

Psychological Science I JAAC 5003

7:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m.

Facial Recognition and Levels of Trust When Seeing Similar Faces

Candace Hearn, Jess Andre, Conor Kelly, and Darby Maggard

Faculty Advisor: Lonnie Yandell, Ph.D.

Often when we see a familiar face there is an immediate rush of either good or bad emotions. Previous research by Verosky, et al (2010) found that participants ranked faces (and similar faces) previously linked with negative behaviors more negatively than faces (and similar faces) previously linked with positive behaviors. For the present study, we predict that after learning positive and negative attributes to particular faces, participants will rate the faces (and similar faces) with positive attributes higher in trustworthiness when compared to the faces (and similar faces) with negative attributes. We also predict that participants will rate faces of their own gender higher in trustworthiness than faces of the opposite gender. Forty-five participants will be shown 8 faces along with either positive or negative attributes to learn and then be tested until they score 100 percent. The participants will then be shown a series of 20 faces (original, morphed, and new) and asked to rate each face on a Likert scale ranging from 1-9 based on trustworthiness. The learned faces with positive attributes, and the morphed faces that are similar to those faces, should receive higher rankings in trustworthiness. While those learned faces with negative attributes and the morphed faces that closely resemble them should receive lower rankings in trustworthiness. This study is important because it may show how seeing a face that looks similar to a face you already know may affect how you behave around this person and whether or not you trust them.

7:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Can Narcissists be in Happy Relationships?: A Correlational Study of Narcissism and Relationship Satisfaction

Briana Anderson, Conor Kelly, Florence Matthews, Meghan McGath, & Mason Schmitt

Faculty Advisor: Patrick Morse, Ph.D.

Previous research has investigated the big five personality traits and their correlation to relationship satisfaction. However, as personality trends illustrate increasing rates of narcissism in millennials, research has begun to broaden the range of traits discussed in relation to a particular behavior. Given its self-focused nature, narcissism is a component of personality that could hinder satisfaction in romantic relationships. To date, the existing research on narcissism suggests that narcissism has a negative effect on romantic relationships, but lacks consideration of how narcissism affects length of relationships, the differences in grandiose and vulnerable narcissism, and the differences in how levels of narcissism in males versus females affects romantic relationships. For this reason, the present study will be useful in exploring the possible implications narcissism may have on relationship satisfaction and length. In the present study,

each participant was asked to complete the Narcissistic Personality Inventory, the Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale, the Relationship Assessment Scale, and the Experiences in Close Relationships Scale Revised Questionnaire in a counterbalanced order followed by a demographics survey. We hypothesize there will be a negative correlation between narcissism and relationship satisfaction, as well as a negative correlation between narcissism and relationship length. We also predict that if a male scores higher on a narcissism scale, then he will have a longer average relationship length than a female. Lastly, we hypothesize a positive correlation between grandiose narcissism and relationship length, and a negative correlation between vulnerable narcissism and relationship length.

7:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.

Physiological Effects of Animal Assisted Therapy with Induction of Stress on Students

Monica Anis, Florence Matthews, Meghan McGath, Carleigh Schuman, Hayden Taylor, and Yasmin Telwar.

Faculty Advisor: R. Mansfield, Ph.D.

This physiological psychology study aims to explore the effect of animal assisted therapy with induction of stress - focusing on undergraduate level students. Upon arrival, participants will sign a consent form and be connected to the galvanic skin response (GSR) device. After a baseline is measured over the course of 5 minutes, the stress test will begin. The participants will be given a mathematical drill task in which they have a minute to complete. Once completed, the researcher will pretend to grade the task in one minute. The researcher will then inform the participant that he must try again. This process will be done two more times. After 3 mathematical drill tasks, the researcher will respond with, "this will do," and the 10 minute relaxation period with an animal analog will begin. The four test groups of the study are as follows: control, stuffed puppy analog, picture book analog, and live puppy analog. At the completion of the study, the participant will be debriefed and their credit will be given. The hypotheses are as follows: hypothesis 1: there will be a decrease in the GSR of the participants when interacting with a puppy analog after exposure to a mildly stressful situation; hypothesis 2: there will be a greater decrease in the GSR of participants who interact with a physical, live puppy than the participants who interact with a stuffed animal puppy, after exposure to a mildly stressful situation; hypothesis 3: There will be a greater decrease in the GSR of participants who interact with a stuffed animal puppy than the participants who interact with a photo album of a puppy, after exposure to a mildly stressful situation; hypothesis 4: There will be a greater decrease in the GSR of participants who interact with a physical, live puppy than the participants who interact with a photo album of a puppy, after exposure to a mildly stressful situation.

7:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Social Consequences of Extraordinary Experience

Carleigh Schuman, Allie Woodard, Justin Lang

Faculty Advisor: Lonnie Yandell, Ph.D.

Cooney, Gilbert, and Wilson (2014) argue that there are two competing social desires connected to sharing extraordinary experiences: the desire to be like others and the desire to do what others have not done. People may not predict the negative social outcomes of extraordinary experience, but instead falsely predict that they will be well-liked and relatable. Social media may also influence participants' expectations of how others will respond to their experience.

Approximately sixty undergraduate Belmont University students were randomly assigned to one of four conditions. They either experienced Virtual Reality (VR) as the extraordinary experience or experienced a YouTube video of the exact same content as an ordinary experience and either positive or neutral social media priming. Once participants completed their task, all participants completed a pre-interaction survey, then talked with each other about their task experience for five minutes. At the conclusion of five minutes, they completed a post-interaction survey, and were debriefed. We expect that the VR group will rate their experience as more "extraordinary" and predict that others will be more interested in their experience than the video group. The VR group should also express greater disappointment after social interaction with the other participant. Social media priming will serve as a mediator for expectations between the VR and non-VR groups. We hope to better understand how people weigh the outcomes of an extraordinary experience before engaging in it, and how people predict how others will respond to them after an extraordinary experience.

8:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

Framing Diversity: The Role of Universities in Shaping Students' Perceptions of Campus Racism

Justin A. Lang

Faculty Advisor: Lonnie Yandell, Ph.D.

Cultural products serve a bi-directional purpose: to *reflect* the dominant group's beliefs and desires (e.g. racism denial), and to *direct* actions that support the dominant group's social position (e.g. inaction toward racism) (Salter and Adams, 2016). This study examines the effect of diversity rhetoric used by predominantly white institutions (PWIs) on students' perception of racism and need for transformation on their campuses, considering research that indicates PWIs discuss race and diversity in ways that re-center whiteness, invalidate the experiences of minority students, and portray higher levels of diversity and inclusion than what exists in reality (Alexander, 2005; Ahmed, 2012; Hoffman & Mitchell, 2016; Warikoo, 2016).

Seventy Belmont University students were presented one of two articles discussing diversity: the "Non-performative Frame", which emphasizes celebrating how Belmont is a more inclusive place than other campuses; or the "Racial Realities Frame" which highlights inequitable experiences of minority students and the work Belmont needs to do to improve. They then completed questionnaires assessing their evaluation of their article, perception of campus racial climate, and support for policy changes. I hypothesized that students exposed to the Racial Realities frame will perceive higher levels of campus racism, and thus be more supportive of policy changes than students exposed to the Non-performative frame. The implication of this

study is to challenge universities to more accurately represent the experiences of minority students in order to work toward the aim of equity they claim to desire.

8:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Delay of Gratification and Mindfulness Practice: A Quasi-Experimental Investigation

Carleigh Schuman

Faculty Advisor: Lonnie Yandell, Ph.D.

Mindfulness practice and meditation could help strengthen the ability to delay gratification. Researchers explain that during mindfulness practice people have shown evidence for improved concentration abilities and monitoring of emotion and mind wandering (Creswell et al., 2016). There is also evidence for mindfulness facilitating decision-making, reward evaluation, and focal endurance (Siddiqui et al., 2008). This study has been designed to assess delay of gratification within two pre-existing groups, to behaviorally validate a recently constructed delay of gratification psychometric, the SOSDOG (Situationally-Oriented Survey of Delay of Gratification). Approximately sixty-one Belmont University students from an introduction to psychology class and a mindfulness class were administered the SOSDOG and Delay of Gratification Inventory (DGI) (Hoerger, Quirk, and Weed, 2011) in counter balanced fashion. Following the battery of questions, all participants were presented with an option of participating in either a five or twelve minute mindfulness meditation with the requirement of staying the full thirty minute session time slot if they chose the five minute option. I expect that the mindfulness class students will score higher on the SOSDOG than introductory psychology students and indicate higher levels of delay of gratification. Furthermore, it is expected that mindfulness class students will also choose the longer meditation practice as a behavioral validation of the SOSDOG.

8:30 p.m.-8:45pm

Mindfulness and Stress Reduction

Matt Williams, Krystal Smith, Lyna Sataypha, Diana Neculea, Sam Zacovic, Ali Miller

Faculty Advisor: R. Mansfield, Ph.D.

Whether it is school or work it can take very little to stress out the average person and leave them in a frustrated state. Our study looks at two alternative ways to reduce stress, and measures which offers the superior relief. One measure is a mindfulness exercise provided by UCLA and the other is the song *Weightless* by Marconi Union which was designed to slow heart rate and relax listeners. The participants are measured using GSR which detects increased saltatory levels on the skin and charts levels of stress. The participants are stressed out using the mathematics portion of a series of stress tests called the Trier Social Stress Test. By measuring the difference between the resting, stressed, and treatment levels on the GSR we predict that the music intervention will provide the most relief to participants. Our study can go on to aid those who want a simple non invasive way to reduce stress in everyday situations.

8:45 p.m.-9:00p.m.

Does the Perceived Color of a Liquid Affect Sweetness Perception?

Katie Bayus, Sally McCabe, Stephane Morin, Eric Patterson

Faculty Advisor: Lonnie Yandell, Ph.D.

Vision plays a large role in how we interpret the world, but how big of an effect can it play on our other senses? The current study will explore the effect of vision on sweetness perception. Based on previous research where it was found that changing the perceived color of food drastically effected the taste of the food (Wheatley, 1973); researchers in this study set out to physically change the color of a set of liquids to see if the intensity of the color would affect the perceived sweetness. Thirty Belmont University students drank from three sets of five cups. Each set had its own flavor and corresponding color i.e. Grape Purple; Cherry Red; Orange Orange. Each series had cups with increasing intensities of color. Both the order in which the sets appeared and the order in which the cups in each set appeared were varied between subjects. During the tasting, participants were asked to fill out a form ranking all cups in each set from least to most sweet. All cups in a set were the same beverage, with changes in the color using minute amounts of food dye. The hypothesis of this study is that the color change alone will affect the perceived level of sweetness. We expect to find data supporting this hypothesis as well as data showing this effect to depend on the flavor or color tested.