

2022 Northern Lights Conference

Poster Presentations

1. **Poster Title:** Reducing the Zero-Sum Perspective of Gender Status: Preliminary Findings.

Authors: Abigail Kroke, Joelle Ruthig, Cody Combs; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract.

Gender equality has broad societal benefits, yet research shows continued evidence of gender-related biases and barriers to equality. One barrier is the Zero-Sum Perspective of gender status: belief that women's gains directly correspond with costs to men. This study explored whether this perspective could be decreased with an educational intervention. A sample of 54 adults from the United States participated in an online study and were exposed to a threat to the gender status-quo via a fictitious news article. Following the threat participants were randomly assigned to an educational intervention or control condition and completed measures of the ZSP. Results indicated a significant effect of the educational intervention on the ZSP of gender status. These findings have implications for addressing a potential barrier to gender equality.

2. **Poster Title:** Decentering from Distress in the moment: A brief randomized control trial.

Authors: Sheila Hanson, Thomas Petros, John-Paul Legerski, and Sarah Hammond; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract.

The utility of mindfulness techniques to regulate emotion and increase distress tolerance is an area of expanding research interest. A mechanism of mindfulness believed to exert therapeutic influence--decentering--is the realization that thoughts, feelings, and reactions are transitory patterns of mental activity. Existing research indicates that decentering may occur through brief mindfulness interventions. Most of the studies of brief mindfulness induce state mindfulness prior to a task to study the influence on dependent variables, such as cognitive or emotional outcomes after mindfulness. The study is novel and fills a gap in the literature regarding the utility of inducing state mindfulness both before and after a distressing task on state mindfulness, subjective distress, positive, and negative affect.

Undergraduate student participants were randomly assigned either to a control group or one of three intervention groups: (1) preventive mindfulness before a laboratory distress task (2) recovery mindfulness after the distress task; or (3) prevention mindfulness before and recovery mindfulness after the distress task. The distress task was a neuropsychological test, the Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task (PASAT). This challenging task typically is used to assess attentional processing, immediate memory, and attention; however, in the current study it was utilized as a laboratory stressor.

Overall results indicated that preventative mindfulness resulted in higher state mindfulness and less subjective distress, but no differences in negative or positive affect when compared to a control group. Recovery mindfulness resulted in higher state mindfulness, higher positive affect and less subjective distress but not lower negative affect when compared to a control group. The cumulative effect of preventive and recovery mindfulness resulted in higher state mindfulness, higher positive affect and less subjective distress but not lower negative affect when compared to a control group. Further, the results of a series of mixed model ANOVAs of time x group are also reported for the same outcome measures. These results are discussed in view of clinical implications. Finally, limitations and directions for future research are discussed.

3. **Poster Title:** Belief in a Dangerous World as a Predictor of Prejudice Towards Asian Americans

Authors: Mary Hamilton and Heather Terrell; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract:

A socio-functional threat-based approach to prejudice offers a more textured understanding of prejudice, where different types of threats can elicit specific emotional profiles. Research suggests those who hold chronic beliefs the world is a dangerous place are more likely to report increased feelings of prejudice towards groups stereotypically associated with safety threats. The COVID-19 pandemic upended everyday life, and economic and pathogenic threats were evident. Associations between COVID-19 and China, increased prejudice towards Asian Americans. The current study tested whether people high in Belief in a Dangerous World (BDW) showed less feelings of warmth and more social distance towards Asian American men compared to Asian American women, a man, and a woman. Results indicated no interaction between BDW, race, and gender when measuring feelings of warmth or social distance. A main effect for BDW indicated those with moderate BDW showed the least warmth towards others regardless of race or gender.

4. **Poster Title:** The Impact of Fake-Bad and Fake-Good Responding on the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, Fourth Edition (MCMI-IV)

Authors: Michael Jowkar, Joseph Miller, Thomas Petros, Nerissa Dolney, Ellei Burmeister, & Alexa Hutson; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract:

The MCMI-IV is a personality scale that attempts to measure psychopathology as well as normal personality functioning. The MCMI-IV has a number of validity scales designed to measure over-reporting and under-reporting of psychological symptoms. Studies on previous versions of the test suggest elevations on the validity scale Y in clients who are under-reporting symptoms. Previous research also suggests elevations on the validity scale X and Z in clients who are over-reporting symptoms. This study analyzed differences in validity scales when participants were instructed to over-report and under-report symptoms when compared to honest respondents. It was hypothesized under-reporters would score high on scale Y, while over-reporters would score high on scales X with a low scale Y and Z. The results were consistent with the hypothesis.

5. **Poster Title:** MCMI-IV: What's the Norm?

Authors: Jenna Wolff & Heather Terrell, PhD; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract:

The Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, 4th edition (MCMI-IV; Millon et al., 2015) is a reliable and valid personality assessment based on Theodore Millon's biosocial learning theory of personality. Millon's theory evolved to include 15 personality constructs that vary in adaptive and maladaptive response patterns. As part of a broader project, a sample of 196 adults in the United States completed the MCMI-IV for future research evaluating a variety of variables associated with Millon's theory and MCMI-IV personality scale scores. These results provide an overview of the base rates of different personality types that were observed in this sample.

6. **Poster Title:** Self-reported Strengths of Histrionic Personality

Authors: Evelyn Westrem, Jenna Wolff, & Heather Terrell, PhD, University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract:

Theodore Millon's biosocial learning theory of personality led to the creation of the personality assessment, the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, 4th edition (MCMI-IV; Millon et al., 2015). The assessment evaluates 15 different personality constructs, one of which is histrionic personality. Individuals who have histrionic personality traits typically report being extroverted, charming, theatrical, and impulsive (Millon et al., 2015). Others may perceive histrionic personality as egocentric, attention-seeking, and dependent on others for validation (Groth-Marnat, 2016). As part of a broader study, this poster evaluates how participants who elevate the histrionic scale on the MCMI-IV rate their own strengths.

7. **Poster Title:** Histrionic Personality Types & Childhood Adversity

Authors: Evelyn Westrem, Jenna Wolff, & Heather Terrell, PhD; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract:

Theodore Millon's biosocial learning theory of personality led to the creation of the personality assessment, the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, 4th edition (MCMI-IV; Millon et al., 2015). The assessment evaluates 15 different personality constructs, one of which is histrionic personality. Individuals who have histrionic personality traits typically report being extroverted, charming, theatrical, and impulsive (Millon et al., 2015). Others may perceive histrionic personality as egocentric, attention-seeking, and dependent on others for validation (Groth-Marnat, 2016). In his book *Disorders of Personality* (2011), Millon presents hypotheses about etiology and development of each personality type, including adversity in childhood. As part of a broader study, 196 participants completed the MCMI-IV and a survey assessing various types of trauma, abuse, and adversities in childhood. This poster reports the childhood experiences endorsed by individuals who elevated the MCMI-IV histrionic personality scale.

8. **Poster Title:** Acceptability of Peer Delivered Trauma Treatments Among Indigenous College Students

Authors: Savannah Pomani, Lisa Wilson, and RaeAnn Anderson; University of North Dakota.

Poster Abstract:

Approximately 80% of Indigenous people experience sexual assault, violence, and rape. Little is known about sexual violence intervention programs for Indigenous People, and current interventions do not meet or fit the needs of Indigenous People. 400 Indigenous college students, mean age 24.58 years (SD = 4.68), 77.7% women, 18.8% men, 7.6% two-spirit or trans were surveyed for a study on self-defense between January to August 2021. Survey measures included screening for PTSD symptoms (PC-PTSD), sexual abuse, and MMIW questions. Among these, 221 students were randomly selected for another questionnaire regarding trauma therapies. Overall, 63% of our sample reported both childhood and adult sexual abuse. 50% screened positive for PTSD. Nearly half reported someone they knew as missing or murdered. Participants' perceptions of narrative exposure therapy and written exposure therapy were positive. Lastly, no differences were found in how positively or negatively students rated trauma treatments based on PTSD status. Indigenous voices in sexual violence research are imperative to contribute and develop culturally adapted and modified sexual violence programs for Indigenous people.

9. **Poster Title:** Remembering That Nose Will Not Be Enough: Featural Justification Impact on Mock Juror Judgments

Authors: Mary Cops, Emily Haynes, James Owens, Kaden Bollinger, Madison Adrian, Lauren Stornelli, Mariah Sorby and Andre Kehn; University of North Dakota.

Poster Abstract

The featural justification effect occurs when jurors discredit the confidence of eyewitnesses who provide a statement at identification referencing a facial feature of a suspect (Dodson & Dobolyi, 2015). The current study expands on previous work that replicated the featural justification effect and found a main effect of eyewitness viewing condition on verdict. The current study examined the featural justification effect, eyewitness viewing conditions, and if jury instructions would sensitize jurors to eyewitness factors, and specifically the featural justification effect. Results replicated the main effects of eyewitness viewing conditions and the featural justification effect. Jury instructions did not significantly reduce the featural justification effect. Implications will be discussed.

10. **Poster Title:** Precarious Gender Roles: Perceptions of Masculinity and Femininity

Authors: Adelyn Emter, Jaxon Erie, Elise Ramberg, and Dr. Heather Terrell; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract

Vandello and colleagues (2008) described manhood as both elusive and tenuous, unlike womanhood. Inspired by these authors, we conceptually replicated the study and took a modernistic approach

compared to the previous study, focusing on earned masculinity and femininity rather than manhood and womanhood. We hypothesized that overall participants would view masculinity as more difficult to achieve than femininity. Additionally, we predicted that men would view masculinity as harder to earn and women would view femininity as harder to earn. A mixed 2 x 2 design with a between-groups variable of participant gender and a within-groups variable of the gender statements was used. A sample size of 140 participants (N = 140) was used. Participants stated their agreement with all the statements, using a Likert scale. From there, data was divided between participant gender. Our hypotheses were partially supported. The results provided a significant main effect for the gender of statements as well as an interaction. Further, demonstrating that the level of agreement that masculinity needs to be earned depends on the gender. Our results can imply that masculinity is idealized in society unlike femininity, which is less valued.

11. Poster Title: Perception of Parental Love as a Predictor of Children's Life Satisfaction

Authors: Kaitlyn Kidder, Alan R. King; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract:

Love is a fundamental part of psychological well-adjustment, but a gap in the literature exists surrounding how perceptions being loved during childhood can contribute to life satisfaction and psychological adjustment. This study aims to fill that gap by examining the impact of feeling loved by biological parents and grandparents on psychological well-being and adjustment factors later in life. 1,189 college-aged participants volunteered for the study and were recruited online via SONA. We constructed a Likert-style rating scale to measure individuals' level of perceived love (LUV) and its contribution to various adjustment indicators. Linear regression models and bivariate correlations were calculated for the predictor and maladjustment indicators. Results showed that LUV significantly predicted life satisfaction in both males and females. LUV was also a significant predictor for depression, anxiety, anger, and conduct disturbance. These results suggest that perceived love could be an important resilience factor for psychological adjustment later in life.

12. Poster Title: Changes Over Time in Support for the Defund the Police Movement

Authors: Kaden Bollinger, Mariah Sorby, Lauren Stornelli, Mary Cops, Madison Adrian, Emily Haynes, James Owens, Andre Kehn – University of North Dakota

Abstract

Research suggests support for social movements tends to change over time. Further, support for law enforcement reform is predicted by demographic characteristics. However, there is little research examining how perceptions of the Defund the Police (DTP) movement have changed over time. The purpose of the current study was to investigate how support for DTP has changed from 2020 to 2022 and the factors that may explain those differences. Over this two year period, undergraduate and crowdsourced participants (N = 752) were asked to complete several scales and questionnaires via Qualtrics. Results indicate people in 2022 support DTP less than in 2020/2021. However, this difference may be a result of demographic differences in the samples. Additionally, there are significant demographic differences in support for the

movement in non-Republicans, but not Republicans. Limitations and future directions are discussed.

13. **Poster Title:** Progressive Gradient Expansion under Different Testing Ranges

Authors: Christopher C. Veenstra

Abstract

Stimulus generalization is when a response that participants have learned to make with one stimulus also occurs with other, similar stimuli. Past research has shown that generalization may increase when participants are tested with a wider range of stimulus values. We reexamined this phenomenon with 192 undergraduates. Throughout the procedure, participants were presented with sets of parallel bars and asked to mentally sum their lengths. At first, participants were trained to select sets of bars that summed to a target length, and not to select sets of bars that summed to another, shorter length. Participants were then tested with novel sets of bars that summed to a variety of lengths. In line with past research, more stimulus generalization was observed when the test stimuli included a relatively wide range of summated lengths. An unexpected finding was that this effect emerged after as few as two test trials.

14. **Poster Title:** Parental Telemental Health Satisfaction During COVID-19

Authors: Desiree Giesen, Alexa Hutson, John-Paul Legerski; University of North Dakota

Poster Abstract

The outbreak of Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) rapidly became a global pandemic in early 2020, forcing social distancing safety precautions to be implemented. Most mental health services across the United States shifted from traditional in-person services to telemental health in order to safely treat their clients. Participants were twelve parents whose children had experienced telehealth services. Using a Grounded Theory theoretical framework, participants were interviewed using a semi-structured format regarding their telehealth experience. Themes emerged from their coded responses and were organized into three categories: *COVID-19 Impact on Mental Health*, *Elements of Telehealth*, and *Parental Satisfaction and Preference*. Recommendations based off the participants' responses are provided for clinicians using telehealth based off the participant's responses.