Jan 1st, 12:00 AM

17. Psychology

University of Central Oklahoma

05. Mathematics and Science

17. Psychology

05.17.01 Parent Cultural Differences in the Defensive Self-Esteem/Child-Mortality Salience Connection

Jacob, Jardel , Jenel Cavazos

Cameron University

The objective of this research was to analyze the differences between Eastern and Western cultures as pertains to defensive self-esteem and child-mortality salience. The hypothesis was that U.S. parents would display a culturally characteristic individualistic response by increasing self-esteem to deal with the threat of child mortality, whereas Indian parents would display the opposite reaction, a culturally characteristic collectivist response, by decreasing self-esteem after confronted with the threat of child mortality. One-hundred and two parents recruited from Amazon Mechanical Turk completed an online study that included a writing prompt (child mortality salience or child dental pain; Ditzfeld & Cavazos, 2013), followed a series of questionnaires including state mood (PANAS; Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988) and explicit self-esteem (Rosenberg, 1965). Results affirmed the hypothesis, showing the relation between increased self-esteem and thoughts of child mortality, albeit exclusively in parents from the U.S. Parents in the U.S. come to rely on the self when presented with particularly threatening thought of their child's morality, presumably due to the focus within Western culture on finding strength in self, consistent with individualistic norms. In contrast, Indian parents' self-esteem diminishes in response to the threat of child mortality, presumably by the threat of broken relational bonds decreasing feelings of self-worth, consistent with collectivist

05.17.02 Wielding I: Weighing Evidence

Valan, Buccella

University of Central Oklahoma

How do jurors make decisions? Jurors make decisions based on their perceptions of defendants, victims, witnesses, and evidence. Is this all they base their decisions on? I propose to test the hypothesis of embodied cognition, the idea that our bodies, interacting with the world around us, influence our minds, which includes physical weight. I intend to examine how the physical weight juror decision making as they evaluate a defendant. It has been shown that weight conveys importance. Participants will hold either a brick or a feather while they read 25 vignettes, the contents of which lean towards guilt or innocence, of different crimes; then they will make a verdict choice and a confidence rating. Jurors who hold heavy weight are expected to find more of the verdicts that the vignette corresponds to (guilty or not guilty) as well as be more confident in those verdict choices.

05.17.03 Personality and Situational Correlates of False Confessions

Kathryn, Schrantz , Alicia Limke, Mickie Vanhoy

University of Central Oklahoma

False confessions are confessions obtained from innocent suspects and often result in wrongful convictions and imprisonment. Personality correlates, such as the need to belong, unstable self-esteem, and insecure-anxious attachment style may predict false confessions and subsequent internalization. Situational correlates, such as social exclusion and interrogation tactics may also predict false confessions and internalization. This study proposed to examine the effects of these personality and situational correlates on false confessions. Of the 180 participants, 114 (63.3%) falsely confessed. Results indicated that individuals interrogated were more likely to falsely confess than those who were not interrogated. Social exclusion also predicted false confessions, indicating the exclusion increases the risks for falsely confessing. Furthermore, attachment anxiety predicted false confessions as well. Understanding these correlates of false confessions will further society's knowledge of false confessions and in doing so, may help prevent them from occurring and pervading the justice system.

05.17.04 Parenting Styles and the Effects on Personality

Katelyn, James , Dr. Sherril Stone

Northwestern State University

This study was conducted to determine whether the Baumrind parenting styles have different effects on their children's personalities. In this study a total of 75 adults, over the age of 16, were asked to complete the Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI), which measures the fundamental parental styles as they perceived in the first 16 years of their lives. Also, they were asked to complete the Big Five Inventory (BFI), which is a reflection of how they perceive themselves and rate each question on a Likert scale from one to five. Upon graphing the data, results showed that many participants up to the age of 16 lived in a two parent household. Few participants did not complete the PBI father form. The participants have been a mix of adopted and/or had parents that went through a divorce before they reached the age of 16.

05.17.05 Relating Early Television Viewing to Current Aggressive Behaviors: A Retrospective Recall Approach

Jeff, Seger , Richard Potts

Cameron University

The purpose of this study was to extend the lines of existing longitudinal research by using a retrospective recall methodology, developed by Potts, Belden, and Reese (2008) and refined by Potts and Seger (2013), to assess the relationship between early exposure to violent television content and current aggression. Three hundred sixty-one participants completed questionnaires of demographic information, current physical and verbal aggression, and socialization variables. Then, TV program schedules from the years 2000, 2005, and 2010 were presented to participants who indicated how often they watched each program. Programs that contained moderate to high amounts of violent content were identified and participants' ratings of those programs were summed to create TV violence exposure scores. After accounting for gender, parental discipline style, and parental SES, and general television exposure, there was a significant positive relationship between exposure to violent TV content in both 2000 and 2010 and participants' current physical aggression, but not in 2005. There was also a significant relationship between exposure to violent TV content in all three years and participants' current verbal aggression. This study was the first study to use retrospective TV viewing reports to replicate the longitudinal relationships between past exposure to violent TV content and both current physical and verbal aggression seen in past literature.

05.17.06 The Moderating Role of Actual-Desired Discrepancies in Priming Effects.

J. Adam, Randell , Darcy Reich

Cameron University

When primed information is attributed to the self, self-perceptions and behavior can be assimilated to that information. (Loersch & Payne, 2011). Discrepancies between one's desired and actual self-concepts along the primed dimension can moderate priming effects (Morrison, DeMarree, Wheeler, & Petty, 2010 as cited by Smeesters, Wheeler, & Kay, 2010). We examined how actual-ought and actual-ideal discrepancies moderate the effect of a frugality prime on purchasing preferences. One hundred eighty participants completed the experiment online with Qualtrics software and were recruited via the mTurk website. Results show that purchasing preferences were assimilated to the frugality prime when discrepancies were high, but the frugality prime had no effect on purchasing preferences when discrepancies were low. These results indicate that primed information is more influential when participants are discrepant from their desired standards along the primed dimension. Implications for consumer decisions and the role of regulatory focus in priming effects are discussed.

05.17.07 Temperature Perception and the Experience of Envy

Kristofer, Thompson , Robert Mather

University of Central Oklahoma

The implementation of physical temperature as a coping strategy is based in the physical discomfort that particular emotions arouse. Social environments often induce such emotions, consequently influencing perceptions of physical temperature. Envy is a common emotional response that can impede relationships and cognitive processes. Evidence supports the division of this emotion into two discrete forms, termed benign and malicious envy. While malicious envy parallels the classical conceptualization of envy proper, benign envy is of a considerably less antagonistic nature. In the current study, participants who recalled experiences of benign envy reported higher room temperatures on average than those who recalled experiences of malicious envy, consistent with previous research demonstrating that experiences of malicious envy are associated with cold feelings toward the envied individual. The feeling of "cold" in this context is presumed to be metaphorical, but links have been made between metaphors involving temperature-related words and feelings of physical temperature. Benign envy may therefore feel less physically cold as the result of interpersonal, emotional warmth with the envied individual.

05.17.08 Ethnic and American Identity as Predictors for Self-Esteem Across Ethnicities

Alicia, Woodrum , Kelin Stratton, Rachel Clinton

Northeastern State University

Phinney, Cantu, and Kurtz (1996) analyzed ethnic and American identity as predictors for self-esteem in White, African-American, and Latino adolescents. Findings revealed that in all three groups, ethnic identity was a significant predictor of self-esteem. The current study seeks to replicate the original study with an extension of the addition of a Native American sample, an often overlooked segment of the population. Participants responded to the Rosenberg (1965) self-esteem scale, Phinney's (1992) multigroup ethnic identity measure, a single question identifying how strongly they consider themselves Americans, and demographic questions through an online survey. Preliminary multiple regression results indicate that when data is analyzed across all ethnic groups, ethnic and American identity significantly predict self-esteem. These preliminary results also indicate differences between the groups. Our results fail to replicate the findings of Phinney et al. (1996) that found ethnic and American identity significantly predict self-esteem in Caucasian participants. Our results also demonstrate a new finding, that ethnic and American identity significantly predicts self-esteem in Native Americans. Implications of the data provide insight into potential negative effects on self-esteem as tribal cultures weaken.

05.17.09 The Practice of Mindfulness

Son, Park

Cameron University

Many people live their life in the past or worry about the future. The major problem of having fears can lead to increased anxiety and stress, which is harmful to one's health. Mindfulness training has been used for thousands of years for people's physical and mental health. Practicing mindfulness began in Asia as part of Buddhist religion over 2,500 years ago. Today, practicing mindfulness is utilized in medical treatment throughout Western countries. The objective of this research is to discuss how mindfulness training can be an important tool. The hypothesis of this research is that practicing mindfulness can help one improve both mental and physical health such as treating eating disorder, increasing concentration and relieving stress and anxiety. In the primary research, the researcher surveyed students in the Multimedia Department at Cameron University to measure the different degree of the awareness of participants with and without mindfulness training. An interview with the psychologist also helped to provided details on benefits of mindfulness training for everyday life. The Cameron library database further supplied secondary research to support the benefits of mindfulness training. This research shows that practicing mindfulness can have lasting benefits to one's mental and physical well-being. By practicing mindfulness, one can have a greater awareness of present moment and get help in treating eating disorders, increasing attention and relieving stress.

05.17.10 A Replication, Evaluation, and Criticism of Unconscious Thought Theory

Keia, Atkinson , Robert Mather

University of Central Oklahoma

Unconscious Thought Theory (UTT) was developed as a novel take on complex decision-making that aligned with folk wisdom advising people to "sleep on it" when tasked with an important choice (Dijksterhuis & Nordgren, 2006). Following the publication of the original work, a number of replications and nonreplications have been published attempting to pin down the phenomena, with varying degrees of success. In the current study… To correct methodological shortcomings in other work, participants rated the importance of a number of attributes that were then attached to a number of choice alternatives. Results to be presented.

05.17.11 Intelligence and Religiosity: Clearing the Muddy Waters

Kathryn, Schrantz , Alisa Huskey, Caleb Lack

University of Central Oklahoma

The current study aimed to address the relationship between religiosity and intelligence. Undergraduates were given an intelligence test and then completed measures of general religiosity and religious fundamentalism. It was predicted that there would be no relationship between intelligence and religiosity once religious fundamentalism was controlled for. Mean verbal IQ was 105.46 (SD = 13.51), mean performance IQ was 99.46 (SD = 14.41), and mean full-scale IQ was 102.82 (SD = 13.12). A multiple hierarchical regression was performed with full-scale IQ as the criterion. On Step 1, religious fundamentalism (M = 63.89, SD = 25.34) was entered as the only predictor, R^2 = .25, $F_{(1, 26)}$ = 8.54, p = .007. Religious fundamentalism significantly predicted full-scale IQ, such that as religious fundamentalism increased, IQ decreased, β = -.50, p = .007. On Step 2, strength of religious faith was entered. The overall model was significant, R^2 = .25, $F_{(2, 25)}$ = 4.20, p = .027, but strength of religious faith did not predict IQ, β = -.11, p = .72, R^2 change = .004. These results indicate that although religious fundamentalism negatively predicts intelligence, overall religiosity and intelligence have no significant relationship.

05.17.12 Pet Ownership and Personality Type

Concetta, Cline

Northwestern State University

Studies have shown that people choose the type of pet they will own (cat or dog) based on several reasons. Personality may influence what type of pet a person will choose. The current study examines the correlation between human personality Type A or B and pet preference (cat or dog). Results suggest that there is no correlation between pet preference and personality type. Discussion focuses on limitations and future direction for research.

05.17.13 Perception of Management: The Effects of Management on Employee Actions

Joey, Smith , Steven Byers

Northeastern State University

There are multiple reasons why a person may want to leave their current job. One of the issues that can be quickly identified is a problem with one's immediate supervisor. Some employees, like those with previous management experience, will understand the importance of management on their intentions to remain at a job or leave, but others may not. What associated variables can be found that are significant in someone not understanding the importance of positive social interactions and quality leadership in the workplace? In this study, a wide range of issues are analyzed in searching for significant connections to this issue; including ethnicity, previous work experience, and familial history. It is invaluable for society to have a clear understanding of this issue; this allows a connection between outside reasons for one's dissatisfaction with work and their decision to leave their current job. By knowing why someone does not understand the work environment and why they are dissatisfied allows positive changes to be made in the workplace. This presentation will provide an overview of data outcomes from northeast Oklahoma employees and their related job satisfaction.

05.17.14 Empathy and Law, Cross Study on How the Emotional Display and Gender of the Accused Can Effect Jury Verdict Decisions

Cody, Soden

East Central University

Empathy effects everything, how jurors perceive specific aspects of the court case may alter the decision making process. An experimental study among 400 college students from East Central University (ECU) aged (18+) and diverse of sex, ethnicity and/or racial groups. The research team studied participants' ideas and concerns regarding the defendant or the accused's emotional display as given in a court situation. The participants were presented with a copy of the typed manuscript from the court case. Each answer was taken down into as a Lichard scale response; seven possible responses were recorded: ranging from extremely agree, neutral, and extremely disagree. The research is currently ongoing and results are definitely expected. We expect to gather significant data on the subject. A pilot study was done with 60 participants and a significant t-score was recorded. We found so far that emotional display of the defendant does have a significant effect on jury making decisions. This study proves that there are multiple factors that affect jury making decision. Most of the research thus far has been done on the victim and how their emotional display effects the juries decisions. Similar to alcohol intoxication and its effect on juries, we can never truly know the impact of extralegal factors on the jury until we delve into every aspect of what the juror perceives.

05.17.15 Artificial Versus Real Animals in Nursing Homes

Ally, McBee

Northwestern State University

Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) is the use of animals as a therapeutic adjunct. AAT was first used at the York Retreat in 1792 by William Tuke. AAT was first suggested in the United States in 1919. Organizations such as Pet Partners train service animals to help people with disabilities gain a sense of independence. One-on-one AAT has been found to be effective on long-term care facility (LTCF) residents suffering from loneliness. Although AAT seems to be successful in LTCF, some staff and residents are still reluctant because of the possibility of zoonosis, injuries, and falls that animals could cause. Multiple studies have been conducted to determine whether robotic animals would make a suitable substitute for live animals. Based on these findings the current study examined the hypothesis that interactions with live pets will result in better moods in nursing home residents than interactions with artificial pets. Thirty residents received three visits each: 1) with the visitor alone, 2) with the visitor and a live cat, and 3) with the visitor and a robotic cat. After each visit, the resident was asked to complete the Brief Mood Introspection Scale (BMIS).

05.17.16 Wedded Bliss: Dual Incomes and Shared Finances

Amanda, Swope , April Phillips

Northeastern State University

This study looks at the relationship between joint or separate financial arrangements and relationship satisfaction. Unlike previous research this study focused exclusively on dual-income couples. It was predicted that among dual-income relationships, couples that use a shared financial management system will have higher levels of relationship satisfaction and trust. Furthermore, women earning income from full time employment should show higher levels of relationship satisfaction than those working part time or earning benefits. The survey study included 46 participants involved in dual income relationships (39 females and 7 males). Of these participants, 27 were co-cohabiting and 19 were married; 14 participants reported that they kept their money completely separate while 32 indicated that they pooled at least some of their money. The study was conducted using the "Family and Changing Gender Roles IV" scale (ISSP Research Group, 2012) and the Rusbult Investment Scale (Rusbult, 1998). The level of trust was measured with a 10 point Likert scale. Levels of trust for couples in this study showed an average of 8.61 (SD=1.66); with the average level of relationship satisfaction being 6.35 (SD=1.56). Results for this study did not support either hypothesis, showing no significant relationship between financial management systems and relationship satisfaction or trust. There was also no connection found between employment status for women and relationship satisfaction.

05.17.17 School Satisfaction, Global Functioning, and the Parent-Child Relationship.

James, Haws , Julie Owens, Veronika Karpenko

University of Central Oklahoma

Abstract Objectives. Academic performance in adolescents has been extensively researched (Su, Li, Lin, Xu, & Zhu, 2012). Little research has been done on adolescent's school satisfaction (Suldo, Riley, & Shaffer, 2006). The present study examined the relationship between school satisfaction and emotional problems, global functioning, and parent-child relationship. Hypotheses. Increased emotional problems, difficulties in parent-child relationship, lower family functioning, and global functional impairment will be related to lower school satisfaction. Methodology. 165 teenage clients (55% female) between the ages of 12 and 18 (M= 14.20, SD= 1.70) sought counseling services in two midwestern community mental health centers. At the beginning of therapy adolescents completed Multidimensional Student's Live Satisfaction Scale: Family and School Satisfaction Subscales Inventory of Parent Attachment. Parents completed Index of Parental Attitudes and Impairment Rating Scale. Parents and adolescents rated Ohio Scales: Problem Severity and Functioning subscales. Summary. Correlational analyses show that there was not significant relationship between school satisfaction and emotional problems, parent-child relationship, and family functioning. Higher levels of global functioning (as rated by parent and youth) were significantly related to higher satisfaction with school (r=.18, p=.03; r=.27, p=.001, respectively).

05.17.18 The Mirror Neuron System and Empathy

Jennifer, Hancock , Deon Hall, Justin Durham, Robert Mather

University of Central Oklahoma

Demonstrating empathy and perceiving the intent of others is necessary for interpersonal relationships and communication, making empathy a primary function of social interaction. The automatic process of empathy and imitation provides an effortless ability for individuals to understand the mental states of others. Mirroring, a typical behavior of social interaction, is a basic learning function of the human brain and relies on intricate neural networks including the mirror neuron system. Research connects the mirror neuron system, which is activated during the mirroring process, to the complex mechanisms involving interpersonal social expression including empathy and imitation. Mirror neurons activate during action recognition and execution, but studies have demonstrated the coding process possibly varies depending on perceived intent. The purpose of this project is to determine if empathy activates the mirror neuron system. The expected outcome is that empathy, measured by the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire and Short Dark Triad scale, will be positively associated with mirror neuron activation, measured by EEG recording. A lack of empathy has potential for pervasive ramifications concerning social interaction. Further implications could lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the link between mirror neurons, empathy, and an examination of dysfunction consequences and reduced emotion recognition.

05.17.19 Oxytocin as a Mitigator of Aggression

Stephanie, Menotti , Amelia Brewer, Lindsey Osterman

University of Central Oklahoma

Oxytocin is widely implicated in mammalian prosociality (e.g., cooperation, bonding, trust). We examined whether oxytocin might also mitigate aggression. We hypothesized that experimentally increasing oxytocin would decrease both the salience of aggressive words and retaliatory aggression. Participants first viewed either an oxytocin-inducing or control video, and then completed a frustrating "math task," which had ostensibly been made unreasonably difficult by a "partner." Then, they completed 100 word stems, some of which could have been completed with aggressive words (e.g., sm_ck, s_ash). Finally, participants were given an opportunity to aggress by setting the difficulty level of their partner's "math task." Participants in the oxytocin group completed fewer word stems aggressively ($F[2,98] = 26.01$, $p < .001$) and were less retaliatory ($F[2,98] = 3.82$, $p = .025$) compared to the control group. These results extend past research by suggesting that oxytocin regulates interpersonal behavior via antisocial channels as well as prosocial ones.

05.17.20 Effect of Exposure to Profanity on use of Profanity in Live Environments

Christopher, Stevens , Stephen Burgess

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Introduction There are over 48 million X-Box Live and Play Station 100 accounts. Profanity is common in Live games. Exposure to profanity has been shown to increase aggressive thoughts, expectations, and feelings (Ivory & Kaestle, 2013). There has been little examination of the effect of profanity in this primarily unregulated environment. We conducted a naturalistic experiment where profanity and sex of player were manipulated to measure the effect of these variables on the profanity use of other players in the Live environment. Method 160 X-Box Live first person shooter games (e.g., Halo, Call of Duty) were played and recorded. Once in the game the researcher activated a recorded script which varied in profanity content (contained profanity, did not contain profanity) and the sex of the speaker (female or male). The game was audio recorded for later transcription and analysis. Results There was a significant main effect for profanity present in the recording such that when the recorded voice used profanity there were more games in which the other players used profanity. There was a significant main effect of sex of speaker such that when the recorded male voice was used there were more games in which the other players used profanity. Conclusions This study represents the first known report of the effect of sex of talker and presence of profanity on the profanity used by players in the Live video game environment.

05.17.21 Community Service Through Service-Learning Through Service-Learning Assessment

Barbara, Arnold

University of Central Oklahoma

The purpose or objective of this study was to assess the perceived self-efficacy of future participation in civic engagement, in particular community service in undergraduate nursing students after completion of a service-learning based course. The results of the survey will assist in curriculum design / development and provide feedback to support the Central Six as well as the transformative learning platform. The study hypothesized that service-learning will have a positive effect on the students' self-efficacy for community service after completion of the newly developed course. The study was descriptive quantitative, non-experimental design utilizing the survey methodology. Results are pending. A request that the study would be approved by the IRB for a longitudinal assessment is in process.

05.17.22 Primary Motor Cortex Stimulation Affects Visual Guidance and Attention Systems

Thomas, Taylor

University of Central Oklahoma

The position of someone's hands relative to a visible object may facilitate the perception of that object, possibly because objects near hands are like to be important. Although other research has described the effects of having hands visible or occluded on response time and accuracy in a dual haptic-visual task, no analysis has been made of the finer-grained structure of performance. Participants completed 1200 trials of the dual task in which they maintained a steady pattern of right-hand motion whilst simultaneously identifying letters presented on a computer monitor positioned above the desk via an articulating monitor arm such that participants' hands were either occluded or visible (between-participants). Responses on the visual task were recorded from the left hand. The visual task included a reticle that remained visible at the center of the screen while stimuli briefly appeared on the left or the right side of the reticle before being replaced with a mask. The staircase procedure was applied as needed to maintain a 75% detection rate. The data from the haptic task were analyzed with the procedure Wavelet Transform Modulus Maxima. WTMM is a way to measure the fractal dimension of a time series. It uses continuous wavelet transforms to detect singularities (undefined areas in the time series) and from that transformed data, estimates the multifractal spectrum, a measure of task complexity.

05.17.23 Sibling Influence on an Individual's Autonomy in 1st, 1.5, and 2nd Generation Keralities Compared to European Americans.

Eunice, Melakayil

University of Central Oklahoma

Family structures within European Americans differ from those found in East Asian Indian families, in which European American families are usually nuclear, egalitarian, and individualistic. For Indians, with collective values, the concepts of privacy, personal space, and individualism are diametrically opposed to that of European Americans. Indian families promote interdependence in which most, if not all, decisions are made by the family as a whole. Many Indian immigrants struggle to reconcile the opposing values of their Indian culture with that of their host country. Generally, the younger immigrants, specifically the 1.5 and 2nd generation immigrants, want to be independent as they become more assimilated into the culture of their host country, but they do not at the same time want to disappoint their families. However, the older immigrants from the 1st generation usually cling tightly to their Indian values and fear the impact the host country's culture will have on their family structure. In any family, one of the most significant relationships is the sibling relationship. The sibling relationship provides qualities that promote the development of an individual's pro-social behaviors such as helping, sharing, and displaying empathy. However, very little research has been done to examine how much influence siblings have on one and another; specifically concerning the development of an individual's autonomy. The goal of the current study is to e

05.17.24 Mirror Neurons: A Potential key to Unlocking Child Behavior

Karie, Cragg

Northeastern State University

OBJECTIVE & METHODOLOGY: This study examines and critiques past research findings to suggest potential considerations for future research on cognitive development in children, and explores how a closer look at the mirror neuron system (MNS) could help us to understand why children are so inevitably affected by those they spend the most time observing. THESIS: This poster examines how children's malleable brains may physically adapt to what they are consistently exposed to over prolonged periods of time, such as violent or precarious behaviors from those they view most often. Children learn best through visually observing others. The reason for this "monkey see, monkey do" influence may be due to a network of mirror-like neurons in the brain. These "mirror neurons" are activated by viewing others performing motor tasks (Rizzolatti, et al., 1996). The more familiarity one has with an observed task, (e.g. dancing, playing a sport, or physical aggression toward others) the stronger the mirror neuron activity in one's brain during observation (Calvo-Merino et al., 2005). SUMMARY: When a particular set of neurons becomes accustomed to mirroring particular behaviors, both our brain structure and our behavior is affected (Del Giudice, Manera, & Keysers, 2009). The MNS may help us to decode the complexities of child behavior. Future considerations for MNS research in children will be discussed.

05.17.25 The Influence of a Biological Explanation of Psychopathy in the Courtroom

Sean, McMillan

University of Central Oklahoma

This is an altered replication of Aspinwall, Brown, and Tabery (2012). They found that judges gave shorter sentences to a psychopathic defendant after receiving a biological explanation of psychopathy. This project's purpose is to see how a biological explanation and brain scan imaging of psychopathy can influence a juror's verdict. Fifty UCO general psychology students will read a hypothetical law case involving a psychopathic defendant and then fill out questionnaires. Questionnaires will measure psychopathy (a psychopathic juror may be more lenient to the defendant) and ask what their sentencing would be, why they chose it, and what factored into it. In the control condition, participants will only read testimony that discusses the defendant's psychopathy diagnosis. In one experimental condition, jurors will read testimony on the diagnosis and on a biological explanation of psychopathy. In another experimental condition, participants will read testimony on a diagnosis, view brain scans of a normal brain and the defendant's brain, and read testimony explaining the scans' biological differences. It is expected that jurors will provide shorter sentences for a defendant when given testimony on a psychopathy diagnosis as well as a biological explanation for it. It is predicted that the brain scans combined with the diagnosis and biological explanation will result in the shortest sentences of all. This is currently a proposal project.

05.17.26 Sleep and Dreams

Brooke, Beckner

Northwestern State University

05.17.27 Extending the Self-Esteem/Child-Mortality Salience Connection to Parental Status and Sex

Leanne, Perales , Jenel Cavazos

Cameron University

In Western cultures, when confronted with child mortality, parents display an increase in negative mood and defensive self-esteem (Ditzfeld & Cavazos, 2013). Are the same effects present in reactions to mortality of a child in general, reactions of non-parents, and do they differ between genders? It was hypothesized that parents would react more negatively than non-parents to the threat of child mortality regardless of if the child is theirs. Also, that males would react to child death with equally intense negative moods as females. Participants in this study were randomly assigned a Prompt (mortality salience or dental pain) and Target (general child or their own child) and asked to complete a questionnaire with a writing prompt. Upon completion, they rated their state negative mood and explicit self-esteem. Results found parents' moods more negative than non-parents' after child mortality than after dental pain. Non-parents' mood did not differ between either condition. Self-esteem was higher after child mortality salience than child dental pain and parents showed higher self-esteem than non-parents across all conditions. Analyses showed no evidence of gender differences in regard to negative mood and self-esteem. The study found that while non-parents did not experience the same level of negative mood, they did report the same basic defensive self-esteem effect as parents. Also, whether or not the child was considered their own had no distinguishing influence on reactions.