



# NOTES

***"SCHEDULE OVERVIEW"***

**Moyer Hall—Miller Forum**

**POSTER SESSION**

5:00—5:45 p.m.

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

5:50 p.m.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

5:50—6:15 p.m.

6:15—6:20 p.m. BREAK

**CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATION SESSIONS**

6:40—7:35 p.m.-Paper Session A—Moyer 106

6:20—7:35 p.m.-Paper Session B—Moyer 109

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

5:50 p.m.

Moyer Hall—Miller Forum

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

*Sydney Crispano ('20), Madeleine Kemo ('22),  
Ivie Mims ('20), Eva Nelson ('20), Kayla Niemasz '21),  
Marguerite Runyan ('20)*

## **Qualitative Research in the SPIRiT Lab**

In this presentation we will be discussing the overall methodology and benefits to qualitative research, specifically explaining the procedures we used in the SPIRiT lab. Which focuses on Spiritual and Psychological Intersectionality in Research and Thought, as well as the general goal of the research and what we hope to learn from this experience. We will also be talking about how qualitative research is effective in exploring Afrocentric psychology. The overall purpose of this conversation is to encourage other students to engage in qualitative research and further explore different approaches to psychology.

## POSTER SESSION

Moyer Hall—Miller Forum

### **MASCULINITY AND INTIMACY IN HOMOSOCIAL MALE FRIENDSHIPS**

*Rachel Bases, Jenna Eggert, Jared Ellis, Eden Keinan*

The main goal of our study was to explore male to male friendships between heterosexual cis gender men. We were interested in understanding the physical, emotional, and psychological ways heterosexual cisgender men express themselves in homosocial relationships. We felt this study would help us see the strength or extent to which the individual endorses stereotypical male gender norms related to the intimacy in their male to male friendships. Although we did not find a significant relationship between our survey measures, Masculinity and Friendship Closeness overall, there is a moderate, negative relationship between Avoidance of Femininity and Friendship Closeness, most likely indicating that men who avoid femininity have less emotional closeness in their homosocial friendships.

### **INTERNSHIP AT PRIORITY PHYSICAL THERAPY LLC**

*Rebecca Ostrow*

Priority Physical therapy is a small, private practice, located in the West End of Allentown, PA (about a 20 minute walk from campus). They are committed to helping the people of the Lehigh Valley improve their quality of life, and fitness level by restoring self-confidence and decreasing any chronic pain. They choose a different route that does not involve medications, but rather physical therapy to eliminate any pain symptoms you may have. They are heavily focused on bringing care back to the healthcare industry.

### **TRANSITIONS: A**

*Brooke Greenberg*

This semester, I interned at Lehigh Valley Health Network Adolescent Transitions. Transitions is a partial hospital program

for teens ages 12-18 that are experiencing severe mental health disorders and or following admissions on a psychiatric unit. My internship at Adolescent Transitions has been indispensable in helping me to further develop my career goals. Throughout my time, I was able to conduct patient intake interviews, assist with both group and family therapy sessions and interact with the patients as part of their healing process.

### **PENN VET WORKING DOG CENTER**

*Lily Josephs*

The Penn Vet Working Dog Center works to increase collaborative research, the application of the newest scientific findings, and veterinary expertise to optimize the performance of lifesaving detection dogs. My internship with the Penn Vet Working Dog Center gave me the opportunity to have hands on experience learning about dog training, veterinary medicine, and scientific research in order to better aid search and rescue, law enforcement, and medical advancement efforts.

### **HOW ARE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS STIGMATIZED?: A STUDY OF PERCEPTION**

*Emily Garber, Brooke Greenberg, Sarah Krell, Jenna Levin*

Our study examined perceptions relationships in which one member had Autism Spectrum Disorder. We were interested in examining if relationships were perceived as more or less desirable based on the condition when one person in the relationship has Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**GHOSTING**

*Shannon Beachem, Julia Kearney, Danielle Kraes, Sydney Kushel, Hailey Roos*

The recent emergence of dating in the technological world has brought a new phenomenon called ghosting. Ghosting is defined as “unilaterally ceasing communication in an effort to withdraw access to individuals prompting relationship dissolution commonly enacted via one or multiple technological mediums” (Punyanunt-Carter & Wrench, 2017, p. 220). Research suggests that people engage in both the initiator and non-initiator role of the ghoster (LeFebvre et. al, 2019). This project will explore through a survey whether or not people who are ghosters/ghosted has an effect on aggressive beliefs/attitudes, evaluation of ghosting, attachment style, and romantic ideology beliefs. This current proposal is for a main study in order to examine the possibility of these relationships.

**SELF-PERCEPTION OF DISABILITY WITHIN THE MUHLENBERG COMMUNITY**

*Logan Day, Eliana Diamond, Agatha Chamlin, Hanah Gershkowitz, Rebecca Ostrow*

Muhlenberg Students with accommodations through the Office of Disabilities Services took a survey answering a series of questions defining self-perspective. It was through this process that we were able to gain a better understanding of how Muhlenberg students with disability accommodations perceive themselves.

**DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING & GRANT-WRITING INTERNSHIP AT VALLEY YOUTH HOUSE**

*Devin Goldsmith*

Valley Youth House is a non-profit organization that began in 1973 as a single shelter in Pennsylvania’s Lehigh Valley and expanded to over 250 residential sites throughout Pennsylvania. My internship at VYH was one of the most valuable experiences I have drawn from my time at Muhlenberg College. I have gained

skills that will aid me in my future internships and careers. As a Development, Marketing, and Grant-Writing intern, I collaborated with staff members to connect with the community and to effectively write and report grants.

**OLDER ADULTS, NURSING HOMES, AND SEX DRIVE...OH, MY!**

*Sophia Gordon, Rachel Ladds, Lucy Lahr, Jazlyn White*

We studied older adults’ sexuality and how assisted living facilities respond to sex behaviors. We researched biological, social, behavioral, identity, and power dynamics pertaining to older adults within an older adult living community.

**BAD ROMANCE: WHAT COLLEGE STUDENTS DON’T KNOW ABOUT SEX**

*Brooke Bailey, Bari Dershowitz, Julianna Mindlin, Kayleigh Scott*

Our sex education proposal is designed for college students and young adults. It focuses on the concepts of identity and power, as well as including biological, social, and psychological perspectives. Our goal is for this sex education to be LGBT+inclusive and trauma informed.

**SEX ED FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

*Monique Beaupre, Emory Bunn, Brooke Greenberg, Eden Keinan*

We propose a comprehensive and inclusive sex education program for young adults. This program will draw from biological, social, psychological, spiritual, as well as identity perspectives.

**MASTURBATION NATION**

*Maia Brint, Logan Day, Leah Flanzman, Olivia Salzman*

For our sex education proposal, we will be exploring the topic of masturbation in adolescents in hopes of empowering, inspiring, and educating this population.

**YOU WANT TO PUT WHAT WHERE?**

*Eliana Diamond, Tovia Marinstein, Nerfis Nieves, Orli Segall*

Our project will explore the sexual development of middle school age students (11-14). We hone in on the relationship between social media, sexual exploration, and sexual behavior.

**GENERATIONAL PERCEPTIONS OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

*Jessica Deemer, Lauren Getzler, Mikal Kalus, Isabel Kaufman, Isabel Miltenberg*

In our study we are looking at generational perceptions of Corporal Punishment. We are interested in seeing how one's age regardless of parental status affects their overall opinions about the use of physical punishment on a child. We believe that the parental status is a primary factor in why previous data shows younger parents using more physical violence; if this factor were to be separated to just focus on the age of all individuals, not just parents, the results would differ from previous studies. This is due to factors that we will explore in our study, including prior experience.

**PROTESTS: WE NEED TO FACE RACE**

*Drew Adamczak, Kathleen Guerin, Katherine Jacobsen, Rebekah Nachman, Miriam Oderberg*

Our group developed an experiment in which we tested people's perceptions of college protests based upon two independent variables with two levels each: whether or not the protest was disruptive or non-disruptive, and whether or not the protests were led by white students or students of color. We hypothesized that protests led by white students would be perceived as more acceptable than protests led by students of color, and that protests led by students of color would be perceived as more disruptive than the same protest led by white students.

## PAPER SESSION A

## Moyer 106

6:40—6:55

**THE EFFECT OF EVENTS ELICITING SOLITUDE***Emily Cannavale, Rebecca Carrara, Marguerite Runyan*

This study researched the effects of a game eliciting feelings of solitude on one's emotions either prior to or following a humorous activity. The humorous activity that participants completed involved rating captions on memes. The activity eliciting solitude that participants completed involved playing a ball toss game in which they were either included or excluded. We hypothesized that those who can relate to the feelings of ostracism more will have a harder time laughing at the joke presented afterward. In addition, those who can relate to the feeling of ostracism will have stronger feelings of loneliness brought on when they are ostracized through the game of Cyberball.

7:00—7:15

**CARDS FOR PSYCHOLOGY: THE EFFECTS OF GENDER ON NORMALIZATION OF SEXIST HUMOR***Karly McCloskey, Audrey Quinn, Jordan Wuerth*

Sexism is ever present in every day life, but can fly under the radar through the form of humor. Humor often enables sexism to be seen as less offensive, under the guise of "a joke is just a joke" (Ford, T., Woodzicka, J., Triplett, S., Kochersberger, A., 2013). The present study examines the effect of the joke teller's gender through the popular game, "Card Against Humanity". The results will additionally be examined in relation to scores on the Ambiguous Sexism Inventory (ASI) and Cavalier Humor Beliefs Scale (CHB). The results of the study will be discussed in relation to the gender of the joke teller (how humorous or offensive the jokes were found to be), and the participant's scores on the scales administered.

7:20—7:35

**IS THAT A JOKE? THE EFFECTS OF LAUGH TRACKS ON PERCEPTION OF HUMOR IN SITCOMS***Brittany Bashore, Ivie Mims, Sophie Weber*

This study explores the effects of laugh tracks and priming on our participants' perceptions of humor. Previous research has identified a social connectedness-enhancing effect from television shows with laugh tracks present. We hoped to explore these ideas through the execution of our study, which showed participants two clips in a randomly-selected order: one containing neutral humor, and one containing offensive humor. By analyzing the effects of laugh tracks on our participants' perceptions of humor, we aimed to provide some sort of outlook on the implications of our research and possible changes that could be made to either further this research or to inspire future research.

**PAPER SESSION B****Moyer 109**

6:20—6:35

**GENDER DIFFERENCES IN RECOGNIZING META-EMOTIONAL FACIAL EXPRESSIONS***Alex Britvan, Ainsley Hilfiker, Emma Newman, Shira Romanoff*

We were interested in how quickly and accurately men and women would react to 18 photos of men and women. Nine emotions were used; 2 primary (anger and happiness) and 7 meta-emotions (fear, awe, interest, anticipation, disgust, embarrassment, grief). None of the analyses we found were significant, although it could have been more impactful with more participants.

6:40—6:55

**MUSIC AND ROMANCE***Sydney Carey, Moshe Forman, Jonny Goldstein,*

We studied the link between music and romantic attraction. We exposed participants to one of three music conditions (romantic, groovy, or no music) while watching a simulated dating profile video and then measured their levels of attraction to the actor in the video.

7:00—7:15

**THE EFFECT OF THERAPY DOGS ON SOCIAL ANXIETY***Emory Bunn, Yunshan Jiang, Rachel Ladds, Casarah Morales*

We are doing research to see if dogs have an effect on college students with social anxiety. Therapy dogs have been shown to decrease the anxiety in college students before exams. They have also been used to increase the prosocial behavior in both children and adults. Further, therapy dogs have been used in hospitals and institutions to decrease the anxiety of the patients. Women were more emotional than men and easily affect by relationships. We hypothesis that women have

higher levels of social anxiety than men.

7:20—7:35

**HOOK UP CULTURE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES***Leah Flanzman, Eva Hersch, Olivia Salzman*

Our study is aiming to understand hook up culture on college campuses. More specifically, we are testing to see how relationship types vary from one night stands, friends with benefits to committed relationships.



**WANT TO PRESENT YOUR INTERNSHIP  
OR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE?**

Spring 2020 Psychology Day is tentatively scheduled for May 2020. If you would like to present your internship or research, speak with a professor and/or visit the Psychology Department website for more information!

**ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY**

**DAY**

Psychology Day is an opportunity for students from all class years to present and discuss findings from the research or internship projects they have conducted that semester or year. New majors can look ahead to the types of research conducted in Research Methods, Advanced Lab, Research Apprenticeships and Independent Studies. More senior majors can look back, note their own intellectual development, and mentor younger students. The student presenters are practicing valuable communication skills. Most of all, students (from any major) and faculty join together as colleagues to celebrate student research.

**CONDUCTING RESEARCH**

Learning how to conduct empirical research is central to the education of the psychology major. Through research experiences, psychology students strengthen their critical thinking skills and develop systematic, rigorous ways of thinking about people.

***Research in Courses***

Students are introduced to research in Introductory Psychology. This foundation continues through the rest of the major, including Research Methods and Advanced Lab. In these courses students develop a unique hypothesis and design a research study to test it. They then follow through by running, analyzing and presenting the study.

***Research Apprenticeships***

Many students (freshmen through seniors) work with faculty members as research assistants and collaborators. After an apprenticeship, students also often develop their own research ideas and go on to Independent Research of Senior Theses.

***Independent Research***

We encourage juniors and seniors in particular to consider Independent Research. Students work closely one-on-one with a faculty mentor in developing and implementing their ideas. Seniors looking for year-long, intensive experience are encouraged to pursue a senior the-

sis. Any type of research, but especially independent theses such as these are very positive additions to a graduate school application.

**INTERNSHIPS**

An internship is a work experience characterized by intentional learning. During this experience, the student assumes a responsible role in an organization and actively reflects on what he or she is observing and learning. Psychology students have held internships in many different settings.

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Visit the Psychology Department website and follow the link for "Student Portal"

<https://www.muhlenberg.edu/academics/psychology/studentportal/>