

The 37th Annual Hunter College Psychology Convention



& The 13th Annual N.E.U.R.O.N. Conference

April 4th, 2009

Presented By

THE PSYCHOLOGY COLLECTIVE

OF HUNTER COLLEGE

N.E.U.R.O.N.

NorthEast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience

<http://www.albany.edu/neuron/conference/index.html>

The Psychology Collective

Psi Chi Psychology Club Psych News

Hunter College Psychology Department

695 Park Avenue, 611HN

New York, NY 10065

(212) 650-3740

psychcollective@yahoo.com

Program & Scheduling by Marlene Gioia

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~Convention Program~

- 8:30 – 3:00** **Registration**
- 8:30 – 10:00** **Buffet Breakfast**
- 9:30 – 9:45** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Welcome:
Jason Young, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology
Hunter College, CUNY
Faculty Advisor to The Psychology Collective
- Opening Remarks:**
Dean Shirley Clay Scott
School of Arts & Sciences
Hunter College, CUNY
- 9:45 – 11:00** **Keynote Presentation**
Room 714 Hunter West
- David Rubinow, M.D.**
University of North Carolina
**“Mood Dysregulation in Context:
Lessons from Reproductive Neuroscience”**
- Introduced by: Cheryl Frye, Ph.D.**
Department of Psychology
University at Albany, SUNY
- 11:00 AM – 4:15 PM**
Oral Presentations TH 502, TH 505, TH 518
Neuron Workshops HW 714
SPSSI-NY Panels TH 520
- 11:15 – 12:45**
Poster Presentations, Session I
3rd Floor North-West Walkway
- 1:00 – 2:30**
Poster Presentations, Session II
3rd Floor North-West Walkway
- 12:00 – 3:00** **Buffet Luncheon**
8th Floor Hunter West
- 2:45 - 3:00** **Tieman Awards Presentation**
Hunter West 714
- 4:00 - 6:00** **Fruit & Cheese Reception**
8th Floor Hunter West
- 4:30 – 5:00** **Psi Chi Induction Ceremony
and Kaplan Raffle**
- Officers of Closing Ceremony:**
Jason Young, Ph.D.
Faculty Advisor, Psi Chi
Hunter College Chapter
Eastern Regional Vice President, Psi Chi
- Tianchen Fan**
President, Psi Chi
Hunter College Chapter
- James Polulach**
Kaplan Representative

Event Schedule						
Poster Session I - 11:15-12:45		3 rd Floor North-West Walkway			Poster Session II - 1:00-2:30	
	TH 502	TH 505	TH 518	TH 520	714 HW	8 th Fl. HW
8:30-9:00						Registration 8:30 to 3:00 Breakfast 8:30-10:00
9:30-10:00					Welcome & Opening Remarks	
10:00-11:00					Keynote Speaker Dr. David Rubinow Mood Dysregulation in Context: Lessons from Reproductive Neuroscience	
11:00-11:15	Beury Reflections and Recommendations - Drug Users Speak on Drug Education, A Qualitative Study	Gnech An Investigation of Social Stimulations Mitigating Effects on Spatial Learning Impairment Caused by Dexamethasone Induced Stress in Rats		Desrosiers The Effects of Applied Behavior Analysis on Children with Autism		
11:15-11:30		Greenfield The Effects of Math Anxiety and Superstitious Beliefs on Individuals' Financial Spending Behaviors			SPSSI-NY Panel Discussion I Psychological issues in human organ donation: What is next?	
11:30-11:45	Almond Parenting as a Challenge to Living with HIV/AIDS	Khait Changing Automatic, Pessimistic Future Events Predictions in Depression	Cornwell Expressive Language Among Children with Autism		Neuron Workshop I Understanding Neurobiological and Hormonal Factors in Neuropsychiatric Disorders	
11:45-12:00		Martinez The Effects of Clomipramine-Induced Depression on Decision Making in Rats	Moreano Measuring Social Initiations of Children with Autism Using a Novel Observational Paradigm			
12:00-12:15		Wheeler Development of the Rumination About the Future Scale				
12:15-12:30		Yakobson Adult Attachment Style and Emotion Regulation	Spencer Unintended Outcomes of a Mathematics and Science Program to Support Urban High School Students: The Social, Academic and Political Empowerment of Peer Tutors		SPSSI-NY Panel Discussion II Urban psychology	Buffet Luncheon 12:00-3:00
12:30-12:45	Borger Effect of Information Regarding Mentally Ill Offenders on Community Perception of Sentencing				Lunch and Poster Judging 12:15 - 1:30	
12:45-1:00						

Event Schedule						
Poster Session I - 11:15-12:45		3 rd Floor North-West Walkway			Poster Session II - 1:00-2:30	
	TH 502	TH 505	TH 518	TH 520	714 HW	8 th Fl. HW
1:00-1:30	Khrapatina The Malleability of Gender Stereotypes			SPSSI-NY Panel Discussion III		
1:30-1:45	Rajkishun Prediction of Future Satisfaction in the Immigrant Population	Mills Investigating Progesterone as Neuroprotective Agent in Serial Lesion Paradigm	Rabinowitz Religious Orientation and Life Satisfaction Among College Students with Diverse Sexual Identities	Opportunities in 21st Century psychology created by Web 2.0, social media and other tools		
1:45-2:00	Zhou How Minority American Identity Affects Friend Selection	Oh The Neural Correlates of Self-Effacement bias - The Other Side of Self-Enhancement?			Neuron Workshop II Outreach workshop- Encouraging trainee engagement in mental health research	Buffet Luncheon Continues 12:00-3:00
2:00-2:15	Flores A Look at the Quality and Availability of Food in Two New York City Neighborhoods and Health Outcomes					
2:15-2:30			Pierce Predictors of Perceived Violence within the House and Ball Community	SPSSI-NY Panel Discussion IV		
2:30-2:45	Curtin Mutual Gaze in Captive Japanese Monkeys	FREE Kaplan GRE Class	Yanis What is the Level of Integration with the House and Ball Community Among LGBT Latinos.	History of psychology in New York City		
2:45-3:00	Gess Acoustic Features Required for Song Recognition in Zebra Finches				Tieman Awards Presentation	Registration & Buffet Luncheon Ends at 3:00
3:00-3:15			Amati I Know That: The Brain and Overclaiming	SPSSI-NY Panel Discussion V		
3:15-3:30	Juarez Flores Life Beyond Hunter					
3:30-3:45	Kronheim Psi Chi Advising Revealed	Kiregian Education Relations Between the United States and Russian Federation		Increasing academic and career success in psychology		
3:45-4:00						
4:00-4:15			Jeshmaridian Are there Delusions in Fighting Terrorism?			Fruit & Cheese Reception
4:15-6:00						Psi Chi Induction Ceremony Kaplan Raffle

Welcome to the 13th Annual New England Conference of **N.E.U.R.O.N.**

What is N.E.U.R.O.N.?

The NorthEast Under/graduate Research Organization for Neuroscience is an organization that supports undergraduate and graduate education and research in the northeast regions of the United States.

The Primary Goals of N.E.U.R.O.N. are ...

- to provide an open forum for neuroscience undergraduate and graduate students to present and discuss their work with students and faculty of similar interests.
- to provide faculty an opportunity to discuss curricular and research issues in neuroscience, biopsychology and related areas.
- to provide resources to enhance communication and collaboration among neuroscience researchers and educators.

In order to achieve these goals, **N.E.U.R.O.N.** has annual conferences that are focused on enhancing neuroscience training. The annual one-day conference provides a forum for undergraduate and graduate students to present and gain feedback from peers and faculty on the research in which they have engaged during the academic year. Students and faculty participate in workshops that discuss important topical and pipeline issues in neuroscience. Notable neuroscientists are invited to provide the keynote address. The diversity of the agenda provides a well-rounded opportunity for all attendees to engage in rigorous science, while promoting and encouraging the development of neuroscientists in training.

For more information or to get involved, visit the website:

<http://www.albany.edu/neuron/conference/index.html>

~Presentation Abstracts~
Listed Alphabetically by Presenter's Last Name

Poster Session II

An Examination of Parents' and Children's Use of the Past Tense

Raquel V. Albarracin

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Raquel Albarracin

RVA1987@yahoo.com

Parent child interactions have proven to be influential in children's language development as well as social development. This study will examine parents directed speech with regards to their use of temporal language and its influence on their preschool age children. Dinner table conversations were recorded from six children and their parents from gifted and average schools. Each transcript was coded for past tenses including past, past irregular, past progressive, past continuous and past perfect. The purpose of this research is to extend the findings of previous research by Davidson & Snow, 1996; Abkarian & Dworkin; 2003, Rowe & Pan, 2004, which examined differences between parents' directed speech to their kindergarten children as well as their children's language input. The research indicated differences between parents' directed speech to their children, small degree of parents' influence of their children's use of past tenses and differences within and between groups of average low-income families and that of gifted families.

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TH 502 11:30 - 12:00

Parenting as a Challenge to Living with HIV/AIDS

Amanda Lee Almond

Behavioral Sciences, *Mitchell College*, New London, CT

Authors: Almond, A.L.

aalmondnut@yahoo.com

This study examines stress, anxiety, and the impact of the HIV/AIDS diagnosis among individuals who are parents, as compared to those living without children. The stigma that follows these families can be identified but possibly misinterpreted in research and social settings, due to the secrecy surrounding the family. New care-giving considerations may also contribute to difficulty adjusting and coping, which greatly influences the impact of stress and anxiety on HIV/AIDS-affected parents. These are only a few of the challenges specific to being a parent with HIV/AIDS. Identifying differences amongst socially phobic behavior, the impact of diagnosis, and generalized anxiety in both individuals and parents with HIV/AIDS, can help illustrate the additional challenges specific to a parent with this disease. Prior research has identified a number of difficulties in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS; this study intends to explore whether or not the role of parenting can be considered as an additional challenge.

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TH 518 3:00 – 3:150

I Know That: The Brain and Overclaiming

Franco Amati

Psychology, *Montclair State University*, Montclair, NJ

Authors: Oh, H., Keenan, J.P.

amatifl@mail.montclair.edu

While deception has been studied extensively employing neuroimaging including Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), there has been an inconsistency in the results. One difficulty has been the ability to naturalistically replicate deceptive situations in the laboratory. In the present study, participants were presented with a series of words while undergoing TMS delivered to the MPFC, SMA, and Precuneus. The participants were told that the words were common words from an IQ test, but they were not told that 50% of the words were actually made up, but made to appear real (e.g., "trianic"). The participants rated whether they were familiar with the presented word. Compared to sham TMS, differences emerged across the brain regions. Furthermore, while general knowledge (reporting knowing real words) remained generally unaffected by TMS, overclaiming (reporting knowing fake words) was disrupted at high rates. These data are discussed in terms of deception and a potential link to self-deception.

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TH 502 11:00 – 11:15

Reflections and Recommendations: Drug Users Speak on Drug Education, a Qualitative Study

Kimberly N. Beury

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Beury, K., Grov, C., Parsons, J. T., & Kelly, B. C.

kimberlybeury@gmail.com

Drug prevention programs in the United States schools can be described as primary and universal. That is, US drug education aims at complete prevention of use and targets the population at large. Yet, drug education efforts have not been effective in preventing drug use for everyone. Current drug users can speak to the issues surrounding the pitfalls of drug education. This study used qualitative data from the Club Drug and Health Project, a longitudinal study of club going drug-using young adults. For this analysis, a sub sample of qualitative data from 22 young adults was randomly selected and analyzed using the principles of grounded theory. Four meta-themes were derived from participants' semi-structured interviews speaking of issues with their past drug education as well as offering advice for improvements for future education. Meta-themes included: DARE, harm reduction, poor presentation, and ideas for improved presentation. Participants suggested contemporary media to communicate drug education messages, an emphasis on prevention of drug abuse rather than drug use, and less moral judgment of drug use. These findings have implications for improved drug education efforts among young people.

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TH 502 12:30 – 1:00

Effect of Information Regarding Mentally Ill Offenders on Community Perception of Sentencing

Nicole M. Borger

Psychology, *Pace University*, New York, NY

Authors: Borger, N.M., Kelley, C., Alghali, A. and Velayo, R. PhD

Nb14438n@pace.edu

The purpose of this study is to determine if there is a link between the amount of information a person has regarding the role mental illness has on criminal actions, and the willingness of the community to include rehabilitative treatment during sentencing. The sample is comprised of the voting population with no particular preference to age or race. The study involves a three independent group design consisting of: low, medium and high levels of information regarding mental illness in criminal offenders. The dependent variable, the willingness to provide rehabilitative treatment, is measured qualitatively through scores on a series of surveys and vignettes. The Machiavelli test for the Perception of Human Nature is used to determine the correlation between perception of human nature and desired harshness of sentencing. A discussion of key findings focuses on the possibility of community willingness to include rehabilitative treatment in a prison setting.

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Poster Session II

Effects of selective hippocampal lesion and task difficulty on feature-negative and non-conditional stimulus discrimination tasks.

Kinho Chan

Psychology, *Hartwick College*, Oneonta, NY

Authors: Chan, K-H., Hunter, R., Blea, S.

chank@hartwick.edu

Male Sprague-Dawley rats with selective neurotoxic lesions of the hippocampus and intact controls received feature-negative discrimination training (A+, B→A-) and simple stimulus discrimination training (C+, D-). The rats were randomly assigned to two groups. One group received the feature-negative training and the simple discrimination concurrently while the other group received the two types of training separately in counter-balanced order. For the concurrent group, each of 60 training sessions consisted of one A+ trial and three B→A- trials and also one C+ trial and three D- trials. For the separately training group, rats received 30 sessions of the first task followed by 30 sessions of the second task. Each session consisted of two reinforced trials (either A+ or C+) and six non-reinforced trials (either B→A- or D-). The conditional stimuli (CS) were a high frequency tone (A), a light (B), a low frequency tone (C), and a white noise (D). The unconditional

stimulus was two 45-mg sucrose pellets. Each CS was presented for 5 sec. There was a 5 sec interval between the feature stimulus (B) and the target stimulus (A) presentation in the feature-negative task. Food cup approach, as reflected by interruptions of a photobeam located near the food cup, served as the index for conditioned responding. Food cup approach was measured during the 5 sec prior to each CS onset, during the 5 sec CS presentation, and also during the 5 sec interval between feature and target presentations. The results suggest that hippocampal-lesioned rats were impaired relative to controls in the acquisition of the feature-negative discrimination when the two tasks were presented separately but not when the two tasks were presented concurrently.

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Poster Session II

Investigating Alternative Mechanisms of Action for a Controversial Treatment: The Effects of Methylene Blue on /in vitro/ Models of Metabolic and Oxidative Stress in Alzheimer's disease

Bethany R. Conly

Neuroscience, *Drew University*, Madison, NJ

Authors: Conly BR, Knowles RB, Petrack B

bconly@drew.edu

Methylene blue (MB) is the basis of a novel disease-modifying drug for Alzheimer's disease (AD) that is claimed to prevent tau tangle formation. Alternative mechanisms of action of MB involving neural protection from metabolic and oxidative stress have been proposed. This study explored the dosage effect of MB on fetal rat cortical neurons /in vitro/ and found that neurons exposed to the highest dose of 10 uM MB had significantly smaller total neuritic lengths ($p < 0.001$) than controls while neurons exposed to MB concentrations of 100 nM and 1uM tended to have significantly larger neuritic lengths ($p < 0.02$). Neuronal cultures were exposed to amyloid-beta peptide and excitotoxic levels of L-glutamic acid or nitric oxide and its derivative peroxynitrite. Peroxynitrite exposure led to decreases in both cell survival and total dendritic lengths within 2 hrs. Future research will focus on testing whether MB can prevent this neurodegeneration.

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TH 518 11:30 - 11:45

Expressive Language Among Children with Autism

Melinda K. Cornwell

Psychology, *Hunter College*, CUNY, NY, NY

Authors: Cornwell, M.K., Sheridan, M.J., Hernandez, M., Ray, A.K., Siller, M., Hutman, T., and Sigman, M.

mcornewel@hunter.cuny.edu

This study investigates the relationship between children's language skills and dimensions of maternal language style. The sample included 68 children with autism ages 32-82 months. Children's language skills were assessed using the Mullen Scales of Early Learning. Mother-child dyads were instructed to play as they normally would; videotapes of these interactions were coded for responsiveness and specificity of maternal utterances. Our findings suggest there is a significant association between maternal language style and the expressive language skills of children with autism. The presence of specific object labels is positively associated with children's expressive language when maternal utterances are responsive. Conversely, the absence of specific object labels is negatively associated with children's expressive language when maternal utterances are unresponsive. The direction of the association is unclear. Whether children's expressive language skills influence maternal language use, or the other way around, should be the subject of future longitudinal studies.

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Poster Session II

The Effects of Mindfulness Meditation on Test Anxiety

Ciara D. Covey

Psychology, *Hartwick*, Oneonta, NY

Authors: Covey, C.D., Chan, K.

coveyc@hartwick.edu

The efficiency of mindfulness meditation in reducing test anxiety was examined in a between-subjects design, where the treatment group will be taught mindfulness meditation (using Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn's c.d.s , series one) over eight weeks and the control will be taught concentration mediation with an audio guided

meditation. Both groups will be given the same test battery to assess anxiety and mindfulness. The test battery will include: the Anxiety Achievement Test, State Anxiety and parts of an I.Q. test. The purpose of the project is to test the theory that mindfulness can ease the discomfort and stress caused by test anxiety, more efficiently than concentration meditation.

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TH 502 2:30 – 2:45

Mutual Gaze in Captive Japanese Monkeys (*Macaca fuscata*)

Paul C. Curtin

Psychology, *Hunter College*, NY, NY

Authors: Curtin, P.C.

Paulconor@gmail.com

Mutual gaze is defined as reciprocal visual orientation between two animals. It is widely accepted that mutual gaze plays a critical role in human interactions, but the significance of mutual gaze among non-human primates remains unclear. In this investigation, I employed a focal-animal time sampling method to observe mutual gaze in a troop of free-ranging captive Japanese monkeys (*Macaca fuscata*) at the Central Park Zoo. Mutual gaze was found to occur rarely (on 3.7 % of scans), with most observations of mutual gaze occurring among young adults. Monkeys engaged in mutual gaze with younger monkeys not related by matriline more than they did with others monkeys. The total numbers of mutual gaze scans observed among focal monkeys was found to be negatively correlated with the monkeys' age ($\rho(5)=-.94$, $p<.01$, two-tailed). These findings may provide a basis for comparison among related species of primate.

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Poster Session II

While a 5 α -Reductase Inhibitor Successfully Decreases Prostate Proliferations, it Produces Anxiety-Like Behavior, and Decrements in Cognition

Daniel J. daCosta

Psychology, *SUNY Albany*, Albany, NY

Authors: daCosta, D.D., Llaneza, D.C., Paris, J.J., and Frye, C.A.

DD518727@albany.edu

Testosterone (T) can alter sexual, social, anxiety-like, and/or cognitive behavior of male rodents; however, whether these effects are due to actions of T, or its metabolites, is of interest. An experiment was performed to test the hypothesis that T's effects to facilitate sexual, social, anti-anxiety-like and/or cognitive behavior, require formation of 5 α -reduced metabolites. 5 α -reductase inhibitors have been used as a treatment for benign prostate hyperplasia (BPH) as well as male pattern baldness. Gonadectomized (GDX) rats were implanted with silastic capsules containing T, finasteride (a 5 α -reductase inhibitor), T and finasteride, or nothing. Rats were tested in a standard mating paradigm, in tasks that are sensitive to anxiety-like (elevated plus maze, light-dark transition) or cognitive (water maze) behavior, and then we measured the weight of the rats' prostates. Rats administered finasteride had significantly smaller prostates, however they also tended to have longer latencies to ano-genital investigation, spent significantly less time in the white chamber of the light-dark transition task, and took significantly longer to find the hidden platform in the Morris water maze. Thus, finasteride produced decrements in social, anti-anxiety and/or cognitive behavior, suggesting an important role of 5 α -reduced metabolites in these functions.

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TH 518 11:00 - 11:15

The Effects of Applied Behavior Analysis on Children with Autism

Amanda M. Desrosiers

Behavioral Sciences, *Mitchell College*, New London, CT

Authors: Desrosiers, A.M.

desrosiers_a@mitchell.edu

Autism is a developmental disability (Autism Society of America "ASA", 2008) caused by a neurobiological disorder (Autism Speaks, 2008). Currently there are five developmental disorders that fall under Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD): autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Rett's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), and childhood disintegrative disorder (2008; Connecticut Autism Spectrum Resource Center "CT ASRC", 2005). Each of the disorders on the spectrum is individually

characterized by the severity of impairment (Autism Speaks, 2008). Each individual is affected differently by this disorder, making it sometimes difficult to diagnose (CT ASRC, 2005). This paper cites the definition, criteria, and prevalence of autism, along with the major components of an increasingly popular intervention method: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). There has been much controversy on whether ABA is an appropriate teaching style for people with autism. The purpose of this study was to explore the effectiveness of ABA on children with autism.

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Poster Session II

Abnormal Length-Force Curves in Spastic Muscles After Spinal Cord Injury

Jimmy Domdeth

Psychology, *The College of Staten Island*, Staten Island, NY

Authors: Domdeth, J., Ahmed, Z.

Jimmy.Domdeth@cix.csi.cuny.edu

The main objective of this project is to study the length-force relationship in the spastic muscle following spinal cord injury (SCI). We hypothesize that the average of the length-force relationship of the spastic muscle following SCI will be shifted to the left (in the bell-shaped curve) in comparison to the normal gastrocnemius muscle. This finding will support the idea that spastic muscle following SCI is intrinsically sensitive to stretch receptors. To test this, we will compare spastic and normal muscles using the following procedures: 1) inducing SCI to express spasticity in muscles of the hindlimbs in mice and 2) recording of muscle twitch force using a myograph. We expect the results to show that as we increase the length (in millimeters) of the spastic muscle, the force (in grams) will increase quicker versus the normal muscle.

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Poster Session II

The Role of Exercise in the Psychological Rehabilitation of Mice After Spinal Cord Injury

Jimmy Domdeth

Psychology, *The College of Staten Island*, Staten Island, NY

Authors: Domdeth, J., McCloskey, D.

Jimmy.Domdeth@cix.csi.cuny.edu

Spinal cord injury (SCI) has been shown to be comorbid with anxiety and depression. The main objective of this study is to determine whether voluntary exercise can reduce anxiety and depression-like symptoms associated with SCI in mice. Male and female CD-1 mice received compression of the spinal cord near thoracic vertebrae 9/10, an injury that does not cause paralysis. Animals in the exercise condition received daily exposure to running wheels, along with motor skill activities requiring climbing and traversing complex obstacles (e.g. ropes, ladders, and marbles) for approximately 30 days. We hypothesize that physical activity will reduce anxiety and depression-like symptoms in SCI. To measure anxiety and depression, the following battery of tests will be performed: 1) swim test, 2) sucrose preference test, 3) elevated plus maze, and 4) comparisons of adrenal weight. We expect to find support for the role exercise in the psychological rehabilitation of mice with SCI.

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Poster Session II

Caffeine use and sleeping habits during weekdays

David G. Early

Yubelky Rodriguez

Psychology, *Hunter College*, City University of New York, New York, NY

Authors: Early DG, Rodriguez Y

dearlybird@aol.com

Empirical research regarding the relationship between caffeine intake and sleep has focused primarily on dosage-specific physiological response. Generally, findings indicate caffeine promotes wakefulness. This study intends to examine the relationship between self-reported average caffeine consumption and self-reported average amount of sleep during the Monday through Friday work week. It was hypothesized that there would be a negative relationship between caffeine consumption and duration of sleep. Questionnaires were distributed to a college population (N=60) and preliminary analyses demonstrate no significant

relationship; hence it appears habitual caffeine consumption may not affect sleep. The unexpected findings of this study necessitate further research in the subject of caffeine consumption and sleep.

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TH 502 2:00 – 2:15

A Look at the Quality and Availability of Food in Two New York City Neighborhoods and Health Outcomes

Roseanne L. Flores

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Heywood CA

rfloros@hunter.cuny.edu

The levels of obesity and diabetes have been on the rise within the United States over the last several years. The groups most affected by these diseases have been individuals living in low-income communities of African and Hispanic descent (Zenk, et al., 2005). To date few studies have examined the relationship between the availability and quality of food in low-income urban neighborhoods and health outcomes. Therefore in order to address this gap in the research the purpose of the present study was to examine the relationship between the availability and quality of food in two New York City neighborhoods and the health outcomes of the members of the community. The findings suggested that individuals living in low-income neighborhoods had access to fewer healthy food choices than their affluent peers. A correlation was found between the quality of fresh produce and overall health profiles.

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Poster Session II

Infusions of MK-801 to the Ventral Tegmental Area Enhance Exploratory, Anti-Anxiety, Social, Mating Behavior, and 3alpha,5alpha-THP levels in Naturally, Sexually-Receptive Female Rats

Cheryl A. Frye

Psychology, *The University at Albany*, Albany, NY

Authors: Frye, C.A., Paris, J.J.

cafrye@albany.edu

The progesterone metabolite and neurosteroid, 5alpha-pregnan-3alpha-ol-20-one (3alpha,5alpha-THP) has actions in the midbrain ventral tegmental area (VTA) to modulate both appetitive (exploratory and anti-anxiety) and consummatory (intensity and duration of lordosis) aspects of mating behaviors among rodents. Actions of 3alpha,5alpha-THP in this region are not through the few intracellular progesterone receptors localized there. The importance of actions at membrane-bound N-methyl-D-aspartate receptors (NMDARs) for appetitive and consummatory mating behavior was of interest. Female rats that were gonadally-intact and sexually-receptive (Experiment 1), or ovariectomized/adrenalectomized and estrogen-primed, received infusions (1microgram) of the NMDAR antagonist, MK-801 (200 ng), or vehicle to the midbrain VTA. Compared to vehicle infusions, MK-801 significantly enhanced midbrain 3alpha,5alpha-THP concentrations, exploration in an open field, anxiety behavior on an elevated plus maze, and significantly increased frequency and intensity of lordosis. Behavioral effects were greater among hormone-primed, compared to intact, rats. These data suggest that NMDARs may play an important role in regulating proestrous-typical behavior among female rats.

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TH 502 2:45 – 3:00

Acoustic features required for song recognition in zebra finches

Austen L. Gess

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Gess, A.

agess@hunter.cuny.edu

Acoustic communication signals are important components of social interactions. Understanding how the acoustic components of a signal are perceived can shed light on how brain structures that mediate signal recognition evolved to code communication information. Zebra finches are highly social songbirds that produce acoustically complex, harmonic songs that rapidly change in frequency and amplitude. They are, therefore, excellent animals in which to study auditory perception. Zebra finches are able to discriminate between the songs of different individuals. However, the acoustic features of songs that are required for the

discrimination of individual songs are unknown. I will describe how I use behavioral training and testing to investigate what acoustic features of songs are required for song discrimination, and the results of my studies asking how manipulations made to the acoustics of natural songs affect song recognition.

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Poster Session II

Neural Stem Cell Cytogenesis following METH-induced Cell Death in the Adult Striatum of Mice

Nane Ghazaryan

Psychology & Biological Sciences, *Hunter College of CUNY*, New York, NY

Authors: Ghazaryan, N., Tulloch, I., Afanador, L., Angulo, J.

nghazary@hunter.cuny.edu

Proliferation of neural stem cell cytogenesis occur in two areas of the adult brain; the sub granular layer of the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus and the subventricular zone (SVZ) under normal conditions. Studies have shown that during injury conditions neural stem cells can proliferate and migrate to the sight of injury in adult brains. The psychostimulant methamphetamine (METH) causes damage to neural tissue. For example, in our lab we found that 24 hours after METH injection 20% of the striatal neurons undergo cell death, followed by dopamine terminal degeneration at 36 hours post-METH. In order to determine if neural stem cells would proliferate in response to METH induced striatal injury 7 adult male ICR mice were injected with DNA replication marker bromo-deoxyuridine (BrdU, 100 mg/kg) after a bolus injection (30mg/kg) of METH or saline. Stereotyped home cage behavior and immunocytochemistry was done to determine the type of cells and their point of origin 36-hours-1-week post-treatment conditions. Cell proliferation occurred significantly more in METH animals and peaked at 36 hours. The type of cells proliferating were neural progenitors as well as glia, however they did not express migratory markers suggesting that the new cells divided within the striatum. METH may provide a model for studying injury induced cytogenesis.

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TH 505 11:00 - 11:15

An Investigation of Social Stimulation's Mitigating Effects on Spatial Learning Impairment Caused by Dexamethasone Induced Stress in Rats

Melissa A. Gnech

Psychology, *Westminster College*, New Wilmington, PA

gnechma@westminster.edu

Stress causes morphological changes that correlate with spatial learning and memory deficits. Social stimulation may mitigate these stress-induced impairments. Nineteen Long-Evans Hooded rat pups received injections of dexamethasone, a chemical stressor, and 20 received vehicle injections. In each condition, half of the animals were housed socially and half individually. The individually housed rats showed impairment on the 4-hour version of the Y-maze task, whereas the socially housed rats did not show this impairment. These findings suggest the possibility of using social therapies for patients with certain psychiatric conditions caused by stress as well as to improve cognitive performance in healthy individuals.

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TH 505 11:15 - 11:30

The Effects of Math Anxiety and Superstitious Beliefs on Individuals' Financial Spending Behaviors

Justin Greenfield

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Greenfield, J., Alhonte, M., Young, J.

jgreenf@hunter.cuny.edu

Increasingly, research suggests that decision-making is often more susceptible to the influence of heuristic beliefs and emotions than to systematic, rational evaluations. The present study explored two key psychological influences on decision-making about personal finances by college students. Using a survey that assessed levels of math anxiety, superstitious thinking, and attention to personal finances (e.g., reviewing credit card statements), it was predicted that math anxiety may trigger both an aversion to systematic thinking about consumer spending, as well as an increased reliance upon superstitious beliefs that lead to ineffective solutions to financial problems. More specifically, it was expected that those individuals with higher levels of math anxiety and superstitious beliefs would be far less likely to monitor their spending

through such actions as balancing their checkbook. It was found that sex differences moderated this effect. Men with both high math anxiety and more superstitious beliefs showed generally greater worry and avoidant behavior regarding personal finances. By contrast, women with high math anxiety and fewer superstitious beliefs tended to show greater worry and avoidant behavior regarding personal finances. Such findings may have critical implications for developing potential solutions to increase attention toward (and reduce avoidance of) personal financial issues.

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Poster Session II

Willingness to Forgive Based on Gender and Type of Betrayal

Alice Grinberg

Psychology, *Pace University*, New York, NY

Authors: Grinberg, A., Krotova, E., Mileschin, I., Velayo, R.

alice.grinberg@gmail.com

This experiment aims to measure forgiveness by hypothetical scenarios in which a person is betrayed in their relationship. Two types of betrayal, physical infidelity and monetary theft, will be used. The experiment will notice a difference and/or trend in participants' willingness to forgive. 120 participants, ages 18 and over, will be randomly assigned to one of two vignettes; one physical infidelity and the other monetary theft. After reading the vignettes, participants will answer questions measuring their feelings of betrayal and willingness to forgive. An additional test will investigate the relationship between personality variables and feelings of betrayal and willingness to forgive. It is hypothesized that males will be more likely to forgive their partner for monetary theft but women would do the reverse but overall infidelity would be easier to forgive.

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Poster Session II

Learning, Memory and Attention Deficits in Female College-Age Sexual Assault Survivors with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Elizabeth S. Gromisch

Neuroscience *Trinity College*, Hartford, CT

elizabeth.gromisch@trincoll.edu

Authors: Gromisch, E.S., Raskin, S.A. (thesis advisor)

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), one in six women will be victims of sexual assault in their lifetimes. The majority of victims are college-age, with the rate of victimization at its highest among 16-19 year-olds. Many survivors of sexual assault develop symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which studies have shown to have a negative impact on learning, memory and attention. In addition, the emotional effects of sexual assault make it harder for survivors to focus, which affects their performance in an academic setting. In this study, a test group of 10-15 female college-age sexual assault survivors with PTSD symptoms, who have no previous brain injury or substance abuse, will be given a neuropsychological battery of memory and attention tests. Behavioral questionnaires, both clinician-administered and self-reporting, will also be used to gauge the emotional effects of sexual assault on learning. Digit Span and Digit Symbol tests from the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale will also be used to ensure equivalent levels of intelligence between the test group and the control group. The hypothesized result is a significant difference in the memory and attention tests, and when combined with the answers provided in the behavioral questionnaires, shows that sexual assault survivors with PTSD have a more difficult time with learning, memory and attention than their peers who haven't been assaulted.

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Poster Session II

The anti-epileptic drugs, phenytoin and valproate, produce reproductive endocrine dysfunction among female rats

Fareed F. Haddad

Biology, *SUNY at Albany*, Latham, NY

Authors: Haddad, F.F., Paris J.J., and Frye, C.A.

Fh178239@albany.edu

Background: Anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) may alter normative neuroendocrine processes. Studies in women with seizure disorder, find that the occurrence of sexual dysfunction is greater among those prescribed AEDs that are termed "enzyme-inducing" for their actions to alter metabolism, such as phenytoin, compared to those prescribed that are non-enzyme inducing AEDs, such as valproate. Objective: This study aimed to assess the effects of phenytoin or valproate, two commonly-prescribed AEDs, on the sexual function of female rats. Methods: Female rats were administered vehicle, phenytoin (50 mg/kg), or valproate (325 mg/kg), twice daily for four weeks. Rats were assessed for cyclicity daily, and sex tested when sexually receptive. Results: Treatment with either phenytoin or valproate, but not vehicle, significantly disrupted estrous cyclicity among female rats and significantly increased aggressive behavior in a mating-behavior paradigm. Conclusion: These data suggest endocrine dysfunction is associated with administration of the enzyme altering AEDs, phenytoin and valproate.

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Poster Session II

The effects of combined estradiol and progesterone treatment on object memory consolidation and dorsal hippocampal ERK activation in ovariectomized mice

Lauren L. Harburger

Psychology, *Yeshiva University*, Stern College for Women, New York, NY

Authors: Harburger, L.L., Saadi, A., Frick, K.M.

lauren.harburger@yu.edu

This study investigated the effects of combined estradiol and progesterone treatment on object memory consolidation and dorsal hippocampal extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) activation in ovariectomized C57BL/6 mice. Mice received peripheral injections of vehicle, 17-estradiol (E2; 0.2 mg/kg), or E2 plus 5, 10, or 20 mg/kg progesterone (P) immediately after training in an object recognition task. Forty-eight hours later, only mice who received E2 alone or E2 plus 10 or 20 mg/kg P exhibited significantly enhanced memory for the novel object. Two weeks later, ERK phosphorylation was measured in the dorsal hippocampus 1 hour after E2 and P injections. The results suggest that E2-enhanced memory consolidation is consistent with dorsal hippocampal ERK phosphorylation. However, the beneficial effects of combined E2 and P treatment on memory were not associated with an increase in dorsal hippocampal ERK. Sponsored by NIH grant RO1 AG022525 to KMF and Yale University.

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Poster Session II

Taking chances: Smoking in college students relates to lower risk-perception and grade-point average

Ashley Hartman

Psychology, *Rider University*, Lawrenceville, NJ

Authors: Hartman, A., Tutunjian, J., Golski, S.

hartmana@rider.edu

The present study assessed the relationship between executive function, perception of risk, smoking status and academic achievement in a college sample. Measures: The Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function for Adults (BRIEF-A; Roth, Isquith, and Gioia, 2005) is a standardized tool designed for the rapid neuropsychological assessment of nine theoretically and empirically distinct frontal lobe domains: inhibition, shifting, emotional control, self-monitoring, initiation, working memory, planning and organization, task monitoring, and organization of materials. The Domain-specific risk-attitude scale (DOSPERT; Weber, Blais, and Betz, 2002) measures perception of risk on five scales: ethical, financial, health/safety, recreational, and social. College students who smoked perceived significantly lower risk on several scales of the DOSPERT and had lower overall GPA versus their non-smoking peers (rpb2=5.69%). Smoking status

was unrelated to executive function as assessed by the BRIEF-A. Implications and future directions will be discussed.

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Poster Session II

Correlation Between Maternal Utterances & Expressive Language of Children with Autism: Specific Versus General Object labeling

Melissa A. Hernandez

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Anna Kemp, Melinda Cornwell

Maherna@hunter.cuny.edu

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder are characterized by their lack of communication and deficits in social interaction. This study aims to investigate which maternal utterances promote higher language development for children with autism. The four maternal utterances coded here are 1) Demanding Specific, 2) Demanding General, 3) Undemanding Specific, 4) Undemanding General. It is hypothesized that Undemanding-Specific utterances will have the greatest influence on Children's Expressive Language growth because the mother labels objects that are in the focus of attention of the child. The mean age for 68 Children is M=57.19 months and their language skills were assessed using the Mullen Scales of Early Learning. The results were concurrent with the hypothesis, and there was a significant positive correlation between Undemanding-Specific utterances and Children's Expressive Language. The findings implicate that Specific Object Labeling is necessary for children's language development.

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TH 518 4:15 - 4:30

Are There Delusions in Fighting Terrorism?

Samvel S. Jeshmaridian

Social Sciences, *Borough of Manhattan Community College*, New York, NY

Authors: Samvel Jeshmaridian, BMCC and TCI

jeshmarid@yahoo.com

Political representation of culture is the most distorted reflection of historical reality. In the fight against terrorism, a set of illusions are differentiated. When fighting terrorists, politicians think they are fighting terrorism. Both terrorist-fighters and terrorists themselves cannot realize that it is impossible to learn anything essential from history. Politicians confuse statehood and religion because they misunderstand the role of religion in community life and human history. Contemporary terrorism is falsely called Fundamentalism. Since 9/11, it has been thought that our country is the only country in the world to fight terrorism; and terrorism is something only against American people. The U.S. military doctrine has been based on the false principle that only American blood is able to stop Mid-eastern Terrorism against Western Civilization. Fight against terrorism is supposed to be entirely on the ideological level.

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TH 502 3:15 – 3:30

Life Beyond Hunter

Marisol Juarez Flores

Higher Education Administration, *Baruch College*, NY, NY

marijflores@yahoo.com

I am going to be speaking on my experiences as a Hunter alum who majored in psychology.

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TH 505 11:30 – 11:45

Changing Automatic, Pessimistic Future-Events Predictions in Depression

Valerie Khait

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Khait, V., Miranda, R.

vkhait@hunter.cuny.edu

Research suggests that depressed individuals have maladaptive future-event schemas that lead them to make automatic pessimistic predictions about the future with certainty, compared to non-depressed individuals (Andersen et al., 1992; Andersen & Limpert, 2001). The present study sought to examine whether inducing

mildly and moderately depressed individuals to mentally rehearse optimistic future-event predictions would change how automatically they made such predictions. College undergraduates took part in a study in which they either mentally rehearsed making optimistic future-event predictions or practiced making a lexical decision. Mentally rehearsing optimistic future-event predictions reduced depressive predictive certainty among moderately depressed individuals but increased it among mildly depressed individuals, with no change occurring among non-depressed individuals. Response latencies to making predictions will also be examined as a measure of automaticity.

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TH 502 1:00 - 1:30

The Malleability of Gender Stereotypes

Irina Khrapatina

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

irenakay@yahoo.com

The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of social information on participants' implicit and explicit beliefs toward women. Dasgupta and Asgari (2004) used the Implicit Association Test (IAT) to measure the automatic beliefs and attitudes of female participants exposed to examples of high-profile female leaders in counter-stereotypic positions. Participants exposed to counter-stereotypic information demonstrated a) less stereotypic responses to women in general, b) no change in explicit beliefs. This study represents a conceptual replication of Dasgupta and Asgari's (2004) study using male and female participants (rather than just female participants) and stereotypic and counter-stereotypic information (rather than neutral information). We hypothesize that a) male and female participants exposed to counter-stereotypic information about female leaders will exhibit less automatic stereotyping toward women than participants exposed to stereotypic information, b) female participants will show a greater reduction in automatic stereotyping when exposed to counter-stereotypic exemplars and c) measures of explicit stereotypes will not be affected by exposure to counter-stereotypic exemplars. Data analysis showed a significant main effect, response time to stereotype consistent combinations was much faster than response time to inconsistent combinations for both men and women across all conditions. An unexpected marginal interaction of condition x block occurred, driven by faster responses to stereotype-consistent combinations when male participants were exposed to counter-stereotypic information about women.

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TH 505 3:30 – 3:45

Educational Relations between the United States and Russian Federation

Elise M. Kiregian

Arts & Sciences, *TCI*, New York, NY

ekiregian@tcicollege.edu

Two critical, interrelated factors have affected the growth of American-style programs in Russia since the 1990s; ties to US schools; and the influence of US Visiting Professors in Russia. The US has provided direct and indirect aid to Russian business and psychology education. Collaborative efforts include both direct government aid and a growing slate of private organizations ready to embrace Russia. Soros Open Society Foundation, Ford Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, Fulbright Program, US Agency for International Development, and many other US and EU federal and non-profit organizations played a significant role in supporting Russian business education. E.g., Novgorod State University was proud of the Norman School Program, made possible by the Government of Norway with the cooperation of Telemark College, and was very excited about the emerging relationship with Western European schools through the so-called "Socrates" program.

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Poster Session I

I Want It Now! Attentional Deployment Strategies and Social Emotional Competence in the Delay of Gratification Task

Alina Klimova

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Klimova, A., Mallozzi, L., Hong, M., Dennis, T.A.

aklmv.001@gmail.com

The aim of this study was to examine social emotional competence in children during the delay of gratification task. We hypothesized that the strategies children used to distract themselves would correlate with parental reports of their child's social emotional competence. Participants were 38 children (15 females and 23 males), ages five to seven and their primary caretakers. Primary caregivers were administered several paper-based questionnaires which assessed their child's temperament and social skills. Two of these questionnaires, the Child Behavior Questionnaire (CBQ; Rothbart, Ahadi, & Hershey, 1994) and the Social Skills Rating System (SSRS; Gresham & Elliot, 1990) were relevant to this study. Children's ability to delay gratification by distracting themselves was observed in the delay of gratification paradigm (Mischel & Ebbsen, 1970). Results show that children who attended to the rewards showed low pleasure and those that attended to the bell displayed internalizing problem behaviors and impulsivity. Findings provide the basis for future studies on the behaviors associated with the ability to delay gratification.

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Poster Session I

Cocaine Interacts with Hormone Condition to Dysregulate Psychomotor, Anxiety, and Sexual Behaviors in Rats

Amy S. Kohtz

Department of Psychology, *SUNY at Albany*, Albany, NY

Authors: Kohtz, A.S., Paris, J.J., Frye, C.A.

askohtz@gmail.com

Sex-dependent factors, such as hormones, may influence the experience of illicit drugs. In animal models, female rats are more sensitive to the psychoactive effects of cocaine, compared to males. Progesterone (P), in part through actions of its metabolite, 5 α -pregnan-3 α -ol-20-one (3 α , 5 α -THP), which mediates reproductive and anxiety behavior of rodents, may underlie some sex differences in response to cocaine. To investigate the role of progestogens in sex differences in response to cocaine, male and female rats in the high (proestrus) or low (diestrus) progestogen phase of the estrous cycle were administered cocaine (0, 5, 10, or 20mg/kg, IP) and observed for motor and anxiety behavior in the open-field, then mating behavior. Hormone status and cocaine-dose interacted to decrease anxiety-like behaviors in female rats, however, did not affect male rats. Cocaine also decreased appetitive and consummatory sexual behaviors in male and proestrus rats, while increasing mating behaviors in diestrus rats administered cocaine.

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Poster Session I

Proestrous wildtype, compared to 5alpha-reductase knockout mice, demonstrated more exploratory, anti-anxiety, and social behavior than do their diestrus counterparts.

Carolyn J. Koonce

Psychology, *SUNY Albany*, Albany, NY

Authors: Koonce, C.J., Frye, C.A.

bravamujer@hotmail.com

Progestogens facilitate exploratory, anxiety, and social behavior in mice and some of these effects may be due impart to actions of its 5alpha-reduced metabolite 5alpha-pregnan-3alpha-ol-20-one (3alpha-5alpha-THP). The effects of endogenous fluctuation of progestogens were investigated by using mutant mice that lack the capacity to metabolize progesterone (P) to 3alpha-5alpha-THP because they are deficient in the 5alpha-reductase enzyme (5alpha-reductase knockout mice). We hypothesized that if P's metabolism to 3alpha-5alpha-THP is essential to facilitate exploratory (open field), anxiety (elevated plus maze) social (social interaction) and sexual behavior, then proestrous WT mice will have greater differences in the expression of these behaviors than will 5alpha-reductase knockout, mice. The responsiveness of intact female proestrous or diestrus 5alpha-reductase knockout mice were compared to that of their wildtype (WT)

littermates. Proestrous WT mice had higher 3alpha-5alpha-THP levels and made more central entries in the open field, spent more time on the open arms of the elevated plus maze, demonstrated more pro-social behavior than their diestrous counterparts. Thus, metabolism of P to 3alpha-5alpha-THP may be essential for these behaviors.

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TH 505 3:30 – 3:45

Psi Chi Advising Revealed

Dr. Steve Kronheim

Psychology, *Adelphi*, Adelphi, MD

Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology

skronheim@umuc.edu

In this brief presentation, I will review the cross-cultural evidence of Paul Ekman 's (1972) seminal work in emotional display and recognition in light of the challenges of Psi Chi advising. Ekman's original six emotional states identified as anger, disgust, fear, happiness, sadness, and surprise will be emphasized with some consideration of his more recent taxonomy. A new model of emotional expression will be wryly, but poignantly suggested based solely on the experiences derived from advising psychology honor society students.

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Poster Session I

Sex Differences in Affective, Cognitive and/or Social Behaviors with Acute Progesterone Treatment to Intact Rats

Danielle C. Llana

Psychology, *University at Albany-SUNY*, Albany, NY

Authors: Llana, D.C., Frye, C.A.

danielle.llana01@albany.edu

Neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric disorders are characterized by disruptions in social, cognitive, affective and/or stress-responding and many demonstrate gender differences. Rodents show sex differences in behaviors, such that males show less anxiety-like behavior and females are usually more stress-responsive. Also, there are sex differences in progesterone secretion which can alter social, cognitive, affective and/or stress-responding. To investigate the role of P4's ability to mediate these behaviors in a normative state, male and female rats (n=12/grp) were injected with P4 at 4mg/kg or vehicle. Rodents were assessed for affective (open field), cognitive (object recognition), social (social interaction), and stereotypic motor (marble burying) behavior. Among males, P4 administration attenuated affective behavior, memory, and social interaction, while increasing stereotypic burying. In females, P4 administration increased object memory and decreased stereotypic burying. These data indicate P4 can result in sex differences in behaviors and may be related to characteristics of some neuropsychiatric and/or neurodevelopmental disorders.

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Poster Session I

Exercise mediated effects of hippocampal-dependant spatial memory task performance in the rat perinatal hypoxia model of epilepsy

Nicole L. Lukovsky

Psychology, *College of Staten Island, CUNY*, Staten Island, NY

Authors: Lukovsky, N.L., Briffa-Mirabella, S., McCloskey, D.P.

nicole.lukovsky@cix.csi.cuny.edu

Exercise delays age-related cognitive decline and reduces the risk of stroke. Recently, we have demonstrated that exercise also reduces seizure-related brain damage and preserves memory function in an adult rat model of epilepsy. The current study will measure the effect of exercise on memory and brain circuitry changes in a developmental model of epilepsy, which provides a window for therapeutic intervention. The rat model of perinatal hypoxia is designed to mimic hypoxic episodes at birth in humans, which can lead to later development of seizures and learning difficulties. We will use this model to induce seizures and then introduce running wheels or allow the animals to remain sedentary. We hypothesize that the exercising group will perform better on the Barnes Maze memory test than the sedentary group, indicating that exercise could

be a mediating factor in protecting the developing brain from seizures consequences. This will be confirmed with confocal microscopy.

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TH 505 11:45-12:00

The Effects of Clomipramine-Induced Depression on Decision Making in Rats

Jacob P. Martinez

Neuroscience, *Westminster College*, New Wilmington, PA

martinjc@westminster.edu

Clomipramine alters limbic system development, induces symptoms of depression and produces cognitive deficits. The affected circuits also play a role in decision making. To evaluate clomipramine's impact on decision-making, 20 Long-Evans hooded rats received clomipramine (15mg/kg) or saline injections and were trained to associate radial maze arms with various probability values. I found that compared to saline controls, clomipramine rats displayed disrupted decision patterns when deciding between arms that did not include an arm baited 100% of the time. The showed clomipramine animals had deficits in decision making when choices were complex. This demonstrates the validity of using clomipramine as an agent for creating symptoms of depression.

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Poster Session I

Dietary Selenium Protects Dopamine Levels and May Improve Motor Behavior in the 6-Hydroxydopamine Rat Model of Parkinson's disease

Tyler McCambridge

Biological Sciences, *Moravian College*, Bethlehem, PA

Authors: McCambridge T, Fox CM

cfox@moravian.edu

The significant loss of dopamine and dopamine metabolites may lead to the following symptoms characteristic of Parkinson's disease: muscle rigidity, tremor and bradykinesia. Previous research has demonstrated that free-radical damage may be responsible for some symptoms observed in this disease. Therefore, the antioxidant, selenium, (located in the active center of the free-radical scavenging enzyme, glutathione peroxidase) was used to examine its neuroprotective effects in the rat model of Parkinson's disease following a 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) nigral lesion. Fischer 344 rats were divided into two groups: control fed and selenium enhanced fed. Baseline rotation behavior testing for was performed prior to 6-OHDA lesioning. During this period, rats were tested under three conditions: no drug, apomorphine, and amphetamine. Following baseline testing, rats received 6-OHDA. Apomorphine and amphetamine behavior testing continued for 10 weeks post-lesion and rotation data was collected. High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) analysis was performed on the brain tissue to measure the amount of dopamine, DOPAC, and Homovanillic acid (HVA). Behavior analysis demonstrates that there was some preservation of motor function in the selenium treated rats. The HPLC analysis revealed higher percentages of dopamine, DOPAC, and HVA in animals treated with selenium indicating that this antioxidant may be able to maintain synthesis and metabolism of dopamine in neurons challenged with 6-OHDA.

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TH 505 1:30 - 1:45

Investigating Progesterone as Neuroprotective Agent in Serial Lesion Paradigm

David S. Mills

Neuroscience, *Westminster College*, New Wilmington, PA

millsds@westminster.edu

The administration of progesterone (16mg/kg) during the inter-operative interval of a serial lesion paradigm yielded evidence that it can serve as a neuroprotective agent. Long-Evans Hooded Rats, divided into three treatment groups (n=5; serial lesion/progesterone, serial lesion/vehicle, and control), were evaluated on a non-match to sample task. Unilateral serial lesions, conducted via aspiration, targeted the medial prefrontal cortex (MpfC) to induce a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Evidence is presented indicating that rats receiving progesterone during the inter-operative interval between lesions made fewer non-match to sample errors. The observation of this effect could provide a new model for evaluating TBI prevention and treatment.

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TH 518 11:45 - 12:00

Measuring Social Initiations of Children with Autism Using a Novel Observational Paradigm

GINNA M. MOREANO

Department of Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Moreano, G.M., Pyrek, E., Siller, M., Hutman, T., Sigman, M.

ginna.moreano@gmail.com

Previous research in autism has shown that responsive parental behaviors predict children's subsequent gains in nonverbal and linguistic communication (Siller & Sigman, 2002, 2008). The current study is based on data from a clinical trial of an experimental intervention designed to increase responsive parental behaviors (N = 70 children with autism). Children's social initiations were measured during a brief episode where parents were asked to ignore their children for two minutes. Observational coding focused on children's bids for attention, proximity to mother, and self-stimulatory/stereotypical behaviors. Inter-observer agreement was evaluated based on twenty interactions, demonstrating excellent agreement, ICC > .94. Data analysis will address one research question and one hypothesis. First, we anticipate baseline correlations between global child characteristics and children's social initiations. Second, as hypothesized, we anticipate that children in the experimental group will show significantly more improvements in social initiations than children in the control group.

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TH 505 1:45 - 2:00

The Neural Correlates of Self-Effacement Bias: The Other Side of Self-Enhancement?

HANNA OH

Psychology, *Montclair State University*, Montclair, NJ

Authors: Amati, F., Keenan, J.P.

ohannah@gmail.com

Previous studies suggest that people evaluate themselves in more positive terms compared to how they rate others. This tendency, known as self-enhancement bias, may not hold true for people from collectivistic cultures. Compared to Westerners' independent self, the East Asian self is constructed by interdependent relationships. Unlike Westerners, East Asians typically employ modesty, which provokes self-critical tendency (self-effacement bias). In order to determine the correlation between the brain and self-effacement bias, the Medial Prefrontal Cortex (MPFC), which was found to be involved in self-enhancement process, was stimulated with Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) while participants were asked to rate themselves and their best friends. Differences in responses were found between Asian-Americans and non-Asian Americans, with evidence indicating that like self-enhancement, the MPFC is involved in self-effacement process. The data provide the first brain-based evidence that self-effacement may be related to self-enhancement.

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Poster Session I

Endogenous changes in the progesterone metabolite allopregnanolone across the female lifespan may affect cognition

DANIELLE M. OSBORNE

Behavioral Neuroscience, SUNY-Albany, Albany, NY

Authors: Osborne, D.M., Frye, C.A.

do138414@albany.edu

Aging women may experience an overall decline in their cognitive abilities. Women, more so than men, are likely to report cognitive deficits, and are more susceptible to neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD). These cognitive complaints can run concomitant with fluctuations in ovarian hormones, most often with the onset of menopause. The 5 α -reduced metabolite of P4, allopregnanolone may play a significant role in women's age-related cognitive decline. 5 α -reductase (5 α red) mice, that cannot properly convert P4 into allopregnanolone, were compared to wildtype (WT) mice, which varied in age (2-27 months) and reproductive cycle (not pregnant, pregnant, and lactating), and were tested every week for 10 months in object recognition. Compared to WT mice, 5 α red show cognitive impairments until 13 months, whereby they briefly peak in their cognition (13-18 months old), and then immediately declined.

Radioimmunoassay results for allopregnanolone will be forthcoming and may elucidate its role in female cognitive functioning.

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Poster Session I

Social behavior and androstane neurosteroids are altered in mouse brain in response to alcohol

Jason J. Paris

Psychology, *The University at Albany-SUNY*, Albany, NY

Authors: Paris, J.J., Frye, C.A.

jason.paris01@albany.edu

In people and animal models, alcohol (EtOH) consumption can increase anti-social behavior and this may be related to changes in androgen production. In rats, we have observed that EtOH dose-dependently enhances inter-male aggression concomitant with increased formation of the T metabolite and neurosteroid, 3alpha-androstanediol (3alpha-diol) in cortex. The necessity of 3alpha-diol for these effects and the extent to which these findings generalize to other animal models was of interest. Experiment 1 utilized gonadally-intact or gonadectomized (GDX) mice that were all C57 congenics and Experiment 2 utilized intact or GDX mice that were wildtype or had lacked the 5alpha-reductase enzyme necessary to convert T to 3alpha-diol. Mice were administered saline or EtOH (1.0 g/kg, IP) and assessed 15 mins later were for resident-intruder aggression. In Experiment 1, EtOH enhanced inter-male aggression C57 mice. In Experiment 2, EtOH enhanced aggression only among wildtype mice but not those lacking the 5alpha-reductase enzyme. GDX did not abolish these effects. These data suggest that central 3alpha-diol formation is associated with EtOH-enhanced aggression in rodents.

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TH 518 2:15 - 2:30

Predictors of Perceived Violence within the House and Ball Community

Vanisha R. Pierce

Sociology, *Hunter College*, CUNY, New York, NY

vpierce@hunter.cuny.edu

Very few studies examine LGBT violence within the context of the House and Ball scene. To rectify this deficit, this study emphasizes the perception of violence among those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender as it is framed by an overall level of integration within the House and Ball community. A venue sample of 2,699 respondents was surveyed at the 2008 House of Latex Ball. Respondents completed a one-page questionnaire measuring demographic variables, HIV stigma and personal agency, drug and alcohol use, levels of integration within the House and Ball community, HIV testing history, and perception of violence within the LGBT community. For this study, hierarchical regression models are employed to understand the impact of race, age, and House and Ball community integration on the respondents' perception of violence as experienced within the House and Ball setting. Results show that level of integration with the House and Ball community is the strongest predictor of perceived violence.

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Poster Session I

The experience of attending a same sex high school: A comparison of boys and girls

Jennifer L. Pisco -- jpisco.student@manhattan.edu

Terence J. Meyerhoefer -- tmeyerhoefer.student@manhattan.edu

Martha M. Mendez-Baldwin -- martha.mendezbaldwin@manhattan.edu

Karinne E. Colon -- karinne.colon@gmail.com

Psychology, *Manhattan College*, Riverdale, NY

Authors: Mendez-Baldwin, M.M., Pisco, J.L., Meyerhoefer, T., Colon, K.

Research has demonstrated that attending a same sex high school may be beneficial. Studies have revealed improvements in academic achievement and higher scores on standardized tests for both girls and boys attending same sex schools. This information is helpful to both parents and educators. The purpose of this study was to learn more about the experience of attending a same sex school by examining attitudes toward attending a same gender high school. Aspects of the high school experience that were explored include: ability to concentrate, focus on appearance, degree of comfort with the opposite sex and leadership activities. Level of satisfaction with the high school experience was also explored. Furthermore, the study compared the

perceived experiences of high school boys and girls. Surveys were distributed at same sex high school in New York. The results indicate relatively high levels of satisfaction and positive attitudes toward attending same sex high schools.

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TH 518 1:30 - 2:00

Religious Orientation and Life Satisfaction Among College Students with Diverse Sexual Identities

Jill A. Rabinowitz

Psychology, *State University of New York College at Geneseo*, Geneseo, NY

Authors: Rabinowitz, J., Herman, C., and Katz, J.

jar21@geneseo.edu

Religious orientation refers to a set of beliefs that are reflected in one's behaviors. Two religious orientations have been identified. An intrinsic religious orientation (IRO) is religious involvement motivated by an internal sense of connection to some higher power. In contrast, an extrinsic religious orientation (ERO) is religious engagement motivated by external reinforcement (Koenig et al., 2001). Research has shown that for heterosexuals, life-satisfaction is positively related to IRO, and negatively related to ERO (Dezutter et al., 2005). However, few studies have examined religious orientation on the life-satisfaction of sexual minorities. The purpose of this study was to explore religion as a protective factor for sexual minorities. Undergraduates (N=1689) completed an online survey that assessed various demographic variables including sexual identity, religious orientation, and life satisfaction. Results indicated that for sexual minorities, life satisfaction was unrelated to both IRO and ERO. Implications and future research directions are discussed.

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TH 502 1:30 - 1:45

Prediction of Future Satisfaction in the Immigrant Population

Renika Rajkishun

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

rrajkishun@gmail.com

This research was designed as pilot study using a survey to compare self-reports of individuals who have emigrated from their country of origin to the U.S. The survey consisted of five parts and measured various socio-psychological aspects of the participants' immigration experience and current attitudes and preferences. 171 respondents were collected via a venue sample at an urban college and surveyed. Factors such as level of education, things they own, professional achievements etc. are going to impact life satisfaction positively when thinking about five year from the current time than those who are running away from things such as war, political and religious persecution. When responses were compared, results reflected more positive life satisfaction, rather than negative, with few predicting no change in the next five years.

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Poster Session I

Effects of Chronic Mild Stress on Trace Fear Conditioning: Gender Effects

Christian G. Reich

Psychology, *Ramapo College of New Jersey*, Mahwah, NJ

Authors: Goldman M, Iskander A, Cacchione T, Borrero M, Simms P, Swanson A, Meilands S, Parkinson J, Siochi C, Reich CG

creich@ramapo.edu

Mood disorders such as major depressive disorder and PTSD are serious mental illnesses that affect over 20 million Americans. Recent studies from our lab demonstrate that Chronic-Mild-Unpredictable-Stress (CMUS), an animal model of depression, regulates the endocannabinoid system in the rodent hippocampus. Specifically, CMUS downregulates cannabinoid type 1 (CB1) receptors in male rats and upregulates CB1 in female rats (Reich et al, 2008). In addition, acute and chronic restraint stress enhances fear conditioning in male rats (Rau, 2005). We, therefore, tested the hypothesis that CMUS would differentially affect the acquisition, recall and extinction of hippocampal-dependent trace fear conditioning. Our findings indicate that the CMUS enhances fear responses in both male and female Sprague-Dawley rats. The effects of stress are observed in all stages of conditioning and extinction and are ameliorated by administration of a CB1 receptor agonist. Work supported by NIH grants RO3 MHO79294-01 to CGR.

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Keynote Speaker

Mood Dysregulation in Context: Lessons from Reproductive Neuroscience

David Rubinow, M.D.

Department of Psychiatry, *University of North Carolina*, Chapel Hill, NC

Mood Dysregulation in Context: Lessons from Reproductive Neuroscience

drubinow@med.unc.edu

Both basic and clinical studies suggest that the neuroregulatory effects of reproductive steroids and their metabolites are context-dependent, with contexts including cell type, metabolic profile, developmental stage/age, gender, environment/past experience, and genotype. These contextual effects contribute to the non-linear transform properties of the brain, in which the same stimulus may elicit a range of different responses. For example, marked sexual dimorphisms exist in the neuronal (neuritic extension) and glial (GABA receptor alpha 4 subunit expression) responses to progesterone, and the sensitivity to the behavioral effects of reproductive steroids in adulthood is in part determined by perinatal exposure to these steroids, perinatal stressors, and strain/genotype. Similarly differential sensitivity to the effects of steroids exists in humans, with the ability of manipulations of reproductive steroids to regulate mood and pituitary-adrenal axis function differing dramatically in women with histories of reproductive endocrine-related mood disorders (e.g., postpartum depression; premenstrual syndrome) and euthymic controls. Thus, gonadal steroid addback in the context of induced hypogonadism precipitates depression in women with a history of postpartum depression or premenstrual syndrome but not in controls. Polymorphic genetic variants in the steroid signaling pathways and differences in steroid metabolism represent two identified sources of differential steroid sensitivity that may help explain how a normal steroid signal may elicit an abnormal behavioral response. Additionally, the ability of gonadal steroids to bias brain region-specific activation and regional connectivity suggests a means by which affective state selection or dysregulation may occur in reproductive endocrine-related mood disorders. Elucidation of the contextual determinants of the effects of reproductive steroids on the brain will better enable us to identify women at risk for mood disorders during periods of reproductive hormonal change.

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Poster Session I

Hand-Rail for the Step up: First Year Seminars and the Transition to College

Sara Jane R. Salloum

Psychology, *Hartwick College*, Oneonta, NY

Authors: Salloum, S.J., Chan, K-H.

SalloumS@hartwick.edu

The first year of college may be one of the most important years for an individual's cognitive and intellectual development. Currently, about 95% of all higher education institutions offer some version of a class designed specifically for first year students to help them make the transition from high school to college. In spite of this, the six-year graduation rate for colleges and universities nationally is still only about 57%. Studies show that first-year seminars produce positive effects such as continued persistence in school, retention, student's experience of meaningful interaction with faculty, and an increased level of satisfaction with the college experience (Pascarella, 2005). This study examined the effectiveness of various approaches used in first-year seminar classes at Hartwick College. Some of the variables of interest included the faculty/student working relationship, cultivating personal identity, and the development of written, auditory and critical thinking skills. A survey was developed and given to first year seminar students and faculty in order to measure the relationship between FYS approaches and various measures for student success. Based on relevant prior research, the current study focused on factors such as grade point average, fall-to-spring term retention rate, mental health, extent of substance use, academic skills, and social engagement as measures of student success.

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Poster Session I

The effects of selective hippocampal lesion on acquisition of long trace appetitive conditioning

Megan L. Shipman

Psychology, *Hartwick College*, Oneonta, NY

Authors: Shipman, M. & Chan, K-H.

shipmanm@hartwick.edu

Previous research has suggested that the hippocampus, a medial temporal lobe structure considered part of the limbic system, is not necessary for learning appetitive trace conditioning (e.g., Thibadeau et al., 2007). However, since that study only tested trace intervals of 2-sec, it is conceivable that the length of trace period was not long enough to require hippocampal contribution. In fact, preliminary research in our lab with intact rats has shown that intact rats trained with a trace period of 8-sec showed much greater difficulty than control rats (0-sec trace) in learning the association between the CS and US. Interestingly, we also found that intact rats trained with the 8-sec trace period were able to learn as well as those with 0-sec trace when the inter-trial interval (ITI) was lengthened. The current study tested the hypothesis that hippocampal lesions have an effect on long trace conditioning. The subjects were eight female Sprague-Dawley rats. Half of the rats received selective NMDA lesion of the dorsal and the ventral hippocampus and the remaining four rats received sham lesion operation. All rats were trained using a 10-second tone conditional stimulus (CS) followed by a 60-second trace interval and then the delivery of two 45mg sucrose pellets as the unconditional stimulus (US). Food cup approach was recorded using photo-sensors in front of the food magazine during the pre-CS, the CS, and in 20 second increments during the trace period. Following the trace conditioning experiments, all rats received three consecutive training sessions in a Morris water maze. A probe test was conducted 24 hours after the training sessions to provide a behavioral confirmation of hippocampal damage.

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Poster Session I

Recommendations for Encouraging Completion with Homework Assignments to Promote Skills Practice in Juvenile Justice Treatment

Jamie R. Siegel

Psychology, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Authors: Siegel, J.R., Lane, C., Serico, J., Kemp, K., Goldstein, N.E.S.

jamie.siegel@drexel.edu

Skills-practice is an essential component of interventions for adjudicated adolescents. Female juvenile offenders often have high rates of comorbid mental health problems, poor cognitive functioning, and deficiencies in behavioral control. These issues may limit application of skills taught in treatment to real-life situations. This Poster will describe the role of skills-practice in treatment, using the Juvenile Justice Anger Management Treatment for Girls as an example. It will describe individually-and group-based behavioral techniques to improve compliance with goal-sheet completion. Across three treatment groups (N=13 youth, 48 sessions), compliance with homework activities, based on goal sheet completion, has exceeded 99%.

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TH 518 12:15 - 12:30

Unintended Outcomes of a Mathematics and Science Program to Support Urban High School Students: The Social, Academic and Political Empowerment of Peer Tutors

Kailey L. Spencer

Sociology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Weiler JD, Spencer KL

kazer02@gmail.com

In its fourth year of a five year NSF-funded project to support low income urban high school students who have failed the high stakes New York State regents exams in mathematics and science, the Mathematics and Science Partnership in New York City has shown remarkable success in helping hundreds of low-performing students to pass the exams, allowing them to graduate from high school. A key element in this success has been the in-class tutoring work of high school peer tutors who attend the same schools as their tutees, share similar background characteristics in terms of SES, race/ethnicity and age and are not necessarily the highest achieving students in their schools. This paper, utilizing a student empowerment framework comprising its academic, political and social dimensions, focuses on two years worth of data on over 200 high school peer

tutors. Findings reveal that through the experience of tutoring, peer tutors develop their capacities to care deeply about their tutees' learning, increase their own content knowledge in mathematics or science and, acquire important interpersonal skills. The study employs multiple methods of data collection that include individual interviews, focus groups, on-line surveys, weekly journal entries, letter writing tasks, classroom observations and tutor weekly mock Regents examination scores.

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Poster Session I

Effects of Morphine Addiction and Withdrawal on Neurotransmitters in the Nucleus Accumbens of the Rat

Jeremy S. Tang

Biology, *Drew University*, Madison, NJ

Authors: Tang JS, McKittrick CR

jtang@drew.edu

A chronic morphine addiction model was used to examine the role of catecholamine concentrations in the brain during morphine addiction and naltrexone-induced withdrawal. After five days of increasing dosages of morphine sulfate, rats underwent microdialysis surgery with a probe placed in the nucleus accumbens shell. Based on withdrawal effects seen in other brain regions, it was hypothesized that there would be a decrease in dopamine but an increase of norepinephrine concentrations observed in the nucleus accumbens shell. Withdrawal behaviors were also noted and observed during the trials. During withdrawal, extracellular dopamine levels decreased and norepinephrine levels increased, but withdrawal behaviors could not be correlated to specific fluxes of dopamine and norepinephrine. This suggests that dopamine and norepinephrine may not be involved with specific withdrawal behaviors. However, this does not exclude the possibility that these transmitters may play a role in the emotional aspects of withdrawal, due to the connections of the accumbens shell with other regions of limbic system.

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Poster Session I

The Effects of Angular Shapes Verses Rounded Shapes on Speed Perception

Steven C. Tanner

Psychology, *Hartwick College*, Oneonta, NY

Authors: Tanner, S.C., Onorato, Dr. L.A.

tanners@hartwick.edu

Previous research has found that synesthesia, a condition that uses joined senses when viewing a stimulus, plays a role in human perception. These experiments have shown that objects with more angular features are more apt to be categorized with sharper names (Kiki), and brighter colors. Whereas, objects with rounded features tend to be associated with softer names (Bouba) and darker colors. We hypothesized that participants would categorize a sharper or more angular figure as "faster" and a rounded less angular figure as "slower". Results showed that when images are stationary, participants categorized the more angular and sharper images as being faster than those with more rounded features, although these findings did not appear when participants judged the speed of the in images in motion. Nevertheless, these results show that there is in fact a connection between a "figures" physical appearance and perception of its speed, but only when the figures are stationary. One possible implication of these findings is that by incorporating angular features, it could be possible to influence people's perception of the characteristics of a product as faster or slower than those of a competitor.

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Poster Session I

Homophobia in the City, the Town, and on the Campus: Field Experiments On Discrimination Against Gays and Lesbians

Christina J. Taylor

Psychology, *Sacred Heart University*, Fairfield, CT

Authors: Kelly, T.E., Koenig, E.R., Madonna, B.M., Ross, B.M., Hidalgo, R., Comito, P.A.

taylorc@sacredheart.edu

A field experiment on discrimination against lesbians was carried out in three locations in Connecticut, Bridgeport (population of 139,529), Fairfield (population of 57,340), and Westport (population of 25,749).

Based on Levine's (1974, 1994, 2003) research on helpfulness in cities and towns, it was predicted that individuals in smaller towns with more homogenous populations would be less helpful to confederates who appeared to be gay. Female confederates who either wore or did not wear a shirt with large block letters reading, "100% Gay," approached pedestrians to request their signature on a petition to fight poverty. Dependent measures included willingness to sign the petition and time spent interacting with the confederate. Results supported the hypothesis and also showed some tendency for straight appearing confederates to be helped more than the gay appearing ones. A follow up study explored discrimination against male and female, gay vs. straight appearing confederates on college campuses.

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Poster Session I

Memory as a Function of Modality Preference and Anxiety Types: A Correlational Analyses

Richard S. Velayo

Psychology Department, *Pace University*, New York, NY

Authors: Velayo, R., McCormick, M., Handy, E., Pollack, S., Olszewski, L.

rvelayo@gmail.com

This study explored the relationship between memory, presentation modality preference, and anxiety level. 244 participants (166 females, 78 males) varying in age (18 - 65 yo) were asked to complete online the Assessment of Modality Strength Questionnaire and the Burns Anxiety Inventory. They were also asked to study instructional material for a limited amount of time followed by a 20-item multiple-choice memory test (10 visual memory items, 10 verbal memory items). Results indicate that preference for the visual modality is not significantly correlated with memory test score nor anxiety level. However, preference for the auditory and kinesthetic modalities were significantly positively correlated with all anxiety types (feelings, thoughts, and physical symptoms), and were also significantly correlated with visual memory score. As for performance on the memory test, only the visual memory score showed significantly negative correlations with all anxiety types; Findings also indicate a significant gender difference on visual modality preference.

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Poster Session I

Effect of Dietary Selenium Exposure in the Striatal 6-OHDA Model of Parkinson's Disease

Kanizeh Visram

Biochemistry, *Moravian College*, Bethlehem, PA

Authors: Visram KF, Fox CF

cfox@moravian.edu

Parkinson's disease is a debilitating neurodegenerative disorder resulting from the gradual deterioration of the nigrostriatal pathway. A large body of research implicates free-radical oxidative damage as a potential mechanism for this neuronal loss. Therefore, it is reasonable to propose that antioxidant therapy may be neuroprotective, and slow the progression of the disease. The antioxidant, selenium is an essential element in the diet of all mammals. It resides in the active center of the free-radical-scavenging enzyme, glutathione peroxidase, which assists in the protection of membrane lipids and molecules from oxidative damage. This study was designed to test the efficacy of long-term dietary selenium administration on the rotation behavior in rodents challenged by a 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) striatal lesion. Fisher 344 rats were divided into two groups: control chow and chow supplemented with selenium (2ppm). Baseline rotation behavior testing was performed on both groups for two weeks using either 0.1mg/kg apomorphine (subcutaneous injection), or 5 mg/kg amphetamine (intraperitoneal injection). Following baseline testing, rats were treated with an intrastriatal 6-OHDA lesion. Apomorphine and amphetamine rotation behavior testing was performed for eight weeks post-lesion before all rats were euthanized by intracardiac perfusion. Brain tissue was processed for tyrosine hydroxylase immunocytochemical staining and cell survival analysis.

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Poster Session I

Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators with Actions at Estrogen Receptor Beta increase Plasticity in the Hippocampus, without Trophic Effects in the Uterus or Tumors, of Ovariectomized Rats

Alicia A. Walf

Psychology, *University at Albany*, Albany, NY

Authors: Walf, A.A., Rusconi, J.C., Frye, C.A.

aaawalf@yahoo.com

17 β -estradiol (E2) can have beneficial effects in the hippocampus to reduce anxiety- and depression-like behavior. E2 contributes to growth in peripheral tissues (e.g. mammary tumors, uterus). An important question is whether there are different mechanisms for these effects in the brain and body. E2 has actions at estrogen receptors (ERs), ER α and ER β , which have different expression in the brain and body. In this study, we compared the effects of E2, an ER α -selective ER modulator (SERM; PPT), or an ER β -SERM (DPN) to placebo vehicle to ovariectomized rats. Some rats were carcinogen (DMBA)-exposed. Rats were behaviorally tested weekly. Tumor burden and uterine weight were analyzed. E2 and DPN, but not PPT, decreased anxiety-like behavior. E2 and PPT increased uterine weight and tumor burden. Differences in cyclin D1 and histone 3 were noted. Thus, E2's actions can be differentiated in the brain and body. Supported by: Dept of Defense, NSF, and NIMH.

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TH 505 12:00 - 12:15

Development of the Rumination about the Future Scale

Alyssa K. Wheeler

Psychology, *City University of New York, Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Wheeler, A., Miranda, R., PhD

alyssa.wheeler@gmail.com

Rumination about the future has been implicated in the development of depressive schemas. However, no reliable and valid self-report measure exists to assess this construct. The current study sought to develop a measure of rumination about the future and to examine its association to symptoms of depression, generalized anxiety disorder, self-focused rumination, and worry. College undergraduates (N=193) completed a battery of self-report questionnaires including a newly developed 17-item Rumination about the Future (RAF) scale. Participants returned 4 weeks later to complete the measures again. Cronbach's alpha for the scale was .83. The test-retest reliability of the total scale was .67. The RAF total score was positively correlated with BDI, GAD symptoms, the PSWQ, and the RRS Brooding and Reflection Subscales. This study provides preliminary data for rumination about the future as a construct that is related to other forms of ruminative thinking and to symptoms of both depression and anxiety.

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TH 505 12:15 - 12:30

Adult Attachment Style and Emotion Regulation

Michelle Yakobson

Psychology, *Hunter College*, New York, NY

Authors: Yakobson, M., Marganska, M., Miranda, R.

m.yakobson@gmail.com

Emotion regulation is crucial for psychological well-being and effective social functioning. It directly impacts the perception, interpretation and responses to the social environment. Past research has firmly established the link between attachment style and affect regulation in children. In an effort to extend prior research to adults, the present study examined the relationships between attachment style and emotion regulation strategies in an ethnically diverse sample of 284 college students. Insecure attachment styles are associated with higher anxiety and depression scores and less effective emotion regulation strategies, whereas secure attachment style is associated with lower anxiety and depression scores, and more effective emotion regulation. The interaction between attachment style and emotion regulation in predicting response to negative life events will be examined.

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TH 518 2:30 - 2:45

What is the Level of Integration with the House and Ball Community among LGBT Latinos?

Heriberto Yanis, Jr.

Psychology Department, *Hunter College (CUNY)*, New York, NY

hyanisjr@gmail.com

Because there is a high level of stigma associated with LGBT's in Latino communities, we wanted to determine what is the level of integration with the House and Ball community among Latino's. We hypothesized that Latino's in surrogate family structures such as the House and Ball community would show a higher level of integration as compared to other groups in the House of Latex Ball community. A venue sample of 2,699 respondents were surveyed at the 2008 House of Latex Ball. Respondents completed a one page questionnaire measuring demographic variables, HIV stigma and personal agency, drug and alcohol use, levels of integration within the HOLB community, HIV testing history, and perception of violence within the LGBT community. For this study we used an ANOVA model in order to determine the relationship between Latino's and their level of integration within the House and Ball setting. Results supported our hypothesis.

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TH 502 1:45 - 2:00

How minority American identity affects friend selection.

Juin-Wei Zhou

Psychology *Hunter College CUNY*, New York, NY

Authors: Zhou, J.W., Hughes, D., Way, N.

jzh0006@hunter.cuny.edu

This paper intends to examine how feelings of belongingness in American culture affects peer selection. Participants are diverse adolescent (13-17) students, usually of low-income economic backgrounds from New York City public schools. Specifically we hope to study how Asian American students' ideas of American-ness affect social interactions and the diversity within these interactions. I hypothesize that Asian American students who feel included in the American culture interact with those of other cultural backgrounds. Whereas students who don't feel as included in the American culture may interact with students of a similar background to their own. In past research peer interaction seems to be based on one's cultural socialization, and the importance that is placed on friendships in one's culture.

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Panel Discussions
The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
(SPSSI-NY - www.SPSSI.org)

11:00-12:00: Panel Discussion I – TH 520

Psychological issues in human organ donation:

What is next?

While human organ transplantation saves lives, many of the 90,000 Americans on waiting lists in 2009 will die while awaiting a life-saving organ. How can behavioral scientists help reduce this shortage of life-saving organs?
Chair: **Lynda J. Carpenter**, *Fordham Graduate School of Business*

How can we increase organ donation: An experimental test. **Peggy Ann Barnett**, **Christine E. Hoskins**, **Jorie A. Alhoti**, *Fordham*

Is organ donation a human rights issue: A survey. **Jason Appelgate**, **Jennifer Belnome**, **Molly Blake**, **Adila Chaudhrey**, **Kadia Cyllah**, **Margo Masi**, **Cindy Siu**, *Fordham*

Receiving an organ: A life-changing experience?
Richard Roth, *CNN senior correspondent to the United Nations*

Discussants: **John Morai**, **Kathryn Dwyer**, *NY Organ Donor Network*

12:00-1:00: Panel Discussion II – TH 520

Urban psychology

How can we best research the psychological impact of city life on individual behavior and attitudes?

Chair: **Henry Solomon**, *Marymount Manhattan*
Reducing noise in New York City: Why and how?

Arline L. Bronzaft, *Lehman*

How helpful are New Yorkers with lost children and lost wallets: 1976 versus 2009?

Rafaela Pogrebinschi, **Laurence Agenor**, **Lily Alaj**, **Jason Appelgate**, **Yvette DaSilva**, **Priscilla Dyer**, **Christine Lewis**, **Olivia Mandelbaum**, **Vanessa Marte**, **Justine Monsul**, **Veronica Pinho**, **Joanna Wong**, *Fordham*

Discussant: **Henry Solomon**, *Marymount Manhattan*

1:00-2:00: Panel Discussion III – TH 520

Opportunities in 21st Century psychology created by Web 2.0, social media and other tools

How are web 2.0, social media, and other bold new technologies impacting the science and practice of psychology? This question is reviewed by distinguished experts in the Organizational Consulting and Work Psychology (OCW) division of NYSPA, the NYS Psychological Association.

Chair: **Richard H. Wexler**, *President, Personnel Systems, Inc.*

Suzanne Roff-Wexler, *President, Compass Point Consulting*

2009 President, Organization, Consulting, & Work Psychology (OCW) Division of NYSPA

Business of Practice Network (BOPN) Representative for NYSPA

Ira Richman, *President, Greater Performances, Inc.*

Josephine Minardo, PhD, *Principal/Founder Psych Internship Prep*

2:00-3:00: Panel Discussion IV – TH 520

History of psychology in New York City

For psychology, no city on earth has a more fascinating history than New York—its schools, individuals, programs, and activities. Here, several experts briefly review some of this history of NYC psychology.

Chair: **Elaine P. Congress**, *Fordham*

The golden years of psychology at Columbia.

John D. Hogan, *Saint Johns*

Psychology at Rockefeller University.

Edgar E. Coons, *New York University*

Psychology of women and gender in New York.

Florence L. Denmark, *Pace*

International and cross-cultural psychology in NY.

Uwe P. Gielen, *Saint Francis Margaret Mead in NY.*

Robert W. Rieber, *Fordham*

3:00-4:00: Panel Discussion V – TH 520

Increasing academic and career success in psychology

Psychology is by far the largest major on U.S. college campuses today. What can psychology students do while still in school to increase their future success in graduate school and careers?

Chair: **Alexander Cloarec**, *Fordham*

How good is your school: Validation of a student life survey. **Christina Bartel**, *Fordham*

Graduate psychology programs in New York: What are the exact chances of admission?

Sarah E. March, *Fordham*

The hidden value of student honor societies: **Kathleen Schmid Koltko-Rivera**, *Fordham*

Creating balance as a new professional: Caring for others by caring for yourself.

Carolyn A. Licht, *Harlem Hospital*, and

Diana Nash, *Marymount Manhattan*

Discussant: **Samvel S. Jeshmaridian**, *Borough of Manhattan Community College*

N.E.U.R.O.N. Workshops in room 714HW

Workshop I – 714 HW 11:15 – 12:15

Understanding neurobiological and hormonal factors in neuropsychiatric disorders

To complement the keynote by Dr. David Rubinow, this session provides trainees an opportunity to discuss research aimed at enhancing understanding of neurobiological and/or hormonal factors in mental health and/or neuropsychiatric disorders.

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Workshop II – 714 HW 1:30 – 2:30

Outreach workshop-Encouraging trainee engagement in mental health research

Recent years have seen a decline in the number of physician scientists. The dearth of individuals capable of conducting translational research in mental health and/or neuropsychiatric disorders is a concern. To discuss factors related professional development and its relation to educating individuals with these capabilities, we will hear from neuroscientists from various scientific venues, Dr. David Rubinow (University of North Carolina Medical School), Dr. Cheryl Frye (UAlbany), Dr. Sarah Johnson (Moravian), Dr. Richard Torres (Regeneron), as well as Dr. Robert Degenova. Also in line with NEURON's priorities, there will be emphasis on encouraging minority involvement, as this is a vital aspect to the ever-changing clinical mental health model, and with assistance from Dr Cecelia Fox from Moravian, as well as Dr. Susan Croll from Queens College, this important issue will be addressed. Engaging student's fledgling interest in neuroscience at earlier ages will help them to set higher educational goals for themselves, as well as continue to foster their neuroscience and other academic aspirations (MacNabb et al, 2006; Liu, 2006; Lawson, 2006). As such, particular interest will be paid to increasing diverse trainee interest at every level of participation, from undergraduate/graduate to career seeking professionals.

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Free Kaplan GRE Class

TH 505 2:15 – 3:15

Presented by Kaplan GRE teacher Christie Harner. Try Kaplan's GRE Class for free. Attend this free class and learn valuable strategies and methods to raise your GRE score. Christie will provide information on the structure and scoring of the GRE exam, strategies you can use on tough quantitative questions types, and an overview of Kaplan's GRE course and materials.

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Suzannah Bliss Tieman Award

714 HW 2:45 – 3:00

In memory of Dr. Suzannah Bliss Tieman, an extraordinary neuroscientist, teacher, colleague, wife, and friend, N.E.U.R.O.N. will be presenting research awards to students who exhibit high quality presentations of their projects.

Dr. Tieman had very specific ideas about how research should be presented so that an audience could most readily take in and consolidate the 'take-home' message. The criteria that are used to judge presentations are those that Dr. Tieman valued most and include:

1. Format and organization of the presentation
2. Use of color, font, figures, pictures
3. Clear, succinct methodology
4. Ability to thoughtfully answer questions
5. Enthusiasm about project

Posters are judged based on the above criteria by former students and colleagues of Dr. Su Tieman, as well as other members of the NEURON Steering and/or Local Organizing Committee, and former recipients of the prize.

The Life of Suzannah Bliss Tieman

Su was a Psychology major at Cornell University, where she worked with Julian Hochberg on the perception of faces. In 1965, she began graduate school at MIT in what is now the Neuroscience department, studying the effects of experience on the development of visual control of motor behavior with Alan Hein. After a year as a graduate student, she decided to take a break and became a technician in Hein's lab. In 1967, she moved to Stanford, California and became a technician, splitting her time between working with Charles Hamilton on interhemispheric transfer in "split-brain" monkeys and Leo Ganz on visual deprivation in cats.

In 1969, Su wanted more control of her work and applied for the Stanford Psychology Department's graduate program just five days before registration. She was accepted and, in 1974, she completed her thesis which addressed the interhemispheric transfer of problems involving expansion and contraction patterns in monkeys. She then began a NSF postdoctoral fellowship with H.J. Ralston in the Anatomy Department at the University of California at San Francisco. Her project was an attempt to identify, at the electron microscopic level, cellular structures that were affected by monocular deprivation. She spent the next four years becoming a "neuroanatomist".

From 1977 until her death in October 2007, Su Tieman was a Senior Research Associate in the Neurobiology Research Center, a Research Professor in Biological Sciences, and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health at the University at Albany (SUNY). Her research had three major foci, which included the effects of visual deprivation on synaptic organization, the effects of development and visual deprivation on the dendrites of cells in the visual pathway, and the effects of visual deprivation and deafferentation on the expression of possible neurotransmitters, most notably N-acetyl-aspartyl-glutamate. These three interacting foci led to a series of behavioral, physiological and anatomical experiments that occupied her for 30 years.

Su would not want the description to stop there, because she also loved teaching and interacting with students. In addition to seminars on vision and development, she taught three basic courses: Neuroanatomy, Sex, and Survival skills. For many years she taught a very comprehensive course on "Neuroanatomical Research Techniques". Graduate students sweated formalin after taking this course. Throughout her years as a professor, she was often contacted by former students for permission to pass her lecture notes and lab hand-outs on to others. These materials comprised over 250 carefully prepared pages. In 2005, Su taught this course and meticulously converted nearly 2000 2x2 lecture slides into PowerPoint format, despite knowing that the class of only five would likely be the last she would teach in this course. She could never stand to do a slipshod job, no matter what the cost to her. Her Biology of Sex class was primarily for non-majors. She considered it an opportunity to trick non-biology students into learning some biology. Her favorite course evaluation came from an English major who said: "I really enjoyed it; thank you for not dumbing it down; I had expected a Mickey." You could call it a lot of things, but "Mickey Mouse" was not one of them. Finally, Su also influenced many years of graduate students by teaching a yearlong course on ethics and survival skills in science. Students from all areas of the life sciences took this course and hopefully absorbed some of Su's ideas about ethics, writing, surviving and generally getting along in their careers.

Su fought arthritis for 40 years. It sapped her strength and stamina and it left her with hands that could not open jars or grasp fine objects. In the end, its effects killed her. But it never sapped her spirit or made her a complainer. She never gave in and never wanted to be defined by her problems: she focused on what she could do, not on what she couldn't.

Su will be missed, but her ideas about science, pedagogy, and life will live on in the hearts of the many lives that she touched. Su was dedicated to science, her students, her family and friends, and lived life to the fullest. We hope to recognize and remember her extraordinary life and contributions by bestowing upon select individuals The Suzannah Bliss Tieman Research Award(s) at each NEURON conference.

~Acknowledgements~

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NOTES:

Directions



Handicap Access Available to All Floors

From Faculty Dining Room (8th Floor Hunter West—Registration, Breakfast, Lunch, Closing Reception):

To: 5th Floor, Thomas Hunter Hall (presentation rooms and SPSSI panels)

Take elevator to 3rd Floor. Go through North-West bridge from West building to North building. Turn right into the passageway to Thomas Hunter Hall. Take elevator or stairs to the 5th floor.

To: Room 714 Hunter West (Keynote Speaker and NEURON program)

Take stairs to the 7th floor. Walk straight ahead towards the windows. Turn Left. Room 714HW is on Right.

**From Thomas Hunter Hall:
To: 8th Floor, Faculty Dining Room**

Take elevator to 2nd Floor. Go through passageway at top of ramp. Make a Left. Go through North-West bridge. Go slightly right toward elevators. Take elevator to 8th floor.

To: Room 714 Hunter West

Take elevator to 2nd floor. Go through passageway at top of ramp. Make a Left. Go through North-West bridge. Take escalators to the 7th Floor. Turn Left and walk straight ahead- on your Right will be room 714 HW.

Poster Presentations are on the 3rd Floor North-West Bridge (the walkway that crosses 68th Street)

