School of Psychological Sciences

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POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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Person-First Language: The Perceptions of Individuals with a Diagnosis of Schizophrenia OYTA, R. (Honours, 2014) & MORRISON, N.M.V. (Supervisor)
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Background:
This study was designed to examine the utility of person-first language in individuals with a diagnosis of schizophrenia living in Australia. Person-first language is a linguistic structure which has been incorporated into policies within the global health system as a means of providing people autonomy from the stigma and stereotypes associated to medical diagnoses (e.g., “person with schizophrenia”, as opposed to, “is schizophrenic”). Current research findings are equivocal, with reports of person-first language to, at best, improve the individuals experience within the system, in others to provide little subjective purpose and value, to, at worst, being frustrating and damaging to the consumers within the health care system. In addition to the uncertain status of person first language has been the underemphasis of research in mental health care, and specifically amongst mental health consumers themselves. In fact, much anecdotal evidence within the mental health consumer online community is fiercely opposed to the use of person first language. The aim of this study was to explore the opinions and attitudes of people with a diagnosis with schizophrenia, a traditionally highly stigmatised diagnosis which impacts approximately 1% of the Australian population, regarding the language used in mental health care services.

Method:
Participants were six high-functioning individuals over the age of 18 years with a diagnosis with schizophrenia from Sydney. The study used semi-structured telephone interviews which were designed to elicit participant experiences with, perceptions of, and, attitudes towards the use of person-first language in their mental health care – as experienced in institutionalised settings, in the community and in the development of their own self-image.

Results:
A thematic analysis of the participant transcripts revealed 5 main themes regarding the use for person-first language: Meaning of schizophrenia to individuals and view of self, utility of person-first language, schizophrenia in the community, mental health care, and not being heard. It was concluded that while a number of participants had experienced person-first language in their health care, and appreciated the intent of its introduction, they believed the word “schizophrenia” itself carried far too much negative stigma. Participants indicated that this negative stigma was experienced in both the community and the healthcare system, and amongst professionals, with a participant even indicating they utilise the word to be defamatory and aggressive at times.

Implications:
This study will be an initial observation of the experiences of mental health service consumers and their ongoing interactions with person-first language and stigma associated with the schizophrenia label, and suggests that Australia has some ground to cover in reducing the negative stigma to the word schizophrenia.
What is the impact of experience on task workload, stress levels and performance in a simulated maritime environment? HOWARD, A. (Honours) & CHAMBERS, T. (Supervisor)
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Operating successfully within expert professions requires practice, extensive training and experience. Maritime piloting is one of the oldest expert professions, dating back to the 7th century BC and continuing to this day. Pilots have an extensive and detailed knowledge of local waterways and enable safe and efficient passages for ocean vessels at the port-berth interface, known for being the most challenging portion of the ship’s voyage. The present study was designed to investigate the impact of experience on task workload, stress and performance of maritime pilots in a simulated maritime scenario. Twenty one participants, comprising of 13 experts and eight novices, completed a simulated task involving the navigation and berthing of a container vessel. Experts and novices were compared on a number of variables including task workload (explored via the NASA Task Load Index [TLX]), physiology (i.e. salivary cortisol) and task performance (e.g. speed, time to completion). The NASA TLX was administered to determine the task workload involved in the simulation. Novices reported experiencing higher mental demand than experts, however this result was not significant. Cortisol levels from salivary samples were analysed to explore stress response differences between experts and novices. Findings revealed no significant difference between groups, though experts showed a trend of a consistently higher stress response. Performance was measured by various ship control variables (e.g. average speed) and it was found that experts performed the task at a higher speed and in less time than novices. The present paper explores factors that impact performance within a high stress profession and discusses the theory behind expert performance.
In Search of Eudaimonia: Do meaning and satisfaction in work or career create the state of eudaimonia? GRKOVIC, I. (2014, Honours) & Innes, J.M. (Supervisor)  
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The philosopher Aristotle (350 BCE/1998 CE) proclaimed that the ideal life was the life of eudaimonia, a word that has been simplistically translated to as ‘happiness’ or ‘flourishing’. Empirical research has revealed that one’s work is an important source of meaning in life as a whole (Steger & Dik, 2010) and plays an important role in people’s psychological health (Blustein, 2008) but it did not addressed how meaning and satisfaction in work may promote a state of eudaimonia. Hence, the present study used hierarchical regression to investigate the nature and extent of life satisfaction, meaning in life and meaningful work and their associations with the state of eudaimonia wellbeing. A total of 148 participants gave informed consent to participate, there were 46 Males aged 22-68 (M = 42.89, SD = 12.03), females were aged 21-64 (M = 40.37, SD = 11.84). The data was collected thorough online questionnaires advertised through social media and on University campus. Participants completed a battery of questionnaires including the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS; Diener, 1994), Meaning in Life Questionnaire (MLQ; Steger et al., 2006), the Work as Meaning Inventory (WAMI; Stegar, Dik & Duffy, 2012), and the Questionnaire of Eudaimonic Wellbeing (QEWB; Waterman et al., 2010). Results indicated that the QEWB demonstrated adequate reliability, as did the SWLS, MLQ, and the WAMI. This suggests they are suitable for use in further empirical research. Results indicated that meaning in work formed a significant contribution to eudaimonia above the contribution of meaning in life and satisfaction in life, controlling for a range of demographics. Furthermore, it appears that meaning in work mediates the relationship between satisfaction in life and eudaimonia, and the relationship between meaning in work and eudaimonia differs across gender such that the relationship is positive for females and negligible for males. These results indicate that the development and pursuit of meaningful work may have benefits for employees and employers. Future research must examine how features of work experience are linked to eudaimonia, and further examine how experiences of meaning can be encouraged for each gender.
Exploring the roles of narcissism, self-esteem and age in the different usages of Facebook and Twitter
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Social Networking Sites (SNS) such as Facebook and Twitter are an increasingly popular means of transferring information and establishing and maintaining relationships. Current research has primarily addressed student populations and has indicated that young people are using SNSs more frequently which has also been linked to various mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. However, research is still limited regarding any relationships psychological variables such as narcissism and self-esteem may have with SNS usage. The current study examined both Facebook and Twitter, formulating hypotheses based upon different types of usage such as posting of pictures and the adding of friends/followers using age, narcissism and self-esteem as predictors as well as investing any differences between the two sites. The sample consisted of 156 participants between the ages of 18 and 70 who were current user of Facebook and/or Twitter. Participants were required to complete an online questionnaire comprising the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-40), the Media and Technology Usage and Attitude Scale and the CooperSmith Self-Esteem Inventory (SE1). Participants were also asked for consent to be given for their online profiles to be monitored for a 4 week period, of which 58 Facebook users and 51 Twitter users allowed. The results showed that younger people do acquire more friends/followers and that they interact with a greater number of people that they have not actually met. High narcissism and low self esteem was also linked to the frequency of checking online profiles. Twitter users were also found to acquire and interact with more people they have not met than Facebook users. No significant differences were found for the different types of usage and the three predictor variables. Implications and future research directions of narcissism, self-esteem and generational effects on SNSs are discussed.
SESSION 1 LECTURE ROOM 1
Are you destiny or growth? The impact of film on intrinsic and dysfunctional beliefs about romantic love

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In recent years, heterosexual romantic love has become revered as the primary foundation for a marital union. Yet this passionate love type is typical only in the early stages of a relationship (Acevedo & Aron, 2009). Holmes (2007) has identified screen media as possibly influencing this paradoxical veneration of a short-lived love type as the basis of a long-term commitment. Thematic analyses have indicated that screen media-depicted romantic love is distinctly idealistic (Johnson & Holmes, 2009). As Lippman, Ward and Seabrook (2014) suggest, these depictions may be resulting in unrealistic expectations of love in reality. The 22-item implicit theories of relationships scale (22-ITRS; Knee, Patrick & Lonsbary, 2003) and Relationship Beliefs Inventory (RBI; Eidelson & Epstein, 1982) are two scales measuring implicit theories of relationships (ITR) and dysfunctional relationship beliefs (DRB). Holmes and Johnson (2009) used both scales to identify media-primed ITR and DRB. The current study builds on these findings, and, derives from cultivation theory (Gerbner, 1969) and social cognitive theory (Bandura, 1986), to explore the role of media priming (Berkowitz, 1986) on implicit and dysfunctional beliefs across different relationship lengths, birth generations and the biological sexes. Hypotheses are four-fold. First, participants exposed to an experimental media stimulus will report more ITR and DRB than a control group. Additionally, destiny belief and DRB will be highest in early relationships and younger generations. A difference on ITR and DRB is also hypothesised between men and women, though the direction is unclear. Results indicate that the media prime was not successful at inducing ITR. However, a media-primed “positive conflict orientation” was identified in the first experimental group. This is possibly a recency effect resulting from the experimental order. In addition, a “reality check effect” was identified in those who have been in a relationship for less than one year, who subscribe more to the dysfunctional beliefs that sex should be perfect and partners are incapable of change, than single individuals. Also contrary to hypotheses, participants who have been in a relationship for twenty years or more reported more destiny belief than those who have been partnered for between one to three years. Findings in this exploratory arena contribute to a growing body of knowledge in need of further exploration.
Accepting bad? Influences of entertainment media on moral judgements

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Considerable research addresses the potential influence that media plays on the lives of its audience. Media influence has been demonstrated to create positive pathways for education and develop understandings of complex individual experience. However, negative media based images can also generate negative thoughts and behaviours, even shifting the individual’s moral stance. The present study aimed to address how exposure to different types of entertainment media might generate a more flexible moral stance in viewers based on the content of the media. A set of stimuli was devised comprising excerpts from two mainstream popular television series (Sons of Anarchy and Mad Men) and two films (Oceans 11 and Hackers). Participants were then exposed to either a stimulus that depicted a congruent moral scenario, e.g., a crime met with punishment, or a stimulus that depicted a morally ambiguous scenario, e.g., a crime met with celebration or praise. A control group with a morally neutral stimulus was also utilized to create a comparison baseline for the two experimental groups. The results of the study indicate that exposure to morally themed entertainment media produces an activation of a moral schema. The activation overrode the priming of ambiguous context for the experimental group, who were expected to demonstrate moral ambivalence in the exposure to ambiguous content. This revealed that irrespective of contextual priming, exposure to moral themed media activates a schema causing participants to score higher on principled morality, in line with socially acceptable and universally ethical judgement making.
“Shop ‘til they drop”: A qualitative exploration of women’s experiences of online clothes shopping and their perceived effect on body image ideals and body satisfaction GILKES, M. (Honours) & PAPPS, FA (Supervisor)
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The proliferation of Internet technology has provided new avenues for shoppers who once shopped in retail stores to shop online. This exposes shoppers to a variety of online advertising messages and images about clothing goods and the people who wear them. The effect of such images on female consumers’ body image and body satisfaction has been widely studied in forms of media such as magazines and television. The thin ideal displayed in these images has been linked to lowered self-esteem, negative body image and disordered eating. To date, no research has been conducted on the perceived influence of online stores’ images on female shoppers’ body image and body satisfaction. The current study aimed to explore the nature of women’s online shopping experiences, how female online shoppers experience and describe their bodies in the online shopping environment, and what online shoppers learn about their body image when they shop online. A qualitative methodology grounded in Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) was utilised to conduct the study. Ten female frequent online shoppers aged between 18 and 25 years old participated in semi structured interviews. Participants were asked about their online shopping experiences, body satisfaction, and their perceived influence of images on body image and body satisfaction. Analysis revealed that young women online shoppers experience their bodies in multiplicity of ways, with the online shopping environment giving pleasure to women, especially when they felt their bodies emulated the ideal.
Primary psychopaths get away with their crimes despite making risky decisions LUCAS, M. (2014, Honours) & MORRISON, N (Supervisor) madeleine.lucas@hotmail.com

Introduction: Psychopathy is a trait popularly understood within a pathological and criminal context. However, the literature indicates that psychopathy is a personality trait present in all individuals to differing degrees, and can in fact be advantageous in many professional contexts where analytical rather than emotive decisions need to be made e.g. CEOs. The two-factor model of psychopathy conceptualizes this broad trait in terms of primary psychopathy characteristics, such as superficial charm, reduced empathy, and lying, and secondary psychopathy characteristics, such as lack of goals, boredom, anger, and most critically, impulsivity. As such, individuals high in secondary psychopathy are more likely than those high in primary psychopathy to have dysregulated stress responses and engage in more socially deviant behaviours. It had been understood that such social deviance resulted from engaging in risky decision-making (RDM) behaviours, however, recent research suggests no direct link between impulsivity and risky decision making (Dean et al., 2013). As such, the critical features of secondary psychopathy that correlate with RDM are yet to be identified. Aim: The current study investigated the relationship between primary and secondary psychopathy and RDM, with focused attention on the characteristics of secondary psychopathy to determine the underlying features of RDM, including; impulsivity, proneness to boredom, lack of adherence to long term goals, and anger. Method: The sample included 141 participants who complete, online, a demographic questionnaire, five personality trait measures, and a card game – the Iowa Gambling Task (IGT), to evaluate RDM. Results: Regression analyses were conducted to evaluate the correlations between IGT performance and four key personality characteristics of secondary psychopathy. Results show that primary psychopathy, not secondary psychopathy, is correlated with RDM. No secondary traits were associated with RDM. Conclusion: Primary psychopaths may possess advantageous characteristics e.g. superficial charm and deception that assist them in avoiding bad outcomes e.g. crime detection, despite making risky decisions. RDM may be better operationalized as a trait than a behavioural outcome. This study contributes to a growing body of research regarding decision-making ability in the context of psychopathy.
What drives dangerous driving? Exploring the motivators of driving dangerously and persuasive messages to address them SASAKI, M. (2014, Honours) & MORRISON, B. (Supervisor)

Dangerous driving is a social problem that can result in serious injuries, fatalities, and significant economic costs. Government authorities continue to invest heavily in road safety campaigns and traffic law enforcement to encourage safe driving. Many years of research have examined the causes of dangerous driving, and road safety campaigns designed to address them which mostly utilise negatively valanced safe driving messages. However, less research has investigated the efficacy of these campaigns to target specific motivators of dangerous driving, and the use of positively valenced safe driving messages in doing so. This study examined the ability of dangerous driving motivators to predict self-reported dangerous driving behaviour, and efficacy of safe driving messages. Participants (n = 187) completed an online questionnaire to measure actual driving behaviour, and the extent to which they held motivators to drive dangerously as identified by a previously designed measurement tool, the Motives for Dangerous Driving Scale (MDDS). Participants also viewed one of two safe driving messages (either positive or negative in valence) and provided responses to measure message efficacy. The two motivators of driving fast/risk taking, and disrespect for traffic laws, predicted self-reported highway code violations, aggressive violations and errors. These motivators also predicted message acceptance and message rejection for safe driving messages. Implications of this study’s findings are that motivators of dangerous driving can be identified and linked to both actual driving behaviour and efficacy of safe driving messages, offering the potential to inform the design of road safety campaigns and enabling a more targeted approach to encourage safe driving practices.
The purpose of this experimental research is to explore whether the physiological and psychological benefits of physical activity can be utilised as an effective coping strategy to buffer individual stress response. The study aims to investigate whether structured recreational physical activity will facilitate the experience of positive emotions and greater decision-making despite exposure to acute stress, induced by the Mannheim Multicomponent Stress Test (MMST). Twenty-four participants (15 female, 9 male) took part in the study. A physically active (N=12) and non-active (control, N=12) group were individually exposed to the stress manipulation and a decision-making task (Iowa Gambling Task; IGT) to compare physiological, psychological, and cognitive performance. Main effects were found within both groups for HR variability suggesting a stress response was activated during exposure to the MMST. Further, results indicated a significant main effect for time within the non-active group supporting a decrease in positive affect between baseline and post stress. Additional main effects were found for correct responses on the MMST, indicating performance was significantly affected within both groups when the level of intensity increased and the task became more challenging. Final main effects were found within both groups over time on correct responses of the IGT, suggesting both groups showed improved decision-making across the task. No differences were found between groups on the IGT suggesting the ability to make decisions was not influenced by exposure to stress. These results highlight implications for future research examining physical activity to inform the development of appropriate strategies to cope with acute stress and influence decision-making.
SESSION 3 LECTURE ROOM 1
It is time to exercise smart rather than exercise hard. A comparison of high intensity interval training and circuit training to traditional aerobic and anaerobic exercises LING, P. (2014, Honours) & WOODS, D. (Supervisor) 212377@my.acap.edu.au

Physical exercise is helpful in treatment of mental disorders. Many researches have addressed what effects can exercise generate to psychological health, yet no researches have compared the efficacies of different types of exercises. Consequently, this study compared how different types of exercises, including aerobic, anaerobic and combined exercises independently affect psychological health. In this study, 184 participants were recruited to fill in a questionnaire via an online survey platform (www.qualtrics.com). Generally, participants were asked to report their exercise habit (Aerobic, anaerobic, combined and none) and their psychological health was assessed by DASS-21 and GHQ-12. The data is analysed by SPSS 21 and ANOVA was used. Chi square analysis was also conducted to measure the relationship among characteristics of exercise including frequency, intensity and enjoyment of exercise. According to the results, no significant difference between groups was found in the scores in DASS-21. However, the three exercise groups revealed significantly better psychological health than the sedentary group in the GHQ-21 (p = .045). In addition, the relationship between intensity and enjoyment of exercise was approaching significance (p = .10). The current findings were not totally consistent to the existing literature. Limitation in the study design was discussed to explain the disparity between the recent study and the existing literature. Lastly, the main conclusion of this study was that exercise is generally beneficial in the psychological aspect, nonetheless the combined exercise may be a more time efficient and sustainable alternative.
Self-Objectification and Enjoyment of Sexualization in Women on Social Media
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Self-objectification and self-sexualization is increasingly apparent in social networking sites among Western women. Research has indicated that objectification can be associated with internalizing societal standards of appearance and validating appearance related self-worth. However, research has yet to investigate enjoyment of self-sexualization for women who frequently use Instagram. It was hypothesised that high frequency of Instagram use and appearance contingent self-worth will be associated with higher levels of internalization, promoting greater self-objectification and greater enjoyment of sexualization, among a sample of 112 Australian women. This conceptual model was not supported, however the results of a hierarchical regression indicated that relationship status directly predicted enjoyment of self-sexualization. Furthermore, appearance related self-worth predicted self-objectification, which then predicted internalization of societal standards, which then directly predicted enjoyment of self-sexualization. The results of this study support previous research, in which internalizing visual images displayed in the media reinforces sexual behaviour and therefore leads to self-sexualization. Additionally, the results are further explained through past research that has identified women self-objectify because their self-worth is attached to their appearance. The current study addresses the lack of research on enjoying self-sexualization among women who use Instagram.

Key words: young women, self-objectification, internalization, appearance contingent self-worth, sexualization, Instagram, social networking
The study of Chinese psycholinguistics has become of great interest to researchers investigating the types of information represented in the mental lexicon. Previously studied models of word recognition have been developed from English and other alphabetic writing systems. Studies of the drastically different orthography in Chinese have produced a number of important and interesting findings that have great implications for proposed models of language processing. Most psycholinguists concur that Chinese characters have a unique representation at lexical level, but whether there are sub-lexical levels of representation (potentially containing radicals, strokes and features), and their involvement in lexical accesses is still under debate. For example, the Lexical Constituency Model (LCM) suggests that radicals contained in compound characters would activate its own standalone character pronunciation, whereas the Hierarchical Interactive Activation Model (HIAM) suggests that radicals do not have direct access to phonological activation. Aim: Therefore, an experimental study of native Chinese speakers, in a pseudo-character naming paradigm was used to validate predictions based on said models. The LCM predicts the generation of stem-pronunciations and the HIAM, type-pronunciations. Additionally the properties of Character structure were also examined by comparing horizontal and vertical pseudo-characters. Method: using the pseudocharacter paradigm, 69 Native Chinese speakers (37 females, 28.62 years old) were required to name 40 non-existent phonograms varying between horizontal or vertical structures. Results: A preliminary 2 x 2 within subjects ANOVA found that there was a significant difference between Stem and Type pronunciation as well as structure. Conclusion: These findings provide support for the HIAM and an argument for the need to consider position-specific radicals in future models of Chinese character recognition.
SESSION 4 TRAINING ROOM 8
Performance in simulated maritime tasks of varying complexity: The moderating effect of ego-resiliency

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Stress research is currently powered by the goal to further the understanding of human capabilities by investigating individual’s responses to extreme and unfamiliar conditions (Hancock & Warm, 1989). As a growing number of workplace environments within the aviation, military and transportation industries require employees to operate under high-risk and dynamic conditions, researchers have reframed their energies to explicitly examine the impact of workload in complex real-life tasks; however very little exists within the maritime domain (Robert et al., 2003; Wickens & Hollands, 1999).

The purpose of this study is to explore the effects of stress on operator performance by examining expertise in real-world simulated maritime tasks of varying complexity and the moderating effect of ego-resiliency. Eight experienced maritime pilots participated in two real-world simulated maritime tasks of varying complexity, a control (fair weather conditions) and experimental task (severe weather conditions). This multidisciplinary study combines measures of psychology to examine the interplay between task complexity, task performance, and ego-resiliency. Differences in measures of task performance, affect, and HR variability were not found for variations in task complexity; however both the control and experimental simulated tasks induced a heightened physiological response to stress, evident by significant increases in HR variability. No evidence was provided for the moderating effect of ego-resiliency on task performance, or measures of the physiological, and psychological stress response. Such research is of relevance to a number of industries where employees must operate within dynamic and demanding workplace environments, and highlights the need for organisations to further understand the behaviours and processes of their personnel when operating under high-risk and arduous conditions.
Deconstructing inherent power hierarchies in NSW secondary schools: Do HSC students' learning practices support or contradict their study preferences? JARVIS, G. (2014, Honours) & SHI, R. (Supervisor)
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The field of educational psychology involves the study of individual differences in cognitive processes when learning. Logical positivism is a common philosophical framework within empiricism, measuring ability objectively from sense perception, specifically direct experience and observation. Within New South Wales, the Year 12 Higher School Certificate (HSC) Mathematics syllabuses demand students are taught and assessed by tests and exams—considered so reliable because they fit within this framework (Niss, 1993; Watt, 2005). While this parallels the quantitative framework dominating the literature, the literature lacks influence from critical social theory, whereby the tension between liberation and oppression are examined within society (Powers, 2007). Three research aims were proposed. Firstly, to investigate the learning practices, preferences and goals of eight NSW HSC Mathematics students through one-on-one semi-structured interviews. Secondly, to evolve the literature from an etic approach (where academic scholars and NSW Government bodies dictate learning), to an emic approach (where students discuss their own learning practices). Thirdly, to deconstruct the implicit nature of shared taken-for-granted assumptions which are not explicitly stated (Harper et al., 2008) and examine the subject positions that are (re)produced as a result of these. Discourse Analysis enabled socially constructed language and meanings within students’ discourse to be deconstructed (Forrester, 2013). Foucauldian Discourse Analysis enables such inherent power hierarchies to be deconstructed (Willig, 2008). Finding suggested a clear hierarchy within the intuition of education, interestingly dictated by the parents of students, as the paying consumers of the education service. Both within and between student competition was evident, driven by ranks and holistic study techniques (such as, past papers) for those in higher units (i.e. 3 Unit Mathematics), versus marks and more detail-orientated study preferences (such as steps) for those in lower units (i.e. General Mathematics). A gender divide was also found, such that males appear to be typically more accepting of student-teacher roles and used more mechanical metaphors in their discourse of study preferences, whereas females appear to less accepting of student-teacher roles and used more people-orientated/"life" metaphors in their discourse. Ultimately, the research hopes to contribute to the psychological field, which currently lacks both a qualitative focus and opinions of students, at the epicenter of this entire institution.
An Exploration of the Social Processes Underlying Resilient Adaptation in Young Adults. VON SABLER, MAXIM (2014, Honours) & REECE, J. (Supervisor) maxim.vonsabler@gmail.com

A consistent finding in resilience research is that social support is a strong predictor of resilience. Social support is characterised by a well-developed peer and family network, and a sense of connectedness to the community at large. Social support has been identified as fundamental in achieving adaptive outcomes, which is the essential marker of well-being and adjustment. Social support is, however, a broad construct that incorporates a range of specific and measurable sub-constructs, and the precise mechanisms underlying the impact of social support on resilient outcomes are still largely unknown. To date, research has focused primarily on establishing correlates of resilience in an effort to develop targeted interventions. Greater understanding of the theory of resilience will yield greater benefits in interventions for the community as well as targeted clinical treatments. This involves a commitment to understanding the processes affecting vulnerability and protective factors in resilience, specifically around psychosocial functioning, rather than just their identification. The present study aimed to investigate the specific aspects of social support that facilitated adaptive outcomes in the face of significant stress and adversity. Using the Resilience Classification Framework, a novel statistical classification method, individuals were grouped across a continuum of functioning on which Resilience was located. Results suggest that resilient individuals perform significantly better across a range of social support domains, specifically aspects of social well-being. More broadly, social support appeared to buffer the effects of stress and adversity, and was important in generating resilient outcomes. Notably, sources and perceptions of social support adequacy did not affect resilience. These strong findings provide an empirical basis for the development of social support interventions in the context of resilience, both in clinical and public health settings.
This paper presents the findings of a research project inquiring into the lived experiences of identity and culture as expressed by nine women of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven coastal areas of NSW. The status of Aboriginal Peoples’ health is significantly lower than that of non-Indigenous Australians as a direct result of the devastating effects of colonisation, successive bureaucratic policies and ongoing marginalisation within Australian society. Indigenous women have even lower rates of physical and mental health than men, and increasing their wellbeing has a positive effect on improving the health of Indigenous communities as a whole. Urban and regional ATSI communities are predominantly constituted of Indigenous Peoples of mixed-descent as a result of deliberate policies of assimilation, yet are disparaged by mainstream narratives of inauthenticity and opportunism. Determining regional and gender-based variances can facilitate greater understanding of the lived events of Indigenous Peoples and the particular dynamics within ATSI communities. Inquiring into women’s experiences of identity, connection and belonging can highlight aspects that could enhance a positive sense of identity if research is conducted in adherence to Indigenist and phenomenological methodologies allowing the question of identity to be debated by Indigenous Peoples themselves.
The impact of childhood bullying on adult friendship quality
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Introduction: Bullying is a worldwide problem and is estimated to have a prevalence rate of up to 37% for traditional forms of bullying and 40% for cyber bullying (Adams & Lawrence, 2011; Tokunaga, 2010). Childhood bullying can affect various aspects of adult functioning including mental health (e.g., depression) and social functioning (e.g., lower quality friendships) (Hawker & Boulton, 2000). With the increase in social media use, researchers have now begun to investigate the impact of cyber bullying on other areas of adult functioning. Despite this there is a gap in the knowledge about the effects of cyber bullying on friendships. Consequently, the present study is the first to investigate the impact of cyber bullying on adult friendship quality. It was hypothesised that: (1) traditional stable victims (bullied in both primary school and high school) will be associated with lower levels of adult friendship quality; (2) traditional stable victims will be associated with higher levels of cyber bullying; and (3) higher levels of cyber bullying will predict lower levels of adult friendship quality.

Purpose: The purpose of the current study was to examine the impact of four primary forms of bullying (physical, verbal, relational and cyber bullying) on adult functioning. Specifically, it investigated the impact of childhood bullying on adult friendship quality.

Method: Participants were required to complete a survey which consisted of demographic information and three questionnaires. Each questionnaire was used to measure levels of childhood traditional bullying (primary and high school), childhood cyber bullying and adult friendship quality.

Results: The results revealed that neither traditional or cyber bullying victims were associated with lower levels of adult friendship quality. Additionally, it was found that stable victims of traditional forms of bullying were associated with higher levels of cyber bullying.

Conclusion: These results suggest that there may be moderating variables which block the impact of bullying on adult friendship quality (e.g., prior friendships and ability to ignore cyber threats). This study should be considered in the construction of future bullying prevention programs for Australian youth.
Romantic Relationship Quality and Unstable Eating Behaviours: Could the Mediating Factor be Anxiety?
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The main aim of this study was to investigate the mediational pathway between romantic relationship quality, anxiety and unstable eating behaviours. It was hypothesised that a negative romantic relationship quality would lead to unstable eating behaviours, due to symptoms of anxiety. Ninety eight participants who, at the time of the survey, were in a romantic relationship, completed a self report questionnaire measuring their adult attachment style, romantic relationship quality, depression, anxiety and stress symptomology, and eating behaviours. Results indicated that, separately, anxiety and depression fully mediate the association between negative romantic relationship quality and unstable eating behaviours. A mediational pathway is observed such that adult attachment style predicts the onset of depression leading to unstable eating behaviours. Furthermore, insecure adult attachment style leads to a negative romantic relationship, subsequently resulting in depression. There were significant strengths and limitations derived from this study, however it is a notable contribution to the overall analysis of the effect of romantic relationships. This is due to the mediational pathway observed that enables researchers to determine variables causing engagement in unstable eating behaviours.
“We both want it to work so there’s no need for me to fight”: How the demand-withdraw conflict pattern is experienced in intimate lesbian relationships. LITTLE, C (Honours) & PAPPS, F.A (Supervisor) carey.f.little@gmail.com

Research has identified that in married heterosexual couples, disagreements and contentious issues commonly lead to behaviour where one partner makes a complaint or request and the other avoids the discussion and/or removes from the situation. This behaviour has been labelled the demand-withdraw pattern of conflict, and is commonly found in relationships in distress and in those that end in divorce or separation. Many studies have shown women as the demanders and men as the withdrawers, although what constitutes the most important issue for the couple can also determine who takes up what role. However, questions arise as to how these roles are taken up or allocated in same sex couples. The 2011 census registered that 1% of couples in Australia register as same-sex, with 16,000 women (47.48%) identifying as lesbian or as women in a same sex relationships. This significant proportion makes the topic of conflict-resolution an important one, particularly as some practitioners may not feel they understand the nuances or issues central to this section of our community. The present research used a qualitative methodology to explore how women who self-identify as lesbian experience the demand-withdraw pattern in their cohabiting relationships. Eight women in cohabiting relationships of more than one year were interviewed. Interview transcripts were analysed using a process of thematic decomposition. Analysis showed that while these women demonstrated some elements of demand-withdraw it was not in line with the Christensen and Heavey (1993) model. Firstly the women believed conflict a healthy and important part of maintaining an equitable and harmonious relationship. Secondly, while often assigning the conflict behaviour to personality traits such as “assertive” and then mapping these traits to a gender identity, not only did the women see themselves as “instigators” rather than demanders but that the issues they raised were of secondary importance. Further, what might be interpreted as withdraw behaviour was an agreed time-out process to allow a less emotional discussion and solution to be negotiated when the discussion was reconvened.
SESSION 6 TRAINING ROOM 8
Cognitive Outcomes in Self-threatening Social Comparisons: 
Examining the role of individual differences GEORGES, A. (2014, Honours) & HARRIS, L. (Supervisor) amanda.georges@hotmail.com

The factors that influence attentional focus have been the subject of recent research because of the central role of attentional focus in task performance (Mather & Sutherland, 2011). Previous work has shown that upward social comparisons (USC) induce changes in focus of attention whereby individuals under conditions of USC and self-relevant threat (SRT) display increased attentional focus (Normand & Croizet, 2013). However the relationship between social comparisons and measures of state and trait anxiety known to influence attentional focus (Reinholdt-Dunne, Mogg & Bradley, 2013) has not previously been examined. The present study sought to replicate and extend the study of Normand and Croizet (2013) by considering the impact of individual differences on attentional focus. The study used a 3 (social comparison: upward; downward; control) X 2 (SRT: high; low) design with participants randomly allocated to one of the six experimental conditions. Participants also completed the 6-item Iowa-Netherlands Comparison Orientation Scale and the 40-item State-Trait Anxiety Inventory as measures of individual differences. The experimental task comprised two blocks of 72–trials to assess attentional focussing. All participants completed a series of visual analogue scales and manipulation check questions to verify that SRT and social comparison manipulations were effective. Results of the present study found that SRT and social comparison feedback did not influence reaction times and individual differences in attentional focusing were found on only one measure. Challenging the attentional focussing framework is the effort hypothesis which proposes that individual attention is affected by putting more effort into a task which inadvertently increases prepotent and dominant task responses, such as reporting word meaning rather than colour in the Stroop task and paying attention to peripheral information in a dot probe (McFall, Jamieson & Harkins, 2009). The results of this study are consistent with the effort hypothesis where individuals produced more prepotent responses as indicated by an increase in cueing effects (McFall et al., 2009). Since social comparisons are ubiquitous, a greater understanding of social comparisons and associated cognitive outcomes provide a much needed insight into the limited social-cognitive perspectives regarding task performance.
Exploring the presence of a predatory agenda amongst successful psychopaths using an emotional memory task MOTTEE, A. (Honours) & MORRISON, B. (Supervisor)
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Psychopathy, when exhibited at a clinical level, is linked to narcissism, diminished capacity for empathy, emotional dysfunction, violence, and criminal recidivism. It is understood psychopaths possess a predatory agenda and, according to the response modulation hypothesis (RMH), when presented with emotional information, some attentional impairments exist for peripheral information. Psychopathy is considered a dimensional personality construct on a continuum. In recent decades the successful psychopath has been identified; an individual that possesses attributes of the clinical psychopath without a disposition for violence or criminality. Research into the predatory agenda amongst successful psychopaths is in its infancy and findings currently in circulation are conflicting. One study presents evidence for the predatory agenda by demonstrating successful psychopaths exhibit a memory bias for vulnerable people (sad, unsuccessful females). This finding is yet to be reproduced and possible issues with task design may have confounded conclusions. Furthermore, the RMH is unclear in the successful psychopathic population. Also, little is known about gender differences in this subpopulation.

The present study hypothesised a correlation between psychopathy and memory for vulnerabilities as well as endeavoured to investigate peripheral attention and gender differences. Participants (n=83, ~50% m/f) were presented with a novel memory task involving 16 pairs of faces presented for 1.5 seconds in which attention was oriented to left or right utilising the Posner paradigm. Faces varied across gender and emotion displayed (happy, sad, neutral, fearful). Respondents completed the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy scale (LSRP) and following this indicated if they remember previous faces amongst 64 novel faces (possible 32 correct of 96). To the author’s knowledge, the present study is the first to employ the current design. No significant correlation existed between psychopathy and accuracy for vulnerable faces. However, poorer memory for neutral faces presented in the periphery was strongly correlated with increasing scores on the LSRP amongst male participants (r = -.40, p < .05). Contrary to previous research, data would suggest no evidence of a predatory agenda amongst the current sample of successful psychopaths. Evidence for the RMH amongst males is compelling suggesting there may be certain traits linking psychopathy to poor peripheral attention for emotionless faces. This finding also supports the design of the current task. This effect was not found amongst women underscoring a gender difference. In recent years, the existence of a successful psychopath has been queried as it may be incongruent to pair disorder with success. The current finding suggests that indeed certain traits are linked to some impairment involving emotionless faces, but those impairments are not necessarily linked to a predatory agenda. Revisiting the definition of a successful psychopath is discussed as well as implications for different social settings.
Psychopathy is considered one of the most socially aversive personalities in modern society. Speculated to be devoid of empathy and theory of mind, the ingredients for successful social interactions, researches on psychopathy have produced mixed results. A literature review showed bifurcated mechanisms of empathy and theory of mind, namely cognitive and affective, furthermore, studies have often assumed cognitive empathy to be synonymous with theory of mind. However, these mechanisms had not being investigated directly within subclinical psychopathy. This study aims to (1) clarify the ambiguous relationship between empathy and theory of mind, and (2) examine whether subclinical psychopathy (primary and secondary) is associated with deficits in empathy and theory of mind. The sample comprised of 136 adults within the community and undergraduate students, whom have completed an online survey consisting of the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale (LSRP; Levenson, Kiehl & Fitzpatrick, 1995) and the Basic Empathy Scale (Jolliffe & Farrington, 2006), together with Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test-Revised (Baron-Cohen, Wheelwright, Hill, Raste & Plumb, 2001) which measures affective ToM and an Imposing Memory Task (Stiller & Dunbar, 2007) which measures cognitive ToM. Results indicated that primary psychopathy is associated with deficits in cognitive empathy, affective empathy, and cognitive ToM. Secondary psychopathy is only associated with cognitive empathy. It is also indicative that cognitive empathy is positively correlated with affective ToM. Implications of these findings are discussed in relation to speculative interplay of empathic and theory of mind mechanisms that perpetuate callous exploitative and manipulative behaviours in subclinical psychopathy.
Dining with the benevolent paedophile: a meta-ethnography
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This research foregrounds the rise of a contemporary hegemonic discourse of male paedophilia in Western industrialized societies. The social construction of sexuality is introduced from a Foucauldian perspective: the knowledge of scientia sexualis and the formation of the hetero-normative family as an instrument of biopower. In the 1970s and 1980s, social movements restructured power relations between genders, sexualities, and generations. The manufacture of the paedophile trope is located in the iatrogenic effects of this restructuring. The expert disciplines of law, psychiatry and psychology construct men with paedophilia in two ways: criminal and mentally disordered. The diachronic incoherence of psychiatric diagnoses and socio-legal definitions confound research enterprises and knowledge of the phenomenon of paedophilia. We respond to paedophilia by fearing, loathing, hunting, punishing, Othering and arming against. A paradox has emerged in our culture that simultaneously fetishizes child sexuality and renders paedophilic subjectivity unknowable. Two of the primary contributions of quantitative research are typologies of offenders and risk management tools that have fallen short of protecting people from harm. A meta-ethnography of primary qualitative research contributes to our understanding of male paedophilia in the interest of expanding our current repertoire of responses. The literary products of people with paedophilia were analyzed in primary studies. This meta-ethnographic project analyzed both the published data and the monocles worn by the primary researchers. The meta-ethnography revealed that a diminution in sensitivity has impeded our recognition of the variants of paedophilic subjectivity. It is proposed that there are several benefits of putting aside the hegemonic discourse, so that we might engage in explorative dialogue with a subjectivity that is more knowable than the hegemonic discourse permits.