Social Media Effects on Body Image

Rebecca Barron, Emily Mink, and Richard Osbaldiston, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Low body image, low body satisfaction, and eating order idealization have become epidemic in our country. The prevalence of body dissatisfaction in the United States is approximately 72% for women and this number appears to be rising. Our research aims to reveal the extent that social media affects body image. To answer this question, we conducted a meta-analysis that analyzed 16 studies located through the use of PsycInfo database when searching "social media" and "body image". We coded these studies and calculated the effect size that media had on body image. The results showed that the overall effect size was moderately negative (d = -0.35), meaning social media had a negative impact on body image and that it most greatly affected adolescents between the ages of 13 and 16 with d = - 0.93. This study provides insight to how the different types of media we use today can affect body image.

Clothing Preferences: Are you what you wear?

Alexander Bokeno and Paula J. Waddill, Ph.D. - Murray State University

There are many ways to define personality, but individuals often label themselves as introverts and extroverts. Introverts tend to withdraw from social contacts and have an exaggerated thought process in relation to social behavior. On the other hand, extroverts have a tendency to make social contacts. As consumers we tend to buy things that represent an extension of who we are, what we represent, and our identity. This study examined the relationship between introversion and extroversion and preferred color of clothing. Participants completed a hypothetical situation survey about the activities and colors of clothing they preferred. Participants also completed a personality inventory that measured extroversion and openness. The results indicated that extroversion and openness were correlated but there was no correlation between personality and clothing color preference. However, people with mostly dark clothes in their closet preferred to wear dark clothing when they were out with friends.

What are you, Crazy?: The Effects of Psychoeducation on Perceptions of Individuals with Pica

Casey Brugh and Amanda Joyce, Ph.D. - Murray State University

Many people view individuals with mental illness in discriminatory ways, potentially causing issues in treatment (Masuda, Price, Anderson, Schmertz, and Alamaras, 2009; US Department of Health and Human Services, 1999). This study examines the relationship between stigma and psychoeducation regarding pica. Participants received a survey with one of three vignettes describing an individual with pica. In one condition, only pica symptoms were described, in another a pica diagnosis was given, and in the third pica treatment was described. There will be approximately 60 undergraduate student participants enrolled in an Introductory Psychology class. An ANOVA will be performed to determine differences between the three groups. I hypothesize that there will be differences, with stigma changing depending on the amount of information that an individual receives. If the results show that more psychoeducation produces less stigma, this could alter our approach in reducing stigma.

Understanding psychological distress within the Christian student community: The influence of resilience and God representations

Jeanine L. Campbell and Janet B. Dean, Ph.D. - Asbury University

Previous research suggests individuals' psychological states can be significantly influenced by resilience and God representations. The prevalence of psychological distress among college students, along with the theological focus of Christian communities, presents an opportunity to explore a unique influence of resilience and God representations on the psychological states of students at a Christian university via an online survey. Congruence between theological orthodoxy and personal beliefs about God is expected to predict greater well-being, while incongruence is expected to predict more distress. An interaction between resilience and God representations is also anticipated, with greater levels of resilience and theological congruence indicating more positive well-being. The second part of this study explores the potential for narrative priming to modify students' representations of God, predicting positive narratives of God to increase positivity of representations, and negative narratives to increase negativity. Research findings and implications are discussed.

Generation Gap in Work Ethic

Heith Chandler, Emily Rohrer, Maria Vazquez Brown, Ph.D. and Amanda Joyce, Ph.D. - Murray State University

Research shows generational differences in work ethic (Meriac, Woehr, & Banister, 2010). Further research shows that technology influences student academic outcomes (Lei, 2010). Combining these two disparate areas, we have hypothesized that there may be a generation gap in work ethic that is based in differences in familiarity in technology. Participants (N = 113) were recruited from a general psychology research pool to complete the Multidimensional Measure of Work Ethic, Experience with Technology, and Exposure to Technology scales. Using Pearson correlations, we examined the interrelations of the variables of interest. Results indicated no correlation between generation and work ethic. However, there was a positive correlation between versatility with technology and work ethic, r = .243, p = .041; and a positive correlation between ability to use technology and work ethic, r = .445, p = .001. Results will be discussed in terms of their important implications for work ethic modality.

Effects of Gender Stereotype Priming on Teamwork Communication Styles

Aubrey K. Charette and Janet B. Dean, Ph.D. - Asbury University

Gender stereotypes are prevalent in many cultures, even in one that is striving to progress beyond these. Although individuals are imploring for changes to what are known as traditional gender roles, there is evidence that internal stereotypes are not shifting as quickly (Haines, Deaux, & Lufaro, 2016). These stereotypical roles and perceptions likely will continue to affect social communication. The current study explored effects of gender stereotyping on joint task performance. The 26 undergraduate participants were placed in a gender stereotyping priming or control condition and asked to complete a building task with a partner. Both primed females and males were expected to communicate according to their respective stereotypes more so than students who were not primed. In particular, females in the gender priming condition are anticipated to submit to the direction of the male when in male/female teams. Teams who function more clearly within their gender roles were hypothesized to show better task performance than those teams functioning in less gender stereotypical ways.

When Equality Does Not Quite Mean Equal: The Effect that Different LGB Experiences Have On Anxiety

Erika Combs and Wendy R. Williams, Ph.D. - Berea College

In the United States, less than 4% or almost 16 million people identify as LGBT (Newport, 2015). Within this population, individuals are almost 3 times as likely to have mental health problems. The minority stress theory proposes that sexual minority health disparities can be explained in large part by stressors induced by a hostile, homophobic culture, which often results in a lifetime of harassment, maltreatment, discrimination and victimization and may ultimately impact access to care (Dentato, 2012). Based on this theory, the researcher hypothesized that witnessing positive or negative LGB experiences might influence anxiety levels, especially in LGB populations. It is predicted that LGB individuals will have higher scores on anxiety than heterosexual individuals, and individuals will experience lower scores of anxiety when they are exposed to the positive video experience compared to those who have the negative video experience. Participants were asked to watch a video showing either a positive LGB experience centered on the Equal Marriage Ruling made by the Supreme Court or a negative LGB experience around the same topic. They were then asked to self-report on a one to four Likert scale on the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory. All participants, both LGB and heterosexual, experienced higher anxiety levels when exposed to negative experience videos. There was no difference between sexual orientations in either video type or anxiety levels. The results from this research can be used as means to research the effects that positive experiences can have on someone in counseling.

The Effects of Instructor Interpersonal Styles on Various Types of Student Motivation

Brandon Creech and Jonathan Gore, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

The current study examined the relationship between instructor interpersonal style, defined as dominance or warmth, and student motivation. Undergraduate students (n=273) enrolled in an introductory psychology course completed a survey that measured several variables including student perceptions on instructor interpersonal style and personal motivation. We hypothesized that perceived instructor warmth would increase student motivation, while perceived instructor dominance would decrease student motivation. A follow-up survey was completed one month later. Hierarchical linear regression was conducted. The results indicated that both perceived instructor dominance and warmth were correlated with increased levels of introjected motivation, while perceived instructor warmth was also correlated with an increase in identified motivation. Implications for the relationship between instructor interpersonal styles and specific types of student motivations are discussed.

The New Church: Evaluating the Relationship between Religion and Cultural Values

Amanda Creed and Jonathan S. Gore, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

In this study we examined what constitutes the remembrance of certain sermons. We hypothesized that people with individualistic values, will remember a sermon more accurately if it is framed from a quest perspective than if it were framed from an orthodox perspective (1). The opposite effect was predicted for people with collectivist values (2). In this study undergrad students (n = 285) were randomly assigned to read a sermon transcript about 2 Peter 1: 20-21, either with a quest or an orthodox perspective. They then completed a true/false test to identify whether statements were in the sermon or not. Later participants completed an online survey asking them about their cultural values. A series of partial correlation analyses were conducted between cultural values and the number of items they got correct on the true/false

test, controlling for negative emotions while reading the sermon. Support was found for hypothesis 2, but not for hypothesis 1. Implications for church planting in collectivist regions are discussed.

Oh! That Tickled! Effects of Side of Body and Source on Tickle Intensity

Bronwyn Cross and Wendy R. Williams, Ph.D. - Berea College

There have been conflicting theories put forth regarding tickle. Interpersonal theory states that intense, pleasure-inducing tickle must come from an outside source (Shultz, 1976). Reflex theory states that this tickle can be a result of any stimulus, either self-produced, or from an outside source (Hall & Allin, 1897; Fridlund & Loftis, 1990, Stearns, 1972; Sully, 1902). In addition, Ruggieri and Milizia (1983) and Smith and Cahusac (2001) state that tickle intensity is experienced asymmetrically in the body, such that tickle on the right side of the body is experienced as more intense than on the left. This study combined these bodies of literature to examine whether interpersonal theory or reflex theory was correct by examining the effect of the source of tickle: self, interpersonal, and non-human machine, and location: right and left side of the body on tickle intensity. Participants received three sets of three tickle strokes on the top of their right or left forearm from a person, a non-human machine, or from themselves. After each set of three strokes, they verbally rated the intensity of the tickle. A main effect for tickle source was found, but no main effect for side of body, and no interaction. Interpersonal tickle was more intense than machine and self, but machine and self did not differ significantly from each other. These results may point to an evolutionary mechanism for threat detection.

Deriving the Structure of Post-Traumatic Growth From Multiple PTG Measures

Justice M. Cundiff, Reagan Overby, Melinda Moore, Ph.D. and Jerry K Palmer, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

We examined specific post-traumatic growth (PTG) measurement items to induce the structure of the general PTG construct. Specifically, we gathered eleven measures of PTG totaling 376 items. Subject matter experts (SMEs) then logically induced the structure underlying the items; two content dimensions resulted. The first included the basic psychology categories of cognitive, behavior, and affective; these were the items' mainly subject components. The second, generally predicate, dimension included the categories of self, family, community, and spiritual. Items also varied by specificity and growth/decline. By far the most common items were cognitive and self and the least common were spiritual and family-related. Implications for the PTG construct and its measurement are discussed.

Investigating Gender Schemas and Gender Differences in Body Dissatisfaction

Nicholas A. Dawson and Tim S. Thornberry, Ph.D. - Morehead State University

There are notable gender differences in body dissatisfaction and eating disorders. Siegling and Delaney (2013) claim that gender differences in these psychological concerns are moderated by gender-schematic processing. However, they were surprised by the fact that gender-aschematic participants had significantly high levels of body image concerns. We propose that this finding is due to possible methodological errors regarding the grouping of individuals and the moderating role of masculinity or self-esteem in the relationship between gender-schematicity and body dissatisfaction. Forbes and colleagues (2001) encountered this phenomenon and found support for the idea of self-esteem as a moderator. The goal of our study is to elucidate the relationship between gender schematicity and body dissatisfaction, identifying either masculinity or self-esteem as a moderator. We will also investigate gender as a moderator in this relationship in order to explain gender differences in body dissatisfaction. Therefore, we will conduct multiple moderation analyses.

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There is (Usually) No Crying in Sport

Tommy DeRossett, Morgan Owens, Brighton Hollingsworth, Kaylee Noel, Kendrick Settler, Quinn Lambert, and Meagan Smith, Dan Wann, Jana Hackathorn,Ph.D., and Sean Rife, Ph.D. - Murray State University

In sport, social expectations often vary depending on gender. Based on findings from MaCarthur and Shields (2013), we assess attitudes toward crying in sport versus non-sport situations, and compare them across gender.   We hypothesized that participants would rate it more acceptable for men to cry in winning versus losing sport situations. We also hypothesized that participants would rate it more acceptable for women to cry. Following this, we expected scores on the Male Role Norms Inventory (Levant, 2007), and the Trait Empathy Scale (Davis, 1980) to moderate attitudes. Our findings indicate that persons believe that it is generally more acceptable for women to cry than men. We also show that it is acceptable for both men and women to cry in certain situations, and not acceptable for either to cry in other situations.

The Effects of Cognitive Dissonance on Altruism

Christopher G. Dobson and Patrick Cushen, Ph.D. - Murray State University

This research study explored the impact that cognitive dissonance could have on individual's desire to be altruistic or to engage in altruistic actions. It was hypothesized that individuals experiencing dissonance would be more likely to report themselves as altruistic and be willing to engage in altruistic behaviors. The participants were 90 Murray State undergraduate psychology students. Dissonance was induced by having participants read an article about homelessness. The article presented the homeless in a positive light and identified some ways in which society treats the homeless unfairly. Participants were then asked to write a short essay about panhandling. In the no-dissonance condition, participants were asked to write about why panhandling should be legal - a position consistent with the article. In the dissonance condition, participants were asked to write about why panhandling should be illegal. Finally, participants completed a questionnaire evaluating their beliefs about their own altruism and their likelihood to engage in altruistic behaviors. Results indicated that participants in the dissonance condition reported higher levels of altruism than did participants in the no-dissonance condition. Implications and possible alternative explanations will be discussed.

Keywords: cognitive dissonance, altruism

You Heard Her Speak so Now You Know Her?

Alexandria Farris and Paula J. Waddill, PhD - Murray State University

The current study investigated how different non-native accents of English are perceived. A person's accent can be used to take the place of the individual's race or any other marker used to make judgements (Shuck, 2006). Participants listened to a recording of one out of five non-American female speakers of English from Mexico, Russia, Germany, India, or China, or a female native speaker of American English; the participants heard either a formal or informal text and then evaluated the speaker on factors of competence, caring/goodwill, and trustworthiness. Demographic data on age, gender, languages spoken, extent travelled, and time lived in another state or country were collected. Results are discussed in terms of phonological patterns of the native languages spoken by the speakers and how this affects English pronunciation and intonation, as well as social bias.

Why Doctor's Words Matter: The Effects of Perceived Disease Severity & Physician Influenced Self-efficacy on Treatment Adherence Likelihood

Brittany N. Freeman and Wendy Williams, Ph.D. - Berea College

Treatment adherence is an issue for patients and health care providers around the world. According to the World Health Organization, lack of treatment adherence can lead to increased rates of treatment failure and more expensive health care costs (Patti, 2010). Previous literature has found that treatment adherence is higher in patients who indicate high levels of self-efficacy during their treatment (Bonner, Esserman, Golin, & Evon, 2015). In addition, an individual's perception of the severity of their illness significantly influences treatment adherence (Kamran, Ahari, Biria, Malepour, & Heydari, 2014). It was predicted that individuals who perceived their illness severity as high, as well as receive physician encouragement, would display higher overall treatment adherence likelihood. It was also predicted that if perceived severity was high, individuals would show higher treatment adherence rates regardless of encouragement by their physician. A sample of 134 participants were asked to watch a short animation of a doctor's visit and take a survey analyzing their overall treatment adherence likelihood. A two-way factorial ANOVA revealed that encouragement by a physician significantly increases treatment adherence likelihood but there was no effect of severity or an interaction. These results indicate a need to provide better education to physicians about successfully encouraging patients. Future research needs to examine how the sex of the health care provider might influence the results of this study because more women are entering the medical field and examine if severity has an effect for other illnesses, like non-respiratory diseases.

The Missing Link?: Impulsivity, Drug ABuse, and the Five Factor Model

Jordan A. Gibbs- Francis, C. Alex Brake, and Christal Badour, Ph.D. - University of Kentucky

Background: Although an abundance of research exists examining separate relationships between the Five Factor Model of personality (FFM), impulsivity, and drug abuse (Crews & Boettiger, 2009; Whiteside & Lynam, 2001), research examining these three factors in unison is lacking. The present study sought to fill this void in the literature.

Method: A sample of 303 undergraduates (M_{age} = 19.5, SD = 2.25, 80.3% female) completed the Big Five Inventory (BFI; McCrae, R. R., & Costa, P. T. Jr., 1990), the Urgency, Premeditation, Perseverance, Sensation Seeking, and Positive Urgency Impulsive Behavior Scale (UPPS-P; Whiteside, S. P., & Lynam, D. R., 2001), and the Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST; Skinner, H., 1982).

Results: Results revealed a significant interaction effect between sensation seeking and agreeableness on drug abuse (= -0.91, p < .05) such that sensation seeking was positively associated with drug abuse for those with low (= 0.94, p < 0.001) but not high (= 0.29, p = 0.20) agreeableness.

Conclusion: The results suggest that agreeableness may play a role in modifying the relationship between sensation seeking and drug abuse.

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Integrating Internalizing and Externalizing Pathways to Problem Drinking Across Adolescence

Leila Guller and Gregory T. Smith, Ph.D. - University of Kentucky

Separate externalizing and internalizing pathways to problem drinking have been described (Hussong, Jones, Stein, Baucom, & Boeding, 2011; Zucker, Donovan, Masten, Mattson, & Moss, 2008). However, there is good reason to believe that internalizing and externalizing behaviors do not operate independently. We tested an integrative developmental model of transactions among internalizing symptomatology, externalizing personality, and psychosocial learning in the prediction of both drinking problems and future internalizing symptoms. To do so, we studied a large sample (n = 1910, 49.9% female) of children over a critical developmental period, from the spring of 5th grade (last year elementary school) through the spring of 9th grade (first year of high school). Using a battery of self-report questionnaires, we assessed demographics, pubertal status, negative urgency, depressive symptoms, positive drinking expectancies, and drinking behavior. Structural equation modeling yielded significant findings for hypothesized direct and indirect pathways, with overall good model fit (CFI = .94; SRMR = .05; RMSEA = .05, 90% CI .04-.05): elementary school depressive symptomatology predicted middle school drinking problems (mediated by urgency and psychosocial learning) and middle school drinking problems predicted increased risk for depressive symptoms in high school, pointing to a reciprocal relationship between internalizing and externalizing dysfunction. These findings are particularly noteworthy when considered in a developmental framework, and highlight the need to integrate both internalizing and externalizing forms of dysfunction into models of substance use risk.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy's Effectiveness for Anxiety and Depression

Courtnee Hall, Jessica Ritzmann and Richard Osbaldiston, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Worldwide, over 300 million people are affected by depression and approximately 264 million are affected by anxiety disorders. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is a treatment commonly used for these disorders, but does it help? We conducted a meta-analysis to discern how effective CBT is for anxiety and depression. To do so, we collected 18 articles from PsycINFO; we found that most effect sizes were either medium or large, indicating that CBT is an effective treatment for anxiety and depression. Additionally, CBT works best under certain conditions: treating depression (d = 1.09), 10-15 year olds (d = 1.17), in person (d = 1.02), individually (d = 1.03), and in a therapy/outpatient setting (d = 1.05). These results suggest that CBT's effectiveness varies due to many factors, but it is an effective method for treating anxiety and depression.

Investigating the Role of Rumination in Borderline Personality Disorder and Self-Injury: A Moderated Mediation Analysis

Kayla Hall, Caitlin Armstrong, Rachael Hudson, Joshua Wakefield, Laura M. Nagy, M.S., Ruth A. Baer, Ph.D. - University of Kentucky

Non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) is the deliberate infliction of damage, pain, or both to one's bodily tissue without suicidal intent (Nock & Fazzava, 2009). Individuals with borderline personality disorder (BPD) engage in NSSI as an emotion regulation strategy (Klonsky, 2007). One factor that may increase the risk for NSSI by exacerbating negative emotion is rumination (Selby et al., 2008). The present study investigated the relationships between BPD features, rumination, and NSSI using a moderated mediation model. Undergraduates (n=419, 51.5% female) completed self-report measures of BPD features, rumination, and NSSI. Results showed that general rumination moderated the indirect relationship between BPD features and NSSI through self-critical rumination. Those higher in general rumination were more likely to ruminate self-critically which then leads to NSSI. These results suggest that rumination, specifically self-critical rumination, is an important component in this relationship and should be assessed by clinicians when working with individuals with BPD features.

Physical Self-Construal and Child-Rearing Practices

Michaela Herbig and Jonathan S. Gore, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Three studies examined the link between participants' physical and relational self-construal, and their child rearing choices. We predicted that the type of self-construal would positively correlate with the corresponding parenting intentions (Study 1) and actual practices (Study 2 and 3). Participants in Study 1 were undergraduate students (n = 150) and participants in Studies 2 and 3 were parents recruited from SurveyMonkey (n = 173; 214). In all three studies participants completed an online survey that assessed their self-construal and their hypothetical or actual parenting choices. All three studies showed that physical self-construal was positively correlated with physical parenting decisions. Study 2 and 3 indicated that relational self-construal and relational parenting decisions were correlated positively. Self-construal is an important factor to consider for of intended child rearing compared to actual parenting; there are other factors to consider in actual parenting practices.

Intellectual and Physical Disabilities

Brighton Hollingsworth and Amanda Joyce, Ph.D. - Murray State University

Those with intellectual and/or physical disabilities face stigma (Green, Davis, Karshmer, Marsh, & Straight, 2005). My previous research (Hollingsworth & Joyce, 2017) found differing, though low, levels of stigma against those with various disabilities. The purpose of this study is two-fold: (1) to determine if this pattern holds true across multiple campuses and (2) to determine if stigma is impacted by previous experience with those with disabilities. In addition to already-collected data from one campus, approximately 60 introductory psychology students at another campus will be randomly assigned to one of four conditions, which differ in if presented vignettes describe individuals with (1) Autism, (2) Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, (3) Paralysis, or (4) Blindness. Participants will then complete the Community Living Attitudes Scale, which measures attitudes towards disabilities. It is hypothesized that results will remain stable across campuses and that more exposure to those with disabilities will predict lower stigma.

The Perceptions of Gifted Education Held by Gifted Students and Teachers of Gifted Students

Virginia Jacobs, Haley Turner, Ph.D., and Eric Stephens, Ph.D. - University of the Cumberlands

The purpose of this study was to investigate the differences in the way gifted students and their teachers view their gifted program. Various aspects of gifted education have prior research including the identification processes, teaching techniques, and parents' feedback. However, the views of the children themselves had previously been overlooked.

Fifth and sixth grade gifted students and their teachers filled out mirrored surveys asking questions about the gifted program. For three of the questions in the survey, there were significant differences between responses of students and

teachers. Students felt less challenged in social studies and in reading/language arts than teachers thought they were challenging them. Also, students were more satisfied with the materials allotted to the gifted program than teachers. Finally, there was a significant correlation between the number of years of teaching experience and the confidence of teachers being able to help their gifted students.

The Affects Of Meditation On Stress.

Megan Jones and Dr. Richard Osbaldiston - Eastern Kentucky University

Negative emotional experiences, such as stress, depression, and even PTSD, are ubiquitous parts of modern life. One established -but still underutilized- approach to dealing with these negative emotional states is meditation. The purpose of this meta-analysis is to determine the effectiveness of meditation at reducing symptoms of stress, depression, and PTSD. Using PsycINFO, 16 studies were located that used experimental designs to evaluate the effectiveness of stress. The standardized mean difference for the effect of meditation was computed for each study. The results showed that meditation is effective at reducing at negative emotions, including stress ($d = 0.32$), depression ($d = 0.26$), and PTSD symptoms ($d = 0.76$). Based on these results, meditation should be recommended as a method for helping people cope with negative experiences.

Pay Attention! The effects of therapeutic interventions on ADHD related symptoms in college students

Anthony D. Kaitis and Wendy R. Williams, Ph.D. - Berea College

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is well documented as causing difficulty in attention/inhibition control, something that impacts experiences at both home and school. Previous research finds that the fundamental deficit common to ADHD is self-control. Therefore, manifestations such as attention and inhibition are secondary characteristics (Barkley, 1997). The Center for Disease Control (2012) reports that 11% (or 6.4 million) American children (ages 4-17) have been diagnosed with ADHD, but that less than 33% of children with ADHD receive both medication and behavior therapy (the preferred treatment approach), and another 20-30% are medication resistant. In order to explore non-medicine based treatment options, past research has examined game-based tests to accurately measure control and inhibition (Wegrzyn, Hearrington, Martin, & Randolph, 2012). In addition, Play Therapy (PT) and Anxiety Toys (AT) reduce the main ADHD symptoms of attention and inhibition control (Schottelkorb, & Ray, 2009). This study examines the effects of PT and AT on attention/inhibition control in the face of ADHD-like distractions. It was hypothesized that over time, all scores would improve but that the largest increases would be for the PT condition. Sixty-one Berea College students completed two trials of CogLab Signal Detection and engaged in either no therapy, AT, or PT. Although scores did not improve significantly from Time 1 to Time 2 (i.e., no practice effect), the interaction of time and Play Therapy was significant. In addition, a main effect of Play Therapy was found such that the PT group was significantly different (greater) from both the AT and Control groups. Future research should focus on an ADHD, medication-resistant population to better estimate Play Therapy's benefits to the target population.

Religiosity and the Expression of Faith-Based Sexual Ideals

Shannon Kenny and Dr. Janet Dean, Ph.D. - Asbury University

This study explores the intersection of spirituality and sexuality through the novel lens of faith-based sexual ideals. These faith-based sexual ideals reflect the degree to which people hold sexuality and spirituality together, seeing a spiritual element within sexual intimacy. High levels of religiosity and low levels of sexual permissiveness were both expected to correlate with high sexual ideals scores. Approximately 70 participants took an online survey measuring these variables

and the variables of age of sexual milestones and parental relationships. Based on a previous study (Kenny & Dean, 2016), results are expected to show that organized religiosity, non-organized religiosity, internal religiosity, and one's relationship with their father will all significantly contribute to the prediction of faith-based sexual ideals. Limitations for this study include the use of a preliminary Sexual Ideals Scale, as well as a certain lack of control due to the online administration of the survey.

Exploring the Relationship Among Sex, Personality Traits, and Cognitive Task Performance

Heather Kissel and Christy Wolfe, Ph.D. - Bellarmine University

The results of many research studies support the hypothesis that men possess better spatial abilities than women, particularly on versions of the mental rotation task (MRT; Burton, Henninger, & Hafetz, 2005). However, while this sex difference may hold true for any given sample of men and women from the general population, people within each of these sex categorizations differ on such characteristics as personality traits. These differences in personality can be seen on such diverse measures of personality as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the Bem Sex Role Inventory, and the Big Five Aspect Scales (BFAS). On each of these measures, sex differences in the occurrence of various traits have been reported (Weisberg, DeYoung, & Hirsh, 2011). The current study explored whether these personality traits, as returned by the aforementioned inventories, were better predictors of mental rotation task performance than sex, with a particular emphasis on determining whether women with traditionally "masculine" personality traits performed equally to men and better than women with stereotypically feminine personality traits on this version of the mental rotation task. Preliminary analyses on a sample of men and women (N=101) indicate that while men significantly outperform women on the MRT (p<.001), women with traditionally masculine traits perform no differently from men, though they do not outperform women with traditionally feminine traits on the MRT. Furthermore, certain personality traits were shown to be associated with MRT performance- those who were Thinking on the MBTI outperformed those who were Feeling (p=.04)- and others yielded a significant model for predicting MRT performance-participants higher in openness (p<.001) and intellect (p<.001) on the BFAS scored higher on the MRT. These initial results suggest that personality factors, like gender, may be a factor in determining spatial ability as measured by the MRT.

The Examination of Individualistic and Collectivistic Culture in Dollar General ?

Neha Mahboob, Tyla Poindexter, Christina Ludwig, Sara Cornetet, and Jonathan Gore, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Despite the distance in geographic distance, individualism and collectivism can be observed throughout all cultures and sub-cultures of a country and its communities. The experiment that has taken place is an observation on the similarities and differences of a Dollar General store located in two different areas-Fayette County and Estill County-both which are in the state of Kentucky.

Understanding Associations Between Depression and Eating Disorder Risk Among College Women: The Indirect Effect of Self-Disgust

Ashley McGar, Alex Brake, M.A., and Christal Badour, Ph.D. - University of Kentucky

Research has linked depression and eating disorder risk among women. Self-disgust has been separately linked to both depression and eating disorder symptomatology. The current study examined if there was an effect of depression on eating disorder risk through self-disgust in a sample of 150 undergraduate women.

Measures included the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (depression), the Eating Attitudes Test-26 (eating disorder risk), and the Self-Disgust Scale [disgusting self (disgust with self-concept) and disgusting ways (disgust with one's behavior)]. Depression was positively associated with disgusting self, disgusting ways, and eating disorder risk. When accounting for depression, disgusting self, but not disgusting ways, was significantly associated with eating disorder risk. There was a significant indirect effect of depression on eating disorder risk through disgusting self.

These findings suggest self-disgust may serve as one pathway through which depressive symptoms relate to eating disorder risk. Further research is needed to understand additional pathways in this relationship.

A Little Birdie Told Me: Social Media and the Misinformation Effect

Todja Mitchell and Patrick Cushen, Ph.D. - Murray State University

Over the last decade the Internet has seen rapid growth in our society. By 2011, 75.6% of families reported owning a computer in their household (File, 2013). That growth has led to the dawn of the age of smartphones and social media applications and today 64% of American adults own a cell phone (Smith, 2015). It can be difficult to determine credibility when using social media for information. One reason for this might be that the line for what is credible or not becomes slightly blurred in the social media world, partially because certain pages or accounts on social media are labeled with words like "official" or "verified".

The purpose of this study was look at whether people would mistakenly accept misinformation presented as "verified" or "non-verified" Twitter accounts. Participants were presented with images of a robbery followed by a distractor task (a running span task). They were then asked to read a series of statements about the previously-presented robbery in the form of posts from a verified Twitter account, posts from a non-verified Twitter account, or posts from a news website or service. Some of these statements presented inaccurate information about the robbery. Finally, participants were asked to report their level of confidence in a variety of claims about the robbery, including some of the inaccurate information.

It was hypothesized that participants would be willing to integrate false information from a social media source. Furthermore, it was predicted that participants would be more likely to encode false information coming "verified" Twitter accounts than "non-verified" Twitter accounts. Data collection is currently being completed. Results and implications will be discussed.

"He Didn't Mean To": Normative and Social Influence Effects on Rape Culture

Keisha Morgan and Wendy Williams, Ph.D. - Berea College

Rape culture is a prevalent concept that goes unnoticed in many aspects of our lives. Our culture teaches us that people who rape cannot control themselves and will get away with it if they do commit the crime. The present research sought to look at what explanations of rape increase support for rape myths, therefore promoting rape culture. Informational social influence theory states that we are influenced by the information other people tell us (Festinger, 1954), and normative social influence states that we will agree with others in order to be more well liked (Asch, 1956). This research tests whether these theories would effect rape myth beliefs. To do this, a community sample of people were exposed to either an evolutionary explanation of rape or a sociocultural theory of rape and were told that it was supported by mostly males or just females. Fifty-six female participants took part in the experiment that was delivered via an online survey. According to the results of this research, there is no significant difference in rape myth acceptance based on the theory presented or who is supporting the theory. Despite the lack of significant findings in the present study, a number of recent events have brought rape culture to light (e.g., the Stanford swimmer, Donald Trump's remarks). Thus, future studies would benefit from having a stronger manipulation or by using a different form of media to determine how rape myth beliefs are impacted by social influence.

Academic Integrity: Effects of the University Pledge on Cheating and Plagiarism

Carl Mullins, Robert Neeley, Dominick Warner, Steven Arthur, Ph.D. & Andrea Friedrich, Ph.D.

Academic integrity is emphasized at a university. Students are expected to uphold academic honesty, and instructors are expected to make decisions about students' academic conduct. However, academic dishonesty is not always clearly defined, which can lead students and instructors towards different perceptions of whether academic rules have been violated (Donovan, et al. 2016). New technologies involving social media may exacerbate these discrepancies, since students can easily access large amounts of information through resources such as Google, Facebook, etc. As such, it may be unclear to students whether they are in violation of university standards when they use these technologies to collaborate or complete assignments.

The following experiments test two possible methods of changing students' perceptions of these behaviors using two separate between-subjects designs. Experiment 1 primed half of the participants with academic integrity by providing portions of the University of Kentucky student code of conduct. Experiment 2 provided explicit definitions of plagiarism taken from the University of Kentucky Senate Rules. Students then evaluated 15 behaviors that could be interpreted as academically dishonest.

Findings indicate that these manipulations changed students' overall perceptions on which behaviors are acceptable in an academic environment. The implications for providing students with information on the parameters of what counts as unacceptable academic behavior are discussed.

Down with dogs: A reading intervention for children.

Erin Myers, Elise McKinney; Olivia Chandler, Rebecca Singer, Ph.D. and Dr. Susan Hart Bell, Ph.D. - Georgetown College

Animal-assisted intervention (AAI) reduces stress and increases attention during reading tasks for children with language impairments and autism spectrum disorder (Bassette & Taber-Doughty, 2013). Few studies have extended this research to children with Down Syndrome (Estevez & Stokes, 2008). Children with Down Syndrome experience more difficulty with phonological awareness and orthographic knowledge than typically developing children (Loveall & Connors, 2016). Ten children with Down Syndrome participated in a 13-week intervention involving three conditions: human only, stuffed dog, and live dog. On-task behavior and need for prompting to return to task were measured. Baseline, mid, and follow-up screenings were used to assess improvement in letter name/sound identification, rhyming, and single word reading. Children varied substantially in their response to the live dog. However, consistent improvement for targeted skills was seen across participants.

Traumatic Brain Injury and Empathy, A Meta-Analysis

Khrista Neville and Richard Osbaldiston, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, this ability is fundamental for human connection. What happens to empathy when the brain is damaged, most specifically, with a traumatic brain injury (TBI)? This meta-analysis attempted to answer this question. Using PsycInfo and Medline, nine studies that compared a TBI group to a control group were located. These articles were coded, and the overall effect sizes were calculated. The results of this study revealed a medium effect size between TBI and empathy ($d = -0.71$). These results suggest that those with TBI have a lower capacity for empathy than those who do not have any type of brain disorder. This research provides evidence that TBI impacts empathy; the next step is to identify the areas of the brain that were affected by the TBI and then influenced the empathic ability.

My rookie status matters: Rape myth stereotypes with college athletes

Kaylee Noel, Sarah Rao, Kendrick Settler, Quinn Lambert, Tommy Derossett, Morgan Ownes, Breanna Lowrance, Elizabeth Sakran, Patrick Cushen, Ph.D., and Paul Anderson, Ph.D. - Murray State University

In general, society tends to judge athletes through a different lens than average members. Although preventative measures have been taken to reduce myths, stereotypes and pre-meditated negative schemas surrounding rape cases, they have not been eliminated (Eyssel, 2009). This study investigated the perceptions people had on rape myth based on the athletic status of the perpetrator and the sex of the victim. Data was collected from 124 undergraduate participants in psychology courses. Participants received one of eight different fictional vignettes describing a situation where someone was raped. Participants were then asked to take a rape myth measure. The finding indicated that participants were more likely to reject rape myth when the perpetrator was a female rookie athlete and the victim was a female. Implications of these results are discussed.

Measures of Post-Traumatic Growth: Comparing Scale Overlap, Uniqueness, and Clarity

Reagan Overby,Justice Cundiff, Melinda Moore, Ph.D., and Jerry K. Palmer, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

We examined the overlap and clarity of eleven post-traumatic growth (PTG) measures. Subject matter experts (SMEs) judged the items (N=376) in terms of dimensions measured, specificity, and growth/decline. High inter-rater agreement resulted for dimension judgments (r = .93 and .90) and for growth/decline (r=.98). Modest inter-rater agreement resulted for judgments of item specificity (r=.78). As expected the various scales showed varying levels of overlap and varying levels of clarity, the latter measured via inter-rater agreement within each measure. Implications for the measurement of the PTG construct and for researchers wishing to study PTG are discussed.

Attitudes about Nuidity and Sexuality

Kesia Casey, Morgan Owens, and Jana Hackathorn, Ph.D. - Murray State university

Nudity is the subject of art in sculptures and paintings, or more controversial pieces that include photography. Few studies have examined why society deems nudity as scandalous or negative. One study by Beggan, and colleagues (2014) compared perceptions of "adult" photos based on the target's gaze. They discovered females who made eye contact with the camera were deemed more vulnerable and more objectified than males, which suggests, in addition to gender differences, it is the implied sexual content for which people are reacting. The current study investigated relationships between attitudes towards nudity and individual difference variables (e.g., political ideology, relationship status) Participants were exposed to artistic nude, pornographic nude, or clothed but sexualized photos. Analysis indicates there was a main effect of photo type on the amount of negative emotions reported. Additionally, there was a main effect of photo sex, in male photographs resulted in higher negativity ratings than female photographs. Finally, there was a significant interaction between sex of the participant and sex of the photo, in each sex reported more negativity when viewing their own sex in a photo. Implications will be discussed.

How Stress Levels and Non-Lyrical Music Alter Test Performance

Dana Palmer and Wendy R. Williams, Ph.D. - Berea College

Between freshman and sophomore years, 14% of students stop attending Berea College. (Institutional Research and Assessment, 2015). One possible reason for students dropping out could be because of poor academic performance due to stress. In past research, increasing the perceived cognitive load causes a loss of information processing, mimicking the

body's response to stress (Lavie, 1990). In another body of literature, mood induction by the usage of non-lyrically based music has offered some evidence to reduce stress levels by invoking a relaxing or calming mood (Lundin, 1945). Based on combining these two bodies of literatures, a main effect of stress was expected such that the lowest scores will be in the stress condition versus the non-stress condition. Second, there will be a main effect of music, with scores being significantly higher in the music condition versus the no-music condition. Lastly, that a small interaction will occur, allowing those in the stress/music condition to perform better than the stress/no music condition. Forty college students participated by taking a test for 20 minutes. It was found that none of the hypotheses were statistically significant. Future research should consider different genres of music other than classical, to meet the current youths' interests.

Motivation and Performance in Sport

Christian Pope and Jonathan Gore, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Past research has shown that athletes may be motivated by reasons that are personally important to them, as well as reasons that are related to their team/teammates. In this study, we surveyed the Eastern Kentucky University Men's basketball team (N=13) to measure their levels of personally autonomous reasons (PARS), relationally autonomous reasons (RARs), and controlled reasons (CRs), and related them to practice and game performance. Five games were assessed by averaging game statistics, and eight practices were assessed subjectively. We anticipated that practice and game performance would be positively correlated with PARs and RARs, and negatively correlated with CRs. Using hierarchical linear modeling, we found that overall PARs are positively correlated with practice and game performance. In addition, CRs were positively correlated to practice performance but not significantly correlated to game performance, while RARs were positively correlated to game performance, but negatively correlated to practice performance.

The Relationship Between Gender, Drive for Thinness, & Self-Objectification

McKenzie Prince, Amelia Roberts, and Jean Lamont, Ph.D. - Bellarmine University

Self-objectification, when an individual sees themselves as an object rather than a person, is more prevalent among women than men. Self-objectification values the appearance of the body over its function (e.g., health) and predicts elevated drive for thinness, an excessive preoccupation with dieting and fear of weight gain. If self-objectification drives preoccupation with thinness, it may also predict willingness to engage in behaviors that promote thinness, even if these behaviors compromise health. Therefore, it was hypothesized that female gender would predict increased self-objectification, which would in turn predict drive for thinness as well as poor eating-related health decisions. To test this, college-aged women and men (n=158) completed self-report questionnaires measuring the variables of interest. Supporting the hypotheses, self-objectification mediated the relationships between gender and drive for thinness, as well as poor health decisions about eating. A future direction for this study could be conducting a longitudinal study on the same participants and looking at the role of self-objectification in long-term dieting behaviors and health outcomes.

How Different Parenting Styles Affect Children's Self-Esteem

Lauren Rice, Savannah Williams, and Richard Osbaldiston, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Children with low self-esteem turn into adults who are held back from achieving their full potential. There are many contributing factors to low self-esteem, but parenting is an important piece of the puzzle. What is the role of parenting styles in promoting positive self-esteem for children? We meta-analyzed 20 articles that compared different parenting styles with children's self-esteem. The results revealed that some styles have positive effects (authoritative, r = .20 and nurturing r = .31), some styles have negative effects (authoritarian r = -.12 and psychological control r = -.26), and some styles have no effects (permissive r = .06). Our findings suggest that authoritative parenting and nurturance work best in

promoting positive self-esteem for children.

Body Language in the Classroom:Effects of Gesturing

Maia Rolfe and Paula J. Waddill, Ph.D. - Murray State University

This study was designed to give some insights into how body language could interact with teaching. This study tested if active gesturing (pointing) had an effect on the amount of a story that was remembered and on how likable someone who is presenting the story was perceived as being. Male and female participants watched a female presenter read a short story projected on a screen while either pointing to key words or not pointing. Then they wrote down as much of the story as they could remember and rated the likeability of the presenter. There were no significant effects for memory but there was a significant interaction between sex and condition on likeability. Males liked the presenter more when she pointed than when she did not, but females liked her less when she pointed than when she did not.

House of Cards

Elizabeth Sakran and Amanda Joyce, Ph.D. - Murray State University

Self-control is negatively associated with aggression (Keatley, Allom, & Mullan, 2017). The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between self-control and aggression in a high-pressure situation. 60 participants from an introductory psychology course will be placed into either an experimental or control group. All participants will complete the Buss-Perry Aggression and Self-Scoring Self-Control scales and will be asked to build a house of cards. Those in the control group will be given 10 minutes to complete their house of cards, while those in the "high pressure" experimental group will be given just one minute. I will use ANOVA to test the hypothesis that those in the experimental group who are also low in self-control will have the highest levels of measured aggression. This research will add to our understanding of self-control and aggression in ways that may help to alleviate aggression in individuals in the future.

#Dont Hire Me: Negative effects social media has on job opportunities

Kendrick Settler and Sean Rife, Ph.D. - Murray State University

Employers are increasing the use of social media to judge potential employees during the hiring process. This study investigated the effects flattering and unflattering social media posts had on evaluators when assessing resumes for a hypothetical job. Data was collected from 101 undergraduate participants in psychology and business courses. Participates received fictional applicantsâ€™ dossiers with or without social media postings that portrayed the applicants in a positive or negative light. Findings indicate that participates increased social and task attraction scores for a vague resume when in the presence of flattering social media. Results also indicated that average resume scores increased for vague resumes after being presented with flattering social media. Overall results indicated that participates would rather hire a person with a vague resume and flattering social media compared to a person with a detailed resume and unflattering social media. Implications of these results are discussed.

Emoticons and me: Emoticon usage, personality, and self-esteem in undergraduates

Kayla A. Sheeran and Janet B. Dean, Ph.D. - Asbury University

Emoticons, textual expressions of emotion, serve as tools to enhance emotional meaning in online messages in which nonverbal cues are missing. The evolution of online communication requires continued understanding of elements that aid

in the transmission of clear messages, specifically emoticons. The current study investigated the relationships among emoticon use and personality, as well as positive and negative affect, social desirability, self-esteem, and gender. The approximate 40 participants completed an online survey and a self-report exercise in which they analyzed the last 20 messages of their top two recent conversations in both text and social media messages. (Four total conversations were analyzed). Emoticon usage is expected to be positively associated with the feeling category of the MBTI and negatively associated with the thinking category; also emoticon usage is expected to be positively associated with agreeableness, extroversion, and openness, and social desirability. Higher levels of negative affect is predicted to associate with a fewer number of and more negative emoticons used. Finally, females are expected to use more emoticons in messages than males.

The link between health motivation and physical fitness

Jacqueline Shepherd and Jonathan S. Gore, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

This study explores how personally-autonomous reasons in health behaviors (PARs) and controlled reasons in health behaviors (CRs) influence health status. This study predicted that PARs would be negatively correlated with body composition and positively correlated with fitness, while CRs would be positively correlated with body composition and negatively correlated with fitness. Participants (n = 284) were undergraduate students who participated in a free fitness testing event. The participants completed a survey that assessed their PARs and CRs and then assessments of their body composition and fitness level were taken. The results supported the hypothesis PARs were negatively associated with body composition and positively associated with fitness.

Racial Perceptions of Faces and Diversity Perceptions of Countries

Alexandria Smith and Amanda Joyce, Ph.D.- Murray State University

As part of a larger investigation, a pilot study was conducted to ascertain racial perceptions and perceptions of diversity in numerous countries. Twenty-two participants rated the diversity of countries and assigned racial categories to female faces. Afrocentric, Eurocentric, and origin ambiguous faces were to be determined by this pilot. It was hypothesized that the countries of South Africa, Brazil, and the United Kingdom would be considered diverse, Eurocentric faces would be majorly categorized as White, Afrocentric faces would be majorly categorized as Black or African American, and faces that were not considered Afrocentric or Eurocentric would have variance in their categorization. Results indicate that there is, indeed, variability in individual facial ratings, such that some faces were very clearly associated with a racial category, whereas others were perceived as more ambiguous. Results will be discussed in terms of geographic racial diversity perceptions and the racial perceptions of female faces.

Predicting Sexual Desire: Do Anxiety and Sexual Beliefs Play a Role?

Hannah C. Stewart and Janet Dean, Ph.D. – Asbury University

This study examined the correlations among levels of general anxiety, paternal involvement, and sexual desire. The 70 traditional undergraduates completed an online questionnaire that assessing sexual perceptions, sexual conservatism, parental relationships, current relational status, anxiety levels, and religiosity. The anticipated correlation between father involvement and sexual desire was not seen, yet general anxiety was found to be a significant predictor of sexual desire, supporting the possibility that sexual activity may be used as a coping mechanism. Limitations include using a convenience sample, a lack of diversity, and slight design confounds.

Self-Concept Clarity and Attachment Styles

Shelby L. Strong and Jonathan S. Gore, Ph.D - Eastern Kentucky University

This study examined the association between self-concept clarity and attachment style characteristics. We hypothesized that self-concept clarity would positively associate with secure attachment characteristics, and negatively associate with avoidant and anxious attachment characteristics (Hypothesis 1). We also predicted that secure attachment characteristics would be the strongest predictor of self-concept clarity (Hypothesis 2). Data were collected from 408 undergraduate students through an online questionnaire. The results of the correlation revealed that hypothesis 1 was accepted, as secure attachment characteristics were positively associated with self-concept clarity, while anxious and avoidant attachment characteristics were negatively associated. Hypothesis 2 was not accepted, as anxious attachment characteristics were the strongest predictor of self-concept clarity, with avoidant being the second and secure being the third strongest.

Something old, Something new.

Robert Tucker and Paula J. Waddill, Ph.D. - Murray State University

When getting married people may worry about whether their parents will approve of their choice in a spouse. On the other hand, parents may want to be involved in their children's choice. This study was centered on the question: Is there a correlation between adult children's perceptions and feelings about their parents and their willingness to accept parental advice on marriage choices? A sample of 248 university students completed a set of questionnaires that measured their willingness to accept parental marriage advice, their overall feelings about their parents, and the health of their family relationships. Willingness to accept parental marriage advice was significantly correlated with parental perceptions and family relationships. The more positive participants felt about their parents and the healthier their family relationships, the more willing they were to accept parental marriage advice.

Factors Relating to the Ability to Identify Sexual Harassment

Jason Tuggle and Jerry Palmer, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Before someone can question whether to report sexual harassment, they must first be able to identify it as such. The purpose of this project was to investigate some of the factors that may be related to someone's ability to identify sexual harassment, including gender, role within the university, knowledge on Title IX policy, and just world beliefs. Participants were given the Lipkus (1991) Global Belief in a Just World Scale, a test on Title IX policy developed using information from the US Department of Education's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001), three vignettes portraying hypothetical situations that could be encountered in a college setting, and a demographic survey. Just world beliefs were not significantly correlated with either willingness to report nor the degree to which the participant considered the vignette to be sexual harassment. Faculty and staff correctly answered questions on Title IX policy at chance level, and did not score significantly higher than students. This suggests that current training methods do not improve individuals' understanding of Title IX. Score on the Title IX quiz was not significantly correlated with identifying a situation as sexual harassment, though this may be in part due to a ceiling effect from the low quiz scores. Participants performed significantly better on certain Title IX quiz items than others, highlighting specific weaknesses that can be addressed in the future. Information found in this study could be used to advance anti-harassment efforts and improve Title IX training for students and employees.

Acquiring Communication in Individuals with Autism: A Meta-Analysis.

Kasey Waddell and Richard Osbaldiston, Ph.D. - Eastern Kentucky University

Autism is often portrayed as a dark and lonely disorder primarily because children with autism do not communicate effectively. Parents, teachers, and therapists seek to bring light to these children's world by teaching them to communicate, yet there is no clear answer for the most effective method for teaching communication skills to autistic individuals. The current study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of sign language, picture exchange communication system (PECS), and total communication on the development of communication skills in autistic children. We located eleven studies, and the effect sizes were computed for each communication method. The average weighted effect size for sign language was $d = 3.13$, for total communication $d = 4.87$, and for PECS $d = 2.54$. Although all methods were effective, the most effective method for developing communication with autistic children was total communication.

Does studying a foreign language make a person more culturally open?

Rachel Winger and Janet Dean, Ph.D. - Asbury University

Studies into Right Wing Authoritarianism have targeted a number of attitudes and beliefs since the scale was developed. This study aims to examine the differential effects of RWA on participants' racial attitudes when primed with politically charged statements as opposed to neutral ones. Previous research supports the theory of a higher racial bias in those higher in RWA overall, but has focused less attention on those who are extremely low in measures of RWA. In this study, a differential effect is expected, with participants low in RWA showing fewer racially stereotyped attitudes when primed and those high in RWA showing increased racially stereotyped attitudes when primed. In other words, priming is hypothesized to exaggerate the differences between these groups. Secondarily those with higher degrees of cross-cultural exposure are anticipated to report lower levels of RWA, and correspondingly fewer racially stereotyped attitudes, than will their cross-culturally naïve peers.