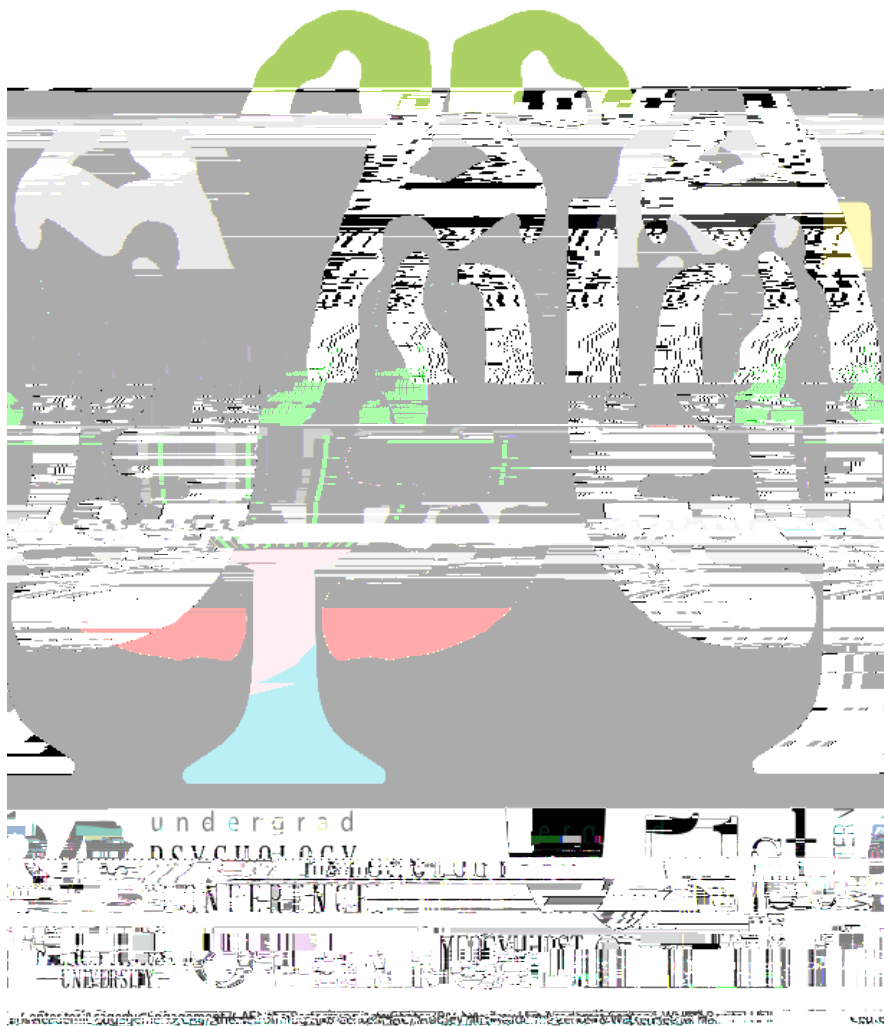


51st Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference WPUPC 2024

8:30 AM ± 2:30 PM ± April 13, 2024



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 Mercyhurst University Psychology Department would like to welcome you to the 2024 Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference. We are excited to be the host for this conference. We hope that your time today is filled with memorable experiences. We are so happy to have you! We would like to thank all individuals and departments at Mercyhurst University who helped to plan and coordinate this event. Thank you!

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 Mercyhurst University 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.

QUICK ACCESSLINKS

8 V H W K H V G D O Y L Q N W W R X U G L J L W D O S U P

We appreciate you helping us limit our global footprint!
A special thank you to Dr. Kristel Gallagher for allowing us to modify
the program used last year!

[Schedule Overview\(p. 3\)](#)

[Poster Sessions±Details with Board Numbers \(p. 4\)](#)

[Oral Sessions±Detailed Schedule \(p. 8\)](#)

[Keynote Address Information \(p. 11\)](#)

[Poster Abstracts\(p. 12\)](#)

[Oral SessionAbstracts \(p. 32\)](#)

[Campus Mapand Wi-Fi Instructions \(p. 39\)](#)

**Note: Clicking the 4 symbol should take you back to this page

Schedule Overview

8:30 ± 9:00 am	<p>Check In and Continental Breakfast <small>™ Mary ' ¶ \$ Q J H O R 3 H U I R U P L Q J \$ U W V & H Q W H U 3 S</small></p>
9:00-9:15 am	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks Dr. Derek McKay Conference Chair <small>™ O D U \ ' ¶ \$ Q J H O R 3 H U I R U P L Q J \$ U W V & H Q W H U</small></p>
9:15-9:30 am	<p>Break/Head to Mercy Heritage Room</p>
9:30-10:00 am	<p>Poster Session #1 <small>™ Mercy Heritage Room</small></p>
10:00-10:30 am	<p>Poster Session #2 <small>™ Mercy Heritage Room</small></p>
10:30-10:45 am	<p>Break/Head to PAC</p>
10:45-11:45 am	<p>Keynote Address Dr. David R. Maguire University of Texas Health Science Center Title: From the beach to biomedical research: One beach <small>SK D U P D F R O R J L V W ¶ V M R X U Q H \</small> <small>™ O D U \ ' ¶ \$ Q J H O R 3 H U I R U P L Q J \$ U W V & H Q W H U</small></p>
11:45-12:45 pm	<p>Head to Grotto Commons in Egan Hall for Lunch</p>
12:45 ± 1:15 pm	<p>Poster Session #3 <small>™ Mercy Heritage Room</small></p>
*[1:00-1:45 pm]	<p>WPUPC Advisory Committee Meeting <small>™ CAE ± Room 311</small></p>
1:15 ± 1:30 pm	<p>Break/Head to Center for Academic Engagement (CAE)</p>
1:30-2:30 pm	<p>Concurrent Oral Presentations <small>™ CAE ± Rooms</small></p>

9. Lily Fox. Westminster College; Faculty Advisor ± Deanna Buffalari, Ph.D.
Drink like a fish: The impact of ethanol on social anxiety in Danio Rerio.
10. Ahmed Abdoulrazig, Niyah Lucas. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Faculty Advisor ± Alvin Keyes, Ph.D.
The impact of visually-induced perceptions of racism on physiological states and information processing.
11. Abigale Regal, Clara Enterline, Anna-Lise Zimoski, Chantel Wilcox. PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor ± Ronald Craig, Ph.D.
Detection of deception over zoom using eye-tracking technology.
12. Zakaria Wilson. Thiel College; Faculty Advisor ± Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.
The sleep study: Snoring, difficulties, and duration.

4

POSTER SESSION #2

10:00 ± 10:30 AM

ROOM: Mercy Heritage Room

(Set Up at 10:00 AM; Removal at 10:30 am)

1. Caleb Rainbow, Quanah Graham. Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor ± Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.
Do classroom decorations raise mood during testing?
2. Kendra Granchi. Westminster College; Faculty Advisor ± Loreen Huffman, Ph.D.
Enhancing workplace productivity and motivation: The role of positive organizational behavior, relationships, and healthy lifestyles.
3. Samantha Jones. Thiel College; Faculty Advisor ± Natalie Homa, Ph.D.
Exploring the mediating effect of locus of control and cultural values on the relationship between trauma and resilience.
4. Alicia Schackner. PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor ± Sharon Hamilton, Ph.D.
An applied behavioral analytic self-management intervention: Increasing daily studying habit.

6. Lacey Sampson PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Ronald Craig, Ph.D. Parental proximity and the perception of interrogator coercion.
7. Jordan Dickinson, Halle Graham, Reese Dotton, Lindsey Markiewicz, Isabella Cappellano-Sarver. Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor

ORAL SESSION #3
ROOM: CAE 203

Moderator: Dr. Seyma Inan

1:30 ± 1:45 pm Hannah Hinterleiter
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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10:45 ±11:45 am

Dr. David R. Maguire, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, University of Texas Health Science Center

Title: From the Beach to Biomedical Research: On Behavioral PK DUPDFRORJLV
Journey

We are excited to have Dr. Maguire join us at WPUPC and provide his unique insights into substance misuse and abuse through behavioral pharmacology. His grant-funded research evaluates novel pharmacotherapies for relapse to drug use and drug overdose, characterizes abuse and overdose-related effects of novel drugs and drug mixtures, and examines the impact of repeated exposure to drugs of abuse on choice, decision-making, and impulsivity. Dr. Maguire has published nearly 50 original research papers, reviews, and book chapters.

4. Virginia Jeffrey, Autumn Burkett, Jodi Thomas, Cara Della Toffalo.
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.

The effect of testosterone and estrogen on sexual reward in male rats

Sexual behavior is rewarding for both males and females of a variety of species. Although yet to be directly tested, previous research suggests testosterone likely contributes to sexual reward in males. Likewise, since testosterone can be converted into estrogen, and estrogen is important for other aspects of sexual behavior in males, it was expected that estrogen would mimic the effects of testosterone on sexual reward in males. In the current study, after training male rats to associate a specific side chamber conditioned place preference (CPP) maze with sexual activity, rats were chemically castrated and treated with either oil, testosterone, or estrogen. Males were then placed back into the maze, on 2 separate trials, where they were allowed to explore the chamber of the maze associated with sex and the one not associated with sex. A greater amount of time in the chamber associated with sex is indicative of greater sexual reward. Results and implications of the study will be discussed.

5. Marina Nogueira Zottele, Jenna Bowman, Ana Luiza De Nadai, Brooke Lovell, Dana Battershell, Emma Kraus.
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.

My pace or yours? The effect of testosterone on paced mating in female rats.

Menopause is characterized by the natural decline in ovarian hormones, and for some undergoing menopause, lower levels of sexual desire. Ovariectomized (OVX) rats were used to simulate aspects of menopause. In paced mating paradigms, a female rat has complete control over the frequency and duration of a sexual interaction. Under these conditions, the female is more likely to escape the male following an intromission or ejaculation. Administration of estrogen to an OVX rat maintains pacing and increases sexual motivation and sexual receptivity. Although testosterone seems to enhance sexual outcomes in menopausal women, the effects of testosterone on paced mating remains to be thoroughly evaluated. Therefore, OVX females in this study were administered estrogen, one of two doses of testosterone, to determine if testosterone mimics the effects of estrogen in OVX rats on paced mating, as well as sexual motivation and receptivity. Results and implications are to be discussed.

6. Brooke Edwards, Dana Battershell, Kara Shoemaker.
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.

Does Increased Testosterone Impact Partner Preference in Older Male Rats?

Testosterone is important for many aspects of sexual behavior in male rats. Previous studies have shown that testosterone levels decrease with age, potentially affecting sexual behavior and motivation in older male rats. The purpose of this study was to determine if administering testosterone to older male rats increased their partner preference for

response (CR) interacts with a conditioned stimulus (CS).-Cooking occurs when the CR focuses on the location of the expected reward. Therefore, sticking, not goal tracking, is related to maladaptive behaviors, which include taking along with relapse behaviors (Colaizzi et al., 2020). Japanese quail are similar to humans, as they are visually oriented species (Scanes & Dridi, 2022). Si19 681.792 re W i(3) ET Q q 0 0 6 loc

Thirty (15 male and 15 female) African American students from a local university, between 18-25 years old, will serve as participants. A convenience sampling approach will be employed. Three physiological measures will be recorded during the investigation. Scalp-recorded event-related potential (ERP) data will be collected via an electrode cap from areas corresponding to the occipital, parietal, anterior cingulate cortex, and frontal cortices. Heart rate variability (HRV) will be measured through the fingertips and under the arms of participants. Galvanic skin response (GSR) measurements will be collected via electrode placement on the fingertips and the palms. A task consisting of timed visual presentations both negative and positive will be used to record these various measures. It is predicted that all physiological measures will differ significantly during the presentation of the opposing cues.

11. Abigale Regal, Clara Enterline, AnnaLise Zimoski, Chantel Wilcox.
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Ronald Craig, Ph.D.

Detection of deception over zoom using eye tracking technology.

With more virtual interpersonal interactions, the question of the ability to detect deception in these modalities has arisen. Although observer evaluations of a verbal cue of deception have been debunked, more sophisticated computerized metrics have been proposed to effectively measure deceit. Measures like pupil dilation and eye movement behavior have been used to differentiate deceptive and true responses connected to reading statements and in the context of some types of online interaction. The current study had participants select three out of six simple tasks to complete and were instructed to both lie and tell the truth during a Zoom interview, with eye movement captured via an eye tracker. During the standardized interview via Zoom, the participants claim to have completed all six tasks. Visual behavior during the interview was collected, including eye movement, fixation on facial elements and pupil

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was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between snoring and how long one sleeps on the average night, with less hours of sleep reported by individuals who snore. There was no significant relationship between snoring and trouble staying asleep. Further, a moderation analysis showed that anxiety had an effect on the association between snoring and average time slept. The results of this study suggest that snoring may not be incredibly important for overall sleep quality since even the significant difference of average time slept was less than an hour between those who snore and those who do not. More research should be conducted better understand how anxiety might play a role.

4

Session #2

1. Caleb Rainbow, Quanah Graham.
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.

Do classroom decorations raise mood during testing?

The setting of academia has been a topic of much research, especially in recent years. Creative classroom settings have been incorporated into various academic environments to improve student mood and lessen stress. In the current study, the researchers took this a step further and examined how the independent variables of classroom environments in three levels of decor370.1u.94 (08.02r)JF-66-5 (n5a2 re W* n BT 0.051 0.S.05h55-7 (d 0 Tr 1

combined impact on employee productivity work productivity and motivation within the context of industrial/organizational psychology. Through surveys and analysis, this study

An applied behavioral analytic intervention was used to increase the crocheting behavior a university psychology student enrolled in a behavioral modification class. First, a functional analysis of the relevant behaviors was conducted using two methods: an interview and a direct observation of the behaviors. It was determined that crocheting occurred infrequently primarily due to an absence of stimulus control and because it was often followed by wrist pain. Also, a strong competing behavior was scrolling on the social media which was immediately reinforced. Baseline data was collected for three weeks, and a changing criterion single subject design was used to evaluate the intervention which included increasing stimulus control and applying a social reinforcer. The changing goal, or criterion for the duration of crocheting was included to address the effect of wrist pain on the behavior. Results are presented for in single line graphs for two response measure: the duration of time spent crocheting and the frequency of rows complete each day. It can be concluded that the behavior changed with the institution of the second criterion, and that there is a moderate level of evidence that the intervention is responsible for the behavior change.

5. Frank Hawbaker, Gregory Morrow.
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.

7 K D W ¶ V V Reive R Attractiveness that results from giving oral sex or receiving anal sex dictates the likelihood of engaging in the sexual acts.

Probability discounting tasks have been used to examine aspects of sexual-decision making. For example, probability discounting tasks have been used to determine the extent to which participants indicate a willingness to engage in sex without a condom, as the risk (i.e., STI) associated with engaging in the sexual act decreases. However, the extent to which a sexual act loses value (i.e., is discounted) as a rewarding outcome associated with engaging in the act becomes less likely remains unknown. Male and female participants were administered two probability discounting tasks (i.e., giving oral sex, receiving anal sex) in a random order and were asked to indicate the likelihood they would engage in those sexual acts as the likelihood their sexual partner would find them as more attractive for engaging in the act decreased. It was expected that participants would discount both giving oral sex and receiving anal sex as the probability their partner would find them more attractive for engaging in the act became less certain. It was also expected that receiving anal sex would be discounted more than giving oral sex. Results and implications of the findings will be discussed.

6. Lacey Sampson.
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Ronald Craig, Ph.D.

Parental proximity and the perception of interrogator coercion.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ~~is~~ that more than

This study explored the correlation between the variables of fear of missing out (FOMO) and perceived quality of romantic relationships in young adults. FOMO, as described by Przybylski (2013), is the pervasive concern that others are experiencing rewards while one is absent. A sample of 120 participants were recruited via Amazon Mechanical Turk, with a mean age of 26.56 years (SD=3.48). FOMO levels were assessed using the 10-item Fear of Missing Out Scale (Przybylski, 2013), and relationship quality was measured using the 10-item Perceived Relationship Quality Component Scale (PRQC) developed by Fletcher, Simpson, and Thomas (2000). Results of a Pearson's correlation did not show a significant correlation between FOMO and PRQC totals ($r=0.102$; $p=0.27$). Additional analyses yielded some interesting findings. FOMO and PRQC scores were found to differ significantly based on several demographic variables. For example, participants were found to differ significantly in FOMO total score based on ethnicity ($F=14.73$, $p < .001$), employment status ($F=2.47$, $p=0.048$), and education level ($F=3.87$, $p=0.006$). In addition, participants were found to differ significantly in PRQC total scores based on gender ($F=8.08$, $p < 0.001$), education level ($F=4.57$, $p=0.002$), employment status ($F=2.45$, $p=0.049$). Insights into findings and future directions were discussed.

11. Allyson Kirby.

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Gregory Morrow, Ph.D.

Navigating relationship challenges: The relationship between attachment and of

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threat among the participants, or a significant gap between genders in STEM fields on the Penn State Behrend campus.

multivariate analysis of variance will serve to illustrate the main and interactive effects of Locus of Control (LOC), gender, method of information delivery, money management options, and reported financial trauma on the amount of money accumulated during the study (a combination of EII and EIS).

4. Cameron Corrigan.

Westminster College; Faculty Advisor Loreen Huffman, Ph.D.

The correlation between adolescent romantic relationships and adulthood dating habits.

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overall life happiness. As human bei

may exhibit greater resilience against peer pressure, stemming from self-assurance and rational decisionmaking processes. To test these hypotheses, a diverse sample of participants aged 18-25 completed four surveys: the Big Five Inventory, the Need to Belong Survey, a Peer Pressure Questionnaire, and the MacLennan Social Desirability Scale. These instruments, administered using Likert ratings and true/false responses, aim to capture participants' personality traits, feelings of belongingness, experiences of peer pressure, and tendencies towards social desirability and the need to belong. By examining the complex interactions between personality traits, social desirability, and the need to belong, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of human behavior and its implications for social dynamics, mental health, and resilience.

7.

9. Leah Ungashick.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.

The perceived effect of coaching behaviors on Division III athletes in relation to drinking behaviors.

College-aged students are prone to consuming alcohol more than any other age. In student-athletes, there are other factors that may have an impact on alcohol consumption that other college students do not have. Different coaching styles have different effects on athletes, on and off the court and field. The different styles including; democratic behavior, autocratic behavior, positive feedback, instruction, and social support. The purpose of the present study was to examine the relationship between perceived coaching behaviors and alcohol behaviors among Division III student-athletes, by having N = 39

in casual (e.g., with friends) than formal (e.g., with a boss) relationships. We confirmed that males were more likely to use sarcasm than females. People in Sweden, and Singapore reported they were more likely to use sarcasm than those in China and Mexico. These findings help us to understand some of the complexities of sarcasm usage. For example, the interpretation of sarcasm can change depending on whether we are speaking with close friends or a boss. People may view sarcasm humorously when speaking with friends, but when heard from a boss it may be hurtful

11. Stephen Dimitriadis, Leia Ross, Marley Sorg.
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor: Sharon Hamilton Ph.D.

Inter-collegiate athletes' use of imagery.

The primary purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between competitive trait anxiety and the overall use of imagery. Participants were recruited from all the PHQ TV DQG ZRP Ht at a public University. Thirteen athletes volunteered (seven males and six females) with nine participants completing all the LimeSurvey questionnaires fully. Most participants were 18 to 21 years in age (93.8%). The relationship between competitive trait anxiety, measured by the SAS-2, and overall use of imagery, measured by the SIQ Total Score, was analyzed using a Pearson R Correlation. A significant negative correlation was found between competitive trait anxiety and overall use of imagery. ($r = -.817, p < 0.01$.) We then examined the relationship between the SAS-2 (competitive trait anxiety) and each of the five types of imagery subscales of SIQ. A significant negative Pearson R correlation was found between the measure of competitive trait anxiety and the Motivation General Mastery (SIQ-MGM) subscale of the SIQ ($r = -.710, p < 0.05$.). One weakness of this study is the low sample size. However, our results are consistent with what other researchers have demonstrated.

12. James Cromwell Young.
Thiel College; Faculty Advisor: Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Association between parental support, wellbeing, and feelings toward their parenting.

7 KLV VWXG\ H[DPLQHG WZR PDLQ UHVHDFK TXHVWLRQ association between parental well-being and feelings toward their parenting 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 ZDV XWLOLJHG WR FROOHFW WKH GDWD XPHUJW IRIDN LQJX the total 2,579 respondents. The results showed that there was a significant negative UHODWLRQVKLS EHWZHHQ parental support and feelings toward parenting, however the correlation was weak. There was also a significant relationship between a

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Further, a moderation analysis showed that gender had no effect on the association
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results of this study suggest that parental well-being and the strength of support systems a
parent has are related to how well they feel in their role as a parent. However, more
research should be done to analyze the relationship between parental well-being and
parental support, to understand if all three variables are interconnected.

4

ORAL SESSION ABSTRACTS

Session #

1. Garrett Beebe, Caitlin R. Lowes.
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor ~~is~~ Steven A. Berg, Ph.D.

Anchoring and Judgment Bias: The Influence of Source Credibility on Making Estimations Under Uncertainty.

The current investigation will examine the nature of cognitive processing in the context of decision-making behavior. The focus of this project will center on the judgment biases resulting from utilization of information that is heuristically accessed from available memory. Classic anchoring effects have demonstrated that people tasked with formulating judgments of frequency in uncertain situations will use any available information sampled from memory as a reference for making their estimations. The specific aim of the present experiment will be to assess whether individuals exhibit patterns of behavior consistent with previous findings pertaining to anchoring effects, shown by corrupted subjective judgments, and to what extent those judgments in the form of numerical value estimations are influenced (if at all) by knowledge of the credibility of the source of the would-be anchor. Will subjects disregard information when there is prior knowledge of low source credibility or ~~±~~ regardless of this knowledge prior to making their numerical value estimation, will anchoring effects emerge in a similar fashion to instances when the credibility of the source is known to be high? That is, will there be a reduced effect of anchoring (or no detectable anchoring) when the source of the information is known to be less as compared to more credible? Will the pattern of results for high and low anchors look the same for both high and low credibility conditions? Implications which follow from our findings will be considered within the context of the well-established availability heuristic, and any notable effects will be explained by accounting for the previously discovered anchoring phenomenon. A two-system framework, arranged in the form of a dual-process model that distinguishes intuition from reasoning, will be used to interpret our results. By reflecting on theoretical explanations of anchoring effects, such as selective accessibility and numerical priming, we hope to reveal the influence of source credibility on the process of making numerical value estimations under uncertainty.

Session #

1. Megan Frank, Emma Snyder
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor ~~is~~ Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.

Effect of partial notes using varying

3. Madison Geis, Conner Schnupp, Amy Love.
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor: Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D

Sex differences in body dysmorphic tendencies: mediating role of fitness.

Word and Body Esteem, which can afford more opportunities to engage in social comparison, increasing their chances of having lower body esteem. Previous research denoted a mixed motivation body alteration for both sexes throughout the years: muscularity (increasing muscle mass) or thinness (decreasing body weight). This research will examine differences in body dysmorphia due to their identified sex. It challenges the misconception that males are less likely to experience body dissatisfaction and will examine whether females are motivated to be muscular or thin. It is predicated that sex and scores on the body image avoidance questionnaire (BIAQ) will display th(not)-1c0-19 (y)20-3 (on8oeAt 1 Tf 12 0 ispl)-4 -d wih e age muscularity increases) -wofemale will increase body esteem and

generally viewed juveniles as more guilty ~~with~~ in a school versus a custodial setting. Overall, there were no significant findings throughout the four analyses. The results showed that participants viewed the interrogations as coercive and severe. Participants also answered that the juvenile was ~~more~~ guilty and that safeguards are important. Future research could benefit from examining this topic further. The current study aimed to aid in the lack of knowledge of school interrogations and people's perceptions and judgments of these interrogations.

2. Aarati Poudel, Isobel Mathis

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor: Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Social media's influence on body image

The impact of social media on body image is a widely discussed topic, particularly among women. A previous study indicated that women are more likely to feel shame than

of this study include (1) college students will exhibit lower levels of anxiety after both the virtual videos of pets and the animatronic pet's interactions, and (2) anxiety levels will show a larger decrease from the interactions with animatronic pets than interactions with the virtual videos of pets. Anxiety levels will be measured before and after each pet interaction using a pulse oximeter, measuring both heart rate and oxygen saturation, and the State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) as a pre and posttest following the interactions. A Univariate Analysis of Covariance indicated significant differences in the STAI score for the first interaction type, $F(1,27) = 4.50, p = 0.044$, those who interacted with animatronic pets ($M = 27.00, SD = 7.44$) scored lower on the STAI than those who interacted with virtual videos of pets ($M = 30.00, SD = 8.12$). These findings suggest that animatronic animal therapy is a viable option for pet therapy and reducing anxiety levels in college students.

Session #

1. Brianne Coatsworth
Thiel College; Faculty Advisor: Natalie Homa, Ph.D.

Care-Recipient Perception of Burden & Adjustment to Relocation Through the Lens of Attachment Theory

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2. Emily Eshleman

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor: Chris Normile, Ph.D.

Verdicts and victim blame: The impact of victim race and sexuality.

Much of the current literature on the impact of victim identity characteristics on jury decisionmaking has observed that when victims are Black, sentences are more lenient for defendants in comparison to cases with White victims. Additionally, studies have shown that victim blaming decreases in hate crimes and sentence severity increases. However, there are contrasting results on the impact of victim sexuality on jury decisions, and few studies examine the combined impact of race and sexuality. The current study aimed to bridge this gap using an intersectional approach. Approximately 73 undergraduate students acted as jurors and were presented with a one-page case summary describing a murder in which the race and sexuality of the victim varied across conditions. They were asked to read the transcript, evaluate the culpability of the victim, determine if the crime was hate-motivated, give a verdict, and rate their confidence in that verdict. No significant impact of race or sexuality of victims on sentence was observed, and victim blaming did not moderate the relationship between victim race or sexuality and sentence. Further, there was no significant difference in sentence severity between those who perceived hate-motivation and those who did not. Future research should investigate the impact of race and sexuality saliency, expand on current variables, and further study the impact of crime severity.

3. Sophia DiPlacido, Maddie Schafer, Hannah Khamis

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor: Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D

Potentially distressing content exposure through short form social media

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However, the constant evolution of social media has allowed for gaps within this area of literature. The present study aims to explore the impact of incidental exposure to potentially distressing content through short form social media on stress levels. The experimental group will be watching a series of short form videos containing distressing media, such as videos of a car accident or wildfire. The control group will be viewing short form videos containing neutral and non-distressing media, such as a car driving normally down the road or a campfire. The State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-Y) will be used to measure anxiety levels, the Content Based Media

research could help individuals make more informed decisions regarding social media content and could establish a causal link between content media exposure and the experience of stress and anxiety.

Map of