Personality Research Fall 2004

Research Proposals

Approach and Avoidance Temperaments and different motivations in the Prisoner’s Dilemma
Lindsay Rankin

- Prisoner’s dilemma as non-zero sum game
  - Prisoner faced with 2 choices, cooperate with other prisoner (don’t confess) or defect (confess)
  - Payoff matrix to Prisoner 1
    - Prisoner 2
    - Cooperate | Defect
    - P1 | 10  | -20
    - D  | 20  | -10

Prisoner’s dilemma and personality

- Strategic choice:
  - Trust other to “do the right thing”
  - Distrust other and expect them to defect and do the “rational thing”
- Cooperative behavior in repeated games
  - “tit for tat” strategy in repeated games

Prisoner’s Dilemma and Personality

- Approach motivated individuals
  - Do they go for the rewards in the payoff
- Avoidance motivated
  - Do they choose to avoid the possible losses?

Personality and Prisoner’s Dilemma

- Classic PD vs. modified PD
  - Payoff matrix to Prisoner 1
    - Prisoner 2
    - Cooperate | Defect
    - P1 | 10  | -20
    - D  | 20  | -10
  - Alternative matrix
  - Payoff matrix to Prisoner 1
    - Prisoner 2
    - Cooperate | Defect
    - P1 | 10  | -10
    - D  | 20  | -20

Christmas Eve Phenomenon
happiness and tense arousal
Marissa Jackson

- Question of the bipolarity of affect
  - Can you be both happy and sad at the same time?
  - Consider Christmas
    - Anticipation of Christmas gifts
      - Positive affect + Tension
### Christmas: Method

- Film clip mood induction
  - Night of living dead
  - Bill Cosby
- Another mood induction includes unexpected reward ($) or complex cognitive task
- NLD + $ vs. NLD (alone)
- BC + cog task vs. BC (in groups of two)

### Christmas- comments

- Include a personality variable
  - E or sensitivity to PA
  - N or sensitivity to NA

### Extraversion and motivation for viewing graphic horror

**Shaska Venumbaka**

- Question: Why do people watch horror movies?
- Alternative theories:
  - Berlyne, Zuckerman, Zillman, Cantor
- Hypothesis:
  - Es watch horror to elevate arousal levels and positive affect -- gore - thrill
  - Is watch “because they empathize with either the villain or victim” which elevates negative affect? Problem focused?

### Personality and Horror

- **Method:**
  - EPI + Mehrabian trait empathy + Zuckerman Sensation Seeking
  - Movie horror induction: Saw
  - Pretest - personality scales + why do you watch horror movies
  - PA -- wildness, excitement, powerfulness
  - NA frustration, loneliness, anger, sadness

### Personality and horror

- Motivations for watching horror
  - Gore, thrill
  - independent, problem
- Affect (+/-) vs Empathy/Sensation Seeking
- Complex I/E prediction with respect to motivations and affects

### Affiliation motivation and electronic vs. face to face interaction

**Michelle Rheinschmidt**

- **Review:**
  - Affiliation motivation
    - Goal oriented versus threat oriented
    - Affiliative tendency and sensitivity to rejection scales
  - But much of literature is based upon face to face interaction -- what happens with electronic interaction -- is this the same
Affiliation and electronic interaction

- Method
  - Measures of affiliative tendency (MAFF) and sensitivity to rejection (MSR)
  - Online social network: thefacebook.com
  - Background survey on facebook.com usage
  - Imaginary scenario of acceptance vs. rejection on facebook
    - Measures of distress - pleasure
    - Approach vs. rejection

Role players’ identification with character constructs

Michael O’Hara

- Review of role playing games
- Method:
  - Survey of role player game members
    - Personality measures of each role’s stereotype
    - Preference of role
    - Personality measure of each person (for selves)
- Hypothesis:
  - People prefer to play characters most like selves

Extraversion, Anxiety and Performance

Meaghan Lakes

- Introduction- review
  - I/E and performance
  - Anxiety and performance
- Method
  - I/E x Anxiety x stress
  - Stress is 10 minutes versus relaxed (take as long as you want)
- Prediction:
  - Low Anx > High Anx, E > I
  - Anxiety x stress x I/E (bigger effects of Is than Es)

Anxiety and Procrastination

Marina Hartnett

- Review:
  - Procrastination and depression, neuroticism, low grades, low self esteem
  - Anxiety and approach and avoidance motivation
- Method
  - Anxiety inducing video vs. neutral
  - Pre - post measures of anxiety and procrastination
- Prediction: anxiety by stress induction interaction on procrastination scores

Stereotype Threat, Achievement Motivation, and Math Performance

Geeta Dhingra

- Review:
  - Stereotype threat and performance
  - Achievement motivation
- Method:
  - Achievement motivation x stereotype threat manipulation on 20 SAT like math items
- Prediction: Nach reduces stereotype threat effect
- Question: should anxiety be measured as well?

Stranger Anxiety and cognitive performance

Amy Stallard

- Review:
  - Stranger anxiety as a component of anxiety
  - Anxiety and performance
- Method:
  - Subjects participate with a stranger (confederate)
  - Control vs. speech
  - Measure of cognitive performance taken while waiting to give speech to confederate
  - Confederate takes cognitive test in an anxiety inducing way (faster, paper rustling, etc.)
Creativity: Personality and affect

Julia Udesky

- Review:
  - Creativity as desire and ability
    - Desire to be creative and openness to experience
    - Ability Convergent versus divergent thinking
      - Cognitive spiral of looking and relooking for patterns and associations
  - Mood and creativity
    - Positive mood and flexibility, pa and broad processing

Creativity

- Method
  - Personality assessment: Gough’s Creative Personality Scale
  - Mood induction:
    - Mr. Bean (PA) vs. Night and Fog (NA)
    - Manipulation check of feelings, identification
    - Instructions: do your best vs. be creative
    - Creativity measure: insight problems
  - Prediction: neg affect facilitates creativity among high creative
    - Instructions interact with creativity and affect

Reward and Creativity

Jenny Meyers

- Review:
  - Creativity of everyday life
  - Openness, flexibility, risk taking
  - Affect
  - Reward (hinders)
- Method:
  - Reward x informed (If top 25% on creativity/random)
- Problem: missing a personality variable

Personality and mood effects on Positive and Negative word recall

Olivia DeManche

- Review:
  - I/E and PA, N and NA
- Hypothesis: trait versus state mood and recall
- Method:
  - EPQ as measure of I/E and N
  - Mood induction:
    - imagine winning $10 and taking vacation
    - Death of close friend + worst sickness you can imagine
    - neutral

Personality, Mood and Memory

- Word lists: 10 positive, 10 negative words
- Immediate recall
- Predictions:
  - I/E interacts with mood induction for recall of positive words
  - S/N interacts with mood induction for recall of negative words

Conscientiousness and individual versus group performance

Theresa Sullivan

- Review:
  - Cooperative groups versus individuals
  - What personality variables help/hurt
  - Previous analysis is inappropriate
    - Groups of 4 do better because you are taking max of group versus average
    - Need to form random pseudo groups to make appropriate comparison
  - Role of personality, specifically Conscientiousness
### C and Groups

| Hypothesis: | LC will take more trials to solution in group compared to best individual score |
| Method: | Group versus individual performance |
| Predictions: | Group effect enhanced by C: Group x C interaction |

### Anxiety, gender and ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lakshmi Tummala</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex/gender differences in anxiety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnicity (Asian American) differences in anxiety</td>
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<td>Predicts fan fold interaction of sex x ethnicity for bigger effects of ethnicity among women</td>
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### Extraversion and Sport Preference

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maurice Parris</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review: Some findings of individual differences in sports participation, particularly compared to fellow college students</td>
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<td>Hypothesis: Ex prefer group and contact sports</td>
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<td>Method: Survey of athletes and non-athletes</td>
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### Functional and Dysfunctional Impulsivity: effects upon affective synchrony

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<th>Barbara Ruf</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review: Dickman and distinction between functional and dysfunctional impulsivity</td>
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<td>Circadian variations in energetic and tense arousal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problems of synchronicity - For some EA and TA are independent, for others correlated, is this due to functional/dysfunctional impulsivity?</td>
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### Optimism, Affect, and approach avoidance motivation

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<th>Sean Ryan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review: Dispositional optimism/pessimism, Approach/avoidance motivation</td>
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<td>Method: Goal setting condition on mid term exams</td>
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<td>Emotional self report given at end of mid term</td>
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