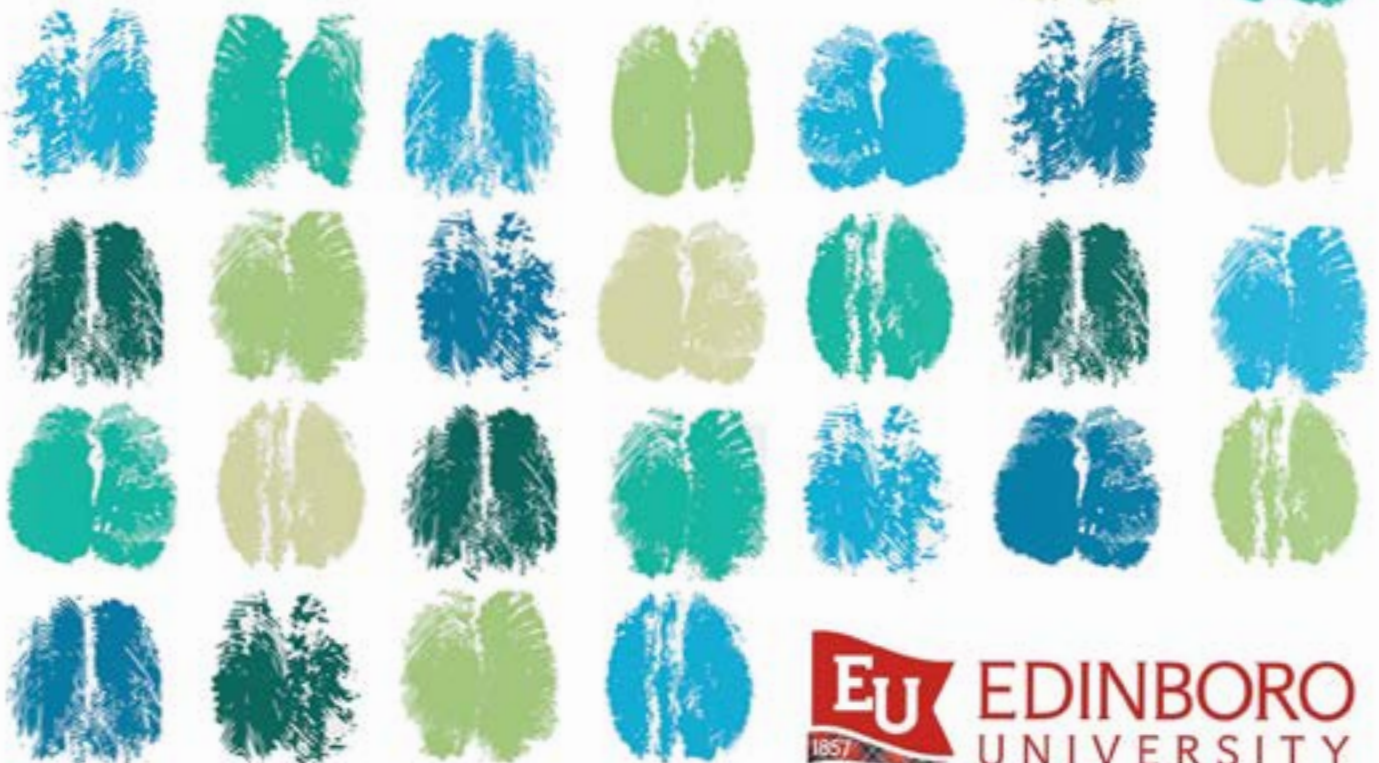


48th Annual

# Western PA Undergrad Psychology Conference

---

April 17, 2021 (VIRTUAL)



2021

# Western PA Undergrad Psychology Conference



**Poster # Last, First**

- 6 . . . . . Abbey, Shyler
- 31 . . . . . Anderson, Taylor
- 23 . . . . . Arbutina, Mirko
- 2 . . . . . Baker, Mia
- 16 . . . . . Barnes, Bryanna
- 35 . . . . . Barnes, Julia
- 24, 37, 28 . Bechtold, Jennifer
- 24, 28, 37 . Bennett, Elizabeth
- 17 . . . . . Besic, Aldin
- 18 . . . . . Boyce, Brandon
- 12 . . . . . Boyle, Ciara
- 3, 6 . . . . . Braund, Katherine
- 36 . . . . . Brocious, Hannah
- 40 . . . . . Bromley, Nicholas
- 18 . . . . . Bronder, Melissa
- 25 . . . . . Brumett, Paige
- 15 . . . . . Burke, Michael
- 26 . . . . . Buziewicz, Kaylee
- 43 . . . . . Caldaroni, Jocelyn
- 30 . . . . . Campbell, Tyra
- 15, 35 . . . . Cancila, Bryn A.
- 30 . . . . . Carnuche, Caitlin
- 2 . . . . . Currier, Lucas
- 17 . . . . . Dawood, Shariffah Sheik
- 7, 8 . . . . . Dean, Sandra
- 22, 38 . . . . Detter, Benjamin P.
- 33 . . . . . Drinkall, Jessika
- 17 . . . . . Elliott, Lisa Jo
- 23 . . . . . Ferry, Timothy

**Poster # Last, First**

- 29 . . . . . Fredericks, Kelsey
- 39 . . . . . Gosnell, Brooke
- 23 . . . . . Gray, Hunter
- 29 . . . . . Gulnac, Miranda
- 6 . . . . . Guo, Mengqiao
- 36 . . . . . Hancock, Mackenzie
- 32 . . . . . Herring, Emily
- 17, 29 . . . . Hoffman, Jennifer
- 2 . . . . . Honard, Lindsey
- 42 . . . . . Iler, Abigail
- 19 . . . . . Jess, Cheyenne
- 32 . . . . . Jones, Tiajah
- 5, 12 . . . . . Juriasingani, Erica
- 21 . . . . . Kelly, Olivia
- 2, 3 . . . . . Kilgallon, James
- 33 . . . . . Kircher, Haylie
- 42 . . . . . Kistler, Savannah
- 1 . . . . . Kizer, Clarence
- 14 . . . . . Kotulsky, Jay
- 26 . . . . . Lane, Mary
- 5, 12 . . . . . Larson, Kathryn
- 34 . . . . . Leone, Jessica
- 32 . . . . . Manzano, Victoria
- 33 . . . . . Millard, Ashley
- 28, 37, 41 . . Miller, Bethany
- 41 . . . . . Miller, Chelsey
- 31 . . . . . Muniz, Emily
- 30 . . . . . Nash, Madison

**Poster # Last, First**

- 17 . . . . . Parente, Diane
- 42 . . . . . Passerotti, Jessica
- 29 . . . . . Patterson, Pearl
- 16 . . . . . Pinkerton, Angela
- 17 . . . . . Potter, Beth
- 20 . . . . . Puglia, Marcella
- 9 . . . . . Reecks, Stacy
- 11 . . . . . Rhoads, Jade
- 27 . . . . . Schnell, Kaila
- 43 . . . . . Shaner, Caitlin
- 19 . . . . . Slater, Ryan
- 20 . . . . . Smith, Ariana
- 6 . . . . . Smith, Arianna
- 13 . . . . . Smith, Zachary
- 28, 37 . . . . Stewart, Maeve
- 17 . . . . . Thakur, Utkarsh
- 17 . . . . . Ulrich, Tyler
- 17 . . . . . Vaitekunas, Jeff
- 25 . . . . . Velez, Jace
- 4 . . . . . Walsh, Madison
- 28, 37 . . . . Whalen, Mikaela
- 34 . . . . . Wheeler, John
- 22 . . . . . White, Shamir M. W.
- 38 . . . . . White, Shamir
- 10 . . . . . Winbigler, Christina
- 23 . . . . . Woodring, Tristan
- 17 . . . . . Yahn, Greg
- 20 . . . . . Zampogna, Alyssa

## Virtual Presenter and Attendee Expectations

*The following are directions for participating in the WPUPC Virtual Conference via gather.town*

**Purpose:** The following guidelines establish the expectations for presenter and attendee behavior in the WPUPC virtual conference environment. Because of the virtual nature of the conference, a substantial burden is placed on those attending to ensure that the conference environment is noise-free and otherwise conducive to a productive scholarly atmosphere.

### Virtual Conference via gather.town requirements:

1. Be in a quiet, secure/safe area where you are unlikely to be interrupted.
2. Keep the space around your computer area clutter-free.
3. Before coming into the conference, look at the video you will be sending.
  - a. Is the lighting acceptable (no direct sunlight behind you or in too dark a setting)?
  - b. Is anyone else in the room? If so, can you/they be somewhere else? If not, are they aware that those attending the conference will be able to see/hear them?
  - c. Is there anything in the environment around you that could be distracting, embarrassing, or offensive? If so, remove/cover it or change locations.
4. Be seated at a desk/table/counter (you should not be sitting on a couch or bed).
5. A computer with a video camera and microphone attached/integrated (you may not use a phone or tablet to attend).
6. Reliable internet access
7. The Chrome internet browser is recommended by gather.town
8. Turn off ALL other electronic devices (i.e., phones, tablets, music players, televisions...).

### Virtual Classroom Expectations:

1. Be on time!
2. Be dress appropriately.
  - a. Others at the conference will see you.
  - b. The general dress code for the WPUPC is business attire.
3. Be seated in a chair or on a stool with your computer on a hard surface (i.e., desk, table, or counter)
  - a. DO NOT attend while sitting in bed or on the couch!
4. DO NOT pick up your computer and move around with it!
  - a. If you need to step away, do so, then come back.
5. Mute your microphone unless you are speaking.
6. Keep your video on for the entire session.
7. Keep eating and drinking during the session to a minimum
8. Even on mute, do not hold conversations with others.
9. Remember, even though you are on your computer, you are at a scholarly conference.
  - a. Be respectful of all, comments and questions are encouraged but follow the “Golden Rule” – treat others as you would want to be treated!
10. Do not record, in any way, the conference or conversations at the conference.
11. Do not surf the internet, Facebook, or email while attending the conference.
12. Presenters must not leave early.

*Students failing to adhere to these guidelines will be asked to conform their behavior. Those who persist, are disruptive, or violate University policy will be blocked from the conference.*

### Virtual Conference FAQ:

What if I lose internet connection?

A quickly as possible, re-establish a connection to the gather.town link.

What if I need to get up or move?

If at all possible, do not move the computer. If you need to use the restroom or address an issue in the environment, do so, then return to the computer.

What if I get a call or text?

Unless there is a necessary reason, your phone should be OFF during the conference



## **1. The Association Between Sexual Abuse and Mistreatment with Behavior and Personality**

*Clarence Kizer (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

The purpose of this study was to investigate the research question “What is the association between physical mistreatment in children and their behavior and personalities?” This research question was answered using secondary data analysis of Wave IV of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health dataset. Data was obtained from a nationally representative sample of 5,114 individuals living in all 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was not a significant association between abuse and behavioral changes. The results of this study suggest that sexual abuse may not always lead to significant behavioral changes, yet further research should widen the scope of which this study was done in.

## **2. Relationship Between Stressful Life Events and Emotional Functioning in College Students**

*James Kilgallon, Lindsey Honard, Lucas Currier & Mia Baker (Dr. Charrise Nixon), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

The present study examined how stressful life events affected the emotional functioning of college students while using PTSD diagnosis and counseling/treatment prevalence as moderators. An online survey was conducted to answer questions that were concurrent with the Life Events Checklist and the Positive and Negative Affects Schedule. Correlational analyses were conducted between the individual positive and negative subscales of the PANAS, and with the LEC categories “happened to me” and “witnessed it” totals. Analyses showed that as stressful life events increased, negative affect increased,  $r = .210$ ,  $p = .021$ . Neither PTSD diagnosis or counseling/treatment prevalence moderated this relationship, but no prior counseling/treatment history was related to higher emotional functioning.

## **3. A Cohort Study of Mental Health Outcomes Before and After the Emergence of COVID-19**

*James Kilgallon & Katherine Braund (Dr. Wilson Brown), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

The current study explored mental health outcomes of young adults ( $N = 404$ ) enrolled before and after the emergence of COVID-19. Independent samples t-tests indicated significantly higher positive affect (PA), attentiveness, joviality, and self-assurance in pre-COVID versus post-COVID participants. An exploratory, two-way ANOVA also revealed a significant interaction [ $F(1,372) = 5.06$ ,  $p < .05$ , partial  $\eta^2 = 0.013$ ]; healthy participants experienced a substantial decrease in PA after the emergence of COVID-19, whereas trauma-exposed participants experienced no relative change. These findings suggest that most individuals generally experienced decreases in PA and specific positive emotions in response to COVID-19, but trauma-exposed individuals instead exhibited a resistant response.

## **4. The Association Between Personality and Political Ideology in Adults in the United States**

*Madison Walsh (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

The purpose of this study was to investigate the research question “Is there an association between the big five personality traits of conscientiousness, openness, agreeableness, neuroticism, and extroversion and an individual’s political ideology?” This research question was answered using secondary data analysis of Wave IV of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health dataset. Data was obtained from a nationally representative sample of 5,114 individuals living in all 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results from the ANOVA tests conducted showed that there is a significant relationship between political ideology and the big 5 personality traits. There was a strong positive relationship between liberal ideology and openness, a strong positive relationship between liberal ideology and extraversion, a strong positive relationship between conservative ideology and conscientiousness, a positive relationship between liberal ideology agreeableness, but no relationship between political ideology and neuroticism. The results of this study suggest

that an individual's personality represented by the "big five" personalities traits are related to the individual's political ideology, however more research can be done to expand outside the "big five" to describe one's personality.

## **5. Fort LeBoeuf In VR**

*Erica Juriasingani & Kathryn Larson (Dr. Christopher R. Shelton, Ph.D.), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*  
Research has demonstrated the positive impact of VR on an individual's wellbeing. VR applications have resulted in individuals feeling less socially isolated, less likely to show signs of depression, and more likely to experience positive effects as well as feel better about their overall well-being (Siani & Marley, 2021). The current VR projects digitally recreate Fort LeBoeuf, a regional historical site with national importance. VR projects such as this can serve as a valuable tool to help address mental health concerns amidst COVID-19 and other situations that can leave an individual, of any age, feeling isolated. Post COVID-19, the potential exists for this project to continue helping older adults or those with mobility concerns.

## **6. Insecure Attachment Styles as Predictors of Emotion Dysregulation among Childhood Trauma Survivors**

*Katherine Braund, Shyler Abbey, Mengqiao Guo & Arianna Smith (Dr. Wilson Brown), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

The current study used hierarchical regression to examine the relationship between insecure attachment styles and emotion dysregulation in childhood trauma survivors (N=66). Results of the final model were significant [ $F(3,59) = 5.733, p < .01; \text{adjusted } R^2 = .175$ ]. Disorganized attachment ( $\beta = .510, p < .001$ ), avoidant attachment ( $\beta = .300, p < .05$ ), and ambivalent attachment ( $\beta = .352, p < .05$ ) were significant predictors of emotion dysregulation; demographic variables (gender, age) and trauma-related variables were not significant in the final model. These results emphasize the importance of secure primary attachment style as a mitigator of emotion dysregulation in early adulthood. Clinical implications encourage the assessment of early attachment style with childhood trauma survivors.

## **7. Can Depressive Symptoms Indicate Poor Coping Skills That Lead to Binge Drinking?**

*Sandra Dean (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

Whenever we think of the topic of binge drinking—our mind immediately conjures an image of college students partying. Faint stories of "hazing" into fraternities gone wrong, college student dies of alcohol poisoning, and so forth echo in our minds. There is a problem with students drinking in excessive amounts. Past literature has illustrated a connection between depressive symptoms and poor drinking behaviors. Literature has also shown that if someone uses more of an "emotion-focused" coping style, they are more likely to engage in these poor drinking behaviors as well. The present study examines the presence of depressive symptoms, coping styles, and drinking habits of 158 college students, and proposes that coping plays a mediating role in the relationship between depressive symptoms and binge drinking/poor drinking behaviors.

## **8. Can Social Media Usage Impact an Adolescent's Self-Esteem and Self-Acceptance?**

*Sandra Dean (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

The purpose of this study was to determine whether or not social media has an effect on an adolescent's sense of self-esteem and self-acceptance. Past research has illustrated the importance of self-esteem, as well as the negative effects that come with spending time on social media. However, little to no research has been conducted on the two together. An experimental research design with an intervention was conducted as an attempt to address this issue. There was not a significant effect of the intervention on self-esteem, however a statistical trend was found. Future researchers may want to focus on self-esteem explicitly.

## **9. Got It from My Momma: The Relationship Between Parental Incarceration and Teenage Delinquency**

*Stacy Reecks (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

The purpose of this study was to investigate the research question “What is the relationship between mothers being incarcerated and teenage delinquency?” This research question was answered using secondary data analysis of Wave IV of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health dataset. Data was obtained from a nationally representative sample of 5,114 individuals living in all 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between teenage delinquency and their mother’s incarcerations. Further, a moderation analysis looking at gender showed that males were significantly affected by mother incarcerations while females were not. The results of this study suggest that children with incarcerated parents have a higher probability of being involved in delinquent activities. The next step in research could examine the mental state of individuals who have had parents incarcerated.

## **10. Pornography’s Influence on Psychoneuroendocrinology: The Effect of Increased Exposure to Aggressive Sexuality on Child Development**

*Christina Winbigler (Dr. Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College*

This critical synthesis compiles works from leading pornography, developmental psychology, and neuroendocrinology researchers to assess current representations of pornography, age of viewing, and the lasting developmental effects that could occur in prepubertal children. Pornography is easily accessible and viewed by young children, and the worldwide average age of first porn viewing is eleven years old. Adrenarche begins around age six and is associated with first sexual attraction and behavior. Thus, widely available pornographic content is likely to influence this stage of life and could impact psychological and neuroendocrinological development.

## **11. The Association Between Parental Involvement, Positive Self-esteem, and Mistreatment by Adults**

*Jade Rhoads (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

The purpose of this study was to investigate the research question “Is there a correlation between having uninvolved parents and being sexually mistreated by adults?” This research question was answered using secondary data analysis of Wave IV of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health dataset. Data was obtained from a nationally representative sample of 5,114 individuals living in all 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was a significant correlation between one’s self-esteem and the relationship with their mother. There was a significant correlation between one being sexually abused and having a relationship with their father. In addition to this, a moderation analysis showed a difference between males and females, where males are less likely to be abused than females. The results of this study suggest that parental involvement has a relationship with both one’s self-esteem and sexual abuse, but more research should be conducted to see if mental health issues also affect self-esteem.

## **12. Childhood Stressful Life Events and How it Affects Relationship Satisfaction Among College Students**

*Erica Juriasingani, Kathryn Larson & Ciara Boyle (Dr. Charrise Nixon), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

Adverse childhood experiences are moderate to severely stressful life experiences that occur during the first 18 years of life. Research shows that individuals who have high ACE scores are more likely to develop depression and suicidal tendencies (Harris, 2015). These experiences can include things like emotional, sexual, and physical abuse, neglect, parental psychopathology, parental incarceration, and parental separation (Karatekin, 201). In college students, mental health is more prevalent than they were over a decade ago (Blanco et. Al., 2008). This study serves to focus on the relationship between childhood stressful life events and relationship satisfaction with mental health as a moderator.

### **13. The Association Between Parental Incarceration and Developing Mood Disorders and Suicidal Ideation**

*Zachary Smith (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

The purpose of this study was to answer the research question “Are adults that had their parental figures incarcerated as minors more likely to develop mood disorders or suicidal thoughts?” This research question was answered using secondary data analysis of Wave IV of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health dataset. Data was obtained from a nationally representative sample of 5,114 individuals living in all 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was significant association between one’s father figure being incarcerated and developing a mood disorder. Countering that finding, there was not an association between mothers’ incarceration and suicidal ideation in the past twelve months, indicating that there are other factors not accounted for when considering this relationship. The results of this study suggest that there is an association between multiple parental arrests and the children developing mood disorders, yet not suicidal ideation. More research in the future should be conducted on the family’s attitudes toward mental health counseling or therapy as an outlet.

### **14. Does high school experience effect LGBT college students self-esteem?**

*Jay Kotulsky (Dr. Catherine Massey), Slippery Rock University*

Research has shown that people’s experience in secondary school can affect self-esteem and mental health. High School can be especially difficult for LGBTQ+ students depending on the inclusivity of their high school. This pilot study focuses on how experiences during high school relate to college student self-esteem and coming out stage in LGBTQ+ adulthood. Participants will be 30-35 college students recruited through a LGBTQ+ listserv, LGBTQ+ student group, and the campus GEEK Life. They will be asked to complete a demographics questionnaire, measures to assess current self-esteem and coming out stage, and a gender and minority stress and resilience scale. Appropriate statistics will be used to assess the data. Implications for student self-esteem will be discussed.

### **15. Higher Doses of Estradiol Benzoate May Not Be as Effective as Lower Doses at Enhancing Sexual Incentive Motivation in Female Rats**

*Michael Burke, Bryn A. Cancila & Wayne R. Hawley (Dr. Wayne Hawley), Edinboro University*

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects estradiol benzoate (EB) on sexual incentive motivation (SIM). It has been previously shown that higher doses of EB alone are sufficient to induce the maximal lordosis response in female rats. However, the effects of a high dose of EB on SIM have yet to be determined. Using a within-subjects design, we evaluated the effects of a range of doses of EB (sesame oil, 5µg, 10µg, 50µg) on SIM in 24 ovariectomized rats. When compared to vehicle treatment, lower doses, but not higher doses, of EB resulted in a greater percentage of time spent in the vicinity of a stimulus male rat relative to a stimulus female rat. However, EB did not affect sociality or activity, suggesting that the effects of EB are restricted to SIM.

### **16. Gender and the Novelty of Penile-Vaginal Intercourse Affect Sexual Discounting**

*Bryanna Barnes, Angela Pinkerton, Wayne R. Hawley & Gregory D. Morrow, (Dr. Wayne Hawley & Dr. Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University*

In behavioral economics, discounting is when individuals exhibit a greater likelihood of choosing less desirable rewards as the delay to a more desirable reward increases, or probability of obtaining a more desirable reward decreases. Participants were asked to indicate how likely they would be to choose to receive oral sex from their ideal sexual partner over the alternative of having penile-vaginal intercourse (PVI) with that partner 1) after different delays and 2) under conditions in which PVI was uncertain. Participants were less likely to choose PVI when either the delay to PVI increased or the probability of PVI occurring decreased. These effects were most pronounced for male participants and those asked to imagine they previously only ever had PVI with their ideal sexual partner.

## **17. Anti Microbial Tables and Covid Fear**

*Jennifer Hoffman, Lisa Jo Elliott, Shariffah Sheik Dawood, Tyler Ulrich, Aldin Besic, Utkarsh Thakur, Jeff Vaitekunas, Beth Potter, Greg Yahn, Greg Dillon & Diane Parente (Dr. Lisa Jo Elliott), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

We worked with our colleagues in engineering and business to install 20 antimicrobial tabletops on existing tables in multiple buildings across our campus. We labeled the tables as either coated or uncoated and included QR codes where people could complete a survey. In the survey, we measured the amount of information that students already have regarding antimicrobial products including their sentiments and preferences toward these products. We also measured personality factors, feelings of control, and fear of Covid in relation to their sentiments and preferences. We expect that there will be correlations between fear of Covid and sentiments towards the antimicrobial products and their knowledge of antimicrobial products.

## **18. Relationship Between Consumer Behavior and Self-reported Wellbeing**

*Melissa Bronder & Brandon Boyce (Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

Looking at the climate crisis and the body of research supporting global warming, one response individuals take to combat the environmental effects of consumerism is to lead a voluntary simple life. This is where an individual chooses to reduce their material consumption to seek satisfaction in non-material ways (Iwata, 2006). This study will use scales to examine the relationship between a voluntary simple lifestyle (Iwata, 2006) and measures of loneliness (Russell, 1980) and self-esteem (Rosenberg, 1965). Our research will add to these findings, predicting a positive relationship between a voluntary simple life and self-esteem and a negative relationship between a voluntary simple life and loneliness.

## **19. Improving Memory with Words and Images**

*Ryan Slater & Cheyenne Jess (Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

People have the ability to remember images far better than words (Grady, 1998). This is known as the Picture Superiority Effect (Paivio, 1971). The goal of our study is to investigate whether the picture superiority effect can be used to help improve students' memories. Words and pictures for the study come from Snodgrass and Vanderwart's (1980) normed picture set. Our participants were presented with word or picture stimuli and tested using a 2x2 (study pictures then test pictures, study pictures then test words, study words then test pictures, and study words then test words) factorial design to obtain our data. We predict that we will see the best memory recall results from people who studied pictures and tested with pictures over any other study/

## **20. Does Prior Traumatic Stress Exposure and Gender Influence Stress during COVID-19?**

*Marcella Puglia, Ariana Smith & Alyssa Zampogna (Dr. Wilson Brown), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is a persistent crisis with significant consequences for all members of society. Yet, whether traumatic stress survivors are differentially impacted by COVID-19 remains unknown. The current study investigates differences in COVID-19 stress and resilience between young adults (N = 117) with a history of traumatic stress and those without. A 2X2 between-subjects ANOVA analyzed the impact of prior trauma and gender on COVID-related stress, with resilience as a covariate. No significant main effects were observed. Additionally, the interaction between gender and trauma history was not significant. However, obtained results were likely influenced by unequal sample sizes, as 96 participants (82.1%) reported a prior history of traumatic stress.



## **21. An Analysis of Perceived Efficacy: The Relationship Between Self-Efficacy and the Development of False Memories**

*Olivia Kelly (Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

This study examines two basic questions: what is the relationship between self-efficacy and performance on a false-memory test, and what role does feedback play in self-efficacy? Subjects took a pretest (Chen et al., 2001) to assess their baseline self-efficacy. A false memory test comprised of altered images was given to all subjects. Afterward, subjects were randomly assigned feedback regardless of their performance: positive, negative, or no feedback. A second self-efficacy test was distributed to all subjects. Analysis determined if individuals with higher self-efficacy perform better on a false memory test; self-efficacy pretest and posttest scores were also compared to see if feedback impacted perceived self-efficacy.

## **22. Are You Man Enough? Perceptions of Masculinity and Sexual-Esteem are Affected by Female Partner's Orgasm**

*Benjamin Detter, Shamir M. W. White, Gregory D. Morrow & Wayne R. Hawley (Dr. Wayne Hawley & Dr. Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University*

The ability to provide sexual pleasure to women is a prominent theme in the sexual scripts of men, which suggests that how they are perceived may be contingent upon their "sexual skill". In this replication study, rather than asking male participants to imagine themselves in a sexual scenario (Chadwick & van Anders, 2017), participants were asked to evaluate the male target in a hypothetical scenario based on whether his current female partner always (or never) had an orgasm during sex with him and whether she often (or rarely) had orgasms during sex with previous partners. Consistent with previous research, the male target was perceived as more masculine and higher in sexual esteem/lower in sexual depression if his current partner always had an orgasm during sex with him.

## **23. Student Motivational Levels Involving COVID-19**

*Mirko Arbutina, Timothy Ferry, Tristan Woodring & Hunter Gray (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

COVID-19 introduced drastic changes to college level courses, which are extremely stressful to begin with. Now, a new learning structure is showing decreased motivational levels in students. A modified version of the Contextual Achievement Motivation Scale (CAMS);(Smith, 2015, 2020), and the Locus of Control scale (Rotter, 1966). The CAMS study was broken down in five sections asking students their feelings about the school year in an in-person class, a hybrid (Online & In person) and fully online class within the last semester. We predict that students will have weaker motivation inside of hybrid, or remote class format, compared to in-person format. In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic had significant effects on both daily, and educational life.

## **24. SANE Effect? More Like Lame Effect: Extraneous Neuroscience Information Has Little Persuasive Power**

*Elizabeth Bennett & Jennifer Bechtold (Dr. Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University*

Some studies have shown that the addition of irrelevant neuroscience information has an impact on layman evaluations, while others show little or no effect. In order to further examine when this effect is present, the current study investigated the persuasiveness of neuroscience information in a shopping experience. Participants were recruited from undergraduate psychology classes and shown a game to purchase that supposedly had mental health benefits with either a neuroscientific or psychological basis. Subjects were then asked to evaluate the product and their willingness to buy it. Contrary to what was expected, the neuroscience explanation was, if anything, less persuasive than the psychological explanation.

## **25. Smartphone Use and Psychological Well-Being of College Students**

*Paige Brumett & Jace Velez (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

Smartphones are no stranger to anyone in today's society, especially college students who currently rely heavily on technology to obtain their education. We examined the effects that smartphone use has on a student's psychological well-being. It is hypothesized that smartphone use will have a negative correlation with psychological well-being. Students will complete a survey on their cell phone usage and their psychological well-being. Because of the current demand for technology access, people are easily susceptible to adverse effects on their mental health. Based on responses received to date, we expect there to be a strong correlation between smartphone use and psychological well-being scores.

## **26. University Students and COVID-19: Concerns and Worries, Anxiety and Experiential Avoidance**

*Mary Lane & Kaylee Buziewicz (Dr. Sharon Hamilton), Edinboro University*

We examined participants' worries and concerns related to the COVID19 pandemic, as well as participants' levels of anxiety and tendency to engage in experiential avoidance. Participants completed an anonymous online survey including the Fear of Coronavirus19 Scale, the COVID19 Worries and Concerns Scale, the Acceptance and Avoidance Questionnaire, and a survey of demographic information and sleep habits. The majority of participants were taking all classes online and reported no changes in their sleep habits. Participants were most worried about their schooling situation, their mental health, and their families. Fewer were worried about their living situation, their ability to date or seek a partner, and their physical health. Moderate significant correlations were found among the measures

## **27. Relationship Between Stress and Substance Use Outcomes with Mindfulness**

*Kaila Schnell (Dr. Charrise Nixon), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

This study viewed the relationship between college students perceived stress levels, and their substance use such as nicotine and alcohol and examined the relationship mindfulness has on those factors. Students completed surveys assessing their stress, alcohol, and nicotine consumption to view these factors as well as engage in a short mindfulness-based video. 35 students from Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, participated in this study. Participants completed the following assessments: Perceived Stress Scale, The Fagerstrom Test for nicotine dependence, and The Alcohol Use Disorders Test. Results showed PSS were positively correlated with the AUDIT totals. PSS scale totals and the FTND scale totals college students perceived stress was not significantly correlated.

## **28. Antagonism of the Muscarinic Receptor Subtype M1, But Not M4, Impairs Divided Attention in Male Rats**

*Mikaela Whalen, Maeve Stewart, Elizabeth Bennett, Jennifer Bechtold & Bethany Miller (Dr. Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University*

Given the increasing necessity of divided attention (DVAT), comprehension of such a topic is crucial. While acetylcholine supports DVAT, in part via muscarinic receptors, little is known about the specific muscarinic subtypes that may contribute. We designed a novel, high-response rate test of auditory sustained attention, in which rats complete variable-ratio runs on one of two levers. A secondary visual distractor task was included during some trials, for which rats were reinforced with a more palatable food pellet upon holding a nosepoke. Telenzepine, an M1-preferring antagonist, impaired divided attention performance, but not performance of the attention task without distraction. In contrast, the M4-preferring antagonist tropicamide had no effects, implicating the M1 receptor in DVAT.

### **29. Ecotherapy: Nature's Effect on Stress**

*Miranda Gulnac, Pearl Patterson, Kelsey Fredericks & Jennifer Hoffman (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

The limited research which has been conducted on ecotherapy suggests a strong correlation between emotional well-being and the potential for therapeutic applications. Through this research, we examine the extent to which correlations exist between exposure to nature and emotional well-being. Emotional well-being is measured through levels of stress, anxiety, and mindfulness. This research will use a survey to determine the strength and nature of these correlations. We hypothesized that higher levels of exposure to nature will predict lower levels of stress and anxiety, and higher levels of trait mindfulness. Collected data was analyzed through SPSS with regression analysis and correlation statistics. This study seeks to fill gaps of past research regarding ecotherapy and college population

### **30. Worry, Stress, and Anxiety in First-Year College Students**

*Madison Nash, Tyra Campbell & Caitlin Carnuche (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

We investigated the effects of being in a new learning environment, experiencing new difficulties in classes, utilizing individual social skills, and their relationship with the students' feelings towards their transition. We hypothesized that first-year college students would have higher levels of worry and anxiety due to the transition into this new lifestyle. Students completed a survey that included questions from the Perceived Stress Scale, the Penn State Worry Questionnaire, the Student Adaptation to College Questionnaire, along and common demographic questions. Our study will highlight the importance and create a better understanding of what directly impacts an individual's mental during their transition into college.

### **31. The Perception of Situational Factors on the Use of Harsh Interrogation Tactics**

*Taylor Anderson & Emily Muniz (Dr. Ron Craig), Edinboro University*

Factors like a confession influence perception of the acceptability of harsh interrogation tactics. Participants read excerpts of an 11-hour interrogation occurring without breaks that included threats. The presence of a confession and who conducted the interrogation were varied, and the acceptability of the harsh tactics and suspect empathy were measured. Obtaining a confession increased the suspect's guilt but also increased belief that the interrogation included torture. Interrogator, military or civilian, had no impact on participants' perceptions.

### **32. Juror Decision-Making Regarding Juveniles Being Tried as Adults**

*Emily Herring, Tiajah Jones & Victoria Manzano (Dr. Ron Craig), Edinboro University*

When looking at jurors' decision-making processes on juveniles being tried as an adult two main factors (age and evidence) are factors looked at in determining guilt and sentencing. Undergraduates read a mock arson case including a police interrogation, where the juvenile suspect's age and presence of evidence were varied. Participants then indicated a verdict, how confident they were, whether the evidence made an impact on their decision, and if guilty what the sentence should be. No significant impact was found for age regarding verdict and guilt, but suspect's age did have a significant impact on sentencing. There was a significant interaction between age and evidence regarding guilt. Thus, age and evidence had an impact on decision-making for juveniles tried as adults.

### **33. Gender Differences: COVID-19 Anxiety and Worry**

*Ashley Millard, Jessika Drinkall & Haylie Kircher (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the lives of everyday people, specifically college students. The purpose of this study was to look more into the current issue of the pandemic and the gender differences of mental health symptoms of COVID anxiety and worry. The survey includes questions on demographics, worry symptoms using the Penn State Worry Questionnaire, and COVID anxiety using the Coronavirus Anxiety Scale. It was predicted that there would be a significant relationship between COVID anxiety and worry. Also, that females would report higher symptoms of both COVID anxiety and worry than males. This study is crucial in gaining a better understanding and increasing public awareness of the effects of the pandemic on the mental health of college students.

### **34. Death Penalty: Impact of Mental Health and Impact Statement**

*Jessica Leone & John Wheeler (Dr. Ron Craig), Edinboro University*

In deciding death penalty cases, jurors may consider mitigating factors and victim impact statements (VIS). Participants read a case summary, varying the presence of a mitigating factor and VIS support for the death penalty, then assessed the use of the death sentence in the case. The mitigating factor was dropped after a manipulation check. Sentence appropriateness did not differ based on VIS; however, an anti-death penalty VIS was ranked as more important in decision-making.

### **35. Beefing Up: The Impact of Testosterone and Orgasm Achievement on Perceptions of Masculinity and Sexuality**

*Bryn Cancilla, Julia Barnes, Wayne R. Hawley & Gregory D. Morrow (Dr. Wayne Hawley & Dr. Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University*

Participants read a hypothetical scenario adapted from a previous study about a male (target) who had naturally low, normal, or high levels of testosterone. In addition, he was, or was not, taking testosterone and his female partner always, or never, had an orgasm during sex with him. The higher the male target's natural levels of testosterone, the higher participants rated his masculinity and sexual esteem. However, if his female partner always had an orgasm during sex with him, there was no difference between ratings of the male target's masculinity when he had low testosterone levels and when he had normal testosterone levels. These results indicate that orgasm "achievement" abrogated the reduced perceptions of masculinity associated with low testosterone.

### **36. Attachment Styles, Childhood Trauma, and Anxiety Levels**

*Mackenzie Hancock & Hannah Brocious (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

Significant links between childhood trauma, insecure attachment styles, and psychological disorders have been found in previous studies. It was hypothesized that childhood trauma, insecure attachment style, and anxiety level would be correlated and that childhood trauma and insecure attachment style would be predictors of anxiety levels, not one another. The initial data showed scores on the CTQ-SF (Childhood Trauma Questionnaire - Short Form) and scores on the ASQ-SF (Attachment Style Questionnaire - Short Form) insecure subscale were correlated and predictive of each other. Gender and CTQ-SF scores were also significantly correlated. These results may lead to research regarding these variables and provide support for parental education regarding childhood trauma and attachment styles.



### **37. Instructor Presence in Online Learning**

*Maeve Stewart, Jennifer Bechtold, Elizabeth Bennett, Bethany Miller & Mikaela Whalen (Dr. Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University*

Due to Covid-19, education has been moved primarily to online learning. While safety is the main concern, the effectiveness of different online methods should be considered. The present study was designed to study the effects of online teaching methods (video narration, audio narration, no narration with just slides) on viewer satisfaction and retention of lecture material. We recruited 193 Edinboro University of Pennsylvania students and randomly assigned them to watch a short lecture in one of the three methods. Students were then asked to rate their satisfaction and recall information learned in the lecture through a series of 6 questions. Results indicated no significant differences between the different online teaching methods on viewer satisfaction or retention of lecture material.

### **38. The Past is the Past: Previous Sexual “Success” does not Modify the Reduced Perceptions of Masculinity and Sexual Esteem that Result from Orgasm “Failure”**

*Shamir White, Benjamin P. Detter, Wayne R. Hawley & Gregory D. Morrow (Dr. Wayne Hawley & Dr. Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University*

This study examined the influence of past and current sexual “success” on judgments of a target male’s masculinity, sexual esteem, and sexual preoccupation. Participants read one of four vignettes where a woman either always or never had an orgasm with her new male partner (target). Also, the male’s previous partners either regularly or never had an orgasm with him. Participants rated the male target higher in masculinity and sexual esteem if his current partner always had an orgasm with him or if his past sexual partners regularly had an orgasm with him. His past sexual history did not modify the effect of his current partner’s orgasm on sexual esteem and masculinity but he was perceived as higher in sexual preoccupation if his past partners regularly had an orgasm with him.

### **39. Political Confirmation Bias and News Source Identification**

*Brooke Gosnell (Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher), Thiel College*

A survey was completed by 141 college students to assess the strength of political confirmation bias when the identity of a news source was present. Participants were shown headlines from popular news sites about abortion and policing: two from NPR, two from Fox, and two from MSNBC. Participants were asked to rate them for importance, positivity, believability, truthfulness, and credibility. The experimental group were shown the source of the headlines but no identification of source was given to the control group. Results revealed no significant difference in confirmation bias between the control group versus the experimental group. Although there was not a significant difference based on group, there was a difference when looking at confirmation bias and political party alignment. This suggests that there is a greater likelihood of confirmation bias depending on what political party you identify with regardless of knowledge of news source.

### **40. Effects of Marijuana Use in the Hiring Process**

*Nicholas Bromley (Dr. Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University*

Marijuana use for medical purposes has been subjected to ongoing debate. Several recent studies, including Elliot (2003), have indicated that an applicant using medical marijuana may be perceived as being less qualified and in turn not hired for a specific position. The current study is a 2 (applicant gender) x 5 (marijuana use condition) ANOVA examining the effects of gender and marijuana use on a participant’s views of an applicant, and whether the applicant qualifies for a job opening. We anticipate our results to show that an applicant using recreational marijuana will be viewed as less qualified than any other applicant for a job opening, particularly when the applicant has a high frequency of marijuana use.

#### **41. Do people conform to their in-groups and do they think only their out-groups do so?**

*Bethany Miller & Chelsey Miller (Dr. Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University*

Based on politics, religion, and other personal demographics, people identify with an in-group, to which they belong, and classify others as the out-group, which they treat and assess differently. The purpose of this study was to further understanding of moral decision making based on in-group characteristics. Participants were randomly assigned to read eight narratives involving actions of an individual presented as either their in-group or out-group. It was hypothesized that participants would develop positive or negative attitudes toward individuals presented as within their in-group or out-group, respectively, in terms of the morality of their actions and integrity of the individuals. Data is still being collected to verify true outcomes from which to draw conclusions.

#### **42. Exploring the relationship between risky sexual behavior to fear of missing out**

*Abigail Iler, Savannah Kistler & Jessica Passerotti (Dr. Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University*

Previous research has found Fear of Missing Out (FOMO) to be associated with increased willingness to take risks with regard to alcohol consumption (Riordan et al. (2015) and risky online behaviors (Popovac & Hadlington, 2020). This study explores the relationship between FOMO and willingness to engage in hypothetical risky sexual behavior. Approximately 100 undergraduate participants were asked to make decisions about engaging both protected and unprotected hypothetical sexual encounters via an online survey. Willingness to engage in these sexual encounters was assessed using both time and probability discounting items. It was predicted that high levels of FOMO would be positively correlated with participant's willingness to engage in more risky sexual behaviors.

#### **43. Does the Social-Influence Model Play a Role in a Person's Judgment and Decision-Making?**

*Caitlin Shaner and Jocelyn Caldaroni (Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

The social-influence model demonstrates individuals will evaluate different social information based on the opinions of other decision makers (Gilovich et al., 2018; Sweet & Adhikari, 2020). This current study examined the likelihood of participants choosing an option based on its perceived popularity. The participants were randomly assigned to an experimental or a control group and were provided with a fifteen-question survey. The experimental group's survey included fabricated percentages next to each option to indicate the most desired answer, while the control group's survey had no social influences. The goal of this study was to determine if the presence of social influence resulted in the participants choosing the most desired answer.

---