PsyConnecψ
Your Connection to Psychological Science at UT

Inside This Issue

Note from the Associate Editor – Emerging Technology and Philosophy Enhance Psychological Science

By Jason C. Levine., Associate Professor of Psychology and Training Clinic Director

Precursors to and influences on modern psychology are vast. Although psychology emerged from philosophy about 200 years ago, it became an independent scientific discipline in the late 19th century, when philosophy and physiology unioned. This transformation occurred when methods changed; philosophers began using tools and methods already successful in biology and physical sciences. Arguably, methods and technology have been the primary catalyst of the science of psychology. Fast forward to the present. Many people are unaware psychology is a member of the STEM disciplines: a grouping of academic disciplines based on similarities they share in both theory and practice. An integration of these fields into one cohesive paradigm is thought to maximize "real-world" application of knowledge and discovery. Psychology is becoming increasingly more technical, empowering scientists and clinicians with more precise and powerful data collection and analytic tools. The current edition of PsyConnect provides a sampling and brief review of several data collection tools and analytic programs. It also showcases an instance where the "old way of doing things" might just be sufficient, as well as an example of how philosophy and psychology work together and provide a theoretical basis for understanding relevant and important issues, such as political identity.

GRAD LIFE: Data Collection Meets the Online Marketplace: The Pros and Cons of Amazon's Mechanical Turk

By Keith A. Edmonds, Graduate Student

Researchers have many options when it comes to data collection procedures. Some choose the tried-and-true approach of collecting data from participants in the field using a good, old fashioned, paper and pencil instrument while others choose to bring participants into the lab and answer electronic questionnaires displayed on a computer screen. Both methods have advantages and disadvantages. For instance, collecting data using a paper and pencil measure can lead to data entry errors, while sitting participants in front of a computer screen can lead to boredom and dreaded mindless clicking. However, new data collection techniques are beginning to emerge, and they are creating quite a buzz. This buzz may be coming from ominous international "bot farms," but hey, who says robots don't have opinions too? All kidding aside, what I am referring to is data collection via online crowdsourcing marketplaces where people around the world are paid to do short tasks—like completing surveys—without ever encountering an actual human. Cool (and weird), right? By far the most popular of these marketplaces is Amazon's Mechanical Turk (aka MTurk).

What is MTurk?

So, what is MTurk anyway? Founded at the end of 2005, MTurk is a website that recruits and "hires" people to perform tasks virtu-ally. Tasks can include things like completing surveys, reading restaurant reviews, writing product descriptions, identifying content in videos, and transcribing audio files. Short tasks on MTurk are referred to as Human Intelligence Tasks (HITs), and workers are paid for each HIT they complete. Payment amounts vary widely: Some HITs pay as low as one penny, while others can pay up to $10.00 or more. The more profitable HITs are usually reserved for experienced MTurk workers who have completed tens of thousands of HITs. Researchers administering surveys and conducting simple experiments on MTurk not only pay the participants for their time, but they also pay a percentage (usually 20%) directly to Amazon to use the service.

Should you use MTurk?

MTurk sounds promising, right? For a small fee and relatively cheap participant payment, you could be collecting data in no time. So, should you use it? I've compiled a list of pros and cons gathered from the internet, and asked a few graduate students in our department, in a quest to help you decide.

Pros
- MTurk boasts a diverse subject pool (i.e., age, gender, race, ethnicity), and the U.S. participants tend to resemble the broader U.S. population better than university students.
- Third-year graduate student Quincy Miller notes that MTurk offers "nationally representative samples that do not include only WEIRD (Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic) participants."
- Data collection on MTurk may also be particularly good for clinical research, as third-year graduate student Courtney Forbes mentions that "MTurk allows you to access a community sample with rates of psychopathology comparable to the general population. Thus, the results may be more generalizable to the population, compared to undergraduate samples."
- Although this topic is up for debate, MTurk workers may pay more attention than college students. Research has shown that MTurk workers perform better on attention check items than university students (Hauser & Schwarz, 2016) and comparable to participants completing surveys in a laboratory setting (Casler, Bickell, & Hackett, 2013).
- Collecting data on MTurk is usually very fast. First-year graduate student Noelle Herzog says that she likes using MTurk because she can "recruit a large number of participants inexpensively and relatively quickly" compared to traditional ways of collecting psychology data.

Cons
- Amazon tends to charge for custom settings, such as blocking specific IP addresses, restricting participants using defined criteria (e.g., age, gender), specifying worker requirements (i.e., certain amount of HITs completed to participate), selecting location qualifications, and more. These charges can add up fast.
- Not all participants should be paid when their work is subpar. Third-year graduate student Clayton Allred says, "Sometimes you have to deny credit because people don't complete your survey, which can be a little bit of a hassle when sorting through hundreds of participants." These same participants can also be quite upset when denied credit for participation.
- Along those same lines, first-year graduate student Anna Barbano reports, "The process of paying participants is difficult, as identifiers can't be used for confidentiality purposes, and MTurk IDs are not automatically collected (and if asked, participants often misreport their IDs)."
- Although MTurk seems inexpensive at face value, that may not always be the case. Depending on the number of surveys and overall length of your study, MTurk can get expensive, especially if you are looking to collect a large sample size.
- "Bots"—autonomous programs designed to respond or behave like humans—have become a major problem on MTurk and can lead to invalid data. Courtney Forbes, for example, has experienced this problem but says, "Bots are common and will try to take your survey to earn money, though it is fairly simple to put measures in place to screen them out."
- The data MTurk produces can be messy as not all participants complete the surveys, and some simply click through to get paid. As Quincy Miller notes, "You will need to do extensive data cleaning if you do not watch the data as you go."

Suggestions for using MTurk
Okay, okay, so MTurk might not be all glitz and glamour, or as easy as it sounds on the surface. But perhaps you will want to try it anyway. If so, below are a few additional suggestions offered up by our lovely graduate students:

- Noelle mentioned this regarding editing a survey after it is posted: "You cannot pause a study if you need to (instead you have to cancel and then re-publish). If you need to cancel the study and re-publish for whatever reason (e.g., you need to make edits to the survey), you should block specific IP addresses from completing the study again."
- Regarding payment rates, Clayton suggests: "Make sure you know what the 'going pay rate' is for the length of your survey, in order to charge appropriately."
- To cut down on bots and to streamline payment, Anna advises: "Always ask participants to enter their MTurk IDs for purposes of payment. Also, include measures to assess participants' attention to make sure they are not clicking through (and payment is contingent on active participation)."
- Courtney corroborates this advice: "Check each participant's data for invalid responses to attention check questions before you pay them! Also, include language in your consent form indicating that there are a number of measures in place to ensure data quality, and compensation will not be provided if the researchers have a strong reason to believe responses are invalid (this will need to be approved by the IRB of course)."
- Lastly, Quincy suggests that you should 'Hyperbatch' (run all HITs in your study simultaneously versus sequentially) your study to avoid having to discard large amounts of data and money.

In sum, MTurk is a new and modern approach to collecting data. There are pros to using MTurk including diverse samples, quick data collection, and a relatively low cost; but there are also cons including payment difficulties, invalid data, and bot control. Should you use MTurk for your future work? Well, that choice is up to you. Hopefully this article will aid in your decision. Thanks to all the

Comparing Data Collection Software | *By Noelle Herzog, Graduate Student*

When it comes to data collection, there is not much that is more arduous than participants completing a questionnaire with pen and paper (I would know, I was a research assistant who had to manually input every single data point from hundreds of participants into a statistical software program (i.e., SPSS) during my undergraduate years!). Manual data entry has some disadvantages: human beings are more prone to error than computers, data entry tends to be slower and sometimes you lack access to the data, and paper data packets take up a lot of storage space to name a few. However, there are more and more online data collection tools now that can be used on almost any electronic device. They make data collection and analysis a lot more practical (and secure) than its paper and pen counterpart. Below are a few of the most widely used online survey tools along with their pros and cons. These should help in deciding which online data collection tool is best for you.

DATA COLLECTION SOFTWARE	PROS	CONS
Qualtrics	• User friendly • Allows collaboration, suitable for multi-site use • Built-in reporting tools • Statistical software compatible • MANY features/design tools • Ability to imbed surveys • HIPAA compliant • Multiple language capability • Free online training webinars • Live support staff • Offers free trial	• Your organization needs a membership for access • No offline programming
REDCap	• Free to non-profit organizations • User friendly • Allows collaboration, suitable for multi-site use • Best program to secure and store highly sensitive information • All data captured is stored on each institution's own servers • HIPAA compliant • Multiple language capability • Statistical software compatible • Offers offline programming	• Your organization needs a membership for access • Need to contact admin for skip logic
PsychData	• Offers many of the same features as Qualtrics • Statistical software compatible • Ability to imbed surveys • High security (SSL) • HIPAA compliant • Responsive customer support; includes PhD on staff • Offers free trial	• Must have a paid membership to access all of its features
Google Forms	• FREE • Unlimited surveys AND respondents • Data automatically collected in Google spreadsheets • Many theme options and ability to insert images and videos • Offers skip logic and branching • Ability to imbed surveys • Allows collaboration	• Does not offer more features with paid access • Does not export into statistical software programs
SoGoSurvey	• FREE • Lots of features/design tools (24 questions types, three skip logic/branch options) • Unlimited surveys and questions • Ability to imbed surveys • 24/7 email customer service • Offers more features with paid service	• Exports data only into documents such as Word or CVS and not statistical software programs • Only allows up to 200 respondents per year

DATA COLLECTION SOFTWARE	PROS	CONS
Typeform	• FREE • Unlimited questions • Data export option • Many design features • Offers more features with paid service	• Only allows basic reporting
Survey Planet	• FREE • Unlimited surveys, questions, and respon dents • Several theme options • Ability to imbed surveys • Offers more features with paid service	• CANNOT export data
Survey Monkey	• FREE • User friendly • Ability to imbed surveys • Offers more features with paid service	• Only allows 10 questions and 100 respondents • Only has 15 question types • Limited design options • CANNOT export data
Zoho Survey	• FREE • Unlimited surveys • Offers more features with paid service	• Only allows 150 responses • Only has 15 question types
Survey Gizmo	• FREE • Unlimited surveys and questions • Several basic question types • Offers more features with paid service	• Only allows 50 respondents • Basic reporting • Only allows data export to CSV

Longhand vs laptops: Which method of note-taking is associated with better memory retention?

By Christina O. Perez, Graduate Student

Walk into almost any course at the University of Toledo, and you will notice many students are taking notes on their laptops. Although this method of note-taking has become popular with the advent of laptop computers and tablets, are there potential detrimental effects of switching to electronic note-taking? One of the major concerns regarding the use of laptops in the classroom is that computers can serve as distractors, thereby limiting student's attention and engagement during lectures and ultimately harming their ability to learn. Research on the use of laptops in the classroom finds students using laptops tend to be less on-task, show a decrease in academic performance, and report lower levels of satisfaction with their education than students who do not use laptops during lectures (for a review, see Mueller & Oppenheimer, 2014).

Across three studies, Mueller and Oppenheimer (2014) tested whether the learning of factual and conceptual information differed when taking notes by longhand or on a laptop. Students watched a lecture and were assigned to either take notes by hand or with a laptop. They were then immediately tested about the factual and conceptual information covered in the lecture. The longhand notetakers only outperformed the laptop notetakers on the factual questions in one of three studies. However, the authors consistently found students who took lecture notes by longhand scored higher on conceptual questions than students who took notes on a laptop. Mueller and

Oppenheimer concluded that these findings were likely a result of deeper levels of processing amongst the longhand notetakers. They argued when taking notes by hand, students have to engage in a deeper level of processing during the lecture in order to write down the most important information to include their notes and this in turn helps with the encoding and retention of the information.

Mueller and Oppenheimer's findings are not surprising. Craik and Lockhart (1972) proposed a memory framework in which the depth of processing at encoding predicts the amount of information recalled. Depth of processing refers to the amount of effort and attention one pays to a piece of information. To further test this theory, Craik and Tulving (1975) examined students' memory for words when asked to focus on their physical characteristics (e.g., is the word capitalized?), phonemic characteristics (e.g., does the word rhyme with another word?), or semantic characteristics (e.g., does the word fit into a specific sentence?). The authors found students had better memory for the words when they were asked to focus on semantic characteristics and therefore engaging in a deeper level of processing.

In sum, one cannot deny the ease and convenience of taking notes on a laptop. Since most students can type faster than they can write by hand, students using a laptop or tablet are able to keep up with their professor's lecture easier. In fact, Mueller and Oppenheimer (2014) noted laptop notetakers wrote more and included more verbatim information from the lecture than longhand notetakers. One should also keep in mind that although the findings reported here suggest a disadvantage for laptop users, it is important to note Mueller and Oppenheimer's studies focused on a single instance of learning followed by immediate testing. This is likely not representative of testing in the average course. In fact, recent research by Morehead, Dunlosky, and Rawson (2019) found that when longhand notetakers and laptop notetakers were allowed to review their notes and tested following a two-day delay, there was no difference in memory. Therefore, it appears the method in which students take notes does not matter when testing is delayed - much like your typical college course. For students interested in using their laptops for taking notes, I provide the following suggestions:

1. When taking notes in class, limit the amount of distractions on your computer. Close out any messaging apps, close/minimize any browser windows, and disable notifications that my distract you.

2. Try to take detailed notes during class. The more information you write down, the more you have to synthesize when studying later.

3. Do not simply repeat the information back to yourself multiple times. Try to form meaningful connections between the information you are studying. Try quizzing yourself or ask a friend to quiz you.

4. Break up studying across multiple days. Studying a little information across many sessions is more effective than cramming all of it the day before an exam.

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MAJORS MAKING AN IMPACT: Beginning your conquest of statistical software: Presenting and evaluating the landscape

By Evan Clarkson, Graduate Student

Whether it be in statistics or research methods you've probably heard your professors talk about different data analysis programs in class. While a few of you may be stats wizards (give yourself a pat on the back), my hunch is that many more of you are feeling close to how I felt as an undergraduate student. That is, you might feel slightly overwhelmed by all the complicated data analysis programs out there and are a little unsure of where or how to get your bearings of the statistical software landscape. In this article I will take you on a brief tour of several common data analysis software programs that are used in psychology. A quick read of this article should make you feel like you're in the know the next time your professor talks about their favorite program to analyze data.

SPSS:
This one is a classic favorite of many psychologists. It has been around forever (since 1968) and just released its 26th version last year. While it may seem intimidating at first glance, the fantastic thing about SPSS is how user friendly it actually is. For students that aren't experienced in coding, the point and click options in SPSS are an absolute dream. For instance, let's say that you want to run a one-way ANOVA to compare the self-reported stress ratings of students while doing an assignment in three different software

programs: R, SAS, and SPSS. Well in this case, I would hypothesize that students who use SPSS would report less stress compared to the other software programs. I think the real reason for this is that as long as you know which test you need to run, given the parameters of your data and design, all you need to do is find the button for a one-way ANOVA in the drop down menus and you are nearly done. All that's left is to enter your variables in a separate window, and the test is done quicker than you can search for what SPSS stands for online. Another positive about SPSS is that it is very widely used. This means that most of your professors will be experienced with it. In addition, if you ever run into trouble with running that one-way ANOVA in SPSS you will be able to easily look up helpful tutorials on YouTube. Finally, at UT SPSS is free for students! So, hypothetically speaking, if you wanted to stop reading this article right now and start doing statistics you could download SPSS through MyUT right now.

To access SPSS, login to MyUT and then click the "My UT Account" link on the right side of the page. This action will take you into a new window. Here, click on the "Login to manage your services" option on the left of your browser. This link will take you to a new page that will list an assortment of download links that you have access to as a UT student. On the right of this page you will see a link that says, "SPSS for Students". Click on this link and you will see downloads for mac users and windows users, with instructions for each.

Okay, so thus far I realize that I have been doing nothing but singing SPSS's praises. While SPSS is great in many ways, to be honest, it does have a few shortcomings. First, SPSS's greatest strength (its user friendliness) is also a weakness. The statistical tests you use in the system may not be appropriate for your data; so even though a novice should be able to do statistics in SPSS's point and click format, the statistics you do may not be correct. The problem here is that, unless you request it, SPSS does not produce the underlying code for your statistical test. This means that other researchers, who evaluate your statistics, may just have to take your word that you did in fact click on the right test. Second, SPSS is only free while you are a student. So, once you graduate top of your class, you'll need to start forking out major dollars to continue using SPSS to your hearts content.

R:
In my experience R is the second most common statistical software used by psychologists. It's also very much in fashion across many different disciplines. Many psychology faculty at UT love R; my professor in Biostatistics at the Health and Science campus loves R; and when I interviewed for graduate school, many professors I interviewed with spoke to me about how much they loved R. Unfortunately, I disappointed them when I had to admit that I didn't have any experience with R and thus, could not share in their sentiment. Happily, this is no longer the case, and after a few years at UT I have gained some R skills. The great thing about R, and a major reason why professors love it so, is that it is free and open source. This means that it's widely used and easily accessible, even after you graduate. In addition, it has a point and click system (which is slightly less user friendly than the point and click in SPSS) along with a fully-fledged and vastly superior coding system

compared to SPSS. In addition, because it is open source, users can change or add to its code, and thus, make entirely new models for analysis. While I'm nowhere near this level of proficiency in the program, I can honestly say that it is really cool to hear speakers talk about new statistical models (this happened at my last conference) that they have made in R, which I can download for free. Finally, because R is a little harder to use than SPSS, I think that knowing R shows you are competent in handling complex statistics software when building an application for graduate school, which is always a plus.

To download R all you need to do is type in "R download", and the top link should take you directly to instructions and downloadable links for R.

Excel:
Another classic program, and one of my personal favorites, is Excel. The really nice thing about Excel is that you can upload data sets from Excel into most other data analysis programs (like SPSS and R). The advantage here is that you can easily organize and clean data in Excel and then change your data file into a readable format for these other programs. It is also extremely easy to recode your data (much easier than in R or SPSS, in my view). For actual data analysis, while Excel is pretty good at generating simple descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, median, mode), it is not a great program for inferential statistics (like that ANOVA I talked about earlier). For this reason, Excel is not really an alternative to SPSS or R, but rather, more of a supplemental resource. For my own projects, I like to enter and clean data in Excel first and then set up all the variables before uploading that data into either SPSS or R.

Another nice thing about Excel is that it is widely used in many different jobs (such as accounting or human resources). Because of this, having skills in Excel should not only make you a more attractive candidate for graduate school but the general job market as well. Finally, Excel also comes with Microsoft student packages through windows so it's relatively accessible.

In sum, I hope that this has been a helpful (and not all that painful) tour through several different data analysis programs. While this tour has been by no means exhaustive (there are many other statistics programs out there like SAS or MATLAB, for example), it should help you to know the biggest and best players. As a student, especially if you want to apply to graduate school, it's a great idea to get some experience under your belt. As always, practice makes perfect so any attempt to get statistically savvy will take some effort, but I'm sure that you can do it!

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By Jessica Saki, Undergraduate Student

The world is currently facing a pandemic that hasn't been seen before in anyone's lifetime. With COVID-19 has come many hard conversations and many difficult decisions. The number of people who are sick increases daily, and many countries have experienced a lack of medical supplies used to treat those who are infected. When medical supplies are in short supply, one must ask "well who should get the medical supplies?". You could argue that the medical supplies should be given out on a first come first serve basis, or you could argue that the supplies should go to those in dire need or to those with the best chance of living.

This predicament that the world faces today is one many moral philosophers talk about and many moral judgment psychologists study. For years, moral psychologists have asked people to answer scenarios like the trolley problem and investigate what goes into those decisions. In a surprising way, those scenarios have become a real question the world is asking and answering. These decisions are not easy and come with much debate. You can look at how different states are handling COVID-19 as a clear example of this debate.

Jonathan Haidt is one of the leading moral psychologists who studies these issues; in fact, he is most famous for theorizing psychological foundations of moral development. Haidt, in his "Moral Foundations Theory", argues that we use up to six moral foundations to view the world, politics, and ethics: the Care/Harm, Fairness/Cheating, Loyalty/Betrayal, Authority/Subversion, Sanctity/Degradation, and Liberty/Oppression foundations. He argues that people hold these foundations to different levels of significance, and these differences differentiate groups of people.

One thing that I've found when I talk to people about moral psychology and its research, is they ask me what moral theory they belong to. In fact, I've had people sit me down so that I could tell them what type of "philosopher" they are. The question makes sense, at least to me; as some of the most important questions in life depend on insights from moral philosophy. However, and likely unbeknownst to many, even more trivial daily decisions and behavior (such as buying an organic product vs. non-organic) are influenced by one's first moral principles.

Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist from New York University, saw utility in understanding our moral foundations and devised a test you can take to answer the question above. The test is short and provides a bar graph at the end showing you how much you reject/endorse each moral foundation. The bar graph also depicts where you stand on each foundation from a political framework of liberal and conservative. In taking this test you can see your foundations and how they shape your moral and political views. If you are interested in taking this test, you can find it here: https://www.yourmorals.org/explore.php. However, here are a couple questions (level of agreement) just to wet your appetite:

e.g., Respect for authority is something all children need to learn.

e.g, When the government makes laws, the number one principle should be ensuring that everyone is treated fairly.

e.g., People should be loyal to their family members, even when they have done something wrong.

Haidt and his colleagues explain "human morality is the result of biological and cultural evolutionary processes that made human beings very sensitive to many different (and often competing) issues. Some of these issues are about treating other individuals well (the first two foundations - harm and fairness). Other issues are about how to be a good member of a group or supporter of social order and tradition (the last three foundations). Haidt and Graham have found that political liberals generally place a higher value on their first two foundations; people are very concerned about issues of harm and fairness (including issues of inequality and exploitation). Political conservatives care about harm and fairness too, but they generally score slightly lower on those scale items. The big difference between liberals and conservatives seems to be that conservatives score slightly higher on the in-group/loyalty foundation, and much higher on the authority/respect and purity/sanctity foundations.

These differences seem to explain many of the most contentious issues in what some people consider a modern culture war. For example, liberals support legalizing gay marriage (to be fair and compassionate), whereas many conservatives are reluctant to change the nature of marriage and the family, basic building blocks of society. Conservatives are more likely to favor practices that increase order and respect (e.g., spanking, mandatory pledge of allegiance), whereas liberals often oppose these practices as being violent or coercive."
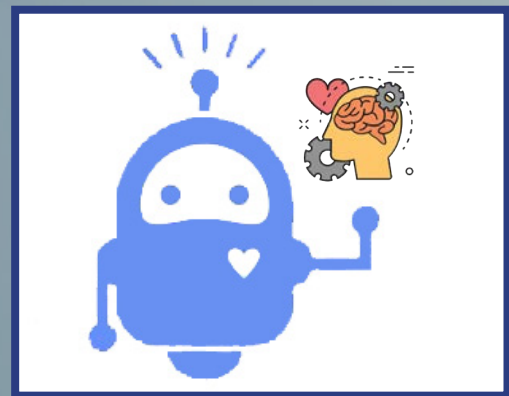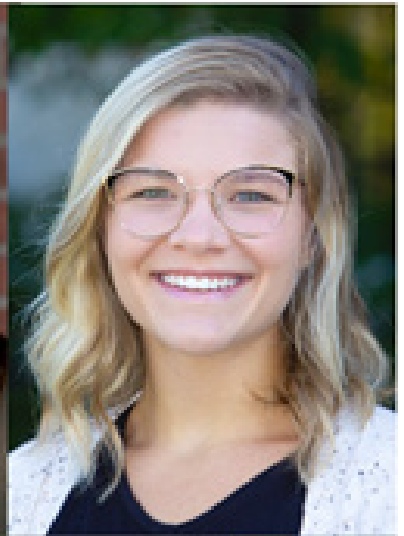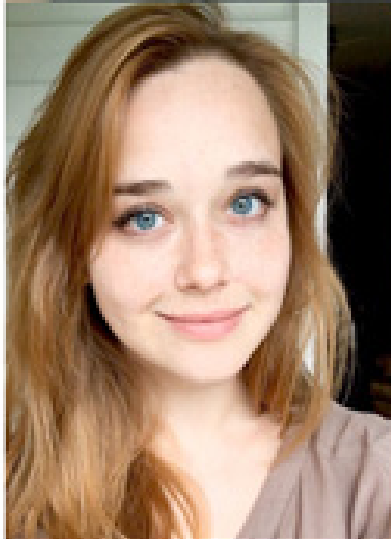
From Left to Right:

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Bailey Crittenden
Raegan Cupp

Elyse Hutchenson
Christopher Jurgens
Ann Karmol

Adam Mann
Adelyn Sherrard
Mackenzie Trevethan

By J.D. Jasper, Editor & Professor and Andy Geers, Professor

UT Psychology Department in the News

Psychology Department faculty member, Dr. Kamala London, is featured in Showtime's new 5-episode documentary, Outcry. Here's the description from sho.com: "A five-part documentary series examining the gripping story of high school football star Greg Kelley and a quest for truth and justice. Few people experience the momentum that Kelley had going into his senior year in Leander, Texas. That all changed when he was convicted of sexual assault of a four-year-old boy, and sentenced to 25 years in prison with no possibility for parole. But a groundswell of support emerged for Kelley, calling into question the investigation, the prosecution's tactics and ultimately, the validity of the conviction." A preview of the documentary is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSsS7ka8P28 Dr. London was also recently featured in Texas Monthly for her involvement in the documentary. You can read the article here: https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/outcry-showtime-true-crime/

Recent Honors and Awards

Undergraduate psychology major Andrew Kurtz (mentor: Dr. Matthew Tull) was awarded the competitive Department of Psychology Chair's Minority/Underrepresented Research Grant. For this grant, Andrew received $500 to conduct his study, "Impact of invalidation following social rejection on risk-taking propensity in gay men." Well done Andrew!

Clinical Psychology graduate student Kelsey Pritchard (mentor: Dr. Peter Mezo) was the recipient of the 2020 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Research Facilitation Committee Student Research Grant for his dissertation project, "Interpersonal Emotion Regulation in Mood Disorders: Contextual, Biological, and Social Processes."

With a match rate of 100%, the five internship applicants from the University of Toledo Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program have each successfully matched with an internship site for the 2020-2021 academic year. A list of students and their placements can be found below. Congratulations on this impressive accomplishment!
- Alex Buhk: Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA
- Nikki Christ: Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH
- Emily Meadows: Youth Opportunity Center, Muncie, IN
- Kelsey Pritchard: Wright State University Ellis Institute, Dayton, OH
- Larson Sholander: VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Ann Arbor, MI

Please join us in congratulating Courtney Forbes and Olivia Aspiras. Courtney (advisor: Matt Tull) is the 2019-2020 Meritorious Thesis Award winner, while Olivia (advisor: Jason Rose) has been selected as the recipient of the Meritorious Dissertation Award. Courtney will give a colloquium-style talk (hopefully) this fall detailing her thesis project. Olivia would be asked to do the same for her dissertation, but it's probably not fair to ask her to come back; she's already landed a job. Once again, congratulations Courtney and Olivia. Job well done!

Raegan Cupp was selected as the Department of Psychology outstanding undergraduate student for 2020. Raegan, who graduated summa cum laude, worked actively in two UT research laboratories and helped facilitate a Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction course at a local Elementary School. She presented independent research at The Society of Personality and Social Psychology in February, and was accepted into and began her doctoral study program in clinical psychology this fall at the University of Toledo. Congratulations Raegan, and best wishes as you pursue your graduate education and career in psychology.

The five graduate students listed below were awarded with competitive University of Toledo Department of Psychology Meritorious Research Grants. Way to go guys!
- Anna Barbano (Clinical Psychology, Mentor: Matthew Tull, Ph.D.): "Effect of Hormonal Contraception on Trauma Script Reactivity among Individuals with PTSD"
- Kelly Clemens (Experimental Psychology, Mentor: Andrew Geers, Ph.D.): "Illusory Correlations and Treatment Perceptions"
- Noelle Herzog (Experimental Psychology, Mentor: Jason Rose, Ph.D.): "Impact of Polarization in Social Media on Confirmation Bias and Attitudes"
- Kayla Scamaldo (Clinical Psychology, Mentor: Kim Gratz, Ph.D.): "Examining the Impact of Borderline Personality Disorder Pathology on Social Comparison Processes within Romantic Relationships"
- Kristina Todorovic (Experimental Psychology, Mentor: Kamala London, Ph.D.): "Event Memory and Susceptibility to Different Modes of Suggestion in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder"

Dr. Ben Colagiuri at the University of Sydney and UT Psychology Faculty Member Dr. Andrew Geers recently received a 3-year research grant from the Australian Research Council to study psychological factors responsible for treatment side effects.

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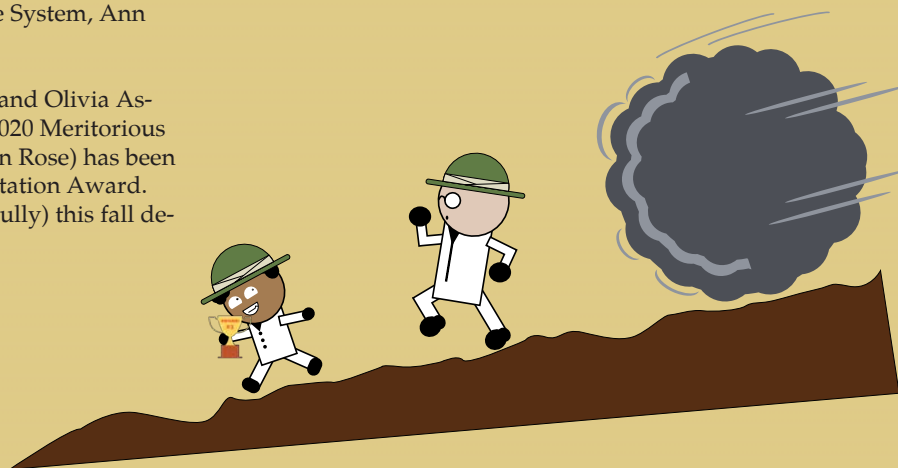
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