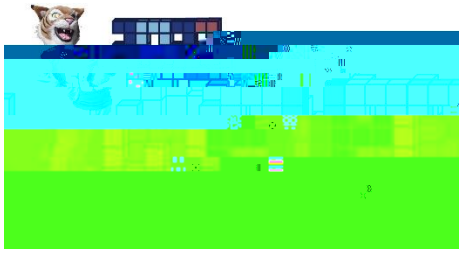
50th ANNUAL

Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference

WPUPC 2023

THIEL

9:00 a.m. ± 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 29, 2023



WPUPC Mission Statement

The Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference (WPUPC) is dedicated to providing students opportunities to present research in a supportive, academic environment. This conference allows students to grow as individuals, students, and psychologists while regional institutions maintain strong academic relations.

Welcome

The Thiel College Psychology Department would like to welcome you to the 2023 Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference. We are delighted to be the host for the 50th anniversary of WPUPC! Since 1973, WPUPC has been celebrating the scholarship and creativity of undergraduate students in the field of psychology. We look forward to continuing that strong tradition this year by providing a warm, welcoming, and inclusive space for student researchers to share their passions. We hope you learn from and
more great years!

Photo Release

Photos will be taken during this event, which may or may not include your recognizable image. Please be advised, by participating in this event, you agree to allow Thiel College to use the images for promotional and archival purposes. If you do not wish to have us use your image, please notify the photographer or conference chair.

Schedule Overview*

8:15-9:00 am	Check-In, Continental Breakfast, and Poster Set-Up (Session #1) **Friends of Art Lounge, Bistro Area**
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks *Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher, Conference Chair* **Lutheran Heritage Room**
9:20-9:50 am	Poster Session #1 *Order of Posters HERE* **Bistro Area**
9:50-10:00 am	Oral Session Set-Up and Transition to Oral Sessions **Lutheran Heritage Room, Sawhill-Georgian Room, Weyers**
10:00-11:35 am	Concurrent Oral Sessions *Detailed Schedule of Presentations HERE* **Lutheran Heritage Room (Oral Session #1)** **Sawhill-Georgian Room (Oral Session #2)** **Weyers Lounge (Oral Session #3)**
[11:15am-12:00 pm	WPUPC Advisory Committee Meeting] **Rudisill Room**
11:35-11:45 am	Poster Set-Up (Session #2) and Transition **Bistro Area**
11:45 am-12:15 pm	Poster Session #2 *Order of Posters HERE* **Bistro Area**
12:15-2:00 pm	Buffet Lunch and Keynote Address *Dr. Jessica L. Hartnett, Associate Professor of Psychology* *Gannon University* *Title of Address: Why the World Needs Psychology Majors* **Lutheran Heritage Room**
2:00 pm	**Depart Campus – Safe Travels!**

***Conference check-in, meals, and all conference sessions will take place on the main floor of the Howard Miller Student Center (HMSC).**

POSTER SESSION #1
9:20 – 9:50AM

ROOM: BISTRO AREA
(Set-Up Between 8:15-9:00 am; Removal by 11:35 am)

1. **Ally Burrington.** *Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor – Matthew Weaver, Ph.D.*
   True crime media and women: Is catharsis the key?

2. **Jade Rhoads.** *Thiel Colleg**S2Tmb3Fj1 0Tf(TjETQBreW*nBT1T3 0Tf1 0 0 1 Thiel Coy Advisor4JETQBreW*nBTC*

11. **Nicholas Guarnieri.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
    Brain food: Does distracted eating explain weight gain in college students?

12.

POSTER SESSION #2
11:45AM – 12:15PM

ROOM: BISTRO AREA
(Set-Up Between 11:35-11:45 am; Removal by 2:00 pm)

1. **Charlotte Allen, Ashleigh Dolan, Emily Mullen.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lydia Eckstein, Ph.D.*
   Yoga, meditation, and me: Do (some) relaxation techniques license unethical behavior?

2. **Nicky Graham, Camryn Sankey.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
   Is beauty in the nose? The effect of sight and scent on attraction.

3. **Aidan Guzma.** *Westminster College; Faculty Advisor – Deanne Buffalari, Ph.D.*
   Effect of short-term hormone treatment on the behavioral anxiety response of adult zebrafish when exposed to acute stress.

4.

11. **Alexis Pleskovitch.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.*
    Modification of "scientist": The intersection between physics education and sense of belonging.

12. **Erik Morrow, Corbin Joyce.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Sharon Hamilton, Ph.D.*
    Effects of a self-compassion induction on exercise self-efficacy after a recalled exercise setback.

13. **Taiwo Lawal.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*

ORAL SESSION #1

ROOM: LUTHERAN HERITAGE ROOM

Moderator:	**Dr. Laura Pickens**
10:00-10:15 am	**Patricia Sarada, Alyssa D'Alessandro, Marcos Mendez** *Waynesburg University; Faculty Advisor – Jenny Jellison, Ph.D.* **Does sports-related aggression affect moral choices of college-aged males?**
10:20-10:35 am	**Sydnie Patton, Caitlyn Faust** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Megan Bertholomey, Ph.D.* **The effects of chronic stress, DHED, and sex on spatial memory, and oxidative stress.**
10:40-10:55 am	**Jessalynn Ellis, Frank Hawbaker, Gregory Morrow, Wayne Hawley** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.* **The effects of masculinity threat on rape myth acceptance and sexual narcissism.**
11:00-11:15 am	**Gavin Hornyak, Alicia Zotolla** *Waynesburg University; Faculty Advisor – Jenny Jellison, Ph.D.* **The relationship between academic motivation and intrinsic vs. Extrinsic religiosity.**
11:20-11:35 am	**Jasmin Meyer Jaafari** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.* **The effects of police violence media on physiological and reported stress in white people.**

ORAL SESSION #2

ROOM: SAWHILL-GEORGIAN ROOM

Moderator:	**Dr. Natalie Homa**
10:00-10:15 am	**Paige Long**

ORAL SESSION #3

ROOM: WEYERS LOUNGE

Moderator: **Dr. Shannon Deets**

10:00-10:15 am

BUFFET LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Lutheran Heritage Room
12:15-2:00 pm

Dr. Jessica L. Hartnett, Associate Professor of Psychology, Gannon University

Why the World Needs Psychology Majors

We are excited

Poster Session Abstracts

Session #1

1. **Ally Burrington.**
   Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor – Matthew Weaver, Ph.D.

   True crime media and women: Is catharsis the key?

   The goals of this study were to find relationships between true crime media consumers, intimate partner violence (IPV), and catharsis in college aged women. This study consisted of n=50 undergraduate students, who each consented to take a survey of true crime interest, a modified Emotional Catharsis Effect on Illness Narratives inventory, and the Trauma History Questionnaire. The main findings of this study found there is a significant correlation (p=0.043) between true crime interest and catharsis from true crime media, as well as a significant correlation (p=0.004) between IPV trauma and catharsis from true crime media. Implications of these findings show that people who experience IPV find catharsis through true crime media, which can lead to new ways for IPV survivors to cope with their trauma in a healthy manner.

2. **Jade Rhoads.**
   Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

   Disclosing your true self can determine your future: How disclosing a traumatic past can influence your chances of getting accepted into graduate school.

   traumatic past will influence the decision to accept that student into a graduate program. There has not been much research that addresses personal statements directly, but it has been found

This research study examined two main research questions. The

ere 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 fifty U.S. states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between maternal relationships and criminal activity in adults (the less close an individual was to their mother, the more likely that individutivi 0 0 12 29Tm[(dmi)8 (l)4 o2 nBT0 0.125 0.376 h(om)--21 (y

secure attachment. The current findings are important in establishing prevention and treatment measures for Division III collegiate athletes. Limitations of the present study were the small sample size being drawn from and the lack of research surrounding disordered eating behaviors and body image dissatisfaction in males.

7. **Morgan Wood.**
   Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

(factors loadings .665 to .897). Factor 2 was comprised of 4 items using sarcasm with moderately close relationships (explained 8.8% of the variance; factors loadings .678 to .853). Factor 3 contained of 4 items representing individuals with distant social relationships (explained 5.0% of the variance; factors loadings -.766 to -.903). A reliability analysis conducted using data from 78.2% of the participants (N = 905) showed the scale to be highly reliable (Cronbach alpha = .966). A correlation with the Hofstede Dimensions of Culture scale showed that the three factors correlated with the Indulgence vs Restraint index, i.e., those who were more restrained reported it less appropriate to use sarcasm.

11. **Nicholas Guarnieri.**
Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Brain food: Does distracted eating explain weight gain in college

along with how influential the different types of evidence were. The data has been collected, and the analyses are underway.

15. **Abigail Wolff.**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.

The lasting impact of childhood dance class: A correlational study of dance class during adolescence and well-being in young adulthood.

The dance world has many contributing factors that influen -being in terms of their eating habits and body satisfaction. Research has acknowledged that certain factors of the dance classroom could display negative and disempowering effects on experience (Walter et al., 2018; Hancox et al., 2017). Some factors identified are the

(Dantas et al., 2018; Oliver, 2008). The purpose of this study was to analyze specific empowering and disempowering factors of dance class environments during adolescence along with the lasting impacts they may/could have on the eating behaviors and levels of body satisfaction of young adult women. The sample included 30 females who self-reported their dance experience during adolescence. Participants anonymously completed the Eating Attitudes Test (EAT-

-

different, the brand and type of wine was the same. The type used was Cabernet Sauvignon, from the same winery, bought at the same time. As they tasted the wine, they were asked to fill out a wine tasting score card. The score card was used to gauge their enjoyment of the wine, how much they would pay for the bottle of wine, and lastly their overall rating of the wine. Finally, participants were asked to fill out a demographics and wine behavior questionnaire where the last question asked which wine they preferred. Results from the study show no significant difference in if participants had a higher taste preference for the traditional label or non-traditional label.

17. **Anna Kwasnica.**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.

Examining correlation between anxiety, depression, and political participation in young adults.

Political participation is essential to maintaining and developing a strong, robust

concerningly low, with 18-25 year olds demonstrating the lowest levels of participation. Previous research has suggested a correlation between mental health and political participation, but does not specifically address how anxiety and depression may affect the political involvement of young adults. In this study, we used an internet survey to test the correlation between symptoms of anxiety and depression and political participation in a sample of adults aged 18-25. We used the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI) to measure (BDI-II) to measure

participation across four different areas of focus: participation in elections, engagement with political news media, social media engagement, and political activism. No significant correlation was found between may affect 3dE3c4D6 (for)4 (l)-11 00470004D6 <0-3 (oam (d)-9 (e4 (c)4

nature sounds, traffic sounds, and police sirens. The assessment was a 15-item concrete word-list that the participants studied under the effects of a randomized sound condition. They then performed a distractor task (answering demographic questions) so that we can accurately assess their long-term memory. Finally, participants performed a recognition test by indicating whether they previously studied them the word-list.

symptoms. The results showed that the rats treated with the ketamine had a greater average decrease in the number of freezing episodes from day 1 to week 1 post-treatment when both exposed and not exposed to the discrete stimulus. Results also indicate that when exposed to the discrete stimulus, there is a decrease in avoidance in reaction to the contextual stimuli over a week timeframe. These results i 5 653.86

and an experiment we found limited support for this, though more research with bigger sample sizes is needed.

2. **Nicky Graham, Camryn Sankey.**
Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Is beauty in the nose? The effect of sight and scent on attraction.

Have you ever wondered what humans base attraction off of? There have been previous studies that have looked at if sense of sight or sense of smell is influential when determining attractiveness of a partner. Our research aims to determine if different sexes rely more on one sensory cues rather than multiple when determining attractiveness. Our study used the t-shirt pheromone test, with 51 participants split between two groups, one using scent and sight together and one separate, to rate attractiveness on a Likert scale. The hypothesis of

would be significantly different than those who rate attractiveness based on sight and scent separately. The results did not support the hypothesis; there was not a significant effect of sensory cues on attractiveness t(49)= -

The relationship between the HEXACO Model of Personality and phonemic verbal fluency: A facet-level examination.

Introduction: Personality has been examined in the phonemic verbal fluency (PVF) literature as a contributor to individual differences in PVF ability (e.g., the ability to produce words within a given time period which is thought to tap into executive function and language centers). Much of the literature has solely examined the Five-
(FFM; Costa & McCrae, 1987) relationship to PVF. However recent research has revealed support for a six-factor alternative model of personality trait structure known as the HEXACO model (Ashton & Lee, 2007). Palotas, Burrington, Boyd, Hoke, Morris, Houppert, & McKay (2023, April) recently found evidence to suggest the HEXACO model may serve as a better predictor of PVF versus the FFM with Agreeableness showing the strongest correlation and the HEXACO model accounting more variance in PVF than the

with PVF at the facet-

attachment styles and marijuana abuse. Learning which type of drugs certain attachment styles use could play a huge role in the therapeutic treatment of addiction and drug abuse and is a valuable tool for understanding how childhood affects adulthood relationships and coping mechanisms. The results showed a significant association between the number of cannabis abuse symptoms and the number of fearful avoidant traits. There was also a significant association between the number of cannabis symptoms and anxious preoccupied traits, although this correlation was weaker. Whether or not participants were told hurtful things before the age of 18 by their parents was tested as a moderating variable with higher levels of fearful avoidant traits being associated with higher numbers of cannabis abuse symptoms for these subgroups.

11. **Alexis Pleskovitch.**
    Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.

female, 22% male). Participants were asked to recall and write about an exercise setback they have experienced and were then randomly assigned to complete either a self-compassion writing induction, or a control writing condition. They also completed the state self-compassion scale (short form) and the exercise efficacy scale to assess their levels of state self-compassion and exercise self-efficacy. Participants also were asked their frequency of exercise. A multiple-regression analysis was performed examining the contributing effects of the condition (Self-Compassion Induction writing versus Control writing conditions), Exercise Frequency and State Self-Compassion Scale to Exercise Self-Efficacy Scores. Self-compassion and writing conditions showed no significant contribution to self-efficacy. However, Exercise Frequency did show a significant contribution to Exercise Self-

conduct both a pre-test and a post-test to measure the self-esteem before the article was read and focused on a specific BMI to see the different results.

16. **Mary Claire Marsh.**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Monali Chowdhury, Ph.D.

The impacts of sexualized content on TikTok on body image and self-esteem.

This study experimentally investigated the impact of TikTok use on 31 college-
body image and self-esteem. With social media, specifically TikTok, gaining popularity over the years (Jan et al., 2017), many studies have been conducted to see how social media use impacts cognitive and behavioral characteristics of users (Fredrickson & Roberts,

inadequate, have poorer self-
207). This study examined how viewing different kinds of content on TikTok, sexualized and non- -esteem using a pre-post test design. The primary hypothesis was that exposure to sexualized content on TikTok will have an effect on a user's view of their body image and self-esteem. The experimental group would have a decrease in positive body image and self-esteem scores compared to those in the control group. Views on body image and current self-esteem were assessed using the OBCS and SSES. Results suggested, not supporting the primary hypothesis, that there was no significant difference between experimental and control groups for both the OBCS ($F(29) = 0.63$, $p = 0.44$) and SSES ($F(29) = 0.48$, $p = 0.50$). Finding no significant differences between the pretest and posttest scores may be due to the fact that participants may already be exposed to and habituated to different types of sexualized content on social media in their daily use, showing no change in their perspectives at the moment of study.

17. **Shelby Folga, Ally Shields, Gregory Morrow.**
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.

"Am I a good catch?" The effects of femininity threat on women's self-perceived value as a romantic partner.

When masculinity is challenged, some men feel they must reestablish it by providing social proof of their masculinity. Femininity, however, has significantly less research on whether it can be threatened; perhaps due to the perception that femininity is tied to biological processes. The current study takes a direct approach to threatening femininity by providing false feedback that is culturally inconsistent with stereotypic feminine gender identity. To assess potential stress from the feedback, participants rated their level of disagreement with their feedback. In addition, the Mate-Value Inventory was completed to determine whether

ADHD and you: re10 0.6012 972 reW* nBT0 0.125 0.367 rgTT0 1 Tf3 Tr 12 0 0 12 508.6uj5 rg6trgTT

3. **Jessalynn Ellis, Frank Hawbaker, Gregory Morrow, Wayne Hawley**
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.

The effects of masculinity threat on rape myth acceptance and sexual narcissism.

The number of emergency room visits for sexual assault increased by 1,550% from 2006 to 2019. Therefore, perhaps now more than ever, it is important to identify factors related to sexual assault. Masculinity is a precarious state that is hard-won and easily lost. When masculinity is threatened, men may compensate by adopting more sexist attitudes and engaging in maladaptive behaviors (e.g., increased aggression). The goal of the current study was to examine the extent to which men endorse rape myths and adopt sexually narcissistic attitudes after they experienced a threat to their masculinity. Participants were asked to complete a 30-item Conformity to Masculinity Norms Inventory (CMNI-30) disguised as a personality test. This was used to generate false feedback regarding their masculinity. Participants were randomly assigned to receive either an affirming masculinity score or a threatening masculinity score. After receiving their gender feedback, participants were asked to complete the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale and the Sexual Narcissism Scale, presented randomly. The results of this study will be discussed within the context of precarious manhood and traditional masculine norms.

4. Gavin Hornyak, Alicia Zotolla

present study used identical social media posts depicting two victims of police gun violence; a White man (Condition 1) and a Black man (Condition 2). Physiological data was collected during three phases of the study; the Baseline, Stressor, and Recovery periods, and survey data was collected during the Baseline and Stressor periods. Two hypotheses were proposed; 1) there will be a significant increase in survey-reported and/or physiological stress measures between the Baseline and Stressor periods, and 2) these significant increases will be lesser in Condition 2 than Condition 1. Results of Paired-Sample T-Tests demonstrated significant differences between the Baseline and Stressor periods for both conditions and in both survey measures. No significance was found between these periods for any physiological ECG features collected. In addition, no significance was found between conditions for any ECG features or survey responses. This study provides insight into the effect of police gun violence media on stress not previously studied and lays the base for continued research into race-based differences in stress responses.

3. Sophia Sunseri
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Christopher Normile, Ph.D.

Statistical understanding of undergraduate students.

Statistical cognition is the processes, representations, and activities involved in acquiring and using statistical knowledge by looking at: (1) how people acquire/use statistical knowledge, (2) how they should think about statistical concepts, as well as (3) closing the gap between the previous two ideas (Cumming et al., 2008). This paper looked at the connections between statistical cognition, prior knowledge, statistical self-efficacy, major discipline, and gender. Participants were provided with a statistical self-efficacy questionnaire designed to measure their belief in their ability to complete statistical tasks. Participants then completed a statistical cognition survey designed to measure how much knowledge the students have about key statistical concepts. Results revealed

The study examined stress amongst undergraduate college students and the ability to detect stress through visual aid. First-year psychology students were asked to complete a College Undergraduate Stress Scale (Wadsworth Group, 2002) in addition to completing a House Tree Person Test (Buck, 1948). The House Tree Person test was administered to the subjects and was scored for stress using a rather blind to the purpose of the study. We will compare the results of the objective stress scale and the House Tree Person test to see if a relationship between stress exit between the two measures.

4. Andrew Sessamen
Gannon University; Faculty Advisor –

Map of Thiel College Campus

Acknowledgments

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the individuals and departments who made this fabulous event possible!

Janet DiBell + AVI Catering
Monica Adametz + Special Events
Department of Psychology
Christopher Casanta Graphic Designer
Psychc Designer