SITAR 2021

Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research

www.sitarsociety.org/conference

[Online Conference]

June 18-19, 2021

Day 1 Programming

12:00 – 1:00 pm EST	Welcome / Keynote
1:00 – 1:50 pm EST	Talks (Group A)
2:00 – 2:50 pm EST	Talks (Group B)
3:00 – 4:00 pm EST	Poster Session
4:00 – 5:00 pm EST	Social Hour

Day 2 Programming

12:00 – 1:00 pm EST	Talks (Group C)
1:00 – 1:50 pm EST	Talks (Group D)
2:00 – 2:30 pm EST	Business Meeting
2:30 – 4:00 pm EST	Hackathon
4:00 – 5:00 pm EST	Social Hour

Keynote Address

12:00pm – 1:00pm / 12:00 – 13:00 / June 18, 2021

Contemporary Integrative Interpersonal Theory: Integrating Structure, Dynamics, Temporal Scale, and Levels of Analysis

Aaron Pincus (Pennsylvania State University)*

Coauthors: Aidan Wright (University of Pittsburgh); Christopher Hopwood (University of California-Davis)

Theoretical accounts of psychopathology often emphasize social context as etiologically central to psychological dysfunction, and interpersonal impairments are widely implicated for many legacy diagnostic categories that span domains of psychopathology (e.g., affective, personality, thought disorders). Contemporary Integrative Interpersonal Theory (CIIT) seeks to explain the emergence, expression, and maintenance of socio-affective functioning and dysfunction across levels and timescales of analysis. We emphasize the importance of cohesively addressing the often-segregated challenges of establishing empirically supported structure, functional accounts of dynamic processes, and how together these facilitate theoretical and methodological consistency across levels of analysis ranging from biology to behavior. We illustrate CIIT's potential to serve as an integrative theory generating falsifiable hypotheses that support strong inference investigations into the nature of psychological dysfunction across a range of traditional diagnostic constructs and superordinate spectra of psychopathology.

Talks (Group A)

Contemporary Integrative Interpersonal Theory
1:00pm – 1:50pm / 13:00 – 13:50 / June 18, 2021

Attachment Manifestation in Daily Interpersonal Interactions

Aleksandra Kaurin (Witten/Herdecke University)*; Aidan Wright (University of Pittsburgh)

The predominant focus on individual differences in attachment research has overshadowed the supposition that working models represent dynamic, interpersonally responsive socio-affective systems. Intensive longitudinal designs allow to extend previous work by evaluating to what extent working models generalize over social interactions as well as functional processes that underlie its fluctuation. In the present study, we assessed the interpersonal context that characterizes the fluctuation of attachment experiences in daily life. Based on an event-contingent, ambulatory 7-day assessment protocol (N=263; 3971 interactions) and in the context of Contemporary Integrative Interpersonal Theory, we examined whether contextually activated working models would account for patterns of interpersonal complementarity. Our analyses returned that the situational activation of working models varied as a function of interpersonal perceptions, and that these reactivity patterns accounted for interpersonal complementarity in interactions where partners were perceived as warm and when participants were expressing warmth in response. However, in interactions characterized by perceived dominance, only secure attachment states accounted for interpersonal complementarity. These results suggest that attachment expectations reflect momentary relational processes where perceptions of others' warmth activated secure attachment expectations and lowered insecure ones, which evoked interpersonally regulative strategies.

The Impact of Personality Pathology on Interpersonal Perception

Chloe Bliton (Pennsylvania State University)*; Aaron Pincus (The Pennsylvania State University); David Conroy (Pennsylvania State University); Nilam Ram (Pennsylvania State University)

Contemporary Integrative Interpersonal Theory (CIIT) offers a conceptual framework capable of modeling the dynamic expression of personality as the interplay of structure (i.e., interindividual differences) and process (i.e., intraindividual process), specifically as it is expressed in interpersonal relationships (Wright et al., 2020). A key process relevant to personality expression is interpersonal perception, or the perception of another's behavior. Interpersonal perception is impacted by personality characteristics and interacts with affective and behavioral processes (e.g., Sadikaj et al., 2015, 2017). The present study aims to investigate the impact of interindividual differences in borderline personality pathology and pathological narcissism on the intraindividual process of interpersonal perception. Specifically, the study aims to (1) model the associations between personality pathology and the average level and instability of perceived agentic and communal behavior; (2) investigate the impact of personality pathology on the association of interpersonal perception and affective dysregulation; and (3) examine the impact of personality pathology on perceptual bias, or tendency to simultaneously perceive similar levels of dominant and friendly behaviors in others. We expect higher levels of borderline personality pathology and pathological narcissism to be associated with more unstable interpersonal perception, greater affect dysregulation, and a hostile perceptual bias (i.e., perceiving dominance as hostile). Data were drawn from the Intraindividual Study of Affect, Health, and Interpersonal Behavior (iSAHIB; Ram et al., 2014), a multiple time-scale study including 150 participants who completed a series of three 21-day "measurement bursts" spaced at about 4.5 month intervals (t = 426 bursts, t = 8,557 days). Prior to the first burst, participants completed demographic questionnaires, Personality Assessment Inventory Borderline Scales (Morey, 1991), and Pathological Narcissism Inventory (Pincus et al., 2009). During each measurement burst, participants reported interpersonal perception and affect valence and arousal following all social interactions as the interactions occurred in real time (t = 64,112).

Teaching Interpersonal Theory with Animated Video

Chris C. Martin (Georgia Institute of Technology); Wendy Newstetter (Georgia Institute of Technology)*

Explaining the history, meaning, and usefulness of the interpersonal circumplex to young students can be challenging. We created the animated video "Interpersonal Theory: Applying the Interpersonal Circumplex to Team Dynamics" to explain the circumplex and its implications to college students from any discipline. This video has nearly 5000 views on YouTube. The beginning of the video focuses on the history of the circumplex, covering the foundational work by Harry Stack Sullivan and Timothy Leary. it also explains the axes of the circumplex and the principle of complementarity. The second half of the video focuses on five implications of the circumplex for interpersonal behavior and includes one segment on interpersonal culture in work teams. The two presenters, the creator of the video and a learning scientist, will explain how this video has been used by professors in conjunction with written assignments. The presentation will also briefly cover related videos on organizational justice and psychological safety, also based on the empirical literature. A significant portion of the presentation will be dedicated to audience questions about using the video.

Talks (Group B)
Personality Pathology
2:00pm – 2:50pm / 14:00 – 14:50 / June 18, 2021

Multisurface Interpersonal Assessment of the Personality Assessment Inventory-Borderline Scale and the DSM-5 Level of Personality Functioning Scale

Lia Rosenstein (The Pennsylvania State University); Aaron Pincus (The Pennsylvania State University)*

Assessed via the Level of Personality Functioning Scale (LPFS), Criteria A of the alternative model for personality disorders (AMPD) in the DSM-5 reflects core deficits in self and interpersonal functioning thought to be common across all personality pathology. Comprised of four subcomponents, identity, self-direction, empathy, and intimacy, Criteria A captures the general severity of personality impairments. Interestingly, previous research has shown that borderline personality disorder (BPD) loads strongly onto measures of general psychopathology and severity and perhaps unsurprisingly, the criteria reflect similar deficits in self and interpersonal functioning to AMPD Criteria A. To further understand this overlap, the interpersonal circumplex provides a useful frame for assessing convergence between Criteria A and measures of BPD, such as the commonly used Personality Assessment Inventory-Borderline Scale (PAI-BOR). Although previous research has investigated the LPFS and PAI scales separately (e.g. Dowgwillo et al., 2018; Ansell et al., 2010), the present study seeks to replicate and extend this work directly comparing the interpersonal nature of both total scores and subscale scores across multiple IPC surfaces. College undergraduates (N = 465), completed self-report measures including the PAI-BOR, the LPFS (Morey, 2017), and multiple IPC measures including the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems-Short Circumplex (IIP-SC) and the Interpersonal Sensitivities Circumplex (ISC). Using structural summary method, LPFS and PAI-BOR total scores and subscales will be placed on the interpersonal circumplex surfaces for both problems and sensitivities. Confidence intervals will be computed for structural summary parameters and to test for divergence/convergence of the LPFS and PAI-BOR locations on circumplex surfaces. Clinical implications and future directions for research will be discussed.

Associations Between Personality (Dys)Function and General Socioemotional Dysregulation

Whitney Ringwald (University of Pittsburgh)*; Aidan Wright (University of Pittsburgh); Michael Hallquist (Pennsylvania State University); Alexandre Y. Dombrovski (University of Pittsburgh)

According to interpersonal theories of personality, social and emotional functioning are interrelated and thought to be governed by generalized regulatory capacities. Supporting the idea of superordinate processes that account for functioning across these domains, structural models of normative personality traits and personality disorder symptoms consistently find a higher-order dimension of personality (dys)functioning. However, the regulatory processes thought to explain general functioning unfold in dynamic transactions with the environment and with other people that are not directly measured by cross-sectional methods. Ambulatory assessment (AA), on the other hand, has been used to directly index emotional and behavioral (in)stability across situations—but this research has only focused on single traits or diagnoses and single domains of functioning. In this study, we combined structural modeling with dynamic measures of instability to test whether general personality functioning reflects shared processes that cut across socioemotional domains. We replicated our analyses in two samples that completed an AA protocol including a clinical sample enriched with people diagnosed with borderline personality disorder and a community sample (Ns=205; 342 participants and 24,920; 17,761 observations). Using AA measures of instability in dominant and submissive behavior, perceptions of other's interpersonal behavior, and positive and negative affect, we estimated a general instability factor and examined its associations with general personality functioning. Specifically, we estimated the meta-trait of Stability from the shared variance of Neuroticism, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness and general personality pathology from maladaptive traits. We found that (1) there is a general factor reflecting instability across major domains of functioning and (2) general instability is strongly associated with Stability and general personality pathology. By combining structural and dynamic methods to more closely match theory, these results provide novel insight into the interpersonal nature of general personality functioning.

Biases in interpersonal perceptions: Specificity of generalized anxiety, social anxiety, and depression symptoms

Narayan Singh (Seattle Pacific University)*; Erin Verdi (Seattle Pacific University); Rachel Inabata (Seattle Pacific University); Janarthan Sivaratnam (Seattle Pacific University); Thane Erickson (Seattle Pacific University)

Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), social anxiety, and depression have been linked to maladaptive social perceptions of others. However, most studies have examined general negative perception biases without attending to specific interpersonal dimensions such as dominance and affiliation, or to perceived moral desirability of behavior. In addition, no known studies have simultaneously and directly compared social perception biases of GAD, social anxiety, and depression symptoms in response to the same stimuli, leaving questions about specificity given their shared variance. Therefore, we examined unique social perception biases associated with GAD, SAD, and depression symptoms across a broad range of interpersonal vignettes in two studies. Participants (N = 246; N=171) completed baseline measures of GAD/worry, social anxiety, and depression symptoms then rated their perceptions of dominance and affiliation across 16 vignettes with a friend and 16 with an authority figure (Study 1), and 32 vignettes that varied systematically on dominance, affiliation, and morality (Study 2). Based on recent studies finding specificity in linking worry/GAD to affiliative traits, we expected higher social accuracy for those symptoms, but lower accuracy for social anxiety and depression symptoms. Multilevel models predicted participants' perceptions from objective ratings for each item, following Biesanz' (2010) Social Accuracy Model. All three symptom clusters were included as moderators to identify symptom-specific biases. Results showed general agreement between perceptions and stimuli. In line with a theory of interpersonal vigilance in worry/GAD, those symptoms predicted greater accuracy for affiliation with friends and dominance with authority figures (Study 1), and for dominance, affiliation, and morality in Study 2. Depression predicted lower accuracy on all dimensions in both studies. Social anxiety uniquely predicted poorer accuracy for dominance and morality in Study 2. The findings extend research on social cognitive biases in psychopathology, pointing to specificity when accounting for general distress and disentangling interpersonal dimensions.

Poster Session

---

[1] Differential Interpersonal Impact of Sexual Assault With and Without Alcohol Involvement

Kayleigh N. Watters (Palo Alto University); Alana Gallagher (Palo Alto University); Matthew Yalch (Palo Alto University)*

Sexual assault is a common form of trauma that is associated with a number of psychosocial problems. The problems associated with sexual assault are thought to be linked to its interpersonal impact. One way of understanding the interpersonal impact is by using the Interpersonal Circumplex (IPC). Within the IPC framework, we might understand sexual assault as a controlling and aggressive act, thereby leaving sexual assault survivors with sensitivity to submissiveness. Sexual assault often involves alcohol consumption, which may make survivors of sexual assault especially likely to feel submissive for several reasons. For example, when alcohol is involved in an assault, survivors may feel incapacitated during the assault itself and/or feeling guilty for having drank in the assault's aftermath. However, there is little research on the differential interpersonal impact of sexual assault with and without alcohol involvement. In this study we examined the interpersonal impact of sexual assault with and without alcohol involvement in a sample of adult men and women (N = 390) using a bootstrapped structural summary approach to mapping constructs across the IPC. Results suggest that alcohol-involved sexual assault projects cohesively into the submissive area of the IPC, whereas non-alcohol-involved sexual assault projects more diffusely and with a lower elevation across many areas of the IPC. These findings highlight both the specificity and relative severity of sexual assault involving alcohol, which has implications for both future research and clinical intervention with sexual assault survivors.

---

[2] Connect or Protect: How Regulatory Focus Impacts Importance and Desire for Partner Pursuit After Being Ghosted

Maureen A. Coyle (The Graduate Center, CUNY); Cheryl Carmichael (Brooklyn College, CUNY)*

Ghosting is common in online dating, but research on ghosting is limited and largely non-experimental. The goals of this study were to assess if ghosting affects self-reported desire for pursuing potential partners and if importance of online dating success mediates the relationship between being ghosted and desire for partner pursuit. The moderating roles of promotion focus (motive to gain/affiliate) and prevention focus (motive to avoid loss/rejection) were also explored. To test our predictions, online daters (N = 178) were recruited on Prolific for a research study on online dating. Participants first completed regulatory focus measures and then were randomly assigned to imagine being ghosted or mutually terminating contact with a potential partner online. Participants wrote about how they would think, feel, and behave after the imagined experience and rated how important it was to them to successfully find a meaningful connection on online dating platforms and their desire for partner pursuit on online dating platforms. Moderated mediation models were run using Model 7 in the PROCESS (Hayes, 2013) Macro in SPSS. After imagining being ghosted, those high (vs. low) in prevention focus rated online dating success as less important, leading to less desire for partner pursuit. However, regardless of condition, those high (vs. low) in promotion focus rated online dating success as more important, leading to more desire for partner pursuit. These results extend findings on how regulatory focus impacts relationship processes to the context of being ghosted on online dating platforms. This study is also one of the first studies to test the causal link between being ghosted and online daters' desire for partner pursuit. As an increasing number of individuals seek meaningful connections in online dating, it is important to understand how online daters' perceptions and behaviors vary as a result of ghosting experiences and their self-regulatory orientation.

[3] Interpersonal Style and Depressive Symptoms in Victims of Bullying before and after Transitioning out of High School

Minita Franzen (University of Groningen)*; Peter de Jong (University of Groningen); René Veenstra (University of Groningen); Marije aan het Rot (University of Groningen)

Introduction: Victims of bullying have an elevated risk for depressive symptoms. We propose that victims' interpersonal style across various situational contexts may explain this relationship. We assessed interpersonal behaviours, perceptions, and affect during every-day social interactions in adolescents' final high school year (T1) and one year later (T2). At T1, we expected victims to differ in interpersonal style from non-involved adolescents. We also examined whether these differences remained after participants transitioned out of the bullying environment (T2).Methods: Participants at T1 were 27 self-reported victims of bullying and 56 non-involved adolescents; 9 victims and 26 non-involved adolescents also completed T2. At both time points, participants recorded their social interactions on their smartphones for 14 days. Interpersonal behaviours and perceptions were assessed in terms of dominance-submissiveness and agreeableness-quarrelsomeness. Depressive symptoms were assessed at the beginning of T1 and T2. Results: At both time points, victims reported more depressive symptoms than non-involved individuals. At T1, across social interactions, victims reported perceiving others as less agreeable and feeling more negatively than non-involved adolescents. These differences were not found at T2. Nevertheless, at T2, when with interaction partners that were perceived as highly dominant as compared to perceptions of low dominance, victims' perceptions of the agreeableness of these partners decreased more strongly than that of non-involved adolescents. Discussion: When still in high school, victims showed alterations in their perceptions of others and affect across situations. After transitioning out of high-school, these differences became more subtle and context-specific while depressive symptoms remained. These differences in interpersonal style may help explain why victims report more depressive symptoms after the actual bullying has taken place.

[4] Hostile Masculinity: Complementarity and Outcomes in Online Crisis Centre Chats

Katharine McCloskey (University of British Columbia)*

Background. Although men only make up 42.1% of crisis centre users, they make up the 60.5% of crisis centre users who complete suicide. Further, adherence to traditional masculine ideology is associated with negative views toward help-seeking behaviours. Men's reluctance to seek psychological help and their overrepresentation in the population of crisis centre users who complete suicide suggest that current procedures are not adequately addressing the needs of men with suicidal ideation. We hypothesized that crisis support that was complementary would be better received by men and thus result in increased positive outcomes. Aim. The aim of the present study was to examine how interpersonal complementarity between counsellor and client is associated with outcome in single-session online crisis counseling with acutely suicidal men. Methods. Six online crisis centre chats (3 successful, 3 unsuccessful) with acutely suicidal men were coded using the Interpersonal Communication Rating Scale. Clients' and counselors' talk turns were coded on one of the eight interpersonal behaviors around the interpersonal circumplex (i.e., octants). We then computed client-counselor complementarity on adjacent talk turns using an established method. Results. Successful sessions showed (a) greater affiliation and control complementarity overall, and (b) a greater increase in affiliation complementarity across time relative to unsuccessful sessions. Conclusions. Our findings are initial support for complementarity's association with outcome in single-session online crisis counseling with acutely suicidal men. We will discuss the implications of our findings in terms of (a) theory, (b) implications for research with larger samples, and (c) practice.

[5] Interpersonal Perceptions and Relational Goals in Daily Life

Siyuan Huang (The Pennsylvania State University)*; Aaron Pincus (The Pennsylvania State Unviersity); Stephen Wilson (The Pennsylvania State University); Michelle Newman (The Pennsylvania State University); Kenneth Levy (The Pennsylvania State University)

A substantial body of research shows that increased pursuit of intrinsic interpersonal goals and decreased pursuit of extrinsic goals are associated with increased communal behaviors and relationship satisfaction. The current study extends this prior research by examining how day-to-day variations in social perceptions of self and other link with fluctuations in the intrinsic and extrinsic goal valuations in a clinical population. Thirty nine psychotherapy outpatients (age = 32.7 ± 11.7 yrs, 4 males) diagnosed with either Borderline Personality Disorder or an anxiety disorder completed ratings of their agentic and communal perceptions following interpersonal interactions on event-contingent surveys and ratings of their goal pursuits on signal-prompted surveys across 21 sampling days. These ratings were averaged across surveys for each day to create daily aggregated scores of these variables. Intrinsic goals consisted of strivings for community feelings and self-efficacy, whereas extrinsic goals consisted of strivings for positive public-image and conformity. Multilevel models (MLMs) with daily average goal ratings as the outcome variables were employed, with the average agentic and communal perceptions of self and other for each day (Level 1) nested within participants (Level 2). During the days when individuals rated themselves as interpersonally warmer during social interactions than they usually did, they rated their intrinsic goals (i.e., community and self-efficacy) as more important than usual. Although this relationship was observed for public-image goals, it was not significant for conformity goals. Between persons, individuals who reported lower communal perceptions of others than the prototypical participant tended to rate their public-image goals as more important. These findings indicate that perceiving self as warm during interactions is associated with higher intrinsic interpersonal goals and public-image goals, while this relation is not present for conformity goals. Furthermore, persistent concerns with one's public image goals appears linked to persistent views of others as interpersonally colder.

[6] Predicting working alliance during depression treatment from personality and interpersonal style

Emma N. Johnson (University of Kansas)*; Brendon T. Elliott (University of Kansas); Jeffrey M. Girard (University of Kansas); Lauren Bylsma (University of Pittsburgh); Jeffrey Cohn (University of Pittsburgh); Jay Fournier (The Ohio State University); Louis-Philippe Morency (Carnegie Mellon University); Holly Swartz (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)

Working alliance is the collaborative bond between therapist and client during psychotherapy. Past research has found that ratings of working alliance reliably predict psychotherapy treatment outcomes. In this project, we examined the nature of the relationships between interpersonal problems and style, pathological personality traits, and working alliance during psychotherapy for depression. In terms of personality traits, we hypothesized that antagonism and detachment would have an adverse effect on working alliance. In terms of interpersonal style, we hypothesized that problems associated with low communion would have similarly adverse effects. We observed 42 outpatients with depression in a clinical trial across 8 sessions of brief psychotherapy (i.e., cognitive-behavioral therapy or interpersonal psychotherapy). After each session, both clients and therapists were administered the WAI (a measure of working alliance). Both before and after the 8-session treatment protocol, clients were administered the PID-5 (a measure of personality pathology) and the IIP-SC (a measure of interpersonal problems and style). For data analysis, we estimated linear mixed-effects models in which patient-reported weekly WAI scores were regressed on personality traits or interpersonal scores. Slopes for the PID-5 traits, IIP-SC elevation, and IIP-SC agency were not significantly different from zero, but the slope for IIP-SC communion was significantly and positively related to mean WAI. The direction of this effect was such that clients with more (or less) communal interpersonal styles tended to have higher (or lower) working alliance scores on average. These results suggest that clients with less communal interpersonal styles struggle with forming a strong working alliance during therapy for depression. As such, they may also benefit less from psychotherapy unless interventions are undertaken to improve the working alliance.

[7] Observing changes in pathological personality traits and interpersonal problems over the course of brief psychotherapy for depression

Brendon T. Elliott (University of Kansas)*; Jeffrey M. Girard (University of Kansas); Lauren Bylsma (University of Pittsburgh); Jeffrey Cohn (University of Pittsburgh); Jay Fournier (Ohio State University); Louis-Philippe Morency (Carnegie Mellon University); Holly Swartz (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)

Major depressive disorder (MDD) is an exceptionally heterogeneous diagnosis that affects a broad range of affective, behavioral, and cognitive functioning. Past research has shown that patient characteristics may change over the course of treatment and may also influence the efficacy of psychotherapy. The present study sought to better understand the effects of psychotherapy on pathological personality traits and interpersonal problems from pre-treatment to post-treatment using the Personality Inventory for DSM-5 (PID-5) and the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems (IIP-SC), respectively. Forty-two outpatients diagnosed with MDD were randomized to an 8-session treatment course of either cognitive behavioral therapy or interpersonal therapy. The PID-5 and IIP-SC were completed by patient self-report at baseline and post-treatment. Changes in personality traits and interpersonal problems over time were assessed via linear mixed-effects models by regressing the PID-5 domain scores and the IIP-SC dimensions on time, treatment type, and their interaction. We found that from pre-treatment to post-treatment, the negative affectivity (p<.001) and detachment (p=.001) domain scores of the PID-5 significantly decreased. There were no significant differences on the antagonism, psychoticism, or disinhibition domains. Of the IIP-SC dimensions, overall interpersonal problems also significantly decreased (p=.004), and a decrease in the communion dimension was suggestive (p=.055). No significant differences were found in the agency dimension, nor between the different treatment types on either of the outcome measures (although statistical power was low). The significant decrease in overall interpersonal problems indicates that brief, evidence-based psychotherapy for depression may improve interpersonal functioning in addition to core depressive symptoms. Additionally, of the five measured personality domains, there were only significant decreases in negative affectivity and detachment—the two domains most closely linked with depression—suggesting that the effect of psychotherapy is domain-specific rather than a reflection of global improvement in psychological functioning or regression to the mean.

[8] Defining Personality Traits and Personality Signatures by Differentiating Agentic and Communal Domains of the Self

David Zuroff (McGill University)*; Kayleigh-Ann Clegg (McGill University); Shelby Levine (McGill University); Anne Holding (McGill University); Richard Koestner (McGill University); Golan Shahar (Ben-Gurion University); Seyed Gaviria Mojica (McGill University); Shanya Maheu (McGill University)

Risk and resilience variables such as self-criticism and self-compassion are typically studied as broad traits reflecting highly cross-situationally consistent dispositions. We bring contemporary personality science, which conceptualizes contextual variability as a fundamental feature of personality characteristics (Fleeson & Jayawickreme, 2015; Moskowitz & Fournier, 2015), to bear on the study of these variables by examining each variable across agentic and communal domains of the self. A sample of 346 young adults completed Gilbert et al.'s (2004) Forms of Self-Criticising/Attacking and Self-Reassuring Scale (FSCRS) to measure domain-specific self-criticism and self-compassion, as well as Diener and Emmons' (1984) affect items to measure domain-specific positive and negative affect. Items were completed for each of the four agentic domains of the self (i.e., Academic or Job Performance, Physical Appearance, Managing My Finances, Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle) and each of the four communal domains of the self (i.e., Friendships, Family Relationships, Relationships at School or Workplace, Intimate (Marital or Romantic) Relationships). Using multilevel modeling, we demonstrate that self-criticism and self-compassion exhibit substantial variability across domains. We then distinguish between person differences in mean levels, normative effects of domains, and person x situation interactions, termed signatures, using multilevel structural equation modeling to demonstrate that each component is uniquely associated with positive and negative affect. These findings suggest that research on trait-like constructs would be greatly enriched by including normative domain effects and person-specific signatures generated by sampling across agentic and communal domains of the self.

[9] Interpersonal Pathoplasticity in Depression

Judy Chen (Albany Medical College); Mark Lukowitsky (Albany Medical Center)*

Objective: Interpersonal pathoplasticity examines the influence of interpersonal traits on the expression of psychopathology (and vice-versa), allowing clinicians to tailor interventions and make predictions regarding a patient's treatment trajectory. Research (e.g., Cain et al., 2012) suggests that individuals with major depressive disorder (MDD) exhibit interpersonal pathoplasticity, suggestive of distinct interpersonal subtypes among this patient population. The current study sought to replicate findings by Cain et al. (2012) by investigating interpersonal pathoplasticity in a sample of patients seeking outpatient psychiatric treatment. Methods: Treatment seeking patients (N=208) whose Treatment Outcome Package (TOP; Kraus et al., 2005) depression score was greater than 2 SD and who completed the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems – Short Circumplex (IIP-SC; Hopwood et al., 2008) were selected from a larger dataset and were evaluated using cluster analysis to confirm cluster membership and structural summary statistics to investigate interpersonal subtypes and prototypicality. Results: A three cluster solution exhibited the most robust replication across Ward's and K-Means (KM) cluster analysis: 100% of Ward's Cluster 1 (N=19) were grouped in KM cluster 1 (N=50), 63% of Ward's cluster 2 (N=132) were grouped into KM cluster 2 (N=83), and 86% of Ward's cluster 3 (N=57) were grouped in KM cluster 3 (N=75). Results also suggested that the three clusters had angular displacements indicative of intrusive (NO), coldhearted (DE), and exploitable (JK) interpersonal problems with adequate prototypicality (all R2>.70). Finally, analyses confirmed that interpersonal subtype classifications were not related to gender, ethnicity, age, and the TOP total mental health score. Conclusions: The findings are consistent with Cain et al. (2012) and support the importance of interpersonal pathoplasticity in depressive disorder. The three distinct interpersonal groups did not differ in demographic data or TOP total score, indicating that interpersonal problem styles may account for heterogeneity seen in individuals with depression.

[10] Vindictive and overly nurturant interpersonal problems mediate the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and suicide ratings

Uyen Huynh (Albany Medical Center)*; Mark Lukowitsky (Albany Medical Center)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are adverse and traumatic life events that occur before the age of 18 and have been shown to be associated with negative physical and mental health outcomes (Poole et al., 2017). Prior studies have elucidated a significant increased risk between ACEs and suicidality (Dube et al., 2001), and there is growing interest and research into the variables that may mediate this relationship. Early life adversity is often considered a risk factor in interpersonal dysfunctional patterns expressed in personality and behavior. Further, interpersonal aspects, notably thwarted belongingness and perceived burdensome are known risk factors for suicide (Van Orden et al., 2010). This study aims to investigate the associations between adverse childhood experiences, its association with suicide risk, and how interpersonal problems mediate this relationship. This study includes 352 individuals who completed the 10-item Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE; Felitti et al., 1998) questionnaire, the Treatment Outcome Package (TOP; Kraus et al., 2005), and the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems-Short Circumplex (IIP-SC; Hopwood et al., 2008) upon admission to a large outpatient psychiatry clinic. Mediation was tested using Process, Model 4 (Hayes 2018) to assess whether interpersonal problems mediated the relationship between ACE total scores and TOP suicide scores. Results suggested that ACEs were significantly correlated (.233; p<.001) with higher risk of suicide. ACEs were also significantly correlated with all 8 octants of the IIP-C (p's<.001). Suicide ratings were significantly correlated with Domineering (.211, p<.01), Vindictive (.315, p<.001), Cold (.267; p<.01), Avoidant (.218; p<.001), and Overly Nurturant (.266; p<.001) interpersonal problems and were subsequently used to explore mediation. This model explained 14.6% of the variance in the TOP suicide rating, F(6, 244) = 6.93, p<.001. Results from the mediation analysis suggested that Vindictive interpersonal problems and Overly Nurturant problems mediated the relationship between ACEs and suicide ratings and had a complete standardized indirect effect of .09 (SE = .046, CI [.008, .19]) and .07 (SE=.03, CI [.017, .140) respectively. These results suggest that a comprehensive assessment of suicide risk should include an understanding past childhood adversities and current interpersonal problems.

Talks (Group C)
Methodology
12:00pm – 12:50pm / 12:00 – 12:50 / June 19, 2021

Grappling with the Measurement and Analysis of Within-Person Variability: Using Relational Body Image as an Example

Sydney V. Waring (University of Waterloo)*; Allison Kelly (University of Waterloo); Konstantyn Sharpinskyi (University of Waterloo)

Introduction: Across disciplines, conceptualizing within-person variability in psychosocial functioning as a reliable individual difference variable has become controversial (Kalokerinos et al., 2020; Fuller-Tyszkiewicz 2019). Statisticians have criticized the use of a within-person standard deviation (SD) to measure variability (Mestdagh et al., 2018), yet the utility of more complicated variability measures has also been questioned (Dejonckheere et al., 2019). In response to these criticisms, the need to measure within-person processes in personally relevant contexts has been highlighted (Lapate & Heller, 2020). The current study is the first to consider these developing criticisms and recommendations for within-person variability in the body image field. We investigated the relationship between within-person variability in body image and trait indicators of maladaptive body image through incorporating both traditional (i.e., SD) and newer (i.e., Relative SD) measures of within-person variability. We also measured within-person variability in body image in a personally meaningful context, that is, across participants' specific relationships. Methods: Online, 189 female undergraduates completed trait measures of maladaptive body image. At least three days later, in-lab, participants were guided to generate a list of the important people in their lives (i.e., friends, family members, acquaintances). Ten people were selected for each participant using egocentric network methods. Participants then reported on their typical body image when they are with each of these 10 people. Regression analyses tested the hypothesis that the magnitude of within-person variability in body image across relationships positively predicted trait maladaptive body image. Results: Although results generally supported this hypothesis, the results varied depending on the measure of within-person variability used (i.e., standard deviation or relative standard deviation), and the analytical decisions made (i.e., choosing to control for personal means in analyses). Discussion will focus on using the results of the current study to grapple with broader recommendations for future research on within-person variability.

The Interpersonal Qualities of Self-Talk: Important Variations across Individuals and Occasions

Paul Lefebvre (Wilfrid Laurier University)*; Pamela Sadler (Wilfrid Laurier University); Erik Woody (University of Waterloo)

Because self-talk originally develops as internalized speech from others such as parents, it is reasonable to expect that it may continue to be experienced as possessing important interpersonal qualities. The present research explores the hypothesis that major variations in self-talk, both across individuals and across situations, can be characterized by the interpersonal circumplex and the underlying dimensions of agency and communion. The main study to be reported used an experience-sampling methodology, in which 232 young-adult participants were asked on each of 14 days to report two examples of their self-talk that day, one associated with a positive event and another associated with a negative event. In addition to providing descriptions of each event and their associated self-talk, they rated the emotional intensity of the event, the interpersonal qualities of their self-talk on each of the octants of the interpersonal circumplex, and their affect following the self-talk. Two objective observers also read each self-talk description and rated its interpersonal qualities. Data analysis took two somewhat contrasting strategies. First, averaging across the data for each participant, we asked whether the resulting scores for the octants and dimensions had strong reliability and circumplex structure, supporting their potential use as trait-like measures. We also used these averaged data to examine the levels of consistency of the octant and dimension scores across positive and negative events, and across self- and observer-ratings. In addition, we compared the present approach to measuring individual differences in the interpersonal qualities of self-talk with other, non-event-sampling approaches we have explored. Second, we used multilevel modeling to simultaneously characterize situational and individual differences in the interpersonal qualities (agency and communion) of self-talk and some of the possible determinants and consequences of these differences. These results begin to provide a picture of self-talk as a phenomenon akin to interpersonal transaction.

Further Extensions to the Structural Summary Method

Jeffrey M. Girard (University of Kansas)*; Johannes Zimmermann (Universität Kassel)

Gurtman's (1992) structural summary method (SSM) is a parsimonious technique for summarizing circumplex data and its profile of correlations with other constructs. Zimmermann & Wright (2017) made important extensions to the SSM by using bootstrap resampling to estimate confidence intervals and parameter comparisons. This talk describes our early efforts to unlock further extensions to the SSM. First, we re-parameterize the mean-based SSM for estimation within a linear mixed-effects modeling framework. This unlocks the ability to develop a multilevel mean-based SSM for longitudinal and clustered data that would benefit from partial pooling and shrinkage. Second, we re-parameterize the mean-based and correlation-based SSM for estimation within a structural equation modeling framework. This unlocks the ability to examine the profile of correlations between circumplex data and one or more latent variables estimated without measurement error. It also enables us to unlock further SSM extensions based on features and extensions of the structural equation modeling framework (e.g., multi-group comparisons and multilevel correlation-based SSM). Third, we build upon these re-parameterizations to estimate both mean- and correlation-based SSM approaches within a Bayesian framework, which allows for more intuitive interpretation of credible intervals in terms of probabilities and allows us to support or reject null hypotheses through a region of practical equivalence (ROPE) approach. In this talk, we provide an overview of these extensions with example code in free and open-source software (e.g., the circumplex, lme4, brms, lavaan, and blavaan packages in R) as well as previews of planned simulation studies evaluating and comparing these new methods.

Talks (Group D)
Mentalization / Reflective Functioning
1:00pm – 1:50pm / 13:00 – 13:50 / June 19, 2021

A Multi-Method Daily Diary Study of Interpersonal Complementarity and Social Cognition Impairments

A. Esin Asan (The Pennsylvania State University)*; Aaron Pincus (The Pennsylvania State University); Emily Ansell (The Pennsylvania State University)

Background: Deviations from normative social-cognitive processes may result in impaired perception of interpersonal situations and distorted representations of self and other. Social cognition and interpersonal theory have been linked conceptually, but are rarely studied in conjunction. While research has found a relationship between social-cognitive impairments and maladaptive personality traits, these have not been studied in relation to momentary interpersonal processes. The current study bridges the gap between social cognition (measured cross-sectionally) and interpersonal perception and behavior during daily interactions (measured longitudinally). Method: 227 participants completed the Movie for the Assessment of Social Cognition (MASC; Dziobek et al., 2006) task to assess Theory of Mind (ToM). Subsequently, participants reported on their interpersonal interactions over 21 days, rating their agentic and communal behavior and their perception of their interaction partner's agentic and communal behavior on a sliding-scale. Responses were analyzed using multilevel modeling. Results: On average, lower scores on the MASC were associated with more communal and less agentic behaviors. Heterogeneous variance models showed that impaired mentalizing ability is associated with a higher variance in agentic behavior. Mentalizing ability significantly moderated the within-person relationship between behavior and perception for both agency and communion: for participants with lower scores on the MASC, the interaction-by-interaction positive relationship between communal behavior and perception and inverse relationship between agentic behavior and perception were weaker. This pattern held true for under-mentalizing (insufficient ToM) and hypermentalizing (excessive ToM) impairments, except for the non-significant moderation effect of hypermentalizing on the relationship between communal behavior and perception. Conclusions: Impaired social cognition is associated with weaker interpersonal complementarity in daily interactions, suggesting that mentalizing impairments lead to deviations from expected patterns of behavior and perception in interpersonal situations. Impairments are also related to more variable agentic behavior. These findings provide strong implications for the overlap between social-cognitive and interpersonal processes.

Self and other dimensions of Reflective-Functioning (RF) and their association to conceptually related constructs

Evan Good (Michigan State University)*; Xiaochen Luo (Michigan State University); Josh Turchan (Michigan State University); Alytia A. Levendosky (Michigan State University)

The construct of reflective-functioning (RF)—the ability to understand and respond to one's own and other's behavior as an expression of mental state—has received growing attention from attachment and psychodynamically-oriented theorists and researchers since it was first described by Fonagy and colleagues (1991) nearly three decades ago. A majority of extant theory and research on RF has focused on the association between RF and adult psychopathology (e.g., Fonagy, 1991; Fonagy & Bateman, 2008; Fonagy & Luyten, 2009), the role of early attachment relationships in the development of RF (e.g., Fonagy, Gergely, & Target, 2007; Fonagy, Steele, Steele, Moran, & Higgitt, 1991; Slade, 2005), and the role of RF as moderator and outcome of psychotherapy (e.g., Bateman & Fonagy, 2001; 2008; Fonagy & Bateman, 2004; Levy et al., 2006). Such work has led some to argue that RF is a foundational and essential aspect of adaptive emotion regulation and interpersonal functioning in all individuals. However, at the current time there is limited research examining the association between RF and constructs related to personality, emotion regulation, and interpersonal functioning within non-clinical and/or non-parent samples. Expanding research include non-clinical and non-parent samples is a important step in supporting these claims and integrating the construct of RF with other models of adaptive psychosocial functioning. In the current talk, I will present data from three large samples of undergraduate students (n1=390; n2=889, and n3=400) examining the association between RF and theoretically related constructs, including interpersonal problems, attachment style, personality, emotion regulation, emotional intelligence, empathy, and implicit/explicit self-concept. While data collection is ongoing for this project, preliminary findings suggest that RF can broadly be parameterized into two dimensions, 1) self-mentalization and 2) other-mentalization, and that each of these dimensions is uniquely associated with conceptually related constructs. In particular, the current findings suggest that self-mentalization is specifically associated with severity of interpersonal problems, emotion regulation ability, alexithymia, neuroticism, extroversion, and conscientiousness. Whereas other-mentalization is specifically associated with style of interpersonal problems, empathy, openness to experience, and agreeableness. These findings will be discussed in terms of implications and future directions for integrating RF with other models of emotion-regulation and interpersonal functioning.

Being sure about oneself — but not too sure about others — is a feature of healthy personality functioning

Sascha Müller (University of Kassel); Leon P. Wendt (University of Kassel)*; Johannes Zimmermann (University of Kassel)

How individuals perceive and interpret the mental states (e.g., thoughts, feelings, motives) of themselves and others (also: mentalizing) is conceptualized as an important aspect of psychological functioning (e.g., AMPD of DSM-5). Specifically, perceptual distortions are thought to contribute to recurring maladaptive interpersonal experiences that are observed in individuals with personality pathology. However, what exactly characterizes a maladaptive way of perceiving oneself and others is not fully understood. The psychoanalytic concept of genuine mentalizing as an adaptive mentalizing mode posits a medium level of certainty when inferring mental states reflecting a modest and unassuming stance. In contrast, deviations from this optimal level of certainty are termed hypomentalizing (i.e., having too little certainty) and hypermentalizing (i.e., having too much certainty). Existing mentalizing questionnaires appear to be unable to assess a maladaptive form of having too much certainty about mental states. We developed the Certainty About Mental States Questionnaire (CAMSQ) as a self-report measure assessing the perceived ability to infer mental states of the self and others. In two studies using samples from the general population (total N = 1828), we derive in both English and German a two-dimensional measure of Self-Certainty and Other-Certainty and illustrate differential relations to personality functioning and mental health. The CAMSQ performed well in terms of convergent and discriminant validity, internal consistency, test-retest reliability, and measurement invariance across the US and Germany. Results indicate that the CAMSQ is capable of assessing two maladaptive variants of subjective certainty about mental states (hypo- and hypermentalizing). Whereas the average ("healthy") individual was more certain about their own mental states than about others' mental states, the most maladaptive profile was characterized by low Self-Certainty in conjunction with Other-

Certainty approaching or exceeding the level of Self-Certainty. This suggests an important role of imbalances between Self-Certainty and Other-Certainty as an aspect of personality dysfunction.