

## Sample Psychology Abstracts

### I. Journal Articles

Christina Gianoulakis, "Influence of the endogenous opioid system on high alcohol consumption and genetic predisposition to alcoholism"

There is increasing evidence supporting a link between the endogenous opioid system and excessive alcohol consumption. Acute or light alcohol consumption stimulates the release of opioid peptides in brain regions that are associated with reward and reinforcement and that mediate, at least in part, the reinforcing effects of ethanol. However, chronic heavy alcohol consumption induces a central opioid deficiency, which may be perceived as opioid withdrawal and may promote alcohol consumption through the mechanisms of negative reinforcement. The role of genetic factors in alcohol dependency is well recognized, and there is evidence that the activity of the endogenous opioid system under basal conditions and in response to ethanol may play a role in determining an individual's predisposition to alcoholism. The effectiveness of opioid receptor antagonists in decreasing alcohol consumption in people with an alcohol dependency and in animal models lends further support to the view that the opioid system may regulate alcohol consumption. A better understanding of the complex interactions between ethanol, the endogenous opioids and other neurotransmitter systems will help to delineate the neurochemical mechanisms leading to alcoholism and may lead to the development of novel treatments. –Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Vol 26(4), Sep (2001). (pp. 304-318).

W. Kim Halford, et. al., "Can skills training prevent relationship problems in at-risk couples? Four-year effects of a behavioral relationship education program"

Eighty-three couples were stratified into groups at high and low risk for relationship distress and randomized to either the Self-Regulatory Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (Self-PREP) or a control condition. As predicted, there were differential effects of Self-PREP on high-risk and low-risk couples. Because of low statistical power, results must be interpreted cautiously, but at 1-year follow-up high-risk couples in Self-PREP showed trends toward better communication than control couples. However, there was no difference in the communication of Self-PREP and control low-risk couples. High-risk couples receiving Self-PREP exhibited higher relationship satisfaction at 4 years than control couples, but in low-risk couples relationship satisfaction was higher in the control condition. High-risk couples seemed to benefit from skills-based relationship education, but low-risk couples did not. –Journal of Family Psychology, Vol 15(4), Dec (2001). (pp. 750-768).

Barry Trute and Diane Hiebert-Murphy, "Family adjustment to childhood developmental disability: A measure of parent appraisal of family impacts"

Developed the Family Impact of Childhood Disability Scale (FICD) to assess subjective interpretation or "primary appraisal" of parents regarding the impact of a child with developmental disabilities on the family. A random sample of 87 families was assessed while children with developmental disabilities were in the preschool years. After 7 years had elapsed,

64 of these families were interviewed again when the children were in the preteen years. A set of standardized self-report measures provided mother (average age 33 yrs) and father (average age 36 yrs) views of child, parent, and family functioning. The FICD demonstrated adequate internal consistency, with some evidence of discriminant and predictive validity. The FICD total score, based on the discrepancy between positive and negative subscale scores, was found to be a significant predictor of future parenting stress of mothers and of fathers, even when controlling for other important explanatory variables such as marital adjustment and level of disability in a child. The 15-item FICD offers a brief assessment of both positive and negative parent appraisals, with a total discrepancy score that predicts long-term parenting stress. –*Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, Vol 27(3), Apr (2002). (pp. 271-280).

## II. Conference Papers

Lesla Ellis, Patricia Gay, & Elizabeth Paige, "Daily Hassles and Pleasures Across the Lifespan"

During the past three decades, a significant body of research has explored psychological stress factors and the relationship between stress and physical and/or psychological symptoms. Evidence suggests that both major life events as well as the "daily hassles" of life can be detrimental to adaptation. However, it seems likely that the nature of what is viewed as a "daily hassle" may, in part, depend upon development and the specific challenges and life circumstances one faces at different stages of life. The current study sought to better understand and describe both daily hassles and pleasures from a lifespan perspective. As expected, the patterns of hassles and pleasures varied depending upon developmental stage.

Paul K. Presson, Tonie Taft, Jessie Luxford, & Victor A. Benassi, "Desire for Control and Luck as Predictors of Illusion of Control"

The present study was designed to examine the apparently contradictory claims that illusion of control effects can be best explained by one's desire for control (Burger & Schnerring, 1982) on one hand and one's belief in good luck as a controllable attribute (Darke & Freedman, 1997) on the other. Fifty-seven undergraduates served as participants. Participants completed the Desirability of Control Scale and the Belief in Good Luck Scale one week prior to participating in a gambling task. Participants were randomly assigned to either a high involvement designed to induce an illusion of control or low involvement condition. All participants were informed that they would be eligible to win \$50.00 in a lottery to be held upon completion of the study and that the number of times each person's name was entered into the drawing was determined by the number of chips in his or her possession at the end of the task. In reality, all participants had an equal chance of winning the \$50.00. In general, participants in the high involvement condition wagered more chips than did participants in the low involvement condition. Participants high in desire for control were more susceptible to the illusion of control induction than were low desire for control participants. No main effect for belief in good luck was observed. Belief in good luck did not interact significantly with involvement or desire for control.

Paul K. Presson, Lisa Parsons, Victor A. Benassi, AnNicole Faeth, & Jessica Baker, "Illusory Judgments: In Control or Just Plain Lucky?"

The present study was designed to examine the role of one's desire for control (Burger & Schnerring, 1982) on one hand and one's belief in good luck as a controllable attribute (Darke & Freedman, 1997) on the other in determining one's susceptibility to the illusion of control phenomenon. One hundred eighty-eight undergraduate psychology students served as participants. Each participant completed the Desirability of Control Scale and the Belief in Luck Scale one week prior to participating in a simulated gambling task. Participants were randomly assigned to either a high involvement or low involvement condition and either a descending or ascending sequence of outcomes. All participants were informed that they would be eligible to win \$50.00 in a lottery to be held upon completion of the study and that the number of times each person's name was entered into the drawing was determined by the number of chips in his or her possession at the end of the task. In reality, all participants had an equal chance of winning the \$50.00. In general, participants in the high involvement condition wagered more than did participants in the low involvement condition. Also, participants receiving the descending outcome sequence wagered more than those receiving the ascending sequence. Desire for control interacted significantly with level of involvement but not with outcome sequence to predict total amount wagered. Belief in luck did not significantly interact with either level of involvement or outcome sequence to predict total amount wagered.