose that cross-ethnic contact should increase cross-ethnic face recognition thereby reducing the cross-ethnic recognition deficit (i.e., Own-Race Bias, Cross-Race Effect). In this talk we explore two studies that examine this assertion from two perspectives. The first is a longitudinal analysis where we recruit 132 Black and White students from a diverse compass. The second is a mini-meta-analysis where we examine whether contact increases cross-ethnic recognition or decreases same-ethnic recognition.

1:55pm – 2:05pm

HOW TYPE OF PREJUDICE AFFECTS SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

VICTORIA ESTRADA-REYNOLDS (KING'S COLLEGE - WILKES-BARRE, PA), SCOTT FRENG (UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING), KIMBERLY SCHWEITZER (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA), SAMUEL CHOI (CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE)

This study examined how prejudice types affected support for affirmative action in higher education. Participants were classified into one of four prejudice types and asked their level of support for an affirmative action policy to increase the number of White or Black students at a hypothetical college. Results were consistent with theoretical predictions; aversive racists, truly lows, and principled conservatives were more likely to support the policy for Black students compared to modern racists.

2:10pm – 2:20pm

PUNISHMENT OR REHABILITATION? SYMBOLIC RACISM AND PREFERRED RESPONSES TO OPIOID DRUG OFFENDING

CROSBY HIPES (WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY), SHAUN GENTER (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

We examined public attitudes toward a non-violent drug crime, and whether responses differed based on an offender's race, class, and type of drug. Results indicate the effect of manipulations on the punishment-related variables depends on respondents' level of symbolic racism, such that people who score higher on symbolic racism are more likely to recommend a punitive response. Participants' preference for a more rehabilitative response to a drug offense was higher for a high-class offender.

2:25pm – 2:35pm

TESTING A DUAL DIATHESIS-THREAT MODEL OF AUTHORITARIANISM

BRENDAN GALLAGHER (NAZARETH COLLEGE)

The tested model proposed that cognitive rigidity predisposes conservatives and liberals to authoritarianism in response to distinct threats (threats of and to change, respectively). 465 Americans read vignettes designed to evoke these threats, then responded to measures of authoritarian intentions. Although rigidity and threats of/to change positively predicted authoritarianism, the hypothesized Politics x Threat Type interaction was nonsignificant. However, a Rigidity x Politics crossover interaction suggested that high cognitive rigidity uniquely enhanced authoritarianism among liberals.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm**

Symposium

Independence A

**TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM:
RESEARCHING ON FUMES: SUSTAINING
SCHOLARSHIP AND MAXIMIZING OUTPUT WITH
UNDERGRADUATE PARTNERS
Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm**

CHAIR: BONNIE A. GREEN

**RESEARCHING ON FUMES: SUSTAINING
SCHOLARSHIP AND MAXIMIZING OUTPUT WITH
UNDERGRADUATE PARTNERS**

BONNIE A. GREEN (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY)

Faculty at institutions with significant teaching loads often struggle to advance their research. This symposium details four approaches for overcoming challenges in time and resources: leveraging course-embedded service learning, adapting laboratory courses for joint teaching/scholarship goals, implementing a research lab model for efficient team-based data collection, and utilizing intensive one-on-one student mentorship. This discussion outlines how these methods sustain faculty scholarship while providing undergraduates with high-impact research experiences.

Presentations

The Efficiency Engine Who Could: A Multi-Semester Service Learning Approach to Large Scale Metric Validation

by Bonnie A. Green (East Stroudsburg University)

Make Mine a Double! Leveraging Laboratory Courses to Meet Teaching and Scholarship Goals

by Kelly M. Banna (Millersville University)

The Capstone Catalyst: Utilizing Advanced Undergraduate Researchers to Fuel Faculty Research Progress

by Shawn Gallagher (Millersville University)

Staying COOL Under Pressure: Preparing Students and Sustaining Faculty Research on Compassion

by Jyh-Hann Chang (East Stroudsburg University),
Natasha Merchant (East Stroudsburg University),
Brooke O'Connor (East Stroudsburg University), Ava
Palochik (East Stroudsburg University)

Discussant

Rachel I. MacIntyre (Millersville University)

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm**

Paper

Independence B

**COGNITIVE PAPERS: PERCEPTION AND
DECISION-MAKING
Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm**

CHAIR: ALEX DANIEL

1:40pm – 1:50pm

**MENTAL MONEYLINE: NUMBER LINE
ESTIMATIONS OF SPORTS BETTING ODDS**

JUSTIN BONNY (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated the mental representation of moneyline odds. In sports betting, the odds of a team winning a match can be presented using American moneyline odds (-150 favored, +150 underdog) or probabilities (.75 favored, .25 underdog). Participant performance on a number line estimation task that used moneyline and probability odds varied by whether they engaged in sports betting over the past year. This suggests that sports betting experience impacts mental representations of moneyline odds.

1:55pm – 2:05pm

**COGNITIVE AND METACOGNITIVE PREDICTORS
OF MULTIPLE CUE PROBABILITY LEARNING**

JOHN AUGUSTA (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
DARTMOUTH), TRINA KERSHAW (UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH)

Decision-making is a complex universal behavior. Understanding how individuals make decisions under uncertainty has important implications. This study examines how people learn probabilistic relationships using the Weather Prediction Task (WPT) which models real-world decision-making environments. The cognitive processes of interest are fluid intelligence (Gf), working memory capacity (WMC), and attention control, with consideration of metacognition as an additional factor. Prior research has not fully clarified how these processes contribute to WPT success.

2:10pm – 2:20pm

**PRIORITY MAPS FORMED VIA SELECTION
HISTORY PRIORITIZE LOCATION OVER COLOR**

ARIEL KERSHNER (NEUMANN UNIVERSITY)

The attentional priority map can be influenced proactively and reactively by selection history. What is the extent of proactive guidance to features and space? In three experiments, participants searched for each of eighteen real-world categories based on their consistent features (color, location, or both). In both search and probe trials, our results suggest that location is consistently prioritized, both proactively and later in search, over color in a priority map formed via selection history.

2:25pm – 2:35pm

TACTILE POGGENDORFF ILLUSION IN SOLID 3-D OBJECTS

GREGORY BURTON (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY)

The Poggendorff illusion was demonstrated in 3-D objects in which a dowel on one side of the box was adjusted to represent the perception of the continuation of a dowel fixed in the opposite side. In both visual and tactile conditions, the interaction of stick angle and adjustable side was significant (visual: $F(1,15) = 13.5$, $p < .005$; tactile: $F(1,15) = 95.3$, $p < .001$). The means of the individual conditions reflected the Poggendorff illusion.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

1:40pm – 2:40pm

Paper

St. George A/B

DEVELOPMENTAL PAPERS: FAMILY & IDENTITY

Saturday, February 28, 2026

1:40pm – 2:40pm

CHAIR: HAMIDE GOZU

1:40pm – 1:50pm

ABSENCE HOW PARENTS COPE AND ITS IMPACT ON PARENTING STYLE

JONATHAN CODRARO (RIVIER UNIVERSITY),
ELIZABETH HARWOOD (RIVIER UNIVERSITY)

This study compared widowed and divorced parents on parenting styles and coping strategies. Participants ($N = 258$) completed measures of authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting and problem, emotion, and avoidant focused coping. Widowed parents reported higher emotion focused and avoidant coping and greater authoritarian parenting. No differences emerged for authoritative or permissive styles. Findings suggest widowed parents experience elevated emotional and control-oriented responses, emphasizing the need for supportive interventions addressing grief related parenting & coping.

1:55pm – 2:05pm

FROM SIBLING VIOLENCE TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: THE ROLE OF MORAL DISENGAGEMENT

HAMIDE GOZU (THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether moral disengagement mediates links between early sibling violence and current intimate partner violence (IPV). Adults ($N = 591$) reported sibling physical and verbal aggression in childhood, current IPV, and moral disengagement. Sibling verbal perpetration predicted higher moral disengagement, which in turn predicted IPV perpetration and victimization. Indirect effects were significant for all outcomes except physical victimization. Findings highlight moral disengagement as a pathway connecting sibling aggression to adult relationship violence.

2:10pm – 2:20pm

SIBLING SOCIAL SURROGACY: A NUANCED PATH TO ADOLESCENT INTERNALIZING SYMPTOMS

BRIDGET CAHILL (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), DANMING AN (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), SIERRA CLIFFORD (ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY), BRANDON CLIFFORD (ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY), KATHRYN LEMERY-CHALFANT (ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY), NATALIE EGGUM (ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether sibling social surrogacy buffers links between shyness and internalizing symptoms in early adolescence ($N = 227$). We found social surrogacy moderated associations of shyness with depression and generalized anxiety, reducing symptom severity. By contrast, social surrogacy predicted higher separation anxiety and did not moderate its association with shyness. Findings suggest sibling surrogacy may be a resilience factor for shy youth, but its effects vary across anxiety subtypes.

2:25pm – 2:35pm

BICULTURAL IDENTITY CONFLICT MEDIATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACES AND NEGATIVE MENTAL HEALTH

ESHMEHAR SAHNI (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ANA MARCELO (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

The association between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and psychopathology is well documented; however, limited research has examined how ACEs influence identity-related processes, particularly among bicultural individuals. This study seeks to elucidate mechanisms linking ACEs to negative mental health outcomes through identity dynamics. Findings may inform the development of

culturally sensitive interventions that align with individuals' lived experiences and cultural identities, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of mental health support for those with ACE histories.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

1:40pm – 2:40pm

Workshop

Great Republic

**PSI CHI: NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE OF
ADVOCACY WORK: CENTERING SELF-CARE AND
CHAPTER RESILIENCE.**

Saturday, February 28, 2026

1:40pm – 2:40pm

CHAIR: BRIANNA GONZALEZ PHD

**NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE OF ADVOCACY
WORK: CENTERING SELF-CARE AND CHAPTER
RESILIENCE**

BRIANNA GONZALEZ (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE)

The Psi Chi Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) invites students, faculty, and chapter leaders to an interactive session on advocacy and inclusion in psychology. Building on last year's focus groups on anti-DEI legislation and campus climates, we will share findings and launch a national survey on diversity-related chapter functions. Participants will explore strategies for balancing advocacy with self-care, learn from successful initiatives, and connect with Psi Chi's expanded Diversity Speaker List to sustain inclusive, resilient chapters.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

1:40pm – 2:40pm

Poster

America Ballroom Center/South

**COGNITIVE POSTERS I
Saturday, February 28, 2026
1:40pm – 2:40pm**

POSTER 1

**ASSESSING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AUDITORY
AND VISUAL FALSE MEMORY USING THE DRM
TASK**

KYLEE CRAIN (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), NICOLE CALMA-RODDIN (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

The Deese-Roediger-McDermott (DRM) test is a classic false memory task. Here, we expand the DRM to include a version with auditory stimuli. Further, we compare the results of DRM presentation using sounds, images, and more traditional visually-presented words. We predict that the audio test will have the highest score of false memory shown in a confidence test, and the visual-images will have the lowest score of false memory in the confidence test.

POSTER 2

**ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN GRAY MATTER
VOLUMES AND SEMANTIC CLUSTERING WITH
AGE**

DYLAN WHALEN (BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY), NICOLETTE BARBER (BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY), IOANNIS VALOUMAS (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY), JOSHUA GOH (NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY), YU-LING CHANG (NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY), BRENDA KIRCHHOFF (SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY), ANGELA GUTCHES (BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY)

We examined whether prefrontal and hippocampal gray matter volumes predicted memory performance and semantic clustering in verbal memory. Volumes were compared from MRIs from 60 younger and 47 older adults who completed the CVLT. There were age differences in the associations. For older adults, larger volumes, particularly in left pars triangularis and the right hippocampal CA3, were associated with higher memory performance and more categorical clustering. Younger adults showed the opposite pattern for CA1/CA3.

POSTER 3

ATTENTION TO FACIAL DOMINANCE

ALEXIS WONG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ERIKA TULLGREN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Research on the attentional aspects of facial dominance is inconsistent. The present study explores whether masculinized (dominant) versus feminized (non-dominant) facial features affect attentional bias by exploiting motion induced blindness. The illusion features the perceptual disappearance of a salient target when surrounded by motion, and the effect is facilitated by attention to the target. Therefore, a face displaying more dominance would prioritize attention, decreasing attention allocated to the target, thereby reducing target disappearance.

POSTER 4**COMPREHENSION AND PRODUCTION OF PHRASE BOUNDARIES: THE IMPACT OF AGE OF ACQUISITION**

OLIVIA FREUDMAN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), GABRIELLA AVAGYAN (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK), SAMUEL SOHN (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK), STEN KNUSTEN (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK), KARIN STROMSWOLD (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK)

We investigated how early language exposure affected 58 adults' comprehension and production of phrase boundary prosody. All learned English from birth or early childhood, and said English was their dominant language. Native English-speaking adults were faster and more accurate at understanding and producing phrase boundaries than adults whose dominant language is English, but whose parents weren't native English speakers. This suggests that second language exposure prior to age 5 doesn't guarantee true native-like prosody.

POSTER 5**CONTEXTUAL DISCRIMINABILITY: SIMILARITY, OPPOSITION AND ANTONYMOUS UNMARKED AND MARKED ADJECTIVES**

WALTER CHARLES (NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)

Contextual discriminability for similarity within and bipolar antonymy and opposition between unmarked and marked adjectives were analyzed. Absolute sorting efficiency increased for similarity, antonymy and opposition and relative sorting increased for opposition and antonymy, similarity. Absolute and relative sorting within unmarked and marked adjectives diverged between semantic relations, but unmarked and marked adjectives deviated minimally in absolute and relative sorting within semantic relations. Semantic relations were optimal to markedness in the representations of adjectives.

POSTER 6**DIFFERENTIAL EFFECTS OF SELF-CONSTRUAL AND STIMULUS SPEED ON DURATION ESTIMATION AND REPRODUCTION**

CADENCE STOLZER (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), YASMIN ABUWI (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), JENNA PEDRICK (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), GABRIEL CONN (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), KATHERINE MOORE (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY)

Time perception can be distorted by multiple factors. We examine the effects of stimulus speed and self-construal on time perception in a single experiment. Replicating prior studies, participants judged fast-moving stimuli as lasting longer than slow-moving stimuli of the same duration in both visual and auditory domains. Contrary to previous studies, whether participants were primed to an independent ("I") or interdependent ("we") self-construal did not have an impact on time perception.

POSTER 7**DISSOCIATING AWARENESS AND PERFORMANCE IN VISUAL REPETITION DETECTION**

CORYANNE MULVEY (MANHATTAN COLLEGE), MARJAN PERSUH (MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the relationship between subjective awareness and performance in a visual repetition task. Building on work suggesting that conscious perception may be richer or sparser than behavioral reports indicate, participants judged whether any item repeated within briefly presented arrays and then rated their visual awareness. Accuracy declined with set size, while awareness ratings did not track performance. These results highlight a dissociation between awareness and task success, informing debates about perceptual richness.

POSTER 8**DO WORRY AND RUMINATION DIFFER? A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF REPETITIVE NEGATIVE THINKING**

TAL ELIYAHU (HUNTER COLLEGE), DAVID L. YAP (THE GRADUATE CENTER), PHAEDRA MIRANDA (HUNTER COLLEGE), HANNAH BUSCH (HUNTER COLLEGE), SEBASTIAN ESCOBAR (HUNTER COLLEGE), JINGLIN PENG (HUNTER COLLEGE), EVELYN BEHAR (HUNTER COLLEGE)

It remains unclear whether worry and rumination represent a single cognitive process or distinct constructs with separate underlying mechanisms. In this study, we analyzed speech samples from high trait worriers and ruminators, who were recorded while discussing their most worrisome or ruminative topics, respectively. Transcriptions were analyzed with a computerized text analysis program. Results revealed that worry and rumination exhibit distinct linguistic markers, reflecting variations in how worriers and ruminators think and express themselves.

POSTER 9**BEHAVIORAL CORRELATES OF PFC-CEREBELLAR VOLUMES AND DIFFERENCES IN ASD**

ALEXANDRIA BARLOWE (BOSTON UNIVERSITY),
CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS (BOSTON
UNIVERSITY)

Using confirmatory factor analysis, exploratory factor analysis and structural equation modeling, we examined whether gray matter (GM) and white matter (WM) volumes in ASD and nonASD populations moderate item intercepts and loadings on latent developmental factors derived from Gesell subscales from Xin et. al (2023). Results indicated significant differential functioning (DIF) by GM and WM for several items, suggesting that neural structure may influence observed developmental scores beyond latent variable constructs in neurodiverse populations.

POSTER 10

DO PEOPLE FORGET YOUR NAME? YOUR FACE MIGHT MATTER: CUE MEMORABILITY EFFECTS

ZHITING TIAN (HAMILTON COLLEGE), ANDREW COOK (HAMILTON COLLEGE), MADELEINE CERONE (HAMILTON COLLEGE)

The purpose of this study was to investigate whether source details are enhanced when paired with intrinsically memorable stimuli. Participants viewed highly memorable images (faces or scenes) that were presented on either the left or right of the screen, then retrieved which side the image was seen on. Across 3 experiments, participant memory was superior for locations associated with highly over lowly memorable images. Therefore, memorability may be an under utilized tool in learning paradigms.

POSTER 11

DOES MODALITY MODERATE MEMORY IN THE SURVIVAL PROCESSING PARADIGM?

SARAH JONES (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), JEANETTE ALTARRIBA (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

Previous research shows that information processed for its survival relevance enhances recall as compared to other types of encoding (i.e., self-relevance, imagery, etc.; Nairne et al., 2008). Additionally, past findings have revealed that memory can be enhanced with oral presentation of information when it comes to passage reading (De Beni & Moè, 2003). The current study examines the potential role of modality (i.e., visual or auditory) in enhancing memory in the survival processing paradigm.

POSTER 12

EARLY ACOUSTIC CUES IN ACTIVE AND PASSIVE SENTENCES BASED ON LANGUAGE EXPOSURE

SOURISH VANKADARI (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), SERENA CHEENATH (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), STEN KNUTSEN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), SAM SOHN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), KARIN STROMSWOLD (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK)

We studied 45 college students who reported English was their best language. Students who learned English from birth and those who learned English as a Second Language during early childhood were equally good at understanding active and passive sentences. However, native English-speaking participants spoke faster and with different prosody, producing actives and passives differently starting at the first noun phrase. Thus, for spoken language, the critical acquisitional window is earlier for production than comprehension.

POSTER 13

EEG CORRELATES OF LINGUISTIC ERROR DETECTION IN TURKISH LEARNERS AND BILINGUAL SPEAKERS

MAX LOBEL (UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA), JULIA MOSES (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), VALERIA MODINA (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), MAYA ROSE (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), ARSHIA LODHI (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), SABINA SHARIFOVA (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), VALERIE SHAFER (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), PATRICIA BROOKS (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER, COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND)

Using a picture-word verification task, we examined EEG correlates of lexical and morphological error detection in adult L2 learners and bilingual speakers of Turkish. Both groups showed an N400 in response to lexical errors. Bilinguals showed a P600 in response to morphological errors. In contrast, L2 learners showed a prolonged negativity, resembling ERPs to lexical errors. These results provide a window into emerging neural sensitivity to morphological errors in an understudied language.

POSTER 14

EFFECTS OF ENCODING INSTRUCTIONS ON ASSOCIATIVE MEMORY IN AGING

NETHMI HETTIARACHCHI (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), MEREDITH PATTERSON (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), ALANIS LORRAINE CAEZ-LUGO (SALISBURY)

UNIVERSITY), NIA LOCKWOOD (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), ECHO LEAVER (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY)

Research indicates that older adults often show reduced associative recognition compared to younger adults, and strategy training can lessen this deficit. The mechanisms driving this improvement remain unclear. This study extends prior work by incorporating EEG to determine whether strategy use strengthens associative binding or increases retrieval monitoring. By examining ERP components linked to recollection and monitoring, this project aims to clarify how strategy instructions influence associative memory processes in aging.

POSTER 15

EFFECTS OF INTERTRIAL PRIMING ON CONTINGENT ATTENTIONAL CAPTURE AND SET-SPECIFIC CAPTURE

GABRIEL CONN (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), VICTORIA FEDORKO (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), ZOE KEMPF (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), ZEPHYR MARKLEY (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), KATHERINE MOORE (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY)

Contingent attentional capture and set-specific capture are two phenomena that highlight the automatic direction of attention to distractors sharing features with a target in a visual search. In five experiments, we demonstrate how priming of a search goal on a previous trial interacts with these two types of capture. These findings reveal the temporal dynamics of attentional set enhancement.

POSTER 16

EFFECTS OF TRAIT ANXIETY, COGNITIVE LOAD, AND EMOTIONAL DISTRACTORS ON WORKING MEMORY

KAMYAH JOHNSON (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), REBECCA HOUSTON (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), TINA SUTTON (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Trait anxiety is the persistent tendency to worry about stressful situations. Trait anxiety is known to disrupt cognitive processes such as working memory (WM), specifically in high cognitive load situations. Individuals with high trait anxiety also often focus more on threat-related emotional stimuli compared to neutral stimuli in WM tasks, which can be distracting. The current proposed research aims to examine how trait anxiety, cognitive load, and emotional distractors affect visual working memory.

POSTER 17

EFFECTS OF STRESSOR OCCURRENCE ON SPATIAL WORKING MEMORY IN DAILY LIFE

ARUTHRA RANJITHPRABHU (UNION COLLEGE), GISELLE FERGUSON (UNION COLLEGE)

Stress reliably impairs working memory in lab studies, but less is understood about its effects in daily life. Utilizing ecological momentary assessments from 207 U.S. adults (ages 18–82), our study examined the relationship between stressor exposure and momentary spatial working memory performance. Although momentary and daily-level stress were unrelated to performance, higher person-level stress was surprisingly associated with better performance, suggesting that unlike in the lab, real-world stress exposure may enhance cognitive functioning.

POSTER 18

EXAMINING ADHD VS LEARNING MODALITIES USING EEG

ALANIS CAEZ-LUGO (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), KIRSTEN PARSONS (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), NEUSHINTH HETTIARACHCHI (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), ECHO LEAVER (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY)

This study explores how in-person versus virtual learning affects attention and cognitive engagement in college students with and without ADHD. Using EEG, researchers measured brain activity, response times, and performance as participants viewed a standardized lesson. Four groups (ADHD and neurotypical, each in-person and virtual) were compared to assess how learning modality influenced sustained attention.

POSTER 19

EMOTIONAL CLIMATE IMAGES CAPTURE ATTENTION

ZEPHYR MARKLEY (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), ZEPHYR MARKLEY (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), ERIN WALLACE (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), GABRIEL CONN (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), KATHERINE S. MOORE (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY)

Emotional stimuli capture attention more than neutral stimuli. In an attentional blink (AB) task, identification of the second of two targets (T2) in a rapid visual display is often impaired while attention lingers on the first (T1), a finding called the attentional blink (AB). Using climate-related stimuli, we observed smaller ABs for positive and negative T2s than for neutral stimuli. These findings have implications for the use of emotionality in image-based propaganda and social movements.

POSTER 20**EXAMINING GENDER DIFFERENCES AMONGST SPATIAL TASKS BY MANIPULATING EMPATHY AND NEUTRAL STIMULI**

MAKAYLA PORZIO (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY), LINDSEY LAPLANT (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY)

This study aimed to understand if empathy played a role in women's ability to successfully complete spatial abilities tasks. Spatial ability scores between men and women were tested when a person, object, or no anchor was present. It was hypothesized that empathy was not a mediating factor, but rather the presence of a 2D object in the scene that increased scores. Results indicated no difference between conditions. Limitations and future directions will be discussed.

POSTER 21**GRATITUDE ENGAGEMENT IMPROVES COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE**

LAURA EGAN (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE), JOSE SAENZ (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE), JOSEPH CILIOTTA (FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE)

This study examined whether gratitude writing benefits college students by assessing burnout, heart rate variability (HRV), and executive functioning. Although burnout did not relate to baseline HRV or task performance, HRV significantly decreased during letter writing, reflecting heightened attentional focus. Greater engagement (measured by word count and perceived gratitude) predicted faster Stroop performance and fewer no-go errors. These findings suggest that gratitude interventions can enhance cognitive functioning, but effects depend on students' level of engagement.

POSTER 22**HAUNTED BY EMOTION: MEMORY ACCURACY AFTER IMMERSIVE NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES**

ISABELLA TURNER (MARIST COLLEGE), ANNA BLUMENTHAL (MARIST COLLEGE), KIMERY LEVERING (MARIST COLLEGE)

Recent studies find virtual reality (VR) enhances immersion and emotional arousal but decreases memory, a pattern not common outside VR. To explore, participants viewed a frightening video on a computer screen or a VR headset. They rated their emotions before/after, completed an intrusions task, and a memory test while connected to a GSR monitor. We found no significant effect on memory accuracy or number of intrusions, but a trend showed increased negative emotions from VR.

POSTER 23**EXAMINING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN COGNITIVE CONTROL USING EEG**

CONGHAO GAO (NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY), JOSHUA CARLSON (NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY)

The study explores the individual differences in cognitive control based on the dual mechanisms of cognitive control model. By examining behavioral task results from AXCTP tasks and neuroimaging results of P300 ERP amplitude, we expect that larger P300 amplitude than those who tend to use reactive control in both AXCTP tasks. Overall larger P300 amplitude will also be expected in AXCTP interference task, regardless of individuals' proactive tendency.

POSTER 24**EXAMINING INTERACTIVE EFFECT OF ANXIETY RISK AND CONCUSSION HISTORY ON COGNITIVE IMPULSIVITY**

ALYSSA HOUSLEY (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), MEGHAN DAVIS CAULFIELD (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY)

Concussions and anxiety are both associated with cognitive control impairment. This study examines whether concussion and risk for anxiety modulate cognitive impulsiveness. To determine whether decision-making differences are related to neural activity, we will measure prefrontal cortical activity during a delay discounting task. We hypothesize that participants self-reporting both high behavioral inhibition and a history of concussion will demonstrate increased cognitive impulsivity in conjunction with decreased prefrontal cortical activity during decision making.

POSTER 25**FACIAL RECOGNITION AND SOCIAL ANXIETY**

KAYLA HARCHUSKA (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), SHAWN GALLAGHER (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), SHAUN COOK (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), RICHARD JOSEPH BEHUN (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

The present study investigated if facial recognition was correlated with social anxiety with the Cambridge Face Memory Test (CFMT) and Social Interaction Anxiety Scale (SIAS). A new Baby Face Test (BFT) was developed to investigate correlations with the CFMT. A median split showed a significant negative correlation between the CFMT and SIAS scores for the bottom half of CFMT scores, but no relationship between the top half or between the BFT and CFMT.

POSTER 26**FIRST THINGS FIRST: SERIAL LETTER PROCESSING EFFECTS IN VISUAL WORD RECOGNITION**

NIKA DOLYNUK (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), SYLVIA LAVIN (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), LUCY ALTMAN-COE (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), AMELIA HALL (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), SHELBY KAISER (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), REBECCA JOHNSON (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

The current study utilized a naming task to assess whether readers decode letters serially from left-to-right, testing claims of the DRC Model. High frequency words were named faster than low frequency words, regular words were named faster than irregular words, and words presented left-to-right were named faster than those presented right-to-left. However, in contrast to predictions of the DRC model, the serial presentation effects did not differ as a function of word type.

POSTER 27**HOW DO NATIVE ENGLISH AND EARLY ESL SPEAKERS INTERPRET AMBIGUOUS QUESTIONS**

CAMILA DABOIN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), JANE LUTKEN (WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY), KARIN STROMSWOLD (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK)

We investigated how age of acquisition affects adults' comprehension of ambiguous wh-questions like "When did she announce she would retire?" Native monolingual English-speaking college students processed ambiguous wh-questions faster than English-dominant students who learned English as a second language (ESL) in early childhood. Early ESL speakers' preference for short distance interpretations (when she made the announcement) over long distance interpretations (when she would retire) was greater than it was for native English speakers.

POSTER 28**IDIOSYNCRASY OF EMOTION LANGUAGE**

SHRIYA BISWAS (UNION COLLEGE), GISELLE FERGUSON (UNION COLLEGE (NY))

Standardized affect scales may not always capture how individuals label their emotional experiences. This study evaluated ecological validity by comparing participant use and understanding of researcher-provided and participant-generated affect terms using EMA. Participants produced 490 unique terms, many of which are absent from standard scales. Participant understanding of these had partial alignment with

researcher-provided terms, but still noticeable divergences. Results reveal considerable individuality in emotional vocabulary and emphasize the need for flexible affect assessment.

POSTER 29**ILLUMINATING MEMORY: EFFECTS OF COLORED LIGHT ON AFFECT AND VALENCE WORD RECOGNITION**

EMILY TIBBETTS (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KIMERY LEVERING (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

Research on the effect of colored light on mood and memory is mixed and its interaction with stimuli valence is relatively unexplored. In the current study, participants observed colored light (red, green, or blue) or a control light before and while hearing positive, neutral, and negative words. They then reported affect and completed a recognition task. Although light condition did not influence affect, red light led to reduced recognition memory relative to blue and white.

POSTER 30**INVESTIGATING GRAPHEME-COLOR SYNESTHESIA AND MEMORY**

KARINA HOSSAIN (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), SHAWN GALLAGHER (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

Grapheme-color synesthesia is a phenomenon in which numbers and letters elicit specific color associations. The present study aimed to determine if synesthetes demonstrate a memory advantage when compared to control participants. Eleven synesthetes and ten controls completed a visual subtest of the Wechsler Memory Scale and a free-recall wordlist task. This sample of college students showed above-average memory performance, but synesthetes performed no better than non-synesthetes.

POSTER 31**HOW THE MEMORABILITY OF DISTRACTOR STIMULI INFLUENCES EMOTION-INDUCED BLINDNESS**

AMY MACGLASHING (WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE), BRITTANY M. JEYE (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY)

Research shows that targets are less likely perceived when following an emotional distractor (i.e., "emotion-induced blindness"). This study examined whether the memorability of emotional distractors influences this effect. Participants identified rotated target images within a rapid serial visual presentation. Emotional distractors appeared two or eight images before the

target and varied in memorability (high, low, or scrambled). Analyses revealed a significant interaction between distractor memorability and lag position, with high-memorability distractors producing an attentional blink.

POSTER 32

INVESTIGATING NEURAL NOISE AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH LOW VS HIGH ADHD/TIKTOK

NAHILA NZINA (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), JASON CABRAL (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), ANDREW CIPRIAN (CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), HANH NYUGEN (CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), CHEN LI (UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER), ROBERT MELARA (CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

Short Abstract: This study explores neural noise variability in college students who present low vs high inattentive ADHD symptoms and TikTok usage. Undergraduate students were required to complete visual selective attention tasks and complete surveys on TikTok usage and the Adult ADHD Questionnaire. Based on previous literature on ADHD, neural noise and social media, we expect that individuals with ADHD and higher social media usage would exhibit more neural noise.

POSTER 33

INVESTIGATING PERCEPTUAL SHIFTS IN MEDITATIVE FOCUS

BRIANA ALCINDOR (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), MELISA SHARKLY (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), LILY BARCOHANA (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), BEKAH RUIZ (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), AMY PATEL (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), LEKHANA RAMACHANDRA (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), JOVELIS TORIBIO (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), ROBERT ALEXANDER (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Meditation has been linked to many changes in perception, including the blurring of boundaries between objects. Here, we explore some of these reported experiences. We recorded participants' eye movements as they completed a meditative task in the lab. Half of our participants reported experiencing perceptual changes. Some of which are connected to their eye movement behaviors. Our results provide a path towards a better understanding of the underlying processes behind perceptual changes during meditation.

POSTER 34

IRRELEVANT COLOR SINGLETONS DO NOT CAPTURE ATTENTION IN A 3D SEARCH TASK

THOMAS GHIRARDELLI (GOUCHER COLLEGE), DJ HOWELL (GOUCHER COLLEGE), CLARA PHELPS (GOUCHER COLLEGE), SAMUEL DYLAN (GOUCHER COLLEGE), ATHENA SAVICK (GOUCHER COLLEGE), LILY PERRON (GOUCHER COLLEGE), NATASHA RAMSLAND (GOUCHER COLLEGE), HOPE VERSCHLEISER (GOUCHER COLLEGE)

Numerous studies have shown that a salient but irrelevant singleton can capture attention in a typical visual search task using a 2D display and a button response. We presented a color singleton in a 3D visual search task requiring participants to retrieve a LEGO® target that was a size singleton among a set of LEGO®s. We found that an irrelevant color singleton did not capture attention when the target was defined by size.

POSTER 35

MEMORIES OF THE 2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE: CLEAR OR CLOUDY?

WENDY BRAJE (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), STEVE MANSFIELD (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), DAYTON CUBILLO-DREHER (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), DANA DELLES (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), KATHRYN GUYER (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), CHRISTINE PARMETER (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), HANNAH PEROZA (SUNY PLATTSBURGH), GRACE RACICOT (SUNY PLATTSBURGH)

The SUNY Plattsburgh campus was in the direct path of the April 2024 solar eclipse, offering a unique opportunity to study autobiographical memories. We compared immediate reports of details of the eclipse with memories of those details 11 months later. Here we report findings for memories of the weather, which we found to be only 50% accurate overall. This is surprising given that participants were typically outside looking at the sky for over an hour.

POSTER 36

IS IT REALLY THAT BAD? HOW DEPRESSION EFFECTS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY RECALL

SOPHIE MILANI (MARIST COLLEGE), NICHOLAS ROSE (MARIST COLLEGE), KIMERY LEVERING (MARIST COLLEGE)

This study looked at how the emotional tone of cued autobiographical memories is affected by depression symptoms. Participants filled out Beck's Depression Inventory and described memories based on cue words that were positive, neutral, and negative. Memory

narratives were AI-coded for emotional valence. Overall, greater depression was associated with fewer positive words. While cue valence significantly influenced memory tone, that pattern did not depend on depression. Findings suggest depression predominantly reduces positivity in autobiographical recollection.

POSTER 37

LOW-FREQUENCY EEG OSCILLATIONS IN PHONOLOGICAL DEFICITS: RESTING-STATE EVIDENCE FROM DEVELOPMENTAL DYSLEXIA SUBTYPES

LAURA COLONNA DE LEGA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), YAQI YANG (CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG), DEVIN KEARNS (NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY), FUMIKO HOEFT (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), SILVIA SIU-YIN CLEMENT-LAM (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Developmental dyslexia (aka reading disorder) is a language-based condition primarily characterized by phonological processing deficits. Neural oscillations measured by Electroencephalogram (EEG), particularly in the delta and theta ranges, have been implicated in these phonological and speech-related processes. This study examines resting-state spectral power in these frequency bands in school-aged children (7-10 years old), focusing on reading-disorder subtypes with versus without phonological impairments, and evaluates whether their EEG signals differentiate them from typical readers.

POSTER 38

IT'S ALIVE: THE INFLUENCE OF PERCEIVED ALIVENESS ON RECALL

LAUREN HOWARD (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), LAUREN VELAZQUEZ (FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE), LESLIE ROLLINS (CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY)

The animacy effect suggests better memory for animate versus inanimate items. This study explored if a gradient of perceived aliveness influences this effect. Participants rated and recalled pictures from five categories: mammals, insects, plants, manipulable objects, and other objects. Mammals and insects were rated highest and recalled best, while plants, though alive, were rated lower and recalled similarly to inanimate objects. These results suggest a shift away from animate/inanimate dichotomies when considering memory effects.

POSTER 39

YOUNGER AND OLDER ADULTS' LAY DEFINITIONS OF INTELLIGENCE, KNOWLEDGE, AND MEMORY

JENNIFER COANE (COLBY COLLEGE), DEMI DANKYI (COLBY COLLEGE), CAITLYN FALKOWSKI (COLBY COLLEGE), OTTAVIA CODERONI ROUSSO (COLBY COLLEGE), ASHLEY KWON (COLBY COLLEGE), MAY MCCOLLUM (CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE), SHARDA UMANATH (CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE)

Given how intelligence is valued and used in society, and how interconnected it is with knowledge and memory, it is important to understand what laypeople – those who ultimately will be working with, recruiting, evaluating, teaching, or supporting individuals with varying levels of "intelligence" – think intelligence actually is. Younger and older adults provided open-ended definitions of these constructs, which were coded along theoretically derived dimensions, providing insight into lay conceptions of these cognitive abilities.

POSTER 40

LEARNING CURVES IN ASSESSMENT OF PROSE AND NONVERBAL MEMORY

SAMANTHA WISE (CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY), ABIGAIL KREMPA (CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY), AMIR POREH (CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY)

Current measures of prose and nonverbal memory assessment often utilize a one or two trial format, which does not allow for visualization of the learning curve. These assessments may be impacted by factors such as attention, and may not fully account for the process of learning. The current study proves the existence of near perfect fit logarithmic learning curves for two novel assessments of memory, which may be less prone to influence by attentional factors.

POSTER 41

METACOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF SARCASM ACQUISITION: INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN AUTISTIC TRAITS

SEHENI KARIYAWASAN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), XINYI TONG (HARVARD UNIVERSITY), AYALA VALERIA MAZIN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SOFIA BERTONE (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JIA LIU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JACQUELINE KANE (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ANTHONY REALES (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ALEXANDRIA BARLOWE (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Research on nonliteral language comprehension is extensive, yet little is known about individuals' metacognitive awareness of explicitly learning sarcasm. In 70 adults, we examined whether autistic-like traits and language background predicted beliefs about having "learned" sarcasm. Higher CATI Communication scores significantly predicted lower endorsement of explicit learning, whereas Social Interactions and language-group effects were nonsignificant. Findings suggest that pragmatic-communicative tendencies, rather than general sociability or English experience, shape metacognitive beliefs about sarcasm acquisition.

POSTER 42

MODALITY MATTERS: EXPLORING THE EFFECTS OF READING VS. LISTENING ON TEXT COMPREHENSION

JADYN STEVENS (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND),
SABRINA PACKER (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND),
JENNIFER STIEGLER-BALFOUR (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND)

This study examines comprehension differences across three modalities: reading, listening, and reading-while-listening (RWL) for narrative and expository texts in college students. A moderation analysis highlights modality as a significant predictor of reading comprehension, suggesting better comprehension in the reading condition compared to either the listening or RWL conditions. The study investigates interactions with reading skill, working memory, and neurodiversity, with the purpose to guide educational uses of audiobooks and accessibility for diverse learners.

POSTER 43

MODERATION OF RELIGIOSITY ON UNCERTAINTY INTOLERANCE AND ANXIETY

ALEXA PRESTON (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), KRYSTYNA GRISWOLD (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MARIA FRACASSO (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

Religiosity may buffer the relationship between uncertainty intolerance (UI) and anxiety, thereby supporting better mental health. Participants were recruited through a convenience sample of 116 college students in the US. Moderation analysis showed that religiosity weakened the link between UI and anxiety across all levels of religiosity. These findings suggest that professionals can develop interventions targeting UI and anxiety that incorporate an individual's religious beliefs.

POSTER 44

MINDFULNESS, PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, AND THE EMOTIONAL ATTENTIONAL BLINK (EAB)

NOELLE D'AMICO (SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY),
SUNAYNA AVILALA, BRIDGET ESPOSITO, MEGHAN HOLLAN, SOPHIA HOWARD, ISABELLA IACOBUCCI,
DANIELLE SANGERMANO, AVA SICONOLFI, ILANA HALIWA

The current analysis tested the effects of mindfulness and psychological diagnoses on emotional attentional blink (EAB) performance. Fifty-seven college students were randomly assigned to either a mindfulness meditation or active control, followed by the EAB task. There were no significant main effects of mindfulness, psychological diagnoses or their interaction on EAB performance, suggesting that a brief mindfulness meditation and prior diagnoses may not impact emotional attention in this context.

POSTER 45

MODELING STRATEGY USE IN NUMBER LINE ESTIMATION TASKS ACROSS AGES AND FORMATS

DEBORAH CAMPOS (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY), MIA DEZELIC (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY), ELIA MATRICIAN (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY), HILARY BARTH (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY)

Number line estimation tasks can provide insight into individuals' numerical reasoning abilities. We applied quantitative models of number line performance to data from two experiments in which children ($n = 48$, ages 9-12), and adults ($n = 46$) completed paper- and computer-based estimation tasks on a 0-1000 number line. Findings suggest task format may influence cognitive strategies, and that children and adults may use reference points differently to perform the tasks.

POSTER 46

PERCEPTUAL BIAS IN AI ART: EXPECTATIONS SHAPE VISUAL JUDGMENT AND ATTENTION PATTERNS

XIAOAI LIN (CLARK UNIVERSITY), ALENA ESPOSITO (CLARK UNIVERSITY), JIMIN LEE (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined participants' ability to distinguish AI-generated from human-created artworks across portrait and landscape images. Participants struggled to accurately identify AI artworks, with accuracy differing by image type. Artworks believed to be human-made received higher liking and creativity ratings, revealing strong perceptual biases. Lower gaze entropy predicted correct classifications, indicating more focused attention. The study extends the

Perceptual Bias Activation Framework to explain how expectations and attentional processes shape evaluations of AI art.

POSTER 47

MORAL FOUNDATIONS IN BILINGUALS: MANDARIN & ENGLISH SPEAKERS

JINGXUAN FENG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), TZU-CHEN LIN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), YUFEI YANG (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

Language is a core element of culture and shapes moral judgment. This study examines how Chinese-English bilinguals' moral reasoning shifts depending on the language used. Participants were randomly assigned to either Mandarin or English versions of the Moral Foundation Questionnaire, cultural value measures, emotional-resonance assessments, and moral vignettes. When reasoning in English, participants exhibit reduced emotional resonance and weaker culturally rooted moral intuitions, consistent with cultural frameshifting and the Moral Foreign Language Effect.

POSTER 48

MORE NORMATIVE EVENT SEGMENTATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER TEMPORAL DISCOUNTING.

LUIS S. GARCIA CAMPOS (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), JONATHAN GRANT (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), CHLOE A. OTT (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), AREESHA RIAZ (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), HEATHER GITTELSON (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), KAROLINA M. LEMPERT (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

Temporal discounting is the tendency to prefer smaller-sooner rewards over larger-delayed rewards, and it varies across individuals. These individual differences might be related to memory processes such as event segmentation. Participants listened to a short story, identified event boundaries in it, and completed a temporal discounting task. More normative event segmentation (boundaries that corresponded more with consensus boundaries) predicted lower discounting, indicating that how people structure continuous experience may shape future-oriented choice.

POSTER 49

NATURE AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE IN AN OLDER ADULT POPULATION

JOSEPHINE ABBOTT (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH), AVERY KNOWLTON (UNIVERSITY OF

MINNESOTA DULUTH), ABBY SMITH (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH), BELLA THOMAS (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH), REBECCA GILBERTSON (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH)

This study examined the effects of intentional nature exposure on cognitive functioning in an older adult population as represented by performance on a battery of cognitive tasks. Participants completed measurements of stress and well-being and assessments of key aspects of cognition. Preliminary analyses indicate that intentional nature engagement is associated with improvements in cognition.

POSTER 50

PAYING THE PRICE: HOW FINANCIAL AND HEALTH STRAIN IMPACT ADAPTIVE MEMORY

BAILEY HALL (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), JEANETTE ALTARRIBA (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

This study investigated whether modern stressors and participants' life experiences enhance memory similar to survival contexts. Participants imagined financial, health-related, or ancestral survival scenarios before rating and recalling words. For those who were financially secure and healthy, a survival advantage was present. However, recall levels were comparable across scenarios for those who had experienced these stressors which shows that thinking about financial and health stressors for these individuals is akin to thinking about their survival.

POSTER 51

PERCEPTUAL DEPTH MODULATES GAZE CUEING: EVIDENCE FROM THE PONZO ILLUSION

PRISHA BISHEN (BARD COLLEGE), THOMAS HUTCHEON (BARD COLLEGE)

Most gaze-cueing studies use 2D stimuli, even though vision evolved in natural 3D environments. We tested whether perceived depth modulates gaze cueing and whether this differs for face versus arrow cues. Participants showed a typical gaze-cueing effect, and depth cues altered responses based on perceived distance. Notably, depth-based modulation appeared only for arrow cues, suggesting depth enhances attentional orienting from non-social signals more than social gaze. Keyword: perceptual depth

POSTER 52

NEURAL NOISE DIFFERENCES AMONG WOMEN WITH LOW VS. HIGH BODY DISSATISFACTION

ZOBIA JAMAL (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK),
NAHILA NZINA, YARELIZ RAMOS, ARFATH
CHOWDHURY, ANDREINA MARTINEZ, NICOLE SERINO,
ROBERT MELARA (CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

This study examines neural noise differences in women who report low versus high levels of body dissatisfaction. Participants completed visual selective attention tasks while EEG data were recorded, alongside surveys assessing body image attitudes and related affective symptoms. Drawing on prior research linking body dissatisfaction with altered cognitive-affective processing and increased neural noise, we expect that women with higher body dissatisfaction will exhibit greater neural noise than those with lower body dissatisfaction.

POSTER 53

PERSONALITY AND EMOTION VARIABLES IN THE AUTOKINETIC WORD TECHNIQUE

OLIVIA STRUMOLO (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY), FRANCESCA CARRILLO (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

A single small stationary spot of light in a dark environment will appear to move. This autokinetic effect can be used as a technique to elicit the perception of words. Previous research has found that personality traits such as extroversion and neuroticism may affect the type and number of words produced. The current study further explores the relationship between personality type and emotional state of the observer, and the number and type of words produced.

POSTER 54

PROBLEM SOLVING DEFICITS IN INDIVIDUALS WITH A HISTORY OF CONCUSSION

JOEL BISH (URSINUS COLLEGE), EMILY VEASEY (URSINUS COLLEGE), TYLER HERRING (URSINUS COLLEGE), ASHTON NEWSWANGER (URSINUS COLLEGE), SYDNEY D'AVERSO (URSINUS COLLEGE), MADISON JOLIE (URSINUS COLLEGE), LUKE HANSEN (URSINUS COLLEGE), DINARA NURDAULET (URSINUS COLLEGE)

Concussions have been linked to executive function deficits including problem solving changes. This study examined the impact of concussions using a computer version of the Tower of London. Participants completed the Tower Test while fNIR examined their frontal lobes. Concussed individuals performed equivalently to controls in terms of accuracy, however, their strategy was altered. Concussed individuals demonstrated altered frontal lobe function. Results are discussed in relation to executive function deficits resulting from frontal lobe changes.

POSTER 55

PROCESSING SPEED AND WORKING MEMORY ON COGNITIVE ABILITIES

HEATHER BRANSFIELD (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY),
GERALD T. VOELBEL (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

The current study investigates the effects of processing speed on working memory in the context of traditional neuropsychological tests, namely the Paced Auditory Serial Addition Test (PASAT). The PASAT was modified to remove time constraints and test whether working memory scores increase in their absence. Preliminary results showed that working memory improves when time constraints are removed.

POSTER 56

PROSPECTIVE MEMORY, ATTENTION, AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

KERRI GOODWIN (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MERIUM TOPPA (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), RILEY PETRICK (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), MEGAN YELINEK (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

We investigated the relationships between self-reported prospective memory (PM), mindful attention, and social media use in college-aged students. PM requires attentional resources to be successful, and being mindful can be characterized as the ability to pay attention to one's sensory and perceptual surroundings without being distracted by other thoughts. We found that PM failures were associated with other memory and attention failures and more social media use. Strategies for improved PM are discussed.

POSTER 57

READING STILL WINS: THE CENTRAL ROLE OF WORKING MEMORY IN MODALITY-BASED COMPREHENSION

ELLA MURTHI (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND),
NATALIE HIGGINS (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND),
TRINITY HUFF (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND),
JENNIFER STIEGLER-BALFOUR (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND)

This study examined how ADHD symptoms and working memory capacity predict reading comprehension across three presentation conditions. Participants showed the highest comprehension when reading, followed by Reading-while-listening (RWL), and the lowest while listening. Multiple regression analyses revealed that working memory capacity significantly predicted recognition scores demonstrating that listening and RWL may impose greater demands on working memory than reading alone. Overall, results highlight the central role of

working memory in modality-based differences in comprehension.

POSTER 58

ROLE OF SUBJECTIVE EMOTIONALITY AND SLEEP ON MEMORY IN DOWN SYNDROME INDIVIDUALS

MADELEINE PINNEY (BOSTON COLLEGE), JACLYN FORD (BOSTON COLLEGE)

The relationship between emotionality, sleep, and memory may differ between typically developing (TD) and Down syndrome (DS) groups. Individuals aged 15-25 encoded and retrieved positive, negative, and neutral images in 2 sessions, separated by a twelve hour period of sleep or wake. Participants provided valence and arousal ratings for each image. While differences in valence and arousal ratings were observed between groups, ratings were not related to memory performance in either group.

POSTER 59

SHORT LISTS IN THE DRM STILL SHOW FALSE MEMORIES

OLIVIA MORTAS (LE MOYNE COLLEGE), CATILIN CUNNINGHAM (LE MOYNE COLLEGE), THERESA WHITE (LE MOYNE COLLEGE)

This study used a mixed factorial design to examine the Deese-Roediger-McDermott paradigm with recognition memory for 3 word lists that varied in length (5 or 15) and depth of encoding task. The 80 undergraduate participants were tested in groups that were assigned to conditions apriori. ANOVA revealed that list length decreased but did not eliminate false memory. No differences were found in depth of encoding. These findings reveal some parameters of this robust phenomena.

POSTER 60

REFERENTIAL COHESION IS ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN AND AI-GENERATED NARRATIVE CREATIVITY

CONNOR LEAHY (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), KERRY MCCULLAGH (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), PAIGE DONAGHY (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), EMILY HORAN (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), STEPHEN MOELTER (SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY)

Referential cohesion is negatively correlated with creativity. Nineteen students produced short stories; ChatGPT was used to generate eight stories. Stories were blindly rated for creativity. As expected, results showed that lower referential cohesion was associated with higher levels of creativity. In addition, AI-

generated stories were judged to be more creative than human-generated stories. Future work will manipulate AI temperature settings to test associations between AI features and referential cohesion.

POSTER 61

TASK-RELEVANCE OF FEATURES MODERATES OBJECT SUBSTITUTION MASKING

MAYA GJONBALAJ (BARD COLLEGE), KATERYNA PANIKHINA (BARD COLLEGE), SAM GERBER (BARD COLLEGE), THOMAS HUTCHEON (BARD COLLEGE)

In object substitution masking (OSM) the identification of a central target is impaired when it is surrounded by sparse dots (the mask) that remain visible after the target disappears. In our current experiment, we find that this masking occurs at different levels of the visual system based on task-instructions.

POSTER 62

TESTING THE EMOTIONAL TONE OF SHORT POP SONG CLIPS

MATTHEW MCNIERNEY (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), MICHAELA PENN (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), RACHEL BATIZFALVI (COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE), ANNE GILMAN (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

People listen to music for many reasons, including to regulate their emotions. Prior research has established broadly consistent emotional qualities of both classical and popular music. Questions remain about how short an excerpt can still convey emotion and whether personal differences of ethnicity or genre preference shape emotional responses to music. Young adults are identifying emotional qualities of 5s excerpts from Song et al's (2016) 15-20s clips to help answer these questions.

POSTER 63

THE EFFECTS OF CONTACT AND COLLISION SPORTS ON COGNITION IN YOUTH

NIA LOCKWOOD (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), NEUSINTH HETTIARACHCHI (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), ALANIS LORRAINE CAEZ-LUGO (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), JESSI THOMAS (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), EMILY BONIFACE (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY), ECHO LEAVER (SALISBURY UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the cognitive differences between athletes who had engaged in collision and contact sports versus those who had played no sports. Results

showed that athletes in these sports had significantly lower scores in processing speed, executive function, and expressive language, highlighting subtle cognitive effects that may precede chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

POSTER 64

THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIES ON DESTINATION MEMORY

JILL WARKER (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), ERICA CZERWINSKI (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON)

Lies that require more cognitive effort to produce are remembered better. The current study explores whether the ability to remember who you have lied to (destination memory) differs for lies that require more or less cognitive effort to produce. Previous research suggests that people underestimate their ability to remember their lies. The current study also explores whether participants can accurately predict their destination memory for easier and more effortful lies.

POSTER 65

THE EFFECT OF DECEPTIVE VISUAL AND ODOR CUES ON FLAVOR PERCEPTION

PIERO OLAZABAL (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), ANNA CAPUTO (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), VICTORIA CORLESS, CAMRYN BROWN (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY), HELANA GIRGIS (STOCKTON UNIVERSITY)

Sensory experiences influence flavor perception, and this study investigated whether vision or olfaction had a greater influence. Sixty-eight participants tasted 16 variations of sweetened water, differing in color and odor, and were asked to identify their flavors. Results revealed that when two conflicting sensory inputs were presented, color was more influential than odor for flavor perception; however, odor was used more often than color when they were not in conflict.

POSTER 66

WHEN YOUR SECOND LANGUAGE IS YOUR BEST LANGUAGE: PRONOUN COMPREHENSION AND PRODUCTION

SERENA CHEENATH (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), SOURISH VANKADARI (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), STEN KNUTSEN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), KARIN STROMSWOLD (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK)

We investigated how very early language exposure affected adults' comprehension and production of matrix and embedded sentences that contained accusative and reflexive pronouns. Thirteen participants had 2 English-speaking parents and 32 had 0 English-speaking parents. All said English was their "best" language. Although the two groups were equally fast and accurate at comprehending pronominal sentences, they produced them differently. This suggests very early language exposure has a longer lasting impact on language production than comprehension.

POSTER 67

VIGILANCE STRATEGIES IN DIFFERING ENVIRONMENTS: DIRECTIONAL ORIENTATION IN PINNIPEDS

VICTOR ALVEY (MARIST COLLEGE), KRISTY HOUSKEEPER (EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY), NICHOLAS ROSE (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KRISTY BIOUSI (MARIST UNIVERSITY), KEVIN WOO (EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY)

Vigilance during rest is a critical survival strategy for many wild animal species. Although rest supports essential biological processes such as thermoregulation, tissue repair, and metabolic recovery. In this study, we observed the same behavior in harbor and gray seals housed in human care as data previously collected of seals in urban and non-urban environments. Our results show similarities between these two groups and the importance of being able to compare them.

POSTER 68

VIBES AND VISION: THE POWER OF COLOR-WALKING AND ENVIRONMENT ON CREATIVITY

KALISSA ZAIKOFF (HARTWICK COLLEGE), CAROLINE ASPURU (HARTWICK COLLEGE), SYDNEY FRANZA (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ELENA HYSAJ (HARTWICK COLLEGE), MARIA SERRA (HARTWICK COLLEGE), EMMARAY TAYLOR (HARTWICK COLLEGE), XYMIER THOMAS (HARTWICK COLLEGE), ZOE WAGNER (HARTWICK COLLEGE), AMELIA WILLIAMS (HARTWICK COLLEGE), LISA ONORATO (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

This study examined how environmental context and color-walking (a mindfulness practice of softly being aware of a color during walks) influences creativity. Participants viewed one of four videos varying by setting and attention focus (Nature Color-Walk, Nature, Urban Color-Walk, Urban) before completing the Torrance Test of Creative Thinking. Results showed that nature videos increased creative fluency compared to urban videos. However, color-walk instructions did not affect creativity, and no effects were found for originality.

POSTER 69**USING RETRIEVAL PRACTICE TO LEARN ABOUT COGNITIVE DISTORTIONS**

DANNY PORTILLO (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), LEAMARIE GORDON (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY)

Retrieval practice is an effective learning strategy, but its relationship with mental health remains understudied. This study examined whether retrieval practice could help individuals learn about cognitive distortions and whether learning related to changes in well-being. Participants used a retrieval practice app for four weeks to learn about either cognitive distortions or a control topic. Results showed strong learning gains and improved applied knowledge in the cognitive distortions group, but no overall changes in well-being.

POSTER 70**USING FNIRS TO INVESTIGATE PREFRONTAL CORTEX ACTIVITY DURING SPATIAL PATTERN SEPARATION PERFORMANCE**

FABRIZIO DE LAURENTIIS (IONA UNIVERSITY), SHANE JOYCE (IONA UNIVERSITY), MIKAYLA GOMEZ (IONA UNIVERSITY), SARAH WONG-GOODRICH (IONA UNIVERSITY)

Pattern separation is a computational process in the brain that supports memory accuracy by differentiating between highly similar inputs or events. The current study used functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) to measure prefrontal cortex (PFC) activity, based on concentration changes in oxygenated hemoglobin, during a spatial mnemonic discrimination task with varying demands on spatial pattern separation. Results suggest an increase in PFC activity associated with pattern separation performance during memory retrieval.

POSTER 71**USING EEG TO ELUCIDATE EARLY DIFFERENCES DURING THE RETRIEVAL OF MISINFORMATION**

JESSICA KARANIAN (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MAYA WALKER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), ERIN SHAH (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), HOLLY RAHURAHU (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), KORINNE HENNELLY (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), OLIVIA BONACCI (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MANUELA BARANOWSKI (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Many studies have confirmed that exposure to misinformation alters memory reports, yet the timing of these processes remains unclear. In the present student, we recorded EEG from participants while they completed a standard misinformation paradigm.

Behaviorally, participants showed a robust misinformation effect. Of primary interest, ERP results revealed larger LPC amplitudes for consistent versus misleading trials, reflecting greater recollection processes.

POSTER 72**USING A BRIEF VIDEO INTERVENTION TO OVERCOME "WHOLE NUMBER BIAS"**

PIPER RENNERFELDT (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEWARK), LAUREN SCHILLER (KEAN UNIVERSITY), MIRIAM ROSENBERG-LEE (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEWARK)

Children that demonstrate Whole-Number-Bias when comparing decimals erroneously apply the rule "more digits = larger number," leading to incorrect answers on comparisons like 0.27 vs. 0.8. Whole-Number-Biased students also demonstrate lower inhibitory control than "High-Performing" students, suggesting that inhibitory control supports overcoming Whole-Number-Bias. Following a brief video intervention, 54% of Whole-Number-Biased 4th and 5th graders became High-Performing. These students had higher inhibitory control than those who remained Whole-Number-Biased, demonstrating how inhibitory control supports math learning.

POSTER 73**TRAIT MINDFULNESS AND THE ATTENTION NETWORKS**

RAYA CRUSE (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), STANISLAW KOLEK (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), MARCUS WILHELM (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), JAYCELYN FORBES (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ALYSSA CZMYR (EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Research has suggested a relationship between mindfulness and cognitive control. Here, we attempt to confirm observed relationships using objective measures and expand the current understanding of the relationship between mindfulness and attention using the Attention Network Task (ANT; cognitive control) and the Five Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire (FFMQ; mindfulness). Post-error slowing and overall performance on the ANT are expected to be related to non-reactivity (FFMQ), which would deepen our understanding of the mechanisms underlying mindfulness.

POSTER 74**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MENTAL VISUAL IMAGERY AND EMPATHY**

AMRIT KAUR (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

This study aimed to determine the presence of a relationship between mental visual imagery and empathy. Prior literature has found that there is a relationship between the two phenomena, particularly that individuals with aphantasia have lower empathy levels. One hundred eighty-eight individuals across the imagination spectrum completed the Vividness of Visual Imagery Questionnaire and the Interpersonal Reactivity Index. Key findings suggest that there was no statistically significant correlation between mental visual imagery and empathy.

POSTER 75

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RADIOLOGICAL SEARCH: CUEING EFFECTS ON OCULOMOTOR BEHAVIOR

ANGELINA JOSEPH (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), NITI MALI (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), OLA ABOZID (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), LAYLA EL-ROWMEIM (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), MARYAN J. BOTLERO (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), RAUL CASTILLO-LEON (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), TALIA LILIKAKIS (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), AYESHA MULLA (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), MAHA NAVEED (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), AHAYLEE RAHMAN (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), ROBERT G. ALEXANDER (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

When interpreting radiological images, radiologists frequently use prior knowledge to search for abnormalities, a behavior which biases attention and leads to missing important findings. This psychological study examined pre-search cues on shaping attentional control, perceived decision-making, and other behavioral differences between radiologists and non-radiologists when analyzing chest x-rays. Through eye-tracking, this project quantified the effects of precise vs imprecise non-hue text cues in radiologic search tasks.

POSTER 76

THE OBSERVABLE IMPACT OF UNSOLVABLE WORD SCRAMBLE TASKS: STUDY ON LEARNED HELPLESSNESS

NASYA HOSKINS-WARNER (INDEPENDENT)

Learned helplessness is a psychological condition first identified by Seligman and Maier (see Seligman, 1976). Sixty students were/will be randomly assigned to one of three groups, each receiving a list of word scrambles that are either solvable, unsolvable, or mixed. Those who are exposed to the unsolvable word scrambles will solve fewer word scrambles on a test list

and will report greater feelings of helplessness. This study examines how failure may influence motivation and self-belief.

POSTER 77

THE MODERATING ROLE OF COGNITIVE INHIBITION IN PROSPECTIVE MEMORY PERFORMANCE

BLUE PRAXIS (CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE)

Introduction: Prospective memory (PM) enables executing future intentions, but extraneous cognitive load (ECL) can interfere; cognitive inhibition (CI) may buffer it. Method: Participants from a small college completed a Stroop Test (CI) and a Google Forms PM task under low or high ECL (simultaneous speakers as background noise). Results: Results suggest ECL reduces PM independent of CI, effect approaching significance. Discussion: Additional research is required to investigate CI and its relationship to PM and ECL.

POSTER 78

THE IMPROVISING MUSICIAN: EXPLORING TRAINING-DEPENDENT MECHANISMS IN AUDITORY STATISTICAL LEARNING

ERICA KNOWLES (BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC), ETHAN BESSETTE (BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC), SARAH NAQVI (BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC), FERNANDO CRESPO (BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC), MONICKI FIROUZMAND (BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC), MATT ISSA-ABBAS (BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC)

Musical improvisation, as emphasized in contemporary jazz pedagogy, is a complex, multidimensional, and cognitively demanding task. In order to meet the task demands, improvising musicians may develop enhanced auditory skills, such as music-based memory and harmonic knowledge, when compared to non-improvising musicians. The current study explored how improvisation experience, and the skills developed through this training, explain individual differences in auditory statistical learning by facilitating efficient regularity extraction through modality-specific processes.

POSTER 79

THE IMPACT OF MARIJUANA USE ON EMOTIONAL COGNITIVE CONTROL

BRIGID BALDWIN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), SAGE MKIM (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), GRACEANNE WALSH (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), AUDREY WEIL (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

A hallmark of addiction is a loss in cognitive control, which can be seen in changes to N2 and P3, two ERP components related to cognitive control. Our ongoing study focuses on the impact marijuana use has on cognitive control in the face of emotional images, a subset of cognitive control that may be more impacted. Results and implications will focus on impacts from mild to moderate use and how use interacts with mental health.

POSTER 80

THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF WATCHING VS. DOING EXERCISE ON SELECTIVE ATTENTION

ALISSA ROUSE (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK),
ALESSANDRA CARDOSO (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

Exercise is understood to increase cognition, including selective attention performance. When videos are shown to individuals depicting exercise, these individuals may have an increase in physical performance as well as cognitive performance like if they were physically engaged (Tekkus & Mutluay, 2023). We aim to examine if this relationship carries over when using selective attention, by having groups that engage in exercise against those that only watch exercise being done, compared to their baseline performance.

POSTER 81

THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF WATCHING TIKTOK ON SELECTIVE ATTENTION

PATRICIA OKRAH (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK),
ALIVA AKBAR (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

The study aims to examine whether the duration of short-form video viewing influences students' immediate attentional performance. Understanding how different durations of exposure affect attention is important given the widespread use of short-form video platforms among students. This research aims to understand exposure times to TikTok content and attention performance. This study plans to recruit 40 students from City College of New York to complete a selective attention task after watching TikTok for different times.

POSTER 82

THE EFFECTS OF MUSIC LISTENING AND MUSICAL TRAINING ON LEXICAL DECISIONS

KATHERINE E. ESKINE (WHEATON COLLEGE), LEAH E. MAAR (WHEATON COLLEGE), SRIYA V. BODAPATI (WHEATON COLLEGE), CONNOR E. BROWN (WHEATON COLLEGE)

To investigate the relationship between music listening, musical training and semantic spreading, 51 undergraduate participants were randomly assigned to a music or spoken-word control condition before completing a lexical decision task. The study successfully replicated the semantic priming effect but music listening did not alter the reaction time to distant words. Musically trained participants showed a notable but non-significant trend toward faster responses, suggesting possible effects of musical training on lexical processing.

POSTER 83

THE EFFECTS OF HANDEDNESS AND TARGET PLACEMENT IN MOTION-INDUCED BLINDESS

JOHN SPARROW (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT MANCHESTER), JENN MADSEN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT MANCHESTER), MADISON WHEELER (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT MANCHESTER), BLAKE DION (VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY), HAZEL KANE (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT MANCHESTER), GABRIELLA AMIRTHAM (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT MANCHESTER), VISHNU SONI (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH)

Motion-induced blindness (MIB) is a visual illusion where stationary targets superimposed on moving mask patterns perceptually disappear (Bonneh et al., 2001). Research shows that placement of the targets plays a significant role in the disappearances, where targets placed at larger fixation eccentricities in the upper-left quadrant of the display are associated with more disappearances. This study examines the role of handedness as it relates to target placement and its relation to hemispheric lateralization of MIB.

POSTER 84

IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER: PERCEIVED INTEREST AND DIFFICULTY LEVEL OF JIGSAW PUZZLES

JAY FRIEDENBERG (MANHATTAN COLLEGE), ROMAN EINHORN (MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY), ANNE HAGAN (MANHATTAN UNIVERSITY)

Jigsaw puzzles at different sizes were presented to undergraduates who rated them in terms of their perceived interest and difficulty level. Jitter was manipulated as the offset of a tab from its corresponding negative space. Ratings increased positively with jitter for both measures and were considered harder but more interesting as piece size decreased. Observers visually imagine tabs locking into each other to solve jigsaws and when this process is disrupted the task becomes harder.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm**

Poster America Ballroom Center/South

**UNDERGRADUATE POSTERS III
Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm**

POSTER 1

**THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE
HISTORY ON HIRING OUTCOMES**

TAMARA DAVIS (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE),
MADELINE EAGLER (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE),
ELIJAH MILLER (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE), BRANDI
KLEIN (SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE)

We examined employability based on disclosure of prior alcohol or drug abuse. We predicted disclosure would reduce employability ratings, and alcohol abuse would be evaluated better than drug abuse. Participants viewed a job ad, cover letter (randomly assigned to conditions: alcohol abuse, drug abuse, or no abuse), and resume. They then rated their likelihood of hiring the employee. Results showed no significant effect of disclosure, suggesting prior substance abuse history does not impact hiring likelihood.

POSTER 2

**QUIET EGO AS A MECHANISM OF VALUE
CALIBRATION IN EMERGING ADULTHOOD**

MARWA ELHAWWAM (FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE), GAB NEAL (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), CADE D. MANSFIELD (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), LEIGH A. SHAW (WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY)

Quiet Ego (QE) is reliably associated with intrinsic aspirations, yet the mechanisms underlying this preference remain unclear. We propose "value calibration," the alignment between the importance of goals and their perceived attainability. In a combined sample of 287 undergraduates, we find that QE predicts better calibration (smaller gaps) for intrinsic goals, whereas Habitual Negative Thinking predicts miscalibration. Results suggest QE fosters not just "better" values, but a more realistic engagement with meaningful goals.

POSTER 3

**STUDENTS' VIEWS ON AGING AND THEIR
WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH OLDER ADULTS**

KATHRIN SABOURIN (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE),
GEORGIE SMITH (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), TATUM
SMITH (PROVIDENCE COLLEGE), CAITLAN TIGHE
(PROVIDENCE COLLEGE)

Using data from a cross-sectional survey study, we examined undergraduate students' (N=103) expectations about aging and how these expectations related to their willingness to work in careers that cater towards aging adults. Our findings showed that positive expectations about mental health and aging were associated with positive attitudes towards working with older adults, increased willingness to do so, and higher levels of perceived behavioral control regarding work with older adults.

POSTER 4

**"THANKS MOM AND DAD!": PARENTAL CARE
AFFECTS EMOTION REGULATION IN YOUNG
ADULTS**

ELLE THOMPSON (BELMONT UNIVERSITY), ERIN
JOHNSON (BELMONT UNIVERSITY), ANGEL MEDINA
(BELMONT UNIVERSITY), CAROLE SCHERLING
(BELMONT UNIVERSITY)

Emotion regulation abilities modulate social interactions. This study examines how parental bonding impacts emotion regulation in young adults. Fifty-eight undergraduates completed a neutral face judgement task, a hostility questionnaire and reported parental care and emotional regulation tendencies. Higher parental care was associated with higher emotional regulation. Higher fault-attributions for ambiguous scenarios were associated with higher emotional regulation difficulties. Parental care improves emotional regulation capability. Early-life experiences and subsequent emotional regulation capabilities modulate adult behavioral responses.

POSTER 5

**DEVELOPMENTAL FACTORS AFFECTS ON
COMPULSIVE MEDIA USE OF TEENS AND YOUNG
ADULTS**

KYLA GIBSON (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ERIC
HOFFMANN (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ARES HUANG
(BOSTON UNIVERSITY), JOHN KIM (BOSTON
UNIVERSITY), RAFAELLA NUNES (BOSTON
UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE CALDWELL-HARRIS
(BOSTON UNIVERSITY), RYO KOSUGE (BOSTON
UNIVERSITY)

Modern life has reduced childhood contact with nature while increasing exposure to highly stimulating digital technologies. This study examined whether early nature experiences protect against internet addiction. Boston University undergraduates completed psychological surveys and interviews assessing

childhood environments, stress, self-control, and screen use. By integrating self-report, developmental history, and behavioral measures, this project investigates whether restorative nature exposure buffers stress and reduces vulnerability to compulsive digital use, providing groundwork for ecological approaches to digital well-being.

POSTER 6

GENDER CONGRUENCE AND ANDROGYNITY IN HETEROSEXUAL ROMANTIC ATTRACTION

MADISON CONSTEIN (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), NATHAN GREENAUER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE MELLO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), KEIRA PELKER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), MASON SOUCHAK (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated how gender-congruence influences romantic attraction among heterosexual, college-aged participants. To reduce social-desirability bias found in earlier work, it used moderately gender-typed stimuli and framed the task as helping singles improve dating profiles. Forty-one participants rated interest in five profiles combining random images with texts varying in masculine or feminine traits. Results showed an overall preference for femininity, though men tended to favor androgynous profiles. This pattern contrasted with initial hypothesized predictions.

POSTER 7

LEADERSHIP COMPETENCE EVALUATIONS BASED ON GENDER

MASON SOUCHAK (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE MELLO (THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY BERKS CAMPUS), NATHAN GREENAUER (THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY BERKS CAMPUS), MADISON CONSTEIN (THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY BERKS CAMPUS), KEIRA PELKER (THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY BERKS CAMPUS)

The present study investigated perceptions of leader effectiveness through the lens of gender role congruence. Participants rated leaders in stereotypically gendered jobs who displayed assertive or collaborative leadership behaviors. Contrary to predictions, assertive leaders of both genders were rated less favorably than collaborative leaders; the differences in target gender were negligible. Exposure to non-normative gender roles did not predict gender differentials in leadership ratings, however older

participants perceived more barriers for assertive female leaders.

POSTER 8

DOES AUTISM TRAIT SEVERITY MODERATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IMPLICIT BIAS AND TRUST?

SARAH TERRANOVA (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), DAMIAN STANLEY (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

Estimating the trustworthiness of others is crucial for social navigation and is influenced by implicit racial bias. Previous work has shown that autistic individuals have intact implicit social biases but it is not known whether the relationship between implicit race biases and trustworthiness estimations remains intact. In this study we examine whether autistic trait severity in a sample of typically developing college students moderates the relationship between implicit biases and trustworthiness estimations.

POSTER 9

CAUGHT BETWEEN WORLDS: EXAMINING THE CORRELATION BETWEEN INTRAGROUP MARGINALIZATION AND BICULTURAL STRESS

VICTORIA GAMARRA (COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT)

This correlational study investigated the relationship between intragroup marginalization and bicultural stress amongst college students. It was hypothesized that results would depict a significant positive correlation between the two variables. Ninety-five undergraduates completed an online questionnaire measuring their intragroup marginalization and bicultural stress. Key findings suggest that a significant positive correlation exists between intragroup marginalization and bicultural stress. These findings call attention to the importance of understanding this relationship when accounting for assimilation.

POSTER 10

THE ROLE OF YOGA AS A COMPLEMENTARY DESIGN FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY

LILA TAYLOR (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), DANIELA MARTIN (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), ANDREA RANDOLPH (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

Yoga has been identified as having potential to be a useful tool for individuals seeking recovery from substance use disorders. Previous research has examined the relationship between yoga and pain for individuals with substance use disorder, but more focus is needed on the mechanisms in which yoga can

impact addiction recovery. In this study, we document changes in internal and physical wellbeing in participants who are newly sober and participating in the experimental yoga group.

POSTER 11

CONFORMITY AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH A VIRTUAL SETTING

MEAGHAN CAMPBELL (GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL), DAVID FRIEDMAN (LEVITTOWN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT)

This study examined if online social pressure influenced conformity among high school students. Two subtests ($n_{\bullet} = 137$, $n_{\bullet} = 107$) assessed potential effects of age, gender, and personality using a survey composed of visual perceptual tasks and fabricated peer responses. Results indicated that underclassmen showed higher conformity, while no clear patterns emerged for gender nor personality. Overall conformity rates were lower than expected, suggesting the need for further investigation into impersonal and virtual peer pressure dynamics.

POSTER 12

SUBSTRATE AND LIGHT COLOR PREFERENCE IN CAMPONOTUS ANTS

KATHRYN KELLY (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), ELIZABETH GENNARI (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE)

Visual reception among insects is well studied; the results generally indicate a preference for UV and green light (Aksoy & Camlitepe, 2018). Research about sight or texture in the ants (family Formicidae) often focuses on morphological adaptations or conditioned associations; though ants are eusocial, little research investigates their vision and tactility on a spontaneous level. We developed a series of experiments to test if texture or lighting impacts the behavior of *Camponotus* ants more often.

POSTER 13

COPING WITH MINORITY STRESS: LONGITUDINAL IMPACTS OF LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS' SELF-COMPASSIONATE WRITINGS

MARIN MCPHEE (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE), ELIZABETH PARKS-STAMM (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE)

Exploring coping interventions for LGBTQ+ individuals with sustained benefits is essential, as stressors such as internal and external stigma threaten mental health outcomes. The mental and identity wellbeing of

LGBTQ+ individuals were assessed before and after completing ten minutes of self-compassionate writing for five days. This study seeks to assess longitudinal outcomes of this intervention and differences between internal versus external stigma stressor writing focuses.

POSTER 14

VR AS A TOOL FOR STUDYING SPATIAL PERCEPTION

NELA CHESTOJANOVA (SAINT LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), ELYSSA TWEDT (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY)

This pilot study explored whether virtual reality (VR) can replicate the affective qualities of real environments. Twenty participants viewed four campus locations (indoor/outdoor; real/VR) and completed the Affective Quality of Places Questionnaire (Russell & Pratt, 1980). Pleasantness was higher in real environments, though differences were not statistically significant; arousal ratings were similar across conditions. These preliminary results suggest VR may approximate real-world affective perceptions, but larger samples are needed to rigorously evaluate this claim.

POSTER 15

THE LANGUAGE OF STORIES: EFFECTS OF CONSOLIDATION ON THE COMMUNICATION OF MEMORIES

HEMISH NAIDOO (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), EMILY COWAN (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

Understanding how consolidation influences the content and structure of memories for everyday experiences is limited. Participants were asked to recall a naturalistic animated short immediately after watching and again one week later, or only after a week's delay. Data collection is ongoing, but participants are expected to show reduced speech rate and proportion of adjectives and adverbs, with greater proportion of nouns, verbs, and emotional words over time, consistent with consolidation's prioritization of salient information.

POSTER 16

WHEN IS DINNER? COMPARING SUBJECTIVE TIME PERCEPTION IN RATS

ABIGAIL SADINSKY (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ALISSA CHRISTENSEN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ETHAN BERI (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), BRIELLE PHILIPPE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), SRINITYA KAMMA (UNIVERSITY OF

CONNECTICUT), GIANNA LAURETANO (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ETAN MARKUS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Perception of time is subjective; At times it can "fly" and at others it "crawls." Similarly, it seems to pass more rapidly as one ages. Using a Temporal Bisection Task, we are examining subjective time perception in rats. Two types of time intervals are being used: The perception of passage of seconds and of minutes. We will determine sources for individual rat differences in both types of time perception.

POSTER 17

COGNITIVE DECLINE AND DEPRESSION: EXAMINING SYMPTOMOLOGY AND MEDICATION USE IN GERIATRIC SAMPLES

MACY BAYS (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), CATHERINE BIRDEN (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), GARY GLICK (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE)

This study examined associations between depression and cognitive decline in 5,548 adults aged 65 and older using Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) data collected in 2024 from the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center. Results showed no significant differences in cognitive decline between those with and without depression diagnoses. However, those with depressive symptoms one month prior to assessment, those with moderate to severe symptoms, and those treated with medication for depression had significantly more cognitive decline.

POSTER 18

PARKINSON'S DISEASE MOTOR ASYMMETRY SYMPTOMS AND COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT: ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS MOCA DOMAINS

CATHERINE BIRDEN (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE), GARY GLICK (RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE)

Cognitive decline may appear differently in patients with distinct patterns of motor asymmetry, yet past studies yield inconsistent results. Using NACC data (N=5,308), we tested whether motor laterality (left, right, symmetric) in Parkinson's Disease was associated with impairment on the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA). Both total and domain-index scores were analyzed separately. Analyses showed no differences between left and right laterality, with symmetric patients exhibiting more cognitive impairment in total MoCA scores and across domains.

POSTER 19

SOCIAL CONTEXT, COMPETITIVE PRESSURE, AND BEHAVIORAL SHIFTS IN SUPER SMASH BROS. MELEE

HAYLEE KILFEATHER (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE WHEARTY (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ANTHONY GODFREY (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), ALFRED MINGRONE (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), JACOB SCATAGLINI (SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

We analyzed open-ended responses from video game players, examining variation in players' behavior and perceptions of behavior across differing playing modalities. Coding categories (competitiveness, social anxiety, behavioral regulation) emerged from recurring themes across responses. Players largely preferred in-person friendlies, reporting greater respect, emotional control, and communication; while describing online play as more toxic and anxiety-provoking. Competitive environments increased performance focus and risk-averse play (regardless of modality), whereas in-person friendlies encouraged experimentation and expressive behavior.

POSTER 20

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN BELONGING AND DEPRESSION, RESILIENCE, AND SELF-COMPASSION IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

MARINA RIBEIRO (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), KYLIE GRACIA (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), HELEN MACDONALD (EMMANUEL COLLEGE)

College students' sense of belonging may have important ramifications for psychological health. Limited research has examined possible relationships between belonging in multiple contexts and depression, self-compassion, and resilience. In this study's sample of 325 college students, higher levels of peer, faculty, and classroom belonging were associated with greater self-compassion and resilience; peer and classroom belonging were correlated with lower levels of depression. These findings have implications for college student health promotion interventions.

POSTER 21

EXPLORING HOW IDENTITY AND GENERATIONAL STATUS INFLUENCE COLLEGE STUDENT BELONGING

AVA HEIMGARTNER (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), HELEN MACDONALD (EMMANUEL COLLEGE)

First-generation college students (FGCS), ethnic/racial minority students, and commuter students may experience lower levels of college belonging. In this study, 329 participants completed self-report surveys assessing generational status, race/ethnicity, commuter status, and belonging in different settings. Independent samples t-tests revealed that FGCS experienced lower classroom and faculty belonging compared with CGCS. Students from minority backgrounds reported lower belonging in all settings. Institutions should consider implementing specific interventions targeting the unique needs of these populations.

POSTER 22

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS PERCEPTIONS OF SUPPORT AND SUCCESS AMONG STUDENTS WITH ACCOMMODATIONS

AVA BAGHDADY (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), HOLLY BROTT (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Previous research suggests that college students who feel supported by services they receive may feel more accomplished as a result. Fifty undergraduate students registered for accommodations completed scales on perceived support and academic performance. Findings suggest that high feelings of support do not lead to high feelings of success, and among students at CCSU, non-first-generation students felt more supported. Findings emphasize the importance of supporting non-traditional students and highlight a need for additional research.

POSTER 23

INCREASING OPEN CODING ACCURACY AND SPEED WITH COLLABORATIVE CODING TECHNOLOGY

JULIETTE ABRAMSON (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), GIANNA DEPINA (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), OMEED POOYA (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY), JASMINE MENA (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY)

Open coding qualitative data with a team of students can be slow and inconsistent, especially when members are new or join mid-project. We describe how one faculty member and three undergraduates used Dedoose's collaborative features to train coders, monitor interrater reliability, and revise codes over time. Lessons we learned highlight both the challenges of achieving a high kappa statistic and the value of guided discussion for building trust, efficiency, and coding confidence.

POSTER 24

OTHER INFORMANT REPORTS OF TOXIC MASCULINITY: ASSESSING SOCIAL SKILLS IN MEN

IAN YALE (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), JASON SIKORSKI (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Eighty-seven men completed self-reports to assess their toxic masculinity levels. Each participant brought another informant who knew them well to complete the same measures. Consistent with past research, self-reports of toxic masculinity were predictive of men using aggression and violence as coping mechanisms. Other-informant reports were not predictive of coping styles in men. Future research should examine ways that multiple informants could be used to assess outcomes in men who are often stoic and guarded.

POSTER 25

MANYNUMBERS: A MULTI-SITE COLLABORATION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD NUMERACY

KATHERINE GRUVER (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), LUKE RYAN (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), AVA WEIKEL (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), GEORGIA EURE (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY), JENNIFER ASMUTH (SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY)

This international collaboration of 150 study sites investigates variability in early number knowledge, including non-Western (WEIRD) populations. Children ages 2½ - 6 years complete four tasks: a measure of cardinal number knowledge, a rote counting task, a measure of set discrimination, and a general cognitive ability task. Extensive demographic information will provide additional insight into the factors that correlate with early numeracy, which serves as an important foundation for later academic success.

POSTER 26

SERVICE-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP IN POLICING: CHALLENGING TRADITIONAL AUTHORITARIAN VIEWS

AFSIN ARA REHMAN (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), IAN MILLER (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), FAYZA ABBASI (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines how police officers perceive and practice leadership. Officers scored above theoretical midpoints on the Servant Leadership LABS-III, indicating strong servant-leadership values. LAB-III results showed a preference for systemic, collaborative leadership over hierarchical approaches. LBDQ findings reflected a generally balanced style, with slightly

greater emphasis on consideration than initiating structure. Overall, the results provide preliminary quantitative evidence of officers' leadership beliefs and behaviors within law-enforcement settings.

POSTER 27

MEMORY, INTELLIGENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE ACROSS GENERATIONS: HOW TEST PERFORMANCE AFFECTS COGNITIVE PERCEPTION.

CAITLYN FALKOWSKI (COLBY COLLEGE), DEMI DANKYI (COLBY COLLEGE), OTTAVIA CODERONI ROUSSO (COLBY COLLEGE), ELENI KOLOVOS (COLBY COLLEGE), SARA CAWLEY (CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE), SHARDA UMANATH (CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE), JENNIFER COANE (COLBY COLLEGE)

This study examined how performance on general knowledge tests influences self perceptions of knowledge, intelligence, and memory. Younger and older participants completed either an easy or difficult quiz and rated themselves before and after testing. Participants who completed the difficult version reported lower self-ratings and weakened the perceived connection between knowledge and intelligence. These results suggest that brief cognitive experiences can alter self-concept and shape individuals's assessments of their own cognitive abilities.

POSTER 28

EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICAN YOUNG ADULTS' EXPERIENCES NAVIGATING IDENTITY AND SPACE

KELLY JOHNSON (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), JENNIFER F. CHMIELEWSKI (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study explores how a diverse sample of South African young adults navigate and construct their social identities in post-apartheid social and educational spaces. Through semi-structured interviews, key themes emerged: Racial and Structural Inequality; Family influence and Sense of Duty; Authenticity and Self-Presentation. Findings highlight continued structural inequalities in post-Apartheid South Africa and the role of family narratives in shaping racial identity in young adults of the "born-free generation."

POSTER 29

PERCEIVED PARENTING IN RELATION TO EMERGING ADULTS' EMOTION REGULATION STRATEGIES

CATHERINE SAMER (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), JESSICA GRADY (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), SHAUN COOK (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), RACHEL MACINTYRE (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

This study considers how the parenting dimensions of warmth, psychological control, and autonomy support relate to emotion regulation in emerging adults. Emerging adults aged 18- 29 are currently being recruited to participate in this survey study. Findings may clarify how parenting relates to emotion regulation and can inform therapeutic approaches that consider childhood experiences in supporting emerging adults' well-being.

POSTER 30

INVESTIGATING THE INFLUENCE OF ANTHROPIC THINKING ON BEHAVIOR IN VARIOUS ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

ZOE LONDON (INDEPENDENT), JESSICA LEFFERS (ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND)

Humans tend to rely on anthropic thinking and social connotation when it comes to interacting with animals. This study aims to determine how animal-human interactions correlate with anthropomorphism, anthropocentrism, and different animal groups. Results indicated that there was no significant correlation between measured behavior and anthropic thinking, but that more negatively viewed animal groups were treated more aggressively. Understanding different perceptions of animals could help better equip conservation initiatives aimed at protecting specific species.

POSTER 31

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENT WELL-BEING AND GPA

AIDAN MILLER (BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY), JILL M. NORVILITIS (BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY), HOWARD M. REID (BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the relationship between self-reported mental well-being and diagnostic status and how these are connected to college GPA and to motivation in a sample of undergraduate students. The analysis found a small, positive correlation between perceived well-being and GPA and motivation, but not between diagnostic status and GPA and motivation, indicating that better perceived mental health is associated with higher grades and greater motivation.

POSTER 32

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HELICOPTER PARENTING ON RATES OF NEET: A CULTURAL COMPARISON

MOLLY FROTHINGHAM (SUNY BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY), JILL M. NORVILITIS (SUNY BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY), MINGLI LIU (HUNAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

We investigated the relationship between helicopter parenting, rates of NEET-proneness, and self-efficacy in the United States and China. Greater helicopter parenting was associated with greater NEET-proneness. Notably, students from China were more likely to move home to provide mutual help whilst students from the United States were more likely to move home to be supported financially. Self-efficacy and NEET-proneness were negatively correlated. Outcomes indicate further investigation of cultural factors impacting motives for moving back home.

POSTER 33

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BIRTH ORDER AND COMPASSION IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

NATASHA MERCHANT (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), JYH-HANN CHANG (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), BROOKE O'CONNOR (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), JACQUELINE COLONÂ (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), GOLD ALUKO (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), PERLA GARRIDO (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY)

210 college students examined the relationship between birth order and compassion using the Compassion of Others' Lives Scale. ANOVA results revealed no significant differences in compassion across birth order groups, $F(3, 200) = 0.717$, $p = .543$, $\eta^2 = .011$. Females reported significantly higher compassion scores than males (155 vs 143) ($p = .011$), suggesting gender may play a greater role in compassion development. Future research should consider additional variables and diverse cultural contexts.

POSTER 34

TRUSTING THE SYSTEM: AN EXPLORATION OF ATTITUDES ABOUT AUTHORITY, STIGMA, AND HEALTH.

BRENDA URENA (MOUNT SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE), MAKAYLA PAIN (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), LILY OSTIGUY (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), SOFIA CONSTANTINO (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), NATALIA TAYLOR (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), JENNA MEDEFINDT (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT), RAYMOND FIGUEROA (UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT)

We examined the relationship between right-wing authoritarian attitudes, mental health stigma, health-care care distrust, and help-seeking attitudes. We explored whether the relationship between right-wing authoritarianism and help-seeking is mediated by the two following variables: mental health stigma and distrust in the health care system. 174 people participated in this study. Preliminary results have been included in the long abstract.

POSTER 35

ASSESSMENT OF FLUOXETINE-GBR12909 COMBINATION IN REVERSING MOTIVATIONAL DEFICITS IN RODENTS

SOFIA PAPANIKOLAOU (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), GAYLE EDELSTEIN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), JENELLE MILLER (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), SARAH NOWACKI (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ALEX O'BOYLE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KEN FLORA (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), MANTRA RAYANAN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), JOHN SALAMONE (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

Combination therapy—adding a second agent to an existing antidepressant—is proposed to enhance SSRI efficacy for motivational dysfunction. Rodents performed the fixed-ratio 5/chow choice task after treatment with fluoxetine, the dopamine (DA) transporter blocker GBR12909, or a combination of both, to test reversal of tetrabenazine-induced low-effort bias. Findings showed that fluoxetine dose-dependently reduced lever pressing when combined with GBR12909, suggesting serotonergic compounds may negatively affect the ability of DAergic agents to facilitate motivated behavior.

POSTER 36

IMPACT OF SMARTER ALARM ALERTS ON HUMAN BEHAVIOR IN FIRE INCIDENTS

ERIN NASH (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), JUSTIN BONNY (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines whether smart fire-alarm alerts improve emergency decision making compared to traditional alarms. Smart alerts are equipped with contextual information (e.g. video). Participants completed a simulated fire scenario assessing decision strategies. Smart alerts elicited significantly higher judgements in confidence that a real fire emergency was present with larger fires. These findings suggest that integrating contextual information into alarm systems may enhance protective actions and reduce risky investigative behaviors in emergency fire situations.

POSTER 37**THE ROLE OF ACES ON STRESS RESPONSE IN TRADITIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS**

HAZEL GOODMAN (INDEPENDENT)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are linked to reduced quality of life for people entering adulthood due to heightened stress response. This study assesses college students' stress levels by monitoring heart rate throughout a neutral or mildly stressful set of stimuli. Then, participants' ACEs are scored through a questionnaire to determine the correlation with the stress responses. When data analysis is complete in February, it is expected that within ACE survivors, heightened stress response is found.

POSTER 38**A COMPARISON OF STRESSORS EXPERIENCED BY MAJORITY AND MINORITIZED FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

CATALINA CRUZ (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), LAUREN REINHART (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), ANDREA RIOS (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), DEBRA VREDENBURG (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), SARAH BIRCH (ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY), KARENA RUSH (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

While stress is common among first-year college students, the specific stressors experienced might vary between different student populations. Knowing these potential differences could allow for targeted assistance to enhance student well-being and retention. Thus, the purpose of this study was to examine the types of stressors reported by students from majority and minoritized groups. Results indicated differences in the most frequently reported stressors by each group. These differences, as well as future implications, are discussed.

POSTER 39**THE EFFECT OF AN OPEN-FLOOR PLAN ON FOOD CONSUMPTION**

BRYN MORTENSON (TULANE UNIVERSITY), KARENA RUSH (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), LAUREN REINHART (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), DEBRA VREDENBURG-RUDY (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY), EVANGEL DAVIS (MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY)

A large body of qualitative research exists regarding how architectural design can influence behavior. However, there is a paucity of experimental research examining the influence residential design might have on specific behaviors such as eating (Rollins et al., 2017). This study examined the effects of an open vs. closed floor plan on eating behavior. Results suggest

that the open-floor plan design led to higher food consumption. Future implications for architecture and behavioral psychology are discussed.

POSTER 40**DAILY STRESS, TEMPORAL DISCOUNTING, AND RISKY BEHAVIOR IN OPIOID USE DISORDER**

KUSHVINDER KAUR (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), EMMANUEL ALVAREZ (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), HANA THAMER (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), ANNA KONOVA (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), KAROLINA LEMPET (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

People with opioid use disorder (OUD) tend to show more impulsive decision making than healthy controls, but it is unknown whether fluctuations in psychological states predict real-world risky behaviors in this group on a daily basis. We found that self-reported stress was associated with a greater likelihood of risky behavior and drug use in people with OUD. Although this research is correlational, it suggests that stress may be an important predictor of outcomes in OUD.

POSTER 41**TITLE: THE DARK TRIAD AND AGGRESSION: DO EMOTION REGULATION STRATEGIES MATTER?**

MARY J. CONTAKOS (SUNY ONEONTA), KATHERINE S.L. LAU (SUNY ONEONTA), RIVER WEBSTER (SUNY ONEONTA), KARLI F. CHAMBERLIN (SUNY ONEONTA)

This study examines how emotion regulation strategies may moderate the relationship between dark triad traits (psychopathy, narcissism, Machiavellianism) with proactive and reactive aggression. Data was collected from 620 emerging adults at a northeastern university. Results indicate that maladaptive emotion regulation moderates the relationship between psychopathy with proactive and reactive aggression, and between Machiavellianism and proactive aggression. These findings suggest that maladaptive emotion regulation strengthens the link between certain dark triad traits and aggression.

POSTER 42**CASH OR CARD?: HOW PAYMENT MEDIUM SHAPES CHILDREN'S SPENDING DECISIONS**

IJEOMA EZECHUKWU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), SOPHIE EZROL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), ADINE DELEON (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), KATHLEEN CORRIVEAU (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

As digital payments become increasingly common, children encounter fewer visible cues associating spending to resource loss. This study examined how

payment medium shapes 5- to 10-year-olds' purchasing behavior in interactive shopping tasks. Age predicted price accuracy across contexts. In the grocery context, age and payment medium jointly influenced purchasing, with older children spending more when using a card. In the mall context, only age predicted purchasing. Findings highlight how payment medium shapes emerging economic reasoning.

POSTER 43

ADVOCATES' PERSPECTIVES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF COURT INVOLVEMENT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

KYLEIGH GOMES (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

The study examines how domestic violence (DV) advocates understand the psychological consequences survivors experience when navigating the legal system. Drawing on literature on trauma, institutional betrayal, and survivor-centered advocacy, it uses a screening survey and semi-structured interviews with DV advocates. Preliminary analyses reveal that advocates believe courts often retraumatize survivors, undermine agency, and create emotional harm, while advocates work to buffer these effects. Findings highlight needed trauma-informed reforms and system-level changes to support survivor well-being.

POSTER 44

EXAMINATION OF ATTRIBUTIONS AND ATTEMPTED CRIMES

TALIA NARZYMSKI (SIENA UNIVERSITY), KATLYN FARNUM. (SIENA UNIVERSITY)

We surveyed 188 participants using three escalating burglary scenarios to examine when people view preparation as a criminal attempt. Using the substantial step and dangerous proximity tests, participants were more likely to find guilt once the defendant acted toward the crime, with certainty rising as completion approached. External explanations, such as financial stress, were considered more in early scenarios but did not affect verdict outcomes.

POSTER 45

PERCEPTION OF MENTAL HEALTH WITHIN THE ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY

BETHELHEM KEBEDE (BOSTON COLLEGE)

Two mixed-method studies examined mental health beliefs among Ethiopian-American immigrants, and found that those born in Ethiopia show more broad beliefs about flexible explanations and treatment options (spiritual as well as medical) for mental illness.

By contrast, those born in the U.S. have a narrower focus on psychiatric explanations and treatment options only.

POSTER 46

PROBLEMATIC GAMING PURCHASES IN EMERGING ADULTS

MASON KOLOSKI (UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH), KIRSTIN CISTULLI (UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH)

Prior research shows that loot box spending in videogames is associated with problem gambling (Xiao et al., 2025). This project evaluates gaming behavior and problematic gaming purchases in college to clarify the extent to which this is an issue in this population. Results suggest that college students vary widely in their gaming behavior, that problematic purchasing is correlated with more gaming, and that social aspects of gaming may predict problematic purchasing.

POSTER 47

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER, RISKY BEHAVIORS, AND ACADEMIC OUTCOMES IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

ALEXA MARINO (MARIST COLLEGE), KRISTEN DOVGAN (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

People who reach clinical thresholds for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) may engage in more risky behaviors. Ninety-eight undergraduate students at a private liberal arts university participated in an online questionnaire including the Obsessive Compulsive Inventory Revised (OCI-R) and an Adapted Risky, Impulsive, and Self-Destructive Questionnaire (RISQ). Key findings revealed that clinical thresholds for OCD and risky behavior were moderately positively correlated. Findings highlight how OCD-related symptoms may relate to risk-taking among college students.

POSTER 48

PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY SIZE AND FUTURE SUCCESS

BILLY BARNES (UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH)

Older research has suggested that parents of only children are viewed negatively (Polit, 1978) and that two children is considered the ideal family size (West & Morgan, 1987). The purpose of the current study is to evaluate the extent to which perceptions of a child's future success in academics, athletics, career, finances, and family are influenced by the number of siblings in that child's family. (67)

POSTER 49**PERSONALITY, MOTIVATION, AND S.M.A.R.T. GOALS: UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN ACADEMIC GOAL ATTAINMENT.**

AIDAN PHILLIPS (VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This is a longitudinal study examining how personality traits, goal orientation, and S.M.A.R.T. goal journaling influences academic achievement. Participants complete personality and goal orientation surveys, create S.M.A.R.T. goals, and are assigned to either an intervention group with bi-weekly check-ins or a control group. The study investigates whether the effectiveness of S.M.A.R.T. goals for academic goal attainment vary based on personality traits or goal orientations.

POSTER 50**THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN UNIVERSITY: MOTIVATIONS, ATTITUDES, AND PERSONALITY**

SENECA COOK (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), MOLLY CORL (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), CHRISTINA SULLI (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), NATALIE MYER (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), JOY AJAYI (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), LAURA HEISICK (PENN STATE HARRISBURG)

Previous research on artificial intelligence use in college has focused on individual personality traits and motivations. The current study combined personality measures with students' motivations to attend college, overall enjoyment of academics, and opinions about AI to better understand the profile of someone who may be inclined to use AI more often in academic spaces. We interpret our findings with the goal of understanding why some students rely on AI more frequently in higher education.

POSTER 51**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: ATTITUDES, COPING, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, & TOTAL COLLEGE ADJUSTMENT**

ALEXANDRA ROSSER (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), LAUREN BRUMLEY (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY)

This study examined psychosocial correlates of college adjustment among undergraduate students at a regional state university. Correlation and regression analyses revealed significant associations between greater emotional intelligence (EI), greater openness to new experiences, and greater problem-focused coping. EI emerged as the strongest predictor of college adjustment, supporting the Broaden-and-Build

theory of positive emotions. Findings highlight the importance of psychological traits and coping mechanisms in college adjustment, with implications for resilience education and individualized support strategies.

POSTER 52**IS IT A RED FLAG?**

LYANNE PELLEGRINO (MANHATTANVILLE UNIVERSITY), LEAH MANNING (MANHATTANVILLE UNIVERSITY)

Identifying red flags has a powerful influence on our relationships. In the current study, participants' identification of red flags in relationships was examined. An online survey containing 20 potential red flag scenarios was administered to 31 participants recruited from a small university in the lower Hudson River Valley region. The perception of red flags was examined based on whether participants said they were overthinkers, their gender, age, and the type of relationship being considered.

POSTER 53**GENDER STEREOTYPES IN OCULAR-BASED PERCEPTIONS OF SERIAL KILLERS, CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AND NON-OFFENDERS**

EMILY WEBSTER (FRANKLIN PIERCE COLLEGE), LESLIE BUDDINGTON (FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the influence of gender on perceptions of serial killers, criminal offenders and non-offenders. Ninety-two individuals participated in an online, self-administered survey where they were asked to evaluate randomized eye images with regard to trustworthiness, likability, and dangerousness. Results indicated significant interactions between Eye Gender (Female vs. Male) and perceived trustworthiness and dangerousness but not perceived likability. These findings highlight the importance of understanding the role of gender in our perceptions of others.

POSTER 54**INTERGENERATIONAL CHARACTERISTIC TRANSFER OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, CRIMINALITY, AND MENTAL HEALTH**

KAYLA E. MOORE (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), LILLIAN A. RODRIGUEZ STEEN (YORK UNIVERSITY)

The current research explored whether alcohol consumption, criminality, and mental health are passed down from parent to child. Adult participants

completed a questionnaire regarding behaviors of their parents and themselves. Results revealed that parental alcohol consumption across both parents was positively associated with participant's alcohol consumption. Criminality of participant's mothers was positively associated with participant criminality. There were no associations regarding mental health related concerns. Results provide insights into how parental behaviors impact their children.

POSTER 55

BILATERAL STIMULATION'S MULTI-FACETED IMPACTS THROUGH STRESSFUL CIRCUMSTANCES

RUTH FOSSETTA (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), LOGAN FIELDS (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY)

Individuals exposed to stress may show a decrease in multifaceted symptoms if exposed to different forms of BLS. 100 undergraduate college students will participate in a stress-inducing task before receiving BLS; they will also perform a memorization task, answer stress-based questions and have their heart rates monitored. Findings should suggest that visual BLS will be most effective overall, tactile BLS will be best for word memorization and visual BLS will be best for heart rate.

POSTER 56

RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR PREDICTORS OF SCIENCE DENIAL

ERIN MILLER (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), LOU MANZA (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), CAROLINE BORLEIS (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), JAYLIANNE ORTIZ-LILLO (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), ALLISON CALDWELL (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), ASHLEY DARROW (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), BRET MILLER (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), KAITLYN SNYDER (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE)

Participants' belief in science's value exceeded how much credibility and trust they had towards science, and elevated levels of these views were associated with rejecting religious beliefs and possessing high degrees of intellectual humility. Interestingly, these same intellectual humility factors did not factor into embracing specific religious beliefs; the latter were related to having a strong commitment to religion, seeing conspiracy theories as real, and completing relatively few science classes.

POSTER 57

EMOTION REGULATION FLEXIBILITY MAY EXPLAIN INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN RESILIENCE

LUKE STANTON (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), LYRA STEIN (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK)

Emotion regulation flexibility (ERF) may be a key resource supporting resilience during emerging adulthood. In this study, (N = 200) undergraduate students completed an online survey including the FlexER and CD-RISC-25 scales. Regression analyses showed that higher ERF scores predicted higher resilience, with ERF accounting for 19% of the variance in resilience. Findings suggest that ERF may be linked to perceived resilience in college students and may be a promising target for campus interventions.

POSTER 58

KEY MAPPING EFFECTS ON SERIAL AND FAMILIARITY-BASED MEMORY SEARCH

IBRAHIM SIDDIQUI (RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY - NEW BRUNSWICK), MAAMI-BRUWA ADOMAKO (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), AISHWARYA DODDA (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), RAINEN SOLOMON (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), MARGARET INGATE (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY)

This study replicated Kang et al. (2023), a modification of Sternberg's (1966) memory-search experiment. We examined whether mapping the "same" response to either the right key (RSLD) or the left key (LSRD) altered reaction-time patterns across test-item positions, as reported by Kang. Reaction-time patterns varied across the 16 undergraduate students between conditions, indicating that response assignment influenced memory search.

POSTER 59

EXPLORING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONALITY, SOCIAL MEDIA USE AND LIFE SATISFACTION

SHARON BORCHES (MERCY UNIVERSITY), JANELLY AMAYA (MERCY UNIVERSITY), JOSE DOMINGUEZ (SUNY-WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

This study examines how personality traits shape social media use and life satisfaction. Focusing on fear of missing out and doom scrolling. With the use of the Big Five framework, we analyzed responses from 122 participants. Results showed higher Neuroticism was linked to increased FoMO and doom scrolling, while Conscientiousness, Extraversion, and Agreeableness showed negative associations. Our findings suggested that personality significantly influences social media's impact on an individual's mental well-being and life satisfaction.

POSTER 60**SKILLSETTER® SIMULATION TRAINING IN GRADUATE ADDICTION COUNSELING: CONFIDENCE, SATISFACTION, AND SELF-EVALUATION ACCURACY**

YADIRA REINOSO (WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), MARY MURPHY (WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined the use of computer-based counseling simulation training within a graduate addiction studies program. Eight students completed SkillSetter® modules to practice counseling micro skills via self-video recordings and reflective homework. Students reported high satisfaction and increased engagement with the platform. Confidence scores improved meaningfully from baseline to follow-up, reflecting gains in perceived helping skills. However, variability in insight and self-evaluation accuracy suggests self-awareness remains an essential area of development in early counselor training.

POSTER 61**EXPRESSIVE VERSUS EXPERIENTIAL NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS AS COGNITIVE REMEDIATION OUTCOME PREDICTORS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA**

MIA KOGAN-SPIVACK (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY), MATTHEW M. KURTZ (WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY)

Negative symptoms in schizophrenia can be divided into expressive (alogia, blunted affect) and experiential (avolition, anhedonia, asociality) domains, showing distinct functional correlates. The present study investigates whether these domains differentially predict cognitive remediation (CR) outcomes. Using baseline symptom ratings and cognitive measure score changes (attention, working memory, verbal memory, language, adaptive function) from 111 participants with schizophrenia, correlation matrices will assess relationships. Experiential symptoms are expected to be linked to a weaker response to CR.

POSTER 62**FEMALE OR WOMAN, MALE OR MAN: THE IMPACT OF GENDERED LANGUAGE**

LILY BRYANT (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY), MEGAN MCCARTY (SIMMONS UNIVERSITY)

This research experimentally investigates whether people feel or think differently after being exposed to the words 'females,' 'males,' 'women,' or 'men' as nouns. Expanding on past research on the perceptions of the word 'female' versus 'woman', our primary hypothesis is that women in the 'females' condition would feel less human, lower levels of respect, and

perceive the speaker as having higher levels of gender essentialist and sexist beliefs when compared to all other groups.

POSTER 63**THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS, NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME AND SLEEP HEALTH.**

DANIELA REYES (LEHMAN COLLEGE CUNY), MIA BUDESCU (LEHMAN COLLEGE), MARTIN J DOWNIN JR (LEHMAN COLLEGE)

Short abstract: The current study examines the association between external (i.e. neighborhood factors) and internal stress and sleep quality among adults. Data were collected in four neighborhoods in New York City that vary in their racial and economic segregation. Participants responded to a self-report survey as well as a 7-day diary that assessed sleep quality, perceptions of crime and psychological distress. The goal of the study is identifying risk and protective factors for sleep health.

POSTER 64**ACCEPTANCE-BASED COPING POSITIVELY MODERATES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COVID-19 TRAUMA AND POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH**

SAVANNAH SEDLOCK (WHEATON COLLEGE), MICHAEL B. BERG (WHEATON COLLEGE), LINDA LIN (EMMANUEL COLLEGE), MADDIE HATCH (WHEATON COLLEGE)

While a relationship between COVID-19 trauma and posttraumatic growth (PTG) has been established, fewer studies have explored how specific coping strategies moderate that relationship. We surveyed 415 U.S. residents regarding their COVID-19 trauma, acceptance-based and self-blame coping strategies, and PTG. Results reaffirmed the positive association between trauma and growth and demonstrated that greater use of acceptance-based strategies amplified that relationship. These findings underscore that cultivating acceptance is crucial for enhancing positive growth following trauma.

POSTER 65**STRESS IN FIRST RESPONDERS**

ELIAS NAUTH (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), MICHAEL MOORE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

First responders have been recognized as having higher prevalence rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as compared to national averages and

are at a higher risk for a multitude of mental disorders. Despite this, current research investigating the mental health of first responders is limited, lacking crucial evidence to support recommendations for care. The researcher hopes to identify recent trends in symptomology and experiences of those in the first responder population.

POSTER 66

ANTECEDENT PSYCHOLOGICAL VARIABLES AND PULSE WAVE VELOCITY: THE MAINE-SYRACUSE LONGITUDINAL STUDY

AIDAN CLAY (UNIVERSITY OF MAINE), MICHAEL ROBBINS (UNIVERSITY OF MAINE)

Pulse wave velocity (PWV) is the gold standard measurement for arterial stiffness. PWV strongly predicts cardiovascular mortality, which kills 17.9 million per year (WHO, 2025). PWV correlates with worsening hypertension, myocardial infarction, atherosclerosis, and heart failure. Results for cross-sectional studies of psychological variables in relation to PWV have been mixed. This project investigates whether psychological variables (anxiety, depression, well-being, and self-reported health) measured prospectively serve as significant predictors for higher PWV. ϵ

POSTER 67

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LGBTQ+ AND CISHET SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE RECEIVERS

ALYSSA DIMARIA (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), MICHELLE STAGE (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), LYNDA STEIN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

LGBTQ+ receivers of substance use and mental health services are more likely to report awareness of behavioral health parity, provider privacy concerns, and file complaints than cishet receivers. 157 participants who indicated they're receivers of SU/MH in RI were asked questions based on their demographics and experiences receiving care. Key findings demonstrate significant associations between identity and provider privacy concerns. Findings underscore the importance of identifying gaps in healthcare and ensuring fair parity implementationϵ.

POSTER 68

YOU KNOW WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER: MORAL-SELF-IMAGE & DELINQUENT ACTS

ALEXANDER ROMERO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ESHAAN TOLANI (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), NOLAN NGUYEN (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), NATHAN GREENAUER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE MELLO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines whether reporting delinquent acts lowers moral self-image and whether perceived anonymity moderates this effect. Participants completed delinquency and moral self-image measures under online or in-person conditions. Preliminary results showed no significant differences between reporting and non-reporting groups. We discuss the role of self-labeling processes and mechanisms that meaningfully shape moral identity.

POSTER 69

EXAMINING PARASYMPATHETIC REACTIVITY TO FEARFUL STIMULI IN CHILDREN WITH CALLOUS-UNEMOTIONAL TRAITS

SHREEYA KHULLAR (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), NICOLE HUTH (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), REBECCA WALLER (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), NICHOLAS WAGNER (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

This study (N=101) of 3-4 year olds examined the association between parasympathetic activity, indexed by respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA), at rest and in response to fearful stimuli in children with callous-unemotional (CU) traits. Contrary to prior work, a regression analysis revealed no significant relationship between CU traits and RSA at rest or during a fearful film clip. As expected, RSA at rest was moderately correlated with RSA during the film clip.

POSTER 70

SHARED EXPERIENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AND IMPACT ON SUBSTANCE USE STIGMA

MADISON MURRAY (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), CHRISTOPHER WHIPPLE (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), PAAPA ASANTE (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), ERIC DOLGOFF (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), KENZA GUERCH (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), KEY HANEY (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), EMILY KIEFER (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), JORGI MCLAUGHLIN (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), JUSTIN RIDDLE (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), ÖVGÜ KAYNAK (PENN STATE HARRISBURG)

This study examined whether gender moderated the association between depression and anxiety symptoms and stigma toward individuals with SUD among college students. Moderation analyses showed that gender significantly moderated the association between

mental health and stigma. Specifically, higher depression and anxiety levels predicted lower levels of stigma in women, but not in men. These findings can be used to inform campus interventions with the goal of reducing SUD stigma and promoting help-seeking behaviors.

POSTER 71

PRELIMINARY DATA OF RESPIRATORY RESPONSE TO CONFEDERATE SHIFT IN BEHAVIOR AND RESPIRATION

KATANA CORNING (SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE), KAITLYN GARGASZ (SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE), KYLE PIERCE (SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE), ANYELINA MARTINEZ (SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE), PAUL FINN (SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE)

The authors examined whether individuals unintentionally mirror physiological responses, specifically respiration, during a depressive shutdown, and how these responses may relate to empathy. Participants identified as high or low in empathy engaged in structured conversation with confederates, who were simulating depression. At the same time, physiological and behavioral data were collected using Noldus behavioral observation and BIOPAC systems. These insights contribute to a growing body of literature on empathy and the role of autonomic regulation.

POSTER 72

RELATIONAL AGGRESSION AMONG SORORITY WOMEN

MARIANA RAMIREZ LEMUS (CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY), SHIRA TARRANT (CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Relational aggression (RA) often remains hidden, yet its impact persists in college settings. This pilot study examined RA among sorority women using measures of interpersonal relationships and cognitive distortions. Due to the small sample size, findings are descriptive only. Results showed moderate RA, high perceived support, and mixed reciprocity. Bystanders and victims most often reported frustration and anxiety, underscoring the emotional toll of RA. Sorority contexts can complicate how these experiences are understood and navigated.

POSTER 73

STRESS SIGNALS: USING EDA TO MEASURE ANXIETY LEVELS IN PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

MADISON WHEELER (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT MANCHESTER), NICHOLAS MIAN (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AT MANCHESTER)

Preschool anxiety disorders are common, but assessment and treatment are difficult. We used behavioral observation, electrodermal data, and parent-reported symptoms to measure child anxiety in a laboratory context. We tested two novel tasks embedded in the Anx-DOS, an observational paradigm. There was a statistically significant correlation between the interview task and the PAS (social anxiety). Relationships between behavioral symptoms of anxiety and EDA were non-significant. Results are discussed in the context of multi-method assessment.

POSTER 74

EXPLORING ALLERGIES, BODILY SENSATIONS, AND CAFFEINE REACTIVITY IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

SAMANTHA SULLIVAN (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MELIA SWENSON (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), QUINCY PALMATEER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), PAULINE GOGER (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Allergies are common among young adults, yet little research has examined whether allergic symptoms relate to anxiety, bodily awareness, or stress reactivity. In this study, college students completed self-report measures of allergies, anxiety, depression, emotion regulation, and caffeine effects. Most allergy variables were unrelated to mental health indicators. However, stronger bodily sensations with allergies were linked to greater physiological sensitivity to caffeine ($p < .001$), suggesting a shared pathway of bodily reactivity worth further study.

POSTER 75

FROM READING TO BELONGING: TESTING BORN FOR LOVE AS NARRATIVE-PEDAGOGY IN PSYCHOLOGY

CRISTHOER ABREU (NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY), HUIQIAO HOU (ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON), PERI YUKSEL (NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY)

Students under-read long-form texts, undermining psychological literacy in psychology courses. We piloted a narrative pedagogy pairing Szalavitz and Perry's Born for Love (2010) with a student-led virtual book club in an asynchronous course. Preliminary reflections and artifacts suggest narrative science, peer facilitation, and mind mapping increased reading persistence, empathy, and disciplinary identity, especially for first-generation and nontraditional learners. We outline trauma-informed guardrails and

propose a mixed-methods evaluation comparing textbook-only versus narrative-plus conditions.

POSTER 76

PRE-MIGRATION MEMORIES, PRESENT CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE HOPES: RESILIENCE IN IMMIGRANT PARENTS

CHRISTINA CARVAJAL (NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY), SAMANTHA SAPIRA (NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY), PERI YUKSEL (NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY)

Immigrant parents often face stressors such as discrimination and restrictive immigration policies, which affect family well-being. Guided by Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, we analyzed semi-structured interviews with first-generation immigrant parents. Results showed parents migrate for better opportunities but face financial hardship, family separation, and legal insecurity. Despite challenges, families relied on social support and cultural traditions. Findings underscore the need for culturally responsive policies. Keywords: immigration, parental stress, qualitative research, immigrant parent

POSTER 77

VISUALIZING SUCCESS: IMPLEMENTING A FUN AND EFFECTIVE STUDENT PROGRESS DASHBOARD

SIMRAT RENU (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), STEVIE ANN HILL (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), JAELENN WESLEY (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), OLA ABOZID (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), MARYAN BOTLERO, YANA KOSTOVA (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY), AHAYLEE RAHMAN, ROBERT G. ALEXANDER (NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Derived from previous research regarding motivation and self-regulated learning, we argue for the pedagogical value of visible progress tracking systems, particularly when implemented in research spaces. To test this, we created a milestone chart with goals and expectations for our lab, with the progress of undergraduate psychology students monitored and displayed to promote future achievements. Our results demonstrate the effectiveness of our visual tracking system in motivating psychological research.

POSTER 78

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, NON-CRIMINAL DEVIANT BEHAVIOR, AND PERSONALITY

AUTUMN CHOW (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), SHANIA JAGDA (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), NANCY DORR (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES), ROBERT FLINT (ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES)

Examined relationships between adverse childhood experiences and non-criminal deviant behavior, personality, and narcissism. College students completed self-report measures of adverse childhood experiences, non-criminal deviance, personality, narcissism, and criminal behavior. Non-criminal deviance scores were negatively correlated with scores on the personality traits of honesty/humility and conscientiousness and were positively correlated with a measure of criminal behavior. The relationships between non-criminal deviance scores and honesty/humility and conscientiousness remained statistically significant after controlling for criminal behavior.

POSTER 79

MISLED ON ZOOM: DECEPTION STILL SLIPS BY

CAITLYN COLBURN (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), OLIVIA CRONEY (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), EMMA HIOTT (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), AUDREYANNA MAUK (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO), RON CRAIG (PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY-EDINBORO)

The ability to depict deception in others is very poor with factors like truth bias and deceiver's cognitive load impacting accuracy. Interactions over video conferencing have different cues and cognitive load, than in-person. This study examines if detection of deception in a virtual interview differs from in-person. Participants identified veracity of statements from a virtual interview. While slightly better than chance, the change in modality did not increase accuracy compared to in-person communications.

POSTER 80

ROOMMATE RELATIONSHIP QUALITY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT'S MENTAL HEALTH

ALEX BUSCEMI (MARIST UNIVERSITY), ALEIA GOODISON (MARIST UNIVERSITY), RYAN KINLAW (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

This study analyzed the association between roommate relationship quality and levels of depression and anxiety amongst college students at Marist University. Data collection indicated a significant correlation between depression symptoms and roommate relationship quality. This finding suggested that greater depression symptoms were linked to lower-quality

roommate relationships. Conversely, reports stated that there was no correlation regarding anxiety, and no patterns were found among gender and on- vs. off-campus in mental health.

POSTER 81

INTOLERANCE OF UNCERTAINTY PREDICTS PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO EXPERIENTIAL UNCERTAINTY

ELIZABETH BRISLAND (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), ALEXANDRA BILLGERT (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), NIRANJANA THANGAM (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), KRISTINA TOLAROVA (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), TESS REID (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE), JOLIE WORMWOOD (UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE)

This study applies constructionist theories of emotion to examine uncertainty as an affective experience, including both subjective affective responses and the bodily activity from which they are thought to arise, in pursuit of a better understanding of individual differences in intolerance of uncertainty (IU). Results show that individuals high in IU have physiological responses indicative of greater arousal under conditions of uncertainty, namely decreased parasympathetic reactivity. Theoretical implications are discussed.

POSTER 82

PROPRIOCEPTIVE TRAINING AND HAND DOMINANCE IN A MIRROR-TRACING TASK

SOPHIA PELLEGRINO (RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY)

The mirror tracing task is a measure of visual-motor coordination and learning. It can also help us to understand how the brain adapts to new motor skills with misleading visual input. Mirror tracing requires coordination between vision and proprioception. The current experiment explores whether proprioceptive training with one hand can have performance effects for mirror tracing, and whether these effects will extend contralaterally. The current results have implications for the concept of bilateral transfer.

POSTER 83

TASTE OF PERSONALITY: UNDERSTANDING CHOCOLATE PREFERENCES BASED ON PERSONALITY

AMELIA TYNCHEROVA (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY), ADAM LEVY (ARCADIA UNIVERSITY)

This cross-cultural study examined whether combining mindfulness techniques with chocolate consumption reduces stress more effectively than chocolate alone. Across two samples (N = 180), participants journaled their emotions, consumed dark or white chocolate with or without mindfulness audio, and reported pre-post POMS mood changes. Both studies showed trends toward greater stress reduction in mindfulness and dark-chocolate conditions. In addition, this study compares stress reduction levels by personality type, specifically introversion and extraversion.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm**

Workshop

Independence A

TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOP: USING HANDS-ON IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE SELF-DETERMINATION IN A LONELINESS EPIDEMIC

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm**

CHAIR: CHRISTINE WALAWANDER

USING HANDS-ON IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES TO FACILITATE SELF-DETERMINATION IN A LONELINESS EPIDEMIC

CHRISTINE WALAWANDER (D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY), MANPREET RAI (D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY)

Loneliness in university students has become an epidemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) has deemed it a public health priority (WHO, 2023). Loneliness further exacerbates mental health concerns that occur in university students. These issues can be understood through Self-Determination Theory (SDT). High Impact activities can address loneliness by facilitating self-determination through autonomy, relatedness and competence. The current talk will address how these activities can facilitate SDT.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

Paper

St. George A/B

CLINICAL PAPERS: TRAINING
Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

CHAIR: USHA BARAHMAND

2:50pm – 3:00pm

**DIFFERENT CURIOSITY TYPES RELATE TO
 TRAINEES' THERAPIST PRESENCE, CULTURAL
 HUMILITY, AND BURNOUT**

DEEAAJ HINDUJA (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), STEPHANIE WINKELJOHN BLACK (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), EMMA FREELY PORTER (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study explored the relationship between different types of curiosity, therapist presence, cultural humility, and burnout among psychotherapy trainees. Results showed that joyous exploration and stress tolerance were positively associated with therapist presence, while deprivation sensitivity was linked to burnout. The study suggests that therapist training programs should be geared towards cultivating joyous exploration and stress tolerance in trainees, likely enhancing therapeutic presence and cultural humility, and mitigating burnout.

3:05pm – 3:15pm

**SUBSTANCE USE CONCERNS AND THERAPIST-
 CLIENT CONGRUENCE ON TREATMENT
 ATTENDANCE AT UCCS**

MELINDA FURER (PENN STATE ALTOONA A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Substance use disorders are prevalent among college students and may negatively impact treatment at university counseling centers (UCCs). This study examined how therapist-client congruence regarding substance use concerns predicts attendance in 136,397 UCC clients. Students with no identified concerns had the highest attendance, while those with clinician-identified concerns had the lowest. Congruence was less influential than the presence of substance use concerns. Findings underscore the importance of proactive attendance strategies and attention to demographic factors.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

Keynote

America Ballroom North

COGNITIVE KEYNOTE: TIM VICKERY
Saturday, February 28, 2026
2:50pm – 3:50pm

CHAIR: ALEX DANIEL

**LOCAL ORGANIZATION AND THE PERCEPTION OF
 SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Tim VICKERY (UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE)

Grouping and segmentation give rise to graded levels of perceptual organization, from loosely associated elements to clearly defined objects. Perceptual organization leads to systematic spatial distortions. The distortions are maximal for clearly defined objects, but variations in the strength of organization produce distortions in proportion to the apparent degree of organization of the local regions. Spatial distortions offer a window into how the visual system structures space.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Paper

St. George A/B

**SOCIAL PAPERS: SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF WELL-
 BEING**
Saturday, February 28, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: MAUREEN KENNY, PHD

4:00pm – 4:10pm

**INFLUENCE OF TRADITIONAL LATINO GENDER
 IDENTITIES ON RISKY SEXUAL COGNITIONS AND
 BEHAVIOR**

MAUREEN KENNY (FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY), KEVIN ORTIZ DIAZ (FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY), JUAN CASTILLO PEREZ (FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY)

This study examined how endorsement of traditional Latino gender identities -machismo, caballerismo, and marianismo- relates to risky sexual cognitions and behaviors among 743 Latino college students. Using path analysis, results showed that machismo and caballerismo did not directly predict risky sexual

outcomes, though caballerismo may have indirect effects through family conflict. Marianismo demonstrated a protective influence, predicting lower intention to engage in casual sex. Findings highlight meaningful cultural influences on Latino emerging adults' sexual decision-making.

4:15pm – 4:25pm

MINDFULNESS AS A BUFFER OF INCOME-RELATED DISPARITIES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

MORENIKE ALUGO (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY- CAMDEN), ISABELLE SURIELOW (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY- CAMDEN), ELIZABETH BAIK (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY- CAMDEN), NASUR LAMBERT (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY- CAMDEN), ALEXANDRA LARUE (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY- CAMDEN), YOONA KANG (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY- CAMDEN)

Socioeconomic disadvantage is associated with poorer psychological well-being, yet modifiable psychological resources may buffer these effects. In a secondary analysis of U.S. adults (N=390), we examined whether dispositional mindfulness moderated the association between income and well-being. Regression analysis revealed a significant interaction between mindfulness and income: lower income was associated with worse well-being at low, but not high levels of mindfulness. Findings highlight mindfulness as a potential buffer of income-related well-being disparities.

4:30pm – 4:40pm

DAILY NEGATIVE URGENCY-INTERNALIZING DYNAMICS AMONG SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITIES: RELATIONS TO DISCRIMINATION

PAU ORTELLS-FACI (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), RILEY MCDANAL (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), AIJIA YAO (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), JULIAN BURGER (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), JARED GABRIELLI (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY), NICHOLAS EATON (STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY)

This study examined daily internalizing distress and negative urgency in relation to discrimination among sexual and gender minority young adults. Using baseline measures and 14-day ESM data, we tested daily covariation, moderation by baseline discrimination, and high-intensity co-occurrence. Results showed that daily negative urgency covaried with internalizing distress, and discrimination predicted average levels, variability, and high-intensity co-occurrence, but not daily covariance. Findings highlight discrimination as a promising contextual factor in these dynamic processes.

4:45pm – 4:55pm

ETHNIC IDENTITY AND SOCIAL PATHWAYS SHAPING ASIAN AMERICAN CHRONIC DISEASE

ELVINA LE (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, LOWELL), IVY K. HO (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, LOWELL), YAN WANG (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, LOWELL)

This study examined links among ethnic identity, community cohesion, social networks, and chronic disease among Asian Americans (n = 1,952). Ethnic identity did not directly predict disease risk, but social networks mediated this relationship, reducing risk. Subgroup analyses showed cohesion increased risk for South Asian Americans, was protective for East Asian Americans, and ethnic identity directly increased risk for Southeast Asian Americans. Findings highlight culturally distinct pathways shaping health and the need for subgroup-tailored strategies.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Paper

Independence A

TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY PAPERS: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Saturday, February 28, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: AMY S JOH, PHD

4:00pm – 4:10pm

ORIENTING PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS TOWARD SUCCESS: IMPROVEMENTS IN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

AMY JOH (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), AMY HUNTER (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY)

Successful students are knowledgeable about opportunities and requirements beyond the classroom. New psychology majors enrolled in an orientation course completed a survey about experiential learning, graduate school requirements, and employment-related skills at the start and end of the semester. Knowledge increased across time, with improvements depending on students' experience and background such as their generational status. These results demonstrate that an orientation course may impact student success, and some students may benefit from additional instruction.

4:15pm – 4:25pm

PARACHUTE TO SUCCESS: A HALF-TERM COURSE ON EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING IMPROVES ACADEMIC SKILLS

ERIN FARROW (BOSTON COLLEGE), JEFFREY LAMOUREUX (BOSTON COLLEGE), HEATHER OLINS (BOSTON COLLEGE)

This is an update on a half-semester, "parachute" course focusing on academic strategies. The 2025 EPA introduced the initial findings of the course. This updated presentation offers data collected over three semesters, highlighting its effects on student success, as well as exploring longitudinal data. The course introduces active learning strategies for success. Student performance, as measured through LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) pre- and post-tests demonstrated significant improvement in executive functioning.

4:30pm – 4:40pm

WELLNESS INTERNSHIP MODEL EXPANDS ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

LAUREN LITTLEFIELD (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), KAELE CINCOTTA (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), LILLY WENZEL (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

Practical opportunities are highly sought after by undergraduate psychology students, yet few meaningful internships are available during the academic year. An on-campus wellness internship model consisting of multiple components is described, including social media messaging, campus events, passion projects, and peer coaching. Evolution of the internship has been guided by findings from various surveys, the results of which are shared. Advantages and challenges of managing an internal wellness internship are highlighted.

4:45pm – 4:55pm

WHAT EVERY PSYCHOLOGIST SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS MEASURES (AND WHY)

KURT GEISINGER (UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN)

This paper overviews the SAT and ACT history. It describes changes in the usage of these tests given the pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the Varsity Blues travesty. While most higher education institutions are now either test blind or test optional, the validity of these test scores has increased, due primarily to high school grade inflation. How test scores have been, can be, and should be used in the current context is described.

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm**

Paper

Independence B

LEARNING PAPERS: CONDITIONING & CONTINGENCIES

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm**

CHAIR: SARA KEEFER

4:00pm – 4:10pm

EXTINCTION AND APPETITIVE SENSORY PRECONDITIONING

JOSEPH CHARLES (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), DANIELLE FOURNIER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), ZOEY GREENBAUM (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), NEIL WINTERBAUER (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), JEREMY BARRY (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT), TRAVIS TODD (UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT)

With sensory preconditioning, conditioned responses are evoked by stimuli that are never directly paired with reinforcement. In three experiments, we examined how extinction impacted this effect. Extinction of the first-order conditioned stimulus prior to testing eliminated sensory preconditioning. But extinction of the first-order CS, or the "to-be" higher-order CS, prior to first-order conditioning did not impact responding at test.

4:15pm – 4:25pm

INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN APPETITIVE SENSORY PRECONDITIONING

SARA KEEFER (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE), JAMES WEEDON (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE), KILEY FLINN (GETTYSBURG COLLEGE)

Retrospective revaluation postulates that memory retrieval and integration are necessary to update motivation for current and future reward-seeking behaviors. This retrieval of previous knowledge may be difficult when cues are initially neutral prior to cue-reward associative learning. Since individuals can vary on cue and reward motivated behaviors (i.e. sign- and goal-tracking), the current study examined how sex and cue-reward phenotype influence sensory preconditioning.

4:30pm – 4:40pm

DIFFERENTIAL OUTCOMES EFFECT ON ACTION SEQUENCE LEARNING

SCOTT GULIZIO (GRADUATE CENTER, BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), ANDREW R. DELAMATER (GRADUATE CENTER, BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

Rats were trained on an action sequence task where distinct lever press sequences led to reward. A "Differential Group" received distinct outcomes for each sequence while a "Non-differential" group did not. The Differential group learned to perform these sequences with greater accuracy over training compared to the Non-differential group. We also observed that the Differential group performed both target sequences equally, while the Nondifferential group was biased towards one of the reinforced sequences.

4:45pm – 4:55pm

TRIAL-SPACING EFFECTS IN CONTINGENCY LEARNING DEPEND ON INTERVENING-EVENT DURATION AND FREQUENCY

DAVE JIANG (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON), RAFI ARNOB (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON), JOVIN HUANG (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON), KEVIN ARTUS (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON), JAMES E. WITNAUER (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BROCKPORT), ROBIN A. MURPHY (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD), SANTIAGO CASTIELLO (YALE UNIVERSITY), RALPH R. MILLER (STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON)

Four experiments examined contingency ratings given the presence vs. absence of trial- markers during consecutive cue/outcome co-absent events. Bayesian analyses supported little or no effect of trial markers. Because the absence of trial-markers resulted in fewer, longer intertrial intervals, the null effect of trial-markers suggests a greater impact of total co-absence duration during the training session than co-absence frequency, contrary to prior findings (Castiello et al., 2022) that demonstrated a larger effect of frequency.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Paper

St. George C

**APPLIED PAPERS: APPLIED MENTAL HEALTH
Saturday, February 28, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm**

CHAIR: GAVIN FOX

4:00pm – 4:10pm

COMPARING TWO MECHANISMS FOR TRANSFER OF SELF-REGULATORY RESOURCES ACROSS MULTIPLE HEALTH BEHAVIORS

GAVIN FOX (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), LUCY NAPPER (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY)

This study compared whether self-regulatory resources transfer across health behaviors directly or through global self-efficacy, promoting multiple health behavior change. Across three waves (N = 280), exercise self-efficacy and planning transferred to fruit/vegetable intake (FVI) counterparts and predicted greater FVI, whereas transfer from FVI to exercise occurred only for planning. Global self-efficacy did not mediate any effects. Findings support direct, asymmetric transfer and highlight behavioral ordering as critical for multiple health behavior change.

4:15pm – 4:25pm

INFLUENCE OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTENSITIES ON MENTAL HEALTH

ANGELINA DAVIS (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), SAMANTHA MIADICH (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), YAN WANG (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), JIABIN SHEN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL)

This study examined how TBI history and different intensities of physical activity (PA; i.e., vigorous, moderate, and walking) are associated with anxiety and depression, as well as to examine PA intensities as potential moderators. 714 college students completed measures online. Key findings suggest that vigorous PA is associated with less anxiety and depression symptoms. TBI is associated with depression when accounting for vigorous and moderate PA. No significant moderations existed between TBI and PA intensities.

4:30pm – 4:40pm

WHAT'S AGE GOT TO DO WITH IT? BODY POSITIVITY FACTORS ACROSS AGES

LINDSEY LAPLANT (NAZARETH UNIVERSITY)

Female body image issues are lifelong but not necessarily consistent. Negative body image develops early, body positivity later, requiring effortful processing to counteract pervasive messaging about appearance-based worth. Self-objectification, body positivity, and self-compassion were compared between young and middle-aged women. Additionally, self-compassion was tested as a predictor of body appreciation. Middle-aged women had greater

positivity and self-compassion, less self-objectification. Their body positivity included self-care and resisting objectification. Moreover, self-compassion was a predictor of body appreciation.

4:45pm – 4:55pm

DIFFERENTIATING BEHAVIORAL, HEAVY-USE, AND CRAVING-BASED DEPENDENCE IN PREDICTING QUIT MOTIVATION AMONG BIDI-SMOKERS

MARIYAM ABBAS (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND),
THEODORE A WALLS (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

Bidi smoking remains largely invisible in psychological science despite severe health consequences among India's low-income workers. Using structural equation modeling with 149 adult bidi smokers, we found that craving-based ($\beta = .44$) and chronic heavy-use ($\beta = .24$) dependence sharply reduced motivation to quit, whereas behavioral cues did not. Results reveal a distinct dependence profile for bidi users and highlight craving regulation as a key mechanism to target in evidence-based cessation efforts for marginalized populations.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Poster

America Ballroom Center/South

CLINICAL/APPLIED POSTERS

Saturday, February 28, 2026

4:00pm – 5:00pm

POSTER 1

"HE LISTENS TO ME NOW": PERCEPTIONS OF A FATHER-TEEN HEALTH PROGRAM

ANIKA GUPTA (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), JENNIFER GROSSMAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE), MICHELLE SULLIVAN (WELLESLEY COLLEGE)

This study used content analysis to explore qualitative data from a matched sample of 13 father-teen pairs who participated in Connected Dads, Healthy Teens, a 4-week online program to support fathers' health-promoting communication with their teens about sex and relationships. Fathers and teens described the program as impactful through shaping their learning, experiences and interactions. These results validate the importance of father-teen programs to support healthy communication and relationships between fathers and teens.

POSTER 2

"NEW NORMAL." A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE TRAINING IN SCHOOLS

EMMA FONTES (STONEHILL COLLEGE), KRISTY BARRY (STONEHILL COLLEGE), HANNAH DALTON (STONEHILL COLLEGE), ALYSSA FURTADO (STONEHILL COLLEGE), CAROLINE MARTIN (STONEHILL COLLEGE), CIARA O'CONNELL (STONEHILL COLLEGE), ABBY SANWALD (STONEHILL COLLEGE), MAKENNA SLOCUM (STONEHILL COLLEGE), STEPHANIE ERNESTUS (STONEHILL COLLEGE)

This qualitative phenomenological study examined teachers' lived experiences with active shooter drills. Interviews with elementary and middle school teachers were conducted and transcribed. Interviews were analyzed using iterative thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke (2022) in Dedoose. Early coding has identified five potential candidate themes: Fear and Anxiety, New Normal, W.E.I.R.D. Drills, and Sacrifice. Upon completion, findings inform more effective, trauma-sensitive training protocols that balance safety preparedness with teacher and student wellbeing.

POSTER 3

ADDRESSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN TELENEUROPSYCHOLOGY: LESSONS FROM THE R-CARE STUDY

SAMUEL BRILL (ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE), KATHERINE CHANG (ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CITY OF NEW YORK), VIVIAN CHU (THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY OF NEW YORK AND QUEENS COLLEGE, CITY OF NEW YORK), HYUN JIN KANG (THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY OF NEW YORK AND QUEENS COLLEGE, CITY OF NEW YORK), PRANITHA PREMNATH (THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY OF NEW YORK AND QUEENS COLLEGE, CITY OF NEW YORK), STEPHANIE SANTIAGO-MICHEL (THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY OF NEW YORK AND QUEENS COLLEGE, CITY OF NEW YORK), NELSON ROQUE (THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), RICHARD B. LIPTON (ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE), ALI EZZATI (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE), LAURA A. RABIN (ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, BROOKLYN COLLEGE, CITY OF NEW YORK, THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY OF NEW YORK, AND QUEENS COLLEGE, CITY OF NEW YORK,)

Teleneuropsychology (TeleNP) shows promise as an alternative to in-person neuropsychological assessment, but digital inequities may limit access in diverse, low-resource communities. In the Bronx, we implemented a remote cognitive aging study using study-issued tablets and protocol adaptations that permitted home internet use and real-time troubleshooting. Connectivity problems dropped from

43.9% to 15.7%, and nearly all participants completed testing, demonstrating that equitable TeleNP is feasible when structural barriers to technology access and use are explicitly addressed.

POSTER 4

ADHD STIMULANT USE: EFFECTS ON SATISFACTION MEASURES, GOAL ACHIEVEMENT, AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION

ABIGAIL WOOLLS (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE), ELIZABETH PARKS-STAMM (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE)

This study examines how stimulant medication use relates to daily functioning and overall satisfaction in young adults with ADHD. Participants who take medication daily, occasionally, or not at all will report on life, academic, emotional, and social satisfaction. A sample of sporadic users will also track their goals and emotions on medicated versus non-medicated days. Findings will clarify whether stimulant use has positive, negative, or minimal effects on short-term daily functioning and long-term satisfaction well-being.

POSTER 5

ADVANCING PEP PREPARATION: DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND-GENERATION PRACTICE EXAMS

JYH-HANN CHANG (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), NATASHA MERCHANT (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), BROOKE O'CONNOR (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), GOLD ALUKO (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), JACQUELINE COLON (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY)

Generation 2 of the Psychopharmacology Exam for Psychologists (PEP) study tests incorporating Bloom's Taxonomy for stage-based progression, is revised from Generation 1 through removal of repetitions, correction of errors, and improving rationale. Generation 1, 13 postdoctoral MSCP Graduates completed 116 exams across 17 tests; all who completed the PEP achieved a 100% pass rate, demonstrating construct validity. Generation 2 approximates PEP conditions with 17 exams of 200 items, a four-hour limit, and 50 non-scored items.

POSTER 6

XR MEDITATION AND VIRTUAL SKILLS ACQUISITION

KAI-ELLE ROMERO (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), EMILIA PERRONE (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), FAITH GIBSON (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY), CALEB BRAGG (CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examines the impact of Virtual Reality (VR) meditation and In-person meditation on student performance in Virtual Speech tasks. By integrating XR technology with mindfulness practices, we aim to assess anxiety reduction, communication skills, and confidence. Using validated self-report measures and a 2x2 mixed ANCOVA design, results will clarify whether VR meditation is a viable alternative to traditional methods. Findings aim to advance student learning, career readiness, and holistic development through experiential, student-centered strategies.

POSTER 7

AI VALIDATION GENERATION 3 PRACTICE - EXAMS PHARMACOLOGY EXAM FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

JACQUELINE COLON (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), JYH-HANN CHANG (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), BROOKE O'CONNOR (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), NATASHA MERCHANT (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), GOLD ALUKO (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), PERLA GARRIDO (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY), AVA PALOCHIK (EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY)

Generation Three exams are comprised of the highest-level questions from Generation One exams, designed to mimic the Pharmacology Exam for Psychologists (PEP). Generation One items were created using AI. Exam questions are identified into three categories: questions discriminating against higher and lower-level test takers and difficult questions (coefficients above 0.3 and below 0.6 respectfully), only discriminatory questions, and only difficult questions. Exams One and Two include 50 unique non-point questions approximate to the PEP.

POSTER 8

ARE WE READY? TRAINING CLINICIANS TO CARE FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED PEOPLE

TAYLOR HENRY (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), JEZLYN MONTAS (BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), TALIA WEINE (THE NEW SCHOOL), STEPHANIE TRAN (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), JULIA CHAEL (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH FORD (THE NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE), AYORKOR GABA (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

Justice-involved individuals experience high rates of behavioral health conditions shaped by structural inequities, yet graduate programs rarely provide specialized training for this work. This scoping review synthesized literature across psychology, social work, psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, and mental health counseling to examine justice-focused education. Across 51 studies, consistent gaps emerged in

coursework, field training, and supervision. Findings highlight the need for integrated, competency-based, and partnership-driven training models to strengthen workforce readiness and reduce disparities in care.

POSTER 9

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, DISABILITY, AND HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCES AMONG TRANSGENDER WOMEN

HANNAH SEIDMAN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), IVY HO (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL)

Transgender women experience marginalization due to their minority gender identity, which increases their prevalence of disability and intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization. Prior research has indicated that transgender women, disabled individuals, and IPV victims require more healthcare services and report more negative healthcare experiences. This study aims to better understand the predictive nature of IPV, as well as geographical location, on negative healthcare experiences, in addition to the moderating effect of disability status.

POSTER 10

ATHLETE MENTAL HEALTH: A HOLISTIC ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY

ANTHONY J. LONGO (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), SANDRA S. LEE (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY)

Elite athletes are often idealized as physically and mentally invulnerable, yet increasing evidence demonstrates that athletes face a significant and often hidden mental health crisis. This research reviews key drivers of stigma and distress among athletes, synthesizes existing destigmatization strategies, and introduces a comprehensive ecological framework intended to guide proactive and reactive mental health support across all levels of an athlete's environment.

POSTER 11

ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE AND MENTAL HEALTH: DAY-BY-DAY ASSOCIATIONS

SHELBY K. SWARTZ (HARTWICK COLLEGE), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

Daily factors may impact student-athlete mental health. This daily diary study has collected 883 daily entries from 32 female student athletes with a 96% completion rate. Person-level analyses found correlations between coach and team relationships, self-performance, and game outcomes with

depression, stress, anxiety, and mood. Hierarchical analyses are being conducted to examine day-level associations. We expect to find reciprocal relationships between sport variables with mental health and mood.

POSTER 12

ATTENTION ALLOCATION DURING TRUTH-TELLING VS. LYING: EVIDENCE FROM EYE-MOVEMENTS

LUCY ALTMAN-COE (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), VICTORIA GVOZDEVA (SARATOGA SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL), SHELBY KAISER (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), AMELIA HALL (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), NIKA DOLYNUK (SKIDMORE COLLEGE), REBECCA JOHNSON (SKIDMORE COLLEGE)

The current study explored the allocation of attention that participants display when telling the truth vs. lying to a group of listeners (e.g., a jury). Participants watched a video of a nonviolent crime and were then instructed to answer questions either truthfully or not to a panel of audience members while their eye movements were recorded. Saccade amplitudes were greater for truth tellers than liars, likely due to the increased cognitive load associated with lying.

POSTER 13

BEYOND MEAN AFFECT: DYNAMIC MEASURES AND DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY SYMPTOMS

SHANE PRACAR (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), JOSHUA CURTISS (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Dynamic measures of affect may provide unique information beyond mean levels. Participants (N=34) completed a 2-week ecological momentary assessment study measuring negative affect, with baseline and post-study assessments of depression (BDI-II) and anxiety (STAI). While mean affect showed the strongest overall correlations with total symptom scores, dynamic measures were more strongly correlated with specific symptoms, including anhedonia, worry, and sleep disturbance. Elastic net regression retained both mean and dynamic predictors, demonstrating incremental validity.

POSTER 14

BROKEN MASS INDEX (BMI): DEVELOPING AN INCLUSIVE ANTHROPOMETRIC TOOL FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS

Yael Novak (Independent)

Body Mass Index (BMI) is widely used to assess health, but it often misclassifies individuals because body composition differs across race, sex, and age. This study introduces the InNova Index, a demographic-

specific alternative developed using NHANES data and validated against DXA body fat. Regression models and a Random Forest improved accuracy and reduced bias compared to BMI. The InNova Index provides a more equitable, accurate, and more precise assessment for clinical and public health use.

POSTER 15

BROODING AS A MECHANISM IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRATITUDE AND CAREGIVER BURDEN

DEVIN THOMPSON (SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY), QINGYI ZHANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

Little is known about the mechanisms by which gratitude may lessen caregiving strain among cancer caregivers. 144 cancer caregivers completed self-report measures assessing gratitude, brooding, and caregiver burden through an online survey. Higher gratitude was associated with lower brooding, which in turn was associated with lower caregiver burden. The findings highlight brooding as a potential mechanism linking gratitude to lower caregiving burden.

POSTER 16

CAREGIVING FOR A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY: A STRENGTH-BASED APPROACH

CATHERINE FORTIN (HAVERFORD COLLEGE), OLIVIA AGUIRRE (HAVERFORD COLLEGE), SHU-WEN WANG (HAVERFORD COLLEGE)

Research on caregiving for a child with a disability has primarily used a deficit model. Twenty parents of children with ASD and/or ADHD reported on caregiver burden, well-being, and protective factors. Findings suggest caregiver burden has a maladaptive association with well-being, and while non-significant, analyses suggest that meaning-making and resilience may help buffer the impact of parental distress on psychological outcomes.

POSTER 17

CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE: A COMMUNITY-CENTERED WORKFORCE TRAINING MODEL

GEMIMA ST. LOUIS (WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE), YASMINE IBRAHIM (WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE), ANNA USTUN (WILLIAM JAMES COLLEGE)

The Child & Adolescent Mental Health Initiative (CAMHI) at William James College expands the behavioral health workforce to serve underserved youth. CAMHI recruits and trains culturally diverse

graduate students, offering stipends, seminars, and mentorship to promote trauma-informed, culturally responsive care. Since 2022, 59 trainees have delivered over 31,200 clinical hours to 1,000+ youths. Survey data show high satisfaction and significant gains in knowledge and skills, demonstrating CAMHI's impact on workforce diversity and mental health outcomes.

POSTER 18

CLOSING THE GAP: FACULTY MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY AND STUDENT WELL-BEING

BRITTANY KAUFMAN (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), SEANESSA LEE (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), SARA SASH (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), ANJALI KRISHNAN (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), LAURA RABIN (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), RONA MILES (BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

Mental health literacy (MHL) and knowledge of the student referral process for mental health services were assessed in college faculty members via an online survey. Of the 63 respondents, 86% displayed lower to moderate MHL and 85% reported not being very confident in their ability to identify students experiencing mental health issues. This study identifies gaps in faculty MHL and can facilitate the development of faculty trainings to support college students' mental health.

POSTER 19

CULTURALLY-TAILORED PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL BOOKLETS TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY IN CHINESE/INDO-CARIBBEAN INDIVIDUALS

IVY CHEN (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ALDONA CHORZEPA (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), CHELSEA LAMAR (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), NICOLE ROBINSON (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), EMMA CARPLUK (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ZUZANNA KROMCZYK (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), ELIZ BENNY (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), OLIVIA BELL (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), AMANDEEP KAUR (MEDISYS), DANIEL CHEN (MEDISYS), ELIZABETH BRONDOLO (SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY)

Mental health service use remains low in Chinese and Indo-Caribbean communities in the US. To address cultural barriers to mental health service use, including low mental health literacy and stigma, we developed psychoeducational booklets tailored for each community. Preliminary quantitative analyses showed that the booklets decreased stigma and increased

mental health literacy and patient activation in participants from each community. Qualitative data revealed cultural variations in beliefs and coping responses shaping treatment seeking behaviors.

POSTER 20

CYCLIC SIGH BREATHING ALTERS AUTONOMIC AND EEG PATTERNS UNDER ACUTE STRESS

SERGE ONYPER (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), AMELIA BURKHARD (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), ELLA KUCHMAN (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY), BETHZY GUEVARA (ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY)

Cyclic sigh, a controlled breathing pattern that mirrors natural sighing, may reduce acute stress. Participants completed a cold-pressor challenge while we recorded heart rate, electrodermal activity, and EEG activity across baseline, stressor, and recovery phases. Compared with natural-breath and hand-movement controls, the group that utilized the cyclic sigh showed weaker sympathetic reactivity during the stressor and a higher EEG alpha-beta ratio during recovery. These results show that controlled breathing can alter physiological reactivity during stress.

POSTER 21

DEPRESSION-RELATED HOSPITAL VISITS IN CAMDEN, NJ: SPATIAL ANALYSIS PRE- AND POST-PANDEMIC

SAMANTHA VEGA (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN), AARON TRUCHI (CAMDEN COALITION), KRISTIN AUGUST (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN), DAWN WIEST (CAMDEN COALITION)

This study analyzed depression-related emergency and inpatient visits among Camden County adults (2017-2023). Depression visit rates remained stable pre-pandemic (98.97 to 86.50 per 10,000 adults) but declined sharply post-2020 (59.23 to 33.94 per 10,000), coinciding with telehealth expansion. Findings highlight the necessity of equitable mental health policies that address both healthcare access and structural determinants in vulnerable populations during systemic transformations.

POSTER 22

DETECTING DECEPTION: MEASURING MALINGERING WITH A NEW COGNITIVE TOOL

JODI MCKIBBEN (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), JORDAN SALAFIA (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), KIMBERLY BUCKLIN (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), TIERA DANHEUX (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF

PENNSYLVANIA), MAYA NIETO (WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

Malingering confounds the valid assessment of psychological and physiological conditions in clinical, legal, and medical settings. This study assesses a new, purely numerical, probability-based measure of malingering, the Memorization of Digits Tool (MODT). Participants were provided instructions to either malingering on the MODT without being detected (experimental) or to give their best effort (control). Results indicate that the MODT successfully differentiated between the two groups providing evidence of its utility.

POSTER 23

ECONOMIC CONNECTEDNESS AND HEALTH INSURANCE IN U.S. COUNTIES

ATHENA ANGELIQUE DOBLES (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - CAMDEN)

This study examines whether county-level social capital predicts uninsured rates among U.S. adults. Using merged CDC PLACES and Social Capital Atlas data, regression models show that higher economic connectedness, friend clustering, and volunteering rates are each significantly associated with lower uninsured rates. These findings suggest that community social structures -- not only policy and economic conditions -- shape access to health coverage, highlighting potential value in integrating social capital considerations into public health policy.

POSTER 24

EMOTION CONTROL VALUE VS. SUPPRESSION: ASSOCIATIONS WITH ASIAN AMERICAN PARENT-CHILD PSYCHOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

KELLY KWONG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), LEO LI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), VIVAN WANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), SHUTING YANG (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), SEI KIM (MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY), WILLIAM TSAI (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), CINDY HUANG (UNIVERSITY OF OREGON)

The present study aimed to examine the associations of emotion control value (i.e., beliefs) versus emotion suppression (i.e., behaviors) on parent depressive and anxiety symptoms as well as parent-reported child internalizing and externalizing symptoms among Asian American parents. Findings reveal emotion control value was not associated with parent or child mental health outcomes; however, emotion suppression was associated with more maladaptive outcomes for both the parent and the child.

POSTER 25**EXAMINING CONSTRUCTS RELEVANT TO COLLEGE DRINKING INTERVENTIONS ACROSS GREEK MEMBERSHIP AND GENDER**

EMILY RENZONI (OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY), ABBY BRAITMAN (OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY)

Despite success of alcohol interventions in general college populations, drinking interventions delivered to students in Greek life are not consistently efficacious in reducing alcohol-related behaviors. Associations between intervention-related constructs and alcohol quantity were examined among college drinkers (N=524) to identify which are most salient for student groups defined by the intersection of gender and Greek membership. Results suggest that the most salient predictors of alcohol quantity differ across groups. Findings may inform intervention tailoring efforts.

POSTER 26**EXPERIENCES IN THERAPY: VARIATION IN MICROAGGRESSIONS ACROSS RACIAL IDENTITY AND SOCIOECONOMIC LEVELS**

DEANNA BRANKER (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEW BRUNSWICK), ALEXANDRIA BAUER (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEW BRUNSWICK)

People of color are more likely to perceive discrimination from mental health providers. This study aimed to extend these findings by exploring differences in perceived microaggressions and dimensions of multicultural orientation by race and socioeconomic status (SES). Findings indicated that there were significant within- and between-group differences by racial identity and SES in perceived racial microaggressions and providers' multicultural orientation. This study highlights the importance of cultural competency training for practitioners to improve therapeutic outcomes.

POSTER 27**EXPLORING EMPATHY'S ROLE IN SOCIAL MEDIA DRUG MESSAGING AND SUBSTANCE USE STIGMA**

ÖVGÜ KAYNAK (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), ISHITA AGARWAL (PENN STATE HARRISBURG), CHRISTOPHER WHIPPLE (PENN STATE HARRISBURG)

This study examined whether empathy moderates the relation between social media drug messaging and substance use disorder (SUD) stigma among 197 college students. Measures included exposure to drug messaging on social media, empathy, and SUD stigma. Moderation analysis showed that exposure to social media drug messaging was associated with lower stigma at low to moderate levels of empathy, but not

high empathy. Findings suggest digital interventions addressing SUD stigma should include strategies to enhance empathy.

POSTER 28**FACTORS INFLUENCING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIORS**

SOO YOUNG LEE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), EMMA FREETLY PORTER (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

International students in U.S. universities experience elevated levels of depression, anxiety, and acculturative stress, yet underutilize campus mental health services. This study examines how linguistic comfort, everyday discrimination, and self-stigma relate to help-seeking behavior. Following IRB approval, data collection has begun using validated measures assessing all key variables. It is expected that lower linguistic comfort, greater discrimination, and higher stigma will be associated with reduced likelihood of seeking counseling.

POSTER 29**HOW DIFFERENT VIEWS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AFFECT PUNISHMENT DECISION-MAKING**

JAMIE SMITH (KEAN UNIVERSITY), ERICA BAER (KEAN UNIVERSITY)

Public views on punishment vary, shifting from traditional retribution, deterrence, and incapacitation toward increased support for rehabilitation and restorative justice. Negative personal experiences with the criminal justice system—such as having incarcerated family or friends—tend to reduce punitive attitudes. In this study, participants evaluated four fictional crimes. Correlations showed that those with negative system exposure selected less severe punishments for blue-collar offenses, though not for fraud, suggesting crime severity still strongly shapes sentencing preferences.

POSTER 30**HUMAN BIAS IN FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEMS**

AMANDA BERGOLD (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH CRONK (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), LAETITIA VALEMBRUN (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY), ALIYAH NASSER (SETON HALL UNIVERSITY)

When a crime is captured on video, law enforcement agencies increasingly have used facial recognition technology (FRT) to generate suspects to investigate. However, there are increasing examples of people who

have been wrongfully arrested based because of the inaccurate results returned from these searches of facial databases. We conduct an experimental design to test our hypotheses that both database size and contextual information will increase the number of false matches generated from the system.

POSTER 31

IMPACT OF AN ACADEMIC BUILDING'S WALL-SIZED SCREEN ON STUDENTS' COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE

JASON TRENT (MARIST UNIVERSITY), ELIZABETH MENDE (MARIST UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether facing a large, wall-sized screen in an academic building's atrium affected students' cognitive performance. Ninety-five students completed Digit Span, N-Back, and Stroop tasks while sitting facing toward or away from the screen. Analyses suggest that the screen did not significantly impair memory, attention, or cognitive flexibility, which may be because participants not facing the screen were similarly distracted by different aspects (e.g., people) in their environment.

POSTER 32

INVESTIGATING JUDICIAL REASONING IN SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUMMARY JUDGMENTS

OLIVIA MARSAN (SIENA UNIVERSITY), KATLYN FARNUM (SIENA UNIVERSITY), LILIA LIVOLSI (SIENA UNIVERSITY)

The current project is a quantitative coding study of 131 Circuit Court judicial opinions of Title VII sexual harassment summary judgment cases from 2018-2023. At the present time 34 cases have been coded. Thus far, plaintiffs are more likely to prevail when certain types of harassing behaviors occur or if there are multiple types of harassing behaviors. The defendant is more likely to prevail when they investigated the harassment.

POSTER 33

IS CYBER HARASSMENT FUNNY? EXAMINING GENDER IN ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORAL INTENTIONS

DANEEN DEPTULA (FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY)

The current study examined the role of participant, perpetrators, and victim gender in a cyber harassment hypothetical situation. Participants were 111 undergraduate students who reported on their attitudes and behavioral intentions. Men reported higher levels of victim blame and perceptions that the

victim could have prevented the victimization. Male same-gender cyber harassment scenarios were rated as more "funny" to participants. Findings suggest the importance of interventions that are male-focused and those for same-gender cyber harassment.

POSTER 34

LINKING EMOTION REGULATION, PARENT COMMUNICATION, AND AGGRESSION IN COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH

LILY HOERNER (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY), CHRISTIE RIZZO (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Parenting practices influence adolescent behaviors, including delinquency, mental health, and emotion regulation (ER). Maladaptive emotion regulation strategies have also been tied to the development of aggressive behaviors, which are a particular concern among justice-impacted youth. This study used linear regressions to examine the relationship between parent-child communication, emotion regulation strategies, and aggressive behaviors in a sample of court-involved youth. Our results indicate parent communication and maladaptive emotion regulation strategies are associated with aggression.

POSTER 35

META-ANALYSES OF RELATIONSHIPS AMONG COMPENSATORY HEALTH BELIEFS WITH (UN)HEALTHY INTENTIONS AND BEHAVIORS

GAVIN FOX (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), MINH QUANG LUONG (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY), ALLI KIMMEL (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY), LUCY NAPPER (LEHIGH UNIVERSITY)

Compensatory health beliefs (CHBs), the idea that a healthy behavior can offset an unhealthy one, are theorized to justify health-compromising actions and motivate later compensation. We meta-analyzed 252 effects from 59 samples to clarify their role in health decision-making. CHBs predicted greater engagement in unhealthy behaviors and stronger intentions for compensatory behaviors, but not compensatory action. Effects varied by behavior domain. Findings indicate CHBs function primarily as rationalizations and highlight key targets for behavior-change interventions.

POSTER 36

META-ANALYSIS OF THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY-ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE CORRELATION IN POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS

LUKAS SOTOLA (PACE UNIVERSITY), EL-LIM KIM (FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE), HYUN SEON

KIM (IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY), GRACE WASINGER (IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY)

In a meta-analysis of 61 samples from 60 studies, we tested the association between physical activity (PA) and academic performance (AP) among postsecondary students. We found a small correlation between frequency of PA and AP ($k = 49$, $N = 44,821$, $\bar{r} = 0.03$), and a stronger, though still weak, correlation between physical fitness and AP ($k = 10$, $N = 13,728$, $\bar{r} = 0.15$). Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

POSTER 37

MOTIVES FOR MUSIC LISTENING PREDICT A PREFERENCE FOR UNDERDOG MUSICIANS

KENNETH MICHNIEWICZ (MUHLENBERG COLLEGE), ILANA SHANES (MUHLENBERG COLLEGE), SARAH ANAHI MAQUEDA (MUHLENBERG COLLEGE)

Listeners often favor underdog musicians, but the psychological motives behind this preference are less understood. In this study, undergraduates evaluated an underdog and a topdog musician and completed the Adaptive Functions of Music Listening Scale. Underdog perceptions were linked to emotional regulation, reminiscence, and stronger support, whereas topdog perceptions showed fewer associations. Findings suggest that music-listening motives, particularly reminiscence and emotional needs, shape liking and support for musicians of differing backgrounds.

POSTER 38

PARENTING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS AS PREDICTORS OF GRADES AND ACADEMIC BEHAVIORS/ATTITUDES

JORDAN SHEKALUS (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), LOU MANZA (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), KYLIE METZLER (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), ABIGAIL REED (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), MADELINE LAVELLE (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), ERIN MILLER (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), MAGGIE NEYER (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE), SAMANTHA MILLER (LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE)

Productive academic behaviors/attitudes were associated with high GPAs, but the predictors of each varied (and excluded parenting practices). High GPAs were associated with rigorous majors and possessing intellectual humility, but predictors of effective school behaviors/attitudes included having effective coping skills, academic resilience and self-efficacy, and curiosity. Parenting elements correlated instead with the psychological traits that in turn predicted academic success, with effective child-rearing associated with high levels of intellectual humility, curiosity, self-efficacy, and resilience.

POSTER 39

PARENTING ATHLETES: INFLUENCING MOTIVATION, DISCIPLINE, AND EFFORT.

MALIA DAKE (HARTWICK COLLEGE), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE)

Parents influence student-athletes' motivation, discipline, and effort. This study examines the relationship between parenting styles, behaviors, and physical activity on athletes' motivation, discipline, effort, and perception of effort. No relationship was found between parenting style or physical activity, but motivation, discipline, and effort was related to specific behaviors of parents. This suggests that behaviors that encourage intrinsic motivation and discipline should be valuable in increasing effort and perception of effort in student-athletes.

POSTER 40

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES FOR SIMULTANEOUS ALCOHOL AND CANNABIS CO-USE: A MIXED-METHODS APPROACH

SABRINA M. TODARO (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), MELISSA C. ROTHSTEIN (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND), AMY L. STAMATES (UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND)

Protective behavioral strategies (PBS) reduce substance-related harm, but scant research has examined co-use (i.e., simultaneous alcohol and cannabis use) PBS. This poster examined PBS for co-use, and found 1) PBS was higher for co-use than single-substance occasions, 2) the easiest and most effective PBS were "using a designated driver" and "using cannabis only around trusted peers", and 3) PBS unique to co-use were identified. Findings indicate existing scales may not accurately capture co-use PBS.

POSTER 41

QUESTIONING THE "BELONGINGNESS GAP" AT A SMALL, DIVERSE LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

MARYELLEN HAMILTON (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY), EMILY PEREZ (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY), DANIEL WISNESKI (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY), BRITTANY HANSON (SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY)

The current research finds that a tailored STEM belongingness intervention increased feelings of being prepared for college but did not impact GPA or retention, both at the university and within a STEM major, during the first year of college for low-income and Hispanic students. A follow-up study tests whether low-income and Hispanic students actually differ in baseline belongingness compared to non-low-income

and non-Hispanic students in this specific university population.

POSTER 42

RETHINKING PROGRESS: ALIGNING OUTCOME MEASUREMENT WITH REAL-WORLD CHANGE

ANTOINETTE GURDEN (RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY)

Outcome evaluation in behavioral health often relies on pre-post designs that assume linear trajectories of change. Yet empirical evidence shows that needs emerge, shift, and resolve over time. This conceptual paper critiques the limitations of linear outcome models and introduces peak-post analysis as a feasible alternative that captures dynamic change without complex modeling. The paper discusses methodological considerations for aligning measurement with real-world trajectories and implications for improving evaluation practice.

POSTER 43

SLEEP DURATION AND MENTAL HEALTH IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

KHAOULA DAHANI (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), SOPHIA BARRETT (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), JAZMINE K. TAYLOR (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY)

This study uses secondary data from the 2023–2024 Healthy Minds Study to examine whether sleep duration is associated with anxiety and depression symptoms among college students. Prior research links insufficient sleep to stress-related mental health outcomes, yet large-scale college samples remain understudied. Using national survey data, we analyze weekday and weekend sleep in relation to mental health scores. Preliminary patterns suggest that shorter sleep corresponds with worse mental health.

POSTER 44

SURVIVE OR SURRENDER: NURSING STUDENT BURNOUT

EMMA COHEN (HARTWICK COLLEGE), WILLIAM J. KOWALCZYK (HARTWICK COLLEGE), URSULA SANBORN-OVERBY (SUNY ONEONTA)

Nursing students experience significant stress which leads to burnout. Coping mechanisms are often ineffective in dealing with this stress. Learner empowerment however has been shown to positively impact nursing students decreasing susceptibility to burnout. Learner empowerment could mediate the relationship between coping mechanisms and burnout

by creating a stable foundation for which students can rely on when they are stressed and must utilize coping mechanisms to mitigate symptoms that lead to burnout.

POSTER 45

TEACHER DEMOTIVATION IN TABLET-BASED CLASSROOM ORCHESTRATION

CORY ROBERTS (TEMPLE UNIVERSITY), JIA-HAN YANG (TEMPLE UNIVERSITY)

This review applies Self-Determination, Control-Value, and Expectancy-Value theories to examine teacher demotivation when coordinating tablets into classroom instruction. Motivation plummets when tablet management demands accumulate. When technical difficulties thwart competence and erode control, the costs outweigh the value. Yet teachers' motivation increases when tablets and school structure support instructors' autonomy and competence. We argue that designers should prioritize minimalist interfaces, administrations should permit teachers to determine effective use, and professional development should emphasize content-specific training.

POSTER 46

THE COST OF BARRIER TO ENTRY: PROMIS USE IN ROUTINE CLINICAL CARE

MERELL TURNER (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY), KYLE NOLLA (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

Adoption of PROMIS has been obstructed by uncertain clinical benefits, task overload, clinical workflow disruption, and lack of longitudinal data display. PROMIS is a clinically validated battery of person-centered outcome measures used to evaluate and monitor physical, mental, and social health in adults and children. The current narrative review seeks to review literature highlighting the use of PROMIS in routine clinical care thereby garnering insights into how PROMIS is currently being utilized.

POSTER 47

THE DIFFICULTY DICHOTOMY IN SUDOKU PUZZLES

MAURICIO RODRIGUEZ (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), DAILYN CLARK (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK), JEANETTE ALTARRIBA (UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK)

This study looked at rating the difficulty level of Sudoku puzzles based on how "complete" they were at the start, a possible estimator for difficulty. A formula

regarding completion of the puzzle was able to account for 78.5% of the variance, in a linear regression model, for how long it took a computer to solve 180 different Sudoku puzzles, that had been assigned to "easy, medium, or hard" labels, beforehand.

POSTER 48

THE EFFECT OF 2, 5 DIMETHOXY-4- IODOAMPHATAMINE (DOI) ON AMYGDALA ACTIVITY IN PTSD

GRAHAM HALFPENNY (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), SARA SYPOLT (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), OLIVIA ALLEN (WASHINGTON COLLEGE), DANIEL KOCHLI (WASHINGTON COLLEGE)

The purpose of this experiment is to observe how the psychedelic 2, 5 Dimethoxy-4-iodoamphetamine (DOI) alters GABAergic neuron activity in the amygdala during stress enhanced fear learning (SEFL). SEFL was used to induce trauma consistent with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and DOI was administered before extinction training. Results this far found significant SEFL effects between shocked and non-shocked rats in context A training. Overall results are coming soon. Clinical applications are discussed.

POSTER 49

THE EFFECT OF ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS ON STRESS AND ANXIETY IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

RILEY JACKMAN (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE), EMILY COOK (RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE)

This study examined the effect that artistic activities have on stress reduction, and mood. Participants are 18-25 year old college students who participated in a stressor and then are randomly assigned to either paint, color a mandala, or read a textbook. Findings indicated that there are significant differences between groups on positive affect and anxiety. There are not significant differences on negative affect, but results suggest higher negative affect is present after the reading activity.

POSTER 50

THE EFFECTS OF ANGULARITY ON THE PERCEPTION OF MEDICAL SERVICE ROBOTS

ELIZABETH YADGAROV (INDEPENDENT), ALLYSON WESELEY (ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL)

Given that appearance influences opinions, this study examined how the angularity of medical service robot (MSR) designs shapes patient perceptions. Participants viewed a curved, angular, or no-image MSR and rated perceived warmth, threat, trust, and visual appeal. The

curved MSR was rated more appealing, warmer, and less threatening while trust did not differ. These findings suggest that curvature can improve patient acceptance and MSR integration should address the gender differences observed in the study.

POSTER 51

THE INFLUENCE OF PERCEIVED VICTIMIZATION AND FEAR OF CRIME ON LEGAL DECISION- MAKING

ANAHITA SHERIYARJI (KEAN UNIVERSITY), ERICA BAER (KEAN UNIVERSITY), RICHARD P. CONTI (KEAN UNIVERSITY)

This study explores how the perceived victimization and fear of crime in an individual may influence their legal decision-making. Participants read a criminal case and were asked to recommend a sentence, and then a civil case where they were asked to recommend a monetary compensation amount. Results demonstrated a significant interaction between age and fear of crime on civil compensation, but no corresponding interaction related to criminal sentencing.

POSTER 52

THE NATURALISTIC FALLACY AND HARM-BASED CENSORSHIP OF EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

MEDHINI URS (FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE), CORY CLARK (NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA & UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)

We examined how political ideology, naturalistic fallacy errors, and perceived moral harm predict support for censoring controversial scientific findings. U.S. adults read one of two contentious research summaries and completed measures of naturalistic fallacy errors, moral harm, censorship support, and ideology. Moral harm strongly predicted censorship, naturalistic fallacy errors moderately predicted harm, and ideology weakly predicted naturalistic fallacy errors. naturalistic fallacy errors indirectly shaped censorship through their influence on perceived harm.

POSTER 53

THE UNIVERSITY AS A CHARACTER IN AN UNQUIET MIND

AAYUSHI DESHPANDE (CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK GRADUATE CENTER)

The National College Health Assessment (2009–2017), estimates that 1.2% to 1.7% of university students in the US have bipolar disorder. Character Analysis was used to analyze Kay Jamison's memoir, *An Unquiet*

Mind, to illuminate the impact of higher education on student mental health and examine universities as sites of risk for students' mental health. The university and its constituents were reframed as characters who influenced her experience of bipolar disorder within the university setting.

POSTER 54

TRAUMA, RESILIENCE, AND MENTAL HEALTH HELP-SEEKING IN MENA STUDENTS: CASCADE MODELING

JAZMINE TAYLOR (THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK CUNY), SOPHIA BARRETT (CUNY THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK), MOHAMED ELGHAMRY (CUNY THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK)

This study examines trauma, emotional resilience, and mental-health help-seeking among MENA college students using 2023–24 Healthy Minds Study data. We test whether resilience buffers trauma's impact on psychological distress and whether cultural 'in-house' coping, managing problems privately or within the family, reduces follow-through on plans to seek professional help. Findings will inform culturally responsive strategies to support MENA students' mental health needs.

POSTER 55

USING AI-BASED CLIENTS TO ENHANCE COUNSELING STUDENTS' SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-EFFICACY

ZEYNEP BUSRA PARSAK (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY), EMMA FREELY PORTER (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY)

This study explores how interacting with an AI-based simulated client influences counseling students' self-efficacy, counseling skill development, and attitudes toward AI in counseling training. Following IRB approval, data collection includes surveys, a 10-minute written counseling interaction with an AI client, and a follow-up interview. It is expected that engaging with the AI client will enhance students' perceived skill confidence and shape their attitudes toward incorporating AI in counselor education.

POSTER 56

WHY WE MISS GPS ERRORS: THE ROLE OF SELF-EFFICACY AND COGNITIVE BIAS

NATHAN GREENAUER (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), CATHERINE MELLO (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), ASHLEY MUSANTE (PENN STATE BERKS A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

This study examined cognitive and individual factors that contribute to overreliance on GPS navigation. Participants evaluated the accuracy, trustworthiness, and error likelihood of their own versus others' devices across familiar and unfamiliar environments while completing measures of spatial ability, technological proficiency, and self-efficacy. Results showed that users judged their own GPS as more accurate and trustworthy, especially in unfamiliar environments. These findings indicate that cognitive bias, rather than skill or experience, drives excessive GPS reliance.

POSTER 57

DISPLACEMENT WITHOUT MOVEMENT: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSPORTATION, CULTURAL COHESION, AND PROPOSED ARENA

JOSEPH ABBAS (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), STEPHEN DANLEY (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY)

We examined how a proposed arena in Philadelphia's Chinatown may reshape transportation access, cultural cohesion, and displacement risk, focusing on community perspectives. Using purposive sampling, we interviewed 10 residents, business owners, and community leaders from Chinatown, and conducted an inductive thematic analysis. Findings indicate mobility disruption from traffic and reduced transit, cultural displacement with weakened place attachment, and distrust from opaque planning, described as "displacement without relocation," supporting inclusive, enforceable, culturally responsive mobility planning.

POSTER 58

FAMILY FUNCTIONALITY, SUBSTANCE USE, AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

MATTHEW BUCHER (PENN STATE HARRISBURG A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

Emerging adulthood is the period when individuals aged 18–29 experience a variety of pivotal and formative life events that both positively and negatively contribute to their development. This developmental time presents unique circumstances that can contribute to mental health problems and substance misuse, both of which are influenced by formative family experiences. This study investigates the relationship between substance use, mental health, and family functionality using a multivariate approach.

POSTER 59

STRESS AND SLEEP QUALITY ACROSS UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS: A MULTILEVEL APPROACH

ANGELINA DAVIS (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), YAN WANG (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), JIABIN SHEN (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL), SAMANTHA MIADICH (UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL)

Research has found that high stress is associated with poor sleep quality. This study examined the association between stress and sleep among undergraduate students across departments using multilevel modeling. Four models were examined and the model including random slope, stress, and covariates was the best fit. Results indicate that the effect of stress on sleep across departments is small. Higher stress, older age, and being a freshman were associated with poor sleep.

POSTER 60

STUDENT AND STAFF PERCEPTIONS OF HARM REDUCTION ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS

JEFFREY RUDSKI (MUHLENBERG COLLEGE), KATERINA PRATSOS (MUHLENBERG COLLEGE), JONAH KING (MUHLENBERG COLLEGE), AVI SOUSSAN (MUHLENBERG COLLEGE)

We assessed student and staff perceptions of harm reduction strategies (naloxone/Narcan kits, fentanyl test strips, clean needles) on a college campus. Narcan and fentanyl test strips were strongly endorsed, and clean needles less so (with concerns linked to safety). Harm reduction strategies were generally seen as indicating care for student safety, and a desire for 'gift baskets' containing Narcan and test strips (but not needles) by Campus Safety was generally endorsed.

POSTER 61

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON SUPPORTING YOUTH UTILIZING GENERATIVE AI FOR MENTAL HEALTH

ABBY SULLIVAN (CLARK UNIVERSITY), AMY HEBERLE (CLARK UNIVERSITY)

Youth are increasingly utilizing AI for mental health support, yet there is limited guidance on how youth can utilize these tools in a safe and intentional manner. This study synthesized literature on youth digital literacy, mental health education, and AI-mediated interaction to propose a conceptual framework for educating youth on strategic use of AI for mental health support. Four instructional targets were identified to promote safe usage of AI for mental health support among youth.

POSTER 62

ASSIMILATION AND EVALUATION FEARS MEDIATE THE LINK BETWEEN AUTISTIC TRAITS AND SELF-EFFICACY

USHA BARAHMAND (QUEENS COLLEGE CUNY), ALBARAA GEBRIL (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), STANLEY WILLIAM DAVIS (COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), CYNTHIA ZHOU (VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY), MINAAL ALIKHAN (ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY), SARAH AKHTAR (TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

This study investigated how camouflaging and evaluation fears mediate the link between autistic traits and self-efficacy in 373 adults. Serial mediation analysis revealed that autistic traits reduce self-efficacy through fear of negative evaluation, specific assimilation strategies, and fear of positive evaluation. Assimilation emerged as the primary camouflaging mechanism driving this effect. These findings suggest that the psychological cost of assimilation specifically undermines social confidence and well-being.

POSTER 63

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: MINORITY STRESS, ATTACHMENT SECURITY, AND IPV IN QUEER INDIVIDUALS

CARSON BROOKS (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), HAN ZAW LATT (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), SHEILA JAMSHIDI (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), IRENE FAYER (TOWSON UNIVERSITY), JONATHAN MATTANAH (TOWSON UNIVERSITY)

This study examined whether minority stressors predict intimate partner violence (IPV) among queer adults and whether attachment security buffers these effects. Among 169 participants, identity concealment and internalized homonegativity were strongly associated with greater IPV perpetration and victimization. However, attachment security did not moderate these associations. Findings highlight the role of minority stress in intensifying IPV risk within queer individuals and demonstrate the need for further research on factors that shape violence in queer communities.

POSTER 64

CHILDHOOD POLY-VICTIMIZATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING IN APPALACHIA: EXPLORING RESILIENCE AS A MODERATOR

KELSEY FRANK (FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

Rural and Appalachian communities experience elevated risk for trauma exposure and limited behavioral health resources. This study investigated

childhood poly-victimization, resilience, psychological functioning, and substance use among Appalachian adults. Poly-victimization predicted greater psychological distress and substance use involvement, while resilience was associated with lower symptom severity. Moderation was not supported. Results underscore persistent trauma-related disparities and the need for expanding behavioral health infrastructure and trauma-informed prevention strategies across Appalachia.

POSTER 65

CLOTHING TACTILE SENSORY SENSITIVITIES IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: A SCOPING REVIEW

ILANA WEINSTEIN (LA SALLE UNIVERSITY), MAYA BAUER (LA SALLE UNIVERSITY), KELLI POWERS (LA SALLE UNIVERSITY)

Tactile sensory sensitivities are highly prevalent among autistic individuals and often interfere with daily functioning, particularly regarding clothing textures, menstrual products, seams, and tags. This scoping review systematically maps existing research on tactile sensitivities and clothing-related discomfort in autistic individuals. Guided by PRISMA-ScR and JBI frameworks, the review identifies patterns across studies, highlights gaps in intervention, and proposes directions for improving inclusion and sensory accessibility in everyday environments.

POSTER 66

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANXIETY SENSITIVITY SUBSCALES TO GENERALIZED ANXIETY AND PROBLEM-TALK IN ADOLESCENCE

EMMA RONAGHAN (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), KIMBERLI TREADWELL (DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)

This study investigated how components of anxiety sensitivity relate to conversational styles and friendship quality in 54 late adolescents. Cognitive anxiety sensitivity predicted generalized anxiety, and both cognitive and social components correlated with co-rumination but not problem anxiety talk. Results suggest that anxiety sensitivity subscales may differentially predict anxiety types and indicate that anxiety sensitivity may be a risk factor for maladaptive, depression-linked conversational patterns rather than anxiety-focused talk.

POSTER 67

DISPOSITIONAL MINDFULNESS AND SERENITY: COGNITIVE EMOTION REGULATION AND STRESS

FANG ZHANG (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY), CHAMPIKA SOYSA (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), MARIA PARMLEY (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY)

The present study investigated the effects of dispositional mindfulness and serenity in relation to stress. The present study found mindfulness and serenity incrementally predicted less stress. Furthermore, adaptive and maladaptive cognitive emotion regulation differentially mediated the relationship between mindfulness and stress and between serenity and stress.

POSTER 68

EARLY MENARCHE AND THE RISK OF PSYCHOTIC LIKE EXPERIENCES

MADISON OBERLY (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), MORGAN BLOOM (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY), JOSEPH DELUCA (FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY)

Early menarche is a risk factor for health problems. Participants in our study who reported early menarche (i.e., \leq age 10 v. \geq age 12) were more likely to report psychotic-like experiences (PLEs). Women who reported age at menarche ($N = 454$) completed an online survey including the Prodromal Questionnaire-Brief Version (PQ-B /PLEs). Findings suggest that early menarche may place women at higher risk for PLEs, informing understanding of women's health risk factors and potential clinical implications.

POSTER 69

EYE TRACKING OF ATTENUATED PSYCHOSIS SYNDROMES IN ADOLESCENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

ETHAN S. TERMAN (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), LIOR SANILEVICH (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), CHRISTIAN ZABALLOS (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY), ANNABELLE DAVID (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

This narrative review explores eye tracking's potential to detect attenuated psychosis syndrome (APS) in adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), where subtle psychotic like symptoms overlap with characteristics of ASD. By analyzing oculomotor metrics like saccades and smooth pursuit, eye tracking provides objective biomarkers for differentiation. Synthesizing recent evidence, we highlight enhanced diagnostic accuracy, early interventions, and the need for validation to improve outcomes in this vulnerable population.

POSTER 70**FIRST-YEARS: DIFFERENTIAL MEDIATION OF THE THREAT-STRESS RELATIONSHIP BY GENDER AND GENERATIONAL STATUS**

CHAMPIKA SOYSA (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), AMANDA POLLICELLI (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), LETICIA OLIVEIRA (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), JULIA OBRZYCKI (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY), BRIANNA RIGGIN (WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY)

In 244 first year undergraduates, burnout, acceptance, and gladness, but not test-anxiety, were concurrent mediators of the threat appraisal - stress relationship, in both men and women, partially supporting hypothesis one. Hypothesis two was partially supported, where acceptance and gladness, but not burnout and test anxiety, were concurrent mediators of the threat appraisal - stress relationship in both first and continuing generation students. These findings could inform interventions to decrease stress in undergraduates.

POSTER 71**IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE ON SEXUAL ATTITUDES, GENDER NORMS, AND RMA**

AAKANKSHA ARKADE (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY, GORDON F. DERNER SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY), EMMA FREELY PORTER (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY, GORDON F. DERNER SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY)

This study examined relationships among substance use, rape myth acceptance (RMA), cultural values, gender norms, and paraphilic fantasies in 59 adult men. Analyses showed alcohol use was linked to paraphilic fantasies via RMA, and adherence to traditional gender norms predicted greater endorsement of rape myths. Findings illustrate how substance use and culturally rooted beliefs interact to shape sexual attitudes, emphasizing the need for interventions addressing both substance use and societal narratives that support sexual violence.

POSTER 72**INTEREST IN A WORK-RELATED STRESS MANAGEMENT APP FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CLINICIANS**

HARSHITH YALLAMPALLI (DARTMOUTH COLLEGE), ENZO G. PLAITANO (GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE), JONATHAN R. POWELL (IMAGETREND INCORPORATED), CHRISTOPHER B. GAGE (NATIONAL REGISTRY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS), ASHISH R. PANCHAL (WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), LISA A. MARSCH (GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DARTMOUTH

COLLEGE), CHRISTINE M. GUNN (GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE), MADELYN R. FRUMKIN (GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE)

Emergency medical service (EMS) clinicians are first responders with high stress exposures and significant barriers to seeking mental health care. Digital health "apps" can provide accessible support tools. We surveyed a simple random sample of 1,517 full-time EMS clinicians to identify motivators of app interest. In a population-weighted multivariate regression model, an app to help during difficult times, track work-related stress, and provide easy access was associated with higher app interest, informing user-centered design.

POSTER 73**MINDFULNESS BUFFERS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EMOTIONAL REACTIVITY AND SUICIDAL IDEATION IN STUDENTS**

DOMINIQUE PORCARO (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY), MEGAN CHESIN (WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY)

Suicidal ideation (SI) is common among college students, particularly those with heightened emotional reactivity. This study examined whether mindfulness and resilience moderated the relationship between emotional reactivity and SI in 757 college students. Using Hayes' PROCESS Model 2, mindfulness significantly weakened the emotional reactivity-SI association, while resilience did not. Findings suggest mindfulness is a protective factor against SI in emotionally reactive students, highlighting the potential value of mindfulness-based-interventions for suicide prevention on college campuses.

POSTER 74**MIXED-METHODS STUDY OF HUMAN-DOG ATTACHMENT, HUMAN ATTACHMENT STYLES, AND MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS**

JASMINE JACKSON (CUNY JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE), KATHERINE STAVRIANOPOULOS (CUNY JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE)

This mixed-methods study investigates the relationship between human attachment styles and attachment to dogs, examining how alignment or divergence affects emotional well-being. Twenty adult dog owners completed the Experiences in Close Relationships (ECR) and the Pet Attachment Questionnaire (PAQ), followed by semi-structured interviews. Preliminary analyses reveal patterns in which attachment style similarities and differences shape reliance, emotional regulation, and perceived mental health benefits, with implications for personalized animal-assisted interventions.

POSTER 75**PERSISTENT COGNITIVE AND NEUROPSYCHIATRIC SEQUELAE OF MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**

ETHAN S. Terman (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

Mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), often dismissed as transient, can produce enduring cognitive and emotional dysfunction. This paper integrates neuroinflammatory and network-based perspectives to explain persistent attention deficits, mood disturbances, and sleep disruption following mTBI. Evidence indicates that chronic neuroinflammation, cognitive inefficiency, and emotional dysregulation interact dynamically, sustaining long-term symptoms. A multidimensional framework is proposed, emphasizing the intersection of biological injury and psychological adaptation as key to understanding recovery trajectories.

POSTER 76**SUNLESS TANNING PRODUCTS AND MENTAL HEALTH AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

MEGHAN GILLEN (PENN STATE ABINGTON A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY), DIANE ROSENBAUM (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY ABINGTON)

Sunless tanning product use is a safer alternative to tanning. Little is known, however, about its link to mental health. In the current study, we examined rates of sunless tanning product use and links to mental health (both general and body specific) among diverse undergraduates (N = 145). Sunless tanning product use was associated with poorer mental health and greater skin risk behavior.

POSTER 77**QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF HUMAN AND CANINE ATTACHMENT STYLES**

JASMINE JACKSON (CUNY JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE), KATHERINE STAVRIANOPOULOS (CUNY JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE)

This quantitative study examined how human attachment styles relate to attachment to dogs. Twenty adult dog owners completed the ECR and PAQ. Preliminary analyses show that securely attached individuals report higher pet-attachment scores, while those with anxious or avoidant attachment display distinct patterns of reliance and interaction. Findings highlight how human attachment influences human-dog bonds and offer insight into understanding companion animals as meaningful attachment figures.

POSTER 78**QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSES OF CLOCK DRAWINGS IN A TRAUMA EXPOSED SAMPLE**

STEPHANIE SANTIAGO-MICHELS (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), KATHERINE CHANG (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER), ALISON PELLECCIA (SUNY STONY BROOK), MELISSA CARR (SUNY STONY BROOK), LAURA RABIN (CUNY BROOKLYN COLLEGE), SEAN CLOUSTON (SUNY STONY BROOK), BENJAMIN LUFT (SUNY STONY BROOK)

The Clock Drawing Task (CDT) is a common neurocognitive tool, however its utility in trauma-exposed populations remains unclear. This study evaluated CDT performance in a sample of 9/11 emergency responders with PTSD and/or mild to major neurocognitive disorders (MNCD). Among four diagnostic groups, those with MNCD exhibited the most clock errors. Results suggest that the CDT may not be sensitive to the neurocognitive changes in trauma-related conditions and highlights the need for more sensitive tools.

POSTER 79**THE VALIDATION OF THE PERFORMANCE INVENTORY**

NICHOLAS GALLUCCI (WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY)

The Performance Inventory (PI) is an 80-item questionnaire designed to measure 14 empirically-derived forms of anxiety (e.g., cognitive interference, explicit monitoring) and coping strategies (e.g., self-efficacy) in sport, theatre, music, and academic venues. With this research, a parents' or guardians' form of the PI was developed (PPI). Simultaneous factor analyses for the PIs and PPIs demonstrated statistically similar factor patterns. Considering covariance of corresponding factors, 10 of the 14 factors were significant ($p < .01$).

POSTER 80**THEORETICAL ORIENTATIONS OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY: CONTEMPORARY DATA AND HISTORICAL PATTERNS**

JOHN C. NORCROSS (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), ERICA C. CZERWINSKI (UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON), MICHAEL A. SAYETTE (UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH)

Tracked the theoretical orientations of faculty members at APA-accredited doctoral programs in clinical psychology (94% response) over the last 35 years. CBT is dominating with no other orientation even accounting for 20% of the faculty. Trends over

the decades demonstrated a steady rise in CBT and a gradual decrease in the psychodynamic orientation. Significantly more faculty at research-oriented Ph.D. programs endorsed CBT than practice-oriented Psy.D. programs, who subscribed to more psychodynamic and existential/humanistic theories.

POSTER 81

IMPROVING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING IN A PSYCHOLOGY COURSE THROUGH APPLIED ASSIGNMENTS

ANITA KAMAL (BROOKLYN COLLEGE CUNY),
MILUSHKA ELBULOK-CHARCAPE (BROOKLYN COLLEGE CUNY), LAURA RABIN (BROOKLYN COLLEGE CUNY)

As part of a semester-long undergraduate Psychology of Aging course, students reviewed a peer-reviewed research article relevant to the course and interviewed an older adult. Students subsequently presented on the selected topic, integrating the review and clinical interview. Post-assignment surveys demonstrated that the project deepened their understanding of the selected topic and that the interview effectively fostered applied understanding of the course material.

Saturday, February 28, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Event

Great Republic

PSI CHI NETWORKING AND SERVICE CONNECTION

Saturday, February 28, 2026
4:00pm – 5:00pm

CHAIR: INGRID TULLOCH

PSI CHI NETWORKING AND SERVICE CONNECTION

INGRID TULLOCH (MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY)

This networking and service event connects Psi Chi alumni and students. Participants engage in conversations while assembling hygiene and beauty care packets using donated items from a shared wish list (<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/6IDSZGWZR5UO>). The completed packets will be donated to TogetherSheCan Boston to support unhoused individuals. All Psi Chi members are encouraged to contribute items in advance by dropping them off at the Psi Chi table or bringing donations to the event to support the service initiative.

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