Spring Semester 2020

01/15 – Social Resilience Job Candidate Discussion 1
01/22 – STUDENTS ONLY: Lunch with Job Candidate (12:15-1:30, MUEN E214)
01/29 – STUDENTS ONLY: Lunch with Job Candidate (12:15-1:30, MUEN E214)
02/05 – Social Resilience Job Candidate Discussion 2
02/12 – Balbir Singh:

Focusing on Predictive Cues: An Alternate Way to Reduce Bias

Previous efforts to reduce bias by directing attention away from cues like race, gender, or attractiveness do not work/persist. In two selection tasks, we sought to reduce bias by focusing attention on the predictive information. Although decision accuracy increased, the errors that did occur were still biased by attractiveness.

02/19 – Brittany Tokasey:

The Effect of Performed Femininity on Perceptions of Women’s Scientificness

The fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are stereotypically associated with men, and previous research has found that women are judged as being less likely to be scientists the more feminine they appear (Banchefsky, Westfall, Park, & Judd, 2016). Across two studies, we investigated the role of performed femininity – or the changeable aspects of one’s appearance that are associated with femininity – in this relationship by asking participants about photos of the same target women when they were high and when they were low in performed femininity. In Experiment 1, we found that women were perceived as less scientific when they were high, rather than low, in performed femininity. This effect held after controlling for how feminine the women’s facial features were. In Experiment 2, we investigated the process through which performed femininity may have had this effect on perceived scientificness. Results showed that performed femininity is a visual feature that impacts perceptions of scientificness over and above how quickly women activate their gender category. This research emphasizes the benefit of considering the information that visual features, particularly ones that are more controllable, can tell us about perceptions of women’s scientificness.

02/26 – No Meeting: SPSP (New Orleans, LA)
03/04 – Alex Flores:

Partisan Prosociality

Political cues are both highly prevalent and emotionally evocative; they are therefore potential distractors in the context of humanitarian decision-making. In this study, I examine whether partisan framing influences willingness to persist at a tedious task to benefit an international humanitarian charity; then, whether participants expect partisan framing to influence their own and others’ willingness to work at that same task. Results indicate that participants were not sensitive to partisan cues when deciding how much effort to contribute to a charitable task.
However, participants predicted that both they and others would yield less effort in the charitable task if it were sponsored by a counter-partisan organization, compared with a co-partisan organization. This constitutes a mismatch between expected and actual impact of partisan information on charitable behavior. The implications of this mismatch for intergroup cooperation in the prosocial domain are discussed, as well as potential future directions.

03/11 – Chris Mellinger:

*Examining Convergent Validity of Implicit Measures*

The idea of implicit bias has pervaded both social psychology research and lay conceptions of prejudice. However, the measures used to assess implicit bias have not shown convincing evidence of convergent validity. I present three studies where I attempt to manipulate factors affecting the convergent validity of implicit measures. I find only one scenario where convergent validity reliably emerges: political attitudes that are personally important to participants. I argue that we should not rely on the typical conception of implicit bias since the measures used to assess it (and define it) are unreliable.

03/18 – Charleen Gust - CANCELLED

03/25 – No Meeting: Spring Break

04/01 – Lena Wadsworth - CANCELLED

04/08 – Laurel Gibson:

*The New Runner’s High? Acute effects of ad libitum cannabis use on the affective experience of cardiovascular exercise*

The shifting policy, legal, and cultural landscape surrounding cannabis use in the United States has led to increased concern regarding public health risks associated with cannabis use. Previous studies have suggested that individuals may use cannabis concurrently with exercise, however, there is a paucity of research examining the risks and benefits associated with cannabis use in the context of exercise. Using a 2 (between: THC vs. CBD strain) x 2 (within: cannabis vs. non-cannabis exercise session) mixed design, the present study will investigate the acute effects of two widely available cannabis strains on responses to exercise in a laboratory environment. It is hypothesized that using cannabis, as compared to not using cannabis, prior to exercise will reduce perceived exertion (RPE) and pain, and increase positive affect and enjoyment, during an exercise bout. In addition, it is hypothesized that using a THC-dominant cannabis product, as compared to a CBD-dominant cannabis product, prior to exercise will reduce RPE and pain, and increase feelings of positive affect and enjoyment, during an exercise bout. 52 participants will be recruited for this study. Participants will engage in two laboratory sessions, each involving a 30 minute bout of supervised moderate-intensity exercise. Participants will be asked to self-administer one of two legal market cannabis flower strains (THC-dominant: 24% THC, 1% CBD; CBD-dominant: 1% THC; 23% CBD) immediately before one of their two laboratory sessions. RPE, pain, affect, and enjoyment will be assessed at four time points throughout each exercise bout. Predicted results and public health implications will be discussed.
Effects of attention on intertemporal choice

Everyday decisions (e.g., deciding how much to save for retirement, or whether or not to support environmental policies) frequently involve tradeoffs between immediate and delayed rewards. When considering such tradeoffs, people tend to discount future outcomes, often preferring smaller sooner (SS, e.g., receiving $75 now) rewards over larger later (LL, e.g., receiving $90 in three months) rewards. When making intertemporal tradeoffs people also exhibit an attentional asymmetry, whereby they attend preferentially to immediate rewards over future rewards—a tendency that is associated with higher rates of future discounting. In this research, we examined whether attentional allocation plays a causal role in intertemporal decision-making. Specifically, we hypothesized that shifting people’s attention towards future outcomes (and away from immediate outcomes) would lead to higher valuations of LL rewards. Across three experiments (N = 985) Participants made intertemporal choices involving monetary and environmental rewards (e.g., improvements in air quality). Throughout these studies, participants who were cued to visually attend primarily to future rewards discounted future rewards less than participants who were cued towards immediate rewards and those who were not cued towards either reward (the latter two groups did not differ). These results suggest that attention predictably shapes intertemporal decision-making. Additionally, these findings suggest that interventions and design features that orient attention towards delayed outcomes may serve to foster future-focused behavior.

Does attention influence trust behavior?

How do people decide who to trust? Because visual attention has been shown to increase emotional intensity (Mrkva, Westfall, & Van Boven, 2019) and prioritization of resource allocation (Mrkva & Van Boven, 2017), we hypothesized that visual attention may play a key role in adaptively regulating trust decisions in partner choice contexts. Across two experiments (N = 320) subjects completed a dual-task experiment in which they chose one of two “players” to trust with $1.00 in a forced-choice trust game. The $1.00 was multiplied by 4 and given to the chosen player to subsequently decide how much of the $4.00 to return. The two players were represented by photos of subjects taken from an earlier study, displayed on either side of the screen. Before deciding who to trust, we cued visual attention to one of the players as part of an ostensibly unrelated information processing task. In study one, as predicted, participants were more likely to trust cued players (52%) over uncued players (48%), OR=1.12, p=.018. A replication is currently underway. These results suggest that attention can increase trust and may play an important role in establishing social relationships.
**Fall Semester 2019**

08/28 – Welcome: Introductions & Professional Issues

09/04 – STUDENTS ONLY: Tim Curran – Director of Graduate Education

09/11 – Lawrence Williams, CU Leeds School of Business:

*Meaning and Money Don’t Mix: The Link Between Meaningful Consumption and Frugality*

The pursuit of meaning is associated with a desire for self-growth and a belief that larger investments will provide longer-lasting benefits. One might expect, then, that pursuing meaning promotes the choice of higher-quality products. In contrast, 6 experiments reveal that people who are induced to pursue meaning (vs. pleasure) are more inclined towards less expensive, lower-quality options. This effect occurs because the pursuit of meaning increases people’s focus on alternative uses for their money, time, and energy. Hence, there is a disconnect between what people believe brings them meaning in consumption and what they choose to create meaningful consumption.

09/18 – STUDENTS ONLY: Professional Development - Reviewing for Psychological Science

09/25 – Michael Breed, CU Ecology and Evolutionary Biology:

*Biological Perspectives on the Evolution of Social Behavior*

Most evolutionary analyses of cooperation focus on the fitness costs and benefits of participating in cooperative relationships. Generally speaking, cooperation can be divided between that which occurs in family (or extended family) groups in which the balance between cost and benefit can be analyzed by assessing indirect components of fitness. Kin selection is the most common articulation of an evolutionary mechanism that drives cooperation within extended families or neighborhoods of genealogically connected animals. However, kin selection has been criticized on a variety of bases and alternative models, such as reciprocal altruism, dominance, or even group selection may also play a role in the evolution of cooperation in families. Cooperation among unrelated individuals can often be interpreted using selfish herd models. The concept of public and private information helps to understand the evolution of cooperation, as publicly broadcasted signals, such as alarm calls, may impact both related and unrelated animals. Privately held information, such as food and nest locations, can often lead to deception to either hide such information or to discover the privately held information of other animals. Groups of animals may appear to be cooperating when in fact they are held together by exploitative strategies centered on obtaining information. These models can be used to interpret the behavior of animals which apprehend information and act based on cognitive processes (theory of mind, for example) or of animals whose behavior is thought to be more strongly canalized through genetics.

10/02 – Michael Ranney, UC Berkeley (CU Sabbatical in Spring):

*Six Experimentally Vetted Ways to Quickly Reduce Denial of Human-Caused Global Warming (Without Polarization)*
Virtually no Americans (i.e., under .5%) can accurately explain global warming’s basic mechanism in a few sentences—or even at a 13-word haiku level (which will be presented). A few “stasis” researchers mistakenly believe that (e.g., scientific) information cannot yield more normative climate change attitudes. Ranney et al. (e.g., 2019) repeatedly disconfirmed this myth, because experiments replicably show that our growing handful of short (1-10 minute) climate change interventions rather durably increase (e.g., mechanistic) global warming understandings and climate change acceptance. (Ranney & Clark, 2016, and Ranney et al, 2016, offer additional details.) The interventions increase recipients’ acceptance that climate change is both occurring and anthropogenic—even upon nine-day and one-month post-tests. Conservatives and liberals alike show such gains, exhibiting no polarization. Stimuli include (1) texts (under 600 words), (2) videos (under 5 minutes’ duration), (3) climate statistics (e.g., about global warming’s observed effects), (4) statistics reducing one’s nationalism, (5) sea-level-rise information, and (6) graphs contrasting financial stocks with global warming (e.g., temperatures since 1880). “Consumer-Reports-type” data show which interventions more efficiently reduce global warming denial. Finally, I discuss HowGlobalWarmingWorks.org—our website for directly enhancing public “climate change cognition,” which provides many of our interventions (in full or in part).

10/09 – Brooke Carter: Preparing an Industry Resume

10/16 – STUDENTS ONLY: Professional Development - Reviewing & Creating a JPSP (also - Person Memory & SESP: Toronto, ON, CA)

10/23 – Karl Hill: Prevention Science: A Discussion of Program and Career Opportunities (also - NSF GRF Due on 10/24: https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/important_dates)

10/30 – Jenny Cole:

*What makes for effective interventions on pro-environmental behavior?*

The theory of wise interventions describes how behavior change interventions are successful when they target the stories that people tell themselves about their self, others, and their situations. Such interventions make lasting differences in behavior by targeting recursive, self-reinforcing processes. However, in the field of environmental behavior change, interventions that target environmental identity, i.e. the stories people tell themselves about their relationships to the environment, are no more likely to lead to positive behavioral spillover than other interventions on pro-environmental behavior. Why? Three potential explanations and methods to empirically test these explanations will be discussed.

11/06 – Courtney A. Rocheleau: Life as an Academic @ Metropolitan State University of Denver

11/13 – Chad Danyluck:

*Improving Interpersonal Interactions and their Outcomes in Diverse Societies*

Interpersonal relationships are an important predictor of health and well-being: People who have stronger relationships survive longer than those who do not and this is true of both close interpersonal relationships with family and friends and of social cohesion within our broader neighborhoods. Despite the importance of interpersonal relationships, they can be challenging
to navigate in our day-to-day lives and this is particularly true in diverse societies where group differences can give rise to discrimination and conflict. In this talk, I will review studies that combine psychological and psychophysiological methods to demonstrate how interpersonal interactions and interpersonal processes promote or detract from wellbeing in Indigenous people and in other social groups. The first part of this talk will show (i) that the relationship between interpersonal discrimination exposure and Indigenous mental health may depend on one’s age at the time of exposure and (ii) that individual differences in mental health can modify how Indigenous people respond physiologically to a discriminatory stressor. The second part of this talk will reveal the role that shared physiological processes can play in contributing to successful interpersonal relationships. Together, this work gives rise to new directions for the study of interpersonal discrimination and Indigenous mental health by underscoring the important role that interpersonal interactions and relationships might play in promoting and detracting from wellbeing in Indigenous communities.

11/20 – Miriam Clayton:

*Fatherhood Role Models, Parenting Intentions, and Expansive Masculinity*

Although gender roles and stereotypes have shifted as women have increasingly participated in the workforce, men remain underrepresented in “feminine” tasks such as childcare, and stereotypes of masculinity are more restrictive, and have shifted less, than stereotypes of femininity. Men’s engagement in non-traditionally masculine roles may be made difficult by various social and psychological barriers. The first half of this talk focuses on two studies which examine one barrier, a dearth of social role models, to test whether exposure to social role models of involved fatherhood can change expectations of future fatherhood caregiving among young adults. Results found role models did not change men’s paternal caregiving intentions or women’s expectations of their partners, but may influence perceived social norms. The second half of this talk will focus on a proposed theoretical model to explain individual differences in expansive masculinity more broadly.

11/27 – No Meeting: Fall Break

12/04 – Tiffany Ito: Social Resilience Job Search Update

12/11 – Final Meeting: Semester Recap