

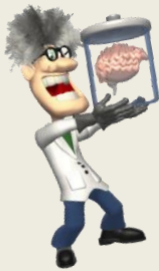
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Psychology Department

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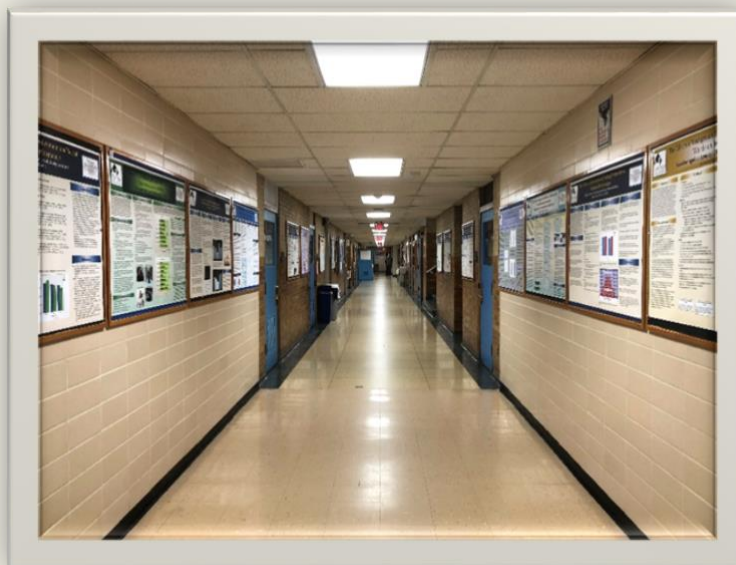


PSY 3805:

Research Methods &
Experimental Design

Dr. Bernas', Dr. Brito's, Dr. Croft's, Dr.
Towers', Dr. Walk's, & Dr. Zhu's Classes





1 The Right to Die: Students' and Healthcare Workers' Attitudes Towards Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Abigail Duzan

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

This study was about predicting college students' and healthcare workers' attitudes towards physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. The hypothesis was not supported; however, it can be observed that participants from both groups strongly agreed that a patient should have the final decision on the care they would receive or deny as the end of their life approached also said that they would be more likely to vote in favor of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

2 Exploring the Impact of Light and Temperature on Perceived Safety in College Campus Settings

Ashley Garrity, Cade Hausman, and Ellie Hill

Sponsored by Dr. Zhu, 2023 Spring

It remains unknown how light level (Dark vs. Bright) and temperature (Cold vs. Warm) combine to affect perceived safety in college campus settings. Participants ($n = 115$) were randomly presented with one of the four series of stimuli (pictures on a college campus depicted in warm and cold temperatures paired with dark and bright lighting). Within each series, they first viewed a picture and then reported the perceived safety level of the pictured location. Results from a two-way (temperature x light) between-subjects ANOVA showed that bright locations overall were perceived as safer than dark locations, whereas temperature showed no significant influence on perception of safety. Critically, light and temperature did not combine to significantly affect the perception of safety. The higher perception of safety in bright locations is consistent with previous research.

3 Familiarity with Disability and Attitudes Towards Self-Diagnosis

Auden Haseltine

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

Self-diagnosis (i.e., to determine one has a disability without consulting a professional) is a controversial topic, with some regarding it positively and others regarding it negatively. This study looked at how familiar people perceive themselves to be with disabilities and attitudes towards self-diagnosis. Participants ($N=46$) completed a survey asking about familiarity with disabilities, attitudes towards self-diagnosis in general, and the perceived helpfulness of self-diagnosis for clinicians. It is concluded that attitudes towards self-diagnosis may be impacted by how familiar individuals perceive themselves to be with disabilities.

4 Perception of a Compliment as a Function of the Effort Made on One's Appearance and the Familiarity Between the Receiver and Giver of the Compliment

Mersadeez Barrett, Phoebe Croston, Lindy Milkowski, and Olivia Omundson

Sponsored by Dr. Bernas, 2023 Spring

This study examined an individual's perception of a compliment based on how much effort was put into the receiver's appearance and how familiar the complimenter was to the receiver. Three hundred and thirteen participants read a scenario in which they were the central character who either put effort or did not into their appearance, and a close friend, acquaintance, or stranger complimented them. The participants were then asked eight questions regarding their perception of the compliment. Results showed a significant interaction between effort and familiarity between the complimenter and receiver. A close friend's compliment was rated most positively when an effort was put into one's appearance but was perceived negatively when no effort was expended.

5 The Relationship Between Anxiety and Sleep Quality

Amaya Withers

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

This study was designed to look at the relationship between anxiety and quality of sleep. It was specifically looking at the relationship between quality of sleep and the different symptoms of anxiety. Seventy-five participants were sent a survey regarding how frequently they experienced different symptoms of anxiety and questions about their quality of sleep over in the past seven days. Correlations between overall anxiety, feelings of anxiety, actions regarding anxiety, anxiety towards social situations, and sleep quality were done. Each variable of anxiety was correlated to quality of sleep. The results indicated that anxiety and quality of sleep are negatively correlated. Overall anxiety had the strongest correlation to sleep quality than the individual anxiety categories (-.43). Overall anxiety and feelings of anxiety had a moderate negative correlation between sleep quality (-.42). Actions regarding anxiety (-.36) and anxiety towards social situations (-.35) had a weak to moderate negative correlation between sleep quality. It can be concluded that as symptoms of anxiety increase the quality of sleep decreases.

6 The Effects of Wearing a Hood Up or Down and Race on Perceptions of Approachability and Feelings of Safety

Ambria Ford, Russell Dandy, Toyosi Osemobor, Jaxson Isaac, and Serena Voss

Sponsored by Dr. Bernas, 2023 Spring

This study investigated the effect of wearing the hood of a hoodie (up or down) and race on other people's perceptions of safety and approachability. One hundred and fifty-seven were randomly assigned to view a photo of a college student who was either white, black, or mixed-race and who wore the hood of their hoodie either up or down. The participants' feelings of safety and willingness to approach the college student were measured. The study's results showed a significant interaction between an individual's race and the position of their hood.

7 PTSD Symptoms' Frequency and Perceived Relationship Status Among First Responders

Briana Gonzalez, & Rene Beltran

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between PTSD symptoms in first responders and their relationship perception. We hypothesized that perceiving their relationship negatively may make first responders and health care providers experience PTSD symptoms more frequently than when they are in a positively perceived relationship. We found that for most of the symptoms PTSD symptoms have gotten better since being in a relationship.

8 Investigating the Impact of Environmental Settings and Music Type on Stress Perception

Shyama Owen, D'Ajanaè Jackson, and Mercedes Kirby

Sponsored by Dr. Zhu, 2023 Spring

The goal of this experiment was to examine how environment (urban vs. rural) and music (cheerful vs. peaceful) combined to affect perceived stress levels. Participants (N = 88) viewed urban and rural environmental pictures paired with listening to either cheerful or peaceful music. Participants reported their stress levels by answering five related questions following each image/music pair. Results from a two-way (environment x music) between subjects ANOVA showed that neither overall nor combined effects of environment and music

on the participants' perceived stress levels. It is possible that our stimuli were not drastically different to invoke enough stress.

9 The Effects of Gender and Laughter Type on Perceived Likeability **Bill Matwij, Grayce Hightshoe, Lexszi Spiegel, and Marissa Urso**

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2023 Spring

This study was designed to examine how the type of laughter (i.e., strong, awkward) might combine with the gender of the person laughing (i.e., male, female) to affect perceived likability. Fifty-four participants were tested using convenience sampling. Twenty YouTube videos were selected and divided into four sets, each with 5 clips all of either an identified man or woman engaging in either a strong or awkward laugh. After each clip, participants were instructed to rate the perceived likability of the person laughing. Seven two-way factorial ANOVAs were performed on the data. Gender and the type of laughter did not combine to significantly affect perceived likability; nor did gender, overall, affect perceived likability. However, individuals with strong, rather than awkward, laughter were perceived significantly more friendly and approachable. We conclude that the way we laugh may affect the way we are perceived by others.

10 Perceived Trustworthiness of Men and Women: Comparison of Neutral and Smiling Facial Expressions

Kierstin Clark, Gabriell Weber and Emily Wellman

Sponsored by Dr. Zhu, 2023 Spring

It remains unclear how gender (female vs. male) and facial expression (smile vs. neutral) combine to affect perceived trustworthiness. Participants ($N = 93$) were randomly presented with one of four different conditions of stimuli (pictures of men or women with either smiling or neutral facial expressions). Within each condition, they viewed a picture and then reported their perceived trustworthiness of the pictured person, for a total of five pictures. Results from a two-way (gender x expression) between-subjects ANOVA showed that women were perceived as more trustworthy than men, and smiling expressions were perceived as more trustworthy than neutral expressions. However, gender and facial expression did not combine to significantly affect the perception of trustworthiness. The higher degrees of trustworthiness for women and smiling expressions are consistent with previous research.

11 The Effects of Gender and Social Media Content on Level of Emotional Response **Cass Manansala, Mariyah Tolbert, Niara Fleming, and Parys Daniels**

Sponsored by Dr. Zhu, 2022 Fall

As social media usage has risen over the last decade, there has been growing research on media platforms and its users. However, it still remains unclear how gender (male vs. female) and type of social media content (positive vs. negative) interact to affect the level of readers' emotional response. Participants ($n = 104$) were randomly presented with one of four series of social media posts containing both texts and images (male or female posters paired with positive or negative social media posts). Within each condition, participants first viewed a post and reported their level of emotional response, for a total of five social media posts. Results from a two-way (gender x type of social media content) between-subjects ANOVA suggested that although negative social media posts elicited higher levels of emotional response, gender and type of social media content did not combine to have a significant effect on the level of emotional response. We conclude that the presentation of the gender of the poster may have not been as conspicuous in the social media posts, which contributed to the lack of effect of gender.

12 (empty)

13 The Effects of Gender and Socioeconomic Status on the Perceived Likelihood of Criminal Behavior

Brittany Appelt and Jataia Penn

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2022 Fall

This study was designed to measure the effect of gender (i.e., male, female) and socioeconomic status (i.e., low, high) on the perceived likelihood of criminal behavior. One hundred twenty-three participants were presented with five short stories to read one at a time. Each participant was assigned to one of the four conditions of the study. After reading each story the participant was asked to rate how likely the individual in the story would be to commit specific crimes (arson, identity theft, robbery, non-violent felony, violent felony, white collar crime). A two-way (SES, gender) between-subjects factorial ANOVA was performed for each question.

14 The Effects of Work Environment and Personal Relationships on the Perception of Mental Health

April Erickson, Kelsey Druen, and Jamie Chambers

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2023 Spring

This study aimed to explore the joint impact of work environment and personal relationships on the perceived mental health of women. A sample of one hundred and thirty-seven participants was given one of four sets each with five randomized scenarios describing women in either positive or negative work environments and in either positive or negative personal relationships. After reading each scenario, participants were asked 11 questions about the woman in the scenario's perceived mental health. A two-way (work environment, personal relationship) factorial ANOVA was performed on each question. Work environment and personal relationships combined to significantly affect several mental health indicators. Although negative personal relationships yielded more perceived sadness, confused thinking, worry, mood changes, and affected sleep and reliance on friends, having a positive work environment reduced those negative indicators of mental health. Specifically, the results of this study found Women in positive work and personal situations are most likely to be perceived as having good mental health.

15 The Effects of Facial Decorations and Gender on Perceived Work Ethic

Jordan Gomez, Carter Mohesky, Claire Perez-Korinko, and Samantha Perry

Sponsored by Dr. Bernas, 2022 Spring

The study examined the perception people had of the work ethic of men and women with different facial decorations. One hundred twenty-eight Eastern Illinois University students participated in the study. Each participant was randomly assigned to a description and an image of a person's face: a clear face, a tattooed face, and a pierced face. The description gave a brief overview of the attitude and type of work the person in the image had. The participants were then asked to answer eight questions regarding their perception of the person's work ethic. Results showed no significant interaction between facial decoration and gender. There was also no significant main effect of gender, but there was a significant main effect of facial decorations. No matter the gender of the person, those with a tattooed or pierced face were perceived to possess a less positive work ethic than those who had no facial tattoos or piercings.

16 The Effect Gender and Attire on Perceptions of Workplace Performance

Alyssa Lazzaro, Marea Buhs, Carly Page, and Anna Alli

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2022 Fall

This study was designed to measure perceptions of gender and attire in the workplace. 51 individuals (6 male, 44 female, 1 unidentified) were shown 5 out of 20 images total of either men or women who were either professionally or casually dressed, and then asked to rate the individual in each photo. Participants were asked yes/no questions regarding whether they would hire each individual shown in the picture based on: their attire, their hairstyle, and their facial expression. Participants were then asked to rate each individual on a continuous scale ranging from 0 (very unlikely) to 100 (very likely) on the likelihood that the individual would: be approachable, be responsible, be productive, be prepared for work, have a strong work ethic, and be confident. Overall, men and women were perceived similarly on approachability and there were no significant effects on attire. Responsibility and productiveness had the most significance with men and women. We conclude that attire has little effect on how people perceive individuals, but that overall women tend to be perceived more favorably than men.

17 The Effects of Music and Facial Expression on Mood

Bethany Huhman, Marama Makea, Willow Mercado, and Chaney Trout

Sponsored by Dr. Zhu, 2022 Fall

It remains unclear how music (happy vs. sad) and facial expression (positive vs. negative) combine to affect mood. Participants ($n = 65$) were randomly presented with one of the four series of stimuli (happy or sad music paired with a positive or negative facial expression). Within each series, participants first watched a video clip consisting of a still facial picture and a background music, and then were asked to rate their mood on a scale. Results from a two-way (type of music \times type of facial expression) between-subjects ANOVA showed that the type of music and the type of facial expression did not affect the viewer's mood, both overall and combined. We conclude that there may have been confounding factors that led to these results, such as lack of everyday context cues and a need for longer exposure to the stimuli.

18 Willingness to Form Relationships Based on Face Symmetry and Smiling

Susan Gruszka, Janaya Pinnick, Jarren Hamilton, and Russell Dandy

Sponsored by Dr. Towers, 2022 Fall

The focus of the study was to determine if facial symmetry influences willingness to form a relationship with an unknown individual. In addition to this, a second variable whether it is more likely that one would consider forming a relationship with someone who is smiling rather than someone with a neutral face. To test this, we used Qualtrics to create a survey and randomly assign participants ($n = 127$) to one of four conditions. In each condition, participants would see a photoshopped photo depicting which condition they were in and given a Likert scale to rate ten statements in order to measure the participants willingness to do certain tasks with/for the stranger pictured. In the end, this experiment revealed that neither facial symmetry nor someone smiling has a statistically significant difference in participants willingness to form a relationship with the unknown individual.

19 The Effects of Weight and Age on Perceived Barriers to Promotion in the Workplace

Sova Green, Sarah Ruiz, and Samantha Spayer

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2022 Fall

This study was designed to measure the effects of body weight (i.e., average weight, overweight) and age (i.e., young, old) on perceived barriers to promotion in the workplace. 240 participants were presented with one of four randomized series of stimuli, each containing 5 pictures of either young or old women in professional attire who were either average weight or overweight. Participants responded to 6 statements for each photo on a continuous scale ranging from "very unlikely" to "very

likely", scored from 0 to 100. A two-way (weight, age) between-subjects factorial ANOVA was performed on each question. Little difference was found between the perceived workplace barriers of those who were old or young; however, overweight women were perceived more positively than those who were average weight. Overall, age and weight did not combine to significantly affect the perception of workplace barriers. This is not consistent with other research. We conclude that factors such as clothing and styling may have made the task difficult to keep focus on only age and body size regarding perceptions of professionalism or success.

20 Gender Differences in Perceived Video Games Violence

Eli Mirza

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

This study examined how gender affects people's views on the impact of violence in video games. Seventy-one participants completed a survey on video game violence. Independent groups *t*-tests were done to compare responses between men and women. In general, men reported more favorable attitudes towards violence in video games and were much less concerned about it. It is concluded that women and men differ significantly in their perceptions and attitudes towards violence in video games.

21 The Effects of Gender and Combat Veteran Status on Perceived Dangerousness of PTSD

Lydia Henson, Kyla Wiseman, and Sam Hester

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2023 Spring

This study was designed to measure the effects of gender (i.e., male, female) and combat veteran status on perceived dangerousness of individuals with PTSD. Two hundred and seven participants were each randomly presented with one of four sets of short stories (five stories per set) describing either a man or a woman with PTSD who either was or was not a combat veteran. Following each of the stories, the participants were asked questions regarding the perceived dangerousness of the person in the story. Two-way between subjects factorial ANOVAs were performed on the data. Overall, men with PTSD were perceived to be scarier and more threatening than women, regardless of whether the individual was or was not a combat veteran. However, the combination of PTSD and gender did not have a significant effect on how dangerous the individuals were perceived to be, except for unpredictableness: the combat status of men with PTSD did not lead to large differences; however, women with PTSD who were combat veterans were perceived less unpredictable than those with no combat experience. We conclude that the inferred cause of PTSD, such as combat experiences, may play a role in how reliable men and women with PTSD are perceived to be.

22 The Relationship Between Perceived Memory and Problem-Solving Skills

Jaden Woerner & Nix Brewer

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

Perception of problem solving and perception of memory may vary depending on the different conditions each individual experiences. Being in a working environment may differ from a school environment. A questionnaire was developed to measure people's perceptions of their memory and problem-solving skills. Data were analyzed with correlations and *t*-tests. Correlation between perceived memory and perceived problem-solving was the highest for workers. Workers also rated their memory and problem-solving skills significantly higher than students; this could indicate that they see themselves as more skilled than those in school or that students are more aware of their limitations.

23 The Effects of Valence of Language and Word Quantity on Perceived Motivation to Seeking Physical Fitness

Sharifeh Ghannam, Cheyenne Jones, and Chantel Welker

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2023 Spring

This study was designed to measure the effects of the valence of language (i.e., positive words, negative words) and word quantity (a lot of words, few words) on perceived motivation to seek physical fitness. One hundred and twelve participants were presented with randomized series of stimuli of five, twenty-second, animated clips. Each clip presented either positive or negative internal thinking with either a lot or a few words. After each video participants were asked ten continuous scale questions about the person in the video's perceived motivation to seek physical fitness. Ten two-way between-subjects factorial ANOVAs were performed on the data. The valence of language did not combine with the word quantity to significantly affect responses. Overall positive valence of language of individuals was perceived as much more likely to attend other physical fitness classes in the future, record details about their physical activity (such as minutes and level of activity), commit to other types of physical activities, not give up on their physical fitness quest, be comfortable in a workout setting, and inspire others to work out. We conclude that thinking or saying positive words to oneself can lead to the perception of being more motivated to seek physical fitness, but it remains unclear as to whether using positive words does increase the person's actual motivation to seek physical fitness.

24 Gender and Dress and How it Effects Perceived Ability to Perform in a Job **Brandon Downen, Jessica Voyles, and Natalie Weaver**

Sponsored by Dr. Towers, 2022 Fall

This study examined how dress and gender affected study participants perceived ability of fictional job candidates. Participants (n=95) were gathered using convenience sampling and were asked to respond to stimuli. They were presented with a basic resume that was the same regardless of picture presented and randomly shown one photo of an applicant, either male or female in business casual or a full suit. After viewing the resume and the photograph participants were presented with statements intended to measure how well the applicant would perform their job. No significant differences were found in candidate gender or dress.

25 The Relationship Between Sleep Quality and Napping Habits **Khia S. Whorton**

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

This study was designed to analyze the relationship between people's habits for napping and their sleep quality. One hundred and fifty-one participants completed a survey asking about their napping habits and sleep outcomes. Reported napping habits were described and Pearson r correlations were several napping responses and a calculated sleep quality score. Nap length and the time-of-day naps were taken were only weakly associated with sleep quality. It is concluded that although napping may not have the refreshing results often touted, they also are not likely to interfere with sleep quality.

26 How People Are Perceived as a Function of How They Consume Nicotine and the Generation of the Perceiver

Sera Lange, Logan Casey, and Jake Arnold

Sponsored by Dr. Bernas, 2023 Spring

The study examined how different generations would assess people depending on how they consumed nicotine. One hundred seventy-one people aged 18 to 73 were randomly assigned to read about a person who smoked cigarettes, vaped, or did not consume nicotine. They then assessed the person along 15 traits, with higher scores indicating that they perceived the person more positively. The participants were then classified according to the generation they belonged to. There was a significant interaction between how nicotine was consumed and the participants' generation. Both Baby Boomer and Generation Z participants viewed people who smoked less favorably and those who did not more favorably. However, they differed in their perception of vaping, with Baby Boomers opposing it and Generation Z participants favoring vaping.

27 The Relationship Between Frequency of Mindfulness Practices and Perceived Stress and Anxiety

Tatum Copsy

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2024 Fall

Stress and anxiety impact mental health. Mindfulness practices may be an effective management strategy for stress and anxiety. This study investigated the relationship between the frequency of mindfulness techniques—such as meditation, yoga, journaling, exercise and breathwork—and their impact on stress and anxiety levels in adults. Using a three-part questionnaire, 111 participants reported their mindfulness practice frequency, stress levels, and anxiety levels. Responses were analyzed through Pearson correlations for individual mindfulness techniques and perceived stress and anxiety levels. Breathwork practices were most associated with stress and anxiety; the more breathwork practices done, the lower stress, but higher anxiety, reported. The results suggest that the impact of mindfulness likely depends on the type of practice used and individual experiences.

28 The Effects of Ethnic Names and College Education on Perceived Employability

Taylor Vazquez

Sponsored by Dr. Brito, 2023 Spring

This study was designed to measure the effects of race (i.e., Hispanic, African American) and education level (i.e., college education, no college education) on perceived employability. Ninety-one participants were presented with one of four randomized series of stimuli, each containing 5 resumes of either Hispanic or African American applicants with either a college education or no college education. Each resume was summarized, giving key points. After each resume, participants were asked questions about perceived employability and how they may behave if hired. A two-way (race, college education) between-subjects factorial ANOVA was performed on each question. Race and college education did not combine to significantly affect perceptions; nor were there, overall, any significant differences between the perceptions of Hispanic and African American job applicants. However, having a college education, did lead to significantly more positive perceptions of employability and on-the-job success on job-specific measures, but not interpersonal ones.

