
SITAR

Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research

16th Annual Meeting

May 31 – June 1, 2013

Park City, Utah, USA



Abstracts

16th Annual Meeting of the Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research

PAPER ABSTRACTS

In alphabetical order by first author

Emotional Experiences and Interpersonal Difficulties in Individuals with Depression or Borderline Symptoms

Nadia Al-Dajani & Amanda A. Uliaszek (University of Toronto Scarborough)

Depression and borderline personality disorder (BPD) are both characteristic of affective and interpersonal disturbance (Beck, 1976; Linehan, 1993). While depressed individuals tend to withdraw from social situations, individuals with BPD exhibit labile emotions, hostility, and extremes of idealization and devaluation of others around them (American Psychiatric Association, 2004). Nevertheless, commonalities between the two disorders on internalizing symptomology have led researchers to believe that they overlap on some aspects of their etiology (Eaton et al., 2011). An examination of differences in emotional states that explain divergence in interpersonal difficulties in individuals with borderline or depressive symptomology is necessary. In this study, a mood induction task was used to elicit emotional reactions based on recollections of specific experiences in a sample of 121 university students. Analyses show that symptoms of BPD and depression were highly correlated ($r = .697$). Hierarchical regressions were used to analyze the unique contribution of symptoms of BPD and depression in felt intensity of specific emotions. Intensity of anxiety after mood induction was uniquely related to symptoms of depression ($b = .94$), but not to symptoms of BPD ($b = .52$), as was the case for intensity of guilt ($bs = .95$ & $.39$, respectively). The opposite was true for sadness, with unique variance explained by BPD symptoms ($b = 1.10$) but not by depressive symptoms ($b = .53$), and for shame ($bs = .57$ & $.31$, respectively). Anger was significantly related to both symptoms of depression ($b = .77$) and symptoms of BPD ($b = .74$), while joy was not uniquely related to symptoms of depression or to symptoms of BPD. A discussion of the ways in which differences in emotion reactivity can differentially effect interpersonal functioning is presented.

Social Functioning and Life Satisfaction Associations with Daily Social Behavior

Emily Ansell (Yale University), Michael Roche & Aaron L. Pincus (Pennsylvania State University)

Social functioning and life satisfaction are outcomes that are frequently examined in research as markers of psychopathology and treatment outcome. Assessment of these domains has typically relied on self-report or clinical interviews and examinations of these domains with social behavior typically rely on self-report measures. There is little research which has examined the specific social behaviors experienced in daily life that are associated with general self-report assessments of social functioning and life satisfaction. Understanding which daily social experiences relate to impaired social functioning would not only shed light on the construct of social functioning but also clarify what types of behaviors may be most problematic and detrimental to life satisfaction in patients. To examine this, we used a longitudinal interpersonal assessment method in which clinical participants engaged in a 21-day diary study of event-contingent reporting of communal and agentic social perceptions and behaviors. Social function and life satisfaction was assessed using the 36-item health questionnaire. Based on prior research using this interpersonal assessment method, it was hypothesized that hostile and/or spin behaviors would be associated with lower social functioning. Results found that more submissive behaviors and the perception of spin in others were associated with lower social functioning in patients. Greater perceived agency and spin in others were associated with lower life satisfaction in patients. The implications for utilizing intensive repeated measurement for assessing social functioning and life satisfaction will be discussed.

Personality and Interpersonal Influences on Ambulatory Blood Pressure in Couples

Carolynne E. Baron, Timothy W. Smith, Bert N. Uchino (University of Utah) & Wendy Birmingham (Huntsman Cancer Institute)

Research indicates that individual differences in interpersonal style and aspects of negative affect are risk factors for cardiovascular disease (CVD). Further, few studies have examined effects of both the individual's own personality characteristics (i.e., actor effects) and the effects of a spouse's personality (i.e., partner effects). This study examined association between ambulatory blood pressure (ABP) and self-report measures of affiliation (i.e., warmth vs. hostility) and control (i.e., dominance vs. submissiveness), as well as personality measures of depression anxiety, and anger. Methods: 94 married, working couples (mean age 29.2 years) completed the NEO-PI-R, and a 1-day (8 am-10 pm) ABP protocol with random interval-contingent measurements using a Suntech monitor and Palm Pilot-based measures of control variables. Results: Hierarchical analyses were used to accommodate couples and multiple measurement occasions (Proc Mixed; SAS), and controlled individual differences (BMI, age, income) and potential confounds (e.g., posture, activity). For actor effects, higher levels of affiliation were associated with lower levels of ambulatory systolic blood pressure (SBP), similarly for men and women. Higher levels of control (i.e., dominance) were significantly associated with higher SBP in men but not women. Higher depression was associated with higher SBP and diastolic blood pressure (DBP) among women but not men. Analyses of partner effects revealed consistent gender differences. Higher levels of negative affect reported by women significantly predicted higher levels of SBP and DBP in their husbands, especially for wives' anger. In contrast, husbands' negative affective traits were inversely related to wives' SBP and DBP. Conclusions: In actor effects, self-reports of dominance and affiliation are related to ABP, demonstrating the value of the interpersonal circumplex in understanding psychosocial risk for CVD. Associations of one partner's depression, anxiety, and anger with the other's ABP demonstrate the importance of interpersonal processes in understanding psychosocial risk.

The Interpersonal Problem Profiles Associated with Rejection Sensitivity

Nicole M. Cain (Long Island University), Chiara De Panfilis (Parma University), Kevin B. Meehan (Long Island University) & John F. Clarkin (Weill Cornell Medical College)

Rejection sensitivity (RS) is a cognitive-affective disposition that predisposes an individual to anxiously expect, readily perceive, and intensely react to rejection. Individuals high in RS typically anticipate rejection from others and exhibit maladaptive responses to rejection (e.g., excessive attempts to ingratiate others, social withdrawal, or hostile behaviors), which in turn may undermine significant relationships by eliciting further rejection from others (Downey & Feldman, 1996). Increasing evidence indicates that high RS is associated with psychiatric disturbances, such as depression, social anxiety, and borderline personality disorder (Rosenbach & Renneberg, 2011). A potential explanation for the association between high RS and diverse psychopathological conditions could be that RS disrupts interpersonal relationships and impairs social functioning, thus leading to increased psychopathology. In this regard, a large body of research robustly demonstrates that high RS fosters a self-perpetuating cycle of interpersonal problems and distress, thereby predisposing individuals to a variety of negative relational outcomes with intimate partners, peers, friends, and family members (Romero-Canyas et al, 2010). However, the specific types of interpersonal problems associated with high and low RS have not yet been explored. This presentation will report data on the interpersonal problem profiles associated with high and low RS in a sample of 763 undergraduates at an urban university. Using the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems–Short Circumplex (IIP-SC; Hopwood et al., 2008), we will present structural summary data showing that individuals with low RS (n = 163) reported vindictive interpersonal problems and low interpersonal distress, while individuals with high RS (n = 162) reported socially avoidant interpersonal problems and high interpersonal distress. In addition, we will present structural summary data exploring the interpersonal problems associated with two facets of RS: concerns about rejection and rejection expectations. We will discuss clinical implications as well as steps for future research.

Hierarchy and Health: Effects of Relative Status, Partner Dominance, and Evaluative Threat on Psychophysiological Response during Social Interaction

Jenny M. Cundiff & Timothy W. Smith (University of Utah)

There is a robust inverse relationship between social status and health, and this relationship is not fully accounted for by differences in access to medical care or health behaviors (Matthews, Gallo, & Taylor, 2010). Further, measures of perceived relative status are often more closely associated with death and disease than are measures of objective resources (e.g., income), and these associations remain after controlling for Neuroticism (Kraus, Adler, & Chen, 2012). Given the incremental utility of perceptions of relative status and the fact that social status is lost, gained, and maintained through interpersonal interactions, psychophysiological stress processes associated with the interpersonal experiences of perceiving oneself to be 'one down' may be one important pathway linking lower status to poorer health. In the current study, we examine the effects of experimental manipulations of relative social status, dominant versus submissive behavior of an interaction partner, and the threat of negative social evaluation on cardiovascular stress responses. Participants were 160 undergraduate men and women randomized to one of eight study conditions in this 2 (Status: higher or lower) x 2 (Partner Behavior: dominant or submissive) x 2 (Evaluative threat: high vs. low) design. Results provide support for the viability of interpersonal interactions as one mechanism through which lower social status may 'get under the skin,' in that lower perceived relative status was associated with greater reactivity and less efficient functioning of the heart. Additionally, perceiving oneself to be lower in relative status appears to potentiate the negative effects of exposure to dominance from others and threat of negative social evaluation, interpersonal experiences which may also occur more often for lower status individuals.

Mind-body Perspectives on Differences Between Same-Sex and Other-Sex Couples: Gender, Emotion Regulation, and Interpersonal Processes

Lisa M. Diamond (University of Utah)

Extensive research demonstrates that individual differences in physiological capacities for emotion regulation, typically measured via autonomic nervous system functioning assessed at rest and during stress, relate to the quality of individuals' intimate relationships. Specifically, these individual differences are thought to influence individuals' abilities to regulate their own emotional states in the service of day-to-day interpersonal processes such as support provision and conflict resolution. In the present research, I present data examining how these processes may differ across gay male, lesbian, and heterosexual couples. Two key factors which differentiate same-sex couples are (1) the fact that these couples combine two men or two women, therefore magnifying the well-documented gender differences that have been observed regarding conflict behavior and reactivity, and (2) same-sex couples' chronic exposure to social marginalization, which may tax their self-regulatory capacities. I present evidence for important differences, especially regarding gay male couples, in their physiological capacities for emotion regulation and their physiological reactivity to conflict. Yet notably, few differences are found between couple types regarding conflict behavior (such as displays of hostility), suggesting that same-sex couples may succeed in "protecting" their relationships from potential deficits in emotion regulation. The findings suggest new directions for investigating and interpreting the individual-level and couple-level challenges facing same-sex couples and the physical health implications of these challenges. I discuss the potential mechanisms underlying these differences, and their implications for both research and clinical practice.

What Do Others –And Only Others– Know About Us?

Anne-Marie B. Gallrein, Erika N. Carlson & Daniel Leising (Technische Universität Dresden)

This presentation deals with “Blind Spots” in interpersonal perception, that is, views of a target person that others share with each other, but which the respective target person is not aware of. Sixty-five target persons rated their own personalities and their supposed reputation with others. Furthermore, they recruited as many informants (e.g., spouses, friends) as possible (N = 682) who also rated the targets’ personalities. Using profile analysis we discovered both (a) a normative blind spot (i. e. characteristics that the informants, but not the targets, attributed to the average target) and (b) distinctive blind spots (i. e. unique characteristics that the informants, but not the targets, attributed to particular targets). The respective effects sizes were substantial as compared to typical levels of profile agreement in personality research (e. g. consensus). The normative blind spot mainly comprised socially desirable personality characteristics, suggesting that typical informants view “their” targets more positively than the targets view themselves. In contrast, distinctive blind spots were evaluatively neutral. The average person is not aware of all the personality characteristics that are attributed consensually to him or her by other people. I discuss the question of whether such consensual other-perceptions are necessarily more “accurate” than the targets’ self-views, and of how people may benefit from gaining access to the “knowledge” that only others have about them (e.g. by obtaining systematic feedback).

Agency and Communion Themes in Personal Narratives: New Dictionaries for Text Analysis

Michael B. Gurtman & Angela Hellstrom (University of Wisconsin-Parkside)

Agency and Communion are the fundamental modalities of interpersonal life. Agency connotes concepts of power, mastery, and individuation, while Communion connotes ideas of closeness to others, unity, togetherness, and belonging. Several coding systems requiring human judgment have been developed to assess these themes in autobiographical accounts and other personal narratives. In our research, we present an automated text-analysis approach for assessing these themes in personal texts, most suitable for large data sets. More specifically, we developed new dictionaries for Agency and Communion intended to be used in conjunction with the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) program. The results are word counts (as percentages) in the text. Dictionary creation began with the verbatim descriptions of Agency and Communion from noted theorists; initial word lists were expanded with the help of a thesaurus. The preliminary lists were independently reviewed by the two authors, and then refined jointly by including words and word tenses for which we had consensus. The final lists consisted of 128 unique words (plus variations) for each theme. Using the LIWC program, we tested our dictionaries by analyzing various text sources drawn from public internet sites. These included: core belief essays, personal memoirs of famous (and infamous) public figures, life story blogs, political speeches, and eulogies. Correlations between Agency and Communion scores within text sources were low, as would be expected. As part of a descriptive analysis, we identified the highest and lowest scoring texts on Agency and Communion, which will be highlighted in our presentation. We will also discuss the strengths and limitations of this word counting method for assessing Agency and Communion themes, and discuss future directions of our research program.

An Integrative Model for Conceptualizing Personality Pathology

Chris Hopwood (Michigan State University), Aaron L. Pincus (Pennsylvania State University)
& Alytia A. Levendosky (Michigan State University)

Ruptures and divisions in personality science were exposed during controversies about how to conceptualize personality pathology in the DSM-5. In these debates, advocates of competing models mostly made arguments or conducted studies oriented toward proving the value of their own perspective. It was rare for researchers to consider alternative perspectives or developing a model that could help more clinicians better understand how to interact therapeutically with more patients. Ironically, or perhaps consequently, the integrative model proposed by the DSM-5 Personality and

Personality Disorder work group and approved by the APA Task Force was dismissed by the APA Board of Trustees, in favor of the demonstrably flawed DSM-IV system. In this talk we aim to build on the potential of interpersonal theory to develop a more integrative solution to the problem of personality disorder nosology. Interpersonal theory has long valued integration, and has direct linkages to the prominent theoretical models of personality disorder: descriptive psychiatry, trait theory, and psychodynamic theory. However, the main measurement model of interpersonal theory, the interpersonal circumplex, is missing clinically important content related to emotional functioning. In this paper we unveil a model-under-development whose aim is to integrate traits and psychodynamics via interpersonal and affective circles toward a more evidence-based and clinically useful model of the constructs and processes of personality pathology.

Sequential Analysis of Couples' Demand / Withdraw and Demand / Submit Interactions using Structural Analysis of Social Behavior (SASB)

Lynne M. Knobloch-Fedders (The Family Institute at Northwestern University) & Kenneth L. Critchfield (University of Utah)

The strong links between relationship distress, depression, and the interpersonal behavior of couples, along with limitations in current theory and intervention, point to the need for a comprehensive, integrated system of couples-based interpersonal assessment and treatment. This study compared the interpersonal behavior of distressed couples diagnosed with current Major Depressive Disorder or Dysthymic Disorder in one partner ($n = 23$) to distressed couples without current depression in either partner ($n = 38$). Couples were videotaped discussing the three best things in their relationship. These interactions were coded by trained observers using Structural Analysis of Social Behavior (SASB; Benjamin, 1979, 1987, 2000), a micro-analytic, circumplex-based system for assessing interpersonal behavior. Results indicate that both relationship distress and depression are associated with interpersonal hostility. While depressed participants did not differ from randomly-selected, matched-on-gender nondepressed participants from the control group, partners of depressed individuals displayed more interpersonal hostility and submissiveness than controls. Results underscore the importance of considering partner effects when conceptualizing the links between depression and interpersonal behavior in distressed intimate relationships.

How Do Approach/Avoidance Relationship Goals Affect Communication and Relationship Satisfaction in Dating Couples?

Monika Kuster, Sabine Backes & Veronika Brandstatter-Morawietz (Universität of Zurich)

It is well established that relationship approach/avoidance goals are related to relationship satisfaction in couples. Less is known, however, about how approach/avoidance relationship goals affect relationship satisfaction. This study examines communication as potential mediator of this association. While approach/avoidance relationship goals describe an individual disposition for either positive social incentives (approach orientation) or negative social outcomes (avoidance orientation; Gable, 2006), communication patterns are a particular dyadic behavior of core importance for relationship functioning. There is strong evidence that positive and constructive communication (e.g. empathy, support) is associated with relationship satisfaction, whereas negative communication (e.g. criticism, hostility, withdrawal) is associated with relationship distress (Gottman, 1994). In the present study, approach motivation is expected to promote positive and supportive communication, whereas avoidance motivation leads to a relationship communication characterized by withdrawal or hostility. Communication then affects relationship satisfaction. We tested our hypothesis on a dyadic level with the Actor-Partner Mediation Model (an extension of the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model; Kenny & Cook; 1999) using data from 368 heterosexual couples. Results suggest that approach/avoidance relationship goals are associated with relationship satisfaction. Furthermore, communication mediates the association between approach/avoidance relationship goals and relationship satisfaction in couples. These findings advance our understanding of relationship functioning conceptually and methodologically. Gender effects and implications for further research are discussed.

Temporal Dynamics of Dyadic Interpersonal Behavior: The Insider's Perspective

Ivana Lizdek, Erik Woody (University of Waterloo) & Pamela Sadler (Wilfrid Laurier University)

The aim of the current research was to study romantic partners' views of their own and their partner's behavior as they unfold continuously over the course of an interaction. Of particular interest was the accuracy of such perceptions as compared to a trained observer's accuracy and the extent to which partners agree about each other's moment-to-moment behavior. There is reason to believe that romantic partners may be more accurate at tracking their own behavior and their partner's behavior than an outside observer because partners can understand each other's language and behavior in relatively unique ways that only they have the knowledge to decode fully. However, some research shows that intimates tend to hold inaccurate perceptions of each other and that being inaccurate about the behavior of one's partner—that is, seeing their behavior in terms of positive illusions—is associated with better relationship outcomes. Nonetheless, such perceptions have been studied only in very global ways (e.g., with trait-like questionnaires); instead, the present research used a novel method in which partners watch a video of their interaction and record their perceptions in detail on the interpersonal circumplex over time. Results demonstrated that although participants are able to rate their own behavior and the behavior of their partner with reasonably good accuracy overall, they do not seem to be doing this as well as an outside observer. Further, there was no indication that participants are picking up on privately understood behavior beyond what the trained observer can observe. In particular, for ratings of both the man's and the woman's behavior, the agreement between partners was significantly lower than the agreement between two observers. Finally, there were large individual differences in how accurate partners' perceptions were. Implications of these findings and future directions for understanding partners' perceptions in intimate relationships will be discussed.

Encircling the Globe: Developing and Validating an Interpersonal Circumplex Inventory of International Values

Kenneth Locke (University of Idaho)

Can models of interpersonal relations also help us understand international relations? To explore this possibility, I created an interpersonal circumplex measure of international values. I used the Circumplex Scales of Interpersonal Values (CSIV) as a starting point, but modified the instructions to ask what respondents want 'When my country's representatives or leaders interact with representatives or leaders of other countries', and modified many of the items accordingly. I administered the preliminary measure to a diverse sample, and used standard psychometric criteria to organize the items into scales and trim the measure to 32-items (four per circumplex octant). Examples of items are: 'we are assertive' (high agency), 'we avoid conflict' (low agency), and 'we understand their point of view' (high communion). The resulting inventory of international values correlated only moderately with the CSIV, but nonetheless showed good internal consistency and a circular structure in both the creation sample ($n = 665$) and two replication samples (total $n > 835$). Across the samples I found that people with strong international communal values (that is, who wanted their country to be warmly engaged with other countries) tended to report lower Social Dominance Orientation and Right-Wing Authoritarianism, and less pride in and identification with their own country, and instead tended to elevate other countries and identify with 'all humanity'. In contrast, people with strong agentic international values (that is, who wanted their country to act powerful and authoritative) tended to strongly identify with their own country (rather than 'all humanity') and feel contempt towards countries they perceived to be dissimilar or inferior to their own country. Finally, and perhaps most intriguingly, priming awareness of vulnerability to crime or (especially) disease caused people to express stronger agentic values.

Interpersonal Problems Within Same-Sex Romantic Couples

Patrick M. Markey (Villanova University) & Charlotte N. Markey

The principle of complementarity asserts that, during any dyadic interaction, the interpersonal style of one person tends to elicit or constraint the interpersonal style of the other, and vice versa. The current research will extend our understanding of complementarity through the examination of interpersonal problems among same-sex romantic partners. Two-hundred and eighty-eight participants (72 same-sex female dyads and 72 same-sex male dyads) completed assessments of their interpersonal problems and the amount of relationship distress that they experienced. Results suggested that the interpersonal problems of participants in same-sex female dyads, but not same-sex male dyads, tended to be similar in terms of affiliation (i.e., dyads tended to be composed of two overly-nurturing members or two cold members) but opposite interpersonal problems in terms of control (i.e., dyads tended to be composed on one domineering and one non-assertive member). For male and female romantic dyads, participants who had interpersonal problems related to being vindictive tended to report high levels of relationship distress. In a similar manner, women who had romantic partners who were vindictive also tended to report higher levels of relationship distress than women whose romantic partners did not possess this quality. Results are discussed in terms of understanding how close relationships are not only affected by interpersonal problems but can also potentially encourage interpersonal problems.

Examining the Interpersonal Core of Personality Pathology

Michael J. Roche, Aaron L. Pincus & Emily A. Dowgwillo (Pennsylvania State University)

There has been increasing recognition that personality pathology manifests most strikingly through interpersonal dysfunction, leading the Personality Disorder Work Group for The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders to propose a definition of personality pathology that highlights interpersonal dysfunction (Criterion A; Skodol, 2012). Hopwood, Wright, Ansell, & Pincus (in press) argue that personality pathology at its core is indeed interpersonal pathology, and describe how interpersonal assessment using the interpersonal circle can provide a theoretical and empirical basis for supporting the assertions of the DSM5 PD workgroup. Pincus and colleagues (2011) demonstrated how elevations of several interpersonal surfaces (problems, strengths, sensitivities) incrementally predict the pathological personality traits identified by the DSM5 PD workgroup (Criterion B). The current research considers whether elevations across interpersonal surfaces can also incrementally predict general personality pathology (Criterion A). To evaluate this, we collected data from 1458 undergraduates completing an online survey in exchange for course credit. We collected criterion measures of dysfunction related to goal-directedness, identity, empathy, and intimacy to capture the work group's definition of general personality pathology (Criterion A). For each criterion we constructed hierarchical linear models to examine the additive effects of interpersonal elevations. Additive effects were found across most criteria suggesting each interpersonal measure contributes uniquely to the deficits in self and relational functioning identified in criterion A. Implications for validating the work group proposal and advantages of interpersonal assessment are discussed.

Empathic Accuracy in Daily Interactions Between Romantic Partners: The Effects of Communal Behavior and Perception of Communion

Gentiana Sadikaj, Debbie S. Moskowitz & David C. Zuroff (McGill University)

Accurate perception of the other's internal states is thought to depend on the perceiver's ability to decipher the valid cues conveyed by the other and the other's ability to convey these cues. The goal of the present study was to examine situational cues that serve as diagnostic of the partner's negative affect, thereby facilitating the perceiver's ability to accurately infer the other's affect in social situations. Using an event-contingent recording methodology, partners in 93 cohabiting couples recruited from the community reported on their unhappiness, communal behavior, perception of the partner's unhappiness and partner's communion in interactions with each-other during a 20-day period. It was hypothesized that partners would demonstrate both accuracy and bias (i.e., assumed

similarity) in judging the other's unhappiness. It was further expected that partner's communal behavior would be a situational cue influencing the perception of the partner's unhappiness. Consistent with the hypotheses, evidence for tracking accuracy and assumed similarity was found. However, both tracking accuracy and assumed similarity depended on the partner's communal behavior and the person's perception of this behavior. Women's tracking accuracy increased when their partner reported an increase in their quarrelsome behavior, whereas men's tracking accuracy enhanced when they perceived reduced warmth in their partner's behavior. Women's assumed similarity increased when their partner reported a decrease in their agreeable behavior and women perceived less warmth in their partner's behavior. In sum, findings suggest that the perception of the partner's unhappiness appears to be sensitive both to objective features of the situation and to perception of such features. Results reveal intriguing gender differences in the effect of situational features and perception of these features on the perception of partner's unhappiness.

A Conversation with Lorna Smith Benjamin: The Evolution of an Interpersonal Perspective

Lorna Smith Benjamin & Timothy W. Smith (University of Utah)

Timothy Smith hosts a conversation with Lorna Smith Benjamin in the style of *Inside the Actors' Studio*. Prof. Smith Benjamin will discuss interactions among theory, research and clinical applications as they affected the evolution of her Structural Analysis of Social Behavior and Interpersonal Reconstructive Therapy approaches to psychopathology and change during psychotherapy.

Interpersonal Problems in Experiential Group Training Settings

Sandro M. Sodano (University at Buffalo, SUNY), Wendy M. Guyker, Ariel M. Aloe & Janice L. DeLucia-Waack

Changes in interpersonal problems have been examined in small group therapy settings with the focus being on global interpersonal problems (i.e., overall interpersonal distress). Although assessing global interpersonal problems is useful for clinical populations, it ignores specific profile information. Furthermore, a global assessment may be less relevant for non-clinical populations, such as trainees who would be expected to have lower levels of overall interpersonal distress. One hundred-sixteen primarily first year graduate students from counseling-based programs participated in 10 weekly sessions of small experiential training groups. The 32-item Inventory of Interpersonal Problems–Circumplex–Item Response Theory (IIP–C–IRT; Sodano & Tracey, 2011) was used to assess the interpersonal problem dimensions of Dominance and Affiliation at pre-group and after sessions five and eight. There were no significant changes in overall interpersonal distress. Problems with Affiliation showed a decreasing trend over time and this was partly explained by the differences between the interpersonal problem profiles of the individual group members and their aggregated group as a whole (without the individual group member) at pre-group. Discussion of the findings will include implications for the early training of practitioners and assessing interpersonal problems within this context along with the limitations of the study.

Unpacking Personality Heterogeneity in PTSD using Interpersonal and Temperamental Typologies

Katherine M. Thomas, Christopher J. Hopwood (Michigan State University), Aidan G.C. Wright (University at Buffalo, SUNY), Leslie C. Morey (Texas A&M University) & the CLPS Publication Committee (varied)

Research on personality typologies of individuals with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has consistently identified three groups: low pathology, internalizing, and externalizing. This research has used models of personality that incorporate the 'Big 3' temperament traits (i.e., Negative Emotionality, Positive Emotionality, and Constraint). Interpersonal models of personality, based on the primary dimensions of dominance and warmth, suggest an alternative typology in which groups do not vary in risk for or severity of psychopathology, but rather differ in qualitative aspects of social functioning. Interpersonal typologies of PTSD have not been previously tested despite their potential to augment

temperament based models for assessing personality heterogeneity in PTSD. Indeed, interpersonal and temperament models have not been compared within the same sample to test their potential incremental utility. We used latent profile analysis to compare a typology based on the temperament traits, measured by the Schedule for Nonadaptive and Adaptive Personality (SNAP), to an interpersonal typology, measured by interpersonal circumplex (IPC) traits, in a sample of individuals with PTSD (N = 155). A three-profile solution that replicated the low pathology, internalizing, and externalizing typology was found using the SNAP traits and a four-profile solution with groups varying in interpersonal style, rather than disorder severity, was found using the IPC traits. These models were statistically and descriptively non-redundant, indicating that the depiction of personality variability in PTSD depends on how personality is assessed and conceptualized. We conclude by discussing the value of assessing interpersonal traits when treating individuals with PTSD.

Mediators of Change in Therapeutic Treatments for Major Depression

Johannes Zimmermann (Universität Kassel), Henriette Löffler-Stastka (Medical University of Vienna), Sarah Alhabbo (Universität Kassel), Astrid Bock (Universität Innsbruck), Günther Klug (Technische Universität München), Dorothea Huber & Cord Benecke (Universität Innsbruck)

Empirical evidence for the effectiveness of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy (LTPP) in patients with mood disorder is growing. However, it is unclear whether the effectiveness of LTPP is due to distinctive features of psychodynamic technique or due to higher dose of sessions. The aim of this study is to test these rival hypotheses in a quasi-experimental design comparing high-dose and low-dose LTPP with cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) for depression. Method: Analyses were based on a sample of 77 participants, with 27 receiving high-dose LTPP, 26 receiving low-dose LTPP, and 24 receiving CBT. Depressive symptoms, interpersonal problems, and introject affiliation were assessed prior to treatment, after treatment, and at one-, two- and three-year follow-up. Three audio-taped middle sessions were selected from each treatment to be assessed by two raters according to the salience of psychodynamic techniques (using the Psychotherapy Process Q-Set). Results: Participants receiving high-dose LTPP reported fewer interpersonal problems and more affiliative introjects directly after treatment, and tended to improve in depressive symptoms and interpersonal problems during follow-up, as compared to participants receiving CBT. Multilevel mediation analyses showed that post-treatment differences in interpersonal problems and introject affiliation were mediated by dose, and follow-up differences in depressive symptoms were mediated by psychodynamic techniques. Additionally, we found evidence for indirect treatment effects via psychodynamic techniques on changes in introject affiliation during follow-up. Conclusions: Results give support to the assumption that both dose and psychodynamic techniques facilitate therapeutic change in patients with major depression.

POSTER ABSTRACTS

In alphabetical order by first author

Relationship Satisfaction and Attentional Bias Toward Negative Social Information

Elise Chaperon & Stéphane Dandeneau (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Relationship satisfaction has been linked to a variety of cognitive biases such as marital aggrandizement, positive illusions and conventionalization (e.g. Karney & Coombs, 2000; Martz et al., 1998; Murray, Holmes, & Griffin, 1996). However, these cognitive biases reflect conscious processes that often occur in response to relationship events. New research has started investigating cognitive biases that occur prior to relationship events, for example, by looking at people's perceptions of events. Of interest in this study, we investigated the association between people's cognitive bias of attentional allocation toward negative versus positive social information and their relationship satisfaction. In general, we propose that people's early-stage attentional bias toward social information influences their perception, interpretation, and reactions to relationship events. Specifically, we hypothesized that individuals low in relationship satisfaction would pay more attention to negative social signals and ignore positive signals. To test this hypothesis, we asked recently engaged couples to report their level of relationship satisfaction and complete a dot-probe task that measured participants' attentional bias toward negative and positive facial expressions. Results revealed that participants low in relationship satisfaction have an unbalanced bias—"that is, they exhibited a greater bias for negative than positive faces whereas those high in relationship satisfaction exhibited a balanced bias. The unbalanced bias was especially characterized by an increased attention to negative faces indicating people's automatic tendency to engage and pay attention to negative social information. Finally, participants low in relationship satisfaction exhibited a significantly greater bias for negative faces compared to participants high in relationship satisfaction. In conclusion, attentional bias toward negative social information is associated with relationship dissatisfaction. However it remains unclear whether this negative bias causes relationship dissatisfaction or vice versa.

Dark Triad Personality Traits Within and Across Interpersonal Surfaces

Emily A. Dowgwillo & Aaron L. Pincus (The Pennsylvania State University)

The dark triad of personality is composed of Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy. Although these constructs are similarly marked by manipulativeness, emotional coldness, and self-promotion, dark triad traits remain distinct constructs. The interpersonal circumplex (IPC) is a two-dimensional structure that can be used as a nomological net to examine the distinctiveness of dark triad traits. The Inventory of Interpersonal Problems (IIP-SC; Hopwood et al., 2008), Interpersonal Sensitivities Circumplex (ISC; Hopwood et al., 2011) and Inventory of Interpersonal Strengths (IIS; Hatcher & Rogers, 2009) assess distress associated with interpersonal problems, bothersome interpersonal behaviors in others, and highly adaptive interpersonal features on the problems, sensitivities, and strengths circumplex surfaces respectively. Despite the interpersonal deficits associated with dark triad traits, few researchers have examined all three traits concurrently using the IPC, nor examined the dark triad across multiple IPC surfaces. For the current study, 1465 undergraduate students (48.1% male, 51.1% female) completed the IIP-SC, IIS, and ISC. Narcissistic grandiosity and vulnerability, the psychopathy factors of fearless dominance (FD) and impulsive antisociality (IA), and Machiavellianism were measured using the Pathological Narcissism Inventory (PNI; Pincus et al., 2009), NEO-PI-R (Costa & McCrae, 1992), and Mach-IV Inventory (Mach-IV; Christie & Geis, 1970) respectively. Structural summary analyses within surfaces revealed prototypical profiles for dark triad traits on both the sensitivities and problems circumplexes. The strengths circumplex did not result in a prototypical profile for any dark triad traits. Traits with prototypical profiles were distinctly located on each circumplex surface. Profile amplitudes indicated differentiated profiles for IA on the sensitivities circumplex and Machiavellianism, FD, and IA on the problems circumplex. Although the sign of the elevation parameter varied both by trait and surface, profile elevation was notable across all three interpersonal surfaces. Between surface analyses indicated distinct profile configurations for each of the dark triad traits.

Informant Type and Depressive Symptom Level Affect Discrepancies in Self-Other Personality Ratings

Brittany A. Fredericks (University of Toronto Scarborough) & Amanda A. Uliaszek (Northwestern University)

Previous research suggests that more observable traits such as extraversion (E) are more agreed upon between self- and informant-reports, and more evaluative traits such as agreeableness (A) cause more disagreement. Less observable and evaluative traits such as neuroticism (N), conscientiousness (C), and openness (O) have been found to yield more moderate agreement. However, mixed results have been found regarding the relationship between self- and informant-reported personality specific to depressed individuals, and no research has looked at these differences based on informant type. The present study examines the relationship between self- and informant-reports of personality by depressive symptom level and informant type. It was hypothesized that observability and evaluativeness of traits would affect self- and informant- agreement, with more pronounced effects for individuals with more depressive symptoms, and that family would show more agreement with self-report than friends. A total of 376 participants were drawn from three collegiate samples. All participants completed the General Behavior Inventory, Revised, and the NEO Personality Inventory, Revised. A subsample ($n = 59$) had an informant complete a battery of questionnaires in reference to the participant. Correlational analyses indicated stronger agreement between self- and informant-reports in the high depressive level group for E and A than in the low depressive group. Friends were more similar than family was to self-reported N only in the high depressive group. In the low depressive group, friends were more similar than family to self-reported E, and family was more similar than friends to self-reported N. Overall, evidence is provided for the effects of observability in both high and low depressive groups, and the effects of evaluativeness are supported in only the low depressive group. Similarity to self-reported N between informant types was dependent on depressive level. Implications of this study may exist for assessment and interpersonal functioning of depressed individuals.

The Relationship Between BPD Symptoms and Social-Evaluative Threat: An Interpersonal Perspective

Jeremy L. Grove, Timothy W. Smith & Kevin D. Jordan (University of Utah)

Borderline Personality disorder (BPD) is characterized by negative emotionality, affective instability, interpersonal dysfunction (American Psychiatric Association, 2010) and heightened sensitivity to rejection (Staebler et al., 2010). BPD has also been associated with a quarrelsome interpersonal style involving high levels of intra-individual variability in affect and interpersonal behavior largely dependent on contextual factors in terms of perception of others and how others view them (Russell et al., 2007). Perceived social-evaluative threat, or a situation where one's status and overall self-esteem is in danger of being compromised, has been shown to elicit affective, behavioral and physiological responses (Dickerson, Mycek, & Zaldivar, 2008). Given that elevated BPD symptoms are associated with rejection sensitivity and negative emotionality, perceived evaluative threat in everyday social situations may be especially evident in individuals with BPD symptoms and may contribute to marked interpersonal dysfunction. The current poster will reflect research from ongoing data collection aimed at exploring the interpersonal aspect of BPD symptomatology by (1) investigating the association between BPD symptoms and interpersonal style, goals and experiences and (2) investigating the relationship between BPD symptoms and interpersonal style, self-report affect and psychophysiological reactivity to perceived social-evaluative threat in a laboratory study. This laboratory study involves university undergraduates (Target $N=120$) being recruited and randomly assigned to conditions where confederates rate them on likeability, competence or both during a discussion task. Blood pressure and heart rate are measured at various times throughout the task and salivary cortisol is collected at baseline and upon completion of the task. It is hypothesized that self-reported BPD symptoms measured by the Borderline Symptom List (BSL-23; Bohus et al., 2009) will

be related to a quarrelsome and submissive interpersonal style and low communal values. Further, it is predicted that BPD symptoms will moderate self-reported negative emotionality and heightened psychophysiological reactivity in response to social-evaluative threat.

Does Neuroticism Moderate Interpersonal Complementarity?

Kelly McDonald, Pamela Sadler (Wilfrid Laurier University) & Erik Woody (University of Waterloo)

The Big Five factor of agreeableness can be represented as an axis on the IPC, with an agreeable interpersonal style as friendly-submissive and a disagreeable interpersonal style as hostile-dominant (Ansell & Pincus, 2004). Applying the principle of interpersonal complementarity (i.e. correspondence on affiliation and reciprocity on dominance), we examine how the personality trait of neuroticism, an important contributor to people's interpersonal behaviours, alters complementary responses towards agreeable and disagreeable individuals. In study one, participants read a scenario about an individual with high or low levels of agreeableness and neuroticism and in study two, participants interacted with a confederate who had high or low levels of agreeableness and neuroticism. After reading about or interacting with the target individual, participants indicated the types of interpersonal responses they had towards the target. In both studies, reciprocity on the dominance dimension for agreeable and disagreeable targets was unaltered by the target's level of neuroticism (i.e. independent of the target's neuroticism level, agreeable and disagreeable targets were met with more dominant and submissive responses respectively). However, correspondence on the affiliation dimension for agreeable and disagreeable targets was moderated by the neuroticism level of the target, but in different ways depending on whether the target was only imagined or real. If the target was low in neuroticism, people underestimated how correspondent their responses would be, compared to a real interaction. In contrast, if the target was high in neuroticism, people overestimated how correspondent their reactions would be. Instead, faced with an anxious person, participants responded in a warm way, irrespective of the person's expressed level of agreeableness. Although people responded quite warmly when faced with a neurotic individual, this reaction seemed to be at odds with people's desire to form a future relationship with the neurotic target. We discuss these results in light of previous work on social anxiety.

Temptation Leads to Heightened Commitment: The Relationship-Protective Function of Mate Guarding

Angela M. Neal & Edward P. Lemay, Jr. (University of New Hampshire)

A model of extradyadic temptation, mate guarding, and commitment was examined in the present dyadic daily report study. Results indicated that participants (perceivers) perceived their partner's (targets) daily extradyadic temptation, and perceivers' chronic jealousy moderated this link. In addition, perceivers' perceptions of targets' temptation predicted perceivers' increased mate guarding behaviors, and perceivers' chronic jealousy also moderated this relationship. These results suggest that perceivers, especially chronically jealous perceivers, accurately perceive their partners' temptation for extradyadic relations, and these perceptions predict their enactment of relationship-protective behaviors. Furthermore, perceivers' mate guarding behaviors predicted increases in targets' subsequent daily commitment, suggesting that perceivers' mate guarding works to deter targets from future infidelity by increasing targets' commitment to the relationship.

Examining the Associations Between Children's Interpersonal Styles and Eating Disorder Symptoms

Kelly Norman, Sandro M. Sodano & Catherine Cook-Cottone (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

Researchers have argued that studying personality in relation to eating disorder symptoms in adults can provide valuable insights to clinicians who engage in eating disorder treatment and prevention (Ghaderi & Scott, 2000). Interpersonal personality styles have been shown to have utility for informing treatment approaches for women with eating disorders (Madison, 1997). Almost 10% of adolescent girls and young women develop full or partial eating disorders (Lewinsohn, Streigel-Moore,

& Seeley, 2000). However, little research has examined the role of children's personality in eating disorder symptomology (Casper, Hedeker, & McClough, 1992), while no studies have examined interpersonal styles in relation to specific eating disorder symptoms in children and early adolescent females. Examining the link between interpersonal styles and eating disorder symptoms will contribute to knowledge that can be used to inform the design of eating disorder prevention programs and specific interventions. Eight hundred fifth- through eighth-grade females were drawn from 14 suburban middle schools of a large northeastern city. Interpersonal styles were assessed using the Child and Adolescent Interpersonal Survey (CAIS; Sodano & Tracey, 2006) and eating disorder symptoms were assessed using the subscales of Body Dissatisfaction, Bulimia, and Drive for Thinness from the Eating Disorder Inventory-3 (EDI-3; Garner, 2005). The relations between the interpersonal dimensions of Dominance and Affiliation and the EDI-3 subscale scores were examined across grade-level groups. Results indicated inverse relations between Dominance and Affiliation and each continuum of eating disorder symptoms. The importance of including interpersonal personality styles when considering eating disorder symptoms and risk of eating disorders in middle school girls will be discussed as well as the limitations of this research.

Physical Attractiveness and Relationship Affiliation

Joshua R. Oltmanns & Patrick M. Markey (Villanova University)

Prior research examining the relationship between physical attractiveness and relationship satisfaction has relied exclusively on partner reports within romantic dyads. Although interesting, the use of partner reports to assess attractiveness makes it unclear whether or not physical attractiveness causes high levels of relationship satisfaction or if high levels of relationship satisfaction cause individuals to view their mates as attractive. In an effort to overcome this limitation, the current study employed independent judges to code physical attractiveness. One hundred forty participants (70 romantic couples) completed the Investment Model Scale (IMS) that assessed relationship affiliation and the quality of alternatives (e.g., exploring other partners, being single, etc.). Additionally, each participant was photographed from the shoulders up. At a later point four independent judges rated the physical attractiveness of each participant. Actor-Partner Interdependence Models were used to examine how an individual's own level of physical attractiveness and the attractiveness of their romantic partner was related to the relationship outcomes. Results indicated that more physically attractive people were less satisfied (i.e., reported low levels of affiliation) in their relationships, possibly because they reported a greater number and quality of alternative prospects. Additionally, romantic partners who were similar to each other in terms of physical attractiveness tended to report high levels of relationship affiliation. Findings from the current study help provide additional insight into why some relationships might fail while others ultimately succeed.

The Daily Social Climate: Advancements in Modeling Daily Interpersonal Experiences

Michael J. Roche, Aaron L. Pincus, David E. Conroy, Amanda L. Hyde & Nilam Ram (The Pennsylvania State University)

In this poster, we introduce the construct of the 'Daily Social Climate', as a daily summary of interpersonal perceptions. We first explore several different ways to compute daily summaries (e.g. average, max), including within-day correlations of interpersonal perceptions (i.e. perception covariation). We then explore how these quantifications of daily social climate are associated with end of day ratings of self-esteem and positive emotions. In this study, 184 university students completed a 7-day event-contingent study of their interpersonal experiences. After each interaction, participants completed the interpersonal grid to assess the participant's perception of agency and communion in their interaction partner. At the end of the day, the participants were asked to look back at their day as a whole and record how they felt (i.e. enthusiastic, calm, satisfied, sad, depressed) on a 1 to 7 scale, and their self-esteem on a 1 to 5 scale. We will apply multi-level regression models to evaluate the effect of daily social climate on daily self-esteem and positive emotions. Consistent with interpersonal theory, we predict average and max ratings of agentic and communal perceptions will be positively associated with self-esteem and positive emotions (see also Baldwin & Keelan, 1999). Fournier and

colleagues (2009) found covariation of interpersonal behavior was associated with dispositional measures of adjustment. Therefore, we predict that daily covariation of interpersonal perception will be associated with daily measures of self-esteem and positive emotions. We discuss extensions of this into advanced longitudinal models (e.g. parallel process/growth models) that can capitalize on equal time-spacing based on this daily summary approach. We also consider how daily social climate could be applied in person-specific longitudinal assessments of a single individual (such as a clinical patient).

How Diagnostic Interviews, Self- and Informant-Reports Differ: Examining Major Depressive Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder Symptomology in a University Sample
Suzanna Stevanovski & Amanda Uliaszek (University of Toronto Scarborough)

Previous literature has examined the relationship between major depressive disorder (MDD) and borderline personality disorder (BPD) (Beatson & Rao, 2012). MDD commonly co-occurs with BPD. Zanarini et al. (1998) conducted a large clinical study that found that lifetime prevalence of major depression was 83% in the course of BPD. Patients with BPD often present to clinicians with depressive symptoms. As the symptoms of depression and BPD overlap significantly, it can be challenging to make an accurate diagnosis of a major depressive episode when the disorders co-occur. That is why it is important to consider different avenues of data collection when examining MDD and BPD. The Structured Clinical Interview for Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (SCID-IV) is a semi structured diagnostic instrument that was created to better allow the research clinician to make diagnostic assessments (Hajebi et al., 2012). The SCID is a reliable diagnostic tool for most psychiatric disorders, namely MDD and BPD. A number of studies have used the SCID as the 'gold standard' in determining the accuracy of clinical diagnosis (Hajebi et al., 2012). Despite these claims, it is noteworthy to mention that many assessment measures are self-report, with the most common format being self-report questionnaires. However, there are numerous limitations to using self-report for the diagnosis of mental illness. The use of informant data appears to improve the validity and reliability of diagnoses. Informant reports are not only used as useful supplements for self-report questionnaires, but can provide important incremental information about the presence and/or absence of symptoms. The present study examines how diagnostic interviews, self- and informant-reports differ when examining MDD and BPD symptomology in a university sample.

The Complementarity of Interpersonal Styles among Same-Gender Friends
Jason Strickhouser & Patrick M. Markey (Villanova University)

The relationship between complementary interpersonal styles and relationship quality has substantial support in romantic, roommate, and workplace relationships. Studies have repeatedly shown that dyads who behave with similar interpersonal warmth, but opposite interpersonal dominance tend to have the highest relationship quality. However, only one known study has investigated complementary interpersonal styles in friendships and mixed results were found. To clarify how interpersonal style is related to friendship quality, the current study recruited male and female same-gender friendship dyads. Both members of each dyad independently rated the interpersonal style of his or her friend using the International Personality Item Pool - Interpersonal Circumplex and rated the quality of the friendship using the Relationship Closeness Inventory. Results indicated that female friendship dyads tended to be composed of individuals who were similar in terms of warmth, but opposite in terms of dominance. However, male dyads tended to have members who were similar to each other both in terms of both warmth and dominance. Actor-Partner Interdependence Models were next used to examine how interpersonal warmth and dominance predicted friendship quality. Results indicated that, for both men and women, dyads with members who were similar to each other in terms of both warmth and dominance tended to have the highest levels of friendship quality. This study suggests that same-gender friendships are fundamentally different from romantic, roommate, and work relationships in that interpersonal similarity in terms of both warmth and dominance predicts high quality same-gender friendships.

Self-Monitoring in Everyday Interactions: An Examination with Spin

Takakuni Suzuki & Patrick M. Markey (Villanova University)

People often encounter interpersonal contexts that pull them to behave in various ways. These include social roles and others' personalities. At the same time, there are some consistencies in behaviors across contexts, as evident in personality traits. The degree of adjusting to contextual demands and expressing personality can be captured by the self-monitoring trait. The behaviors of high self-monitors tend to be influenced by contextual demands. Low self-monitors tend to behave consistently across contexts. The interpersonal circumplex (IPC) is useful in assessing the interpersonal contextual demands, dispositional traits, and behaviors. For example, during an interpersonal interaction, the IPC can be used to define an individual's interpersonal behavior as an angular location. When an individual's behaviors in multiple interactions are assessed using the IPC, the distribution of angular locations can be used to calculate a measure of variability of angles, called spin. The present study investigated the relationship between self-monitoring and spin. Specifically, it was predicted that higher self-monitors will show more spin than lower self-monitors. Self-monitoring traits of 80 participants were assessed using the Self-Monitoring Scale. Subsequently, participants reported their behaviors in five interactions each day for seven days, resulting in a maximum of 35 interactions per person. The self-reported behaviors were used to calculate spin for each participant. Analyses showed that higher self-monitors tended to have a higher spin (i.e., more variance in their behaviors) than low self-monitors. The results help elucidate the nature of spin and provide support for the self-monitoring construct.

Self-Monitoring and Dominance

Brenden Tervo-Clemmens, Takakuni Suzuki & Patrick M. Markey (Villanova University)

The theory of self-monitoring concerns the differences in the extent to which people value, create, cultivate, and project social images and public appearances (Gangestad & Snyder, 2000). Considerable research has shown context-specific behavioral outcomes associated with self-monitoring. In the present study, we were interested in the interpersonal meaning of self-monitoring. In order to investigate the relation between interpersonal styles and self-monitoring, participants were assessed with the Self-Monitoring Scale and the International Personality Items Pool Circumplex-IPIP-IPC. Analyses indicated that self-monitoring was mainly associated with the dominant octant of the interpersonal circumplex. Consistent with Snyder's (1979) original assertion that high self-monitoring individuals actively construct a stable and predictable cognitive reality, our data suggest a dominant interpersonal style associated with self-monitoring.

Complementarity and Relationship Quality in the Early Stages of Romantic Relationships

Courtney Walsh, Tyler Re & Patrick M. Markey (Villanova University)

The notion of complementarity poses specific hypotheses regarding interpersonal styles that will result in successful relationships. The present study sought to extend previous research investigating complementarity among long-term romantic partners by examining romantic couples at the beginning of their relationship. One hundred forty participants (70 romantic couples) who had been romantically involved for less than 6 months completed the Investment Model Scale (IMS) in order to assess relationship quality. Participants also reported their romantic partner's levels of warmth and dominance using the International Personality Item Pool-Interpersonal Circumplex (IPIP-IPC). Results indicated that, consistent with the notion of complementarity, couples tended to be similar in terms of their interpersonal warmth (i.e., romantic dyads tended to be composed of either two warm individuals or two cold individuals) but were opposite in terms of dominance (i.e., romantic dyads tended to be composed of one dominant and one submissive individual). Although couples tended to express complementary interpersonal styles, additional analyses revealed that complementarity was not predictive of relationship quality.

Good Days and Bad Days: Interpersonal Dependency and Daily Social Climate

Shuo Wang (Beijing Normal University), Michael J. Roche, Aaron L. Pincus, David E. Conroy, Amanda L. Hyde & Nilam Ram (The Pennsylvania State University)

In this poster, we introduce the construct of the 'Daily Social Climate' as the average of the person's daily perceptions of agency and communion in others with whom they interacted and examine its relations to daily affect and personality (interpersonal dependency). From Bornstien's (2012) cognitive/interactionist (C/I) model of dependency, social experiences that prime the helpless self-schema (e.g., lack of support from others) intensify the dependent person's motivation to seek others' guidance, care, and protection and lead to distress and dysregulation when they are required to function autonomously. According to interpersonal theory, complementarity occurs when there is a match between the interpersonal motives of each person in the interpersonal situation so that both persons' agentic and communal needs are met. From this perspective, dependent individuals will be satisfied if others are perceived as relatively dominant and warm. In this study, 184 university students completed a 7-day event-contingent study of their interpersonal experiences. After each interaction participants completed the interpersonal grid to assess the participant's perception of agency and communion in their interaction partner. At the end of the day, the participants were asked to look back at their day as a whole and record how they felt (i.e. enthusiastic, calm, satisfied, sad, depressed, disappointed, upset, angry) on a 1 to 7 scale. We constructed multilevel regression models predicting each end of day emotion by these interpersonal climate scores, and then examined whether dependency moderated these within-person associations. The majority of significant effects were related to agentic climate. For participants higher in dependency, days that contained a more agentic social climate (e.g. compared to the participant's average) were associated with experiencing more calmness and satisfaction, and less sadness, depression, disappointment, upset feelings, and anger. We discuss the benefits of this approach (daily social climate) to clinical applications and furthering interpersonal theory.

Comparing Self-Reported Interpersonal Problems in Chinese and U.S. University Students

Leila Wu, Michael J. Roche, Emily A. Dowgwillo, Shuo Wang & Aaron L. Pincus
(The Pennsylvania State University)

The Inventory of Interpersonal Problems - Short Circumplex (IIP-SC; Hopwood, Pincus, DeMoor, & Koonce, 2008) is a widely used self-report measure of subjective distress linked to chronic behavioral excesses and inhibitions in social relationships. Exhibiting a validated circumplex structure, the IIP-SC assesses the dimensions of dominance-submissiveness (Agency) and warmth-coldness (Communion), and has been translated into several languages and is used worldwide. The current study employed a new Mandarin Chinese version of the IIP-SC (Wu, Roche, Dowgwillo, & Pincus, 2013) translated by a native speaker and back-translated by independent native speakers in an iterative process. Data of 401 Chinese university students who completed the 32-item translated IIP-SC was collected in the People's Republic of China. By examining the circumplex structure of the Chinese IIP-SC by exploratory factor analysis, a confirmatory circumplex analysis (CIRCUM), and a randomization test for hypothesized order relations (RANDALL), the Mandarin Chinese IIP-SC supported a reliable and valid translation and demonstrated the circumplex structure of interpersonal problems in China. The IIP-SC scale means for Chinese university students are compared with scale means for American university students to identify differences in interpersonal problems between a collectivistic culture and an individualistic culture. The comparison shows that Chinese university students share similarity with the general pattern as American university students with certain differences on specific interpersonal problems. A valid Chinese translation of the IIP-SC and the study of culture difference extend its use for clinical assessment to native Chinese speakers as one fifth of the world's population.

Constructing Equivalent Forms of the Interpersonal Sensitivities Circumplex (ISC) in English and German: An impossible task?

Johannes Zimmermann (Universität Kassel), Katrin Keßler (University of Heidelberg), Paula Schick Tanz, Daniel Leising (Technische Universität Dresden), Josh Lown & Christopher J. Hopwood (Michigan State University)

Background: The Interpersonal Sensitivities Circumplex (ISC) is the latest measure in the family of instruments based on the Interpersonal Circle. The ISC assesses individual differences in sensitivities to various kinds of aversive interpersonal behaviors. The aim of this study was to develop an equivalent form of the ISC in German language. Methods: We translated the ISC into German and presented it to a sample of German students (N1 = 209). Internal consistencies of octant scales were acceptable (except for NO), but circumplex fit was bad. Thus, we rewrote the wordings of 25 items, and added 33 new items. Based on data from a community sample (N2 = 389), we selected the best-fitting items using principal components analysis and circular statistics to construct a psychometrically sound short form (comprising 40 items). New items or changes in item wordings were backtranslated into English. We applied the ISC-40 in three further student samples from Germany (N3 = 442, N4 = 129), and from the US (N5 = 978). In the latter two samples, we also included well-established measures of interpersonal traits. Results: In the German samples, internal consistencies and circumplex fit of the ISC-40 were acceptable. Moreover, we were able to replicate the finding that what people find most aversive is their interpersonal opposite (i.e., negative correlations between corresponding interpersonal trait and sensitivity dimensions). In the US sample, internal consistencies were mostly acceptable, but circumplex fit was bad. This was mainly due to the LM scale being unrelated to the (very large) general factor. Discussion: The German ISC-40 appears to be a psychometrically sound measure of interpersonal sensitivities and can be recommended for future research. However, we did not succeed in constructing equivalent forms in English and German. We speculate that this might reflect differences in cultural norms of appropriate (affiliative) behavior.
