

The University of Tampa
College of Social Science, Mathematics and Education



2019 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

**May 1, 2019
4 - 6 p.m.**

Plant Hall, Fletcher Lounge

Welcome!



2019

College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference

Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Plant Hall, Fletcher Lounge
4:00—6:00 p.m.

About the Conference

The University of Tampa Undergraduate Research Conference allows students to present original, empirical research within any area of the disciplines represented by the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education. The first conference was in April 2006 and has been held annually since. At the third event held in April 2008, prizes for best posters were awarded. The fifth event (April 2010) saw a wider representation of posters from across the college.

Example citation for the work presented here:

Einstein, A. & Blessing, S.B., (2019, April). *Investigations into the psychology of time perception*. Poster presented at the Spring 2019 CSSME Undergraduate Research Conference, Tampa, FL.

For more information about this and previous conferences, including all past abstracts, please search “CSSME research” at www.ut.edu.

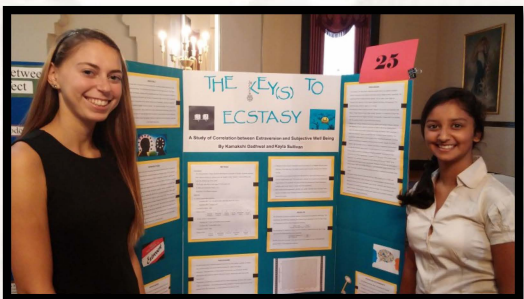
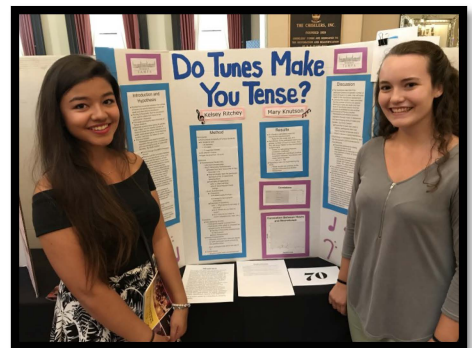
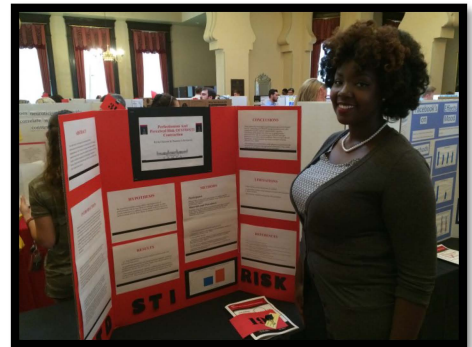


A Word of Thanks

This conference would not be possible without the dedicated mentors and instructors who have assisted the students with their projects. The faculty mentors who have guided students in their projects this year include:

Mary Anderson
Angela Angeleska
Stephen Blessing
Kathryn Branch
Ryan Cragun
Kimberly Cummings
Sara Festini
Cynthia Gangi
Erin Koterba
Miloslava Plachkinova
Denis Rey
Enilda Romero-Hall
Michael Stasio
Erica Yuen

Thank you!



Presenters



Last Name	First Name	Poster #	Department	Page #
A				
Abdanur Mattar	Natalia	24	PSY	12
Andrade	Zuleyma	1	IST	7
Aretz	Brendan	49	PSY	19
Asgedom	Nastasia	58	SOC	21
Ashby	Abbie	2	PSY	7
Ay Aksu	Atesh	28	PSY	13
B				
Bah	Mariama	52	PSY	19
Barber	Roman A.	3	IST	7
Barrett-Clarke	Adam	4	PSY	7
		41	PSY	17
Blackwell	Damani	5	CRM	8
Boehm	Joel	6	SOC	8
Boyko	Jaime	38	PSY	16
Brown	Sherrea	7	SOC	8
Brunache	Valerie	58	SOC	21
Buzbee	Hannah L.	4	PSY	7
		41	PSY	17
C				
Cadman	Katie	57	PSY	21
Calderon	Rozlyn	8	IST	8
Capozzola	Lauren	9	PSY	9
Christian	Danielle	28	PSY	13
Colaianne	Allison	10	PSY	9
Conkel	Carly	11	PSY	9
		38	PSY	16
Coppa	Sabrina A.	12	CRM	9
D				
Da Silva	Alexander	13	IST	10
Davis	Bryanna	14	SOC	10
DeBenedittis	Adryana	15	PSY	10
deCastro	Daniel	24	PSY	12
Dietrich	Jamie	16	PSC	10
Driskell	Kelly	32	MAT	14
Duarte Maysonet	Paola	17	IST	11
E				
Eshoo	Emily	18	IST	11



Presenters

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F				
Fichtner-Morgan	Balladine	19	IST	11
Findley	Christopher	20	PSC	11
G				
Gefroh	Michelle N.	21	PSY	12
Georgianni	Nadine	22	PSY	12
Gonzalez	Daniel A.	23	IST	12
Grace	Degas	24	PSY	12
Green	Kaysi	2	PSY	7
H				
Hammer	Joseph H.	7	SOC	8
Harrington	Allison V.	25	IST	13
Hayes	Marcus	6	SOC	8
Henn	Evelyn	49	PSY	19
Hermesman	Tessa	26	SOC	26
Hill	Haley	27	PSC	13
		35	PSY	15
Hill	Kayla	28	PSY	13
		29	PSY	14
Horlick	Emily	10	PSY	9
J				
Jackson	Julie	30	PSY	14
Johnson	Zoe	31	PSY	14
K				
Kennedy	Alanna	38	PSY	16
Khan	Sorayah	33	CRM	15
Kramer	Sydney	14	SOC	10
L				
Laroe	Alexis	27	PSC	13
Le Quesne	Jade	34	IST	15
Lecoeuvre	Shannon	35	PSY	15
		36	PSY	15
Lennon	Abby	14	SOC	10
Leonick	Melissa	30	PSY	14
Lewis	Shakiah	6	SOC	8
Li	Linlin	47	EDU	18

Presenters



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M				
Manzare	Taylor	37	PSY	16
Martin	Tyra	15	PSY	10
Martins	Nicolly	38	PSY	16
McNally	Matt	49	PSY	19
Meisel	Erika	39	PSY	16
Michael	Hannah	57	PSY	21
Midura	Megan	15	PSY	10
Mooney	Michelle	37	PSY	16
Morais	Marina	40	PSY	16
Muir	Ashonda	54	PSY	20
Mullins	Amelia	31	PSY	14
N				
Nerogic	Abigail	41	PSY	17
Nielsen	Michael	7	SOC	8
Nyce	Samantha	26	SOC	13
P				
Pasca	Christina	14	SOC	10
		42	SOC	17
Pascoe	Lauren	43	PSY	17
Perdomo	Maria	26	SOC	13
Petersen	Erica	47	EDU	18
Phillips	Rick	7	SOC	8
Ponce	Alinna	22	PSY	12
R				
Radke	Jesse	43	PSY	17
Ramsdell	Kassandra	44	PSY	17
Raye	Lauren	39	PSY	16
Richards	Brittany	11	PSY	9
Roberts	Taylor	9	PSY	9
Rodriguez	Alexandra	29	PSY	14
Rodriguez	Samia	53	PSY	20
Roldan	Nico	54	PSY	20
Rolle	Alexander	41	PSY	17
Rosenberg	Lexi	41	PSY	17
		45	PSY	18



Presenters

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S				
Saley	Erin	43	PSY	17
Sakosky	Elena	40	PSY	16
Santander	Camila	53	PSY	20
Schweikert	Katherine	26	SOC	13
Serna	Estephanie	46	IST	18
Sindicic	Renata	47	EDU	18
Spalding	Izzy	45	PSY	18
Starks	Catherine	48	IST	18
Stevens	Amanda	49	PSY	19
Swain	Mackenzie	2	PSY	7

T				
Tillman	Tajaia	37	PSY	16

V				
Villa	Juana	50	IST	19
Vogt	Shannon	51	PSY	19

W				
Waddell	Megan	52	PSY	19
Walker	Jennifer	53	PSY	20
Walton	Erynn	54	PSY	20
Wangari Kariuki	Alison	55	IST	20
Weber	Jack	56	IST	20
Weiner	Emily	57	PSY	21
Weis	Gina Marie	41	PSY	17
Weiss	Jaime	26	SOC	13
Wesoloski	Matthew	6	SOC	8
Whittaker	Robyn-Anne	58	SOC	21
Wilson	Courtney	27	PSC	13
Worrell	Samantha	6	SOC	8
Wuorio	Amber	30	PSY	14

Department Code	Department Name
IST	International Studies
MAT	Mathematics
PSC	Political Science
PSY	Psychology
SOC	Sociology



Abstracts

1. How Does Local Law Enforcement Affect Human Trafficking?

Author: Zuleyma Andrade

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This study examines to what extent local law enforcement influences human trafficking. This was determined by studying several types of cases in the regions of Asia, Africa, and Europe. To analyze them accurately I used the MSSD (most similar systems design). By holding these three regions constant I also examined a variety of components that contribute to human trafficking such as economic instability, unemployment levels, and imbalance of wealth. Through my research, I found that local law enforcement within a country has a significant influence on human trafficking. However, this influence becomes even more abundant when combined with corruption. My research concludes that when all components are observed together, evidence of corruption within local law enforcement are evident in causing rising human trafficking rates.

2. The Effects of Age and Gender on an Individual's Perceptions of Their Romantic Relationship Future

Authors: Abbie Ashby, Kaysi Green & Mackenzie Swain

Mentor: Erin Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

Previous research has been done to examine various qualities of romantic relationships and how they vary depending on age, the length of the relationship, and the interaction between age and relationship length (Lantagne & Furman, 2017). However, little research has been done regarding the role of age and gender in the development of dating and marriage values and future relationship goals. In the current study, 88 participants (46 females, 42 males) completed five surveys that assessed their romantic motivations, romantic beliefs, marital outlook, dating values, and regulatory focus type. Results found that age is negatively correlated with independence and positively correlated with Finance measures of the Relationship Beliefs scale. Gendered patterns also emerged among several sub-items of each scale.

3. How does Terrorism influence Foreign Direct Investment?

Author: Roman A. Barber

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This research question explores the impact of terrorism mechanisms on foreign direct investment. The mechanisms of terrorism that I focused on were transnational, domestic and political terrorism. My research explains how different types of terrorism impact the longevity of Foreign Direct Investment and how these investment strategies can inhibit risk of terrorism in the investment country. This research was conducted through the comparative case study analysis of Spain, Greece and Israel, for these countries were important due to being able to control of government type and relative geographic location.

4. Differences in Stroop Test Performance Between Age Groups

Authors: Adam Barrett-Clarke & Hannah L. Buzbee

Mentor: Stephen Blessing, Ph.D., Psychology

This study examines differences between groups in Stroop Test performance, particularly the difference in completion times of a Stroop task between two age groups (18-30 years and 31-60 years). Participants performed a Stroop task several times with the intention of experimenters obtaining time counts to compare between groups. This study is aimed at revealing any potential differences in cognitive processing speeds between these two age groups; cognitive function has been shown to decrease with age and the Stroop Test is one way to further examine this decrease. The expectation is that the older group will perform this task more slowly when compared to the younger age range. Future research in this subject should test participants for accuracy along with speed to determine any further differences between age groups.



Abstracts

5. *Investigating White Collar Crime: The Role of the Federal Aviation Administration in the Boeing Crashes*

Author: Damani Blackwell

Mentor: Miloslava Plachkinova, Ph.D., Cybersecurity

The purpose of this study is to examine white collar crime by investigating the relationship and negligence of the Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing that led to the two fatal crashes of the 737 Max 8 Jets. Both jets crashed within minutes of takeoff after attempting to manually correct an automated safety feature that pulls the plane downward. All pilots were unsuccessful and unfortunately, in both circumstances there were no survivors. What is the role of Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration in the Boeing crashes? Data was collected through analysis of news articles, witness statements, black box data, open letters, safety analysis reports and crash reports. Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration are should be held responsible for two fatal crashes due to their unethical business practices.

6. *Americans Perceived Prejudice Against Agnostics*

Authors: Joel Boehm, Marcus Hayes, Shakiah Lewis, Matthew Wesoloski & Samantha Worrell

Mentor: Ryan Cragun, Ph.D., Sociology

Decades worth of scholarship and research into secular study has shown a prevalent and widespread bias against Atheists, which represent just one of the subgroups identified among the nonreligious. Another subgroup of the nonreligious, Agnostics, have remained relatively understudied, most specifically when it comes to the prejudice and negative attitudes that Americans may feel towards this group. Recently, there has been a spike in number of Americans that identify as 'non-religious', and specifically as Agnostic; this study will attempt to define Agnostics as a subgroup, with special attention to how they are viewed against atheists; which may lead to some of the attitudes that they face. Furthermore, we will explore the negative stereotypes, and perceptions that may lead to some of the attitudes they experience from Americans.

7. *Religious Priming and Attitudes Toward Universal Basic Income: Even Jesus Can't Make People Care About the Poor*

Authors: Sherrea Brown, Rick Phillips, Michael Nielsen & Joseph H. Hammer

Mentor: Ryan Cragun, Ph.D., Sociology

A number of studies suggest that priming individuals with religious language increases prosocial behaviour. However, very few studies have examined whether religious priming changes political views or attitudes toward social reforms that could potentially alter the socioeconomic class structure. One possible social reform that has recently received a lot of attention is Universal Basic Income (UBI). In our study, we examine whether priming individuals with religious language influences attitudes toward UBI. Using a convenience sample of adult Americans, we found that religious priming had no effect on attitudes toward UBI. Attitudes toward UBI are largely dictated by broad political views, which do not appear easily manipulated with simple priming techniques.

8. *How Does Gender Inequality Influence Human Trafficking?*

Author: Rozlyn Calderon

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

In recent years human trafficking numbers have reached peak levels. Government agencies, NGOs and local law enforcement have taken strides to fight this surge of human enslavement through intervention and prevention programs. This paper analyzes the trends of human trafficking in relation to gender inequality. Gender inequality is measured by studying women's health, empowerment and utility in the labor market. Using comparative case study with the cases of Slovenia, Thailand and Benin I found that countries with greater inequality have deeper issues with the trafficking of women and girls.

Abstracts



9. *An Investigation of Narcissism and Sexuality*

Authors: Lauren Capozzola & Taylor Roberts

Mentor: Michael Stasio, Ph.D., Psychology

The study in progress investigates narcissism and sexuality. Previous research has demonstrated that narcissistic men perceive their sexual abilities to be superior to those of non-narcissistic men. In the current study (expected N = 75), the participants completed questions based off a randomized audio clip of an individual talking about dating. The independent variables include level of narcissism and perceived sexual ability. The dependent variables are confidence in the ability to get an individual to engage in sexual intercourse with them and confidence in the ability to get the individual to date them. We hypothesize that individuals with higher levels of narcissism will perceive their sex abilities as superior to those of non-narcissists and that people with higher levels of narcissism will be more confident in their abilities to get someone to date and/or have sex with them.

10. *Reported Arousal Differences within Perceptions of Sexual Scenarios*

Authors: Allison Colaianni & Emily Horlick

Mentor: Michael Stasio, Ph.D., Psychology

This study investigates whether a personality trait (openness to new experiences) is related to subjective level of arousal after listening to an audio clip of a BDSM-framed interaction. Participants (expected N = 60) complete a background questionnaire, indicate openness to new experiences, and respond to a baseline arousal scale. Next, the participant will listen to an audio clip (erotic vs. exercise) while reading one of three types of passage scenarios; a heterosexual couple having sex, a heterosexual couple engaging in BDSM activities and an exercise routine (control). After completing the passage the participant will be asked a post test questionnaire of current arousal. The main hypothesis of the experiment is that individuals who are more open to experience will be more aroused by the perceived BDSM activities than the individuals who are not.

11. *Perception of Sexual Arousal Based on Auditory Stimulation*

Authors: Carly Conkel & Brittany Richards

Mentor: Michael Stasio, Ph.D., Psychology

This study aims to explore the relationship between sexual arousal, sexual orientation, and the dominant gender presence within an auditory clip. Past research suggests a connection between auditory and visual stimuli in regard to sexual behavior, and one study found that male participants felt greater levels of arousal when presented with auditory and visual stimuli than when provided with only the visual stimuli. In the current study, participants complete the Subjective Sexual Arousal Scale (SSA), then they will listen to one of three audio clips (male, female, or both prominent). After, they will complete the SSA again, then will complete the demographic questions. It is hypothesized that the participant will report higher levels of arousal when exposed to the audio with the prominent gender congruent to their own sexual preference.

12. *Student Perceptions of Cyber Victimization*

Author: Sabrina A. Coppa

Mentor: Kathryn Branch, Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice

Student perceptions of cyber victimization at the University of Tampa is a research study that explores our students social media uses, their opinions on cyber victimization, as well as their opinions on how the University of Tampa has made them feel safe. This study looks at three types of cyber victimization including cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, and image based sexual abuse. These are the top three cyber threats to many students on college campuses. This study focuses on whether or not it should be illegal, how serious students view these behaviors, if they have been a victim or a perpetrator, as well as looking at their opinions to see what they consider cyber victimization even after having a definition put in front of them.



Abstracts

13. *How a Military Regime Change Affects its Citizens and Their Neighboring Countries Overall*

Author: Alexander Da Silva

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This research, aside from explaining and proving what is already expected from the title. Will also prove if the main theory of this research is true or not. Which is that “those countries that have gone from a military regime to a more open regime or political system, make their citizens and neighboring countries better off overall than those who have gone from the open regime or political system to a military regime.” To test this I will use freedom and transparency as constants through my cases and my indirect variables which are trade, border crossing and rhetoric between leaders. The research found that open political systems do make their citizens better off over all than military regimes does. Therefore, there is merit in the effort to spread democracy through the globe.

14. *Agnosticism and Atheism*

Authors: Bryanna Davis, Sydney Kramer, Abby Lennon, & Christina Pasca

Mentor: Ryan Cragun, Ph.D., Sociology

While there is extensive literature explaining attitudes towards atheists and or agnostics whether they differentiate between the two or not, (Hedgell, Gerteis, Hartmann 2006; Baldassari 2014; Sherkat 2008; Rouse 2018) there is little to no research examining people,Ãs attitudes toward those who are unsure about god,Ãs existence as opposed to atheists. This leads us to wonder whether attitudes towards people unsure of god,Ãs existence will compare differently to persons attitudes toward agnostics and atheists, thus creating our hypothesis that Americans attitudes towards agnostics and atheists will be more negative than their attitudes towards those who are unsure of God,Ãs existence. We will be setting out to fill this hole left out by previous research and discover whether or not our hypothesis is accurate.

15. *Hot or Not? Linking Instagram Use and Psychological Functioning*

Authors: Adryana DeBenedittis, Megan Midura & Tyra Martin

Mentor: Erin Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

Prior research has suggested that a relationship exists between social media use and psychological well-being (e.g., Lee et al., 2014). There is little research on if frequency of Instagram use and use of tactics (i.e. filters, cropping, etc.) impacts psychological well-being. Ninety emerging adults at The University of Tampa completed questionnaires regarding frequency of Instagram use, posting tactics, and psychological well-being (i.e. body image, self-esteem, and social comparison). Indeed, participants using two or more tactics to modify posts had higher body dissatisfaction and engaged in upward and downward comparison. Those who checked Instagram less than seven times a day had higher self-esteem compared to those who checked it more than seven times a day. These findings suggest that frequency of Instagram use and tactics have an impact on psychological well-being.

16. *Does the United States Support Unfair Labor Practices Through Trade Negotiations?*

Author: Jamie Dietrich

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

As the trade market in Asia is growing exponentially, there continues to be reports of unsafe labor conditions such as sweatshop labor in the manufacturing industry and forced labor of children. These reports come from many of the countries that the US has strong trade deals with such as Laos, China, and Vietnam. Through this research, I aim to answer the question “Is the US supporting unfair labor practices through trading with these countries?” I looked at the effect that the number of trade agreements, trade openness, and multilateral vs bilateral agreements had on number of labor standards and laws in Laos, China, and Vietnam. I used the US State Department’s report of human rights to measure the number of laws and violations each country had. Through my research I determined a relationship between the types of trade agreements a country engages in and their labor standards.

Abstracts



17. How does Legalizing Prostitution Affect the Sex Traffic Industry?

Author: Paola Duarte Maysonet

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This research investigates how the sex traffic industry prefers to traffic women over men and how countries that have partially legalized and those that have completely legalized prostitution have a lower or a higher sex traffic industry. For the purpose of this research, I will only focus on the male and female genders. I also consider how globalization and the economy have an important role in the sex traffic industry. By comparing two different countries that have legalized prostitution with a country that has partially legalized prostitution, my research shows that countries that have legalized prostitution completely, have a higher sex traffic inflow than those who have partially legalized it. The two countries that fully legalized prostitution, approved these laws with hopes of improving the position of sex workers but this did not work out the way they planned.

18. How Do Influxes of Refugees Influence the Potential for Violence Within the Host Country?

Author: Emily Eshoo

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

The presence of refugees changes the dynamics of the host society. Influxes of refugees have economic, political, and social implications. The purpose of my research is to discover how refugee inflows influence the potential for violence. My research is relevant and may help uncover ways to avoid future conflicts that may arise as a result of refugee inflows. I will perform a comparative case study analysis on three host counties to compare the effects that refugee flows have on the potential for violence within each country. My research revealed that there is not a direct positive relationship between refugee inflows the potential for violence. I found that other factors, including ethnic diversity, economic opportunity, and humanitarian aid, are necessary to consider when evaluating the potential for violence within a country hosting refugees.

19. How does Globalization's Effect on Environmental Degradation Impact Inequality?

Author: Balladine Fichtner-Morgan

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

I examined how countries with low, medium, and high levels of globalization, differ in affecting social inequality and environmental degradation. My dependent variables representing social inequality are; the economic wealth gap , human health, infant mortality rate, consumerism , and urbanism. My case study with low levels of globalization was Russia, medium was the Bahamas, and high was Malaysia. My control variables were; GDP, HDI and level of development. I hypothesized that as trade openness increases, the economic wealth gap, infant mortality rate, consumerism and urbanization would increase, and human health would decrease. My hypotheses were found somewhat validated, or inconclusive. The relationship between level of globalization's effect on social inequality and environmental degradation was somewhat strong, but more information must be gathered.

20. U.S Security Policy and its Impact on Foreign Direct Investment: Japan and the Asian Tigers

Author: Christopher Findley

Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This paper will address how the United States security policy affects foreign direct investment. Using states located in Asia, this research specifically looks at how established long term military alliances can affect amounts of investment. The establishment of trust is critical when states make investments abroad. One of the most effective ways of establishing trust is through military cooperation. All three case studies analyzed; Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan have a history of military cooperation with the United States and have been the home of permanently stationed troops. Finally, the analysis will show that despite initial investments being conducted due to military troops providing a secure investment environment, in the long term as credibility continues to be established the number of troops will decrease and the amount of foreign direct investment will continue to increase.



Abstracts

21. *Associations between Identity Development and Relationships During Emerging Adulthood*

Author: Michelle N. Gefroh

Mentor: Erin A. Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

Emerging adulthood is a developmental stage that falls between adolescence and young adulthood (Arnett, 2000). A main feature is identity exploration, during which one explores and makes commitments to their identity. The current project explored how friendships and romantic relationships related to identity formation for emerging adults. Participants included 275 emerging adults between the ages of 17-29 years ($M = 20.03$, $SD = 1.81$), all of whom completed an online questionnaire that evaluated relationships and identity exploration and commitment. Results indicated that emerging adults who have yet to explore or commit to an identity were found to have better relationships with their peers and romantic partners, were more likely to disclose their feelings to others, and had lower quality relationships with their closest friend compared to emerging adults in other identity statuses.

22. *Sex Appeal in Advertisements and Women's Body Image*

Authors: Nadine Georgianni & Alinna Ponce

Mentor: Michael Stasio, Ph.D., Psychology

This study in progress explores the effects of the use of sex appeal in advertisements on women's body image. Previous studies have suggested that women regarded advertisements that used female sexuality to market their products as offensive. Moreover, women in committed relationships are less likely to be repelled by the contents of advertisements that objectify women. In the current study (expected $N = 73$) participants provide demographic data, watch a slideshow of photos of either 1. High sex appeal advertisements, 2. Low sex appeal advertisements, or 3. No sex appeal advertisements (control group), and then complete the Body Image Concern Inventory. The main hypotheses are 1. The higher the degree of the sexual content in the advertisements, the lower women will score on body image, while 2. Women in committed relationships will score higher on body image than those who are not.

23. *How Does Migration Affect Crime in Host countries?*

Author: Daniel A. Gonzalez

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

Researching patterns of migration and how it affects a neighboring host countries crime levels enabled me to understand the short and long-term patterns of crime that come with migration. I examined three case studies using the MSSD while using similar GDPs as my control variables. Migrants, legal and illegal, that enter a host country tend to commit less acts of crime or violent crimes compared to native-born citizens. The main factors that contributes to migrants committing less crime is the risk of deportation and the fear of being separated from their families. I was also able to identify that migrants are more prone to be victims of violent crimes such as kidnappings, extortion, murder, rape and human trafficking. I was also able to identify that second-generation migrants, born in host countries, commit more crimes than first generation migrants.

24. *Emerging Adults' Experimentation with Alcohol and Marijuana through College*

Authors: Degas Grace, Natalia Abdanur Mattar, & Daniel deCastro

Mentor: Erin Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

Emerging adulthood is a time during which individuals are experimenting more with substances, particularly with alcohol and marijuana. This study investigated whether a certain college year is more susceptible to alcohol and marijuana use and whether peer substance is influential. The present study included 85 participants (50 females) who completed an online survey on personal and peer use of alcohol and marijuana. Participants were, on average, 20.47 years old ($SD = 1.62$). Results suggest that those who are underclassmen are more likely to use alcohol than upperclassmen. However, results also indicated that marijuana use remains consistent throughout college years. Peers influenced an individual's alcohol use, but not one's marijuana use.

Abstracts



25. *How Social Media Impacts Feminism*

Author: Allison V. Harrington

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This paper researched the topics of social media and its effects on the growth of feminism and feminist activity by correlating the amount of social media used and the feminist activity within a country. This paper will look at the countries of South Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong and analyse the effects of the #MeToo movement and any other feminist movement spurred on by the content of social media. By using data collected from local and international newspapers, journals, and excerpts from novels dedicated to feminism the conclusion reached is that social media has greatly impacted the growth of feminism. Social media has caused feminism to become a transnational topic and has linked the populaces of countries from around the world together to form a new feminist movement called Third Wave Feminism. Defined by significant usage of social media by feminists for their activism.

26. *To be, or not to be, that is the Question*

Authors: Tessa Hermesman, Samantha Nyce, Maria Perdomo, Katherine Schweikert & Jaime Weiss

Mentor: Ryan Cragun, Ph.D., Sociology

The purpose of this research was to identify and analyze attitudes towards those who consider themselves agnostic. Through extensive literature review, the researchers found that past research has focused on how people view atheists which has left a significant gap with research on agnostics. This is shown within the paper by several examples that compared how people felt towards others who did or who did not believe in higher powers. To further understand attitudes towards agnostics, data was collected through a multimedia online survey. The participants included those whom were eighteen and older and were not currently enrolled in college. The survey participants recruited were faced with a series of questions regarding demographics and religious beliefs/preferences.

27. *Women, Confidence, and Politics*

Authors: Haley Hill, Alexis Laroe, & Courtney Wilson

Mentor: Mary R. Anderson, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

Many scholars have recognized a gender gap between men and women in political behaviors such as political knowledge. An abundance of research exists on political knowledge, relatively little is known about how confidence relates to political knowledge. For authors Katty Kay and Claire Shipman of *The Confidence Code* (2014), Richard Petty, a psychologist at Ohio State University, defined confidence as “the stuff that turns thoughts into action.” When applied to political science, confidence in political knowledge may be “the stuff” that influences political action. Our study was consistent with the literature as men have significantly higher levels of political knowledge than women. In terms of political confidence, men also have significantly higher levels than women do; however, in regard to general confidence there was no significant difference.

28. *False Memory and Recognition in DRM Tasks*

Authors: Kayla Hill, Danielle Christian & Atesh Ay Aksu

Mentor: Stephen Blessing, Ph.D., Psychology

The Deese/Roediger-McDermott (DRM) task has significantly contributed to the understanding of false memory. The task elicits the paradigm whereby people falsely recollect words not shown in previously presented word lists. The present study investigates the occurrence of false memory in delayed memory recognition tests using the DRM task. We have modified the DRM task by incorporating images during delay periods as misinformation tools to manipulate and enhance false recognition. We predict that the images will elicit high levels of false memory and the rate of falsely recognizing non-presented words will be proportional to that of words presented in the word lists. This experiment hopes to contribute to the ongoing research on memory by providing evidence that further explains the factors that influence memory errors.



Abstracts

29. *How Information Influences the Use of Self Stimulation to Relieve Stress*

Authors: Kayla Hill & Alexandra Rodriguez

Mentor: Michael Stasio, Ph.D., Psychology

This study in progress aims to explore the effects of video messages on one's desire to self-stimulate as a form of stress relief. The current study (expected N=60) uses a pre-posttest design. Stress levels and attitudes about self-stimulation will be assessed at pretest. Participants will then be randomly assigned watch one of three videos: 1. A pro-masturbation clip, 2. An anti-masturbation clip, 3. A recipe for cooking pasta (control). After these clips, their feelings and attitudes will be assessed through the post test questions. The primary hypotheses are that participants who watch the pro-masturbation clip will have a more positive regard and higher rate of willingness to engage than those who watch the anti-masturbation video, while attitudes of the control group will be unchanged.

30. *The Relationship between Ethnic Differences and Stress in Emerging Adults*

Authors: Julie Jackson, Amber Wuorio, & Melissa Leonick

Mentor: Erin Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

Stress levels among college students has been rising steadily over the past few year (Chiauzzi et al.,2008). The present study was conducted to look for differences in stress levels between ethnic groups. We predicted that ethnic minorities would have more perceived stress than ethnic majorities. In the present study 50 participants (45 females, 5 males) completed a questionnaire that measured levels of stress in college students. Results suggest that ethnic minorities experience more social stress than ethnic majorities. While focusing more on class standing, we found that freshman experience more financial stress than upperclassmen. Findings will be further discussed in terms of our theory.

31. *Suggestibility of Ambiguous Drawings After Delayed Recall*

Authors: Zoe Johnson & Amelia Mullins

Mentor: Stephen Blessing, Ph.D., Psychology

Carmichael and his colleagues examined how language can influence memory encoding and retrieval. Their research showed that naming ambiguous stimuli affects how participants recreate a line drawing seen after a delayed recall period more closely representing the word used to describe the stimuli. In the current experiment we asked UT students to observe line drawings and recall them after 5 days. We hypothesize that when showing a word and an ambiguous drawing simultaneously, the participants will come back after 5 days and remember the drawing to be closer to what the word indicated. The results show that after they come back after 5 days, the redrawing of the picture will more closely represent the word that was given previously. We will quantify the results by rating the recalled drawings on a scale from 0-3, with 0 representing the original drawing.

32. *Finding the Balance Between Quality and Quantity of Clusters*

Author: Kelly Driskell

Mentor: Angela Angeleska, Ph.D., Mathematics

This study is motivated by clustering, which is a crucial problem related to the organization of social networks and protein networks. To find what makes a "good" cluster, we study networks (graphs) and specific partitions on networks called coherent partitions. A coherent partition is a partition which yields only disconnected subgraphs in the complement. The optimal partition is a partition with the minimum edge cut.

Specifically, our goal of this study is to show that any partition with a minimum edge cut (optimal partition) of a graph will always have the same number of components.

Abstracts



33. *Narrative Identity and Sexual Assault*

Author: Soriyah Khan

Mentor: Kathryn Branch, Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice

This research explores the application of narrative identity theory to victims of sexual assault. Through examining the empirical research, I attempt to apply the theory of narrative identity to the field of Criminology, specifically, to victims' personal narratives following a sexual assault. This project emphasizes the benefits of story-telling following a trauma-related situation and the significance of internalizing a traumatic event and utilizing it as a stepping stone for future growth. As was evidenced by the scholarly articles analyzed for this paper, learning how to address self-perceptions of trauma is important in order to minimize secondary victimization and maximize the victim regaining control of their narratives.

34. *How Has Globalisation Led to a Resurgence in Nationalism?*

Author: Jade Le Quesne

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

When researching the effect that globalisation has had on nationalism, I was able to understand through my research how a more globalised world has both positive and negative consequences. I focused on this through three variables; immigration, trade openness and international franchises. My research focused on the case studies of Germany, the United Kingdom and France due to their similarities within the European Union and the ensured control variable of population between the three. My research concluded that immigration was the most influential factor that increased nationalism in a country, which comes about as a consequence of globalisation. As trade openness and international franchises increased I also saw these had an influence on nationalism within my case studies.

35. *Put Your Phone Away and Pay Attention: An Examination into the Cognitive Distractions Associated with Cell Phone Presence*

Authors: Shannon Lecoeuvre & Haley Hill

Mentor: Stephen Blessing, Ph.D., Psychology

The ubiquity of smartphones makes it important to understand the adverse effects of having these devices constantly in hand. Research has demonstrated that the presence of a cell phone can diminish attention and task performance (Thornton, Faires, Robbins, & Rollins, 2014). The current study aimed to investigate the distracting effects of cell phone presence on attention and cognitive task performance, assessed through administration of a timed digit cancellation task and the Trail Making Test. Thirty participants aged 18 to 49 ($M=28.93$, $SD=8.90$) were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: notebook ($n=10$), researcher's phone ($n=10$), or participant's phone ($n=10$). Results demonstrated that those in the presence of a cell phone took longer to complete the digit cancellation tasks and the hard Trail Making Test than those in the presence of a notebook during task completion.

36. *Sexual Explorations through Comparisons: The Road to Body Dissatisfaction*

Author: Shannon Lecoeuvre

Mentors: Erin Koterba, Ph.D. & Cynthia Gangi, Ph.D., Psychology

Emerging adulthood is a phase of development, during which body image is especially salient and sexual explorations can leave one wondering how desirable and attractive they are. According to Social Comparison Theory (Festinger, 1954), one can obtain such information through comparing the self to others. The current study examined the influence of sexual activity on making comparisons while also assessing the effects on self-esteem and body dissatisfaction. Female emerging adults ($N=172$) between the ages of 18-28 ($M = 20.04$, $SD = 1.80$) completed a questionnaire that assessed sexual activity, appearance comparisons, body dissatisfaction, and self-esteem. Results illustrated that female emerging adults' recent sexual activity influenced the tendency to engage in more upward comparisons, and higher rates of upward comparisons adversely affected self-worth and body satisfaction.



Abstracts

37. *Brand Names: Impact on Perceptions of Chips*

Authors: Taylor Manzare, Michelle Mooney, & Tajaia Tillman

Mentor: Erin Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

Brand name pronunciation is a factor that impacts how consumers perceive products. Previous research has indicated that products with brand names including front vowel, as opposed to back vowel sounds, are perceived to be smaller, thinner, softer, friendlier, and lighter (density). Front vowel sounds extend the lips of the mouth, and back vowel sounds round the lips of the mouth. In the current study we randomly assigned 50 participants to one of two fictional brand names of chips, Chispies or Bolos, and surveyed participants regarding their perceptions of the product. We hypothesized that individuals would perceive Chispies as lighter, thinner, crunchier, made with organic ingredients, and modern while Bolos would be perceived as heavier, thicker, old-fashioned, and puffy.

38. *The Effect of Brand Names on Consumer Perceptions*

Authors: Nicolly Martins, Carly Conkel, Alanna Kennedy & Jaime Boyko

Mentor: Kimberly Cummings, Ph.D., Psychology

The current research examined whether brand names impact consumer perceptions of soda. Participants were randomly assigned to view one of two fictional brand names (AmeriCola and CoolQuench) and were asked to complete a survey through surveymonkey.com. We hypothesized that consumers would perceive AmeriCola as more patriotic, higher in calories, and more addicting than CoolQuench because America is a patriotic country, cola products are seen as high in calories, and caffeine is addicting. Furthermore, products high in calories are viewed as less refreshing and icy. We hypothesized that CoolQuench would be perceived as more icy and refreshing than AmeriCola because “Cool” refers to being cold, while “quench” implies refreshment. CoolQuench is not as patriotic of a brand name because it does not refer to a particular nation.

39. *The Effects of Gain-Frame and Loss Frame Messages on Drinking Behaviors in College Students*

Authors: Erika Meisel & Lauren Raye

Mentor: Stephen Blessing, Ph.D., Psychology

The current study examined behavior and attitudes towards alcohol consumption determined by long and short term consequences. Previous research has found that short term message frames are maximally effective within loss framed messages because the presented threats to health are likely, enhancing feelings of helplessness to a health condition and encouraging preventative measures to avoid any potential negative outcomes (Churchill et al., 2016). In the present study, 30 twenty one and older age students completed a questionnaire and watched two sets of public service announcements about gain and loss frame messages on binge-drinking behavior.

40. *“That seems fishy! Can you smell it?” A study of the effects of visual interference on olfactory sensation.*

Authors: Marina Morais and Elena Sakosky

Mentor: Stephen Blessing, Ph.D., Psychology

Research suggests visual information has superiority over those sensory input. In this study we observe participants’ ability to attend to their olfactory sense while being presented with visual stimuli, a process known as semantic interference. The goal is to see whether obtrusion through visual suggestibility will influence their recollection of olfactory stimuli. Undergraduates were randomly assigned to one of two conditions, one in which the visual stimuli was congruent with the scents they experienced, one in which the images were incongruent with the scents offered. We then gave participants a list of words from which they circled those they recalled having smelled. Participants also completed a test to assess their attention and memory. We hypothesize that participants in the incongruent condition will perform worse than those who experience congruence among vision and smell.

Abstracts



41. *The Enduring Stigma of Mental Illness*

Authors: Abigail Nerogic, Adam Barrett-Clarke, Hannah Buzbee, Alexander Rolle, Lexi Rosenberg & Gina Marie Weis

Mentors: Cynthia E. Gangi, Ph.D. & Erica K. Yuen, Ph.D., Psychology

The goal of this study was to examine the critical nature regarding the stigma surrounding mental illness. A total of 76 participants were recruited from the University of Tampa. Each participant was asked to read a vignette about a character and interpret their current behaviors. Our main hypothesis was that participants who read that the character had a prior diagnosis of depression would be more likely to attach negative attributes to their behaviors. In contrast, we hypothesized that participants with a prior diagnosis of depression would be less likely to exhibit these negative judgments.

42. *I, For One, Welcome Our New Robot Overlords: Religion and Attitudes Toward New Technologies*

Author: Christina Pasca

Mentor: Ryan Cragun, Ph.D., Sociology

Technologies once considered science fiction are now becoming a reality. In recent years scientists have become steps close to inhabiting mars, putting self-driving cars on the market, and so much more. One subset of these new and advanced technologies is RGT, reproductive genetic technologies. RGT has the capability of testing embryos for diseases and other implications in order to create a child modified to fit certain needs. This can be done to prevent diseases she as AIDS but can also be used to change hair color, eye color, intelligence, and so forth creating what is now being coined as "designer babies." This idea has brought much moral debate and opposition in America. We hypothesize that religiosity could be a sociological explanation to person's opposition to RGT, leading us to explore attitudes towards and use of RGT in relation to religiosity.

43. *How Do Country of Origin Stereotypes Influence Opinions of Wine?*

Authors: Lauren Pascoe, Jesse Radke & Erin Saley

Mentor: Kimberly Cummings, Ph.D., Psychology

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of country-of-origin stereotypes on wine. Country-of-origin stereotypes arise from assumptions regarding political, social, and economic aspects of a specific country. Previous research has shown that wine from France is highly rated based on the country's lifestyle and values. Participants in our research were randomly assigned to view an image of a wine bottle from either France or the United States and completed an online Qualtrics survey regarding the wine's perceived quality, price, and flavor. In addition, participants were asked the likelihood of purchasing the wine and likelihood of taking it to a dinner party. We hypothesized that wine from France would have higher ratings, among all five categories, than the United States.

44. *Effects of Academic and Social Engagement on Episodic Memory in Young Adults*

Author: Kassandra Ramsdell

Mentor: Sara B. Festini, Ph.D., Psychology

The goal of the present study was to investigate the effects of two types of lifestyle engagement on two types of episodic memory performance in undergraduates. Participants completed questionnaires that measured their involvement in various academic and social activities, as well as two computerized measures of episodic memory: a word-pair memory test, and a face-name learning paradigm. Analyses show that social engagement was negatively correlated with accuracy on the word-pair memory test, $r(47) = -0.372$, $p = 0.01$. Students with high academic and low social engagement showed significantly better verbal memory than students with high academic and high social engagement, $p = 0.05$. No significant effects were found between engagement and face-name accuracy. Future research should focus on variables that may moderate the relationship between verbal memory and social engagement.



Abstracts

45. *How Reliable is a Witness?*

Authors: Lexi Rosenberg, & Izzy Spalding

Mentor: Stephen Blessing, Ph.D., Psychology

This study replicates Loftus and Palmer (1974), who investigated eyewitness testimony reliability and the influence of word usage in questioning on memory of details. They showed participants video footage of a car collision, and asked about the speed of the vehicles before the crash. The key manipulation was the change in the adverb used to describe the collision. The second part of the research was to measure how reliable a witness's testimony is after several hours or days of rumination. Two days after watching the video they were asked if they saw any broken glass during the short film. More female participants said that they did see broken glass, which was not actually there. We found that females tended to guess much greater vehicle speeds than males, and we found that both males and females guessed greater speeds when they read the word "smashed" instead of "hit".

46. *How Does Official Development Aid Affect the Foreign Policy of the Recipient?*

Author: Estephanie Serna

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is usually thought as a form of humanitarian aid from a developed country to a less developed country. The purpose of my research is to discover whether ODA is used for the development of a developing country, or if it is used as a way to execute its own self-interests and foreign policy. My research is relevant and may help discover the real motive behind giving ODA thus, challenging the U.S. to give ODA according to need and not self-interest. I will perform a comparative case study analysis on three similar countries to better understand the U.S.'s distribution of ODA pattern. In my research I found that the U.S. does give according to selfish motives but it also gives based off need. My research both supported and nullified to a certain extent my theory.

47. *Social Media Use by Undergraduate Students*

Authors: Renata Sindicic, Erika Petersen & Linlin Li

Mentor: Enilda Romero-Hall, Ph.D., Education

The aim of this investigation was to survey undergraduate students on their social media use. This investigation focused on participation patterns and outcomes between the students' most and least used social media. Participants were undergraduate students enrolled in an institution of higher education in the Southern United States. A total of 769 participants completed the electronic survey. The survey instrument was created using Qualtrics. Crosstabulation analysis of the data provided insights into the demographics of the participants. Quantitative analysis of the data yield interesting results regarding the most used social media by undergraduate students (i.e. Snapchat) and their least used social media (i.e. Facebook). Also, a content analysis revealed the there are many alternative activities undergraduate students performed while in their most and least used social media.

48. *How Does the Distribution of Wealth Effect the Process of Policy-Making in Developing Countries?*

Author: Catherine Starks

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This research examines the socioeconomic restraints that developing countries face in regards to their participation in policy-making. I measure the efficiency of policy by the political participation of citizens, and their value of institutional trust. States also vary in their political participation when one considers how much freedom the state gives to its citizens. Consider the plausibility of the statement: states with more freedom will likely have greater political participation as well as greater institutional trust. The hypothesis tested examines how states with a greater distribution of wealth have stronger institutional trust and political participation, which therefore contributes to a more efficient policy-making process. This research contributes to past research in finding how urbanization contributes to inequality and its effects of the policy processes.

Abstracts



49. *Is Seeing Really Believing? The Relationship Between Drink Color and Tastiness, Healthiness, Price, Purchase Intentions, and Level of Refreshment*

Authors: Amanda Stevens, Evelyn Henn, Brendan Aretz & Matt McNally

Mentor: Kimberly Cummings, Ph.D., Psychology

Observable characteristics of products impact consumer perceptions. Previous research has indicated a relationship between color of products and consumer behaviors. In the current study, student participants were asked to view and taste either a red-colored drink or a green-colored drink and provide their perceptions. We predicted that the red drink would be perceived as tastier than the green drink but that the green drink would be perceived as healthier, more expensive, and more refreshing than the red drink. We predicted that, overall, participants would be more likely to buy the green than red drink. However, we predicted that males would indicate a greater likelihood to purchase the red drink while females would indicate a greater likelihood to purchase the green drink due to the importance of taste and health, respectively, to males and females.

50. *How Does Foreign Aid Affect Political Stability?*

Author: Juana Villa

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

Foreign aid is a crucial source of development and stability for LDCs. This is a controversial subject because foreign aid can be viewed as an obligation from donor countries towards recipient countries. This paper argues that donor countries are motivated by political, economic, strategic interests rather than the purpose of helping other countries. Using a comparative case study analysis with the cases of Colombia, Brazil and Mexico I found that these countries show high rates of foreign aid through the years; however, stability-oriented aid might help control the risk of political destabilization, but it does not assure it will be eliminated. As a result, aid can also contribute to the increase of violence and corruption in the country as well as generating dependency on foreign assistance. This paper presents that political stability significantly increases the inflow of foreign aid.

51. *Gender and Relationship Status Differences in Opinion on "Cheating" Behavior and Remorse*

Author: Shannon Vogt

Mentor: Michael Stasio, Ph.D., Psychology

This study in progress examines effects of relationship status and gender in "dateability" opinions concerning cheating behavior. The participants (N=50) indicate gender and current relationship status and then are randomly assigned to watch one of a group of videos that vary gender and unfaithfulness with remorse / no remorse. Participants then indicate whether they would personally date the individual they saw and heard in the video. The first hypothesis states that males will rate men who are unfaithful and unfaithful with remorse as more dateable and women who are unfaithful even with remorse as less dateable. The second is that women will rate both men and women who were unfaithful even with remorse as less dateable. The final hypothesis states that males and females in relationships will rate both males and females who were unfaithful without remorse as less dateable.

52. *Effect of Dominance on Partner Choice and Fantasy*

Authors: Megan Waddell & Mariama Bah

Mentor: Michael Stasio, Ph.D., Psychology

This study will be examining how an individual's level of dominance- submissive, cooperative, or dominant- influences their desire toward individuals of varying levels of dominance. Participants (N = 60) will complete the Adaptation of Dominance Scale for Relationships, the Adaptation of Functional Assertiveness Scale, and the Affective Sexual Arousal Scale. Subjects will then be assigned to listen to an audio file of a dominant, submissive, or cooperative (control condition) interaction between a heterosexual couple. Participants will then complete the Affective Sexual Arousal Scale again, and will then be asked to write a brief paragraph detailing an erotic dream. We hypothesize that dominant participants will rate the dominant interaction as most desirable and fantasize about



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53. *The Effect of Packaging Color on Food Perceptions*

Authors: Jennifer Walker, Camila Santander, & Samia Rodriguez

Mentor: Kimberly Cummings, Ph.D., Psychology

The current research examined the effect of packaging color on food perception. Previous research has found that food packaging color impacts perceptions of environmental claims and intention to buy. The current study examined the impact of color on these perceptions as well as perceptions of taste, natural ingredients, and caloric content. Participants were randomly assigned to view a green or red box of crackers and were asked to complete a survey about their perceptions and purchase intentions. We hypothesized that participants would perceive the crackers in the red package as better tasting, higher in calories, and will have higher purchase intentions compared to crackers in the green package. We also hypothesized that participants will perceive the crackers in the green package as having more natural ingredients and as more environmentally friendly than those in the red package.

54. *Choosing to Cheat: Changes in Attitude on Cheating from Underclassmen to Upperclassmen*

Authors: Erynn Walton, Ashonda Muir & Nico Roldan

Mentor: Erin Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

Previous researchers have examined the frequency of cheating, who cheats, and their perceptions. The current study was used to investigate the relationships between individuals' college class year, frequency of cheating, and its ties to achievement goals. Attitude Towards Cheating, CASEQ, and Goal Setting Formative questionnaires were combined to collect data from a sample size of 97 students (76 Female). Their ages ranged from 18-24 years ($M=20.25$; $SD=1.36$). We predicted that underclassmen would be less likely to cheat, upperclassmen would be more likely to cheat but would perceive cheating as more severe, and positive achievement goals would increase the likelihood of cheating. Results suggested that there was no statistical indication detected to support our hypotheses. Due to the lack of evidence, we can assume there's no difference in tendencies to cheat.

55. *How Does Women Economic Empowerment Contribute to Development Growth?*

Author: Alison Wangari Kariuki

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This research paper plans to look at women's participation in the economy and how that contributes to development growth. I used a case study analysis to complete my research, in order to fully evaluate the hurdles women, face when participating in the economy. I have chosen three countries, Kenya with high women participation, Uganda with moderate, and Tanzania with low women participation. I will look at how government policies empower women and how women empower each other and how this has a positive relationship to development. My research suggest that in some cases women have a positive impact on the economy but in other cases, women's contribution to the economy does not lead to development growth.

56. *Analyzing Correlations Between Post-Communist States and Sustaining Collectivist and Individual Sociopolitical Thought*

Author: Jack Weber

Mentor: Denis Rey, Ph.D., Political Science and International Studies

This paper researched the relationship between individual and collective thought on post-communist and socialist states. This was done with respective independent and dependent variables as collectivism vs. individualism on the communist-like traits of countries, or more similarly as collectivism and inequality, also with control variables such as region, GDP, crime, income, and a history of imperialism. This study has found little correlation between a post-communist state being collectivist or individualist but much as it relates to inequality and quality of life, as much of these countries have resulted in massive inequality but high quality of life for most or all, or very little inequality with very low quality of life across the board.

Abstracts



57. *The Relationship between Emerging Adulthood and Friendship in College*

Authors: Emily Weiner, Katie Cadman & Hannah Michael

Mentor: Erin Koterba, Ph.D., Psychology

As the workload gets more difficult and time-consuming throughout college, students have less time to dedicate to their social life and friendships (Hall, 2018). For the present study, researchers collected a sample of 66 female participants from the University of Tampa. AGE? Participants took an online survey to analyze friendship characteristics and the number of relationships. The researchers found that if a college student has 10 or more friends, the higher social, informational, and appraisal support they have. Emotional support was particularly high among those in a club or organization. Contrary to expectations, no relationship between age and social support emerged.

58. *Prejudice Against Agnostics*

Authors: Robyn-Anne Whittaker, Nastasia Asgedom & Valerie Brunache

Mentor: Ryan Cragun, Ph.D., Sociology

People who do not believe that a god exists are called atheist, because of the growing population of atheist in America, there are countless studies on individuals who are identified as atheist and how they navigate their life through a different lens than most of the world has (Draper et al., 2017), (Religion in America, 2015). Many studies have been done on views towards atheists, but not agnostics. Participants were gathered through family, close friends from back home, and social media followers, people who were not college students. Participants were given a survey asked a series of questions regarding them personally. A lot of questions were questions on religion and they were also asked to judge 3 individuals after watching videos about them.

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