

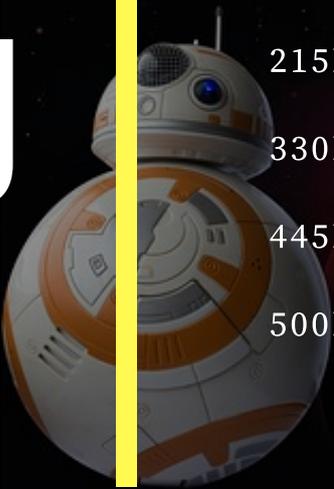
PSYCH FEST 2018

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

05.04.2018

SC HE DU LE

1000AM	COFFEE BREAK
1100AM	PRESENTATIONS
1145AM	LUNCH
1245AM	PRESENTATIONS
200PM	COFFEE BREAK
215PM	PRESENTATIONS
330PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
445PM	AWARDS
500PM	END



PROGRAM BY
A NEW HOPE

It is a period of great triumph. Masters students, after designing and conducting research programs, have the opportunity to present their findings for the Intercollegiate Psychology Department.

Each student will present for 5 minutes. Rebel spies will then ask questions for an additional 5 minute period. Jedi knights will also be greeted with coffee, lunch, games, and a final award ceremony where presenters are given a prize for their valour and excellence in presentation skills.

Eager to begin the final chapter of their Master s degrees, the second-year Masters students prepare to communicate the findings presented today in a thesis to be defended in the coming months.....

Episode IV: A New Hope for Morning Presenters

10:30 Audrey Aday

Fitting in and feeling real: State authenticity as fit between identity and environment

ABSTRACT: State authenticity (SA) is defined as “the sense or feeling that one is currently in alignment with one’s true or genuine self” (Sedikides et al., 2017). Recent models have conceptualized SA as distinct from trait authenticity and as a key predictor of situation selection with implications for how people self-sort by social identities (see Schmader & Sedikides, 2017). Critically, experiences of SA are predicted to arise from three distinct types of fit to the environment: self-concept, goal, and social fit. I’ll present data to support the SAFE (State Authenticity as Fit to the Environment) model, and the application of the SAFE model to feeling fit within an academic domain (Study 1-2) and fit to a cultural context (Study 3-4). In Studies 1 and 2, we find that greater identification with engineering versus psychology predicts greater approach intentions in the environment associated with engineering versus psychology, as fully mediated by SA. Across Studies 3 and 4, we find that identification with mainstream culture predicts greater SA on campus at UBC, as fully mediated by the three types of fit to the environment. In Study 4, we show that these effects predict greater approach motivation and less avoidance motivation on campus. Together, these findings add to current understandings of SA and highlight identification with one’s environment as a key antecedent to fit and authenticity.

10:45 Yu Luo

Statistical learning creates novel object associations via transitive relations

ABSTRACT: A remarkable ability of the cognitive system is to make novel inferences based on prior experiences. What mechanism supports such inference? We propose that statistical learning is a process where transitive inferences of new associations are made between objects that have never been directly associated. After viewing a continuous sequence containing two base pairs (e.g., A-B, B-C), participants automatically inferred a transitive pair (e.g., A-C) where the two objects had never co-occurred before. This transitive inference occurred in the absence of explicit awareness of the base pairs. However, participants failed to infer the transitive pair from three base pairs, showing the limits of the transitive inference. We further demonstrated that this transitive inference can operate across the categorical hierarchy. The findings revealed a novel consequence of statistical learning where new transitive associations between objects are implicitly inferred.



11:00 Denitza Dramkin

Learning to represent quantity across domains: Examining children's number, length, and area estimation

ABSTRACT: We share with other animals several, intuitive perceptual capacities, such as number, length, and area. For example, with even just a cursory glance, we can tell how many items are in our shopping cart, which route is the shortest on the map, or which cookie on a plate is the biggest. While these capacities are readily available, they are imprecise: a jar of "twelve" marbles is visually indistinguishable from a jar of "thirteen." However, as humans, we can reason and talk about our intuitive representations symbolically (e.g., via number words). Although, a jar might simultaneously appear to contain "eight," "nine," or "ten" marbles, verbally distinguishing between "nine" marbles from "ten" marbles is as easy as being able to distinguish "ten" from "twenty" marbles. How do children learn to convert their intuitive, continuous representations to something discrete and symbolic? In this line of research, we explore how children learn to map their intuitive perceptions to symbolic representations (e.g., number words) across the dimensions of number, length, and area. Our work shows that while these dimensions are perceptually independent of each other (i.e., the ability to distinguish between quantities in number is not related to the ability to judge area or length), when children are asked to verbally estimate (i.e., "how many," "how long," or "how big") there is nonetheless a shared capacity across these domains. This suggests that when children learn to map symbolic labels to their perception of number, they are also able to do so in other domains (i.e., length, area).

11:15 Gabriel Smith

Working Fast, Thinking Slow? The Roles of Motivation and Arousal in Thought Dynamics

ABSTRACT: Freedom of movement of thought, the degree to which thoughts are constrained versus free to move between topics, overlaps with the concept of attentional narrowing, the degree to which attention is focused on a small set of objects. Given that attentional narrowing has been induced in the lab through manipulating motivational intensity, the current study sought to determine whether thought dynamics could be similarly affected. Participants engaged in a task that motivated performance by allowing them to leave early if their score was high enough, with different blocks providing drastically different point values. Thought probes were used to obtain multiple ratings of thought movement and related cognitive concepts, while autonomic arousal was assessed as a mediating variable through self-report, pupillometry, and electrodermal activity. Motivation was found to influence the content (task-relatedness) and perceived control of thoughts, but not their movement over time. Measures of arousal were not found to mediate the relationship between motivation and cognitive constructs, nor were they influenced by motivation, providing evidence against bodily arousal having a crucial role in the determination of thought.



11:30 Kate Kysow

Examining community hoarding cases and intervention responses

ABSTRACT: Understanding the complexity of hoarding cases is a challenge faced by clinicians and communities alike. Although classified as a mental disorder, the consequences of hoarding extend beyond the internal experience of the client, creating problems for neighbours, landlords, and society. Research in psychology has focused on assessing the internal experience of those with hoarding disorder, as well as developing treatments to reduce hoarding behaviours. In contrast, communities across North America have been focused on assessing the public safety threats posed by hoarding cases and responding through a harm reduction approach. The two approaches to assessing and responding to hoarding disorder are considerably different. The present study bridges the gap between these approaches through a research collaboration with the Vancouver-based Hoarding Action Response Team. By examining data collected from community hoarding cases through a clinical psychology lens, this study develops a comprehensive representation of hoarding case complexity considering both sides of the picture.



Episode V: Lunch Strikes Back

11:45 - 12:45

The morning presenters fought valiantly against the tyranny of the Empire. But the rebel forces have grown weary, and must retreat to to the rebel base for rest and sustenance. It is in this quiet moment that the Empire prepares its next attack...



Episode VI: Return of the Presenters

12:45 Yvette Graveline

Scene construction in spontaneous thought

ABSTRACT: Roughly 50% of the time, our mental lives are occupied by freely moving (“spontaneous”) thoughts, which are widely believed to contain mental imagery of spatially anchored scenes (“scene construction”) that support the ability to remember the past and imagine the future. Yet while scene construction has been examined in conditions where participants are directly told to imagine scenes, scene construction has not been examined in conditions where participants’ thoughts arise spontaneously. In this study, we use “online” experience sampling paradigm to address the following questions regarding the phenomenology of spontaneous scene construction: (1) What is the prevalence of scene construction during spontaneous thought? (2) What is the temporal orientation (past or future focus) of scene construction during spontaneous thought? (3) What is the relationship between scene construction and ‘freedom of movement’ (a previously published measure of spontaneous thought)? (4) What are individual differences in spontaneous scene construction? (5) Is there a trade-off between spontaneous scene construction and inner speech? This work has important implications for elucidating everyday inner experience in healthy and clinical contexts.



1:00 Anita Schmalor

The (Un-)Equal Outcomes of Economic Inequality: The Relationship between Subjective Inequality, SES, and Mental Health

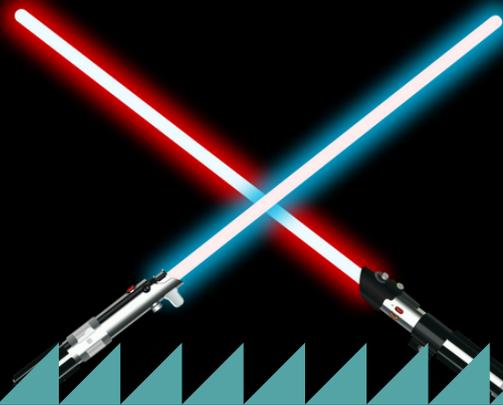
ABSTRACT: In rich developed countries, there is a positive association between objective measures of economic inequality and poor mental health outcomes such as depression and anxiety. In my talk, I briefly describe the development of the Subjective Inequality Scale, a scale intended to test whether individual differences in perceptions of economic inequality can predict similar outcomes. Perceptions of inequality predict depression, anxiety, and stress across all levels of subjective SES and income. This suggests that perceiving more inequality is associated with more mental health problems regardless of one's personal standing in society. In addition, the relationship between depression and perceptions of inequality is significantly stronger for people of lower SES/with lower income, suggesting that some groups may suffer more from perceiving high levels of inequality than others.



1:15 Sophie Smit

Parenting Children with ADHD: Associations with Parental ADHD and Depression

ABSTRACT: Parents of children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) often experience difficulties engaging in ideal parenting behaviours. Another concern is parents' affiliate stigma, which is a parent's internalization of perceived stigma related to their child's behaviour. Elevated levels of affiliate stigma may have an adverse effect on parenting. In addition to these concerns, many parents of children with ADHD experience their own symptoms of depression and/or ADHD. Past research suggests that parental ADHD and depression affect parenting behaviours in samples of children with ADHD, although the incremental effects of each have rarely been considered in the same study. It is also possible that parental ADHD and depression affects levels of affiliate stigma. The current study examined the unique contributions of parental ADHD and depressive symptoms on parenting behaviour and affiliate stigma in a sample of parents of children with ADHD. This study also examined affiliate stigma as a potential pathway via which parental psychopathology influences parenting behaviour in this sample. Understanding the contributions of parental ADHD and depressive symptoms on parenting behaviour and affiliate stigma may allow for targeted interventions to support these parents.



1:30 Miranda Sitch

Toddlers selectively request help from prosocial over antisocial others

ABSTRACT: As young children are inherently limited in both knowledge and skill, they often need help. Past research suggests that active help-seeking emerges in the first two years of life and increases in complexity over development. That said, it is currently unknown to what extent young children are selective in whom they request help from. Study 1 explored whether toddlers in need of help selectively approach a puppet who had previously helped a third party over a puppet who had previously hindered a third party in its goal to retrieve a dropped ball. Toddlers were significantly more likely to request help from the prosocial than from the antisocial puppet. Study 2 explored whether results from Study 1 were solely based on toddlers requesting help from a puppet previously associated with a positive outcome, by examining whether toddlers would also differentially request help from puppets who had previously received, rather than performed, prosocial and antisocial acts: beneficiaries of help and victims of harm. Toddlers in Study 2 were equally likely to request help from beneficiaries and victims, suggesting that their help requests in Study 1 were based on assessing helpfulness in particular. Lastly, Study 3 (in progress) explores the role of intention versus competence in toddlers' selective help-seeking. Specifically, we are investigating whether toddlers will selectively request help from either an incompetent but prosocial puppet who tried but failed to help a third party, or a competent but antisocial puppet who successfully hindered a third party. If toddlers continue to selectively request help from the incompetent but prosocial puppet it would suggest that toddlers' selective help-seeking is based on an assessment of others' helpful intentions as opposed to their ability to competently carry out their goals.

The effect of feedbacks delivery and gambling severity on loss aversion

ABSTRACT: Problem gamblers bet persistently despite mounting losses. Intuitively, they may display systematic alterations in their "Loss Aversion": the natural tendency for "losses to loom larger than gains" under risky decisions (Kahneman and Tversky, 1992). Literature of loss aversion in problem gamblers (Takeuchi, 2015; Giorgetta, 2014; Gelskov 2016) described mixed findings, but their tasks varied in whether trial-by-trial feedbacks were presented. Our study 1 evaluated whether the feedbacks delivery influences loss aversion as a precursor for study 2, which assessed whether loss aversion predicts gambling severity in recreational gamblers.

Participants who scored < 8 on Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI) were recruited. In study 1, 85 undergraduates made a series of risky decisions between a pair of gamble options. Some options were 50-50 "mixed" gambles (e.g. 50% chance of winning \$10 or 50% chance of losing \$6). Other trials presented "pure" gambles (e.g. 50% chance of winning \$10 or 50% chance of winning \$6, versus a certain \$8 win). The gamble was adjusted over successive trials until the two options are valued equally. Participants were randomized into the task either with (Feedback+) or without (Feedback-) trial-by-trial feedbacks. In study 2, 54 regular gamblers completed the Feedback- task.

Loss aversion was not significantly different between the Feedback+ and Feedback- ($r=.051$ $p=.64$, $U=79$). The Feedback- group were reliably loss averse (median $\lambda = 1.46$, IQR = 3.95), whereas the Feedback+ group were mildly loss averse (median $\lambda = 1.17$, IQR = 4.14). Preliminary analysis found no significant correlation between loss aversion and PGSI ($r=-.28$, $p=.05$).

The current study provides evidence that the feedback delivery attenuates loss aversion. This context-dependency may arise from feedback amplifying emotional signals or promoting 'learning'. No evidence shows that loss aversion predicts gambling severity in recreational gamblers. Our ongoing work will assess such relationship in problem gamblers.



Episode II: Attack of the Coffee

2:00 - 2:15

The afternoon presenters wait in fearful anticipation of the battle to come. It seems that the empire has tricks up its sleeve that the Jedi had not anticipated. Faculty and students alike enjoy coffee and light refreshments as they await their fate...



Episode III: Revenge of the Afternoon Presenters

2:15 Drake Levere

Predicting posttraumatic stress symptomology in emergency medical personnel: the role of perceived stress and rumination.

ABSTRACT: Paramedics are frequently exposed to traumatic events on the job, and although they have higher levels of posttraumatic stress symptoms (PTSS) than the general population (Berger et al., 2012), not all paramedics experience high PTSS. Identifying factors that impact PTSS among individuals who are frequently exposed to traumatic stress is important for the development of evidence-based interventions. Using a longitudinal design, we examined relationships among rumination, perceived stress, and PTSS in 87 shift-working paramedics. Perceived stress and rumination were examined daily across a one-week period, while measurements of PTSS were assessed at baseline and at a two-year follow-up. Regression analyses indicated that perceived stress significantly predicted rumination. Rumination significantly predicted PTSS at the two-year follow-up, even after controlling for baseline PTSS, depression, and occupational stressors. Perceived stress did not directly predict PTSS at follow-up. Rather, rumination mediated the relationship between perceived stress and PTSS. Specifically, higher levels of perceived stress were associated with higher rumination, and higher rumination was associated with higher levels of PTSS at follow-up. These findings suggest the importance of targeting both perceived stress and rumination in clinical interventions for individuals who are frequently exposed to traumatic stressors.

2:30 Kyle Gooderham

The Relationship Between Physical Activity and Cognitive Performance

ABSTRACT: Canada has an increasingly sedentary population. While exercise effects physical health and the body, what is less appreciated is its effect on cognitive functioning. Research has demonstrated that physical activity can have beneficial effects on numerous cognitive processes and that these effects are based on a number of unique factors including participant age, sex, cognitive task type, as well as the duration, intensity, and form of exercise (Gomez-Pinilla et al., 2013, Compr Physiol; Swagerman et al., 2015, Brain Cogn). In this talk I explore each of these issues, and describe a study designed to address some unresolved questions.



2:45 Alex Terpstra

Discounting the dangers of the Dark Side? Individuals scoring higher on a bipolar trait dimension report lower sensitivity to impending punishment and punishment-associated cues

ABSTRACT: From a dimensional view of psychopathology, bipolar disorder may be conceptualized as a constellation of affective and behavioural traits lie on the extreme ends of each trait spectrum. The same constellation of affective and behavioural traits may be elevated in individuals who do not meet criteria for bipolar disorder, and show similar associations with emotional sensitivity and learning. Personality traits previously associated with bipolar disorder include greater sensation seeking, aggression, impulsivity, emotion regulation difficulties, and stress reactivity, and lower harm avoidance. Behaviourally, bipolar disorder has been associated with increased sensitivity to reward and reward-associated cues, and reduced sensitivity to punishment and punishment-associated cues. To examine whether non-clinical elevations in bipolar traits show similar associations with reward and punishment sensitivity and learning, we performed a principal components analysis of bipolar-related personality scale data in a sample of 463 young adults and examined their association with behavioural measures of sensitivity to incentive reward (tickets toward a lottery) and punishment (aversive noise) and neutral cues conditioned to each stimulus. Principal components analysis revealed three dimensions: An emotion regulation dimension, an impulsivity dimension, and a "heedless approach" dimension comprising sensation seeking, aggression, and (negatively associated) harm avoidance. Multiple regression results revealed that the heedless approach variable significantly predicted higher self-rated sensitivity to punishment and its conditioned cue, but not to the reward variables. These findings suggest

Higher heedless approach was significantly associated with lower self-reported anxiety, uncertainty, and stress in response to both impending punishment (aversive noise) and cues conditioned with the punishing stimulus. These findings suggest that individuals scoring high on a dimension of bipolar functioning comprising sensation seeking, aggression, and low harm avoidance may be less sensitive to potential punishment (and increasing probabilities of punishment) and cues associated with this punishment through conditioning.

3:00 Alison Tracy

The effect of self-compassion on emotional and biological recovery from stress in depression

ABSTRACT: Research suggests that stress and subsequent responses to stress play a central role in exacerbating depressive symptoms and prolonging depressive episodes. It is, therefore, important to understand the factors that may promote effective recovery from stress. One adaptive response to stress is self-compassion. Recent research has suggested that self-compassion may be a resiliency factor that protects against both the development and maintenance of depressive episodes. The goal of this study was to extend previous research by looking at the effect of self-compassion on both emotional and biological recovery from stress in depression. Participants with elevated depressive symptoms completed a standardized psychosocial stressor and were randomly assigned to one of two stress-response inductions: self-compassion or a no-strategy control condition. Findings showed a significant difference of change in affect between the two conditions, with the self-compassion group showing greater increases in happiness ($F(1,44)=4.847, p=.03$) and greater decreases in anxiety ($F(1,45)=13.625, p=.001$) compared to those in the control condition. However, this difference between conditions was not found with measures of salivary cortisol ($p=.934$) or respiratory sinus arrhythmia ($p=.489$). In this study, self-compassion had a positive impact on promoting faster psychological recovery from stress, but there was no evidence of its effect on biological measures.



The Brain on Tylenol: Acetaminophen Amplifies Disengagement from External Stimuli During Internally Directed Thought

ABSTRACT: Long known as an analgesic, acetaminophen (or Tylenol) has recently been shown to not just reduce social pain, but lessen reactivity towards affectively salient stimuli and attenuate error evaluation processing in cortex. Notably, these latter two effects directly parallel the impact of mind wandering on affective and error-related processing, raising the possibility that acetaminophen may facilitate neurocognitive disengagement from external stimulus inputs during periods of mind wandering. Here we tested this hypothesis in a double blind study that had participants ingest either 1000 mg of acetaminophen (N = 20) or a sugar placebo (N = 20) and then perform a modified Sustained Attention to Respond Task (SART) while their EEG responses to targets were recorded. During the task, participants were prompted at random intervals to report whether their thoughts were on task or mind wandering. We found that the mean amplitude of P300 event-related potential (ERP) component evoked by targets was attenuated in the time interval immediately preceding mind wandering vs. on-task attentional reports, and further, that the magnitude of this attenuation was significantly greater in the acetaminophen vs. placebo group. No between-group difference was found in the overall reported rates of mind wandering. Our findings suggest that acetaminophen has a direct, catalytic effect on the basic mechanism by which we neurocognitively disengage from the external environment during periods of internally directed thought.



Episode VII: The Keynote Speaker Awakens

3:30pm

Dr. Emily Balcetis

Perceiving Leadership

ABSTRACT: Despite the election of the nation's first Black President, questions remain regarding whether and why American leadership continues to suffer from a lack of diversity in politics, business, and our communities. While bias and discrimination continue to perpetuate underrepresentation, I will share research examining whether our own perceptions of leaders impact decisions to support minority candidates. Beyond our thoughts about electability, determinations about shared values, or decisions about who will receive our votes, my research finds that the visual representations we form of candidates aspiring to lead shape voting decisions. I present data investigating the relationship between American's support for Obama and the visual representations they formed of him prior to the 2008 election. I present evidence for the underlying cognitive associations and motivational orientations that give rise to White and Black voters' perceptual experiences of minority candidates and intentions to support them. And I will share a preliminary look at new research assessing the beliefs that minority youth hold regarding the leadership potential of underrepresented racial groups, and an intervention that may empower their own aspirations towards leadership.



Episode VIII: The Last Award Ceremony

Categories:

Best Costume

Best hair

People's choice

Best structure

Most laid-back

Best animations

The no-frills award

Honourable mention

Best use of Star Wars quote

Most 5 minutes

Most professional

The force was with them the most

Most "I am your Father" moment

Most Casual Jedi award

Most irreverent

Best thematic intro from supervisors

Best overall keynote speaker

Best Improv Talk

