29th ANNUAL

California State University
San Marcos

PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

2023 Event Program
2023 PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Lisa Graves

CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY PANEL ORGANIZER
Aleksandria Grabow

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Karissa Reyes

POSTER REVIEWERS
Mckenzie Blake
Devin Ghidella
Libby Keck
Ashley Mota Ortega
Kaylee Ryan
Veenavi Warnakulasooriya Fernando
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Welcome to the 29th Annual Psychology Student Research Conference sponsored by the CSUSM chapter of Psi Chi and the CSUSM Psychology Student Organization. This conference offers undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities throughout Southern California the opportunity to share their work in psychological research and connect with fellow students and faculty. For our conference this year, we received over three dozen submissions, including 38 posters and 4 blitz talks! We hope that you enjoy learning about our students’ research.

We would like to take a moment to thank all of those who have worked on and contributed to our conference, because without these efforts and support, this event would not be possible. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the dedicated time and effort of the Research Conference Planning Committee and student volunteers, who have been working diligently in preparation of this event. We would also like to express our appreciation to the CSUSM Psychology Department faculty and staff for their continual support for student research and this conference.

Finally, we would like to offer a special thank you to Betsy and the late Dr. Richard Fitzpatrick, whose very generous endowment and subsequent contributions help to ensure that psychology students for years to come will have the opportunity to participate in this wonderful learning experience and celebration of student research.

We hope that you enjoy today’s event!

Sincerely,

The 2023 Psychology Student Research Conference Planning Committee
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30AM
Sign-in begins
(Presenters and attendees who purchased luncheon tickets)

10:00AM-11:00AM
Poster Session A

11:00AM-12:00PM
Graduate School in Psychology Panel

12:00PM-1:00PM
Keynote Address

1:00PM-2:00PM
Poster Session B
Luncheon

2:00PM-3:00PM
Careers in Psychology Panel

3:00PM-4:00PM
Student Blitz Talks and Awards Session

All events will be held in the USU Ballroom
"Robotic Asians": A Mechanistic Dehumanization Perspective of Bias against Asians in the U.S.

Franki Kung, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychological Sciences
College of Health and Human Sciences
Purdue University

Despite surface-level representations, Asians and Asian Americans (AAAs) face interpersonal discrimination at work and schools in the U.S. Although valuable theories exist to explain how biases against AAAs may emerge (e.g., “model minority” and “perpetual foreigner”), the psychology literature is still limited in its ability to account for certain perplexing observations. Specifically, why are AAAs associated with specific positive stereotypes (e.g., disciplined, emotionally stable) that often lead to negative treatments (e.g., exploitation)? Drawing on emerging work on dehumanization, in this talk, I will propose and present preliminary evidence to argue that AAAs face unique biases due to the dehumanizing stereotypes portraying AAAs as robots and machines. Implications for diversity, equity, and inclusion practices related to the findings and beyond will be discussed.
Featuring former undergraduate students of California State University San Marcos

Dora Beacham, BA
Master’s Program in Social Work
California State University, San Marcos

Petrona Gregorio-Pascual, MA
Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health
San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego

Maiya Larry, BA
Master of Arts Program in Psychological Science
California State University, San Marcos

Rosalva Romero Gonzalez, BA
Master of Arts Program in Psychology
San Diego State University

Carlos Rosas, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
University of California, San Diego
CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY PANEL
2:00PM-3:00PM

Nathan Carnes, PhD
Military Research Psychologist

Kyxie Dominguez, BA
Special Education Coordinator

Jana Goldberg, MA
Clinical Outcomes Manager

Cameron Stevenson, MA
Institutional Planning and Analysis Interim Director

Camilla Williams, PhD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Poster A-01. Children’s Media: Representation of Mother’s

Juliana Anaya-Garcia, Mazzy Noriega, Ximena Torres  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

The topic of study is mothers’ representation within children’s media. The first research question is, “will family size correlate to the depiction of mothers being the primary caregivers?”. The hypothesis is that there will be a significant relationship between these two variables. The second research question is, “does children’s media show family size having a relationship with maternal employment?”. The second hypothesis suggests that there will also be a significant correlation between these two variables. There was a total of 80 data points where mothers were analyzed among 64 adolescent television shows. Each mother that was observed represented a data point. Shows were viewed and each variable was evaluated according to the studies criteria. Results to this study indicate an insignificant correlation involving family size with both maternal employment and mothers as primary caregivers. Implications of the findings include selective viewing of shows with mothers. An additional implication is the duration of view time for each show. This study may have a future purpose of helping others understand representation of mothers within the parameters of children’s media.

Poster A-02. Dogs' Reactions to Rattling Snakes in a Natural Environment

Katie Brunson, Erika Vasquez, Marielle Castaneda, Brianna Reyes, Nancy Caine  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

There is evidence that dogs are bitten by rattlesnakes on a regular basis. This is surprising because one would think that dogs could use olfactory, visual, or auditory cues to avoid venomous snakes. Three recent studies have, in fact, failed to find evidence that dogs use sensory cues to avoid rattlesnakes. In the current study we recorded the behavior of 41 dogs in response to auditory cues, including the sound of rattling snakes, while on a hike. We found no evidence that dogs reacted differently to the sound of rattling snakes compared to other environmental sounds such as bird chirping or frogs croaking. The puzzle of why dogs approach rattlesnakes, which puts them at risk for rattlesnake bites, is yet to be solved.
Within the context of neurocognitive evaluations for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD), informant reports of participants’ daily functioning may vary based on characteristics of informants and their relationships to participants. However, these associations have not been adequately examined among aging Mexican Americans. We examined the influence of informant characteristics (age, sex/gender, education, race, ethnicity, relationship type, relationship length, cohabitation status) on subjective informant reports of participant functioning (assessed via Functional Activities Questionnaire [FAQ] scores) among middle-aged and older Mexican Americans in the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center cohort (n=286). Sex/gender and relationship type significantly predicted FAQ scores. Female informants reported worse participant functioning compared to male informants (p=.040). Additionally, adult children of participants reported worse participant functioning compared to siblings and friends of participants (p=.038). Implications for neurocognitive evaluations and ADRD diagnostic accuracy with aging Mexican Americans are discussed.

For aging Mexican Americans, informant sex/gender and relationship type have been shown to influence subjective informant reports of participants’ daily functioning. However, the extent to which these characteristics moderate associations between reported functioning and objective participant performance on neuropsychological testing remains unclear. We examined effects of informant sex/gender and relationship type on associations between reported functioning (assessed via Functional Activities Questionnaire scores) and neuropsychological performance among middle-aged and older Mexican Americans in the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center cohort (n=286). Informant sex/gender (but not relationship type) significantly moderated the association between reported functioning and neuropsychological performance. Male (versus female) informants provided reports of functioning that were more predictive of memory performance (p=.015). Implications for neurocognitive evaluations and ADRD diagnostic accuracy with aging Mexican Americans will be discussed.
Poster A-05. Self-Esteem, Student Success, and Well-Being among Community College Students

Bailey Donnelly  
Palomar College

Community college students face unique challenges including life changes and transitions. A positive association between student success and self-esteem (Arshad et al., 2015; Berger et al., 2011; Crocker et al., 2003; Li et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2019), student success and well-being (Fairlamb, 2022; Herrman & Varnum, 2018; Kirkcaldy et al., 2004; Yang et al., 2019), and well-being and self-esteem (Crocker et al. 2003; Fang & Galambos, 2015; Topham & Moller, 2011; Yang et al., 2019) has been established. This study evaluates associations between student success, self-esteem, and well-being among community college students. We administered a self-report survey to 96 Palomar College students (M = 20.27 years of age; 52% male, 43% female, 2% transgender, and 3% non-binary). We found significant positive correlations between self-esteem and student success, student success and well-being, and well-being and self-esteem. These results are valuable in informing educational institutions and future researchers investigating this population.

Poster A-06. How College Students Perceive Their Autistic Peers in Terms of Race/Gender

Ekaterina Kirillova, Janice Phung, Sarah Guadarrama  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) symptoms commonly perceived as “odd” by laypersons lead to stigmatization. Despite similar prevalence across racial groups, ASD is often perceived as a “White” and “male” disorder. We hypothesized that in vignettes with no racial or gender identifiers, participants will hold negative attitudes and perceive the ASD-specific vignettes to be about a White male. Undergraduate students read three vignettes depicting gender-neutral characters: Typical student (control), Student with ASD with label, Student with ASD without label. Participants reported on their attitudes directed toward each character and about their perceived characteristics. Preliminary analyses indicated no difference in participants’ mean attitude ratings. However, for assumed race/ethnicity across three conditions, participants reported the character to be White/Caucasian. For the Control and Student with ASD with label conditions participants assumed the vignette was about a woman; for the Student with ASD without label condition, most participants assumed the character was a man.

Poster A-07. Source Reliability and Illusory Truth

Alex Léon, Jennifer Lozano, Dustin P. Calvillo  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

The present study investigated the effect of source reliability on the illusory truth effect. Participants were randomly assigned to one of two conditions that differed by instructions. One set stated the headlines presented to them came from a reliable source while the other stated they came from an unreliable source. In the last phase of the study, participants rated the truthfulness of headlines that had been previously shown to them and new headlines they had not seen. It was predicted that a significant interaction would be found between instruction condition and repetition. Specifically, it was hypothesized that the illusory truth effect would occur in the reliable instruction condition, but not in the unreliable instruction condition. As predicted, instruction condition and repetition were found to have a significant interaction effect on the perceived truthfulness of the headlines. The illusory truth effect occurred in the reliable condition, but not the unreliable condition.
Poster A-08. The Illusory Truth Effect Occurs with Affirmed but not Negated Statements

Giulia Martelli, Brooklyn Powell, Sophia Kuper, Dustin P. Calvillo
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Exposure to information increases subsequent belief in it, a finding is known as the illusory truth effect. In other studies, presenting eyewitness with true, negated post-event statements (e.g., the culprit was not wearing a green shirt) increases their subsequent false memory for that information (that the culprit was wearing a green shirt). The present study combined these ideas by presented negated information in an illusory truth experiment. Participants rated their interest in a set of statements that included a combination of true and false statements that either affirmed or negated some information. Next, they rated the truth of a set of statements that included those previously rated for interest and new statements. There was a typical illusory truth effect for statements that were initial affirmed, but belief decreased for those initially negated. A follow-up study will examine whether a delay between initial exposure and truth ratings affects these results.

Poster A-09. Attribution: The Relationship Between Personal Ability and Father’s Occupation

Claudia Lomeli
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

This experiment was conducted to determine what people will attribute to the success of others. In this study participants read the biography of a successful surgeon whose father did or did not have experience in their field. Participants then rated the extent to which the young surgeon’s success was due to luck. The results demonstrated no significant difference in attribution of luck for the success of the surgeon based on their father also being a surgeon or not. Disproving the author’s hypothesis. Keywords: attribution

Poster A-10. COVID-19 Fear and Romantic Relationship Conflict’s Impact on Emerging Adults’ Thought Problems

Amanda Mata, Mckenzie Blake, Jennifer Figueroa, Haylee DeLuca Bishop
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Research regarding COVID-19’s impact on emerging adults’ romantic relationships and mental health has largely focused on anxiety and depressive symptoms. To our knowledge, no studies have investigated the impact of COVID-19 and relationship conflicts on emerging adults’ thought problems (e.g., self-harm, suicidal ideation). Therefore, this study investigated whether COVID-19 fear at baseline was correlated with thought problems at follow-up six weeks later, and if daily romantic conflict longitudinally predicted thought problems. We hypothesized that there would be a positive correlation between COVID-19 fear at baseline and thought problems at follow-up, as well as a positive correlation between romantic conflict and thought problems at follow-up. Results indicated that conflict was positively correlated with thought problems ($r = .30$, $p < .001$), but COVID-19 fear was not ($r = .01$, $p = .88$). These findings speak to the longitudinal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on emerging adults’ romantic relationships and mental health.
**Poster A-11. Anxiety and Marijuana Use Motives among Black, Hispanic, and White Young Adults**

**Miranda Medina, Kimberley Pulvers**  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

Aim: To identify which marijuana use motives are linked with anxiety symptoms among young adults who use cannabis, and whether these relationships vary among the three largest racial/ethnic groups in the U.S.  

Method: Cross-sectional study with 451 U.S. young adults (ages 18-25) in 16 states who used marijuana in the past 30 days. Anxiety symptoms and marijuana use motives were assessed via a 2021 online survey.  

Results: Higher anxiety symptoms were associated with greater levels of coping (r=.31), social (r=.21), conformity (r=.20), expansion (r=.15), and enhancement (r=.12) motives. The magnitude of associations between anxiety symptoms and motives varied by race/ethnicity.  

Conclusion: All five marijuana motives were positively associated with anxiety symptoms, with important differences by race/ethnicity. Coping motives had the strongest association with anxiety symptoms suggesting that individuals who experience anxiety symptoms are more motivated to use marijuana to cope.

**Poster A-12. Cannabis Misuse among Adults of Varying Income Levels and State Legalities.**

**Naomi Maxwell, Kimberley Pulvers**  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

Abstract Aim: To understand how structural (i.e., policy) and individual (i.e., income) factors work together to affect cannabis misuse and related problems among U.S. young adults.  

Method: Cross-sectional study with 451 U.S. young adults (ages 18 to 25) who used cannabis in the past 30 days and resided in eight states where cannabis was fully legal and eight states where cannabis was fully illegal. Cannabis misuse, cannabis problems, and annual gross income were assessed via an online survey in 2021.  

Results: Neither cannabis state policy nor income were linked with cannabis misuse. Those residing in states where cannabis was illegal reported more cannabis problems and greater severity of problems than those in states where cannabis was legal. These relationships held regardless of income.  

Conclusion: Cannabis legality may create conditions for less problematic use in young adults. Longitudinal work is needed to understand whether this remains true longer-term.

**Poster A-13. Attachment, Sociotropy and Romantic Conflict Resolution in Emerging Adulthood**

**Marisa Morris, Aleksandria Grabow**  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

The intent of the present study is to examine whether higher insecure attachment tendencies predict higher rates of sociotropy and higher rates of unhealthy romantic conflict resolution strategies. Participants will be assessed on their attachment style, sociotropic people pleasing behaviors, romantic conflict resolution strategies, and overall romantic relationship satisfaction. Data will be collected in May of 2023.  

Projected results predict that participants with higher insecure attachment will display higher rates of sociotropy in addition to reporting higher unhealthy romantic conflict resolution strategies. Furthermore, these relationships will be moderated by attachment style, such that the association between sociotropy and unhealthy conflict resolution strategies will be stronger for those with more insecure attachment. Additionally, we predict that participants with insecure attachment will report a lower overall romantic relationship satisfaction. This research will help inform on potential predictors of sociotropy and unhealthy conflict strategies, to help with replacement behaviors and intervention strategies.
Poster A-14. Light After The Storm: Resiliency After Experiencing Childhood Betrayal Trauma

Ashley Mota Ortega  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Betrayal trauma is defined as happening when an individual’s trust is violated by a person or institution that they depend on significantly for their survival. The aspect of betrayal has been associated with adverse outcomes, such as emotional numbing, avoidance, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms, and alcohol misuse. An important factor that moderates psychological well-being and severity of PTSD symptoms after experiencing childhood trauma is resilience. The present study will address the relationship between resiliency and PTSD symptoms, as well as how coping strategies moderate this relationship in adult survivors of childhood betrayal trauma. I hypothesize that adult survivors of childhood betrayal trauma who display more resilience will experience less PTSD symptoms in adulthood than those who display less resilience, and coping strategies (active vs. passive) will moderate this relationship. Also, coping strategies (i.e., active vs. passive) will mediate the relationship between resilience and PTSD symptoms in adulthood. If resiliency can mitigate the negative outcomes after experiencing childhood betrayal trauma, it is important for future research to investigate ways to foster resilience.

Poster A-15.  My Barber is Like a Therapist”: The Influence of Trauma-Informed Advocacy on Psychological Openness and Help-Seeking Behaviors Among African American Males During a Barber Visit

John W. Edwards, III, Aleksandria Grabow  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Negative beliefs related to seeking help has adverse effects on Black men ages 18 – 35. Specifically, stigma has been linked to unnecessary disability, substance abuse, domestic violence, unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, and suicide in this population. These circumstances become amplified when men do not have a way to decompress and communicate their feelings. Conversely, prioritizing self-care, which can be something as simple as getting a haircut when low self-esteem is detected, can encourage men to engage in meaningful conversation, thus reducing the fear of vulnerability. This study aims to investigate whether trauma-informed advocacy (i.e., advocating for psychological openness, providing mental health resources) with a strength-based approach during a haircut provided by a trauma-informed barber has an influence on help-seeking behaviors and general health outcomes (self-esteem, anxiety symptoms, depressive symptoms). This study will employ a mixed methods approach, including qualitatively assessing the reactions and responses of African American males to a haircut and quantitatively measuring outcomes through a survey. It’s predicted that Black men who receive a haircut and engage in meaningful conversation that supports their individual needs may develop a healthy relationship with talking about their mental health.
Poster A-16. The Influence of Normative Feedback on Conservation Behavior: Replicating the Boomerang Effect

Kyra Warshaw, Kiana Bernabe, Alexia Killen, Edleen Suh, Lisa Brown
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Some of the most powerful and under-detected forces that influence behavior are social norms. Social norms can be used as tools to encourage positive behaviors, but the powerful draw toward the norm may also have negative implications. In the context of conservation behaviors, awareness of one’s deviation from the norm may influence undesired behavior change. The influence of descriptive norms was tested using shower length. We hypothesized that participants in the descriptive norm condition whose baseline shower length was below the group average would increase their shower length. Our study followed a 2 (condition) x 2 (shower time: above/below mean) x 2 (time: point 1/2) experimental design. The results supported our hypothesis. Descriptive normative information encouraged a boomerang effect and resulted in an increase in shower length for those below the mean. Therefore, there could be negative repercussions of normative feedback when encouraging conservation behaviors.

Poster A-17. From Love to Comeback: The Predictability of Tennis Set Outcomes

Sophia Barberie, Rachel Weiss, Ryan Huerta, Michael Raphaeli, Nadav Goldschmied
University of San Diego (USD), Nanning College for Vocational Technology

Men’s Tennis Grand Slam tournaments were studied from 2000-2022 to assess trends in game progression. Men’s tennis, a game in which the winner is determined by winning three sets, showed that about ⅔ of games start with one player winning two sets (rather than a split score), regardless of tournament round. Also, we observed that momentum propelled comebacks, as in when a player was behind by two sets and in an unlikely fashion was able to win the next two sets (most games end in 3-0 score), he was also more likely to win the last and fifth set and the game altogether. This study highlights the importance of game format (i.e., score vs. time dependent scoring) and skill in influencing outcome predictability.

Poster A-18. ACEs, Demographics, and Posttraumatic Cognitions

Kerris Woods
San Diego State University (SDSU)

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have been linked to many negative outcomes, including posttraumatic cognitions. Previous research has also shown demographic differences, particularly gender and/or racial differences, exist among ACEs. Therefore, in the current study, we hypothesized that there will be gender and/or racial differences in the impact of ACEs on posttraumatic cognitions. A multiple regression was conducted to predict posttraumatic cognitions from total ACE scores (0-4+), race, and gender. The results show the overall regression was statistically significant F(3, 570)=26.543, p < .001, R2 = .123, and race (p < .035) and ACEs (p < .001) significantly predicted posttraumatic cognitions, such as the more ACEs one has the higher the scores on the Posttraumatic Cognitions Inventory; however, gender was not statistically significant (p = .882). These findings extend previous work that ACEs contribute to posttraumatic cognitions, and that demographic differences exist in the impact of ACEs on posttraumatic cognitions.
This study examines the relationships between social media use, attention, and sleep quality among a sample of community college students. We hypothesized that 1) more social media use would be associated with worse sleep, 2) higher sleep quality would be linked with better attention, and 3) higher social media usage would be associated with worse attention. We used a sample of 78 community college students between the ages of 18 and 30 and self-report data to examine associations among social media use, attention, and sleep. Social media use and sleep quality were significantly correlated such that greater social media use was related to lower sleep quality. Neither sleep quality nor social media use was significantly correlated with attention. This study contributes to the growing body of evidence that social media use may impact sleep and thus the overall health of students.
Poster B-01. NACHO Expression in the Interpeduncular Nucleus (IPN) in Ly6 Knockout Mice

Ariana Almaraz  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

As nicotine dependency has rapidly increased in recent decades due to easy accessibility of vapes and e-cigarettes, it has become harder to quit. Current nicotine withdrawal treatments have low efficacy with up to 90% fail rates. Nicotine highjacks the system as it can bind to the same nicotinic receptors as endogenous Acetylcholine. This study aims to distinguish a relationship between the NACHO and Ly6 proteins found within the Interpeduncular Nucleus (IPN) as this brain region is known for mediating withdrawal symptoms following chronic nicotine exposure. Using fluorescence immunohistochemistry, NACHO was tagged in Lynx2 knockout mice and their wildtype littermates. The number of NACHO expression within each IPN was quantified and it was found that there was not a significant decrease in NACHO protein expression when Lynx2 was absent. This finding and future studies could lead to better addiction therapies where withdrawal symptomology can be internally managed.

Poster B-02. The Interaction Between Nicotinic Modulators in The Hippocampus: Implications for Learning and Memory

Nessa Jamalian, Karina Marquez  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

Recent studies have demonstrated that nicotine can enhance cognition, learning, and memory. The hippocampus, a brain region vital for learning and memory contains nicotinic receptors, which nicotine binds to. NACHO is a chaperone protein that enhances nicotinic receptor function while Lynx2 and Ly6H are negative allosteric modulators that suppress receptor activity. NACHO and Ly6H have shown to rival for access to nicotinic receptors to maintain homeostasis. Thus, we were interested to see whether removal of Lynx2 would result in any changes of NACHO expression. Due to their reciprocal relationship, we hypothesized that Lynx2 knockout (KO) mice would have increased NACHO expression. Using immunohistochemistry and fluorescent microscopy, we were able to compare KO and control mice and found that there were no differences in expression of NACHO in the hippocampus. These findings are important as we continue to understand more about the balance of allosteric modulators and how they maintain nicotinic receptor activity in the hippocampus, which will be important for future nicotinic based cognitive therapeutics.
Poster B-03. Refuting the Theory That Sugar Consumption Induces Hyperactive Behaviors by Examining Dopamine Fluctuation

Krista Kueber
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

Sugar is highly palatable and delivers rewarding properties which derives from its capability of dopamine release. Dopamine elicits feelings of pleasure and motivation which results in the consumer desiring more stimuli, although excessive sugar consumption can cause fluctuations in dopamine levels which is hypothesized to alter hyperactivity. To better understand dopamine's influence on hyperactivity, rats' dopamine levels as well as hyperactivity will be measured during sugar pellet and regular pellet consumption. Variables will be measured for 2 hours per day for 3 consecutive days, and rats will be probed on the nucleus accumbens shell with a microdialysis to measure dopamine, while hyperactivity will be measured by how long they exhibit teeth chattering, forepaw tremor, and headshakes. Results from this study concluded that increased sugar consumption alters dopamine levels in the nucleus accumbens shell during and after consumption, although consumption does not affect hyperactivity. Results also found that dopamine levels are affected by the presence of sugar and not independently by consumption.

Poster B-04. NACHO Expression in the Nucleus Accumbens: Relevance for Nicotine Addiction

Renee Laurenzana, Levi Shinn
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

Cigarette smoking is recognized as the primary cause of preventative death in the U.S. Nicotine can hijack the brain’s natural reward system, including the nucleus accumbens (NAc) region, which plays a key role in drug-seeking and reward-related behavior. Current therapeutics for nicotine addiction are not fully efficacious. This has generated interest in alternative therapeutics using allosteric modulators, which can only exert their effects in the presence of an agonist, like nicotine. Ly6, an allosteric modulator, works by delaying nicotinic receptor assembly, while NACHO disinhibits Ly6 to disinhibit receptor assembly. This antagonistic relationship is maintained for optimal neuronal activity. With an Ly6 knockout mouse model, we were able to determine if disturbing this balance altered NACHO expression. In our results we found NACHO expression in the NAc and that Ly6 knockout did not significantly alter NACHO expression. These findings can help us develop more efficacious treatments for nicotine addiction.
Poster B-05. The Interaction Between Nicotinic Receptor Modulators in the Hippocampus: Implications for Learning and Memory

Karina Marquez, Nessa Jamalian  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Recent studies have demonstrated that nicotine can enhance cognition, learning, and memory. The hippocampus, a brain region vital for learning and memory, contains nicotinic receptors, which nicotine binds to. NACHO is a chaperone protein that enhances nicotinic receptor function, while Lynx2 and Ly6H are negative allosteric modulators that suppress receptor activity. NACHO and Ly6H have been shown to rival for access to nicotinic receptors to maintain homeostasis. Thus, we were interested to see whether the removal of Lynx2 would result in any changes in NACHO expression. Due to their reciprocal relationship, we hypothesized that Lynx2 knockout (KO) mice would have increased NACHO expression. Using immunohistochemistry and fluorescent microscopy, we compared KO and control mice and found no differences in the expression of NACHO in the hippocampus. These findings are important as we continue to understand more about the balance of allosteric modulators and how they maintain nicotinic receptor activity in the hippocampus, which will be important for future nicotinic-based cognitive therapeutics.

Poster B-06. Informal STEM Learning: Museum Exhibit Signage

Juliana Anaya-Garcia, Lizzy Weems  
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Previous research suggests that informal educational environments, such as museums, can facilitate children’s STEM learning via children’s first-hand interactions with scientific learning materials (e.g., Fowler 2016; Haden et al., 2014; Marcus, Haden, & Uttal, 2017). This study explores how museum exhibits can promote children’s STEM learning through family interactions with exhibit signs containing scientific information. Family conversations and interactions with museum exhibits were observed before and after a museum implemented signage containing educational content. Through observation, recordings of conversation styles (parent-led or child-led), communication styles (directive, informative, or inquiry-based), and usage of specific STEM related terms were taken (e.g., fossil). Data collection is ongoing, and will provide insight into how children’s museums can optimize exhibits to promote STEM learning.

Poster B-07. Cross-Race Effect: Confidence-Accuracy Relationship and Cognitive Models

Shiqi Chen, Kyros Shen, John Wixted  
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

Discrimination accuracy is usually higher for same-race than for cross-race faces when responses are collapsed across confidence levels. However, when lineups are used, accuracy within confidence levels does not differ appreciably for same- and cross-race faces. Whether the same is true for showups is still unknown. Furthermore, while signal-detection-based models of memory have been utilized to better understand the mechanisms underlying eyewitness memory in general, the theoretical mechanism for the cross-race effect is still unsolved. This study will fill both gaps by testing memory for cross-race and same-race faces using both lineups and showups. Discriminability will be measured using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis, and the accuracy of identifications at each confidence level will be measured using confidence–accuracy characteristic (CAC) analysis. Cognitive models will also be fit to the data to better understand any observed effects on a theoretical level.
Poster B-08. Investigating the Role of the Orbitofrontal Cortex in Sensory Preconditioning

Vanessa Hasenhundi, Omar Qureshi, Mihaela Iordanova  
*Concordia University*

The orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) has been implicated in learning about associatively evoked stimuli. However, less is known about the mechanism underpinning the substrate’s role. The present study examined whether learning about associatively evoked stimuli was a consequence of associative chaining or mediated conditioning in the OFC. To address this question, Sprague-Dawley rats underwent a sensory preconditioning protocol where they came to associate two neutral stimuli (S2 and S1) in stage one and then received S1-shock pairings in stage two. Half of the rats experienced chemogenetic inactivation of the OFC during stage two of sensory preconditioning. Subsequent testing revealed differential responding to S2, suggesting inactivation of the OFC disrupted the formation of a mediated S2-shock association during stage 2. We report that the OFC is essential in endowing memory representations with value as new information becomes available from the environment.

Poster B-09. Success of Others Perception Study

Pollyann Huynh  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

Sometimes there are multiple factors that can affect perceptive of the cause of a person’s success. Do people consider a person’s ethnicity, gender, or even a parent’s job? This study use a survey to ask participants to read a short excerpt of a doctor and rate to what they associate with their success. The results showed little significance between the race and gender of the doctor being the determination of their success. The limitation for this study was the non-representativeness of the sample as most participants were from the same university.

Poster B-10. Does Language Affect the Illusory Truth Effect with Bilingual Participants?

Jennifer Lozano, Alex Léon, Giulia Martelli, Dustin P. Calvillo  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)*

Repeated exposure to information increases perceived truth in it; a finding known as the illusory truth effect. The current study examined if the magnitude of the illusory truth effect differed based on language matching among bilingual participants. Spanish-English bilingual participants first rated their interest in 16 headlines, of which 8 were in Spanish and 8 in English. Participants then rated the truthfulness of these headlines in addition to 8 new headlines. Of the previously rated headlines, half matched the language in both rating phases. Headlines were counterbalanced across language conditions. We predicted that headlines rated in the same language in both rating phases would receive greater truth ratings than headlines rated in different languages, and both would receive greater ratings than new headlines. Results demonstrated an illusory truth effect with repeated headlines; however, the magnitude of the effect was not found to be significantly dependent on language matching.
Poster B-11. How Views of Success May Vary by Factors Like a Father’s Occupation

Tanumia Lualemaga
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

A variety of factors may affect the attributions people make about another’s success. In this research, we examined whether mentioning that a young surgeon’s father had also been a surgeon would lead to a higher rate of their success being attributed to motivation. College students read a brief biography about the young successful surgeon that varied in whether it included the father’s occupation. Afterwards, they rated the amount to which the young surgeon’s success was credited to motivation. Results indicated no significant difference in the extent that success was attributed to motivation as a function of the father’s occupation being mentioned.

Poster B-12. Age of First Cannabis Use and Cannabis Misuse Explained by Depressive Symptoms

Karissa Tran, Kimberley Pulvers
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Aims: To examine whether: (1) the relationship between age of first cannabis use and cannabis misuse is moderated by gender; and (2) the relationship between age of first cannabis use and cannabis misuse is mediated by depressive symptoms and anxiety symptoms. Method: Cross-sectional study with 451 U.S. young adults (ages 18 to 25) who are current cannabis users. Age of first cannabis use, cannabis misuse, depressive symptoms, and anxiety symptoms were assessed via an online survey. Results: Gender was not found to moderate the relationship between age of first cannabis use and cannabis misuse. Depressive symptoms were found to mediate the relationship between age of first cannabis use and cannabis misuse, although anxiety symptoms were not. Conclusion: Individuals experiencing depressive symptoms who initiated cannabis use at an earlier age are at an increased risk of progression to cannabis misuse. Evidence-based prevention and treatment programs should prioritize these individuals.

Poster B-13. The Daily Experience of Military Families with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Laura McNulty, Janice Phung
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Military families with a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are underrepresented in the literature despite the number of dependents with a diagnosis reaching approximately 23,500 (Tricare, 2011). Active-duty military service brings about unique challenges and disruptions for families raising a child on the spectrum (Davis et al., 2016) These stressors include frequent geographic relocation, isolation from extended family and supports, temporary assignments that take the active-duty parent out of the home, and deployments that increase anxiety about the safety of the service member (Davis & Finke, 2015; Lester & Flake, 2013). Stressors are further compounded by difficulty obtaining and maintaining quality services (Davis & Finke, 2015). The present study uses an online questionnaire to explore the daily stress levels and perceived support of the primary caregiver of the child with ASD to expand our knowledge of their experiences, results will be presented at the research fair.

Kendon Fuller, Julianna Alvarez-Dennard, Cinthya Navarro, Alex Huynh
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Across two studies, we explored whether social interactions with ethnically different (vs. same) others would result in a greater endorsement of individualistic cultural values. In Study 1, participants were randomly assigned to imagine interacting with someone who was from the same or different ethnic background as them. They described this imagined interaction before reporting their endorsement of individualism. In Study 2, participants were recruited to engage in a standardized social interaction with a trained research assistant who is of the same or different ethnicity as them. After the interaction, participants report their endorsement of individualistic values. Across both studies, we measured participants' experiences with the interaction and hypothesized that participants interacting with someone from a different (vs. same) ethnic background would report greater anxiety and a greater endorsement of individualistic cultural values. Results are pending data analysis and would inform researchers about how diversity may be shaping cultural change.

Poster B-15. Prompting Intellectual Humility to Decrease Overclaiming Tendencies

Kanani Soares, Alyssa Nieves, Alex Huynh
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Previous literature finds that individuals tend to report familiarity with topics that do not exist (i.e., overclaiming). Intellectual humility is defined as the ability to recognize limitations of one’s knowledge. The aim of the current study is to investigate whether inducing intellectual humility will help minimize tendencies to overclaim. In an ongoing study, undergraduate participants from CSUSM were randomly assigned to reflect on the limits of their knowledge (intellectual humility condition) or reflect on tips for studying (control condition). The primary hypothesis is that individuals in the intellectually humble condition will overclaim less compared to the control condition. Results are pending data analysis. To our knowledge, the present research is the first to examine the concepts of overclaiming and intellectual humility together. The findings from our study also hold implications for strengthening academic performance through decreasing overclaiming.

Poster B-16. The Role of Perspective-Taking and Type of Situation on Prosocial Behavior

Ashley Ngov
California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM)

Previous work tends to focus on the altruistic basis of helping. However, helping can also be egoistic. To explore this, the proposed study will test how helping behaviors is impacted by perspective taking. This study will be a concepotional replication of Batson et al. (1991) Empathy X Feedback with modifications. Similarly, perspective-taking instructions will be used to manipulate empathic concern. However, instead of feedback, cost-to-benefit analysis will be utilized to manipulate egotistic motives for helping. I hypothesize that an individual is more likely to demonstrate prosocial behavior when they are taking the perspective of another person in low cost situations. The findings can contribute to future research on what motivates prosocial behaviors. Moreover, this can expand on the traditional dichotomy of altruism and egoism.
Poster B-17. The Evolution of Reciprocity in Games with Asymmetric Information

Boyu Wang, Wenhao Qi, Lindsey Powell
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

People care about others’ welfare to varying degrees, captured by the welfare tradeoff ratio (WTR), or the weight placed on another person’s welfare compared to one’s own. People can infer another person’s WTR toward themselves and reciprocate by adjusting their own WTR toward that person. However, the evolutionary origin of such a capacity is unclear. In games with perfect information, a heuristic strategy with tit-for-tat-like reciprocity is unbeatable, and the additional computation of inferring the opponent’s WTR confers no benefit. Here we show that in games with asymmetric information, where the actor has more accurate information about the payoff structure than the observer, the heuristic strategy is prone to errors from misperception, while reciprocity based on the inference of WTRs is robust. These findings suggest that asymmetric information about social decisions, a realistic modification to the game environment, may have contributed to the evolution of people’s understanding of others’ WTRs.

Poster B-18. Refugee Trauma: Not Our Problem

Alina Maslyukova
Palomar College

This paper explores the psychological trauma experienced by refugees that does not involve physical violence. The author examines various types of trauma, as well as mechanisms of trauma transmission through which trauma affects other people around a traumatized individual. The author concludes that the pain of refugees is not their own problem only, but something we all are affected by and interested in eliminating. The concept of identity crisis is also explored as a common experience for refugees and one of the main elements of post-immigration stress. The author then applies this conceptual framework to their own forced displacement experience from Russia to the United States, ultimately concluding that their identity transcends national borders and encompasses a global citizenship identity. This type of identity is associated with prosocial values such as diversity, environmental sustainability, intergroup empathy, intergroup helping, social justice, and felt responsibility to improve the lives of others.
In the current study, we will be extending part of our research on the cheerleader effect. We know from previous studies that the cheerleader effect occurs when the same individual appears to be more attractive when seen in a group, compared to alone. The cheerleader effect is due to the interaction of three cognitive phenomena: the visual system automatically presents the representation of faces on average, individuals in a group are biased towards this average, and the average face is more attractive. Also, according to other experimental findings, subtle cues in photographs may influence people’s judgment of facial quality. We, therefore, hope to introduce this variable into existing experiments on the cheerleader effect and the social reason that the presence of people in social situations has an effect on people’s judgment of facial attractiveness. Does social inference contribute to the cause of the cheerleader effect, in addition to facial averaging? In our experiment, we planned to ask subjects to rate the attractiveness of faces when presented alone, when presented in a group, or when presented in a group but the rest of the group’s faces were covered.
Talk 01. The Experience of Ecological Grief

Melissa Malaspino  
*University of West Georgia*

As knowledge of climate change, extinct and endangered species, pollution, and other environmental issues has become more commonplace, the psychological impact of living with these phenomena has become more relevant to examine. In this proposed study, phenomenological methods will be used to collect and analyze first-hand accounts of the experience of ecological grief, or the feeling of loss or mourning in association with environmental concerns. A small and diverse group of individuals will be interviewed in an open-ended manner on what their experiences of ecological grief have been, whether ecological grief has impacted their decisions or way of being in the world, and how they’ve processed the grief. The aim of this study will be to understand what is common between all accounts of ecological grief while finding meaning in the variations. Findings of this study may lay a foundation for more widespread acknowledgement of and working through ecological grief.


Cinthya Navarro, Sasha Kimel, Dominik Mischkowski, Yuki Miyagawa, Yu Niiya  
*California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM), Ohio University, Otemon Gakuin University, Hosei University*

When we are rejected or socially excluded based on one of our identities (e.g., racial/ethnic minority, low SES), this is not only particularly painful but also highly damaging to our well-being and relationships (e.g., lower trust; weaker ingroup relationships). Bringing together the two largely disparate fields of stigma and cultural psychology, we propose a model that suggests that the magnitude of these aversive consequences to exclusion may be somewhat reduced however by two different relationship-promoting processes—group identification and social network salience. More specifically, our model suggests that the perpetrator’s status as either an ingroup or outgroup member may impact one’s degree of group identification following stigma-based exclusion while one’s self-construal as either independent or interdependent may impact one’s degree of social network salience. Taken together, these two separated relationship-promoting processes may especially lead to buffering against stigma-based exclusion for interdependent groups rejected by ingroup or outgroup members.
Talk 03. Naturalistic Observations of Chat GPT

Daniel Chen, Riley Cox
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

ChatGPT is an interactive chatbot that is rapidly gaining traction due to its capabilities as a large-scale language model available for public use. As present-day artificial intelligence continues to evolve, we aim to use this study to better understand socio-cognitive implications of ChatGPT in the educational system, as a predominantly adolescent population adapts through navigating this resource in a variety of academic contexts. Specifically, our project recorded naturalistic observations of everyday discussions regarding ChatGPT and its uses (largely in educational contexts). Twenty-eight trained researchers recorded weekly observations of any instances in which they witnessed people verbally mention or physically demonstrate the usage of ChatGPT. Observers recorded descriptions of the events, direct quotes, dates, and identities of the interlocutors. A total of 257 weekly reports have been collected of which about 40% had observations involving ChatGPT. Preliminary analyses of the observational data suggest that ChatGPT is a popular topic among adolescents as a tool of educational assistance, providing shortcuts to completion of various academic assignments – homework, essays, and even exams. Furthermore, when assessing overall sentiments regarding said software, our observations suggest that students demonstrated much more positive reception than instructors.

Talk 04. Facial Features in Eyewitness Memory

Xiaoqing Wang, John Wixted
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

Previous work has shown that simultaneous lineups yield better discriminability for eyewitness memory compared to sequential lineups (Wixted & Mickes, 2014). One possible explanation is that simultaneous lineups allow witnesses to view all the photos at once and compare the faces, enabling them to eliminate non-diagnostic features and focus more on the diagnostic ones. Abudarham et al. (2019) identified high perceptual sensitivity (high-PS) and low perceptual sensitivity (low-PS) features, where changes in high-PS features could affect the identity of a person. This study aims to determine diagnostic features for eyewitness identification by using the facial features from Abudarham et al. (2019) and asking participants to report the features used for their identification. Participants viewed pictures of faces and were presented with either a six-photo simultaneous lineup or a sequential lineup. Facial features were selected and ranked in order for analysis and comparison.
**PREVIOUS KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

1994  **Mark Snyder, University of Minnesota**  
The Psychology of Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination

1995  **Nancy Adler, University of California, San Francisco**  
Adolescent Decision Making and Contraception Use

1996  **Philip Zimbardo, Stanford University**  
On the Psychology of Evil: How to Seduce Good Folks to do Bad Things

1997  **Paul Ekman, University of California, San Francisco**  
Why Don’t We Catch Liars?

1998  **Larry Squire, University of California, San Diego**  
Memory and the Brain

1999  **Elizabeth Loftus, University of Washington**  
Creating False Memories

2000  **Marc Schuckit, University of California, San Diego**  
A 20-Year Prospective Study of Children of Alcoholics

2001  **Robert Cialdini, Arizona State University**  
The Power of Persuasion

2002  **Robert Rosenthal, University of California, Riverside**  
Interpersonal Expectations and Nonverbal Behavior

2003  **Claude Steele, Stanford University**  
The Contingencies of Social Identity

2004  **Ebbe Ebbeson, University of California, San Diego**  
Psychology and the Law

2005  **Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Claremont Graduate University**  
The Creative Person and the Creative Context

2006  **Diane Halpern, Claremont McKenna**  
Sex Differences in Cognitive Abilities

2007  **Ross Parke, University of California, Riverside**  
Fatherhood: Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future

2008  **Christina Maslach, University of California, Berkeley**  
Research Adventures in Job Burnout
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Jean Twenge</td>
<td>San Diego State University</td>
<td>Generation Me: Why Today’s Young Americans are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled, and More Miserable than Ever Before</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Michael Hogg</td>
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<td>The Trouble with Identity: How Uncertainty Breeds Extremism</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Steven Hayes</td>
<td>University of Nevada, Reno</td>
<td>The Importance of Psychological Flexibility</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Paul Abramson</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
<td>Smells Like Teen Spirit: The Conundrum of Kids, Sex, and the Law</td>
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<td>Howard Friedman</td>
<td>University of California, Riverside</td>
<td>Healthy Models and Pathways to Longevity</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Sylvia Hurtado</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
<td>Success in STEM: Recent Research at Different Stages of the Pipeline</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Jonathan Schooler</td>
<td>University of California, Santa Barbara</td>
<td>The Three “R”’s of Mindwandering: Ramifications, Rewards, and Regulation</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>John P. Elder</td>
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<td>Child Obesity and the Hispanic Health Paradox</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>John Wixted</td>
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<td>Eyewitness Memory: A New Perspective</td>
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<td>Happily Ever After: The Surprising Science of Single Life</td>
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<td>Roxane Cohen Silver</td>
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<td>Coping with Collective Traumas: Mass Violence, Infectious Disease, and COVID-19</td>
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