

Division of Educational Psychology & Methodology

**University at Albany, SUNY
School of Education
Department of Educational & Counseling Psychology**

Student Research Poster Session



ED 335

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4:15 pm

**Coordinator:
Sarah Torok**



Supervising Faculty Member:

Dr. Joan Newman, Division Director

Authors and Abstracts

Temi Bidjerano, M.S.

Personality and academic self-regulation

The purpose of the study was to examine the relationship between the Big Five factors of personality and six dimensions of academic self-regulation. Based on data, obtained from 125 university students, it was found that: (a) Neuroticism predicts extrinsic goal orientation; (b) Intrinsic goal orientation is best predicted by openness to new ideas (intellect); (c) Test anxiety is related to Neuroticism and negatively related to Conscientiousness, and (d) Self-efficacy is associated with conscientiousness and openness to new ideas.

Mohua Bose, M.S. & Joanne Campbell

Examining multicultural validity through a civics mosaic: Working to maintain objectivity and cultural sensitivity

This paper examines cross-cultural differences for participants in the Civics Mosaic exchange program, and considers how the characteristics of multicultural validity figured in evaluation efforts. The Civics Mosaic comparative education project involves stakeholders from the United States and Russia and has brought many cultural nuances directly to the light. This paper examines data from Civics Mosaic quarterly reports and explores the data through a multicultural lens.

Margaret Butkerei, CSW, CAS

Do school psychologists recognize traumatized school children

A factorial survey was used to measure the trauma-specific assessment skills of 344 school psychologists. A repeated-measures ANOVA was used to measure the impact of manipulated and demographic variables. Respondents rated vignettes that depicted a child exposed sexual abuse, domestic violence, and a car accident (a within-subject variable). There was also a no-trauma control condition (autism vignette). Respondents were randomly assigned to either a low-, medium-, or high-information version of the vignettes (a between-subjects variable).

Joanne Campbell

A wealth of research (Cotton, 1996) indicates that students fare better in smaller school environments. Numerous studies contend that small schools better able to promote positive school attachment for the students it serves (Dornbush, 2001). Research further indicates that school attachment is related to beneficial cognitive and affective outcomes for students. This paper uses student survey data to ask if the transition into a small learning community has increased levels of school attachment.

Deborah A. Chapin, M.A.

Writing an effective multiple-choice item: Topics and issues for the novice item writer

Ebel (1951) wrote in his classic work on writing multiple-choice items that few words are read with such critical attention as the multiple-choice item. In this current literature review, several of the most commonly cited multiple-choice guidelines were considered. Item-writing topics and issues pertaining to optimal item performance were discussed to equip the novice multiple-choice item-writer with tools for writing an effective multiple-choice item.

Ying Du, M.S.

Students' opinions and preference on multiple-choice test and alternative assessment: A survey of college students from various cultures

This research studies college students' opinions on multiple-choice tests and alternative assessment. Students showed no significant preference for alternative assessment. All aspects of assessment quality evidence were highly correlated with student preference. The preference was based on the combination of these aspects. Accuracy and content coverage were the most robust predictors of student preference. The effectiveness of measuring higher-level thinking skills was questioned. American students were more confident with alternative assessment. International students were more aware of the cultural influence on their preference.

Nathan E. Gonyea, M.S. & Leigh A. Mountain, M.S.

Needs assessment for content providers of videoconferencing

As the world changes, due to population growth and technological advances, institutions are finding it necessary to adapt to this new reality by using technology. Museums, in particular, need to modify their educational programs to adapt to our changing society (Tyler, 1985). This study aims to aid museums in their shift to using the modern technology of videoconferencing by providing a needs assessment of the resources necessary for museums to effectively utilize this medium.

L. Jon Hobbs, M.S. & Zheng Yan, Ed.D.

Computer-based attribution retraining intervention to reduce hostile judgments of behavior in aggressive elementary school students

Attribution retraining is a method for developing alternative judgments of social behavior. Previous research has focused the use of attribution retraining to teach aggressive students new ways to interpret peer behavior. This study extended previous research by developing a self-instructional computer-based lesson based on attribution retraining. A multiple baseline design across subjects (n=3) was used to measure changes in attribution, emotion and behavior. A strong and immediate impact on attribution was noted through visual analysis of data.

Courtney M. Jablonski, Mohua Bose, M.S., & Nathan Gonyea, M.S.

Successful videoconference in training despite variability in confidence

Society has embraced the use of technology in the professional and personal arenas. To prepare students for the “real world”, teachers must adapt their instructional methods to incorporate technology into their classrooms (Jonassen, 2000). The purpose of our study was to investigate teachers’ anticipated workshop outcomes and perceptions of actual training outcomes in relation to their confidence in using educational technologies. All teachers felt that their expectations for training had been met. Future trainings may incorporate ideas to enable trained teachers to relay the information and skills learned to teachers within their buildings.

Zhili Liang

Learning management: A framework for integrating knowledge management into E-learning

This paper surveyed the existing literature in the field of E-learning and knowledge management. The advantages and constraints of E-learning and knowledge management were summarized. Moreover, this paper discussed an important future trend, which is to integrate knowledge management and E-learning into learning management.

Asil Ali Özdoğru, Joan Newman, Ph.D., Christyn Perras, Chin-Cheng Kao, Ph.D., Yiping Chang, Anastoassios Matsopoulos, Ph.D.

Children’s after-school activities and anxiety level: American and Taiwanese comparison

This study investigated the relation between children’s use of after-school time and their anxiety levels. How children use after-school time has important developmental outcomes. Some psychologists think that children are overwhelmed, “hurried,” and “hot housed” by their parents. To investigate this possibility, 90 American and 292 Taiwanese 4th graders completed a “what I usually do” questionnaire developed by researchers, and Revised Children’s Manifest Anxiety Scale. While American students were found to spend more time in enjoyable and self-chosen activities such as sports, peer interaction, reading, and play, Taiwanese students spent more time in adult-chosen activities such as homework, extra academics, and non-sports. Perceived enjoyment and hours of adult-chosen activities were important contributors to anxiety level for both groups of children.

Katerina Passa, M.S. & Temi Bidjerano, M.S.

The ‘hurried child’: A cross-cultural research in progress

It has been argued that many American children are being deprived of their childhood by being overscheduled into adult structured activities. It has been suggested also that such children may experience unhealthy stress and elevated levels of anxiety. A prospective study involving samples of fourth graders from five different countries – Bulgaria, Greece, Taiwan, Turkey, and USA - has been undertaken to examine these themes from a cross-cultural perspective. The potential benefits as well as the problems associated with conducting cross-cultural research are briefly discussed.

Brian R. Smith and Xiuyuan Zhang, M.A.

Evaluation of electronic portfolios in pre-service education

Training pre-service teachers to incorporate technology into their curriculum is important. One such way is by having the pre-service teachers develop a digital electronic portfolio during their student teaching experience. This paper is going to introduce the Using Technology to Transform Teaching (UT3) project, which is aimed to prepare pre-service teachers with technology training. The methods and objectives for evaluating use of electronic portfolios in pre-service teacher preparation project will also be discussed.

Sarah E. Torok, M.S.

The role of syntactic awareness in reading achievement: A test of two competing hypotheses

Tunmer and his colleagues (1988) suggest that syntactic and phonological awareness contribute unique variance to the acquisition of skill in reading through self-monitoring in text reading that encourages conjoint use of decoding and context in word identification. In contrast, Blackmore and Pratt (1997) suggest that syntactic and phonological awareness do not contribute unique variance to skill in reading because they are both metalinguistic skills. Hierarchical regression analyses that controlled for relevant variables favor Tunmer's suggestion.

Sarah E. Torok, M.S.

Job searching tips for graduate students in Educational Psychology: What you should know

This presentation is intended to provide current students with information regarding careers in Educational Psychology. Educational Psychology, as a field of study, is defined and the major research themes of focus are identified. In addition, the skills and qualities and Educational Psychologist should possess are discussed. Information is offered on how to prepare a curriculum vita and cover letter. Finally, some useful websites are provided for finding prospective jobs.

Haiyan Zhang

E-testing: An emerging and promising field of research

This paper presents a general background of E-testing, identifies top contributors and resources in the existing literature. Multiple functions of E-testing are discussed; E-testing, as new assessment tools, alternative learning approach, brings various valuable research opportunities for future references.