Event Information

- Program talks are 15 minutes, followed by a 5 minute Q&A session.
- Abstract catalogue is organized by presenter last name.
- Awards presentation by 1pm for ALCOR Graduate Fellowships, Davida Teller Distinguished Faculty Award, Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Teaching Award for Graduate Students, Graduate Student Service Award, and Hunt Endowed Fellowship.
- Refreshments and light fare will be provided.
- GPSS-Sponsored boating event for all psychology graduate students, 2:30pm.

Hosted by the Psychology Department at the Waterfront Activities Center.

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Wednesday, May 29, 2013
Room A Schedule of Speakers
Moderator: Session 1, Wendy Stone
          Session 2, William George
          Session 3, Mary Larimer

8:30 — 9:00am
Morning Coffee Service

Session 1
8:40am: No Talk Scheduled
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9:20am: Erika Ruberry, Child Clinical ..........................13
9:40am: Colleen Harker, Child Clinical ............................7

10 — 10:10am
Mid-Morning Coffee Service

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10:30am: Jennifer Staples, Adult Clinical ...........................14
10:50am: Danielle R. Eakins, Adult Clinical ....................5

11:10 — 11:20am
Late-Morning Coffee Service

Session 3
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11:40am: Helen Valenstein, Adult Clinical ......................15
12pm: Haley A. Carroll Douglas, Adult Clinical ...............4

12:20 — 1:30pm
Celebration Reception and Awards

2 — 3:30pm
Psychology Undergraduate Honors Poster Session

2:30pm
Psych Grads: We’re on a Boat!
All Psychology Graduate Students are invited to enjoy an afternoon on the
Bay, rentals sponsored by GPSS.

Room B Schedule of Speakers
Moderator: Session 1, Chantel Prat
          Session 2, Anthony Greenwald
          Session 3, Betty Repacholi

8:30 — 8:40am
Morning Coffee Service

Session 1
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9:00am: Kelsey McCune, Animal Behavior ............................11
9:20am: Joris Vincent, Cognition & Perception ....................16
9:40am: Brianna Yamasaki, Cognition & Perception ................17

10 — 10:10am
Mid-Morning Coffee Service

Session 2
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10:30am: Vasundhara Sridharan, Social Psychology & Personality 14
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11:10 — 11:20am
Late-Morning Coffee Service

Session 3
11:20am: Arianne Eason, Social Psychology & Personality 6
11:40am: Theresa Hennings, Developmental 9
12pm: Sujean Oh, Behavioral Neuroscience 12

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Choosing Between the Family and the Self: The Psychological Consequences of Holding Incongruent Cultural Values
Abstract by Karen Chang, Social Psychology & Personality Advisor: Yuichi Shoda

Individualism, autonomy, and freedom of choice emphasized in U.S. culture, and filial piety and family obligation emphasized in East Asian cultures, may collide in Asian Americans who grow up internalizing both sets of values. In this study, situations pitting American cultural values against Asian cultural values were presented to 141 European American and Asian American participants. Compared to European Americans, while they felt just as bad going against the self, Asian Americans felt worse going against the family. Furthermore, Asian Americans reported that these conflicts were in fact more relevant to them. The results begin to explore the psychological challenges of having a bicultural identity, and may partially account for the greater psychological distress reported by the American children of Asian immigrants.

Does Mindfulness Mediate the Relationship Between Cardiac Vagal Control and Treatment with Mindfulness Based Relapse Prevention?
Abstract by Haley A. Carroll Douglas, Adult Clinical Advisors: Mary E. Larimer, M. Kathleen B. Lustyk, Sarah Bowen, & G. Alan Marlatt

Mindfulness-based Relapse Prevention (MBRP) integrates standard Relapse Prevention (RP) skills with mindfulness training to increase awareness and skillful responses in high-risk situations. Evidence suggests mindfulness training is related to increased cardiac vagal control (e.g., High-Frequency Heart Rate Variability; HF-HRV) in substance users (e.g., Brewer et al., 2009). In response to a stressor individuals who have completed MBRP show increased HF-HRV while those in post-detox standard aftercare (SA) demonstrate vagal withdrawal and those in RP fail to show vagal change (Lustyk et al., in preparation). Research has not elucidated if treatment effects on cardiac vagal control are due to changes in mindfulness. Thus, we assess the relationship between hemodynamic responses to a cognitive stressor and self-reported mindfulness after RP (n = 12), MBRP (n = 12), or SA (n = 12). During psychophysiological testing electrocardiography was continuously monitored while blood pressure was assessed at intervals. Mediation will assess if mindfulness mediates the relationship between treatment and HF-HRV. Given that neurovisceral integration model and polyvagal theory posit higher brain and cardiac vagal mechanisms over stress responses are adaptive, understanding what mechanisms increase HF-HRV in substance users is important in understanding treatments that are potentially beneficial to substance abusers desiring increased self-regulation.

Acute Alcohol Intoxication and Sexual Risk Likelihood: Exploring Cultural Factors
Abstract by Danielle R. Eakins, Adult Clinical Advisor: William George

Factors affecting women’s engagement in risky sexual behavior remain a significant research focus with women comprising the majority of cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea. Additionally, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in women of color (WOC) is up to twenty times that of white women (WW). Previous research demonstrates that while alcohol intoxication is a risk factor for risky sex, ethnic identity (in both WOC and WW) may be protective. The current study examines 1) if acute alcohol intoxication affects sexual risk 2) the association of sexual risk with race/ethnicity and ethnic identity and 3) whether these cultural factors moderate alcohol’s influences on sexual risk. Participants included 404 women, dichotomized into WOC (38%) and WW (62%), who completed race/ethnicity demographics and the Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure and were randomly assigned to alcohol (.10 BAC) or no alcohol conditions. Afterwards, they were instructed to project themselves into an eroticized text scenario assessing risky sex likelihood. Regressions indicated that
Intoxicated women endorsed higher risk likelihood, WOC endorsed lower risk likelihood; and that, as ethnic identity increased, risky sex likelihood decreased in WW. Supplementary analyses explored risk perception as a mediator of race/ethnicity and sexual risk. Results and implications for future research will be discussed.

Investigating the Malleability of Implicit Bias as a Function of Experience
Abstract by Arianne Eason, Social Psychology & Personality
Advisors: Cheryl Kaiser and Jessica Sommerville

Prevailing wisdom concerning implicit attitudes—automatically activated evaluative associations—suggests that they are difficult to change (Rydell et. al., 2007). Surprisingly, however, researchers have not examined how variation in the degree of experience one has with a person/group can affect the stability of attitudes toward those individuals. This project draws upon theoretical perspectives on attitude change (Eagly & Chaiken, 1998) to posit that implicit attitudes are in fact malleable when people have less (vs. more) initial information.

Participants received 60, 80, or 100 pieces of information about two novel groups. Each group was characterized as engaging in either exclusively positive or negative behaviors. Participants then completed implicit and explicit attitude measures. Subsequently, all participants received 40 new pieces of counter-attitudinal information (i.e. the positive group was now characterized as negative, and vice versa) about the groups and repeated the implicit and explicit attitudes measures. Initial implicit and explicit attitude strength did not differ based on the amount of information participants received about the groups; additionally, implicit and explicit attitudes changed, to a similar extent, in the direction of the counter-attitudinal information, regardless of the amount of information initially received. Thus, implicit attitudes may be more malleable than previously expected.

Relation of Maternal Behavior and Social Engagement in Infant Siblings of Children with ASD
Abstract by Colleen Harker, Child Clinical
Advisor: Wendy Stone

Infant siblings of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Sibs-ASD) are at an increased risk of developing ASD compared to infant siblings of typically developing children (Sibs-TD; Georgiades et al., 2012). Recent theories propose that maternal behaviors that promote engagement and reciprocity during parent-child interactions may attenuate ASD symptom development over time for infants at high-risk for developing ASD, such as Sibs-ASD (Dawson, 2008). The objective of this study was to examine the relation between infant and maternal behaviors in Sib-ASD and Sib-TD dyads during free play interactions between 9-18 months of age. Our sample included 37 mother-infant dyads, 24 Sibs-ASD (11 male) and 13 Sibs-TD (8 male). Observations of maternal and infant behaviors were coded during a 5-minute free play interaction. Infant social engagement was measured by coding the frequency of infant social smiling. Maternal behaviors (responsiveness & directiveness) were measured using a modified version of the Maternal Behavior Rating Scale (Mahoney 2008). Preliminary analysis suggests that although there were no significant group differences between Sibs-ASD and Sibs-TD in infant social smiling nor maternal behavior over time, maternal directiveness at 9 months predicted infant social smiling at 18 months; infant group status moderated this association.
Respiratory Sinus Arrhythmia Reactivity in Childhood as a Predictor of Adolescent Risky Behavior
Abstract by Charlotte Heleniak, Child Clinical Advisor: Lynn Fainsilber Katz

Background: Adolescence is a time of experimentation, associated with heightened engagement in risky behaviors such as alcohol and drug use and unsafe sexual behavior. These behaviors are associated with criminality, suicidality, and adult internalizing and externalizing psychopathology (McGue & Iacono, 2005). Reducing risky behavior in adolescence would have a broad impact on society, reducing the burdens of disease, injury, human suffering, and associated economic costs. Identifying predictors of these behaviors could improve targeted prevention and ensure scarce resources are not wasted on ineffective prevention programs. Recent literature suggests that individual differences in emotion regulation in childhood may be a predictor of problem behavior in adolescence (Silk, Steinberg, & Morris 2003). Objective: To examine whether respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA) reactivity, an index of emotion regulation, in middle childhood predicts risky behaviors in adolescence. Methods: A sample of 44 mother and child dyads were recruited as part of a longitudinal study of children at risk for behavior problems. Children’s RSA reactivity was assessed during an interpersonal stressor task at age 8-10. At age 15-17, adolescents and their mothers completed questionnaires about the adolescent’s risky behaviors. Results: Preliminary results suggest RSA augmentation during childhood interpersonal stress predicts adolescent substance use behaviors.

Do Infants Generalize Emotions Across Contexts?
Abstract by Theresa Hennings, Developmental Advisor: Betty Repacholi

By 15 months, infants can regulate their behavior in response to indirect emotions (i.e., emotions directed toward another individual). In the “emotional eavesdropping” paradigm, infants witness an “Emoter” expressing anger or neutral affect toward an Experimenter who has just performed an action on an object. Across three trials, infants in the anger condition are less likely to perform the actions relative to those infants in the neutral condition. Infants behave as if they expect that the Emoter will get angry at them if they reproduce the actions. Interestingly, infants behave in the same way in a 4th trial in which no emotional information is provided. After multiple trials, infants seem to view the Emoter as “anger-prone”. To test this hypothesis, a study was conducted in which the standard eavesdropping trials were followed by three social interaction tasks. In these tasks, infants had an opportunity to give new objects to the (now neutral) Emoter. Infants who had previously seen the Emoter express anger were less likely and/or slower to touch the objects than infants in the neutral condition. These findings are consistent with the idea that infants view the Emoter as “anger prone” and generalize this propensity to new situations.

Zoo Elephant Behavior Patterns
Abstract by Carolyn Loyer, Animal Behavior Advisor: James Ha

Stereotypic behavior in captive animals is an area of scientific debate. In spite of a broad range of theories regarding the ontogeny and perpetuation of stereotypies, little is known about how and why they develop or how they can be influenced by environmental changes. Our research is aimed at first identifying patterns of stereotypic behavior at the individual and group level, then testing the effect of alternative feeding strategies on those patterns. We collected 550 hours of behavioral data for three zoo-housed
elephants over a 4 year period, and used this to establish baseline patterns in the proportion of time spent in stereotyped behavior. Our data analysis focused on identifying seasonal, yearly, and hourly effects. We then compared this baseline to elephant behavior after their participation in a one hour public feeding session. The results of our research have implications not only for care of zoo animals, but also for animals housed in research institutions, sanctuaries, and for livestock.

Attenuating Fearful Memories Through Modulation of Learning: Effects of Modified Consolidation and Cued Extinction on Intrusions
Abstract by Libby Marks, Adult Clinical Advisor: Lori Zoellner

Exposure-based therapies for PTSD are thought to reduce intrusive memories through extinction processes. Methods that enhance extinction may translate to improved treatment. Rat research suggests cueing a memory with a conditioned stimulus (CS) cue, within a specific reconsolidation window, enhances extinction. In humans, two studies (Schiller et al., 2010; Kindt et al., 2011) using basic learning paradigms show discrepant findings; neither utilized real-world stimuli or examined intrusions.

Using a distressing film paradigm, participants (N = 148) completed fear acquisition and extinction (48 h later). At extinction, they were randomized to: CS cue within reconsolidation window; CS cue outside window, or non-CS cue within window. Intrusive memories were assessed 24 h post-extinction.

Participants receiving the CS cue inside the reconsolidation window had more intrusions (M = 2.40, SD = 2.54) than those cued outside (M = 1.65, SD = 1.70) or those receiving a non-CS cue (M = 1.24, SD = 1.26); F (2,145) = 4.52, p = .013, η2 = .059.

Contrary to the reconsolidation hypothesis, presenting an isolated cue within the reconsolidation window increased rather than decreased the frequency of intrusions. Understanding parameters of pre-extinction cueing may help us better understand the reduction of patient distress and intrusions.

Evidence for Social Complexity in the Gray Jay
Abstract by Kelsey McCune, Animal Behavior Advisor: Renee Ha

Social complexity potentially requires advanced cognitive abilities in order to deal with aspects such as hierarchies, delayed dispersal or cooperative breeding. Species in social systems with these characteristics would benefit from long-term memory, social learning capabilities, and potentially a theory of the mind to increase cooperative and coordinated actions. Non-kin alliances can also occur in complex social systems, and are interesting because the helper is not genetically invested in the recipients. Gray Jays seem to have a simple social system as they are monogamous and maintain year-round territories. However, a few studies have noted that Gray Jays can exhibit limited cooperative breeding and often an un-related individual (“third bird”) will be present on the territory of a breeding pair. We collected data on Gray Jay associations over approximately four years to test for the existence of this “third bird.” We used social network analyses to map the population interactions. We found instances of triadic relationships indicative of a third bird, demonstrating that this social system is more complex than previously thought. Further research should clarify these findings in the field and test for advanced cognitive abilities in Gray Jays.
Lateral Habenula Responses to Reward in Freely Navigating Rats
Abstract by Sujean Oh, Behavioral Neuroscience
Advisor: Sheri J.Y. Mizumori

The lateral habenula (LHb) of the dorsal diencephalic conduction system is a place in the brain where major learning systems may interact to influence a wide variety of behaviors. LHb is a point of convergence for basal ganglia and limbic circuits, and it connects to midbrain neuromodulatory systems, especially dopaminergic (DA) and serotonergic systems. One functional connection of great interest includes inhibitory connections from the LHb to DA neurons of the ventral tegmental area (VTA) as these neurons play an important role in reward processing. Electrophysiology studies in primates have implicated the LHb as the source of negative reward prediction error, where LHb activity increases when an outcome is less rewarding than expected. In the present study, we looked for these negative reward prediction signals in rodent LHb to determine whether they play a role during spatial working memory task performance. Male Long-Evans rats were food deprived to 85% of their normal body weight and trained to retrieve large or small rewards from specific arms of a radial arm maze. Reward prediction errors were induced by unexpectedly changing the location of the reward magnitudes or by reward omission. Preliminary results and future directions will be discussed.

Stability of Interpretation Across Item Sets in Latent Class Analysis
Abstract by James Rae, Quantitative
Advisor: Brian Flaherty

Much attention to measurement and psychometric theory has been given to latent variable models measuring continuous latent traits, such as factor analysis or item response theory. However, models measuring categorical latent variables, such as the latent class (LC) model, have not typically been treated seriously as a measurement model. For example, although it has been suggested that item selection is vital because the solution depends on input data, no strong theory exists for guiding item selection in LC models. Therefore, this study investigated how substantive interpretations a latent variable, nicotine dependence, changed across different subsets of indicator variables in the LC model.

The Role of Effortful Control in Preschoolers’ Emotionality
Abstract by Erika Ruberry, Child Clinical
Advisor: Liliana Lengua

The increasing demands on children for self-control as they approach school age highlight the need for balance between cognitive and emotional control (Blair & Dennis, 2010). During the preschool stage, children learn to harness the appropriate emotional and motivational drives to carry out increasingly complex cognitive tasks. This burgeoning ability is supported by growth in effortful control (EC), which allows children to suppress a contextually inappropriate dominant response in service of a more appropriate non-dominant response. Although deficits in both cognitive and emotional control are risk factors for later adjustment problems, few studies have looked at how these abilities co-develop in young children. To better understand the role of EC in emotional processes, we examined the relations between neural and behavioral indicators of EC and measures of children’s emotionality. We used EEG (electroencephalography) and event-related potentials (ERPs) to measure the core attentional processes that underlie EC, and behavioral tasks to examine individual differences in EC. We hypothesized that children’s ERPs would be related to their performance on an EC battery, and that those higher in EC would demonstrate less emotionality. Results and future directions for research will be discussed.
Person Perception in Strategic Social Interaction
Abstract by Vasundhara Sridharan, Social Psychology & Personality
Advisor: Yuichi Shoda

It is commonly assumed that people attribute behaviors of others (e.g., neglecting to greet upon seeing you) to their disposition (e.g., this shows they are rude), and fail to take contexts (e.g., last time you saw them you refused their request for help) into account. Support for this tendency has been very consistent through many decades of research and it has been named the Fundamental Attribution Error. The results of the present study suggest that in strategic interactions in which the outcome depends on predicting others’ behaviors, people do take contexts into account in making inferences based on others’ behaviors. Specifically, observers made significantly different dispositional attributions for two types of actors who were otherwise identical in the total frequency of each type of behaviors displayed but who differed in the situations in which each type of behavior was displayed. Furthermore, such differences were observed only when observers believed that understanding the strategy behind others’ behaviors was beneficial. The results suggest an important boundary condition for the concept of Fundamental Attribution Error.

Alcohol Myopia and Sexual Abdication: Examining Child Sexual Abuse as a Moderator
Abstract by Jennifer Staples, Adult Clinical
Advisor: William George

Women with a child sexual abuse history (CSA) often engage in sexual behaviors that pose a risk of STI transmission, including HIV. Alcohol is consistently implicated in this relationship but few studies examine in-the-moment sexual decision making processes. Sexual abdication—willingness to let a partner decide how far to go sexually—reflects a passive decisional process and, as such, may be sensitive to CSA history. Acute alcohol intoxication and CSA severity were evaluated as interactive influences on women’s sexual abdication in the presence (lower risk) versus absence (higher risk) of a condom. Women (n=132) were randomized into a 2 (alcohol, control) x 2 (condom present, condom absent) experimental design. Following assessment of CSA history, participants read and projected themselves into an eroticized scenario assessing sexual abdication. Regression analyses yielded a significant 3-way interaction. In the condom present condition, abdication decreased as CSA severity increased for sober women, whereas abdication increased as CSA severity increased for intoxicated women. In the condom absent condition, there were no significant effects. These results may contribute to explanations of the association between intoxication and sexual risk among women with CSA, and may be pertinent to understanding patterns of sexual revictimization in this population.

Do Drinking Consequences Predict Sexual Revictimization in a College Sample of Binge Drinking Women?
Abstract by Helen Valenstein, Adult Clinical
Advisor: Mary Larimer

Sexual victimization is a significant problem on college campuses: In one study, 19% of college women reported experiencing completed or attempted sexual assault (Campus Sexual Assault Study, 2007). Research has shown previous sexual victimization increases risk for revictimization (e.g., Desai et al., 2002). Another important risk factor is victims’ alcohol use (e.g., Gidycz et al., 2007; McCauley & Combs-Lane, 2010). Most research to date on alcohol and victimization has focused on the quantity of alcohol consumed by women. The objective of the present study was to better understand the mechanisms by which drinking confers risk for revictimization. We hypothesized that specific drinking consequences
would increase risk for revictimization above and beyond the quantity of alcohol consumed. A randomly selected sample of female undergraduates who met criteria for binge drinking were assessed at baseline for victimization status, quantity of alcohol consumed in the past week, and drinking consequences experienced in the past three months. A subset was then assessed again 30 days later for revictimization. Black-out drinking at baseline predicted sexual revictimization within the following 30 days above and beyond quantity of alcohol consumed for women who had experienced adult sexual assault at baseline. Implications of findings will be discussed.

Rod Influence on Chromatic Discrimination Along Theoretically Relevant Axes
Abstract by Joris Vincent, Cognition & Perception
Advisor: Steven Buck

Measurements of the sensitivity of chromatic discrimination are widely used in clinical assessments of color-vision deficiencies. Of both theoretical and diagnostic importance, the activity of rod photoreceptors has been shown to influence these discriminations, most often impairing discriminations mediated by L, M, or S cones. However, some studies show conflicting results, and offer limited understanding of the conditions that lead to specific rod influences on chromatic discrimination. The present study aims to investigate the conditions under which rods might influence the widely used Cambridge Color Vision test (CCT), by comparing bleached (minimal rod influence) and dark-adapted (maximal rod influence) conditions. No rod impairment of chromatic discrimination on the Cambridge Color Test was found. Instead, the bleached condition unexpectedly impaired discriminations mediated by M-cones at normal light levels and by each cone type under dimmer, mesopic conditions. To understand the basis for these findings, a follow-up paradigm was used with near-foveal stimuli isolating L-M or S-cone stimulation. No consistent rod effects were found, nor were the bleach effects replicated. These results argue that the bleaching light interacts in an unexplained way to impair performance on the CCT. Further investigation of both the bleach artefacts and rod effects on chromatic discrimination continues.

Explorations of "Mind-Set" in Executive Functioning: The Roles of Language Experience and Task Order
Abstract by Brianna Yamasaki, Cognition & Perception
Advisor: Chantel Prat

Over the last three decades, researchers have demonstrated that bilinguals outperform monolinguals on tests tapping into a variety of executive functions. Despite the fact that this phenomenon is well documented, there have been many inconsistencies in the literature, with failures to replicate across tasks accessing the same cognitive processes, across age groups, and even within the same tasks across experiments. Motivated by these inconsistencies, we created an experimental battery aimed at better characterizing the nature of the bilingual advantage. Using three paradigms, the Attentional Blink, the standard Simon Task, and a task-switching version of the Simon Task, we compared top-down versus bottom-up processing, susceptibility to interference, and cognitive flexibility in monolinguals and bilinguals. With the exception of bilinguals showing increased accuracy in one condition of the Attentional Blink paradigm, our preliminary results did not show reliable group differences. We did, however, find an interesting "training" effect in all participants, related to task order. These results will be discussed with respect to what they suggest about the nature of automatic vs. controlled processing and the impact of "mind-set" on susceptibility to interference.
Prior research found that implicit and explicit race attitudes played a role in candidate preference in the 2008 presidential election. In Study 1, 33,105 eligible voters completed an online survey including measures of candidate preference, symbolic racism, political conservatism, and implicit and self-report measures of racial preference between December 2011 and November 2012. In Study 2, 4,170 eligible voters who had completed Study 1 prior to September were contacted via email in the days shortly before or after Election Day, November 6, 2012 and were asked to complete a follow-up survey. Respondents were asked to report whether or not they had voted, which presidential candidate they had voted for or planned to vote for, and again completed measures of symbolic racism, political conservatism, and implicit and explicit race attitudes. In both studies, greater implicit and explicit White preference predicted voting for Mitt Romney independently of political conservatism.