NEW DATE: Friday, April 6 at 4:00 pm
Bousfield A106

Featuring special presentations by graduate students:

**ALEX PALMISANO**
Behavioral Neuroscience
“Evaluating mechanisms of reward enhancement by nicotine in humans”

**MATT SULLIVAN**
Clinical Psychology
“Substance use is associated with decreased HIV serostatus disclosure: An event-level analysis among people living with HIV in the US”

**KAYLEIGH RYHERD**
Developmental Psychology
“Atypical category learning in poor comprehenders”

**KATRINA BURCH**
Industrial/Organizational Psychology
“When work is your passenger: Work influences on aggressive driving behavior”

**SAHIL LUTHRA**
Perception, Action, Cognition
“Perceiving non-native speech sounds: The neural bases of implicit learning”

**GLORIANA RODRIGUEZ-ARAUZ**
Social Psychology
“Language analysis of personality differences in bilinguals”

Reception to follow catered by Lizzie’s
Aggressive driving behaviors have gained in notoriety in recent years, with more and more drivers identifying aggressive driving as a serious problem in the U.S. As a class of drivers, employees are understudied in the aggressive driving literature. Using affective- and emotion-focused theoretical frameworks, and daily diary methodology, my research examines the influence of workplace attitudes and experiences on aggressive driving behaviors in employees during their work-to-home commutes.

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Cross-Disciplinary Graduate Colloquium

Featuring special presentations from a student in each division including

Sahil Luthra
Graduate Student in Perception, Action, Cognition

Perceiving Non-Native Speech Sounds:
The Neural Bases of Implicit Learning

Learning a second language is particularly difficult in adulthood, and learning to perceive phonetic (speech sound) differences is particularly challenging. In a recent study, we used an implicit learning paradigm to train adult speakers of American English to perceive a difficult Hindi phonetic contrast. Using fMRI, we also relate a behavioral measure of perceptual ability to changes in neural activation over time.

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Cross-Disciplinary Graduate Colloquium

Featuring special presentations from a student in each division including

**Alex Palmisano**
Graduate Student in Behavioral Neuroscience

**Evaluating Mechanisms of Reward Enhancement by Nicotine in Humans**

To examine whether nicotine enhances the value of food rewards, sixty-eight participants underwent a virtual reality conditioned place preference paradigm. We found that nicotine-treated participants demonstrated enhanced conditioning compared to the placebo group. To understand the mechanisms behind this finding, a second experiment evaluated differences in reward responding between nicotine users and non-users. We found that nicotine users are more sensation-seeking, risk-seeking, and are more likely to show approach behavior to reward compared to non-users.

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Kayleigh Ryherd
Graduate Student in Developmental Psychology

Atypical Category Learning in Poor Comprehenders

We studied category learning in typically-developing adolescents as well as those with poor reading comprehension despite adequate decoding skill and general cognitive function. Participants learned nonverbal and verbal features of categories in either a directed or undirected manner. Group differences emerged primarily when encountering undirected blocks first. Poor comprehenders showed less learning in directed blocks when completing them after undirected blocks, potentially indicating difficulty switching away from suboptimal learning strategies. This study shows that poor comprehenders may learn categories in an atypical manner, especially when they are not directed towards category-relevant features.

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Gloriana Rodriguez-Arauz
Graduate Student in Social Psychology

Language Analysis of Personality Differences in Bilinguals

In my talk I will go over how language analysis helps to untangle the complexities of being bicultural/bilingual in the US. Specifically, I will talk about how Mexican-American bilinguals’ self-schemas are quantitatively different as a function of the language used in open-ended self-descriptions. Bilingual participants predominantly express their American values in English and, alternatively, their Mexican cultural values in Spanish. The study provides evidence for psychological links between culture, language, and self-schemas.

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Matt Sullivan
Graduate Student in Clinical Psychology

Substance use is associated with decreased HIV serostatus disclosure: An event-level analysis among people living with HIV in the US

For people living with HIV in the United States, disclosure of one's HIV status to sexual partners is often difficult, and the determinants of disclosure decisions are not well understood. Using a multilevel modeling approach, the current study examines the event-level relationship between substance use and HIV status disclosure to first-time sexual partners in a sample of people living with HIV in medical care. Implications for subsequent condom use are also explored.

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