

FEBRUARY 11, 2021



SOCIAL
PSYCHOLOGY
RESEARCH LAB



Middlesex
University
Dubai

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT RESEARCH EVENT

Presenting Research Capsules

The Social Psychology Student Research Event brings students from the Psychology Department presenting their group research projects in the form of an academic poster. We will run six parallel sessions where each group will present their research for 8 minutes. Attendees are encouraged to write their questions in the chat. The session chair will ask one of these questions, to which the group members will have to answer in 2 minutes.

**Thursday, February 11, 2021,
11 AM - 1 PM
*via MS Teams***



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Members: Social Psychology Research Lab

Dr Nishtha Lamba

Dr Anita Kashi

Ms Olga Khokhlova

Ms Archana Raghavan

Ms Hafseena Bind Ashraf

COLLABORATORS

Academics at:

Columbia University, Data Science Institute

University of Limerick, Department of Psychology

University of Amsterdam, Department of Psychology

University of Oxford, Neuroscience, Ethics, and Society

Overview

158 Presenters
27 Research Projects
8 Tracks
6 Sessions

TRACKS

1. Young people's preferences around predictive psychiatric services
2. COVID-19 related misinformation on social media
3. Moral dumbfounding in the Middle East and Africa
4. Social class differently shapes self and other oriented positive emotions
5. Emotion experience and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic
6. Using Avatars to study student perception of teaching
7. Examining peer-delivered messages to help adolescents cope with the COVID-19 pandemic
8. Personality and choice of environment: How people perceive different environments, and where people tend to spend their time

PROJECT SUPERVISORS

Dr Nishtha Lamba
Ms Olga Khokhlova
Ms Aditi Bhatia
Ms Seada A. Kassie
Ms Denise Andrzejewski

SESSION 1

1. Group 01. Track 1
2. Group 02. Track 4
3. Group 03. Track 8
4. Group 04. Track 5
5. Group 06. Track 7

SESSION 2

1. Group 05. Track 8
2. Group 07. Track 7
3. Group 09. Track 2
4. Group 10. Track 3
5. Group 12. Track 4

SESSION 3

1. Group 08. Track 7
2. Group 13. Track 5
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SESSION 4

1. Group 11. Track 7
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3. Group 18. Track 5
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SESSION 5

1. Group 20. Track 6
2. Group 22. Track 5
3. Group 24. Track 2
4. Group 25. Track 8

SESSION 6

1. Group 23. Track 6
2. Group 26. Track 8
3. Group 27. Track 1
4. Group 21. Track 3

Programme



OPENING COMMENTS

11:00 – 11:20

[Web Link](#)

MOVE INTO YOUR RESPECTIVE SESSIONS

11:20 – 11:30

The web links provided below will take you to your allotted sessions.

PARALLEL SESSIONS

11:30 – 12:40

Session 1: [Web Link](#)

Session 2: [Web Link](#)

Session 3: [Web Link](#)

Session 4: [Web Link](#)

Session 5: [Web Link](#)

Session 6: [Web Link](#)

CLOSING COMMENTS

12:40 – 1:00

[Web Link](#)

Abstracts

SESSION 1

GROUP 1. TRACK 1

Session Chair:

Dr Lynda Hyland

Session Time:

11:30 - 11: 40 AM

Future Psychiatry: a Mixed-Methods Approach to Assess Gender Differences and Risk Groups' Impact on Young People's Attitudes Towards Predictive Services

Zarka, M., Stahl, L., Blades, T., Stephenson, K., Evans, E., & Awadalla, N.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

Due to the increasing need to utilise predictive psychiatric systems, this study aimed to assess whether gender bears any relation with the youths' proclivity towards taking a test, what may affect their faith in the evaluation, and what reactions they have towards predictive psychiatric tests.

Design:

The study employed a mixed-method design to get a holistic view of young people's perceptions. T-tests were employed to assess the gender and risk group differences and thematic analysis was used for an in-depth analysis to understand their reactions.

Methods:

The responses analysed were from 62 participants, 22 of which were used for the thematic analysis. The participants underwent a roleplaying game of a predictive psychiatric test and received a random risk category. An e- survey was used to access their reactions.

Results:

The study found no statistical significance in the difference between gender and the likelihood to partake in tests, and no difference in the risk category and the likelihood to trust the results. Participants' reactions prompted two major themes; self-perception and precedent knowledge seemed to impact their reactions and the need for an active measure of self-care was provoked.

Conclusions:

The study lacked a representative sample size to gain significant results and recommends future studies to employ better techniques and more in-depth qualitative methodology.

GROUP 2. TRACK 4

Session Time:

11:40 - 11:50 AM

Social Class and Perceived Emotions differences between Tenderness, Contentment and Amusement.

Sayed, A., Kadwani, S., Saleem, S., Lobo, J., Prakash, G., & Douttani, K.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to compare the perception of different other and self-oriented positive emotions (dependent variable) across different social classes (independent variable). The emotions studied are Amusement, Contentment and Tenderness.

In this current study, there are two hypotheses: (1) we expect upper-class will be perceived to have more positive emotions than the individuals in lower class and (2) individuals in the working-class are perceived to have more other-oriented positive emotions while the upper-class is perceived to report more self-oriented positive emotions. A survey was conducted online and individuals from India ($N = 221$), above the age of 16, participated. The results of this survey showed that individuals in the upper-class showed higher positive emotions than the working-class verifying one of the hypotheses. Due to the lack of research on the perception of emotions, future research can focus on replicating this study with the addition of various positive and negative emotions carried out around the globe.

GROUP 3. TRACK 8

Session Time:

11:50 - 12:00 noon

Age and Personality on Perception of the Environment

Abu-El Haj, R., Al Qatanwneh, M., Jafri, I., Khimji, Z.,
Shetty, A., & Okoro M.E

ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this study was to examine the relationship between personality type, age and the frequency at which the participants visit the malls and museums. The first hypothesis states that participants who score high on openness and extraversion will visit the malls and museums frequently. The second hypothesis states that in comparison to adults, young adults will view malls and museums as a place for socialising, more positively. An independent group design method was adopted to study the two hypotheses. For the first hypothesis, Pearson's correlation was administered to explore the nature of the relationship between personality traits - openness and extraversion; and frequency of, visit to malls and museums. An independent sample t-test was conducted to test the second hypothesis as it allowed to identify any significant difference in how positive and sociable adults and young adults may perceive malls and museums. The research adopted an independent group design method. Data from 129 participants residing in the United Arab Emirates was collected using the Big Five Inventory (BFI), which measures the big five personality traits and; Situational Eight DIAMONDS, which measure people's perception of the situation on eight characteristics. The questionnaire was distributed digitally keeping ethical procedures in mind.

Conclusion:

No significant results were found. Possible confounding factors include knowledge/interest and monetary state of the participants. Implications of the study include businesses and government entities gathering data to analyse and process the requirements of the general public which will eventually result in them visiting popular museums and malls more frequently.

GROUP 4. TRACK 5

Session Time:

12:00 - 12:10 PM

Examining the Emotional Angle of COVID 19: The Interrelation between Humans, Support Connections and Cultures Around the World

Moin, I., Canino, T., Rodrigues, M., Abbas, M., & Kaur, M.

ABSTRACT

When the Covid-19 pandemic hitting the world with full force, individuals were forced to change their everyday lifestyle to one of solitude and independence. Evidently, this sudden change in lifestyle has led to an increase in mental health issues. This study looked to find the effect of COVID-19-related emotions on individualistic and collectivist cultures. In addition, this experiment sought to find the relationship between social connections and COVID-19 related emotions. Previous studies on these topics showed that individualistic cultures will feel higher COVID emotions (Kowal et al., 2020), and that there will be a correlation between social connections and COVID emotions (Nitschke et al., 2020) along with a significant elationship between social connections and country of residence (Montemurro, 2020). To test the relationship between social connections and COVID emotions, a Pearson's correlation test was conducted, which showed a weak negative correlation. To test the relationship between social connections and Covid emotions, Pearson's correlation was conducted and a weak, negative correlation was found. Finally, for the third part, to test the independent relationship between social connections and the country of residence, and independent samples T test was conducted which gave a non-significant p value.

GROUP 6. TRACK 7

Session Time:

12:10 - 12:20 PM

Effectiveness of Peer Support Messages Related to COVID-19

Kherajani. B., Manjali. D. V., Fernandes. E. M., Khambata. K., Zohair. M., & Almahamid. O.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

The aim of this study was to observe the effect peer-delivered messages would have on positive and negative emotions, in comparison to messages delivered by news sources, or university staff. It was further investigated whether peer relationships have gotten closer during the pandemic as compared to in general.

Design:

The study followed a between-groups design with each participant being randomly allocated to one source of the post. The study was in the form of an online questionnaire, the links of which were distributed via social media. Due to the social distancing, an online questionnaire was the most efficient method.

Method:

Links were sent to participants who were recruited via convenience and snowball sampling. The questionnaire began with asking for informed consent, then a post was shown from one of the 3 sources, followed by the questionnaire to measure positive and negative emotions and closeness to peers. Followed by a demographic information form.

Results:

Results calculated through two One-way ANOVAs showed that there is a nonsignificant effect on both positive and negative emotions despite the source of the post. Though the difference was such, peer source had higher positive emotion scores. Results of descriptive statistics showed closeness to peers has increased during the pandemic than in general but to a very small degree, a barely noticeable increase.

Conclusion:

The study failed to support its hypotheses with any significant results. Though peer source messages invoked higher positive emotions, the difference was nonsignificant as well as the difference in closeness to peers. The study is strong invalidity and replicability; however, the self report method of questionnaires can be inaccurate, and future researches could work to change this method to another. The sample size and distribution could also be improved in future studies.

SESSION 2

GROUP 5. TRACK 8

Session Chair:

Ms Olga Khokhlova

Session Time:

11:30 - 11:40 AM

Personality Types, Neuroticism and Where People Choose to Spend Their Time in the United Arab Emirates

Fabiz, F., Jesse Goloyugo, K., Lathiwala, N., Kochhar, N., & Chedid, W.

ABSTRACT

An individual's personality is defined by their way of thinking, feeling, and behaving, which helps a person to interact with another person and express certain opinions and moods (Rothe, J . P. 2017). The furthermost accredited psychological theory on a person's personality is the big five personality trait which is being assessed in this research study which includes openness, extraversion, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and agreeableness (Schmitt, D. P, 2007). The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between personality types, relationship status and where people choose to spend their time. The study was conducted using 76 participants consisting of 43 females and 33 males. The design used for this study is snowball sampling design Justifications with the outcomes are provided along with the strengths, weaknesses and limitations. Moreover, recommendations for forthcoming research and implications of the results are also stated in discussion.

GROUP 7. TRACK 7

Session Time:

11:40 - 11:50 AM

Effectiveness of Peer Support Messages Related to COVID-19

A. J. Giri, A. Naaz, J. V. Thorat, J. Gomes, N. Shaikh, & S. Abraham.

ABSTRACT

Objective:

The purpose of this study is to assess the coping skills of adolescents during the covid-19 pandemic in relation to the use of social media. The main hypothesis of the study is that peer-messages help adolescents in coping with the pandemic more than messages from other sources such as authoritative figures or general publishing companies.

Design:

The design used in this study is an independent group design. The participants were selected through convenience sampling. The survey used for the study was distributed online due to the social-distancing measures implemented.

Methods:

The participants ($N = 311$) answered the survey through social media platforms and the data was analysed through SPSS.

Results:

A One-Way ANOVA was administered to analyse the statistical data. The results were non-significant.

Conclusion:

The results were found to be inconsistent with the main hypothesis. The results indicate that all three types of support messages had a similar impact on adolescents in terms of coping. This study can aid future research on the impact of social media across different age groups.

Keywords: Social Media, adolescents, covid-19, pandemic, coping

GROUP 9. TRACK 2

Session Time:

11:50 - 12:00 noon

The Contribution of Re-sharing Misinformation during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alhamad, H., Anis, V., Belkhayat, L., Desideri, S., Khan, K. & Khan, M.

ABSTRACT

Objective:

This study was conducted to investigate the effects of age, level of concern about COVID-19 and Cognitive Reflection Test (CRT) scores on the willingness to share fake news on social media. The study hypothesized that younger adults, greater level of concern about COVID-19 and low CRT scores would be predictive of greater willingness to share fake news on social media.

Design:

The study adopted a within-subjects, non-experimental design. It consisted of three independent variables (IVs); age, level of concern about COVID-19 and CRT scores, alongside the dependent variable (DV); willingness to share fake news on social media.

Methods:

179 participants aged 18 and above were recruited through convenience and snowball sampling. These respondents were asked to complete an online survey which consisted of three questionnaires; level of concern about COVID-19 pandemic 10 true and 10 false news headlines and the Cognitive Reflection Test (CRT).

Results:

A multiple regression was administered on the dataset. Results of the regression indicated a significant regression model ($F(3, 175) = 7.810, p < .001, R^2 = .103$). Furthermore, age was shown to be a significant predictor of willingness to share fake news on social media ($\beta = .215, p = .003$). However, greater levels of concern about COVID-19 showed to be a significant predictor of lower willingness to share misinformation on social medial ($\beta = -.202, p = .006$).

Conclusions:

Findings suggested that although CRT scores did not account for willingness to share fake news on social media, the presence of the age factor along with the level of the concern seemed to have a significant impact on the willingness to spread misinformation on social media. Hence, future research may further explore those variables in-depth to help minimize individuals' willingness to share misinformation.

GROUP 10. TRACK 3

Session Time:

12:00 - 12:10 PM

Logical or Nonsensical? An Investigation on Moral Dumbfounding in MENA Samples

Alatassi, A., Dasmal, D., De Ruiter, L., Diab, M., Khairi, A., & Page, D.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to directly test how collectivism and religiosity predict moral dumbfounding in a MENA sample, considering that there is research lacking in this field. It is hypothesized that collectivism and religiosity will significantly predict moral dumbfounding. The study conducted has a quasi-experimental within groups design. This was used to study the effects of both independent variables on the dependent variable sans assigning participants to random groups. The final sample size of participants that took part in the research study was seventy-three, which included thirty-six males, thirty-six females, and one unspecified. Participants were required to complete a Qualtrics online questionnaire, which consisted of four vignettes. Following that, the Individualism Collectivism Questionnaire (ICS) was presented. A nonsignificant regression equation was found $F(2, 70) = 2.11, p = .129$, with an Adjusted R² of .030. Religiosity did add significantly to the prediction (Religiosity = .044), while collectivism did not (collectivism = .329). Though both collectivism and religiosity did not predict moral dumbfounding, religiosity alone significantly predicted moral dumbfounding in MENA populations, whereas collectivism did not. Suggestions for further research include more replication of this study, more non-WEIRD populations, using other forms of sampling & using interviews rather than questionnaires.

GROUP 12. TRACK 4

Session Time:

12:10 - 12:20 PM

"They're Rich and Proud of It" A Study on the Perception of Different Emotions Experienced by Social Classes

Abid, I., Bawa, N., Fathima, S., Fernando, A., Khettry, S., & Mohammadali, F.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

The aim of this study was to investigate how people perceive the upper and lower social class to experience the emotions; compassion and pride. The study hypothesizes that people perceive the upper social class to experience greater feelings of pride in comparison to the lower social class. Furthermore, the study also hypothesizes that people perceive lower social class to experience greater feelings of compassion as opposed to upper social class.

Method:

The study consisted of approximately 250 adults who were UAE residents. Participants were recruited using convenience sampling and snowball sampling. The study was distributed online through social media platforms via Qualtrics survey link.

Design:

A non-experimental between-groups design was conducted. The DV of this the quantitative study is people's perception with two independent variables: IV1 is the social class (upper social class and lower social class), IV2 is positive emotions with 2 levels (pride and compassion).

Results:

Four one-sample t-tests were conducted to analyze the data. The results indicated that people perceive the upper social class to experience greater pride than lower social class. In addition, the lower social class were perceived to have greater compassion than the upper social class.

Conclusion:

The social classes have distinctive and systemic psychological consequences, which profoundly affect how individuals create the social environment and function emotionally with others.

SESSION 3

GROUP 8. TRACK 7

Session Chair:

Ms Aditi Bhatia

Session Time:

11:30 - 11:40 AM

The Effectiveness of Peer Delivered Messages to Help Adolescents Cope with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Anneli. P., Mohammed. F., Nikita. T., Sathirth. S., & Syed. W.

ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to evaluate whether peer support played a crucial role in expediting coping during the pandemic (COVID-19). Similar to studies that have been conducted in China, Iran, and among African American youths. The study evaluated the assumption that a network of peers was significantly more effective in helping an individual cope compared to support from adults or other influences such as media, neutral agents, social platforms, etc. There were 160 participants involved in this experiment who were recruited through convenience sampling among university students. The research was a between-groups design that collected qualitative data and consisted of participants partaking in a 10- item questionnaire. The analysed significant result disproved the hypothesis, which was deduced after conducting a one-way ANOVA, which showed a non-significant result. The hypothesis was disproved as our findings justify that the news intervention shows the highest scores in coping. Future studies should focus on more robust experiments that explore different factors such as diversity and mental state.

GROUP 13. TRACK 5

Session Time:

11:40 - 11:50 AM

Impact of Fear as Corona Virus Affects Millions: A Cross-Cultural Study on the Effect of Fear on Employment Status and Living Situations During This Pandemic

Chowdhury, R.M., Fatima, M., Ikram, I., Gonzales, L., Ohiagba, C.A., & Rashid, A.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

This study aims to investigate the impact of fear during the covid-19 pandemic on employment status and living situation. There were two hypotheses. Firstly, unemployed people will have more fear than people who are employed. Secondly, that people living alone would experience more fear than people living with someone.

Design:

Independent variable 1 was employment status, and independent variable 2 was living situation. Both analyses were dependent on fear. T-test was conducted for each IVs separately.

Methods:

162 participants in which 40 were males and 112 females aged between 16-56 from different cultural backgrounds were required to answer a questionnaire via qualtrics.com anonymously.

Results:

There was no significant difference for the effect of fear on living situations, $t(160) = .008$, $p = .994$. , and effect of fear on employment status, $t(160) = -1.35$, $p = .179$. However, a significant mean difference was discovered between employed($M = 2.73$, $SD = 1.94$) and unemployed($M = 3.26$, $SD = 1.91$) participants.

Conclusion:

Unexpected findings suggest, that claims are different from past literature. This study's findings provide essential insight, and future researchers can explore this new path of literature. Methodological strengths and limitations are mentioned in this study.

GROUP 14. TRACK 2

Session Time:

11:50 - 12:00 noon

Misinformation-19: The Pandemic that Started with COVID-19

Salman, M., Menon, R., Hassan, J.F., Pereira, E.V., Kumar, V.S.,
& Shaik, T.F.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to understand the relationship between the concern for COVID-19 and the willingness to believe in fake news; the time spent on social media and willingness to believe in fake news. The study employed a non-experimental design using Pearson's correlation. 336 participants were recruited using convenience and snowball sampling over social media platforms. The time spent on social media was measured using an open-ended question and concern for COVID-19 using a close-ended question. Twenty true and fake headlines were displayed and their accuracy was to be identified with. A "Yes/No" question. The willingness to believe in fake news was calculated as a sum of the total "yes" scores to fake news. A Pearson's correlation indicated a weak, positive correlation between willingness to believe in fake news and concern for COVID-19; time spent on social media and willingness to believe in fake news. Two scatter plots were produced to summarise the results. The findings suggest that participants were more likely to believe in fake news when their concern for COVID-19 was high and more time was spent on social media. Future research can implement artificial intelligence and survey traditional media viewers to compare and spread of misinformation about COVID-19 on different platforms.

GROUP 16. TRACK 1

Session Time:

12:00 - 12:10 PM

Factors Associated With Sharing Mental Health Data Amongst Adolescents

Amarasekara, A., Khateeb, A., Fathima, I., Arshad, R., Sajid, S., & Nandhana, S.

ABSTRACT

The poster presents the data which was gathered in the form of snowfall sampling and convenience. The study showed that the participants were voluntarily selected and a connection was sent. The relation had the layout of a game where it produced a hypothetical scenario. Two independent sample t-tests were conducted. Where one was conducted as the gender with an independent variable and sharing of mental health data score as the dependent variable. The other independent sample t-test was performed with the independent variable as a risk category and the dependent variable as the mental health data ratings given access by the participants. The study consists age range of 16-20. As per data of relevant authority regarding communicating mental health effects, females are more than males. Mental health is differentiated into two groups, higher and lower, based on the second hypothesis. The findings conclude that the lower-risk number is larger which depends on the outcome being shared again, as the participants have the discretion to disclose the outcome or not. This number can vary according as per individual mental health. However, it can be further classified based on gender. Data from this research will be analysed using different t-test samples to assess if there is a statistically enormous change.

GROUP 17. TRACK 4

Session Time:

12:10 - 12:20 PM

Preconceived Perceptions of Positive Emotional Experiences for Upper and Working Class Individuals

Andrade, K., Dalal, A., Iqbal, A., Thompso, R., Waqas, Z.,
& Wijesinghe, D.D.

ABSTRACT

The classification of society among different socio-economic classes have led to the difference in perceptions of positive emotions. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the perceived positive emotions (pride and compassion) towards working and upper-class individuals to explore the cause of such inequalities. Data was collected through online portals where 171 participants whose age ranged from 16 to 58 were recruited. The results reported that participants viewed upper-class individuals to be significantly less compassionate than the working-class individual; whereas, upper-class individuals were considered by the participants to be experiencing significantly more pride than working-class individuals. The results were consistent with previous literature, and the hypotheses are given, and further implications and improvements for future studies are demonstrated.

SESSION 4

GROUP 11. TRACK 7

Session Chair:

Ms Seada Kassie

Session Time:

11:30 - 11:40 AM

Effectiveness of Peer Support Messages During COVID-19 Pandemic

K. Pillaiyar, K. Maheta, N. Imtiaz, R. V. Nair, S. Ghosh, & S. Banerjee

ABSTRACT

Objective:

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of peer-delivered help for adolescents to cope with mental distress during the pandemic.

Design:

The design utilised was an independent group design. Source of online support messages were divided into three levels of independent variables; peers, university and neutral controls. The Dependent variables were namely; Coping and Compliance.

Method:

The study involved 436 adolescents aged between 15-25 years. Participants were recruited online. Responses were collected using Qualtrics Survey Solutions.

Results:

Data was analyzed using one-way ANOVA. Findings suggested that results for coping and compliance for neutral control group were higher than peers and university staff. Therefore, the results were not in line with the hypothesis.

Conclusion:

The effect of peer-delivered support via an online platform is still not established. Individuals including adolescents prefer information coming from media sources because news channels not only act as a bridge between government/ health officials and public but also during the time of the current research, news channels published news which was hopeful. Future implications, strengths and limitations have been elaborated further in the poster.

GROUP 15. TRACK 2

Session Time:

11:40 - 11:50 AM

The Social Media Pandemic: Why People Trust Fake News About COVID-19

Baghel, K., Canara, A., Donny, E., Mehta, M., Patel, F., & Subhani, F.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

The current Covid-19 pandemic has not only caused a global health crisis but also caused a social media pandemic in terms of spread of misinformation which can be equally harmful. Considering this concern, the current study aimed to examine two main aspects that might predict susceptibility to fake news, first, interpersonal trust, and second, to find how this is affected through the intention of using social media as a source of information about the pandemic. This study hypothesizes that interpersonal trust and fake news susceptibility share a significant negative correlation, and the group of individuals that use social media to attain information would show significantly different scores of susceptibility than those who do not.

Design:

The study used a within-groups design. It was administered in two parts, one experimental and one correlational. The study used independent group design, and hence a t-test was administered.

Methods:

A total of 153 participants, who were recruited through convenient snowball sampling, answered the online questionnaire which consisted of 10 fake and 10 real news related COVID-19 and 6 questions from the General Trust Scale.

Results:

The results showed that participants who used social media as a source for gathering news showed no difference in levels of susceptibility to fake news than those who did not use social media for the same reason. Secondly; interpersonal trust did negatively correlate with readiness to believe fake news but was weak and non-significant.

Discussion:

Despite having findings disproving the initial aims of the study, the results conclude that intentions to use social media and interpersonal trust levels do not significantly change susceptibility to fake news, but other factors such as frequency of sharing might have an effect on the same.

GROUP 18. TRACK 5

Session Time:

11:50 - 12:00 noon

Wellbeing During COVID-19: Looking at Friendship Quality and Resilience in University Students.

Azoury, N., Al Chami, I., Mahmoud, G., Taha, A., Alzaabi, S., & Nasr, V.

ABSTRACT

Background:

Studies have found wellbeing to be significantly, negatively affected in times of high stress and crises. Low wellbeing subsequently can affect quality of life amongst many other variables. Extensive research has reported both resilience and friendship quality to be mediators of wellbeing in times of crises. Thus, investigating such claims during the ongoing pandemic is critical. It could subsequently inform interventions and wellness programs, in addition to providing invaluable insight into the human psyche.

Methodology:

University students ($N = 293$) from various ethnic backgrounds participated in the study. Two Pearson's correlation were conducted to investigate the nature of the relationship between wellbeing, resilience and Friendship Quality.

Results:

Resilience was found to significantly correlate with Wellbeing. Whereas Friendship Quality did not seem to have a significant relationship with Wellbeing.

Discussion:

The results were explained and discussed in terms of previous literature. Additionally, the limitations and strengths of the study, with suggestions for future research and implications of the findings were mentioned.

GROUP 19. TRACK 6

Session Time:

12:00 - 12:10 PM

Student Perception of Teachers in Relation to Race and Educational Qualification

Dhilawala, Z., Ramesh, S., Siddiqui, S., Tamdeen, S., Zaigham, L., & Zaminato, A.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

This study investigates how race plays a role in undermining a teacher's qualifications and vice versa. The hypotheses tested in this study are; White teachers are rated better than South Asian teachers, regardless of qualification, and that students rate teachers of their ethnicity higher.

Design:

This study uses an independent groups design. Race, White and South Asian, and Qualification, Ph.D. and Masters, are the two independent variables, and Teacher Evaluation scores are the dependent variable.

Methods:

320 participants took part in this study. Participants were aged 16-25, and the majority were South Asian. Participants were asked to watch videos of avatars of White/South Asian teachers with a Ph.D./Masters, followed by a questionnaire for evaluation. The scores for the evaluation were compared on each level of the study

Results:

A 2x2 ANOVA displayed; the main effect for race was marginally significant with a significance value of $p = .06$. The main effect for questions and the interaction effect were both insignificant, with significance values of $p = .12$ and $p = .47$, respectively. These results do not completely align with the hypotheses of the study.

Conclusions:

To conclude, race and qualification of a teacher, however minuscule, does influence a student's perception and a clearer picture could be obtained with future research in this field.

SESSION 5

GROUP 20. TRACK 6

Session Chair:

Ms Archana Raghavan and
Ms Hafseena Bind Ashraf

Session Time:

11:30 - 11:40 AM

Student Evaluation: An Implicit Bias or an Earnest Feedback?

Kibutha, B., Khabbaz, O., Chacko, S., Kauser, S., Rajan, S.,
& Amer, Z.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

This quantitative research explores the impact of lecturer's race and gender on teacher evaluation using pedagogical agents. It was hypothesized that (a) White lecturers would receive higher ratings than South Asian lecturers (b) Female lecturers would receive lower evaluations than males (c) White male lecturers would be rated significantly higher than South Asian females

Design:

An independent between-group design following a 2x2 factorial ANOVA was carried out in the study.

Methods:

147 students enrolled in UAE educational institutions, aged 15 and above, were required to watch a video of one of the four versions of the virtual avatars (female south-Asian, female white, male south-Asian, and male white) and respond to an API and a teacher evaluation questionnaire.

Results:

The analysis proved that the three hypotheses were inaccurate. Female lecturers displayed higher student evaluations than male lecturers, and South Asian lecturers had a significant impact than White lecturers. There was no significant interaction between lecturer gender and race.

Conclusion:

A possible reason for these undesirable results could be the geographical location and diverse yet concentrated nationalities constituting the population, particularly South Asians. Further, favorable outcomes may have been obtained, had the study incorporated traditional pupils rather than diverse pupils. Additionally, the TE questionnaires utilized in the study must be used with caution as they are based solely on student perceptions and may not be an apt indicator of teacher effectiveness.

GROUP 22. TRACK 5

Session Time:

11:40 - 11:50 AM

Health at Home: Physical & Emotional State During COVID-19

Gangardiwala, F., Hasna, F., Sharma, G., Moiz, J., Zahra, S.,
& Hasan, S.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

COVID-19 pandemic has created several physiological and psychological changes in individuals. The present study aims to examine the relationship between physical activity and anxiety, and between extraversion and stress levels, during COVID-19 lockdown.

Design:

The study followed an Independent Group experimental design. It was adopted due to every participant being assessed in each condition of the study.

Methods:

A total of 359 participants were recruited through online platforms such as social media and filled in a questionnaire.

Results: Pearson's correlation analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between the variables. There was a significant negative association between physical activity and anxiety as well as between extraversion and stress levels.

Conclusions:

The study helped understand the range of emotions experienced by individuals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has practical implications for large-scale encouragement of individuals to indulge in more physical activity, which includes positive health benefits and helps control anxiety levels. Furthermore, to prevent loneliness and stress, a sense of collectiveness shall be instilled, and more job opportunities shall be created.

GROUP 24. TRACK 2

Session Time:

11:50 - 12:00 noon

Falsified News, Fake Headlines and Word Of Mouth During COVID-19

Anand, K. B., Fazal, H., Hariharan, P., Imran, F., Maryam, R., & Phulwani, B.

ABSTRACT

Objectives:

The present study aims to investigate whether lower levels of education, higher levels of anxiety, and greater tendency to seek medical attention influence one's willingness to share COVID-19 related misinformation, along with determining whether news headlines motivate an individual the most to share a piece of covid-19 related misinformation.

Design:

A within-group design was used consisting of three independent variables: levels of education, anxiety, and tendency to seek medical attention and one dependent variable: willingness to share misinformation.

Methods:

A total of 229 participants were included in the study who were recruited through snowball and convenience sampling. The data was obtained through an online survey in which participants were shown different Facebook posts and were asked to determine whether they were true or false and the reason for it. The survey also included questionnaires and a few demographic questions.

Results:

46% of the participants were influenced by the headlines to share false news. The analysis revealed 3.57% of variance in the sharing of misinformation was explained by the independent variables. A significant regression ($F(3, 225) = 3.73, p = .012$) was obtained.

Conclusions:

Headlines had a huge impact on motivating individuals to share misinformation regarding COVID-19, and individuals with lower levels of education, anxiety, and a lower tendency to seek medical attention were more susceptible to sharing misinformation.

GROUP 25. TRACK 8

Session Time:

12:00 - 12:10 PM

Who You Are is Where You Are

Gomes, D., Gonsalves, A., Padmashali, K., Pinto, A., Srikrishnan, V., Suneeth, S.

ABSTRACT

Objective:

People are more inclined to visit specific environments based on their personality and perception. There is limited research on the relationship between openness along with psychological characteristics of museums and entertainment parks and frequency of visiting it. Thus, this study aims to find the relationship between openness to experience, perception of museums and the frequency of visiting environments (museums and entertainment parks).

Design:

This study was conducted on UAE residents above 18 years of age, ranging from 18 to 56. 127 participants took part in this study.

Method:

A correlational analysis was used on all the variables. Participants were provided with an online questionnaire (BFI-2-S and S8*I).

Results:

A weak non-significant relationship was found between openness to experience and frequency of visiting museums and entertainment parks. Furthermore, there was a weak non-significant correlation found between perception and frequency of visiting museums.

Conclusion:

Future research can use different qualitative analysis methods to understand the relationship between individuals and their environments better.

SESSION 6

GROUP 23. TRACK 6

Session Chair:

Dr Nishtha Lamba

Session Time:

11:30 - 11:40 AM

iTeacher: Investigating Students' Implicit Biases Towards Gender and Qualifications Of Teachers

Cherian, A.S., D'souza, G., Gusani, S. K., Juriansz, S. N., Patel, S., & Santhoshkumar, G.

ABSTRACT

To observe implicit biases that may impact students perceptions of teaching agents (TAs). The research hypothesizes that Male TAs and TAs with PhD qualifications will receive significantly higher teaching evaluation scores than female TAs and TAs with Master's qualifications. The study also hypothesises a significant interaction between qualification and gender. The current study used a between-group experimental design Independent Variables. Gender of the TA, Male and Female Qualification of the TA, PhD and Masters Dependent variable- Student's perceptions of TAs. 175 student participants between 18 and 25 who received randomised computer-generated TAs' videos, the Teaching Evaluation Questionnaire (TEQ) was used to assess their perception of the TA. A 2×2 factorial ANOVA revealed that TA's gender and qualifications independently did not influence the student's perception in evaluating the TA. Additionally, the study also indicated no interaction of TA's gender and qualification to influence evaluation scores. This study provides insight into students' biases influencing perceptions of TAs. The study contradicted previous literature, and this may indicate the changing perceptions of a younger generation towards their educators.

GROUP 26. TRACK 8

Session Time:

11:40 - 11:50 AM

Exploring the Differences in Personality Factors in Terms of Work/Study Space Preference

J., Bhojwani, S., BintKassim, N., Fathima, R., Latheef, A. L., & Waseem, S

ABSTRACT

Objective:

A large-scale shift to remote learning/working ensued recently due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The current study investigates the difference in levels of conscientiousness in terms of individuals' preferred work/study location. Additionally, the difference in levels of openness in terms of individuals' preferred work environment is observed.

Methods:

An independent group non-experimental design was employed. For the first hypothesis, the independent variable was the preference of home or office/university, the dependent variable comprised of conscientiousness levels. The independent variable for the second hypothesis was the preference of collaborative or individual-focused work/study environment, the dependent variable comprised of the openness levels. The final sample consisted of 101 U.A.E residents, recruited by non-probability convenient sampling. The participants were administered an online questionnaire comprising of BFI-2-S, demographic questions and two questions to record location/environment preference.

Results:

The independent t-test administered for the first hypothesis revealed no significant difference in conscientiousness levels ($p = .301$). For the second hypothesis, no significant difference was observed in openness levels ($p = .689$).

Conclusion:

While results showed that the levels of conscientiousness and openness do not influence an individual's preferred work/study space, key methodological strengths are highlighted and direction for future studies is discussed.

GROUP 27. TRACK 1

Session Time:

11:50 - 12:00 noon

Young People's Preferences to Predictive Psychiatric Services

Ajmal, A., Muneer, H., Jabbar, M., Dodhy, N., Fenwick, S., & Abdirahman, S.

ABSTRACT

There has been limited literature focused on exploring young people's approach concerning future psychological services. This report aims to examine adolescence eagerness to share data in relation to age and predictive risk factor with either health care providers or friends. Total of n= 152 adolescents between the ages of 16-24 with a mean age of 20 ($SD = .49$) participated in an independent groups design. After engaging in a virtual role-play and completing the questionnaires, participants received predictive results. The findings of 3 independent t-tests demonstrated no significant difference in participants' will to share data according to age. There was no substantial difference present in willingness to share results with health professionals if high risk. However, there was a significant difference present in adolescent's willingness to share results with friends if they are at low risk for mental illness. The strengths and limitations were discussed along with recommendations for future research.

GROUP 21. TRACK 3

Session Time:

12:00 - 12:10 noon

When Emotions Defeat Reasoning: A Study Measuring Moral Dumbfounding, Neuroticism, Age, and Moral Judgment Inclinations

Abdo, S., Botto, D., Ali, Z., Aguiar, C., Fomina, M., & Hashani, N.

ABSTRACT

Over the last two decades, the moral dumbfounding phenomenon has often been cited as a crucial piece of evidence against rationalist models. This phenomenon argues that intuition and emotion are the predominant driving forces behind decisions and moral judgments. While several studies have shown that moral judgment can also be affected by other factors such as age and personality traits, there is still a lack of research on individuals from the Arab and North African ethnicities. Moreover, no studies have evaluated the effect of personality factors on moral dumbfounding. This study aims to investigate the relationship between age and moral judgment inclinations and the impact of neuroticism on moral dumbfounding in individuals from the Arab and North African ethnicities. Data was collected from vignette-based questionnaires and a short-form questionnaire of the Big Five Inventory, voluntarily completed by 113 participants online. An independent samples t-test revealed no significant difference in neuroticism levels for morally dumfounded participants and vice versa. In addition, Pearson's Correlation test showed no significant correlation between the participants' age and moral judgment inclinations. These findings suggest that age does not play a major role in individuals' deontological judgments of moral dilemmas and that neuroticism levels have no significant impact on one's moral reasoning.