

Feb 7th, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Poster Session 1

Honors College, ODU

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4:00-5:00 PM (Learning Commons: Northwest Atrium) Poster Session 1

1) Risk versus Risk Perceptions: How Ideology Mediates perceptions of Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise

By KRISTA ANDREWS (Mentor: Dr. Jesse Richman)

Political Science

We examined how ideology interacts with personal vulnerability (living in a coastal flood zone) to shape perceptions of risk from global warming and sea level rise. Results show that personal vulnerability leads to more polarized attitudes towards risks from global warming and sea level rise, with conservatives and liberals responding in distinctly different ways to the same personal circumstances. These results have important implications both for global policy response and the capacity to respond to personal risk.

2) A Model of Spaces where a Spoiler 3rd Party Candidate can Win a Negative Advertising War

By ROBERT POTTER (Mentor: Dr. Jesse Richman)

Political Science and Philosophy

This paper will inspect areas where it is possible to win an advertising war as a 3rd party spoiler candidate. Specifically I will focus on the space where the 2 major candidates are locked in a negative advertising battle. This leaves the candidate in the spoiler position an opening to move and take the election via a positive messaging campaign or a surprise negative attack. This model is focused on the last week of the election but can be expanded to examine more possibilities with further data.

3) Do Non-citizens Vote in U.S. Elections?

By CHATTHA GULSHAN (Mentor: Dr. Jesse Richman)

Political Science

In spite of substantial public controversy, very little reliable data exists concerning the frequency with which non-citizen immigrants participate in United States elections. Although such participation is a violation of election laws in most parts of the United States, enforcement depends principally on disclosure of citizenship status at the time of voter registration. This study examines participation rates by non-citizens using a nationally representative sample that includes non-citizen immigrants.

4) Mechanical Turk: A Viable Alternative to Laboratory Data Collection?

By KATIE MURPHY (Mentor: Dr. Debra Major)

Psychology

In recent years, Internet crowdsourcing has become an increasingly popular means of outsourcing human intelligence tasks to a temporary workforce. Websites, such as Amazon's Mechanical Turk (Mturk), offer researchers an alternative to traditional in-person data collection within the laboratory. An experimental study of stereotype threat in leadership, conducted in the summer of 2013, utilized both methods of data collection. The viability of using Mturk in research will be examined by comparing the Mturk sample to the laboratory sample. Comparisons will be made in five major areas: demographics, data quality, completion time, performance on outcome variables, and sample distributions.

5) The Relationship between Minority Stress and Drinking Motives among Lesbian Women

By TOLU AKINOLA, with Melissa Gaskins, Lance Irons and Colleen Rennie (Mentor: Dr. Robin Lewis)

Psychology

Lesbian women report more alcohol use than heterosexual women. However, less is known about why lesbian women drink more than heterosexual women. Researchers have hypothesized that lesbian women may drink more as a result of the increased stress of identifying as a sexual minority (i.e., minority stress). The purpose of the current study was to examine correlations between minority stressors and drinking motives in a large sample of self-identified lesbian women. Minority stressors included internalized homophobia, outness, and connection to the lesbian community. Drinking motives included enhancement, social, coping, and conformity motives.

6) Student Satisfaction and Faculty Evaluations: Does Grade-Curving have a Factor?

By KEVIN CULLEN (Mentor: Dr. Miguel Padilla)

Psychology

The purpose of this study is to determine if fairness and grade curving affect overall student satisfaction and evaluation of faculty. Researchers have suggested that there is a possible link between grading procedures and end-of-the-year evaluations. Here, students from Old Dominion University who have taken Quantitative Methods or a content course in Industrial/Organizational Psychology within the past two years will be given a set of professor evaluation measures and a knowledge-based assessment. This study can potentially provide empirical support that grade curving is positively related to student satisfaction ratings and variance in faculty evaluations.

7) Does Course Content influence Student Satisfaction?

By JOHN MART DELOSREYES (Mentor: Dr. Miguel Padilla)

Psychology

The results of course evaluations are often a determinant on the livelihood of the college instructors of these courses; however, these results may not actually reflect the skills of these instructors. Past research has shown that students typically rate social science courses higher than natural science courses (Beran & Violate, 2005). This study will explore how students' perceptions of course content influence overall course satisfaction. This will be evaluated by a means difference approach looking at the satisfaction scores of a quantitative methods course and a psychology content course. We expect that satisfaction will be higher in the content course.

8) L2L Game

By KATELYN KIETLINSKI (Mentor: Megan McKittrick)

English

To facilitate a commitment to learning, our team of faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students from the English and Education Departments are currently designing a digital gaming environment providing instruction for various learning skills and prompts for meta-reflective activities, while motivating students with game-style reward systems. This environment will also allow faculty to associate specific learning skills with relevant course content. We will collect qualitative and quantitative data to assess learning outcomes. We will assess how faculty members implemented the game into their courses by collecting course materials and interviews. We will then collect reflective responses by the students during game play. This poster session is an opportunity to share research results that are currently in progress.

9) Epigenetic Effects of Pollutants on Mya Arenaria in the Chesapeake Bay

By ZACHARY FITZPATRICK (Mentor: Dr. Lisa Horth)

Biology

Due to the state of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, there are species existing in polluted benthic sediment. The study was done to quantify potential epigenetic changes of *Mya arenaria*, when exposed to contaminated benthic sediment and multiple concentration oil spills in the laboratory. Clams were exposed to multiple forms of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Epigenetic changes are known to exist in marine invertebrates when in the presence of PAHs. The study was done to test which significant contaminants generate epigenetic activity in *Mya arenaria*.

10) The Current Status of Marine Protected Areas in the Western Central Atlantic

By SHANNAN HURLEY (Mentor: Dr. Kent Carpenter and Christi Linardich)

Biology

The effectiveness and coverage of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Western Central Atlantic is of high concern in relation to conserving biodiversity in the region. In light of initiatives to expand coverage and management capacity, it is essential to know the current status of MPAs in this region. This study compiled and analyzed data for 709 MPAs from 42 nations and territories. The results indicate that future marine conservation planning in this region should strive to install meaningful management plans, integrate high-level species protection such as no-take zones, and choose to incorporate a variety of habitat types when possible.

11) Determination of Pollinator Preference by Artificial Ultraviolet Cue Manipulation

By JUSTIN WESTERFIELD (Mentor: Dr. Lisa Horth)

Biology

Visual cues from flowers have long been known to facilitate the attraction of pollinators such as bees. Previous studies on black-eyed susans have shown that bees visit selectively according to, among other things, the ratio of ultraviolet (UV) reflecting to UV absorbing portions of flowers' petals. By constructing an artificial flower out of light emitting diodes, I manually manipulated the UV reflecting to absorbing ratio. The effects of this manipulation on pollinator attraction were then studied in hopes of finding an "ideal" ratio. Although preliminary results are inconclusive, the portable devices are prepared for continued experimentation in the spring.