Empowering Minds

ARTSNET RESEARCH

Celebrate Undergraduate Achievements

Poster Session

Time: 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

Location: Cedar Conference Center (1205C), KPU Surrey Campus

Session Facilitator: Saachi Bansal

Knowledge mobilisation is a crucial aspect of research, and to that end, this poster session seeks to promote the dissemination of undergraduate research findings within the academic community. Gain insights into ongoing research projects, get a glimpse of undergrad research 'behind-the-scenes' and its challenges and breakthroughs, and come celebrate the achievements of undergraduate students!

Advancing Food Equity in Abbotsford: Building a Resilient Food System

By Ekaterina Marenkov, Larissa Kowalski (MA), Lia Bishop (MA), Dr. Martha Dow, data visualisation by Mara Penner
University of the Fraser Valley

This research endeavours to contribute to a deeper understanding of community food security and to identify the delivery of, and access to, food programs and services in Abbotsford. Consistent with the existing literature on food insecurity, the main cause of food insecurity within Abbotsford households is their inability to access an adequate and nutritious diet due to financial constraints. While Abbotsford, like most municipalities, does not currently have policies in place to mitigate household food insecurity, our findings demonstrate that there are many local non-profit and charity organisations that offer various food programs and services. However, as income inadequacy is the primary driver of food insecurity, comprehensive strategies to address poverty and income inequality are imperative to combat food insecurity on any meaningful and lasting level.

Burnout in Education Assistants: Identifying Predictors to Reduce Negative Outcomes

By Melissa E. M. Campion, Shayna Minosky
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Despite the extensive literature on teacher burnout, research on Education Assistants (EAs) is lacking. The negative consequences associated with EA burnout harm the employees and the students they support—a population with complex learning characteristics that may struggle academically, behaviourally, emotionally, and socially (Brunsting et al., 2022; Fisher & Pleasants, 2012). Identifying which demands and resources significantly influence EA burnout is crucial in preventing the adverse consequences. This study can aid future research investigating interventions and strategies that prevent or reduce the adverse effects of EA burnout. The study will identify potential alterations within the education system that could provide EAs with the best possible working environment, reducing attrition and promoting EA well-being.

Capitalistic Cults: The Use of Cult-Like Recruitment Tactics Within Beauty Based Multi-Level Marketing Companies

By Megan Cronk, under Dr. Greg Simmons's orientation
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The practice of multi-level marketing (MLM) is the distribution of a product or service through direct selling via the use of independent contractors, or distributors. The intersection of MLM operations and cultism has to date not been studied. Thus, the aim of my research was to understand and explain the similarities between beauty product based multi-level marketing companies and cult-like recruitment tactics through a psycho-social perspective. Additionally, this research sought out to understand how gender plays a role in who is targeted and recruited by these MLM companies. The application of these theories in combination with analysis, allowed for a bridge to be drawn between MLM and cult social structures to explain the manifold connections between the two functions.

Context Matters: The Impact of Clinical Framing on Mental Health Literacy

By Meaghan Duthie, Sui Chun Cynthia Lam, Kaitlin Alger, Abhishree Joshi, Karen Bhachu, Mansimran Kaur, Jasmine Su, and Aviv Milner, under Dr. Ivan Trujillo-Pisanty's orientation
Langara College

Mental health literacy (MHL) is defined as knowledge and beliefs about mental health that aid in recognizing mental health disorders and effective interventions. Our study, involving 116 Langara College students, explored the effect of clinical framing on Mental Health Literacy (MHL). Participants were presented with either a control (relationally-framed) or a clinically-framed vignette, and MHL was measured (V[92.3, 144.7], $\bar{V}$ = 121.8, σ = 11.26). The findings highlight the need for tailored approaches in mental health education.

Ecological Place-Based Education: Identifying Wild Spaces Near Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Surrey 72nd Avenue Campus

By Yhanukshna Sivapalan
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Near Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) 72nd Ave campus, wild spaces (both natural and modified) exist, and yet are rarely used to facilitate ecological place-based education due to lack of awareness of their location. Encouraging ecological place-based education (PBE), in the post-secondary curriculum, allows students and instructors to improve their mental and physical wellbeing, get involved in more hands-on learning opportunities, and deepen their connection to the natural world. To use nature as a co-teacher, however, nature must be accessible. Therefore, to inquire where ecological place-based education may be facilitated, my research project examined where wild spaces and amenities are located within a 400m, 800m, and 1,200m radius of the KPU Surrey campus. This analysis proved that far distances do not need to be travelled to access wild spaces and deliver classes outdoors.

Exploring the Perceptions and Preferences of Instructor Rapport Across Undergraduate Students

By Bhawan (Vana) Mann
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Student-instructor rapport has been associated with positive student outcomes, including increased participation and feelings of connectedness in the classroom. However, it is unclear what rapport strategies are being frequently used during classroom instruction and how students themselves perceive student-instruct rapport. This study explored the frequency of rapport strategies being utilised in the classroom, as well as student perceptions, and preferences of rapport. This study highlights that students find instructor-student rapport to be important as it assists with their motivation and engagement in the course, as well as which rapport-building strategies students prefer, which can help instructors integrate these behaviours in future courses.

How Schopenhauer's Enlarged Account of Sufficient Reason (Historically and Logically) Enabled Psychological Inquiry

By Brandon Spinosa, under Professor Marc Champagne's orientation
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

This paper investigates the enlarged scope of the Principle of Sufficient Reason (PSR) within the field of psychology. While physical cause and effect is a generally well understood principle, the idea that our own cognitive processes (both conscious and non-conscious) must have a reason for why they are so and not otherwise is a relatively new way of thinking in the philosophy of psychology. The German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer argues that—physically and mentally—a self-caused cause is a silly idea. In support of this claim, I examine different landmark psychological experiments in order to better shed light on the necessary systematic coherence that resides within our own cognition.

Reconceptualizing Borderline Personality Disorder: Investigating a Novel Form of Stigma Resistance

By Pearl M. B. Meredith, under Dr. Jocelyn Lymburner's orientation
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is one of the most highly stigmatised psychiatric diagnoses, with recipients of the label stereotyped as dangerous, manipulative, and inherently bad. Stigma resistance strategies are methods of relating to one's diagnosis that stigmatised individuals may adopt to shield themselves from the negative impacts of this stigma. We developed, employed, and assessed a measure of reconceptualizing, and assessed the impact of reconceptualizing relative to other stigma resistance strategies on several variables, including well-being. Assessing reconceptualizing as a stigma resistance strategy is valuable not only for its relevance to ongoing debates regarding the future of personality disorder diagnoses, but because it may prove to be an accessible intervention that can buffer the effects of stigma in a highly stigmatised population.

Source Evaluation: Applying a Novel Citation Analysis Schema to an Introductory Psychology Textbook

By Aviv Milner, and Evin Zapf-Gilje, under Dr. Olga Vasileva's orientation
Langara College

Our study critically assesses the citation use in "Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology 10th edition" by Comer (2022), focusing on the "Bipolar Disorders" subchapter. Amidst the reproducibility crisis and biases in psychology literature, we developed a unique evaluation schema based on five criteria: accessibility, relevance, appropriateness, accuracy, and credibility. Our findings call for a critical reevaluation of source selection and citation practices in educational resources, as current methods may compromise the integrity of educational content and the field of psychology. This research contributes to the discourse on academic credibility and emphasises the need for meticulous citation practices in psychology education.

The Experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ Post-Secondary Students: Gaps, Barriers, and Recommendations

By Liam Ruel, Kayla Garvin, Camille Bédard, Luka Wall, and Dr. Tara Lyons
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Canada is widely considered a safe place for 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Despite this, 2SLGBTQIA+ students in Canada continue to face barriers within post-secondary institutions and in the broader community. Few studies have explored the experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ post-secondary students, with little focus on teaching-focused institutions like KPU. In 2022, we conducted exploratory qualitative interviews with 43 2SLGBTQIA+ KPU students to broadly explore their post-secondary experiences. The findings revealed that 2SLGBTQIA+ KPU students are not being given the support, services, and educational environment they need to thrive in post-secondary school.

The Impact of Instructor Rapport on the Learning Styles of Students with ADHD Symptomatology

By Tanisha Bali, under Dr.Shayna Minosky's orientation
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Students with ADHD often struggle with executive dysfunction, inattention, low motivation, and impulsivity, leading to challenges within the classroom, including a reliance on more surface approaches to learning rather than more meaningful approaches, such as deep or achievement learning. As positive student-instructor rapport has been linked to better learning outcomes and academic achievement (by increasing motivation, self-efficacy and prosocial behaviours), we explored whether student-instructor rapport may moderate the relationships between ADHD symptomatology and learning approaches. The results provide guidance on how to teach those with ADHD symptomatology and implement ways to help those with ADHD without pharmacological interventions.

The Online World: Teaching and Learning within the Criminology Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University After COVID-19

By Pardeep Dhanda, under Dr. Petra Jonas' orientation

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted in-person education. Online education has become more popular in institutions to support learners, but also to contain the virus. Students and faculty at KPU within the criminology department have been hit hard by COVID-19. As a result, synchronous, asynchronous, and blended have been standard instructional methods at KPU within the criminology department, post-pandemic. The key motivation of this study is to identify the challenges and benefits students and faculty have faced with these instructional methods at KPU within the criminology department after COVID-19.

The Shades of Morality: The Effects of Light Temperatures on Moral Decision-Making

By Anraj Kang, Arjun Khalsi

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The effect of lighting on moral decision-making is a narrow topic in the broad nature of morality. Previous studies have focused on factors that can influence morals, including correlations with colour and lighting. However, there are gaps in understanding the relationship between lighting temperature and moral judgments. Our study aims to expand this literature by exploring the impact of our environmental lighting temperatures on our moral decisions, with respect to the lack of research on this topic.

The Threshold Effect: An Investigation into College Students' Recognition of Eating Disorder Severity

By Hai Yen (Amy) Do, Grace Jorgenson, Kei Macdonald, Christof Marti, and Aviv Milner, under Dr. Kyle Gooderham's orientation

Langara College

Binge Eating Disorder (BED) is a prevalent yet under-studied issue in mental health literacy (MHL) among college students. This study at Langara College investigated how students differentiate between clinical and subclinical BED and the influence of gender portrayal in vignettes. A total of 103 participants were randomly divided into four groups and exposed to two sequential vignettes depicting either clinical or subclinical BED, featuring female or male characters. The findings highlight a gendered perception in recognizing BED, suggesting an oversight of male BED identification and potential gaps in help-seeking strategies for females.

Understanding Issues Facing Older Lesbians: Sexual Orientation Concealment and the Erosion of Lesbian Authenticity

By Lynsie Beaulieu, under Dr. Martha Dow's orientation
University of the Fraser Valley

The central objective of this study is to better understand the experiences of older lesbians who have experienced sexual identity concealment, the effects that had on their intrinsic aspirations for honesty, and the misalignment with their desire for connection and intimacy. It will do so by gaining insight into minority stressors, fears, and harm that are unique to women who have concealed their sexual identity and, therefore, had to navigate their identity and how they relate to honesty. My proposed study will contribute to a scarcity of literature examining the lived experiences of older lesbians and sexual identity concealment.

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By Miranda Erickson
University of the Fraser Valley

The current study is interested in exploring the relationship between online claimsmaking and health outcomes, particularly as informed by social determinants of health. The study is currently in progress and preliminary results will be available at the time of presenting. The broad scope of interest in the proposed study covers how people acquire, learn about, and spread information related to social determinants of health (SDH) (Braveman and Gottlieb, 2014) and

how those shape in-/out-grouping, mobilisation, knowledge construction, and civic engagement. Further, as "shifting morals" becomes a more common tactic in "moral framing networks" with the intent of become more relevant or compelling to certain groups (Flores-Yeffal, 2022), understanding how boundaries change as in-groups further polarise in anticipation of homogeneity of associated demographics of identity is crucial to combatting the weaponization of identities within and surrounding social movements.