Research projects to be presented at NPS 2023 Doane University (Crete, NE)
Conference program with specific times and locations for all presentations will be posted to the
website approximately 5 days prior to the conference that will be held on Saturday, November
18, 2023

**Oral presentations (8)**

**Fostering Open-Mindedness and a Global Community in the Rural Midwest: An Inquiry into the Experiences and Perceptions of Bilingual College Students**
Authors: Riley S. Lanning & Nils N. Schaefer
Hastings College
Oral presentation--empirical
Faculty Sponsors: Dr. Stephanie Furrer & Dr. Juliana Cardoso
This study explores the experiences and perceptions of bilingual students in rural Nebraska. Focus group participants discussed the strengths of being bilingual and recommendations for strategies to improve communication in a monolingual culture. The findings indicate that bilingual college students provide opportunities that foster open-mindedness and globalization in the rural Midwest.

**Lions, tigers, and men? Obstacles and influence of belonging**
Authors: Lauren Behnk & Meklit Aga
University of Nebraska- Lincoln
Oral Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Chelsea Witt
Across 3 classes consisting of 176 total students, university and course belonging were consistent predictors for course engagement, including reading and attendance. Belonging also impacted rates of procrastination; additionally, first generation status, SES, and gender were influential demographics. These results highlight the impact of both university and course level belonging.

**Perceptions of Gender Roles as Predicted by Religiosity and Genetic Essentialism**
Authors: Torie Tucker and Olivia Vore
Doane University
Oral Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Brian Pauwels
Abstract
This study examines the correlations between religiosity, beliefs in genetic essentialism, and perceptions of gender norms. Students completed a survey and responded to hypothetical legislation proposing a ban on gender affirming care for minors. Participants indicated whether or not they approve of the bill.

**Feeling Nostalgic in an Unfamiliar Setting - Measuring Motivation Using BISBAS Scale**
Author: Tibor Stankovic
Bellevue University
Oral Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jerome Lewis
Despite the general knowledge that nostalgia is a powerful emotion experienced cross-culturally, little research has explored its effects on affective states and motivation. Using a quasi-experimental design, my study found differences in behavior responses and negative affect between a nostalgia-induced group and a control group within a multinational sample.
Do Specific Personality Traits Correlate with Competitiveness?
Authors: Kayla Miller & Benji Dobler
Doane University
Oral Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Brian Pauwels
We looked at specific personality traits and their correlation with competitiveness. The personality traits include agreeableness, perfectionism, social comparison, and optimism. Participants answered a survey from previously published tests that assessed these variables.

College students’ attitudes towards seeking mental health services
Authors: Jose Valdez & Trey Yates
Doane University
Oral Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Brian Pauwels
This study explored how college students' attitudes toward seeking mental health services relate to right-wing authoritarianism, locus of control, and centrality of religiosity. Surveying 75 college students, we found no significant correlations between these variables and help-seeking attitudes. Other unexplored factors may influence these attitudes, necessitating further research.

Adolescent Algorithm Addiction: How Specific Social Media Platforms Impact Phone Addiction & Mental Health
Author: Canyon Skare
University of Nebraska at Lincoln
Oral Presentation – empirical
Faculty sponsor: Calvin P. Garbin
This research utilizes secondary analysis of data from the Adolescent Behavioral and Cognitive Development study through the National Institute of Mental Health to develop a multiple-regression path-model that describes relationships between specific Social Media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) and negative mental health outcomes (anxiety, depression, phone addiction, etc.).

Applicant's Substance Use & Financial Standing Influences Impressions
Authors: Shanyn Gappa & Whitney Walter
Doane University
Oral Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Brian Pauwels
This scenario-based study examines the impact of substance use and financial standing on the impressions of a student who is being considered for acceptance into a student organization on a university campus.
Poster Presentations (17)

Differential Rearing and Sex Influence 5-HT2AR Receptor Activation and Hallucinogenic Drug Profiles
Authors: Kelsey Lowe, Josh McCarroll, Celia McCaslin, Jade Escarsega, Erik Garcia, PhD
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Erik J. Garcia, PhD
Social isolation increases chronic stress and serotonergic 5-HT2A receptor expression, possibly inducing maladaptive coping in substance use disorders. Male and female rats were reared in enriched or isolated environments before undergoing treatment with 2,5-dimethoxy-4-iodoamphetamine. Our findings suggest social environment and sex are factors to consider when using hallucinogens as therapeutics.

The Impact of Flourishing on Changes in Brazilian Adolescents’ Negative Affect During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Authors: Olivia R. Carusi, Hellen Tsuruda, Bianca Nicz, Josafa da Cunha, Jonathan B. Santo
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jonathan Santo
Negative affect is pervasive among many adolescents, while others flourish across several domains. Using multilevel modeling, the current study explored the effect of flourishing on negative affect across time in a sample of Brazilian adolescents. Significant school-level variability was found, revealing possible implications for the nature of school environments.

Dynamics of Peer Victimization and Self-Esteem in Brazilian Adolescents: A Focus on Gender Minority Youth
Authors: Albina E. Yurtova, Bianca Nicz, Hellen Tsuruda, Alexa Martin-Storey, Josafa Da Cunha & Jonathan B. Santo
University of Nebraska Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Jonathan B. Santo
Our study examined the impact of peer victimization on self-esteem in Brazilian adolescents, as influenced by gender identity. Structural equation modeling confirmed the negative influence of victimization on self-esteem in cisgender boys, girls, and gender minority youth (GMY) as well. Notably, GMY reported significantly more victimization and significantly lower self-esteem.

Serotonin 2A Receptor Agonist 2,5-Dimethoxy-4-iodoamphetamine Diminishes Fentanyl Reinforcer Value Differently in Male and Female Rats
Authors: Alice J. McQueney & Erik J. Garcia
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Erik J. Garcia, PhD
The serotonin 5-HT2AR modulates reward value. Here, we systemically activated the 5-HT2AR with 2,5-dimethoxy-4-iodoamphetamine in rats and examined its effect on fentanyl self-administration through a behavioral economic approach. Fentanyl demand elasticity and intensity were dose-dependently decreased, in males and females, respectively, validating it as a therapeutic target for opioid misuse.
**Effects of Early Adolescent Body Image and Gender Typicality on Self-Esteem**
Authors: Sophia L. Lord, Mithra H. Pirooz, Jonathan Bruce Santo, & William M. Bukowski
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Mithra H. Pirooz
Research has shown that body dissatisfaction has been associated with negative adjustment outcomes for children and adolescents. The current study examined the moderation of gender typicality on the relationship between body image and self-esteem among early adolescents. Gender differences in body image and self-esteem were also considered.

**Gender differences in reporting on bias-related victimization experiences in a university setting**
Authors: Madi K. Pfeiffer, Kyle R. Siddoway, Ph.D., Patrick T. McGonigal, M.A., M.L.S, Rosa Viñas-Racionero, Ph.D., & Mario J. Scalora, Ph.D.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Mario J Scalora
When students report concerning behaviors, campus prevention strategies can effectively mitigate violent behavior. The present study found gender differences in reporting concerning behavior by victims (n = 271) via formal and informal channels and differences in physical and non-physical victimization. The study has implications for how university officials encourage reporting.

**Amygdala response to socioemotional stimuli in those who use methamphetamine in relationship to past trauma**
Authors: Kennedy Kadlec, Mai Pham, Robert Roy, Nicholas Hubbard
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Nicholas Hubbard
Traumatic experiences are exceedingly common among those who use meth and these are known to influence emotional brain responses. We examined the extent to which past trauma related to amygdala responses to socio emotional stimuli in people who use methamphetamine come with or without post traumatic stress disorder.

**Differences Between LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ College Students in Perceived Psychological Stress and Coping Strategies**
Author: Alexandra Richards
Hastings College
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Rachael Robinson-Keilig
The study’s purpose is to investigate the appraisal of psychological stress and engagement of coping strategies between LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ college students. The Perceived Stress Scale and Ways of Coping Questionnaire-Revised will be used. The results will show if there is a difference between these students with stress and coping.

**The Impact of General Self-Worth on the Effect of Negative Peer Experiences to Barometric Self-Esteem of Early Adolescents**
Authors: Heidi L. Heyden, Ryan Adams, William M. Bukowski, Jonathan B. Santo
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Jonathan B. Santo
We explored the role of adolescent general self-worth on the association between negative peer experiences and experiential self-esteem. Using 112 young adolescents, participants reported their interactions, self-esteem four times each day and their overall self-worth. As predicted, general self-worth buffered the association between negative peer experiences and experiential self-esteem.
**Effects of Exposure to Object Associated with Evil on Primal Beliefs**
Authors: Kathryn Cunningham, Kjirstin Swenson, Lillian Bryson
Bellevue University
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Jerome Lewis

Enchanted objects exist in countless myths. However, little is understood about the effects of these objects on behavior. My study examined whether exposure to objects associated with evil (OAE) influences beliefs. Results indicated that viewing OAEs led to stronger beliefs that the world is an evil and unsafe place.

**Peer acceptance in children as a function of teacher-ratings of ADHD: An analysis of peer group perceptions of effort**
Authors: Promise Moore-Saufley, Felicia Meyer, William M. Bukowski, Jonathan B. Santo
University Of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Jonathan B. Santo

We examined the association between peer acceptance and ADHD behaviors among 141 adolescents. Participants were asked to rate a possible same-gendered classmate that exhibited ADHD behaviors. As expected, adolescents who themselves exhibited ADHD-like behaviors were less accepted by their classmates, however, peer group perceptions of effort moderated this effect.

**Unraveling the Complexity of Negativity Bias and the Role of Mental Imagery**
Author: Nils Schaefer
Hastings College
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Robinson-Keilig

This project explores negativity bias by examining how image processing methods, valence, and mental imagery impact memory recall. It is hypothesized that mental imagery of affective images intensifies negativity bias. The experiment is designed through PsychoPy. This study hopes to gather insights into cognitive processes and valence memory recall phenomena.

**The Effects of Peer Relationships on Sleep Quality During Adolescence**
Authors: Jason Le, William M. Bukowski, Johnathan B. Santo
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation - empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Jonathan B. Santo

We assessed the relationship between peer relationships and sleep quality among 180 adolescents. Participants self-reported their quality of sleep for the past week and who their friends were and degree of closeness. A significant association was displayed in sleep quality between participants if they classified their peer as a friend.

**Resilience Factors in Adolescents’ Cybervictimization Experiences and Their Impact on School Anxiety**
Authors: Lizzie Finn & Jonathan Santo
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation – empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Jonathan Santo

We explored the correlation between cyber victimization and school anxiety in adolescents. We were interested in finding those who demonstrated high levels of resilience to combat this victimization. Using OECD surveys from 60,000 participants, they reported their experiences. Our results revealed resilience moderated the cyber victimization and school anxiety association.
The Moderating Effect of Parental Attachment on the Effects of Victimization on School Absenteeism
Authors: Emily Lamilla and Jon B. Santo
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster presentation--empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jon B. Santo
School absenteeism can be rooted from several factors, for example, victimization. This study examined the potential buffer of parental support on the association between peer victimization and school absenteeism in a large sample of Brazilian adolescents. Results demonstrated that parental support did moderate the effect of victimization on missing school.

Influences of Friendships and Victimization Within Peer Relations of Adolescents
Authors: Heather Mellor-Poland, William M. Bukowski & Jonathan B. Santo
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster presentation--empirical
Faculty sponsor: Jonathan B. Santo
The current study assessed the degree of peer victimization, friended and unfriended adolescents, and stable and unstable relationships over a two-wave longitudinal analysis of 184 adolescents in grades 5th and 6th from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Students completed peer nomination questionnaires of victimization along with measures of depressed affect.

5HT2AR Agonist 25CN-NBOH Does Not Reduce Analgesic Effect of Fentanyl
Authors: Carter J. Richardson, Erik J. Garcia
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Poster Presentation Empirical
Faculty Sponsor: Erik J. Garcia, PhD
Opioids are the most effective analgesics but have significant abuse liability. Serotonin 5-HT2AR agonists reduce fentanyl reward but it’s unclear if 5-HT2AR agonists reduce the analgesic effects of fentanyl. Selective 5-HT2AR activation does not alter the efficacy of fentanyl in male or female rats in the hot plate nociception assay.