

SOCIAL SCIENCES PAPER ABSTRACTS

PARAMEDIC ETHICS V. ORDERS: A CASE STUDY. *MICHAEL ESSARY, R. BRYAN KENNEDY AND SUSAN D. HERRING, ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY.*

Is it ever acceptable to disobey direct orders and deliberately ignore official procedures? This case focuses on a paramedic team that responded to an emergency call and found a serious accident with several grievously injured victims. Another emergency team was already at the accident scene, but welcomed the assistance of the second team due to the extent of the situation. Hearing that a team was already on site, the district communications center ordered the second team to leave the scene and return to the base station. Recalling their training and oath to serve the injured, the team members made the decision to disregard the order and continued to assist the other paramedics. As a result, the second team was charged with insubordination and was disciplined. The question to be considered in this case is whether medical ethics supersede institutional policy and procedures.

PLACE AND IDENTITY IN THE 2016 TAIWANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. *DANIEL MCGOWIN, JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY.*

The 2016 Taiwanese general election ushered in a new era as the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) took the presidency and control of the legislative branch from the long-ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party. This marked the first time that the DPP concurrently controlled both branches. However, the victory by DPP presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen also marked a dramatic shift in the electoral geography of Taiwan.

This paper examines the changing electoral geography of Taiwanese presidential elections. Since the first presidential election, the DPP victories concentrated in the southern part of the country. However, the 2016 election witness DPP victories in areas in the north that typically leaned towards the KMT. While the south is still an important stronghold for the DPP, the victories in the north demonstrate changes in the Taiwanese electorate and suggest that ethnicity, as well as domestic issues, are playing a larger role in Taiwanese elections.

SOCERNOMICS: SALARIES FOR WORLD CUP SOCCER ATHLETES. *MORGAN GARRIS AND BILL WILKES, ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY.*

This article explores the problems and relationships involved with the pay differential between male and female athletes in US professional soccer at the World Cup level. This investigation contrasts pay and performance of the US Men's Soccer team in the 2014 World Cup as compared to the US Women's Soccer team in the 2015 World Cup. The study focuses on participants of both genders who played on the respective World Cup teams and does not take into account the earnings and opportunities to play professionally in male and female soccer leagues worldwide. Other influences outside the US Soccer Federation, primarily FIFA, are considered when comparing the pay differences. The conclusion of this review indicates that male soccer World Cup players are paid more than their female counterparts. Implications of these findings may suggest changes in the way remuneration is determined

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES LOGISTICS SUPPORT. *CHARLES ROBERTS, SUSAN D. HERRING AND R. BRYAN KENNEDY, ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY.*

The purpose of this paper is to briefly describe the United States logistical support program for Foreign Military Sales. Support is generally controlled by the Department of State and administered by the Department of Defense, with the infrastructure delegated to subordinate commands charged with Security Assistance and Foreign Military Sales case management. Due to the reduction of United States defense spending, contractors are increasingly providing logistics support. Increased contracting provides a positive alternative revenue source and serves to preserve production lines for defense contractors. Sub-contracted companies are emerging as significant forces in logistics support as well, with emphasis on foreign military customers. The results of this research indicate that foreign military logistics support will increase through Department of Defense outsourcing, and private industry can anticipate providing an increased level of support.

THE UNRULY ADVOCATE. *THOMAS PIEPLOW, R. BRYAN KENNEDY AND SUSAN D. HERRING, ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY.*

This case involves the termination of a long-term employee with an excellent work record who was injured on the job and placed on sick leave and worker's compensation. An anonymous phone tip led to surveillance that showed he was fully able to work despite still receiving benefits. This led to his termination. Following termination, the employee filed a grievance that progressed to arbitration. The issue to be addressed in this case study is not the removal action but problems surrounding the unprofessional attitude taken by the Union advocate toward the arbitrator during the first few minutes of the grievance hearing, including rude and potentially prejudicial comments. This type of situation is rarely experienced at a labor arbitration hearing. Advocates sometimes engage in heated arguments that have to be defused by the arbitrator, but an attack on an arbitrator's honesty and integrity is extremely rare. The question is how address the advocate's negative behavior in an effective manner so the hearing can move forward.

SOCIAL SCIENCES POSTER ABSTRACTS

THE RELATION BETWEEN THE MENTAL CLUTTER SCALE AND SELF-REPORTED EXECUTIVE DYSFUNCTION. SARAH TAYLOR, STEPHEN AITA, BENJAMIN HILL, JAMESON BEACH AND JO HOLCOMBE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA.

Objective: This study evaluated the construct validity of the Mental Clutter Scale (MCS) using an established measure of self-reported executive dysfunction in a healthy sample.

Participants and Methods: 150 healthy participants (M age=19.67, SD=3.75; M education=12.35, SD=0.70; 74% female; 56% White, 34.7% African American, 6.7% Asian) completed the MCS and the Barkley Deficits in Executive Functioning Scale (BDEFS) as part of a larger battery. The MCS is a recent 16 item scale that has been used in pain research. Raw scores from the MCS and BDEFS were used for all analyses.

Results: Pearson correlations for scales and subscales of the MCS and BDEFS yielded correlations ranging from .39 to .72 ($p < .001$). Next, multiple regression was used to predict executive dysfunction measured by the BDEFS using the MCS Cognition and Mental Clarity subscales. MCS subscales accounted for significant variance in the BDEFS ($F(2,143)=80.70$, $R^2=.53$, $p<.001$). In the regression model, both MCS subscales (Cognition and Mental Clarity) were significant predictors of self-reported executive deficits ($\beta=.30$, $p=.002$; $\beta=.47$, $p<.001$, respectively).

Conclusion: MCS performance explained a significant proportion of variance in self-reported executive dysfunction. This new short scale of self-reported, “mental clutter” was observed to function similarly to the BDEFS in a healthy young adult sample, supporting its convergent validity and possible clinical utility for measuring executive impairment.

INCONSISTENCY IN RESPONDING IS ASSOCIATED WITH GREATER SELF-REPORTED EXECUTIVE DYSFUNCTION. JAMESON BEACH, STEPHEN AITA, BENJAMIN HILL, SARAH TAYLOR AND JO HOLCOMBE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA.

Background and Objective: Intra-individual variability (IIV) can be conceptualized as an index of consistency. An emerging literature supports IIV as a measure of neuropathology. This study evaluated the association between item level IIV and performance outcome on self-report measures of attention/executive functioning.

Method: 130 university participants (M age=19.44, SD=3.15; M education=12.34, SD=.69, 3.1% White, 36.9% African American, 7.7% Asian; 73.8% female). Exclusion criteria included self-reported psychiatric diagnosis. Participants completed the Barkley Deficits in Executive Functioning Scale (BDEFS) Long Form and Barkley Adult ADHD Rating Scale IV (BAARS) as part of a larger battery of tests. IIV was calculated as the individual’s standard deviation around their own mean. IIV was calculated from raw scores for BDEF and BAARS total score and all subscales.

Results: A series of Spearman's rho correlations were conducted to determine if there was a relationship between IIV (both BDEFS and BAARS) and BDEFS total score. BAARS IIV value and BDEFS total score were significantly correlated $r(128) = .54, p < .01$, demonstrating that lower consistency in reporting on the BAARS was associated with higher reported executive dysfunction on the BDEFS. BDEFS IIV value was also highly correlated with the BDEFS total score $r(128) = .78, p < .01$. In addition, the IIV of all BAARS individual subscales ($r = .21$ to $.49$, all $p < .01$) and IIV of all individual BDEFS subscales ($r = .46$ to $.67$, $p < .01$) were all significant predictors BDEFS total score.

Conclusions: Increasing item level variability was positively associated with self-reported deficits across two different self-report measures of attention/executive dysfunction in a healthy sample of young adults. These results support IIV of self-reported executive symptoms as a potential marker of neuropathology in line with previous research looking at objective measurement of executive functioning.

NEED FOR COGNITION AND ITS RELATION TO SELF-REPORTED EXECUTIVE DYSFUNCTION. *STEPHEN AITA, BENJAMIN HILL, SARAH TAYLOR, JAMESON BEACH AND JO HOLCOMBE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA.*

Objective: The purpose of the present study was to examine the relation between Need for Cognition, a personality trait of how much a person enjoys effortful mentation, and self-reported executive dysfunction.

Method: Participants were healthy college students ($N=130$; M age= 19.45 , $SD=3.16$; M education= 12.34 , $SD=0.69$; 73.8% female; 53.1% White, 36.9% African American, 7.7% Asian). Participants completed the Need for Cognition (NFC) short scale and Barkley Deficits in Executive Function Scale (BDEFS) as part of a larger battery. BDEFS total and subscale scores were used.

Results: Pearson correlations revealed significant negative relations between NFC and BDEFS total and subscales, $r = -.28$ to $-.42$ ($p < .01$). The BDEFS subscales were entered into a multiple regression to predict NFC. This model explained 20.2% of the variance in NFC ($R^2=.202$, $F(5,124) = 6.28$, $p<.001$). Only the BDEFS Self-Organization and Problem Solving subscales significantly predicted NFC ($\beta \leq -.35$, $p=.008$) with the other BDEFS subscales not significantly predicting NFC.

Conclusions: The personality trait NFC was significantly related to all domains measured by the BDEFS. Greater NFC was associated with less self-reported executive deficits but only self-organization and problem solving significantly predicted NFC. These findings fit into a positive neuropsychology framework where enjoyment of thinking may be linked to robust executive abilities.

PERCEPTIONS OF THE USE OF DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION. *DANA WILCHCOMBE, ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY.*

The purpose of this study was to investigate how college faculty at a local university perceives the use of differentiated instructional practices in their courses. Faculties were interviewed about their knowledge, practice and perception of differentiated instruction. The findings indicate that college faculty perceptions of differentiated included the use of small group instruction, assessment, and a variety of strategies. Professors implemented differentiated instruction through the use of small group discussions, student responding to the teacher, teacher questioning, teacher interaction with individuals and anchoring lessons and materials with students before and during lessons to help students' development and maintain prior knowledge of learning material.

RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION OF A TEACHER'S TRAINING PROGRAM. *YANLING MA AND YUANTAO SUN, AUBURN UNIVERSITY.*

Despite the significance of teacher's training, surprisingly the effects of teachers' training are not always shown to be beneficial for student outcomes (e.g., Kennedy, 1998; Corcoran, 1995). One possible reason could be attributed to the pervasiveness of single-shot, one-day, low-intensity training which lacks continuity and accountability. Different from U.S. teachers who seldom receive intensive, content-focused professional trainings in math/science courses (e.g., Birman et al., 2007), the teachers in China are required to attend mandated, sustained workshops frequently. As part of an international study aimed to address the challenging issue of adolescents' math/science achievements, this current study tests the effectiveness of teachers' training on classroom managements skills, emotion management skills, teacher-student communication skills, and teacher-parent communication skills. The sample contains 135 teachers from more than 10 elementary schools and middle schools in China. Participants were asked to fill a retrospective pre-post questionnaire to measure program impacts after attending a four-day training. Participants had an average age of 39 years; the majority were female (66%); in terms of school type, 10% were pre-school teachers, 32% were elementary teachers, 50% were middle school teachers, and 8% were high school teachers. On average, all teachers had 17 years of experience. The preliminary indicated that the majority of teachers (92%) are motivated to attend future training. The two most favorite training contents are teaching skill in their major (26%) and class management skill (23%). The result also indicated that participants benefited from all dimensions from the training program. Future studies should test whether and how other factor weakening or strengthening the training effects. Although this study is limited by the lack of true test and control condition, true pre- and post-test data collection, it is novel to evaluate teachers' training effects using Chinese sample.

UNDERSTANDING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE. *JALEAH RUTLEDGE AND ADETOYOSI OBIKOYA, TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.*

Some of the earliest studies on retention focus on repairing student's inability to graduate (Shushok&Hulme, 2006). Because of this, much research exists on ways to increase persistence in students without examining the psychological processes that underlie low retention rates. For minority ethnic groups specifically, retention rates are significantly lower

than other ethnic groups. Initially, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) were created to facilitate the successful education of African-Americans. In spite of this, retention rates at HBCU's are continuously decreasing and have risen to the forefront of concerns in higher education (Richards & Awokoya, 2012).

This paper will provide a brief review of the literature on the history of retention of undergraduate African-American students, and at HBCU's as well as the factors that are typically related to undergraduate retention. This will also involve an examination of the psychological processes that could influence undergraduate retention rates. This study will use the attribution theory, a theory that proposes one makes attempts to understand behavior by attributing certain beliefs, feelings, and intentions. This study will examine measures of the attribution theory such as locus of control on retention among college students at a small, historically black university.

The study will utilize a mixed method research design consisting of qualitative and quantitative data in the form of focus groups and surveys. We expect a better understanding of what and how psychosocial factors influence retention for undergraduate African-American students. With this information we hope to contribute to the existing literature on undergraduate African-American student retention at HBCU's and ultimately provides recommendations to improve retention rates at HBCU's.

VALIDATION OF AN ANTI-WHITE PREJUDICE SCALE IN A RURAL AREA. *KELLY PIVIK, CLINTON WILLIAMS, HAKIMA AMERG, ALEXIS HARRIS, VICTORIA HARRIS AND JARIUS REMBERT, UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA.*

Most of the research, and many of the theories, regarding racial prejudice examines how Whites are prejudiced against other races. Only limited research has examined racism against Whites (anti-White racism) (e.g. Brigham, 1993; Johnson & Lecci, 2003). As a result, few measures have been developed that measure anti-White attitudes. Some of the anti-White measures suffer from incomplete validation because of their limited use. The current study attempted to further validate the Johnson-Lecci Anti-White Scale (Johnson & Lecci, 2003, 2006). The original sample included student and community members from an urban, predominately black university (85% Black; L. Lecci, personal communication, September 15, 2015). The present study assessed scale validity using students and community members from a rural area (Black student population approx. 40%). Similarities and differences in the samples, as well as implications for the usefulness of the scale, are discussed.

RACIAL PERCEPTIONS OF CAR LOCKING BEHAVIORS. *MARY RIVERS, KELLY PIVIK AND LAMIA HERNANDEZ, UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA.*

The current study examined how observations of pedestrians of different races and sexes influenced participants' perceptions about the car locking behaviors of a driver. Previous research has found that behaviors are monitored closely during interracial interactions because of a fear of another using stereotypes (Alexander et. al, 2012). In a 2 (pedestrian race: black vs. white) X 2 (pedestrian sex: male vs. female) design (driver was held constant across all conditions), we hypothesized that male pedestrians would be viewed as more threatening than females, and black pedestrians would be viewed as more threatening than white pedestrians.

We further hypothesized that the race and sex of the pedestrian would influence participants' perceptions of the motivation behind the driver's car locking behavior. Facial expressions of emotions were recorded while participants watched the video using the Facial Action Coding System (FACS; Ekman & Friesen, 1978) to examine differences in responses to the video.

Hypotheses were partially supported. Participants' perceptions differed from those thought to be held by the driver. For example, participants rated white males as more likely to break into the vehicle than black males, but no differences were found in perceptions of the driver's attitudes. Contrary to prediction, no differences were found between males regarding perceived threat or suspicion. No difference was found between conditions regarding perceived motivation behind the driver locking the car. Most responses were related to either safety of personal belongings or habit. Implications and future directions will be discussed.

TROY COMMUNITY OPINIONS PROJECT: AN EXERCISE IN APPLIED SOCIOLOGY. CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY AND SELENA MCEWEN, TROY UNIVERSITY. TAYLOR NOWLIN, TROY UNIVERSITY.

The mayor of the city of Troy is dedicated to improving the quality of education, the quality of the economy, and the quality of life for the citizens of Troy. In order to successfully achieve these goals, it is important for the mayor to have accurate and up-to-date information concerning the opinions of the residents of Troy. Troy is a warm and friendly community nestled in the heart of lower Alabama; approximately one-third of the town's residents are college students who attend Troy University, and around one in every ten residents are age 65 or older. The current project gathered opinions via a series of focus groups from three key demographics of the Troy community: college students, senior citizens, and adult residents of Troy. Results suggest that residents are satisfied with the job being done by the mayor, that residents enjoy an excellent quality of life, and that residents believe that Troy is a safe and prosperous community.

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE IMPACT OF URBANIZATION ON ANIMAL ASSEMBLAGES IN MOBILE COUNTY. LAUREN WHEAT, ASHLEY TATHUM, ADAM STERN, TAKIA SMITH AND STEPHANIE JETT, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA.

The current project is part of a larger research program studying the impact of urbanization on the distribution, behaviors, and cognitive abilities of species acting as scavengers along an urban to rural gradient in Mobile County, Alabama. We utilized trail cameras and bait stations placed in locations varying in level of urbanization to observe what species of animals are active in what parts of the gradient. Our work is rooted in establishing a theoretical framework that takes concepts first introduced by famed ethologist Niko Tinbergen in the sixties and connects it with comparative evolutionary psychology (CEP). This framework incorporates species' ecology (e.g. environmental pressures), phylogenetic (evolutionary) histories, and ontological pressures (e.g. developmental contexts), which is a unique perspective within CEP. Being that ecology is a dynamic system that can have a rapid impact on a species' behavioral and cognitive toolkits, research looking at the impact of urbanization - a major, increasing pressure - becomes of heightened importance for conservation and adaptation, allowing for the impact of human encroachment to be mitigated and minimized. The broad hypothesis of the research is that differences will be seen in the diversity of species active at the sites as a

consequence of urbanization. More rural sites could produce a higher level of diversity due a decrease in human population pressures and a greater availability of space to feed, reproduce, etc. In contrast, several species of large mammalian predators have been reported anecdotally and in local media as encroaching into more urban areas due to the abundant availability of human-generated food waste. These reports are suggestive of some species being better able to adapt to the pressures of urbanization than others. We hypothesize that species who act as scavengers may be those species who possess the behavioral and cognitive flexibility to adapt to such pressures. Preliminary findings will be discussed in terms of animal assemblages observed at the bait sites along the gradient.

RACIAL AND GENDER DISPARITIES IN LENDING PRACTICES IN ALABAMA. *ASHI AGBOGUN*, *ASHI AGBOGUN*, *NTAM BAHARANYI*, *YANLING MA*, *NII TACKIE* AND *ROBERT ZABAWA*, TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Although previous studies have continued to shed light on lending practices, research using Alabama and with its persistently poor counties is limited. In addition, the financial bias (e.g., unfair credit scoring) has been well studied over time. However, attention has just been paid to research addressing the non-financial bias (e.g., social factors). Therefore, the purpose of this study is to give a holistic picture of non-financial bias by testing the racial and gender disparities in lending practices (i.e., loan approved/denial and interest rate paid) in Alabama. The sample was obtained from the 2012/2013 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data and includes 434,358 loan applications. Preliminary analyses showed that, the minority group with highest approved loans percentage is Asian Americans with 53.6 percent in direct contrast with African Americans with a mere 39.5 percent approval, which corresponds to the highest percentage of denied loans at 60.5 percent. Even so, White Americans have the highest approved status at 54 percent, correspondingly, the lowest denial percentage at 46 percent. Male applicants also had a significant advantage in approval ratings with 53 percent approval versus 47 percent approval for female applicants. The study also found differences in interest rate paid (i.e., high, medium, and low) by approved borrowers. Results indicated that all races had their highest percentage of approved loans with the lowest interest rate spread. At the medium interest rates category, Whites had 33.8 percent while minorities had 28.3 percent. Minorities with approved loans had 16.2 percent of their loans approved with the highest bracket interest rates with just 10 percent of Whites in this group. Furthermore, logistic model will be used to test the role of gender and race directly and interactively on loan approved/denial.

DOG DAYS: UNIVERSITY ANIMAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH. *TRENTON ADAMS*, CATHERINE CLARK, VICTORIA CROWELL, KOLLEEN DUFFY, MARGARET GREEN, SELENA MCEWEN AND ALLISON WRAPE, TROY UNIVERSITY.

Due to a high demand for mental health services, many colleges now offer students access to dogs and other animals as a way to help relieve stress and anxiety. This poster reviews the literature on the effectiveness of such programs and of animal-assisted therapy. The authors attended Troy University's annual "Puppies on the Quad" day. We will describe our experiences at the event and offer suggestions on how to start similar programs on other college campuses.