UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
PRESENTS

UWA
HONOURS
CONFERENCE
2015

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
## UWA Honours Conference 2015 – Session Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Bayliss G33</th>
<th>Tattersall LT</th>
<th>Wilsmore LT</th>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
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<td><strong>Opening Ceremony (Bayliss Foyer)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Closing and Best Presentation Award (Wilsmore LT)</strong></td>
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**Venues:**
- **Tattersall Lecture Theatre (LT)** is adjacent to the Bayliss Foyer, on the right.
- **Wilsmore Lecture Theatre (LT)** is adjacent the Bayliss Foyer, on the left.
- **G.33 Bayliss** is on the right entrance of the Bayliss building.
# UWA Honours Conference 2015 - Speaker Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Bayliss G33</th>
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<td>Opening Ceremony (Bayliss Foyer)</td>
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<td>8:15 AM</td>
<td>Matthew Andreotta</td>
<td>Emma Kitching</td>
<td>Georgia Jane Hay</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Annabel Ivy Price</td>
<td>Pamika Reynolds</td>
<td>Charlotte Louise Pugh</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Grace Ella McKie</td>
<td>Christina Carolyn Panos</td>
<td>Kelsey Paige Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>Marianne Simone Campbell</td>
<td>Michael Adrian Mancinone</td>
<td>Anupama Avinash Bharadwaj</td>
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<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Sonya Elisabeth Branson</td>
<td>Ethan Reed</td>
<td>Ying Ting Mabel Chin</td>
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<td>9:45 AM</td>
<td>Gabrielle Jennifer Bliffin</td>
<td>Melissa Olwyn Evans</td>
<td>Xin Yi Jane Chong</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Khai Yan Carmen Yeoh</td>
<td>Tiarn Dale Burtenshaw</td>
<td>Aleksandra Karolina Gozt</td>
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<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>Emma Patricia Gonzalez</td>
<td>Matthew Stephen Kay</td>
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<td>Juhi Sanghavi</td>
<td>Junxian Ryan Ho</td>
<td>Monica Rose Leslie</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Tony Doan</td>
<td>Lauren Rebecca Proud</td>
<td>Sarah Rose Trozzo</td>
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<td>Jessica Finn Henderson</td>
<td>Kelly Roman</td>
<td>Rachel Shoba Thomas</td>
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<td>Toni Louise Woolhead</td>
<td>Monica Rose Tatasciore</td>
<td>Gabriella Adeline</td>
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<td>Marton Frank Kocsis</td>
<td>Sarah Lin</td>
<td>Gemma Yvonne Patton</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Pascale Peretti</td>
<td>Joshua Harrison Clint Smith</td>
<td>Megan Elisabeth Knyn</td>
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<td>Kipling Rowan Walker</td>
<td>Yun Ning Tessa Margaret Ong</td>
<td>Andrew John Ball</td>
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<td>Philippe James Kilpatrick</td>
<td>Veronica Ye</td>
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<td>Sofie Emma Lazdins</td>
<td>Amy Rebecca Roper</td>
<td>Dielle Patrice Corcoran Horne</td>
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<td>Kristi Joanne Aitken</td>
<td>India Scott Kells-Foreman</td>
<td>Katie Laurene Bell</td>
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<td>Michael John Kyron</td>
<td>Hannah Mary Courtaud</td>
<td>Matthew Bruce Herbert</td>
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<td>Marie Jinny Collet</td>
<td>Caitlin Brooke Noye</td>
<td>Alyssa Louise Baker</td>
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<td>Candice Burden</td>
<td>Amy Kalantary</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Sarah Ellison</td>
<td>Jack Andrew Bonner</td>
<td>Breanna Jane Kidd</td>
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<td>Lisa Nerada Matthews</td>
<td>Mahesh Shankaralingam</td>
<td>Louise Katherine May Ford</td>
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<td>Melissa Nicole Legendre</td>
<td>Laura Marie Martin</td>
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<td>Claudia Stebbing</td>
<td>Ashton Jay Roberts</td>
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## Session Chairs

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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 10:30</td>
<td>Matthew Andreotta</td>
<td>Emma Kitching</td>
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<td>Juhi Sanghavi</td>
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<td>Claudia Stebbing</td>
<td>Amy Rebecca Roper</td>
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The Psychology of Snoring

Keynote Address — 4:15pm

Presented by Associate Professor Romola Bucks

Currently Associate Professor at the School of Psychology, University of Western Australia, Romola obtained her qualification in Clinical Psychology at the University of Birmingham, UK, in 1991, before specializing in Clinical Neuropsychology. Romola is registered with the Psychology Board of Australia as a Registered Psychologist with an Area of Practice Endorsement in Clinical Psychology. Between 1993 and 2001, Romola was manager of the Bristol Memory Disorders Clinic and Research Centre, University of Bristol: a tertiary referral centre for the diagnosis and management of dementia, and research into diagnosis and treatment. During this time, she undertook her PhD, which was awarded in 1999.

Romola is a distinguished clinical researcher with skills in clinical research design and implementation, statistical analysis and research translation. As a CI, she has been awarded $4.1M in competitive research funding and published 85+ peer-reviewed journal articles, an edited text, 3 book chapters, and 2 neuropsychological tests. The focus of Romola’s research is on identifying risk factors for cognitive impairment and degenerative conditions, and in cognitive test development. In particular, she has expertise in sleep disorders, Type 2 diabetes, and depression. She has also written on Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, vascular dementia, Lewy body disease, and anxiety.

Romola is a passionate teacher, contributing at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels on topics such as research methods, ageing, dementia, and sleep disorders. She was Director of Postgraduate Training in Clinical Psychology at UWA (2012-2014). Romola has an excellent track record as a mentor and leader having supervised 46 postgraduate students (7 PhDs, 1 DPsych (HDR-Level 10), 27 DPsychs (Level 9), 8 MSc/MPhil, and 3 MPsych) and 23 Undergraduate Honours students to successful completion. Her ongoing postgraduate supervision includes 16 PhD and 1 MPhil student.
### Mental Models of Climate Change: Using Analogies to Improve our Predictions of the Future

**Matthew Andreotta — Mark Hurlstone**  
**8:30 – 8:45am**

Mental models are cognitive representations of external reality, which underpin our understanding of the world and its future. Several studies indicate our mental models of climate change are limited, especially concerning predictions of the future. Even in systems with simple climate change dynamics, people fail to accurately predict system behaviour. Analogies have been used to improve the accuracy of people’s predictions of simple climate change systems. However, the effectiveness of analogies has not yet been investigated in more complicated systems. This talk presents research which investigates the effectiveness of analogies for a more complex system, a system of population, economic activity, and climate change. Analogies did not appear to impact performance. Explanations and implications of this finding are discussed.

### Manipulating Spatial Bias in Individuals with High Autistic-like Traits with Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation

**Emma Kitching — Troy Visser**  
**8:30 – 8:45am**

Neurotypical individuals demonstrate a leftward visual bias (LVB), attending preferentially to objects presented in the left visual hemifield. Previous findings indicate a significant reduction in LVB among individuals that score highly on measures of autistic-like traits. It is suggested that this reduction may be linked to a relative reduction in right hemisphere activity. To examine this suggestion, the current study used transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) to manipulate LVB in a sample of individuals with low and high autistic-like traits. Preliminary results indicate anodal tDCS over the right post-parietal cortex significantly increases LVB, as measured using a greyscale task. Direction for future research will be discussed in terms of how these results relate to the current literature concerning attentional abnormalities in autism.

### Speaking out about speaking up: It’s an image thing

**Georgia Hay — Sharon Parker**  
**8:30 – 8:45am**

Proactive voice or ‘speaking up’ is imperative to innovation and thus success in the dynamic modern workplace (Crant, 2000). The extensive investigation of the antecedents of voice has uncovered much about the role that managerial behaviours play in creating climates that invite voice or, conversely, that engender silence. However, Milliken et al. (2003) found that the most frequently mentioned reason for silence was the fear of being viewed or labelled negatively, and the belief that this would lead to damaging valued relationships – yet we know nothing about the reality of these interpersonal risks. Despite being an inherently social construct both in motivation and in action, scant research attention has been dedicated to investigating interpersonal variables outside the manager-employee relationship in order to facilitate voice. The current study aimed to discern how colleagues perceive the warmth and competence of a teammate who speaks up to the leader of their team, and on which variables these perceptions may depend. Implications for the facilitation of voice and future research will be discussed.
### Intergenerational Discounting and Affinity: Enhancing Cooperation in the Climate Game

**Annabel Price — Mark Hurlstone**  
**8:45 – 9:00 am**

Climate change is a global problem, and solving it requires global cooperation. Yet after two decades of international negotiations, players in this ‘climate game’ have failed to agree on an effective climate treaty. This study explored intergenerational discounting as a key barrier to cooperation in the climate game, along with the effectiveness of intergenerational affinity as a tool to facilitating cooperation. Groups of six players (N = 180) participated in a collective-risk experiment, with the task of cooperating to avert dangerous climate change. Cooperation earned benefits for the players themselves (control condition) or future generations (discounting and affinity conditions). Participants in the affinity condition read persuasive messages designed to enhance affinity with future generations. Cooperation was highest in control groups and lower in discounting groups, but exposure to persuasive messages helped restore cooperation in affinity groups. Results have implications for enhancing cooperation at the forthcoming U.N. Climate Conference in Paris.

### Multimodal Integration of Emotion: The Stroop Method Applied to High and Low Autism Quotient Individuals

**Pamika Reynolds — Murray Maybery and Nigel Chen**  
**8:45 – 9:00 am**

Consistent with the connectivity hypothesis (Brock et al., 2002), atypical integration of multimodal emotional information may be responsible for the social and emotional impairments observed in Autism Spectrum Disorder. This study compared individuals with high levels of autistic-like traits to individuals with low levels of autistic-like traits, in order to determine if there are any differences in multimodal integration between the two groups. This was achieved by presenting emotional auditory and visual information alone (as a baseline condition), or together (congruently and incongruently). The results from this study suggest that a limitation in cross-modal integration is not linked to high levels of non-clinical autistic-like traits. Additionally, our results provide evidence for a typical happy face advantage across groups. Future research should investigate whether these results can be replicated when comparing clinical and non-clinical samples.

### The Longevity of Gaze Direction Aftereffects

**Charlotte Pugh — Nadine Kloth**  
**8:45 – 9:00 am**

Gaze direction is a fundamentally important social signal in the face. It can provide real-time insight into another person’s attentional state. Repeated exposure (adaptation) to faces with averted gaze induces perceptual aftereffects, i.e. biases to perceive gaze in the adapted direction as direct. Previous research used repeated testing phases to measure the persistence of this aftereffect, finding it lasted almost seven minutes. However, recent evidence suggests that such repeated testing might accelerate aftereffect decay. The current study measures how both time since adaptation and the number of preceding testing phases affect the presence of an aftereffect in any given phase. Participants were assigned to one of four groups, each with a different delay between adaptation and the first of six evenly-spaced post-adaptation phases. Results indicate that across the four groups, aftereffects remained significant until the third testing phase. The delay between adaptation and the initial test phase had no effect.
The prevention of pest species, such as Mediterranean fruit fly costs Australian horticulture millions of dollars annually in sprays and lost production. The successful control of pests requires active participation and cooperation amongst farmers. This study explores how between-players communication and the risk of pest-outbreaks influence the likelihood of cooperation in a biosecurity game. Participants decide whether or not to take costly pest management action by contributing towards the prevention of pest incursions. It was anticipated that: (i) during high outbreak-threats, the risk of personal economic losses would spur cooperation, regardless of the opportunity for between-players communication; (ii) conversely, cooperation would deteriorate under low outbreak-risks due to loss aversion and social uncertainty, with communication ameliorating cooperation under these circumstances. Results revealed that communication prompted significantly greater cooperation during both low- and high-outbreaks. The introduction of coordination mechanisms which facilitate better communication and bio-securing action amongst farmers is thus recommended.

The current study investigated two theoretical accounts that link position on the autism spectrum with the degree to which cognition displays a sex-typical pattern. The Extreme Male Brain theory proposes that higher prenatal testosterone exposure results in a more masculine cognitive profile that is typical in those with higher levels of autistic traits. Alternatively, the androgyny theory suggests that those with higher levels of autistic traits typically have an androgynous cognitive profile. First year university students were selected for high, medium or low levels of autistic traits, and their performance was compared on four cognitive tasks, two that typically favour males and two that favour females. ANOVAs conducted on the cognitive data yielded significant main effects for sex, but no significant main effects for AQ group or interactions. A correlation analysis conducted between salivary testosterone levels, 2D:4D ratio (purportedly an indirect measure of prenatal testosterone exposure), and cognitive performance yielded no significant relationships. Thus no evidence was found to favour one theory over the other.

We know that in personnel selection settings some personality traits of candidates are seen as more desirable than others. However, is it always the case that the higher levels of these ‘desirable’ traits are better than lower levels? Further, does the sex of a candidate affect the perceived desirability of different trait-levels? This study aimed to answer these questions by investigating the perceived desirability of candidates to a Chief Executive role, on the basis of their standings on a range of personality traits, with the moderating role of gender. Participants were provided with a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) job description and were randomly assigned to think about the desirability of either a Male Applicant or Female Applicant to this position. Participants rated how desirable they believed the job candidate was for the CEO position, based on the candidate’s standing on a range of different personality traits (very low through to very high). A number of hypotheses were presented with the expectation that having more of a trait is not always perceived as better. The study employed a mixed design ANOVA with one randomised between groups factor: (Male Applicant vs. Female Applicant) and two repeated measures factors: 24 personality traits (Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, eXtraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience) and 5 traits-levels (Extremely low, Below the average, About average, Above average, Extremely high). Significant Main Effects for all 24-personality traits were found and three significant Interactions between Trait-Level Percentile and Job Applicant Gender were observed for Sincerity, Patience and Perfectionism. Implications of the research project may give insight into how organisations regard their candidates.
### Building pro-climate attitudes by priming consensus and trust in science

**9:15 – 9:30am**

Marianne Campbell — Mark Hurlstone

Over 97% of climate scientists agree that climate change is the result of human CO2 emissions, yet many Australians do not share this view. One reason for this difference is the provision of misinformation by vested interest groups. However, explicit attempts to correct this misinformation often fail. The aim of the current study is to determine whether an implicit measure — priming — can increase pro-climate attitudes. Participants (N=535) received either: (1) a verbal passage describing the role of vested interest groups in contesting a scientific consensus in other domains, (2) a verbal passage describing beneficial scientific developments, (3) the same passage as (1) with an additional passage explicitly linking the information to climate change, (4) the same passage as (2) with an additional passage explicitly linking the information to climate change or (5) no passage (control). Results and their implications for climate change communication are discussed.

### Androgyny or Masculinity -- The Gendered Presentation of Elevated Testosterone in Autism

**9:15 – 9:30am**

Michael Mancinone — Murray Maybery

Elevated pre-natal testosterone has been associated with the development of autistic traits. The gendered presentation of this association differentiates two accounts of Autism: the Hyper-Masculinization and Androgyny Accounts. Elevated testosterone is also linked to the masculinization of vocal characteristics. The current study aimed to investigate the aforementioned accounts of Autism by testing whether higher autistic traits were associated with more masculine or androgynous vocal characteristics. 161 undergraduates who received high, medium, or low scores on the Autism-Quotient (AQ) were measured for pre-natal and circulatory testosterone levels. Their voices were recorded and analysed digitally and subjectively for masculinity or femininity according to gender. No significant differences in masculinity or femininity between AQ groups were found for either digital or subjective analyses. Potential explanations are discussed.

### Does desirability drive deception? A study on job desirability as a motivator of applicant faking behavior on personality questionnaires

**9:15 – 9:30am**

Anupama Bharadwaj — Patrick Dunlop

This study investigated faking behavior on personality assessment in simulated high-stakes situations using a contemporary adaptation of Vroom’s (1964) valence-instrumentality-expectancy theory of motivation. The focus was on Valence, which was manipulated by levels of job desirability. 94 participants completed the HEXACO Personality Inventory under two instruction sets, Respond Honest (where they were asked to respond to items honestly) and Job Application (where they were asked to respond to items as part of a job application process). In the Job Application condition, participants were randomly assigned to either High or Low stakes job-seeking situations. The hypothesis that participants in high stakes situations would fake their questionnaire responses to a greater extent than those in the low-stakes situations was partially supported. Job desirability only affected faking behavior for the Emotionality trait and the effect size was quite small (hp²=.03). These findings indicate that other factors in VIE theory have a significant role to play.
Anxious individuals display a greater tendency to attend to threat-related stimuli. Research has shown that this attentional bias (AB) causally impacts changes in anxiety vulnerability. Some studies indicate that attentional bias modification (ABM) paradigms have been able to successfully induce a change in AB, as well as reduce subsequent anxiety vulnerability to a stressor. However, reliably achieving this intended bias change has proven difficult. Given its therapeutic potential, it is important to understand task conditions that are most likely to facilitate bias change. The present study aimed to empirically determine if implementing a cognitive load during ABM rendered ABM training more or less effective. 111 undergraduates completed ABM under conditions of load and no load. It was found that there was a greater evidence of training under load than no load. These findings are discussed in light of maximizing therapeutic benefits of ABM in clinical settings and optimizing generalizability of training effects to real-world settings.

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) experience difficulty in social situations due to deficits in the cognitive processes required for social interaction. Research suggests that the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) is implicated in basic social cognition including emotion recognition. Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) is an intervention aimed at improving cognitive processes by increasing cortical excitability. This study aimed to investigate the acute effect of tDCS administration on emotion recognition in young adults high in autism spectrum traits. Results revealed that, while the two groups did not differ in accuracy of emotion recognition, the active tDCS group were significantly faster to perform decisions. This suggests that the active group was able to maintain accuracy of emotion recognition, but with reduced response latency. This finding provides initial support for the use of tDCS as an intervention aimed at improving emotion recognition for young adults with ASD.

The maritime industry is considered one of the main sources of revenue in Australia. A recent meta-analysis by Nahrgang, Morgeson, and Hofmann (2011) presented how job demands (JD) and resources (JR) can impact safety outcomes. Given that, we employed the framework of the JD-R model to investigate how exhaustion and engagement mediates the effect of job demands and resources on safety performance in the maritime context. The results showed a significant relationship between JD and exhaustion (chronic fatigue) and JR and engagement (emotional engagement) and because there was no significant relationship between the mediators and variables, we could not conduct a mediation regression. Hence, we decided to explore how well these mechanisms can predict safety performance through multiple regression analyses and cognitive engagement appeared to be the best predictor. Implications for future research are discussed, particularly the importance of additional research to expand our understanding of safety performance.
### Attention bias and resilience to life's experiences

**Bayliss**  
**G33**  
**Gabrielle Biffin**  
9:45 – 10:00am

After a negative event, many people have spontaneous intrusive memories of the event, and measuring these can provide an index of distress or resilience. People with a negative attentional bias in particular may suffer from intrusive memories after a negative event. We investigated whether paying less attention to negative stimuli can make people more resilient to bad experiences. We used novel video stimuli (instead of images) in a modification of the dot-probe task; this may be a methodological advancement as videos allow measurements while memories are being made.

### Is place on the autism spectrum linked to characteristics of the face?

**Tattersall**  
**LT**  
**Melissa Evans — Murray Maybery**  
9:45 – 10:00am

The Extreme Male Brain (EMB) theory and the androgyny account carry conflicting predictions as to the facial features of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Under the EMB theory, males and females with high levels of autistic-like traits are predicted to display more masculinised (or defeminised) features than those with low levels. However, consistent with the alternative account, Bejerot et al. (2012) reported that individuals with ASD were more androgynous in several aspects of their appearance compared to controls. One hundred and sixty-two participants with low, medium or high levels of autistic-like traits had three-dimensional photographs of their faces taken and their testosterone levels measured. The faces were rated for their respective masculinity (if male) or femininity (if female) and six sexually-dimorphic facial distances were measured. The facial distances were found to differentiate male and female facial characteristics, but no clear differences in face morphology were linked to levels of autistic-like traits. The results show some support for the EMB theory.

### Choice matters! Implications of autonomous dependence on task performance, ego-depletion, and relatedness.

**Wilsmore**  
**LT**  
**Xin Yi Chong — Marylene Gagne**  
9:45 – 10:00am

This study explored the implications of autonomous dependence within an instructor-led activity. Past research have consistently found that autonomous motivation and autonomy support facilitate better self-regulation, vitality, and demand less energy resources. Autonomy support is also associated with better quality relationships between people involved. Our experimental study extended these findings by examining if autonomy support during the formative stages of a dependent relationship affects subsequent outcomes. Sixty-five students attended laboratory sessions designed to simulate an instructor-student setting for a balance task that required self-regulation. Results revealed that having autonomy in choosing to be guided, compared to having no choice to be guided, was associated with better task performance, less energy depletion, and increased feelings of relatedness towards the instructor. No effects were found for vitality. Taken together, these findings suggest that autonomously giving control to another individual has significant positive implications on performance and energetic resources for a self-regulating task.
### Anxiety-Linked Engagement and Disengagement Biases: Automatic and/or Strategic Information Processing?

Carmen Yeoh — Daniel Rudaisky

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High-trait anxiety individuals show an attentional bias (AB; heightened tendency to focus attention) towards negative information. Evidence that AB operates automatically are plentiful. Recently, two distinct facets of AB were found that contribute independently towards anxiety vulnerability: facilitated attentional engagement bias and impaired disengagement bias. This study examined whether strategic processing is differentially implicated in anxiety-linked engagement and disengagement biases. Sixty-two participants were tested using Attentional Response to Distal vs. Proximal Emotional Information Task (to independently assess engagement and disengagement biases) incorporated with different types of cognitive load (to assess information processing stages). As hypothesized, strategic processing was differentially implicated in anxiety-linked engagement and disengagement biases. The results, though non-significant, showed a strong trend for anxiety-linked engagement bias to involve strategic processing. Anxiety-linked disengagement bias involved automatic processing, but strategic processing would moderate the automatic effect when cognitive capacity was made available. Implications for anxiety-linked AB modification training were discussed.

### The role of iconicity in child communication: a study of novel sign creation in the gestural and vocal modalities

Tiarn Burtenshaw — Nicolas Fay

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Children usually take their first steps around 18 months of age. A developmental milestone preceded by months of practice. Around the same age, children begin to make sense of a complex language system with infinite possibilities, and they do so with ease. The present experimental study restricts the use of a conventional language and examines how children across three age categories; 6-7 years old, 8-9 years old and 10-12 years old, can create a novel communication system using gestures or non-linguistic vocalisations. Fifty-four children communicated 36 concepts (adjectives, nouns, verbs) to a video camera. The videos were given to adults who were asked to 1) guess the concept being communicated (i.e. Identification accuracy) and 2) rate the degree to which the child’s sign brings a referent to mind via physical resemblance (i.e. Iconicity). Overall we found that gesture was superior to vocalisations in terms of identification accuracy and iconicity. Across age categories, we found that as age increased so did identification accuracy. However, as age increased the iconicity of the sign decreased. This finding suggests children are better at creating communication systems using gesture, and the present study discusses why this is due to iconic signs.

### Investigating the stability of the WTAR in an ageing cohort and the neurological underpinnings associated with Phonetically Irregular Word Processing

Aleksandra Gozt — Michael Weinborn

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Tests of phonetically irregular word pronunciation (PIWP) ability are just one way in which premorbid intellectual functioning can be estimated. At present there are inconsistencies within the existing literature regarding the extent to which this form of crystallised intelligence remains stable in individuals affected by dementia and possible precursor conditions. These discrepant findings are often attributed to factors commonly encountered when studying individuals suffering from deteriorating conditions, such as Alzheimer’s disease, which include limited access to adequate sample sizes and missing data. The present study analysed data from N=210 elderly adults collected during the first 36 months of the ongoing Australian Imaging and Biomarker & Lifestyle Flagship Study of Ageing. Using repeated measures ANOVAs, in which the issue of missing data was addressed using two different approaches (namely, ‘last observation carried forward’ and ‘imputation’), it was found that conclusions that can be drawn regarding the stability of PIWP in individuals at different stages of the dementia spectrum are influenced by the different means of handling missing data. These results have implications for the use of the PIWP tests to generate valid estimates of premorbid intelligence in such clinical populations.
Bayliss
G33

Does valence sensitivity causally contribute to anxiety vulnerability?

Emma Gonzalez — Patrick Clarke

10:15 – 10:30 am

There are many ways to process the information in our environment. Some modes of processing have been related to higher trait anxiety. Previous research has indicated that Valence Sensitivity (VS), an individual’s propensity to code information in terms of its emotional, valence properties, rather than non-emotional properties, is significantly correlated with trait anxiety. Our study sought to examine the causal nature of this VS and anxiety relationship. Sixty undergraduate students, displaying mid-range trait anxiety, were randomly allocated to training or control conditions. To test the hypothesis that VS is causally related to anxiety, participants completed a novel VS modification task, which introduced a contingency making it beneficial to code stimuli in terms of valence (training condition) or the arbitrary non-emotional feature, gender (control). Our results indicated that our VS modification task was successful in modifying VS; however, this was not found to causally contribute to anxiety vulnerability. Implications of these results are discussed.

Tattersall
LT

“It’s all Greek to me”: Using an artificial language to test whether unpredictable grammars become predictable during social interaction

Matthew Kay — Nicolas Fay

10:15 – 10:30 am

Across historical timescales, languages tend to lose unpredictable grammatical structures and evolve towards predictable rules (Givón, 2013). This has been likened to Darwinian “natural selection”, in that “better” predictable grammars survive while “lesser” unpredictable grammars die off (Mufwene, 2001). Yet, how “natural selection” occurs at the linguistic level isn’t well understood. The present study used an artificial language to test the hypothesis that linguistic alignment during social interaction promotes the emergence of predictable grammars. We found that participants who were initially trained on different, unpredictable rules for a grammatical marker tended to align on a common, predictable rule when interacting in pairs. This occurred irrespective of whether pairs of participants received feedback on communicative success, supporting accounts that view alignment as a tacit rather than explicit phenomenon (Pickering & Garrod, 2004). Alignment did however slip when participants ceased interacting, suggesting that continual interactional reinforcement is needed to maintain common grammar rules.

Wilsmore
LT

10:15 – 10:30 am

N/A
Morning Tea
10:30 – 10:45am
Foyer, Bayliss Building
Effects of Misinformation under a Response Deadline

Bayliss
G33
Juhi Sanghavi — Ulrich Ecker
11:00 – 11:15am

Misinformation is information that is initially thought to be correct but is later found to be incorrect. People continue to rely on misinformation for reasoning and memory judgments, even after clear retractions. The dual-process account of misinformation assumes that reliance on misinformation persists when misinformation is automatically retrieved, and strategic retrieval processes fail to attenuate its influence. This study aims to test this assumption, using a response deadline procedure. Undergraduate students were given scenarios, some of which contained a retraction, and subsequently responded to a range of true and false statements targeting their understanding of the scenarios, including statements referring to retracted information (i.e., misinformation). Responses were given either under a response deadline or no response deadline. It was predicted that the response deadline will selectively interfere with strategic retrieval leading to a higher acceptance rate of retracted statements but not a reduced acceptance rate of non-retracted or valid statements that related to arbitrary information in the scenario. Experiment 1 did not support these predictions; Experiment 2, with a longer response deadline, found a marginal effect of response deadline for retracted statements but the same pattern was seen in the non-retracted and valid statements. The results provide some support for the dual-process account of misinformation but since response deadline effects were also seen for non-retracted and valid statements, there might be a general-restricting effect of the response deadline that cannot be ruled out.

Can I become a leader?

Tattersall
LT
Junxian Ryan Ho — Lena Wang
11:00 – 11:15am

Effective leaders are essential for an organization to sustain high performance and to manage changes necessary for organizational growth and survival. An estimated $50 billion dollars are invested by organizations into leader development programs annually, where “high potential” employees are enrolled in to develop leadership skills and ultimately emerge as effective leaders. However, researchers have acknowledged the immaturity of leadership potential assessment procedures and have called for further research. My study aimed to contribute to the literature by being the first study to examine the relationship between participants’ motivation to lead (MTL) and leadership emergence in a leader development context, and if voice behaviour mediated this relationship. The participants were 77 MBA students from the University of Western Australia, including 37 males and 40 females. The mean age was 35.66 years (SD = 7.19). Participants volunteered for the LAUNCH program, which is a four-session leader development program, and had to complete several self-report surveys at numerous time points. As hypothesized, the affective-identity and social-normative dimensions of MTL were positively associated with leadership emergence, while non-calculative MTL did not significantly predict leadership emergence. Contrary to expectations, voice behaviour did not have a mediating role. Limitations and implications are further discussed.

Exploring the Role of Obsessionality in Recovery from Anorexia: An Upward Spiral?

Wilsmore
LT
Monica Leslie — Sue Byrne
11:00 – 11:15am

The cognitive-interpersonal maintenance model of anorexia nervosa (AN) predicts that obsessionality maintains AN. The current study examined this relationship using data collected from the Strong Without Anorexia Nervosa study: a randomised controlled trial comparing the efficacy of three outpatient psychological treatments (Enhanced Cognitive Behavioural Therapy [CBT-E], the Maudsley Anorexia Nervosa Treatment for Adults [MANTRA], and Specialist Supportive Clinical Management [SSCM]). Participants were 120 adult outpatients with AN (95.8% female). Obsessionality was measured using the Vancouver Obsessional Compulsive Inventory (Thordarson et al., 2004). Eating disorder psychopathology was measured using the Eating Disorder Examination (Fairburn & Cooper, 1993). The current findings replicated those of Olatuji et al. (2010), revealing that reductions in obsessionality significantly mediated reductions in eating disorder psychopathology (indirect effect = -0.10, 95% CI [-0.19, -0.03], standardised indirect effect = -0.07). However, there was a greater indirect effect of time on obsessionality, as mediated by symptom remission (indirect effect = -2.26, 95% CI [-3.13, -1.58], standardised indirect effect = -0.21). These findings may reflect the existence of a reciprocal bidirectional relationship between changes in obsessionality and changes in eating disorder psychopathology. These findings have potential clinical implications, suggesting that it may be more effective to target the symptoms of eating disorders directly rather than targeting broad obsessionality tendencies. However, future research is required in order to ascertain the nature of directionality between obsessionality and eating disorder psychopathology.
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<th>Bayliss</th>
<th>I can't believe it's not misinformation! Pre-existing political attitudes and information processing</th>
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Misinformation - information that is initially valid but later retracted - can continue to influence people’s reasoning despite the retraction. Specifically, attitude-incongruent retractions are often ineffective and can even backfire. In the literature on political attitude effects on cognition, there are two contrasting positions; one notion is that intrinsic psychological peculiarities in politically conservative minds make biased processing more prevalent on the political right; the contrasting view is that biases defend one’s sociocultural worldview, occurring on either side of the political spectrum. The present study will explore whether attitudinal effects are symmetrical across the political spectrum. Participants with strong left v. right political attitudes will be presented with fictional scenarios suggesting misconduct in left-wing or right-wing politicians, before retracting that claim in one condition. An impact of attitude congruence on the effectiveness of the retraction is expected to occur in both groups, demonstrating the presence of attitude effects on both ends of the spectrum.

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<th>Inoculating against threats to autonomous exercise motivation</th>
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This study examined the efficacy of inoculation treatments in a new area, with the goal of using inoculation to protect autonomous motivation for sport. Students from UWA participated in an exercise class designed to threaten autonomous motivation for exercise. There were two inoculation groups and two control groups. Prior to the exercise class, an inoculation treatment was administered to two out of four of the groups. It was expected that the inoculation groups would have higher levels of autonomous motivation post-test than controls. Findings showed no difference between the groups in post-test motivation levels. At this stage, inoculation treatments do not appear to be superior to controls in protecting motivation. It is possible that the inoculation treatment was too strong in threat content, therefore reducing motivation levels. However, conclusions cannot be reached until further research is conducted, possibly changing inoculation message strengths to achieve greater protection against threat to motivation.

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<th>Stop feeding your emotions: the role of approach biases in comfort eating</th>
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Explanations for individual differences in the relationship between negative emotions and overeating are often contended. However, recent evidence suggests that processing biases may be crucial in helping us to understand this relationship. This study investigated if participants in a negative mood condition demonstrated avoidance biases to negative emotional information, and subsequent approach biases to food information, resulting in increased consumption. Using a series of computer-based tasks and a taste test as a measure of overall consumption, this study manipulated mood in a sample of university students. We investigated if individuals in a negative mood group would demonstrate an avoidance bias towards negative information, resulting in stronger approach biases to food images, thereby resulting in increased consumption. Results revealed that whilst we were able to successfully induce differential moods within participants, these differences did not predict higher levels of consumption, and neither group demonstrated significant biases to the images presented.
### Trust Me, That Didn’t Happen – The Effect of Face Trustworthiness on Retractions of Misinformation

Jessica Henderson — Ullrich Ecker

11:30 – 11:45am

Misinformation refers to a piece of information that is first thought to be true but is later pointed out to be false and is retracted. However, in spite of a retraction, people often continue to rely on the misinformation in their reasoning. One factor that has been found to affect the effectiveness of a retraction is trustworthiness of the retraction source. In previous research, source trustworthiness has been examined in relation to a source’s connection to an event in question. The current study aims to generalise these findings by looking at face trustworthiness and its influence on the effectiveness of a retraction. It is expected that retractions from faces high in trustworthiness will be more effective than retractions from low-trustworthy faces. This study will add to our current understanding of the interplay between cognitive and social factors that lead to misinformation effects.

### Is sport good for me? Motivation as a moderator of the relationship between intensity and positive affect

Kelly Roman — Marylene Gagne

11:30 – 11:45am

Physical activity is promised to promote physical and psychological health. However, not everyone enjoys physical activity nor participates willingly. Can it be assumed that everyone will gain psychological benefits, or do psychological variables matter too? This study used measures of motivation towards sport and daily diaries of sport participation and mood to find out whether motivation moderates the relationship between sports intensity and positive affect. Results partially supported the hypotheses.

### Anorexia Nervosa: Can we generalize the findings of the SWAN study?

Rachel Thomas — Sue Byrne

11:30 – 11:45am

Anorexia Nervosa (AN) is a severe disorder with long-term effects and there is limited research on how to best treat it. The Strong Without Anorexia Nervosa (SWAN) study addressed this via a multi-site randomised controlled trial comparing three psychological treatments. Results of the SWAN study will inform clinical decisions about the type of therapy best suited to AN patients. However, it must be demonstrated that these results are generalisable to all individuals with AN. The current study assessed the external validity of the SWAN study by comparing individuals who participated at the Perth site (N= 80) with eligible individuals who attended the same treatment centre during the same time-period, but chose not to participate in SWAN (N= 34) on measures including demographics, eating disorder symptomatology, general psychopathology, and treatment outcome. Results revealed no significant differences between groups on any of these variables thus, providing evidence of external validity for the SWAN study.
Studies of episodic memory have established a preference for remembering individual stimuli of high value at the expense of those at low value (Castel, Benjamin, Craik, & Watkins, 2002). A separate body of work indicates that recall in immediate free recall tasks proceeds between items presented close together (Kahana, 1996). This study aimed to examine how these separate constraints interact by investigating the prioritising role of incentives on structured information in memory. A modified immediate free recall task was used to investigate the influence of high- and low-valued stimuli upon partners in lists of paired items. Results regarding recall probability and recall order indicate that value prioritized recall for single items rather than groups. The results challenge Farrell’s (2012) model of episodic memory, in which ensembles of items are assumed to be recalled (or not) together. How these results resemble and differ to previous studies with unvalued stimuli is of interest for future research.

This study examined whether lowering speeding fine thresholds has a detrimental effect on driver attention and performance. In Experiment 1, speed range was manipulated by providing participants with an upper and lower limit to travel between. Driver performance was measured using a Peripheral Detection Task (PDT). Results showed that accuracy on the PDT was lower for the restricted speed condition than the generous condition, suggesting that restricting the speed range reduced hazard detection. To determine whether speed range restriction occurs when the speeding fine threshold is lowered, in Experiment 2 participants were only provided with an upper limit (a speed where speeding cameras triggered). Results showed a trend towards lower accuracy and slower reaction times on the PDT for the restricted condition compared to the generous condition, but this trend was not significant. Overall, lowering speeding fine thresholds has a detrimental effect on driver attention and performance when drivers have an upper and lower limit to travel between.
Converging evidence from research on memory and retrospective evaluation suggests that we use past experiences sampled from episodic memory to make value-based choices. If this is the case then 1) there should be a direct relationship between what aspects of alternatives we recall when making choices, and which alternative we ultimately choose; and 2) how memory is sampled may vary depending on the context of the choice (e.g. prioritizing the number of experiences sampled vs. quality of the experiences). To test these predictions, we presented two sequences of 10 values, each representing a choice alternative. Participants recalled values from the sequences, and on some trials were then asked to make a value-based choice between the two alternatives. We found that what was sampled from memory significantly predicted what alternative was chosen (when controlling for the sequences actually presented), suggesting a direct relationship between memory and value-based choice. Patterns of recall (primacy, recency, lag recency) did not differ across different reward structures that were applied to the memory task, suggesting that how memory is sampled may not vary across different decision contexts. Our results provide further evidence for the use of memory to construct preference when making choices. Our findings further the theoretical framework of how we make value-based choices and highlight important factors that likely affect how we make choices, such as the influence of mood at time of choice as well as individual differences in memory retrieval.

The development of face identity recognition is vital in facilitating normal social communication. Previous research on individual differences in face identity recognition ability has found that typical adults with higher social anxiety tend to have poorer face recognition. The association with face-specificity appears to be specific to social anxiety rather than general anxiety. Since children demonstrate adult-like face recognition mechanisms as young as age 4, it was of interest to examine whether individual differences in face recognition ability in children also reflect this face-specific relationship with social anxiety. The current study examines this question by measuring face recognition, object recognition, social anxiety and general anxiety in 81 children (aged 5-9 years old). It was predicted that face-specificity would be associated with social anxiety but not general anxiety. The results showed that this prediction was not supported, suggesting that anxiety and face recognition may not be present in childhood.

Anxious individuals are found to have decreased activation of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (dLPFC), which is responsible for inhibitory attentional control (IAC). It remains to be determined whether enhancing dLPFC activation via transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) would improve IAC, and if so, whether improvement was higher for high-anxious individuals, and threat stimuli. Due to the anxiety-linked attentional bias towards threat, the current study predicted that tDCS related IAC improvements would reduce this bias. To investigate this, high-anxious and low-anxious participants were recruited and randomly allocated to receive either active or sham tDCS. An eye-tracker measuring gaze direction and fixation time towards emotionally valenced stimuli in various computer-based tasks was used. Contrary to predictions, tDCS did not improve IAC; high-anxious participants had poorer IAC than receiving active compared to sham tDCS, but this difference was not evident for low-anxious participants. In turn, no reduction in the attentional bias to threat was found. Theoretical implications will be discussed, including the possible clinical benefit of enhancing compensatory efforts.
## Does Time-Based Prospective Memory Performance Predict Engagement in Risk-taking Behaviour?

**Pascale Peretti — Michael Weinborn**  
**12:15 – 12:30pm**

Prospective Memory (PM) refers to the ability to remember to perform an action in the future, which relies on either time-based (TB) or event-based (EB) cues. Recent research indicates a specific relationship between TB PM, but not EB PM, and risky decision-making among substance users. The current study aimed to examine this link, hypothesising that poorer TB PM would predict higher levels of past engagement in risky behaviours. Seventy-one high-risk substance users completed an objective computer-based TB PM task. Regression analyses supported the hypothesis, with lower TB PM performance predicting more engagement in risky sexual behaviour whilst intoxicated over and above demographics and past substance use. There was no relationship between EB PM and risky behaviour. These findings importantly clarify the specific type of behaviour driving the relationship between TB PM and risky decision making. Furthermore, it highlights the unique role of TB PM in “real-world” functioning.

## Is attentional bias to threat in functional and dysfunctional anxious individuals defined by danger controllability?

**Josh Smith — Lies Notebaert**  
**12:15 – 12:30pm**

Attentional bias to threat has long been associated with high levels of anxiety. There is limited research into how control over threat and different manifestations of anxiety (functional/dysfunctional) influence this bias. Therefore, this study aims to show that attentional bias to threat signalling controllable and uncontrollable danger will be associated with functional and dysfunctional anxiety. Ninety-six students completed a series of questionnaires and a computer-based task. Using the Degree and Utility of Anxiety Questionnaire, participants were split into functional and dysfunctional anxiety groups. Each trial of the computer-based task contained a dot probe paradigm and a digit task to give participants control over an impending danger. A three-way interaction suggested that dysfunctional anxiety is associated with attentional bias to threat signalling controllable danger. These results have implications for the treatment of anxiety and the conceptualisation of attentional bias to threat.

## Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury: The relationship between severity, age at injury and intellectual functioning

**Megan Knyn — Carmela Pestell**  
**12:15 – 12:30pm**

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a common disability in childhood and has significant implications for subsequent intellectual development, with greatest impairment in processing speed and visuospatial abilities. Using the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (IV), this study examined pediatric TBI intelligence profiles, and investigated the relationship between severity and age at injury. A sample of 134 children were categorised by (1) age at injury (2-7yrs, 7-11yrs, , 11-16 yrs) and (2) severity (mild, moderate/severe TBI). Findings reinforced impairment in processing speed although visuospatial abilities were not significantly impaired. Additionally working memory and verbal reasoning deficits were apparent in this cohort. Greater injury severity was associated with poorer impairment post TBI and age at injury was predictive of outcome in mild TBI, in which younger ages at injury predicted greater impairment. Such findings challenge plasticity models, instead suggesting the ‘vulnerability’ of the developing brain.
Cognitive abilities such as working memory and intelligence could be either unitary, or fractionated into various types such as spatial, numerical and verbal. While most researchers believe they are unitary, some studies support fractionation. The present study attempts to improve and expand upon previous research by including more abilities and using more distinct tests. Undergraduate students (N = 223) completed a battery of short-term memory, working memory, and intelligence tests, which were either spatial, numerical or verbal. The unitary and fractionated models were tested, as was a bi-factor model which incorporated both. The fractionated model was well supported, whereas the unitary and bi-factor models were not. Limitations of the study are discussed, and possible alternate models are explored.

Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) is one form of Anxiety Disorders affecting 14.4% of the Australian population. Past findings suggest that cognitive biases are implicated in the perpetuation of SAD. However, less is known about biases pertaining to change processing. Given that our representation of dynamic environmental stimuli impacts our experience of the world, it is important that we develop ways to measure cognitive bias in dynamic situations. With respect to dynamically changing emotional expressions (DCEEs), the literature is divided between an overestimation and an underestimation representation error. Using a 2x2x2 factorial ANOVA, the current study found a significant underestimation effect. Further, the extent of underestimation was implicated by one’s level of Social Anxiety. These findings contribute to the cognition and emotion literature as an outcome measure in clinical settings, and to the creation of attention bias modification paradigms. Consequently, it has the potential to ameliorate the experience of individuals with SAD.

Nonhuman animals, human infants and adults represent large nonsymbolic numbers approximately and with a ratio limit on accuracy. The Approximate Number System (ANS), a mechanism reasoned to originate from the parietal lobe of the brain’s right hemisphere, supports the numerical comparison of nonsymbolic quantities. Behavioural evidence stipulates that ANS acuity calculated by the Weber fraction (w) predicts formal symbolic mathematical skills. Electrophysiological studies suggest that the ANS is signaturised by the mid-latency P2p component (~200 – 250ms), localised to the right temporal-parietal junction. However, electrophysiological investigation of the association between the ANS and formal maths abilities yields inconsistent findings. By administering the nonsymbolic discrimination task during EEG acquisition, and using relevant WIAT-II subtests to gauge maths proficiency, the current study compared electrophysiological and behavioural indices for the ANS and its association with formal maths. Where these measures offer divergent results, the findings challenge the cogency of the link between the ANS and symbolic mathematical skills.
**Bayliss, G33**

**Short-Term Memory and Working Memory Capacity - are they really any different?**

Philippe Kilpatrick — Gilles Gignac  
12:45 – 1:00pm

Short-term memory (STM) and working memory capacity (WMC) are subject to a great degree of ambiguity with regards to their use in contemporary literature. Certain studies argue that the constructs are isomorphic, while others report that the constructs are only moderately correlated. The present study sought to clarify the relationship between STM and WMC, encompassing the numerical, verbal, and spatial memory modules. 223 undergraduate students completed digit, word, and spatial memory span tasks, first prompting forwards recall to test STM, and then again prompting backwards recall, to test WMC. Latent variable analysis indicated that the constructs are perfectly correlated ($r = 1.0$). Further analysis revealed that spatial STM and spatial WM maintain a much stronger correlation than either the numerical or verbal modules. Implications for future theoretical and empirical research are discussed.

**Tattersall, LT**

**Does Transforming Interpretive Bias Modification into a Game Improve its Effectiveness?**

Veronica Ye – Lies Notebaert & Colin MacLeod  
12:45 – 1:00pm

To reduce people’s anxiety, Interpretive Bias Modification (CBM-I) tasks aim to change people’s tendency to impose negative interpretations on ambiguous information (called a negative interpretive bias). However, some people may be less keen to complete existing CBM-I tasks because they find the task repetitive and stressful. Therefore, this study developed a new CBM-I task which incorporates features from games, such as difficulty levels and colour. This gamified CBM-I was compared with a non-gamified variant to determine whether the gamified CBM-I is more enjoyable and more effective at: (1) changing people’s interpretive bias; and (2) reducing their anxiety vulnerability. Although the gamified CBM-I provided a more enjoyable experience than the non-gamified variant, both tasks did not influence people’s interpretive bias or anxiety vulnerability. These results suggest that there were limitations with the design of both CBM-I tasks, which may have contributed to a failure to modify people’s interpretive bias.

**Wilsmore, LT**

**The role of processing biases in our responses to emotions and food**

Haydyn Smith – Allison Fox  
12:45 – 1:00pm

The asymmetric sampling in time hypothesis suggests the right auditory cortex extracts information over a long (~ 150 – 250 ms) temporal integration window whereas the left extracts information over a shorter (~ 25 – 50 ms) temporal integration window. The aim of the current study was to determine whether typically developing children process acoustic information using these same temporal integration windows previously demonstrated in adults. Participants were presented binaurally with tone pairs with an ISI of either 50 or 200 ms and EEG was used to record cortical responses. Results showed that the children failed to discriminate or elicit a response to the second tone of tone pairs consistent with temporal integration windows proposed. Current results demonstrate a failure to successfully discriminate the second tone of tone pairs in children. Refractory periods of neural assemblies involved in generation of the Tb component are discussed.
Lunch
1:00 – 1:45pm
Foyer, Bayliss Building

Prospective Honours Students Presentation
1:00 – 1:45pm
Wilsmore Lecture Theatre
The impact of suppression on intrusive thoughts

Sofie Lazdins

1:45 – 2:00pm

Cognitive intrusions are brief, involuntary memories frequently experienced following traumatic events. It has almost become a clinical truism that suppressing intrusive thoughts leads to an ironic increase in their frequency and strength. However, suppression has only been studied through subjective self-report, which gives no indication of success of suppression manipulations. To objectively assess whether successfully employing suppression strategies affects later experiences of intrusions 72 undergraduate students were exposed to a brief emotionally negative event, followed by randomized induction into suppress negative/rehearse positive or rehearse negative/suppress positive conditions. Suppression success was assessed using a novel, objective task based on the Stroop paradigm. Intrusions were recorded for the following week. Results indicated an interaction between image valence and suppression condition, however the relationship fell just short of statistical significance. Correlation data showed differential relationships between suppression success and the number of subsequent negative intrusions for the two suppression conditions. Theoretical and practical implications of these findings are discussed.

Sleep quality as a mediator of age-related reduction in executive function

Amy Roper — Michael Weinborn

1:45 – 2:00pm

Research examining the relationship between sleep problems and age-related executive function (EF) decline has begun to suggest that reduced EF in older adults may occur partly as a result of decreased sleep quality. However, research thus far has relied on subjective measures of sleep quality; this study is one of the first to use objective measures. Ninety-one community-dwelling older adults completed an at home sleep study, using an actigraphy device to assess sleep quality, and a set of neuropsychological tests to assess the EF domains of shifting, updating, inhibition and generativity. Correlation and regression analyses were used to test the hypotheses that older adults will experience poorer sleep, and that older age and poorer sleep will be associated with poorer executive function. Hierarchical regression analyses were used to test the hypothesis that sleep quality will partially or wholly account for age-related reductions in executive function. Limitations and implications are discussed.

ERP Markers of Coding Individual and Group Identity in Own- and Other-Race Crowds in Faces

Dielle Horne — Markus Neumann and Romina Palermo

1:45 – 2:00pm

The own-race effect (ORE) is where people recognise own-race faces better than other-race faces, due to other-race faces appearing more similar. ORE is yet to be studied for groups of faces, it is known however, that when faces are viewed in groups two processes occur, ensemble coding (average representations of properties of groups) and exemplar coding (visual processing of individual stimuli). Thus far the relationship and functionality of these two processes for coding identity is relatively unclear. This study examined the ORE in groups, as well as the relationship between exemplar and ensemble coding in identity perception. Twenty Caucasian and twenty Asian participants completed a facial recognition task in which sets of either four Caucasian or four Asian faces were shown, followed by a probe face (either an average face or an exemplar face) and were asked to indicate whether the face was a member of the group. Modulations within the N250r ERP component (sensitive to facial identity) were recorded. An ORE was not found, however results indicated that an average (ensemble) faces were endorsed more frequently than exemplar faces. Furthermore preliminary analysis of EEG data has identified modulations in the N250 associated with ensemble coding. From these results, the implications on functionality of ensemble coding for identity are discussed and the potential for these processes to influence social interactions.
Emotionally motivated drinking is the phenomenon that occurs when an individual consumes alcohol in response to a valenced situation, such as a wedding or a funeral. This study aimed to investigate how individual differences in approach-avoidance tendencies to valenced and alcohol-related information contribute to emotionally motivated alcohol consumption. Participants completed an Approach-Avoidance Task (AAT) as a measure of biased processing, a mood-inducing anagram task, and a taste test to measure subsequent alcohol consumption. It was hypothesised that (1) individual differences in approach-avoidance bias towards valenced information would moderate emotional reactivity to the mood induction, (2) subsequent alcohol consumption would be mediated by individual differences in approach bias towards alcohol-related information (3) a model composed of both processing biases would be the best predictor of emotionally motivated alcohol consumption. Moderation and mediation analyses did not yield the expected results; therefore the predictive model outlined in hypothesis 3 was unsupported. Theoretical implications, limitations, and directions for future research are discussed.

Substantial discrepancies between subjective and objective measures of sleep have stimulated research into the psychological variables that may influence individual’s perceptions of sleep and daytime functioning. Current variables evidenced as relating to perceptions of sleep include dysfunctional beliefs about sleep and sleep self-efficacy (SSE). However, it is unclear how these variables impact on these perceptions of sleep. As such, 57 university students completed a series of self-report questionnaires and sleep diaries to further examine the associations between (a) SSE, (b) dysfunctional beliefs about sleep, and (c) perceptions of sleep quality, sleep quantity, and daytime functioning. Results and potential implications will be discussed, particularly in relation to the treatment of sleep-wake disorders such as insomnia.

Humans possess a remarkable ability that allows the rapid judgment of number in situations where counting is prevented. This is known as our number sense. A 2D model has proposed that number judgments rely on early visual processing within the visual cortex. As the model is constrained to 2D representations of number, few studies have determined whether 3D information is used in number judgments. This study aimed to explore whether 3D information is used when number judgments are made for separated groups. Observers completed a two-alternative forced choice task, comparing the perceived numerosity between a test and reference dot pattern. Experiment 1 examined whether observers could separate between two depth surfaces. Following this, Experiment 2 explored whether 3D information is also used for separated groups in depth. Results indicated that observers used 3D information to separate between depths for when stimuli is perceptually grouped as both a surface and a group. This suggests that 3D cues are indeed used when judging number, which in turn has implications for the 2D model. An alteration to the model is needed for it to adequately account for the use of 3D information in number judgments.
In assessing a patient’s suicide risk, a clinician needs to know whether distal factors, proximal factors or a combination are effective predictors of suicide. The current study assessed how a distal factor, Neuroticism, and proximal factors from the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide, perceived burdensomeness, thwarted belongingness and acquired capability, influenced persistence in a simulated interpersonal performance task, as measured by desire to drop out. Participants (N=103) played a computerized reaction-based team game, and received feedback which manipulated the extent they felt they belonged or were a burden on the team. The results indicated that high neuroticism, thwarted belongingness and burdensomeness significantly increased the desire to drop out. Neuroticism interacted with burdensomeness and belongingness to increase the desire to drop out, but not with acquired capability. This provides the first experimental evidence of the relationship between neuroticism and all three constructs from the interpersonal theory, and suggests that both distal and proximal factors are important in clinical assessments of suicide.

Cognitive models of insomnia purport that insomnia is maintained through a cycle of maladaptive thoughts and autonomic arousal (e.g., Harvey, 2002). In particular, thoughts regarding the consequences of poor sleep are implicated in these models as an exacerbating factor. No research has sought to empirically examine the existence of these thoughts in individuals with insomnia in terms of a cognitive bias. Thus, my research aimed to confirm the existence of a cognitive expectancy bias (CEB) in those with high levels of insomnia symptoms. CEB was assessed using an adaptation of a well-established interpretive bias task. A high insomnia symptoms group was compared to a low insomnia symptoms group on CEB scores, revealing that those with high insomnia symptoms had a much higher negative sleep-related CEB than the low group. Future research should address the causal nature of CEB on sleep quality in those with high insomnia symptoms. Implications include the development of novel cognitive-based insomnia treatments.

The visual system is able to distinguish between shapes and forms with an exquisite hyperacuity. This is achieved through global processing, in which shapes are coded by the pooling of local features. This study aims to determine which shape feature of deformed circular patterns is contributing the most to global processing. Five participants underwent extensive threshold detection analyses to determine which shapes were associated with the most global processing. An understanding of the critical features of global processing will expand the current vision science literature, and may inform the development of technology in the future.
Cyberbullying is known to increase suicide risk. Undergraduate Facebook users ($N = 68$) participated in an online task simulating mild cyberbullying. It was hypothesised that greater connectedness with family, friends, and others offline would be associated with a lower desire to quit the task. This desire was conceptualised as analogous to suicidal desire (i.e., escaping life). The hypothesis was not supported. Participants also reported their experiences of Facebook bullying. It was hypothesised that higher offline connectedness would be associated with a lower incidence of Facebook cyberbullying victimisation. This hypothesis was supported. Participants’ perceived social support, psychological distress and suicidal ideation were measured. A third hypothesis was that offline social connectedness, but not online Facebook connectedness, would predict these indicators of well-being. This hypothesis was supported. Overall, the results highlighted the enduring significance of offline social connectedness, even as people increasingly venture online in attempts to forge and maintain relationships.

Previous research has implicated both sleep self-efficacy and dysfunctional sleep beliefs as factors that impact upon perceptions of sleep. The present study sought to (a) experimentally enhance the sleep self-efficacy of university students with self-reported low sleep self-efficacy ($N = 61$), and (b) investigate whether enhancing sleep self-efficacy facilitates more positive perceptions of sleep, and fewer dysfunctional beliefs about sleep. Participants were randomly assigned to either a control or experimental group and undertook two three-day blocks of sleep diaries, receiving feedback in between. Participants in the experimental group received bogus performance feedback that used graphs to depict that the individual’s sleep was better than their peers’, whilst participants in the control group received feedback not designed to have any effect on sleep self-efficacy. Results will be discussed with reference to sleep self-efficacy as a potential target for therapeutic change within cognitive-behavioural therapy for insomnia.

Shape is a powerful cue for object recognition, highlighting the importance of understanding shape processing in order to achieve a model of object recognition. Time is an important feature of the visual system, as there must be a mechanism to enable a clear perception of the world despite dynamic changes including eye movements and a constantly changing physical world. This process of combining visual information into a representation of the world is called temporal integration. This study aims to determine if the temporal integration of shapes is fixed, or dependent on shape size and shape type; two common dimensions of variation. Radial Frequency (RF) patterns are widely used to represent and study the processing of shapes. Sensitivity to shape was measured across time and by shape or size. Results showed interactions between time and shape size, and between time and shape type. Small shapes requiring less time to process than large shapes, and pentagons requiring less time to process than triangles. Clearly the time required for shape processing is not fixed. These findings have implications for the wider vision science literature because they suggest that published estimates of the timing of neural processes are likely context dependent. Future research is required to test the context dependent processing speeds of other visual processes.
The Effects of Labels on Attitudes towards Mental Illness

Bayliss

G33

Candice Burden — Jeneva Ohan

2:45 – 3:00pm

There is evidence to suggest that noun labels as compared with possessive labels increase essentialising and stigmatic attitudes towards those with mental illness whilst decreasing empathy. Because of this, the American Psychological Association (APA) advocates using possessive labels in writing. Lexicalisation theory, in line with APA values, states that grammatical form of a label is more important than content in influencing opinions towards others, whilst label theory states that content is more important than grammatical form. The current study attempted to assess these two theories but predicted that the results would favour lexicalisation theory. Participants (N = 107) were split into either noun, possessive, or no-label control conditions, and answered questionnaires assessing their essentialising, stigmatic and empathic attitudes towards individuals with anorexia, alcoholism, and schizophrenia. Differences between label conditions in their scores on these measures were assessed. The results showed no evidence in favour of label theory, whilst the evidence in support of lexicalisation theory was mixed. Implications and limitations of the study are discussed.

Sleep and Metaprospective memory among older adults

Tattersall

LT

Amy Kalantary — Romola Bucks

2:45 – 3:00pm

Metaprospective memory (Meta-PM) is an individual’s awareness of his/her ability to remember to perform future intentions. It is particularly important for daily functioning and previous research suggests that it can be influenced by depression and executive functioning (EF) ability. Depression and EF have both been found to be impacted negatively by sleep fragmentation, and as such, it is possible that poor sleep may also impact meta-PM accuracy. This study investigated the relationship between sleep and Meta-PM and whether this relationship was mediated by EF and/or depression. Ninety-one community-dwelling adults aged 55-90 completed a battery of tasks that assessed meta-PM, EF, depression and IQ. Wrist-mounted actigraphy was used to objectively measure sleep in the seven days leading up to their completion of these tasks. Contrary to as hypothesized, sleep was not a significant predictor of meta-PM performance. Implications include the effects of age on sleep and cognitive function and mood, and the mechanisms underlying EF and metacognition.

Tuning for Polar Angle in Shapes Using Visual Search

Wilsmore

LT

Paige-Rheannon Bailey — David Badcock

2:45 – 3:00pm

The human visual system employs a variety of complex system to process the world around us. Understanding how shapes are processed by the visual system is crucial to understanding human perceptual processes. The current study utilised critical features of shapes, namely polar angle, to understand shape perception. The polar angle refers to the angle created between the centre of a shape and its two points of maximum curvature. This study extended from research conducted by Kristjánsson and Tse (2001), Dickinson, Bell, and Badcock (2013) and Haley (2013), to investigate the role of polar angle as a critical cue in rapid shape detection. In Experiment 1, the current study used an alignment task to investigate the perceptual centre of the stimuli used by Kristjánsson and Tse (2001). The results yielded a perceptual centre in accordance with the Centre of Gravity (CoG) of the stimulus (Baud-Bovy & Gentaz, 2004), and provided a centre point by which to calculate polar angle. These shapes were then used in a visual search task in Experiment 2. As hypothesized, it was found that performance varied proportionately to the difference in polar angle between target stimuli and distractor stimuli. This suggests that polar angle is a critical cue for shape perception in the visual system, providing evidence for visual system processes tuned for polar angle. Finally, Experiment 3 used Radial Frequency (RF) shapes to conduct a fine-scale analysis of search performance. Results further supported the evidence of tuning for polar angle in the visual system.
### Anxious Manifestations and Their Unique Attributes: The Obsessive Compulsive Response to Risk

**Jacqueline Ellison — Lies Notebaert**

3:00 – 3:15pm

Although anxiety is generally associated with inflated perceptions of risk and enhanced risk avoidance behaviour, the expression of these biases may be different across different anxiety symptomatologies. In particular, individuals high in Obsessive-Compulsive (O-C) symptomatology are shown to be highly risk averse, as well as exhibit an exaggerated need to control the environment. Therefore, it is hypothesised that higher levels of O-C symptomatology are associated with greater tendency to preference mitigation information over risk information. To examine this, participants high and low in O-C symptomology will perform a task in which they can choose to either reveal information about the risk of an upcoming danger, or information about to what extent this danger can be mitigated. It is predicted that individuals high in O-C symptomology will be more likely to reveal information about danger mitigation as compared to information about the risk. Implications involve a platform for future research, theory development and consolidation, as well as informing clinical interventions.

### Timecourse of the Expression Aftereffect

**Tattersall**

Jack Bonner — Gillian Rhodes

3:00 – 3:15pm

The expression aftereffect is the altered perception of expressions biased away from an expression that has been adapted to. What is not known is whether the expression aftereffect exhibits storage. The presence of a stimulus-free interval between adapt and test reflects realistic exposure to faces, so understanding its effect is necessary to understand the extent of the everyday impact of expression aftereffects. This research aimed to determine to what extent the expression aftereffect can be stored over an adapt-test interval, and what pattern of decay it exhibits, if any. Twenty three students adapted to a set of anti-expressions for varying times, then, after an interval of varying duration, rated the intensity of the corresponding expression that they perceive in an average face. The expression aftereffect persisted over half a minute, suggesting that it may have an impact in daily interactions with people.

### The effect of sleep disturbances on cognitive control in children: An event related potential study

**Wilsmore**

Bree Kidd — Allison Fox

3:00 – 3:15pm

Human sleep studies have long established that aspects of neurocognitive performance are degraded with sleep deprivation. Studies have suggested cognitive performance, mainly executive functions, are negatively impacted by sleep deprivation. Cognitive control is an executive function that enables one to resist interference from distracting stimuli or prepotent automatic responses, whilst attending and responding to task-relevant stimuli. The degree of cognitive control required is reflected in the amplitude of the electrophysiological index (N2) elicited following presentation of visual stimuli. The current study aimed to determine whether increased self-reported sleepiness in children is associated with deficits in cognitive control, reflected in a decrease of N2 amplitude. Self-reported sleepiness was assessed with the Paediatric Daytime Sleepiness Scale (PDSS) and cognitive control was measured during a hybrid flanker/nogo task in 7-11 year-old children. Children who scored highly on the PDSS responded more slowly to the ‘reversed’ condition that required greater cognitive control, however no significant relationship was found between N2 amplitudes and PDSS scores. These results suggest that ‘sleepiness’ affects response time on demanding tasks, but that the underlying mechanism may not be deficits in cognitive control processes.
Prospective memory and depression in healthy older adults

Bayliss G33
Lisa Matthews — Carmella Pestell and Michael Weinborn 3:15 – 3:30pm

Depression is a common and highly disabling mental health condition, and is now believed to also influence higher order cognitions such as prospective memory. Prospective memory requires the individual to carry out an intention in the future, and can be described as ‘remembering to remember’. The current study investigated the influence of depression on prospective memory, in a healthy ageing population. Approximately 181 older adult participants were recruited for this study as part of the Healthy Ageing Research Project. According to the cognitive initiative hypothesis (Hertel, 2000), depression is associated with the reduced ability of an individual to voluntarily direct their attention, and therefore prospective memory tasks that require higher levels of strategic monitoring will be negatively influenced the most. It is hypothesised that this will present itself as a) poorer scores on a 15 minute task delay in comparison to a 2 minute task delay and b) poorer scores on a time-based task in comparison to an event-based task, as these tasks are more cognitively demanding. A secondary aim of the present study is to evaluate the potential contribution of vascular risk factors to the relationship between depression and PM. Overall, an association was found between depression and prospective memory. This study has implications for assessing and managing prospective memory deficits in older adults experiencing depression.

Assessing the case of face memory as a specific cognitive ability

Tattersall LT
Mahesh Shankaralingam — Gilles Gignac 3:15 – 3:30pm

Recent studies have questioned the pervasiveness of a general factor (g) in cognitive ability by outlining empirical support for face memory (FM) as a specific cognitive ability. However, the empirical evidence remains inconclusive due to a dearth of replication and inconsistent methodology across studies. Hence, the current study aimed to explore the relationship between FM, domain independent cognitive abilities and a derived g. 220 participants from the University of Western Australia completed an experimental battery measuring cognitive abilities such as fluid reasoning and memory. FM was found to significantly and positively relate to other cognitive abilities and g. Additionally, the relationship between FM and other cognitive abilities was mediated entirely by g. Implications such as the confirmation of a g influence on FM and, suggestions to review the classification structure of the Cattell Horn Carroll model upon which the current classification structure of cognitive abilities is based on, are discussed.

Engaging Parents in Parenting Programs: Can social norms increase intentions to engage?

Wilsmore LT
Louise Ford — Jeneva Ohan 3:15 – 3:30pm

Parenting programs are plagued by poor engagement, i.e., poor parent participation (Ingoldsby, 2010). The current study, guided by the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB; Azjen, 2011), manipulated social norms to improve parent engagement. Both the TPB and social norms have been used to change behaviour in a range of contexts (Azjen, 2011; Cialdini, 2006), thus it was predicted that injunctive (describing social approval) and descriptive (describing social behaviour) normative messages would increase intentions to engage in a parenting program, and that intentions would predict engagement. 116 parents read a vignette describing a parenting program using descriptive, injunctive, combined descriptive-injunctive, or fact-based statements. An independent ANOVA found no significant difference in intentions between conditions. Logistic regression revealed that intentions significantly predicted engagement with program booklets, but not program videos. Results suggest that increasing intentions is a viable strategy to increase parent engagement, however further research in clinical populations is needed.
### Suicide Resilience: Should the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide Consider the Role of Meaning in Life to Better Understand Suicidal Behaviour?

**Melissa Legendre — Werner Stritzke**

The interpersonal theory of suicide suggests that the risk of suicidal ideation is greatest when perceived burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness are experienced concurrently. However, the theory ignores the role of resiliency factors such as meaning in life and lacks experimental evidence. Study 1 (N = 83) and Study 2 (N = 19) addressed these limitations by testing whether experimentally manipulated meaningfulness could buffer the desire to quit a computer game designed to induce perceived burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness. Additionally, the influence of overall meaningfulness (i.e., meaningfulness perceptions collapsed across meaning manipulation conditions) in predicting the desire to quit relative to burdensomeness and belongingness ratings was examined. Results suggested that although the meaning manipulation did not increase task meaningfulness or act as a buffer, overall meaningfulness was the strongest relative predictor of the desire to quit. Therefore, considering the role of meaning in life may improve our understanding of suicidal behaviour.

### Cross-race impressions of unfaithfulness

**Tattersall**

Laura Martin – Gillian Rhodes & Nadine Kloth

From a glance at a face, people rapidly perceive information, and form impressions about others. Recent research has found that Caucasian female perceivers show a high level of agreement and some degree of accuracy in making judgements of sexual infidelity from Caucasian male faces. However, humans are usually more accurate at perceiving information from own-race faces than from other-race faces, a phenomenon known as the own-race advantage. This study examined the accuracy and consensus of judgments of sexual unfaithfulness across race, as well as the cues we use when making these judgments. Caucasian and Chinese female participants rated 100 male faces for a number of trait impressions including sexual unfaithfulness. Initial analyses indicate a high cross-race agreement for these facial trait impressions, and yet suggest that female perceivers can judge unfaithfulness for own-race faces more accurately compared to other-race faces.

### Wilsmore

**N/A**
### Can a Mindfulness Intervention Increase Desire to Persist in a Team Task when Perceived Interpersonal Adversity is High?

Claudia Stebbing — Werner Stritzke

3:45 – 4:00am

The Interpersonal Theory of Suicide (Joiner, 2006) proposes that perceived feelings of burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness result in desire to suicide. This study aimed to investigate whether inducing a state of mindfulness—the ability to non-judgmentally accept one’s emotions, can increase persistence in face of interpersonal adversity. In an undergraduate sample ($N = 92$), adversity was experienced as perceptions of interpersonal burdensomeness and thwarted belongingness within an experimental task, whereby desire to quit was analogised to desire to suicide. It was hypothesised that a mindfulness induction administered mid-way through the task would boost subsequent persistence. The results supported the hypothesis as the induced state of mindfulness stabilised persistence in face of interpersonal adversity. This highlights the importance of incorporating protective factors/mechanisms, such as mindfulness, into theory. Of clinical value, mindfulness interventions can mitigate suicidality in at-risk individuals.

### The Influence of Depression on Social Perception and Joint Attention

Ashton Roberts — Troy Visser

3:45 – 4:00am

Individuals suffering from depression often encounter prejudicial attitudes in society that results in discrimination, and attempts at reducing this have been unsuccessful. Studies examining prejudicial attitudes towards other societal groups (such as racial minorities) have found that social perceptions can be affected by such attitudes. The purpose of the current study is to examine whether depression has a moderating effect on social perception. Fifty-nine university undergraduates completed a reaction time task and questionnaires paired with control and depression vignettes to measure their social perception of depression. The study found that depression did not have an effect on social perceptions, despite participants regarding the control and depression vignette conditions differently. The implications of the study are that although depression is viewed differently to the norm, it does not have an effect on social perception.

### Wilsmore

LT

3:45 – 4:00am

N/A
Employee input is a key focus in organisational behaviour research. Studies of employee voice and silence are concerned with situations in which employees either engage in upward communication behaviour (Morrison & Milliken, 2000) or intentionally remain silent despite having input to provide. Research concerning the antecedents and consequences of voice and silence has typically focussed on organisational factors, leading to a widely held general assumption that voice is positive and silence is negative (Detert & Burris, 2007; Morrison & Milliken, 2000). However, this assumption has not been thoroughly investigated at an individual level. Drawing upon previous research that inferred an emotional or affective component within the voice/silence process, the present study utilised an exploratory, longitudinal model in order to investigate the relationship between affect, voice and silence. 59 international employees within the oil and mining industry participated in an Occupational Health and Safety program during which they were encouraged to participate, and were required to complete self-report measures of voice, silence and affect on a bi-daily basis. Results found a significant relationship between voice and positive affect; and silence and negative affect. Positive affect was found to significantly predict voice, and negative affect was found to significantly predict silence.

Adults are considered to be experts at face recognition, however this ability varies widely in the population. Two mechanisms that have been found to account for this variation in adults are holistic processing and adaptive norm-based coding. In contrast to adults, children’s face recognition abilities are significantly worse and it is unknown what contributes to variation this ability. The current study, therefore, aimed to examine whether the processes underlying face recognition in children are the same as those in adults, or whether they differ. One hundred and two participants aged between six and nine completed tasks examining face recognition, holistic processing, adaptive norm-based coding, and general cognitive abilities. Results will be discussed further. These results will not only help explain how children process faces, but provide insight into differences between the face recognition abilities of children and those of adult’s.
Afternoon Tea
4:00 – 4:15pm
Foyer, Bayliss Building

Keynote Presentation
4:15 – 4:45pm
Wilsmore Lecture Theatre

Best Presentation Award & Closing
4:45 – 5:00pm
Wilsmore Lecture Theatre