SASP-ACPID

Naarm – Melbourne

20-22 November

2025

Welcome to the SASP-ACPID Conference 2025

20–22 November | Rydges Melbourne, VIC

Dear delegates,

On behalf of the **Society of Australasian Social Psychologists (SASP)** and the **Australasian Conference on Personality and Individual Differences (ACPID)**, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the **2025 Joint Conference**, held here in the vibrant heart of Melbourne, Australia.

This year marks the **second joint meeting** of SASP and ACPID, following the highly successful inaugural joint congress in **Noosa, Queensland, in 2023**. We are delighted to once again bring together researchers from across Australasia and beyond to share fresh insights and forge new collaborations at the intersection of **personality and social psychology**.

With more than **340 presentations**, this year's program represents one of the largest gatherings of Australasian scholars in the field to date. Across symposia, paper sessions, and blitz talks, delegates will explore topics spanning **political ideology, social media, emotion, personality structure, gender, relationships, artificial intelligence, and wellbeing**. It is inspiring to see the remarkable breadth and creativity of research emerging from our region.

We are honoured to feature keynote addresses from **Professor Chris Sibley** (University of Auckland), **Professor Nikola Overall** (University of Auckland), and **Professor Yoshihisa Kashima** (University of Melbourne), whose work exemplifies the intellectual vitality of our discipline. We are also pleased to host a **joint Presidential Address** by **Michelle Ryan (SASP President)** and **Patrick Dunlop (ACPID President)**.

Preceding the main conference, a full day of **pre-conferences and workshops** will be held at the **University of Melbourne** on Wednesday 19 November, followed by three days of stimulating sessions and collegial exchange at Rydges Melbourne. Social highlights include the **welcome reception** on Thursday evening, the **postgraduate social** later that night, and the **Gala Dinner** on Friday at Melbourne's iconic **Cookie**.

Whether you are presenting, listening, or reconnecting with friends and colleagues, we hope you enjoy the **SASP–ACPID 2025 Conference**.

With warm regards,
Professor Brock Bastian and **Professor Luke D. Smillie**
Conference Organisers

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung Peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the City of Melbourne. We pay our respects to their ancestors and descendants and celebrate their unbroken connections to Country. We recognise that **Melbourne (Narrm)** has long been a place of meeting, knowledge exchange, and community. Sovereignty was never ceded – this was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Our official Welcome to Country will be performed by Wurundjeri Elder, Tony Garvey.

Organisers: Brock Bastian and Luke Smillie

Scientific Committee: Beatrice Alba, Julian Fernando, Emily Harris, Anna Klas, Emma Marshall, Matthew Ruby, and Said Shafa, and Diana Matovic.

Many thanks to our SASP-ACPID 2025 student volunteers: Allyson Alblas, Aisham Ali, Rhys Davies Noulton, Amy Soo Gyung Lee, Sarah O'Brien, Aidan Runagall-McNaull, and Jasmin Bruna Stariolo

SASP Executive: Tom Denson (UNSW, President); Michelle Ryan (Australian National University, President-elect); Liz Summerell (University of Adelaide, Secretary); Brianne Hastie (Murdoch University, Treasurer); Sarah Ratcliffe (University of Sydney, Communications Officer); Anna Klas (Deakin University, Digital Officer); and Eden Clarke (University of Auckland, postgraduate representative).

ACPID Executive: Patrick Dunlop (Curtin University, President); Sharon Horwood (Deakin University, Vice President); Heather Douglas (University of Newcastle, Treasurer); Jeromy Anglim (Deakin University, Secretary); and Sarah Walker (Durhum University, Outreach and Engagement Officer).

Code of Conduct

The SASP-ACPID 2025 organising committee is committed to ensuring a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment where all delegates feel supported and are treated with respect. We strive to create an environment free from harassment and discrimination for all delegates, regardless of their sex, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, citizenship status, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, socioeconomic status, veteran status, or their intersections. These standards apply to all forms of participation in SASP-ACPID 2025, including in-person (e.g., presentations, social events) and electronic communications (e.g., email, social media).

Expected Behaviour

The expected, professional behaviour of all delegates includes but is not limited to:

- Professional and constructive communication, in-person and online; using welcoming and inclusive language; courtesy and civility in handling dissent or disagreement; respect and consideration when providing feedback; and openness to alternate points of view.
- Being proactive to help mitigate or avoid harassment or harm to other participants.
- Speaking up and taking action when these values are not adhered to and recognise that power differences and hierarchies inherent to academia may inhibit many parties (including students and junior scholars) from feeling free to object to or report problematic behaviour.

Unacceptable Behaviour

We will not tolerate discrimination or harassment of delegates in any form. This includes but is not limited to:

- Intimidating, harassing, lewd, demeaning, bullying, or threatening speech or actions.
- Persistent and unwelcome solicitation of emotional or physical intimacy, including but not limited to that which is accompanied by real or implied threat of professional harm.
- Physical assault, including unwelcome touch or groping.
- Any real or implied threat of physical harm.
- The use of abusive, sexual, or offensive imagery, photography, or recording, except when presented for research or teaching purposes. In these latter instances, the presenter should warn members prior to presenting material.
- Discrimination based on sex, gender identity/expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, citizenship status, age, sexual orientation, disability,

physical appearance, body size, socioeconomic status, veteran status, or their intersection.

- Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or prohibited conduct or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination.
- Disruption of presentations during sessions or at other events organised by SASP-ACPID throughout the conference (including pre-conferences). All participants must comply with the instructions of the moderator and any SASP-ACPID event staff.
- Making allegations in bad faith.

What to do

If you have something you would like to discuss or anonymously report, please speak to one of the conference organisers, volunteers, and/or members of the SASP or ACPID executive.

Important Information

Information for Presenters

To ensure the timely completion of each session, we ask that all presenters:

- Ensure their presentation is loaded and ready prior to the session's scheduled start time. Presentations can be loaded via USB or downloaded from a cloud onto the desktop of the provided computer.
- Bring their own slide clickers if they would like to use one.
- Delete their presentation from the computer at the end of their session.
- Ensure the length of their presentation is in line with the format for which it was accepted:
    - Blitz talks: 8 minutes with 2 minutes for Q&A
    - Standard talks: 10 minutes with 5 minutes for Q&A

Presenters for posters will receive specific instructions when they pick up their name badge. Each poster board measures 1.8 metres high by 1.2 metres wide. Please ensure your poster fits within these dimensions.

Information for Chairs

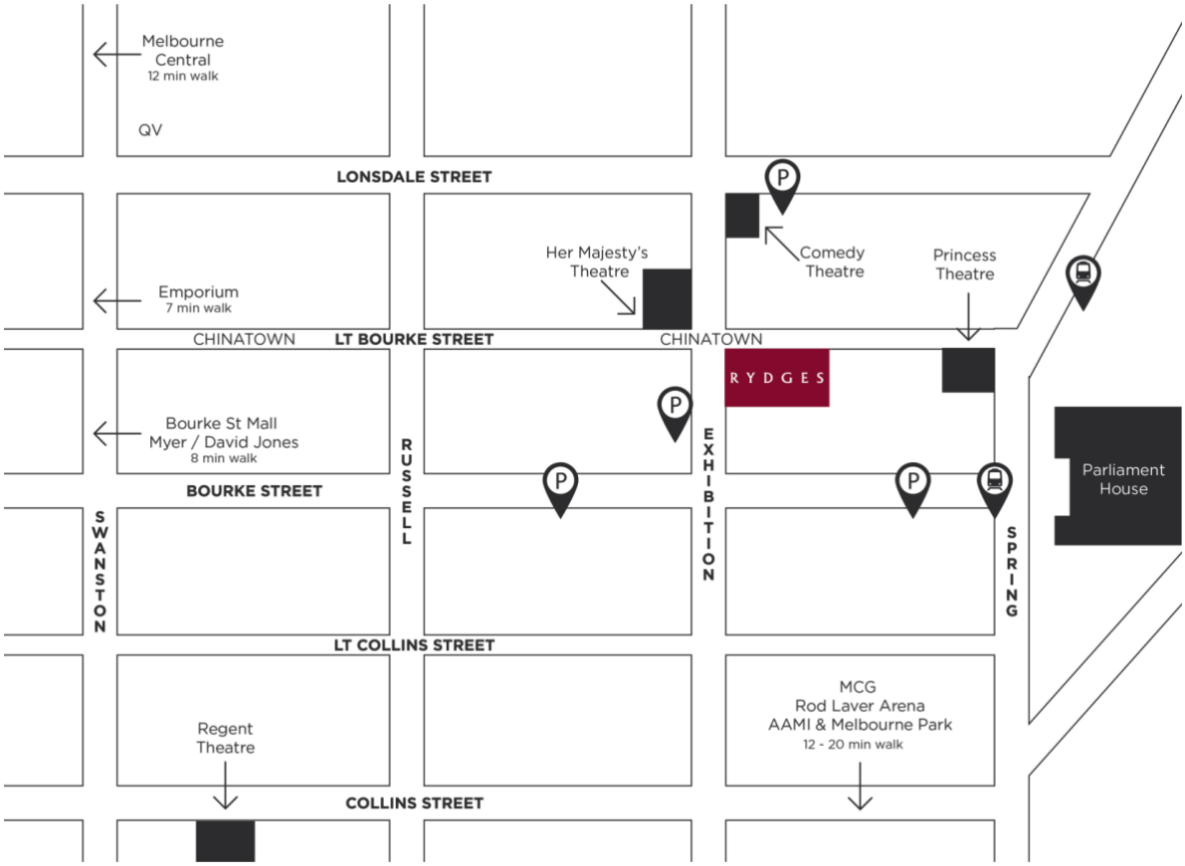
Each symposium has a designated chair. For all other sessions, the first speaker will be the chair. The chair's responsibilities include:

- Opening the session and introducing each presenter.
- Providing 3-, and 1-minute time warnings during each presentation using the provided time cards.
- Politely stopping presenters when their time is up.
- Facilitating the Q&A time after each presentation.
- Ensuring individual presenters and the session overall does not go over the allotted time.

Key Locations

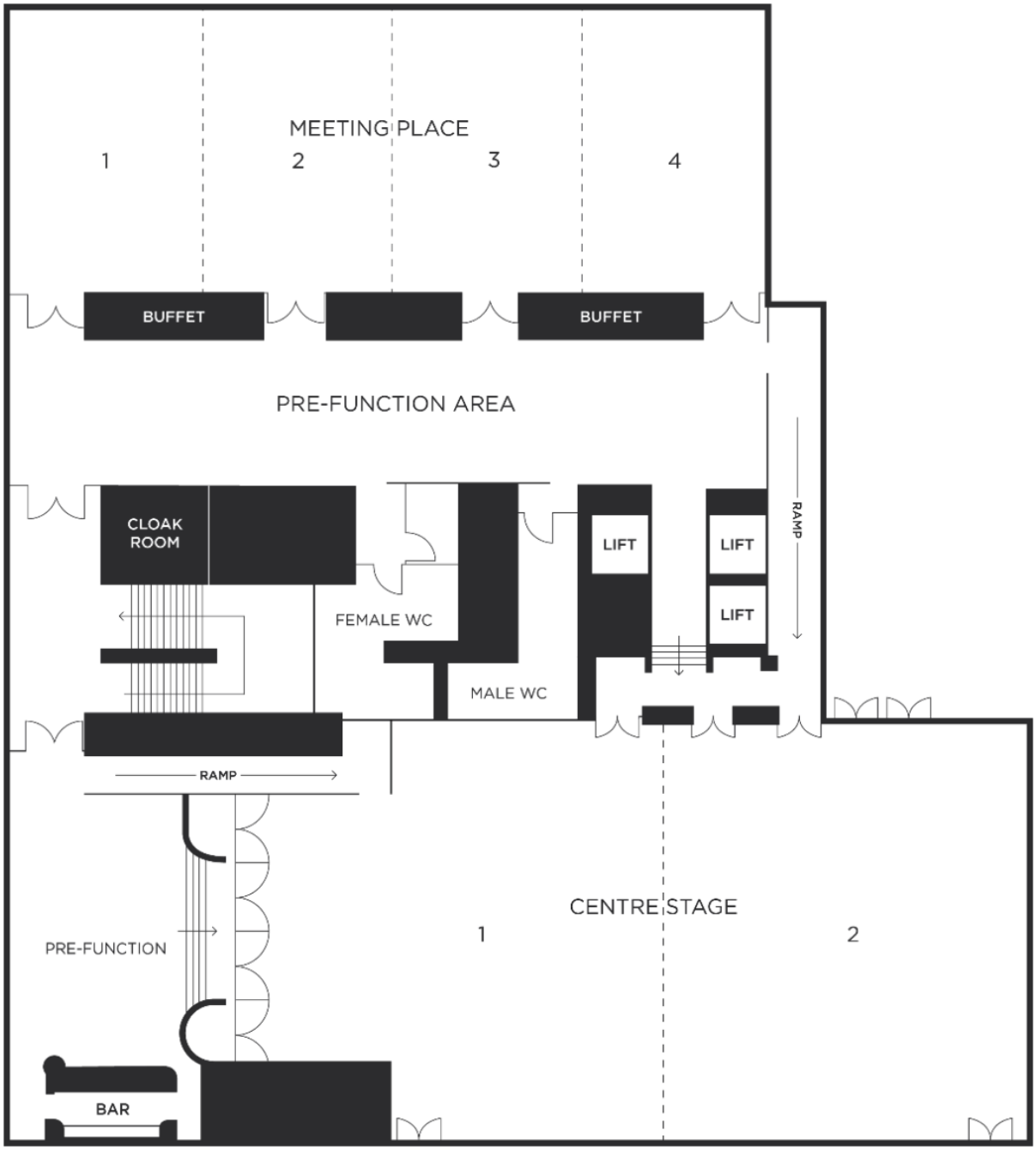
Conference Venue

The main conference program for SASP-ACPID 2025 will take place at the Rydges Hotel, located at 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne VIC 3030.



Venue Layout

The main conference will be held on the 1st floor. Room numbers align with the program. Centre stage (1 and 2) will be combined for joint sessions.



Social Events

Conference Welcome Drinks will be held at the Rydges Restaurant, located on the ground floor of the hotel.

The **Postgraduate Dinner** will be held at The Oxford Scholar, located at 427 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000 (15-minute walk from Rydges Hotel). The event will be held in the Level 1 dining space.

The **Gala Dinner** will be held at Cookie, located on Level 1, 252 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

Pre-Conferences and Workshops

Six pre-conferences will take place on **Wednesday 19 November** at the University of Melbourne:

1. **Beyond Correlation: A Practical Introduction to Causal Inference in Observational Social Psychology**
   - Organiser: Joseph Bulbulia
   - When: 9:00am – 4:00pm
   - Where: Redmond Barry Building (Building 115) – Level 5 – Room 516

2. **From Insight to Impact: Social Identity in the Workplace**
   - Organisers: Andrew Frain, Blake McMillan & Randal Tame
   - When: 10:30am – 4:00pm
   - Where: Old Arts Building (Building 149) – Level 2 – Room 204

3. **Navigating Peer Review and Publication as an Author and Reviewer**
   - Organisers: Simine Vazire, Yoel Inbar & Heather Urry
   - When: 10:30am to 3:00pm
   - Where: Redmond Barry Building (Building 115) – Level 1 – Lowe Theatre (103)

4. **Research Impact in Environmental Psychology**
   - Organisers: Christoph Klebl, Matt Mackay, Maddie Judge, Charlie Pittaway & Iain Walker
   - When: 1:00pm – 4:00 pm
   - Where: Redmond Barry Building (Building 115) – Level 1 – Latham Theatre (102)

5. **Social and Personality Psychology in Aotearoa New Zealand**
   - Organiser: Marc Wilson
   - When: 10:00am – 4:00pm
   - Where: Redmond Barry Building (Building 115) – Level 1 – Lyle Theatre (101)

6. **Gender and Sexuality**
   - Organisers: Joel Anderson, Michael Thai, Jordan Hinton, Emily Harris, Natalie Amos, Michelle Ryan & Eden Clarke
   - When: 1:00pm – 5:30pm
   - Where: Redmond Barry Building (Building 115) – Level 1 – Medley Theatre (104)

Keynote Speakers

Professor Chris Sibley (University of Auckland)
Thursday 20 November, 1:30pm

Chris G. Sibley is a Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of Auckland. He teaches in research methods and social psychology and is the lead investigator of the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study.

The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at a Large Longitudinal Panel

The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS) is a large longitudinal national probability annual panel study of social attitudes, personality, ideology and health outcomes. The NZAVS began in 2009, includes questionnaire responses from more than 70,000 New Zealand residents, and is currently collecting data for its seventeenth annual wave. In this talk, I provide a behind-the-scenes look at how the NZAVS is run on a day-to-day basis, and answer some of the questions I am most often asked about the study. I describe how the study got started, how we maintain retention, processes in place for data security and processing confidential information, how we decide on new items to include in the study, various pit falls our team have encountered along the way in terms of database management and design, and some we have avoided. The talk is aimed primarily at helping and encouraging people who are thinking about starting their own longitudinal panel. I finish with a couple of my personal favorite findings from the NZAVS.

Professor Nickola Overall (University of Auckland)
Friday 21 November, 1:30pm

Nickola Overall is a Professor at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Nickola investigates how people can best manage conflict, stress, power, and insecurities within couple and family relationships. Her goal is to identify how to overcome barriers to healthy relationships and societies. Nickola's research and mentoring have been recognized by several awards and international fellowships. Her most recent edited book, The Research Handbook of Couple and Family Relationships, emphasizes that understanding people's emotions, thoughts, and behavior requires knowing how people develop and influence each other within close relationships.

Negotiating Power in Social Relationships

Humans are deeply dependent on others, creating a constant negotiation of power. Power determines whether people can satisfy their own needs and goals or whether they must prioritize the needs and goals of others. Using the high-stakes context of couple and family relationships, I will outline when power leads to inhibition, aggression, or manipulation, and when power leads to accommodation, protection, or neglect. Using gender ideologies, I will reveal how competitive and cooperative strategies emerge to negotiate dependence, divide power, and sustain power asymmetries. The way power and sexism operate within couple and family relationships offers new insights into how humans negotiate, enact, and divide power.

Professor Yoshihisa Kashima (University of Melbourne)
Saturday 22 November, 1:30pm

Yoshihisa Kashima is Professor of Psychology at the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on the psychology of cultural dynamics – how psychological processes participate in the formation, maintenance, and transformation of culture over time, with particular emphasis on culture of sustainability. He is currently working on empirically grounded computational modelling of cultural dynamics in complex social-ecological systems. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and is listed on the Heritage Wall of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology.

The Psychology of Cultural Dynamics: A View from Australia

Since the 1990s, social psychology has accelerated the exploration of cross-cultural differences in social psychological processes, with a primary focus on the East-West contrast. While this synchronic approach to culture continues to flourish, further expanding the scope of cultural comparative research, the psychology of cultural dynamics has emerged, adopting a diachronic perspective on the psychological processes involved in the formation, maintenance, and transformation of culture over time. Drawing on a broadly Darwinian perspective on cultural processes developed in biology and anthropology (often called cultural evolution), this talk will outline a theoretical framework for the psychology of cultural dynamics. There are two distinctive features of this framework. First, it highlights the dynamical relationships between micro-psychological and macro-population-level cultural processes, with an emphasis on the mezzo-level flow of information and influence as well as the self-organisation of social networks and groups. Second, it incorporates collective future thinking – the act of imagining a future on behalf of a collective – as an integral part of cultural transformation and change. It represents a mechanism of foresight, involving a potentially uniquely human capacity to engage in mental time travel and imagine possible futures of ourselves and our world. The framework will be illustrated with past and ongoing research on cultural dynamics in Australia.

SASP 2025 OPRA Finalists

Thursday 20 November, 11:00am (Centre Stage)

Zoe Bertenshaw (University of Auckland)
The Dark Duo: Exploring change and tokenism in colonial ideologies

Yuang Cheng (Australian National University)
The siren's call: How social media influencers are using identity leadership to shape diagnostic label identification and self-care intentions

Charlie Pittaway (University of Queensland)
The future under threat: Climate change as a problem for the present and future self through the lens of temporal orientation

Kian Jin Tan (La Trobe University)
Minority stress and resilience at the intersection of gender and ethnocultural background within the trans community in Australia

SASP 2025 Early Career Award

Dr Kelly Kirkland (University of Queensland)

Dr Kelly Kirkland received her PhD from the University of Queensland, completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Melbourne, and is currently undertaking her second postdoc in the School of Psychology at UQ. Her first line of research investigates how economic inequality shapes social life, revealing how disparities in wealth and status influence cooperation and cohesion across the lifespan and around the world. Her second program examines moral cognition and societal polarisation, focusing on how people form, express, and defend moral beliefs in divided social contexts. Drawing on diverse methods, including laboratory experiments, longitudinal surveys, large-scale cross-cultural studies, and online simulations, she integrates perspectives from psychology, economics, and political science. Collaborating with international teams across more than forty-five countries, her work aims to advance understanding of how social and moral processes shape collective behaviour.

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2025

	Centre Stage 1	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Centre Stage 2
8:00-8:30	**Welcome – Centre Stage**					
8:30-9:30 (Session 1)	**Symp 1: Social identity & LGBTQ+ experience** *Chair: Langtry, K.* Langtry, K. Sombrea, D. Hinton, J.	**Symp 10: Climate change 1** *Chair: Todorova, B.* Hornsey, M. Todorova, B. MacInnes, S. Pearson, S.	**Symp 20: Social psychology & clinical practice** *Chairs: Hermes, I., Huynh, H. P., & Rossi, C.* Hermes, I. Huynh, H. P. Jee, A. Rossi, C.	**B1: Politics** Kelaiditis, N. Kerr, J. Danielson, S. Broodryk, T. Pucci, V. Liao, Y-H.	**B11: Media & technology** Villoresi, D. Mullins, E. Mian, M. Shin, M. Horwood, S. Sahib, A.	-
9:30-10:30 (Session 2)	**Symp 4: Identity leadership** *Chairs: Haslam, A. & Wergin, V.* Haslam, A. Reynolds, K. J. McMillan, B. Wergin, V.	**Symp 21: Daily emotion & extraordinary situations** *Chair: Greenaway, K.* Moeck, E. Kalokerinos, E. Koval, P. Greenaway, K.	**Symp 25: Conspiracy theory research** *Chair: Marques, M. D.* Marques, M. D. Hill, S. R. Ross, R. M. Williams, M. N.	**S18: Environment** Lockhart, C. Fielding, K. Lauren, N. van Eeden, L.	**B10: Gender & sexuality** Gregory, K. Montgomery-Farrer, B. Bartels, M. Mikolajczak, G. Murphy, M. Mariani, S.	-
10:30-11:00	**Coffee**					
11:00-12:00	**OPRA (SASP Outstanding Postgraduate Award) – Centre Stage**					
12:00-13:30	**Lunch**					
13:30-14:30	**Keynote 1: Chris Sibley – Centre Stage**					
14:30-15:00	**Coffee**					
15:00-16:00 (Session 3)	**Symp 5: Individual differences & daily emotion** *Chairs: Moeck, E. & Bianchi, V.* Jach, H. Bird, L. H. Bianchi, V. Arthur, L.	**Symp 2: Queer desire & connection** *Chair: Bondarchuk-McLaughlin, A.* Bondarchuk-McLaughlin, A. Maadal, A. Newton, J. Thai, M.	**Symp 27: Misinformation & false beliefs** *Chair: Bordeleau, N.* Quarisa, C. Cosgrove, T. Bordeleau, N. Ellery, S.	**S4: Prosocial behaviour** Stukas, A. A. Radke, H. R. M. Yip, L. Smolarek, L.	**B13: Cognition & the workplace** Jafari Sadr, A. Spence, J. L. Goodhew, S. C. Ruggieri, D. Otubea Otchere, Y.	**S1: Culture & wellbeing** Li, Y. Virgona, A. Afzali, U. Winter, T.
16:00-17:00 (Session 4)	**Symp 11: Interpersonal emotion regulation** *Chair: MacCann, C.* MacCann, C. Mitchell, A. Wong, I. Barkl, A.	**Symp 18: Decolonising social psychology** *Chairs: Evans, O. & Selvanathan, H. P.* Walker, I. Evans, O. Selvanathan, H. P. Barlow, F. K.	**Symp 22: Sexual norms, prejudice & conversations** *Chair: Knowles, K.* Clarke, E. V. Lilly, K. J. Harris, E. A. Knowles, K.	**S2: Technology** Chu, M. Dunlop, P. D. Bainbridge, T. Fahrner, V. M.	**B14: Wellbeing** Ryakhovskaya, Y. Brighton, D. Douglas, H. E. Richards, K. Gawn, J.	**S9: Intergroup** O'Donnell, A. W. Buonaiuto, E. K. Dar-Nimrod, I. Aryan, N.
17:30-19:00	**Conference Welcome Drinks – Rydges Restaurant (Ground Floor)**					
19:00	**Postgraduate Dinner – The Oxford Scholar (427 Swanston St, Melbourne, VIC 3000)**					

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2025

	Centre Stage 2	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Centre Stage 1
8:00-8:30	**Coffee**					
8:30-9:30 (Session 1)	**Symp 6: Prejudice & resilience in LGBTQIA+ communities 1** *Chair: Bravestone, L.* Bravestone, L. Dingle, E. Henry, D. Prandelli, M.	**Symp 28: Aggression in couple & family relationships** *Chair: Overall, N.* Karantzas, G. C. Hammond, M. D. Bereznicki, H. Curtis, A.	**Symp 33: Moral judgements & the non-human world** *Chair: Kurz, T.* Ali, A. Neldner, K. Watson, J. Kurz, T.	**B15: Intergroup relations** Adira, N. Chan, A. B. Ramsey, B. C. Quayle, M. Denson, N. Durkin, C.	**B4: Theory & methods** Griffiths, S. Deschrijver, E. Hayes, P. Campbell, P. J. Neville, C. Tse, J.	**S8: Emotion** Craig, B. Harrington, A. Leckie, R. Wilson, M.
9:30-10:30 (Session 2)	**Symp 7: Prejudice & resilience in LGBTQIA+ communities 2** *Chair: Anderson, J.* Anderson, J. Angelopoulos, F. Hässler, T. Sheeran, N.	**Symp 14: Responsive legal systems** *Chairs: Ratcliffe, S. E. & Kothe, E.* Ratcliffe, S. E. Kothe, E. Grenfell-Uijland, S. Dutton, T.	**Symp 31: Emotion regulation 1** *Chair: Low, R.* O'Brien, S. Tran, A. Kim, S. Low, R.	**S19: Identity** Howe, J. Smyth, L. Mills, F. Jones, L.	**S11: Judgment & decision making** Shou, Y. Lewis, C. Fernando, J. Mann, L.	**S10: Justice and Conflict** Venanzetti, C. Badis, J. Thomas, E. Woodyatt, L.
10:30-11:00	**Coffee**					
11:00-11:45	**SASP Early Career Researcher Awards – Centre Stage**					
11:45-13:30	**Lunch + Poster Session**					
13:30-14:30	**Keynote 2: Nickola Overall – Centre Stage**					
14:30-15:00	**Coffee**					
15:00-16:00 (Session 3)	**Symp 12: Harmful ideologies** *Chair: D'Cruz, C.* D'Cruz, C. Simionato, N. M. Voznyuk, O. Wong, S.	**Symp 19: Diversity among LGBTQ+ individuals** *Chair: Dar-Nimrod, I.* Zhou, T. Ji, S. Morandini, J. Kassara, M.	**Symp 32: Emotion regulation 2** *Chair: Fei, R.* Uchida, A. Fei, R. Stariolo, J. Xiao, H.	**S20: Health & wellbeing** Grant, C. Monaghan, C. Li, Z. Ou, J.	**B7: Cross-cultural & indigenous perspectives** Himawan, K. K. Yuk, Y. Rukuwai, E. Madarasinge, H. Renner, H. Walton, A.	**S14: Economic** Pattenden, E. Jetten, J. Yan, R. Ludlam, H.
16:00-17:00 (Session 4)	**Symp 13: Climate change 2** *Chair: Klebl, C.* Klas, A. Klebl, C. Gago, T. Mackay, M. I.	**Symp 15: Humans, robots & AI** *Chair: Vanman, E. J.* Rose, N. Shier, J. Frank. M. Vanman, E. J.	**Symp 30: Resistance & allyship** *Chair: Callaghan, P.* Wu, J. Li, L. Emery, M. Callaghan, P.	**S5: Gender** Subasic, E. Blake, K. Harmon-Jones, S. K. Minto, K.	**B5: Decision making & dilemmas** Alblas, A. K. Vonasch, A. Moore, I. Satitanekchai, S. Zou, X. Ni, B. K.	**S16: Politics & policy** van Antwerpen, N. Robson, S. Cruwys, T.
17:00-18:00	**SASP AGM – Centre Stage / ACPID AGM – Room 1**					
19:00-22:00	**Gala Dinner – Cookie (252 Swanston St, Melbourne VIC 3000)**					

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2025

	Centre Stage 2	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Centre Stage 1
8:00-8:30	**Coffee**					
8:30-9:30 (Session 1)	**Symp 9: Gender, inequality & well-being** *Chair: Chemke-Dreyfus, A.* *Discussant: Thai, M.* Peng, S. Cone, D. H. Chemke-Dreyfus, A.	**Symp 23: Moralization in the modern world** *Chair: Bastian, B.* Kirkland, K. Lee, A. S. G. Mayes, S. Crimston, C.	**Symp 34: The social psychology of education** *Chair: Zhou, H.* *Discussants: Reynolds, K. & Bingley, W.* Marshall, S. Baker, E. Zhou, H.	**S3: Eating & drinking** Summerell, E. Judge, M. Ruby, M. B. Fichtenmaier, A.	**B6: Prosocial behaviour** Moloney, G. Edwards, M. Tabar, M. R. Noulton, R. D. Chapman, C. Lipkus, I. M.	**B2: Victimisation & forgiveness** Restivo, F. Scoufis, A. Patterson, J. Andrejevic, M. Inyang, Q.
9:30-10:30 (Session 2)	**Symp 17: Social identity & the manosphere** *Chair: Lee, G.* Franklin-Paddock, B. Javier, C. Lee, G. Bingley, W. J.	**Symp 35: (Mis)information across contexts** *Chair: Tay, L. Q.* Tay, L. Q. Prike, T. Wang, C. Syed, I.	**Symp 24: Teacher recruitment & wellbeing** *Chair: Kim, L. E.* English, M. Brown, J. Coburn, T. Kim, L. E.	**S12: Theory & ideas** Pamoso, A. H. G. King, L. Rebele, R. Louis, W.	**B3: Families & aging** Tan, K. P. Disney, A. Matovic, D. Pitt, E. Leon, L. Driscoll O'Keefe, C.	**S13: Development** Jackson, C. J. Puah, E. Govin-Vel, S.
10:30-11:00	**Coffee**					
11:00-12:00	**Presidential Address (ACPID / SASP) – Centre Stage**					
12:00-13:30	**Lunch**					
13:30-14:30	**Keynote 3: Yoshihisa Kashima – Centre Stage**					
14:30-15:00	**Coffee**					
15:30-16:30 (Session 3)	**Symp 8: Mental health & inclusion in LGBTQIA+ communities** *Chair: Eisner, L.* Eisner, L. Grigor, R. Trinh, V. M. Worrell, S.	**Symp 16: Positive intergroup attitudes & actions** *Chair & Discussant: White, F.* Maunder, R. D. McDermott, E. A. Shi, E.	**Symp 26: Sexism - threat & internalization** *Chair: Platow, M. J.* Hunter, J. A. Davidson, K. Gilbert, I. Platow, M. J.	**S7: Morality** Aarons, F. Bergmann, K.	**B8: Climate change** Trezise, M. Schneps, E-J. Acevedo, J. D. Pearce, J. Saville, S.	**S15: Big data/text analysis** Osborne, D. Kang, J. Draper-Griffiths, O. Anglim, J.
16:30-17:30 (Session 4)	**Symp 3: Beyond binaries** *Chair: Farrell, C.* Farrell, C. Rosa, S. Pehlivanidis, S. Tan, K. J.	**Symp 29: Intimate partner aggression** *Chair: Nop, O.* Nop, O. Santos Lisboa De Almeida, A. Leak, M. Alba, B.	**B12: Mental health & wellbeing** Mousley, C. Scholfield, I. Schuurs, H. C. Yin, Y. Northrope, K. Kern, P.	**S6: Organisational** Neall, A. Ryan, M. K. de Gilder, D. Ellemers, N.	**B9: Environment & nature** McLeod, E. M. Robinson, A. Williams, K. Toohey, R. Hayley, A.	**S17: Relationships** Watkins, R. Heygers, M. Dare, M. Zhang, R.

Full Academic Program and Abstracts

Symposium 1: Social Identity Perspectives on Intersectional and Diverse LGBTQ+ Experiences.

Symposium Chair: Katie Langtry (Australian Catholic University)

Identity development and community belonging are central to the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people, yet the complexity of these processes across diverse contexts and intersecting identities is often underexplored. This symposium brings together four papers that examine identity, belonging, and resilience across bisexual+, migrant, subcultural, and intersectional lenses. The first paper tests the Rejection–Identification Model among bisexual+ individuals, examining how discrimination from both cis-heterosexual and LGBTQI+ communities influences identity salience, group belonging, and wellbeing. The second paper applies the Social Identity Model of Identity Change (SIMIC) to explore how Asian-born men who have sex with men living with HIV in Australia navigate identity continuity and change in the context of migration, stigma, and service access. The third paper presents a scoping review mapping research on subcultural identities among gay, bisexual, and queer men, highlighting both gaps and opportunities for more strength-based approaches to understanding these communities. The fourth paper reviews research on intersectional identity development among LGBTQ+ people of colour, synthesizing conceptual frameworks and evidence on mental health and wellbeing outcomes. Together, these presentations highlight the power of social identity frameworks in advancing theory, research, and practice to better support diverse LGBTQ+ communities.

Not Gay Enough, Not Straight Enough: Testing the Rejection–Identification Model among Bi+ Individuals.
Katie Langtry (Australian Catholic University)

Bisexual+ (bi+) individuals often experience “dual rejection,” facing stereotyping, erasure, and invalidation from both cis-heterosexual and LGBTQI+ communities, contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing compared to heterosexual and gay/lesbian peers. This study applies the Rejection–Identification Model (RIM; Branscombe et al., 1999) to investigate how discrimination from these sources shapes identity salience, group identification, and wellbeing. Drawing on a cross-sectional online survey of more than 750 bi+ men, women, and non-binary participants, we examine how experiences of discrimination relate to bi+ and LGBTQI+ identity salience and to outcomes such as self-esteem and life satisfaction. We hypothesize that discrimination will be negatively associated with wellbeing and with identification with the rejecting group, but that stronger identification with either bi+ or LGBTQI+ communities will buffer against negative effects, consistent with RIM predictions. Findings will contribute to debates on the scope and applicability of the RIM while offering critical insights into the importance of community affirmation and belonging for bi+ people navigating dual sources of minority stress. This work underscores the need for inclusive and affirming spaces that strengthen identity centrality and resilience among bi+ populations.

Migration, Sexual Identity, and Service Access among Asian-Born Men who have Sex with Men Living with HIV in Australia: Application of Social Identity Model of Identity Change.
Donna Sombrea (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)

Asian-born men who have sex with men (MSM) living with HIV in Australia face unique challenges shaped by cultural, social, and structural factors. The Social Identity Model of

Identity Change (SIMIC) provides a valuable framework for understanding how individuals maintain and adapt their social identities when navigating major life transitions. Guided by this model, our study explored how identity continuity is negotiated across migration experiences, sexual identity, and HIV diagnosis. We conducted semi-structured interviews with nine Asia-born MSM living with HIV and nine HIV sector workers, analysed through reflexive thematic analysis. Findings show that structural barriers and fear of disconnection from family and community, linked to sexuality and HIV, intensified emotional distress. At the same time, peer navigators, bicultural workers, and community-led programs provided critical relational support that enabled identity reconstruction. Culturally congruent care and consistent emotional support helped participants re-anchor their identities and engage more meaningfully with services, thereby enhancing both clinical and psychosocial outcomes.

Understanding Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men's Subcultural Identity Groups.
Jordan Hinton (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)

Abstract Details 3: For many gay, bisexual, and queer (GBQ+) men, subcultural identity groups or "tribes" (such as bears, twinks, or jocks) can offer a sense of belonging and positive distinctiveness. These groups can be characterised by various elements, including identity-based characteristics, appearance, sexual preferences, and shared social practices. Yet, despite their visibility in community life, research on GBQ+ men's subcultures remains limited. This scoping review therefore aimed to map the extent, range, and nature of empirical studies exploring GBQ+ men's subcultural groups, drawing on multiple databases and grey literature sources. Across the literature, GBQ+ subcultures were often ill-defined, conceptually ambiguous, and were examined primarily through risk-focused contexts, such as sexual risk or body image concerns. Such narrow framings overlook the diversity, strengths, and resilience these subcultures provide. Our findings point to the need for more strength-based approaches that capture the rich, multifaceted ways GBQ+ men find identity and community through subcultural belonging.

Symposium 2: Queer Desire and Connection: Social Psychological Perspectives on Relationships and Attraction.

Symposium Chair: Alenda Bondarchuk-McLaughlin (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)

Sexuality, identity, and technology intersect in complex ways that shape contemporary relationship practices, preferences, and experiences of belonging. This symposium brings together four papers that examine diverse but interconnected aspects of sexual and relational lives, with implications for theory, research, and practice in social psychology. The first paper introduces the Non-monogamy Configuration Theory, a framework that moves beyond traditional categorical understandings of consensual non-monogamy (CNM) to examine the specific relational agreements and practices that define CNM relationships. The second paper presents findings from Private Lives 3, highlighting the distinct psychosocial profiles of asexual compared to allosexual participants, including vulnerabilities and areas of resilience. The third paper investigates the role of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT in shaping sexual and relationship advice, highlighting both opportunities for inclusive education and risks of reinforcing bias. The fourth paper examines patterns of attraction to gay subcultural types—such as twinks, jocks, and bears—revealing how preferences for gender expression, body type, and race intersect in the sexual field. Together, these papers provide innovative insights into how sexuality, identity, and social dynamics converge in relational contexts, offering fresh directions for research, inclusive practice, and community engagement.

How to "do" non-monogamy: Proposing the Non-monogamy Configuration Theory.
Alenda Bondarchuk-McLaughlin (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)

Consensual non-monogamy (CNM) is an umbrella term for a range of relationship structures, where people have more than one partner with explicit knowledge and consent of everyone involved. CNM relationships include polyamory, open relationships, swinging, intimate networks, and many other relationship structures that differ in sexual, romantic and hierarchical agreements. Each relationship uniquely varies in romantic agreements (e.g., “no falling in love” rule), sexual agreements (e.g., "one night stands only” rule and “one penis policy”), and hierarchical practices (i.e. a degree of priority one partner has over others). Therefore, two relationships that are uniformly categorised as ‘open’ can be vastly different in their practices. Recent scholars have hence argued for a move away from broad categories of CNM (e.g., polyamory vs swinging) and instead examining specific CNM agreements and how they vary. This presentation proposes the Non-monogamy Configuration Theory that captures the hierarchical, sexual and romantic agreements of people in CNM relationships. A comprehensive theory that considers the specific ways CNM relationships are practiced can inform CNM research and education, assist in clinical settings and provide a practical tool for navigating relationship structures and agreements for people in CNM relationships.

Psychosocial Profiles of Asexual and Allosexual Adults: Insights from a National LGBTIQA+ Survey.
Ameer Maadal (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)

Asexuality is increasingly recognised within LGBTIQA+ scholarship, yet empirical data on the psychosocial experiences of asexual individuals remain limited. This study used data from Private Lives 3 (Hill et al., 2020), Australia’s largest national survey of LGBTIQA+ adults, to compare demographic characteristics and health and wellbeing indicators between asexual (n

= 453) and allosexual (n = 6,378) participants. Between-group analyses revealed that asexual participants were younger, more likely to be trans or non-binary, to have a disability, and to be unemployed compared to their allosexual peers. No differences were observed for ethnicity or experiences of homelessness. In terms of health and wellbeing, asexual participants reported higher levels of psychological distress and loneliness, and lower self-rated health and wellbeing, though no differences were found in community connectedness. These findings highlight the unique vulnerabilities experienced by asexual individuals within LGBTIQA+ communities and point to the need for inclusive, tailored health promotion and support strategies. Implications for clinical practice and policy development will be discussed.

ChatGPT, Sex, and Relationships: Examining Inclusivity and Bias in Generative-AI Advice.
James Newton (University of Queensland)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots such as ChatGPT are increasingly accessed for information and advice, including about sex and relationships, offering anonymity and immediacy to users. Yet little systematic research has examined the breadth or inclusivity of the information they provide. Concerns remain about whether advice is comprehensive, or whether biases emerge that privilege majority perspectives while marginalising sexual, gender, cultural, or geographic minorities. This study situates ChatGPT as a potential agent of sexual socialisation, with implications for understanding how AI systems may shape relational norms. An experimental design will be used in which researcher-generated prompts systematically vary user identities and contexts. ChatGPT's responses will be analysed using content analysis, focusing on comprehensiveness (e.g., breadth of topics, depth of explanation, attention to relational dynamics) and inclusivity (e.g., avoidance of heteronormativity, cultural assumptions, and narrow body ideals). Preliminary findings will be presented at the conference. These are expected to highlight both the opportunities and risks of AI chatbots in the domain of sex and relationships. Implications extend to users, educators, health professionals, AI developers, and policymakers concerned with the accessibility, inclusivity, and safety of sexual health and relationship education.

Twinks, jocks, and bears… oh my! Attraction to gay subcultural types is associated with sexual preferences for specific gender expressions, body types, and racial groups.
Michael Thai (University of Queensland)

Gay male subcultures—such as twinks, jocks, and bears—play a significant role in identity construction, belonging, and sexual dynamics within LGBTQIA+ communities. However, these subcultural categories are also intertwined with broader systems of gender, body, and racial politics. Drawing on survey data from 961 same-sex-attracted men living in Australia, this study investigates how attraction to specific subcultural archetypes correlates with preferences for gender expression, body type, and race. Results reveal that attraction to twinks is most strongly associated with preferences for femininity and slimmer bodies, while attraction to jocks and bears is associated with a desire for masculinity, with body-type preferences leaning toward muscular and larger bodies, respectively. Across all subcultures, a preference for White men was observed, reflecting pervasive racialised dynamics in the sexual field. At a more granular level, nuanced patterns emerged: attraction to twinks was associated with a preference for Asian and Latino men, attraction to jocks with Latino men, and attraction to bears with Middle Eastern men but an aversion to Asian men. These findings illuminate how subcultural desires are embedded within intersecting systems of gender, body, and racial politics, with significant implications for understanding sexual norms, exclusion, and belonging.

Symposium 3: Beyond Binaries: Social Psychological Perspectives on Trans and Gender-Diverse Wellbeing.

Symposium Chair: Callyn Farrell (University of Queensland)

Trans and gender-diverse (TGD) people experience unique challenges and strengths in navigating their identities, relationships, and wellbeing, shaped by complex social, cultural, and structural contexts. This symposium brings together four papers that showcase diverse approaches to understanding these experiences, with implications for social psychological theory and practice. The first paper explores the utility of a continuous measure of child gender identity, offering insights into parent–child alignment and the role of parental beliefs in shaping perceptions of gender diversity in early childhood. The second paper examines narratives of formerly incarcerated trans people in Australia, highlighting systemic neglect, violence, and resilience within incarceration settings. The third paper investigates dating and relationship patterns among binary and non-binary trans Australians, revealing how affirmation and stigma in romantic contexts influence life satisfaction and loneliness. The fourth paper analyses data from over 200 trans Australians to explore how gender minority stress, resilience, and gender positivity interact to shape mental health outcomes. Collectively, these papers advance our understanding of how social environments and personal strengths intersect to impact the lives and wellbeing of TGD people and point toward practical strategies for fostering affirmation and reducing harm.

Using a continuous measure of child gender identity to explore mother–child agreement.
Callyn Farrell (University of Queensland)

The Gender Spectrum Task offers a continuous, single item measure for assessing children's gender identity from 3-years of age. Australian mother-child dyads (N = 107; children aged 3- to 6-years-old) each completed the Gender Spectrum Task. Children used the full range of the measure and mothers' ratings showed strong alignment with children's self-reports, although discrepancies were greater when children's self-reported identities were less closely aligned with the binary ends of the measure. Further, when children's identities were less closely aligned with the binary ends, mothers with stronger gender essentialist beliefs perceived their child's identity as more binary-aligned. Findings suggest the measure is suitable for young children and offers promise for assessing shared understandings of gender identity.

Trans People's Experiences of Incarceration in Australia.
Scarlet Rosa (RMIT)

Trans people face profound injustices within carceral systems, reflecting broader societal issues of cisnormative discrimination and punitive policies. This presentation critically examines the experiences of formerly incarcerated trans people through an analysis of interviews and grey literature, including short stories, poems, radio interviews, and magazine articles. These narratives highlight the experiences of trans people in prison, aligning with academic research that demonstrates widespread sexual assault, violence, and the psychological impact of incarceration. Despite policies intended to address their needs, trans individuals continue to face significant harm, with reports of systemic neglect, lack of gender affirming care, and pervasive violence from both prison staff and others incarcerated. Alongside these challenges, the narratives in this research also reflect the strength, resilience, and community that trans individuals cultivate within the carceral system. This presentation calls for greater scrutiny of carceral policies and practices that disproportionately harm trans people

and highlights the urgent need for change, particularly regarding gender affirming care and safety within carceral settings.

Dating, Relationships and Wellbeing Among Trans Australians.
Serena Pehlivanidis (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; ARCSHS)

Navigating the dating world and fostering romantic relationships are pinnacle aspects of individuals' lives, and can have significant implications for their wellbeing. Dating environments and intimate relationships can be particularly challenging for trans individuals, with research showing that trans people face significant barriers, such as stigma and discrimination, when navigating positive and authentic romantic connections. Further, literature is beginning to indicate that non-binary peoples' experiences differ to their trans binary counterparts, and that it is critical to understand these experiences individually. Therefore, this study aims to describe the dating patterns of trans binary and non-binary Australians and their experiences of affirmation within sexual and romantic contexts. Further, it seeks to highlight the wellbeing impact of romantic relationships on life-satisfaction and loneliness in this cohort.

The Impact of Gender Identity and Gender Positivity on the Mental Health of Trans Australian People.
Kian Jin Tan (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society**;** ARCSHS)

The Gender Minority Stress and Resilience (GMSR) framework has been pivotal in understanding how minority stress processes shape the mental health and wellbeing of trans populations. This presentation draws on data from over 200 trans Australians who completed the full suite of GMSR measures to examine how stressors, resilience factors, and positive experiences interact across different gender identities. Analyses reveal key differences between non-binary and binary trans participants in their exposure to minority stressors, resilience factors, and wellbeing outcomes. Importantly, gender positivity—defined as the presence of positive and affirming experiences related to gender—emerged as a significant moderator of mental health outcomes, buffering the negative effects of stressors on psychological wellbeing. These findings underscore the value of extending deficit-focused models to incorporate strength-based perspectives that highlight the role of affirmation, resilience, and positive identity experiences. Implications for theory, practice, and policy will be discussed, with a particular focus on designing interventions and support systems that promote gender positivity as a protective factor for trans Australians.

Symposium 4: Identity leadership vs zombies: Paths and obstacles to progress in applied social identity research.

Symposium Chairs: Alex Haslam (University of Queensland), Vanessa Wergin (University of Queensland)
Contact: a.haslam@uq.edu.au

In recent years there has been considerable progress in work that draws on social identity theorising to tackle pressing challenges in areas of leadership and health. This symposium showcases some of this work, but, in the process, also reflects on the implementation challenges that such work presents. In this it makes the point that social identity processes are as important to the dynamics of intervention delivery as they are to the content of effective intervention.

Zombie leadership: Dead ideas that stand in the way of progress.
Alex Haslam (University of Queensland)

Much progress has been made in the theory and study of leadership in recent years. However, the field as a whole has been held back by commitment on the ground to an older set of ideas which have been repeatedly debunked but which nevertheless resolutely refuse to die. These are the bedrock of zombie leadership. Zombie leadership lives on not because it has empirical support but because it flatters and appeals to the interests of a class of people in positions of power and perpetuates ideas that they want to believe. It is propagated in the everyday discourse surrounding leadership but also by the media, popular books, consultants, HR practices, policy makers, and academics who are adept at catering to the tastes of the powerful and telling them what they want to hear. This presentation focuses on the identification and specification of 8 dead ideas (axioms) which constitute core principles of zombie leadership. As well as isolating the problematic metatheory which holds these ideas together, we reflect on ways in which they might finally be laid to rest.

Identity leadership and employee well-being and morale: A longitudinal study of the school system.
Katherine J Reynolds (University of Melbourne), Diana Cardenas (Australian National University), Bethany Reid (Australian National University), Haochen Zhou (Australian National University)

In 2016 the CEO Beyond Blue Chairman Jeff Kennet called for CEOs performance pay to be tied to the mental health of employees. In a way this paper explores this proposition examining the relationship between leader behaviours and staff well-being. Moreover, it is not clear how specifically leader behaviour impacts on well-being. Based on the social identity approach, we argue that school leaders who are capable of crafting and clarifying what it means to be an organisational member—an identity leader—will be able to foster a positive school climate. In turn, this positive climate should result in a range of positive outcomes for school staff members. Using a longitudinal survey of over 3000 school staff, we found support for our hypothesis: school staff members who perceived their school leaders as being identity leaders perceived a more positive school climate 1 year later, which, in turn, predicted higher levels of well-being (lower burnout, lower stress and higher self-esteem) and engagement in school outcomes (higher organizational commitment, team morale and professional development). Overall, these results underline the key role that school identity leaders play in crafting positive working environments and outcomes for staff members.

A Social Identity Model of Leadership Development.
Blake McMillan (University of Queensland)

Despite substantial investment in leadership development, organizations struggle to implement development initiatives effectively. This implementation challenge reflects a critical gap between theoretical understanding and practical application. This paper builds on the social identity approach to leadership to explain and address this gap. It does so by proposing that, like leadership, the effectiveness of leadership development is contingent on there being a sense of shared identity between those who are leading and those who are led. On this basis we argue that leadership development should be seen as an identity-based knowledge translation process whose success depends on developers achieving alignment between aspired-to leadership practices and the social identities of those whose leadership is being developed. We use these insights to outline a framework—the Social Identity Model of Leadership Development (SIMoLD)—which focuses on the ways that leadership interventions need to be adapted to fit and reinforce shared social identities within organizations. SIMoLD is structured around four key phases: (1) identity activation, (2) identity alignment, (3) identity actualization, and (4) identity anchoring and argues that these are moderated by the identity affordances of a given organizational environment (e.g., arising from the prevailing organizational culture, group dynamics, and leadership ideology). SIMoLD seeks not only to bridge the gap between theory and practice but also to show how effective leadership development can itself be seen as a process of identity leadership.

Bridging Health Care and Leadership: An Identity Leadership Training for G4H Facilitators.
Vanessa Wergin, Alysia Robertson, Radhika Butalia, Blake McMillan, S. Alexander Haslam, Tegan Cruwys, Niklas K. Steffens, Tarli Young, Catherine Haslam

Good healthcare provision should be client-centered and seek to reduce hierarchical barriers between facilitators and clients. At the same time, facilitators must be able to positively lead clients towards meaningful change. The Social Identity Approach to Leadership, which argues that leaders need to create, embed, represent, and advance a sense of “us”, offers a promising framework to meet this goal. Building on this approach, we developed a leadership training program for group facilitators delivering GROUPS 4 HEALTH (G4H) – a group-based intervention to enhance social group belonging. The leadership training involved self-reflection tasks and a card-sorting activity based on the four dimensions of identity leadership. Training was assessed using a mixed-methods approach and involved (i) completion of the Identity Leadership Inventory before training (T1), after training (T2), and after G4H delivery (T3), and (ii) feedback from focus groups with facilitators and their participants at T3 for in-depth insights into the training’s usefulness and acceptability. Preliminary findings indicate that, on average, facilitators improve in their self-perceived leadership across all identity leadership dimensions from T1 to T2. The implications of the results for leadership and the delivery of health care will be presented in full and discussed at the conference.

Symposium 5: How do individual differences shape emotional functioning in everyday life?

Symposium Chairs: Ella Moeck (University of Adelaide), Val Bianchi (University of Melbourne)
Contact: ella.moeck@adelaide.edu.au

Harnessing the power of intensive longitudinal methods, the research presented in this symposium sheds light on how individual differences shape everyday emotional functioning. First, Dr Jach investigates how personality traits (i.e., neuroticism and open-mindedness) predict people's approaches to uncertainty in everyday life. Second, Dr Bird examines how emotions about political debates shape well-being. Third, Dr Bianchi focuses on whether people's global beliefs about emotions predict emotion regulation processes. Finally, Dr Arthur-Hulme presents a study exploring how hormone sensitivity influences menstrual-cycle related changes in anxiety. Whereas in past decades personality and social psychologists debated whether situations or people's characteristics more strongly influence behaviour, current understanding acknowledges the dynamic interplay between the person and environment. This symposium integrates these modern perspectives to highlight how a range of individual differences shape emotional functioning in everyday life.

Personality traits shape attitudes and emotions in uncertain waiting periods.
Hayley Jach (University of Melbourne)

The only thing certain in life is uncertainty, and individuals differ in the degree to which they find uncertainty frightening, tolerable, or even enticing. People higher in neuroticism tend to find uncertainty aversive, whereas people higher in open-mindedness tend to find uncertainty enticing. However, there has been little exploration of how these Big 5 traits may relate to uncertainty attitudes in daily life and real-world uncertain situations. This study investigated how neuroticism and open-mindedness predicted forecasting, positive and negative emotions, and coping in self-described uncertain waiting periods. We test theory that open people are more optimistic about uncertainty and perceive an opportunity for exploration, whereas neurotic individuals are more pessimistic and perceive a threat to safety. We recruited 254 Prolific participants aged 18 to 74 (M = 39.26, SD = 11.22) who defined an uncertain waiting period and then completed 14 daily diaries where they reported emotions related to the uncertain event. Results were analysed with structural equation models and multilevel models. In line with pre-registered hypotheses, neuroticism predicted more negative forecasting and higher levels of event-related negative emotions, and the relationship between negative emotions and poorer coping was stronger with higher neuroticism. Open-mindedness results were more equivocal.

Divergent Paths: How Emotional Responses to Australia's Voice Referendum Shaped Well-being Outcomes Among Supporters and Opponents.
Lucy H Bird (Flinders University)

Political debates, including referenda, can be divisive and contentious. These debates can impact personal well-being, although not uniformly. Sub-groups of people may report different changes in their well-being across the course of referenda. While various aspects of political contests affect well-being, the role of emotions linking democratic outcomes and well-being remains understudied. We argue that emotions play an important role in well-being outcomes, with emotional responses and well-being trajectories differing between supporters versus opponents. Therefore, this research examines the divergent emotional experiences and well-being trajectories of Voice referendum supporters versus opponents throughout the campaign

period. Participants (Time 1 N=2,467, Time 2 N=1,482, Time 3 N=1,409) were surveyed at three time points (September 5-12, October 5-16, and 22-30, 2023). We use Growth Mixture Models to identify sub-groups of people with distinct well-being trajectories, hypothesising that some remained static, while others improved or declined during the debate period. We model supporters and opponents separately to examine how five discrete emotions (anger, despair, compassion, hope, and pride) predict well-being trajectories for different sub-groups within each voting group. This approach recognises that similar emotions may have different meanings and targets depending on political outcome, capturing how emotions influence well-being changes across distinct sub-groups.

Do Global Emotion Beliefs Predict People's Emotion Regulation in Everyday Life?
Valentina Bianchi (University of Melbourne)

Research consistently links emotion beliefs—specifically, that emotions are uncontrollable and useless— with poor long- and short-term psychological outcomes. Yet, the mechanisms through which emotion beliefs shape people's well-being are still unclear. A recent theory proposed that emotion beliefs may influence whether people initiate regulation, which strategies they select, and whether strategy implementation is successful. Our study aims to empirically test this theory in everyday life. We conducted an experience-sampling study (N = 326; 80% female; M_{Age}=26.11, SD_{Age}=8.52), surveying community participants 10 times per day, for 7 days. Using (pre-registered) multilevel modelling analyses, we found that the degree to which people believe emotions are controllable and useful did not significantly predict whether participants initiated momentary regulation of negative and positive affect (ps > .305). Further, the association between two widely studied emotion regulation strategies (rumination and reappraisal) and negative affect did not differ as a function of people's emotion beliefs (ps > .079). These findings suggest that individual differences about emotion beliefs may play a limited role in everyday emotion regulation processes.

Individual differences in premenstrual sensitivity moderate menstrual cycle effects on social emotions
Lindsie Arthur (University of Melbourne)

Research on menstrual cycle effects often assume uniformity across women, yet individuals vary widely in their sensitivity to hormonal changes. The present study tested whether premenstrual symptom (PMS) severity—used as a proxy for hormone sensitivity—moderates associations between cycle phase and daily social outcomes. A sample of 250 cisgender women completed repeated daily measures of affiliation motivation and state attachment. Using generalized additive models and mixed-effects analyses, we found that PMS severity predicted non-linear effects on attachment anxiety and attachment security, highlighting that experiences of closeness and reassurance fluctuate meaningfully across the cycle. These findings suggest that meaningful cycle-related changes may only emerge when individual differences in hormone sensitivity are considered. By incorporating variation in sensitivity, our approach provides a framework for reconciling conflicting evidence in menstrual cycle research and underscores the importance of validating women's diverse experiences across the cycle. More broadly, these models could be applied to related areas of hormone–behaviour research, offering more individualised and dynamic perspectives on emotional functioning in daily life.

Symposium 6: Understanding Prejudice and Building Resilience in LGBTQIA+ and Intersex Communities 1.

Symposium Chair: Lee Bravestone (University of Christchurch)

Stigma, stereotypes, and social structures profoundly shape the experiences of LGBTQIA+ and intersex individuals, influencing wellbeing, identity, and inclusion. This symposium brings together four papers that explore these dynamics through the lenses of stereotype content, internalised stigma, resilience, and policy engagement. The first paper applies innovative methods to examine how gender and sexually diverse (GSD) people spontaneously describe and evaluate in-group stereotypes, providing new insights into the nuance of in-group perspectives. The second paper investigates the dual-dimensional model of internalised sexual prejudice (ISP) among bisexual+ individuals, exploring the distinct impacts of prejudice from heterosexual and LGB sources on sexual wellbeing, and the buffering role of resilience against impacted sexual wellbeing. The third paper examines how satisfaction of basic psychological needs mediates the relationship between sexual prejudice and ISP among same-sex attracted individuals, highlighting pathways to support mental health and wellbeing. The fourth paper draws on the CHRISALIS project to analyse intersex representations in Ireland and Italy, revealing how social norms and institutional practices perpetuate stigma, and pointing to pathways for rights-based policy change. Together, these presentations highlight how social psychology can illuminate mechanisms of stigma and resilience while providing evidence-based strategies to promote inclusion, wellbeing, and social change.

Spontaneously Queer: Applying new methods to investigate LGBTQ+ in-group stereotypes.
Lee Bravestone (University of Christchurch)

Stereotypes of gender and sexually diverse (GSD) people have primarily been researched in cisgender and heterosexual participants. By relying on people outside of the GSD population, stereotype researchers miss the nuance in views of GSD stereotypes, likely overlooking relevant social groups. We conducted a cross-classified multi-level analysis of spontaneous descriptors (i.e., text analysis of words that came to mind) and explicit evaluations (i.e., warmth traits and competence traits) about the stereotype content of 43 GSD social groups, as evaluated by a sample of GSD participants' (N = 216). Extending these findings, we adapted the BIAS map framework to assess GSD participants' (N = 156) spontaneous and explicit beliefs and affects predicted behaviours. Results indicated that warmer or more competent groups were judged more positively, both spontaneously and explicitly, but provided mixed support of BIAS Map predictions. Our research demonstrates the value of in-group perspectives as well as shedding light on GSD groups not normally considered in research.

Internalised Sexual Prejudice and Sexual Well-Being in Bisexual+ Individuals: Examining a Dual-Dimensional Model.
Ella Dingle (Australian Catholic University)

Bisexual+ individuals experience unique minority stress, facing prejudice from both heterosexual and lesbian/gay communities. Recent evidence suggests that internalised sexual prejudice (ISP) is dual-dimensional, reflecting internalisation of stigma from straight people and from other sexual minorities. However, how these dimensions relate to sexual well-being remains underexplored. This study aimed to: (1) test whether prejudice from straight versus LGB sources differentially predicts the corresponding dimension of ISP; (2) examine whether ISP mediates associations between prejudice and sexual well-being; and (3) assess whether resilience moderates the pathway from prejudice to ISP. A subsample of 400 bisexual+ adults

from a larger cross-sectional online survey (via Prolific) completed measures of anti-bisexual experiences (by source), dual-dimensional ISP, sexual well-being (including satisfaction, function, sexual anxiety, and orgasm frequency/faking), and resilience. Planned analyses include correlations, multiple regression, and structural equation modelling to examine mediation and moderated mediation. We hypothesise that (H1) source-specific prejudice will predict the congruent dimension of ISP; (H2) higher ISP will be linked to lower sexual well-being, mediating the relationship between prejudice and sexual well-being; and (H3) resilience will attenuate the association between prejudice and ISP. These findings will advance understanding of dual pathways of ISP and inform interventions—such as emotional literacy and resilience-building programs—to support the sexual well-being of bisexual+ individuals.

Understanding How Basic Psychological Needs Mediate the Effects of Sexual Prejudice on Internalised Stigma.

Dylan Henry (The Cairnmillar Institute)

Same-sex attracted (SSA) individuals often face prejudice and discrimination due to their non-conforming sexual identities, which can contribute to the internalisation of societal stigma—known as internalised sexual prejudice (ISP)—and to associated health disparities. This study examined whether the satisfaction of basic psychological needs (BPNs; autonomy, relatedness, competence) mediates the relationship between experiences of sexual prejudice at the personal and group levels and ISP. A total of 330 participants (M = 34.9 years, SD = 11.9) completed an online survey. Bivariate analyses revealed that personal-level, but not group-level, sexual prejudice was positively associated with ISP. Mediation analyses indicated that autonomy, competence, and relatedness significantly mediated the relationship between personal-level prejudice and ISP, but not between group-level prejudice and ISP. These findings highlight the importance of fostering environments that support SSA individuals' basic psychological needs, which may help to buffer the harmful effects of sexual prejudice on internalised stigma and, by extension, mental health and wellbeing.

Bridging Norms and Policy in Intersex Research: Social Psychology Insights from the CHRISALIS Project.

Marta Prandelli **(**Dublin City University)

People with innate variations of sex characteristics (VSC) face ongoing human rights challenges, including non-consensual medical interventions, legal invisibility, and exclusion from policy frameworks. These issues are sustained by powerful social norms and institutional practices that reinforce binary understandings of sex and gender. Social psychology offers critical tools to examine and challenge these processes. Drawing on the CHRISALIS project, a qualitative study of intersex/VSC representations and healthcare practices in Ireland and Italy, this research explores how social psychological concepts, such as stigma, social norms, and epistemic injustice, can illuminate the cultural and institutional dynamics underpinning medicalisation and erasure. The study involved 18 interviews with stakeholders and 4 focus groups with healthcare professionals across both countries. Findings highlight how intersex people are frequently framed within narrow medical paradigms, limiting their recognition within equality, health, and social policies. While some stakeholders recognised the need for psychosocial support and systemic reform, others pointed to persistent barriers shaped by cultural silence and institutional inertia. This work demonstrates how social psychology can support inclusive, rights-based policy change by connecting lived experience, critical theory, and stakeholder knowledge. It underscores the role of the discipline in addressing structural inequalities and advancing intersex inclusion.

Symposium 7: From Stigma to Strength: Mechanisms of Prejudice and Resilience in LGBTQIA+ Communities 2.

Symposium Chair: Joel Anderson (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)
Contact: joel.anderson@latrobe.edu.au

This symposium examines the complex intersections of prejudice, resilience, and wellbeing within LGBTQIA+ communities, highlighting how social, structural, and interpersonal factors shape diverse lived experiences. Across four presentations, we combine qualitative and quantitative approaches to deepen understanding of stigma, inclusion, and pathways to resilience. The first paper presents the first quantitative test of the Religious–SGM Identity Management Model, exploring how religious contexts shape identity management strategies and wellbeing among LGBTQ+ people with current or former Christian affiliations. The second paper investigates weight-related discrimination among lesbian women, using qualitative interviews to explore how stigma manifests across dating, healthcare, and workplaces, and its psychological and social impacts. The third paper reports on a contact intervention study examining how voluntary and structured intergroup contact influences attitudes and support for social change in LGBTIQ+ and heterosexual participants. The final paper explores reproductive coercion in sexual and gender diverse populations, highlighting how reproductive autonomy violations are associated with poorer psychological wellbeing and the need for inclusive, community-informed interventions. Collectively, these studies advance theory and practice by identifying mechanisms of prejudice, highlighting resilience, and offering evidence-based insights for policy, community, and clinical responses that promote inclusion and wellbeing for LGBTQIA+ communities.

Testing the Religious–SGM Identity Management Model: A Quantitative Examination with LGBTQ+ Australians.

Joel Anderson (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)

Emerging qualitative research has highlighted the complex ways in which LGBTQ+ people navigate potential conflicts between their sexual/gender and religious identities, leading to the development of the Religious–SGM Identity Management Model (RSIMM). The RSIMM posits that exposure to negative religious messaging, coupled with environmental and social factors (e.g., congregational stance, familial support), shapes the adoption of identity management strategies—ranging from rejection and compartmentalisation to full integration—and that these strategies differentially impact wellbeing. This study presents the first quantitative test of the RSIMM using survey data from approximately 750 LGBTQ+ Australians with current or former Christian affiliations. Participants completed measures of religious salience, exposure to affirming or hostile religious contexts, identity management strategies, internalised sexual prejudice, and psychosocial wellbeing. Structural equation modelling will be used to test hypothesised pathways linking environmental and individual factors to strategy use and wellbeing outcomes. We expect that integration and affirming religious contexts will predict more positive outcomes, while rejection of SGM identity and compartmentalisation will be associated with poorer mental health. Findings will refine the RSIMM and inform interventions that support identity integration and resilience among LGBTQ+ people of faith.

Lesbian Women's Lived Experiences of Weight-Related Discrimination and Bias.

Felicity Angelopoulos (University of Melbourne)

Lesbian women are largely overlooked in weight stigma research, despite evidence that lesbian women experience comparable levels of body dissatisfaction and disordered eating compared to heterosexual women. Recent qualitative work also highlights plus-sized queer women's experiences of weight-related discrimination in dating contexts. This study examines the lived experiences of weight-related discrimination among Australian lesbian women. We expand on previous research by exploring sources of weight bias across social domains, including dating, healthcare and workplaces. Participants will be recruited from Melbourne's LGBTQIA+ community via targeted advertisements. Semi-structured interviews will explore experiences of weight stigma and transcripts will be analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. Findings will identify where and how weight-related discrimination manifests for lesbian women, and its psychological, social and health-related impacts. Results may promote more inclusive research for lesbian women, and will provide foundational knowledge for the development of tailored interventions and support services.

The Effect of Intergroup Contact on Support for Social Change: Addressing Contact Volition and the Role of Talking About Inequalities in the LGBTIQ+ Context.
Tabea Hässler (University of Zurich)

Correlational evidence suggests that the effect of intergroup contact on support for social change toward greater equality is positive in advantaged groups but negative in disadvantaged groups (i.e., "irony of harmony" effect). We conducted a preregistered two-stage contact intervention study among LGBTIQ+ and straight people. In the first stage (N = 664), participants were randomized or chose to interact with ingroup vs. outgroup members through a 45-minute fast friendship procedure focused on commonalities. Outgroup interactions had positive effects on support for social change only for straight participants who chose outgroup interactions. For LGBTIQ+ participants, effects were indistinguishable from zero. In the second stage (N = 408), participants were randomized to 45-minute outgroup interactions focused on commonalities or inequalities. Focusing on inequalities did not decrease outgroup attitudes nor did it increase support for social change (for most measures). This suggests that discussing inequalities may not harm intergroup relations and could, under certain conditions— as future research will clarify— potentially support social change.

Reproductive Coercion in Sexual and Gender Diverse Populations.
Nicola Sheeran (La Trobe University)

Reproductive coercion and abuse (RCA) is a form of violence intended to interfere and control a person's reproductive autonomy that has significant effects on a person's psychologist well-being (Sheeran et al., 2025), though little is known about impacts on those from sexual and gender expansive (SGE) populations. The current study explored relationships between RCA and psychological well-being for those identifying as gender expansive and cisgender and plurisexual and monosexual and was guided by an ethics of care approach (Vincent, 2018) that was piloted with SGE communities. Using targeted community recruitment strategies (flyers, emails and social media) 242 participants completed the online survey measuring depression, anxiety, stress, life satisfaction, substance use, RCA and IPV. Findings provide foundational insights into the associations between RCA and psychological outcomes among SGE populations, which may inform RCA screening and interventions for SGE victim-survivors.

Symposium 8: From Institutions to Communities: Navigating Mental Health and Inclusion in LGBTQIA+ Lives.

Symposium Chair: Léïla Eisner (University of Zurich)

LGBTQIA+ people experience ongoing challenges in accessing safe, inclusive, and affirming mental health and healthcare services, alongside strengths rooted in community resilience and identity. This symposium brings together four papers that examine these dynamics through the lenses of social identity, community care, and institutional contexts. The first paper explores how institutional decisions, such as public votes on LGBTIQ+ rights, shape perceived social norms and influence the wellbeing of minority groups. The second paper presents findings from a qualitative study of informal mental health support within LGBTQIA+ communities, highlighting how shared identity fosters support while also revealing gaps and challenges. The third paper draws on a large mixed-methods study of primary healthcare providers to investigate the role of professional and workplace norms in shaping the uptake of LGBTQIA+-inclusive training and safe care practices. The final paper integrates findings from two studies on informal caregiving and formal mental health service access, identifying opportunities for better bridging between community and professional support systems. Together, these papers offer a comprehensive picture of the barriers, facilitators, and opportunities for fostering affirming environments and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for LGBTQIA+ communities.

How Institutional Decisions Influence Perceived Norms on LGBTIQ+ Rights.
Léïla Eisner (University of Zurich)

Institutional decisions can lead to significant changes in the rights of disadvantaged groups. Beyond the effects on rights, such decisions may also influence the normative climate in which these groups live. This talk presents findings from three large-scale natural experiments conducted around public votes on LGBTIQ+ rights in Switzerland and Australia. Across five samples (N = 3,360), including LGBTIQ+ people and cis-heterosexual supporters and opponents, we find that progressive votes expanding rights significantly shifted perceived norms. These shifts were linked to improved well-being among targeted minorities—particularly among those who had previously underestimated public support (i.e., pluralistic ignorance). While our studies focus on inclusive outcomes, we discuss the broader implications of our findings and ongoing research for institutional decisions that restrict rights, such as recent anti-trans legislation in the U.S. Understanding these processes highlights the powerful role of institutional signals in shaping the lived experiences of minority groups.

A Straight Friend Hasn't Walked in These Shoes": The Role of Shared Identity in LGBTQIA+ Informal Mental Health Support.
Robert Grigor (University of Technology Sydney)

LGBTQIA+ people often face stigma and discrimination when accessing professional mental health services, which has led to a growing interest in the way that LGBTQIA+ community members provide informal mental health support to each other. Building upon research linking social identity with health and wellbeing, the present research conducted qualitative research surveys with a sample of 58 LGBTQIA+ participants to explore how they accessed informal mental health support, and how their shared social identity as LGBTQIA+ community members impacted their views on such support. Reflexive thematic analysis was used to identify four themes in the data. One theme found participants describing a shared queer identity as essential for seeking informal peer support, while the second found that being understood was more important than any particular identity. A third theme identified "blind spots" in LGBTQIA+

informal peer support, whereby particular identities had difficulty accessing this support, while a fourth theme articulated the versatile roles played by informal support in LGBTQIA+ mental health. Divergent perspectives on the importance of LGBTQIA+ identity and potential avenues for future research based on the findings are discussed.

Examining Intersectional Identity Development among LGBTQ+ People of Colour.
Viet Mason Trinh (La Trobe University)

Intersectional identity development is a fundamental developmental process for individuals with multiple marginalized identities, such as LGBTQ+ people of color (POC). Despite this, it remains an underexplored area in current research. We conducted a scoping review of peer-review literature, with the aims of (a) identifying key conceptual frameworks, associated constructs, and mental health and well-being outcomes related to intersectional identity development among LGBTQ+ POC, and (b) highlighting common methodological approaches. Thematic secondary content analysis was conducted. Review findings will be reported according to the PRISMA-ScR checklist (Tricco et al., 2018). We will present a descriptive summary of the included studies' characteristics, provide a narrative synthesis of main themes, and highlight key evidence gaps and limitations. Our findings will provide an overview of how intersectional identity development has been conceptualized and operationalized in relevant research about LGBTQ+ POC. Implications for theory development and future empirical work will be discussed.

Bridging Informal and Formal Mental Health Support in LGBTQ+ Communities.
Shane Worrell (Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health, and Society; ARCSHS)

LGBTQ communities experience high rates of suicidality, depression and anxiety, due to factors including discrimination. With limited options for accessing queer-affirming adequate mental health services, LGBTQ+ individuals often turn to their peers for informal mental health support. Findings from the Lean on Me, a mixed-methods study conducted in Melbourne, Australia, demonstrates that many LGBTQ+ caregivers find their support roles meaningful. However, the study also shows that supporting a peer or peers can come at a significant cost, causing emotional exhaustion and even leading to burnout. In this paper, we juxtapose data from Lean on Me with preliminary data from Optimise+, an Australia-wide mixed-methods study that explores how LGBTQ+ people access both LGBTQ+-community-controlled and mainstream mental health services. We consider how caregivers' experiences of providing support to peers could potentially inform service providers seeking to make services more accessible for community members experiencing mental ill health. We also consider how community members' experiences of services and barriers they faced when trying to access them might generate knowledge that helps to alleviate the burden on informal caregivers. We conclude that the two studies emphasise the need to a) increase access to LGBTQ-affirmative mental health services and b) develop systems that better support those already providing informal care.

Symposium 9: The Gender Lens: Inequality, Well-Being, and Pathways to Solidarity.

Symposium Chair: Axel Chemke-Dreyfus (University of Queensland)
Contact: a.chemkedreyfus@uq.edu.au
Discussant: Dr Michael Thai, University of Queensland

Structural gender inequality shapes when gender becomes the dominant lens for social perception, how central gender identity is and its consequences for well-being, and how identity can be harnessed for change. This symposium traces an arc from structure to salience, consequences, and leverage. Talk 1 (Peng) tests whether inequality makes gender the diagnostic lens through which people see the social world. In an experiment (N = 226), participants who imagined a highly gender-unequal society were more likely to categorise both themselves and others by gender, consistent with self-categorisation theory's comparative-fit principle. Talk 2 (Hill Cone) asks whether stronger gender identity is a resource or a risk for mental health. Using four annual waves of data (N = 34,368) and RI-CLPMs, this study found that within-person changes in gender identity centrality did not influence psychological distress—a finding that challenges the assumption that gender identification is linked to well-being. Talk 3 (Chemke-Dreyfus) examines how identification can be mobilised constructively. Across three studies (N = 345), interpersonal perspective-taking about a close woman's experiences increased men's support for gender equality, with effects most robust when personal concern for one woman was generalised to women as a group—extending a shared identity from the interpersonal to the collective. Together, these talks map a coherent arc: inequality sharpens category boundaries; identification carries level-specific links to well-being; and strategically expanding a shared "we" can translate identity into constructive allyship.

The Language of Gender Inequality: Inequality Increases Gender Category Salience.
Shengrui Peng (University of Queensland)

Gender inequality, which refers to disparities between men and women across a wide range of socio-economic indicators (Casara et al., 2024), may also influence how people make sense of the social world. Specifically, when people perceive greater disparity based on gender, gender may become a more salient and relevant category for categorizing themselves and others. This prediction builds on classical self-categorization theory, which posits that a social category becomes more salient and relevant when members of each group are perceived as having more in common with one another than with members of the opposite group (Turner, 2004). Previous research has shown that when inequality related to wealth is perceived to be high, wealth becomes a more relevant social category for interpreting the social world (Peters et al., 2022). In one experimental study (n = 226), we examined whether this effect also occurs in the domain of gender inequality in experimental context and found that gender became a more salient and relevant social category for participants when they imagined living in a highly gender-unequal society compared to a more gender-equal one. This research demonstrates the effect of gender inequality on how people make sense of the social world and is valuable because the salience of relevant social category is critical for predicting a wide range of group-related behaviours and outcomes(Jetten & Peters, 2019).

Gift or Burden? Gender Identity Centrality and Psychological Distress Over Time.
Deborah Hill Cone (University of Auckland)

Gender identity has become a focus of increasing interest, yet it remains unclear whether a stronger gender identity serves as a protective factor or a liability for well-being. Whereas the

social cure hypothesis contends that a more central gender identity is a resource (Haslam et al., 2012), recent empirical work finds that it can also be a burden, particularly for women (Zitelny et al., 2022). To shed light on this apparent contradiction, we used random intercept cross-lagged panel models (RI-CLPM) to examine reciprocal associations between gender identity centrality (GIC) and psychological distress (Kessler-6) across four annual waves of longitudinal data (N = 34,368). Although results revealed that higher GIC was associated with lower psychological distress among both women (β = –0.106, SE = 0.006, p < .001) and men (β = –0.107, SE = 0.008, p < .001) at the between-person level of analysis, data at the within-person level showed that changes in GIC at one timepoint were unassociated with psychological distress at a later timepoint for either men or women. These findings challenge the view that a more central gender identity has a causal impact on mental health for men or women, and suggest that the positive association between identification with one's gender and well-being is due to trait-level effects.

From close ties to collective concern: Interpersonal perspective-taking as a pathway to men's support for gender equality.

Axel Chemke-Dreyfus. (University of Queensland)

Mobilising men's support for gender equality remains a critical challenge in addressing structural inequities. Across three studies in Australia and the United Kingdom (N = 345), this research examines whether interpersonal perspective-taking—reflecting on how gender discrimination affects a woman in one's personal life—can motivate men's support. In Study 1, a within-subjects design showed that interpersonal perspective-taking increased support via heightened shared identity with women. Study 2 replicated this effect in a between-subjects design but found no mediation by shared identity, suggesting that identity salience alone may not be sufficient. Study 3 used a mixed-methods, cross-sectional design to test interpersonal closeness as a predictor of support via shared identity and discrimination appraisals. Results revealed that interpersonal closeness predicted support only when it fostered a broader sense of shared identity. Together, these findings suggest that interpersonal perspective-taking motivates men's support not simply through interpersonal closeness, but by extending identity from one woman to women as a group, and by making structural inequality more visible.

Symposium 10: Responding to climate change: structural, psychological, and interpersonal perspectives.

Symposium Chair: Boryana Todorova (University of Vienna; University of Queensland)
Contact: boryana.todorova@univie.ac.at

What shapes climate beliefs and action across the globe? This symposium will take a multi-level perspective, tracing the pathways from national contexts to interpersonal dialogue. Hornsey will open by examining how structural country-level factors, such as GDP, fossil fuel dependence, and democratic strength, shape public concern, scepticism, and activism. Todorova will expand this view, presenting work utilizing machine learning to identify the most important predictors of climate-relevant beliefs and behaviors across 55 countries, integrating both nation-level and individual-level variables such as trust and environmental identity. MacInnes will then explore the role of trust, showing how people across 13 countries evaluate different sources of climate information, from scientists to friends, and how trust will vary between climate believers and sceptics. Finally, Pearson will examine how these beliefs and divisions play out in real-time interactions, using a novel experimental design to observe conversations between climate believers and sceptics and to identify the conversational dynamics that could reduce polarisation. Collectively, the talks shed light on the multi-level forces that shape climate engagement, including societal structures, individual psychology, and social interactions, highlighting pathways toward more impactful communication and action.

Climate beliefs across borders.
Matthew Hornsey (University of Queensland)

Climate beliefs across borders Like many social psychologists, I began my career thinking about the individual; how worldviews, ideologies, and belief systems shape people's responses to climate change. Most of this work has been rooted in the Global North, where political ideology and education are often central. But climate change (in)action is not easily explained at the level of the individual. Rather, it's a global phenomenon shaped by national histories, economies, and political systems. In this talk, I shift focus from the individual to the national level, drawing on international datasets and social media data to explore how country-level factors — such as GDP, fossil fuel dependence, and democracy — shape climate concern, scepticism, and activism. The findings underscore calls for a globally informed approach to climate psychology, one that takes seriously the political, economic, and structural context in which beliefs are formed.

Machine learning identifies key individual and nation-level factors predicting climate-relevant beliefs and behaviors.
Boryana Todorova (University of Vienna)

Machine learning identifies key individual and nation-level factors predicting climate-relevant beliefs and behaviors While numerous studies have examined factors associated with climate-friendly beliefs and behaviors, a systematic, cross-national ranking of their key correlates is lacking. We use interpretable machine learning to quantify the extent to which different climate-relevant outcomes (climate change belief, policy support, willingness to share information on social media, and a pro-environmental behavioral task) are predictable and to rank 19 individual- and nation-level predictors in terms of their importance across 55 countries (N = 4635). We find notable differences in explained variance for the outcomes (e.g., 57% for climate change belief vs. 10% for pro-environmental behavior). Four predictors had consistent effects across all outcomes: environmentalist identity, trust in climate science, internal

environmental motivation, and the Human Development Index. However, most of the predictors show divergent patterns, predicting some but not all outcomes or even having opposite effects. To better capture this complexity, future models should include multi-level factors and consider the different contexts (e.g., public vs private) in which climate-related cognition and action emerge.

Understanding trust in different sources of climate change information.
Sarah MacInnes (University of Queensland)

Understanding trust in different sources of climate change information Public trust in climate change information is crucial to mobilising change, and trust in the messenger can be as influential as the message itself. Our study explores how trust in climate change information is shaped by both the communicator and the recipient. Using data from 6,479 respondents across 13 countries, we measure trust in various sources of climate change information - including scientific experts, various societal leaders, and community members - and identify the features most strongly linked with trustworthiness. Our findings show that community members ("friends and family," "people like me") can rival or even surpass trust in climate change scientists, particularly among climate skeptics. While supporting data and the absence of profit motive are important to most people, climate change believers particularly prioritise clear communication, whereas skeptics value respectful engagement with opposing views. Our findings highlight the need for climate change communication strategies that are tailored both to the source and the audience, to effectively build trust.

What happens when climate believers and sceptics converse?
Samuel Pearson (University of Queensland)

What happens when climate believers and sceptics converse? Despite extensive research on climate scepticism persistence, little is known about how direct engagement between climate sceptics and believers naturally unfolds or its potential for promoting attitude change. We know that conversations with ChatGPT have been shown to reduce confidence in climate sceptical beliefs, but the human persuasive (dis)advantage relative to AI is less understood. In this talk, I'll explain what happens when human climate sceptics talk with ChatGPT, as well as what happens when they talk with human pro-climate participants through a Facebook Messenger-style chat interface. Using a combination of pre / post conversation measures and AI-powered analyses, I'll examine how cross-ideological climate conversations unfold, whether brief dialogues influence attitudes or willingness to engage in future discussions, and identify conversational dynamics that promote understanding versus polarization.

Symposium 11: The light and dark sides of regulating emotions in interpersonal contexts.

Symposium Chair: Carolyn MacCann (University of Sydney)
Contact: carolyn.maccann@sydney.edu.au

Emotions are rarely managed in isolation. From intimate partnerships to professional contexts, people routinely attempt to regulate the emotions of others for better or worse. This symposium examines the motives, strategies, and consequences of emotion regulation across diverse interpersonal contexts, with a special focus on both its constructive and destructive forms. MacCann opens by introducing a novel taxonomy of motives and strategies for contra-hedonic regulation, where individuals make others feel worse. This framework advances understanding of the "dark side" of emotion regulation, highlighting links with aggression and narcissism. Mitchell then presents dyadic evidence from over 500 couples showing that emotion-worsening strategies heighten conflict, but that conflict can be buffered by concurrent positive regulatory behaviours. Wong extends this work to intimate partner violence, identifying subgroups of individuals with distinct profiles of attachment insecurity, dysregulation, and interpersonal regulation, and showing how these patterns predict IPV perpetration and victimisation. Finally, Barkl examines healthcare workers' regulation of one another's emotions, uncovering the difficulties they face in expressing and regulating 'non-sanctioned' emotions, which highlights the importance of psychological safety in healthcare work. Together, these papers offer new frameworks with practical implications for relationships, safety, and occupational health.

Why and how do people attempt to make others feel worse? Motives and strategies for contra-hedonic emotion regulation of other people.
Carolyn Maccann (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Emotion regulation research has focused on how people regulate their own emotions (not others' emotions) to feel better (not worse). There is little research on the dark side of emotion regulation (making others feel worse) despite its impact on people's lives. We identify 11 motives and 8 strategies to make others feel worse, using content analysis of free-response survey data (N=50) and correlational analysis of newly-developed rating scale items (N=198, 393). Participants were recruited from Prolific. Results suggest a motive framework distinguishing: self-focus versus other-focus; pro-social to anti-social; and targeting change to appearance, power, emotions, outcome, or beliefs. Strategies could ordered from approach to avoid. The 51-item motive scale showed good model fit (RMSEA=.037, CFI=.951) for 11 facets loading onto four domains ranging from anti-social to pro-social: 1) to win, 2) to worsen their emotions, 3) to help me survive, 4) to help them. The 40-item strategy scale showed good model fit (RMSEA=.031, CFI=.969) for 8 facets loading onto 3 domains ranging from approach to avoid: 1) provoke, 2) disparage, 3) withdraw. All motives and strategies related to greater aggression and all but one to greater vulnerable narcissism. These new scales and frameworks enable new research to be undertaken.

How your partner makes you feel better or worse: Do worsening and improving strategies interact to predict conflict?
Alexander Mitchell, Celine Van Golde, Rebecca T. Pinkus, Carolyn MacCann
(School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

In romantic relationships, people commonly make attempts to regulate a partner's emotions, both to improve but also to worsen their emotional state. These attempts are linked to both greater conflict (for worsening) and greater relationship satisfaction (for improving). The current

research analyses dyadic data from 534 man/woman couples, testing whether affect-improving and affect-worsening strategies interact to predict conflict. We test: 1) a main effect of affect improving strategies (including direct action, reconstrual, valuing, and receptive listening), 2) a main effect of affect worsening strategies (criticism, pressuring, and withdrawing), and 3) the interaction of key improving strategies with worsening strategies (e.g., is criticism more damaging when it occurs in the absence of reconstrual?). Self-reported strategy use was measured at time 1 with conflict measured 3 days later. Results suggest that the effects of negative behaviours (such as criticising) can be ameliorated by the presence of positive behaviours (such as reconstrual). That is, the level of conflict in a relationship depends on the combination of strategies (both those aimed at worsening and those aimed at improving a partner's emotions) and not just their presence or absence.

A Latent Profile Analysis of Attachment, Emotion Dysregulation, and Interpersonal Emotion Regulation: Links to Intimate Partner Violence.

Iana Wong (School of Psychology, University of Sydney; School of Psychology, University of New South Wales), Thomas F. Denson (School of Psychology, University of New South Wales)

Insecure romantic attachment and difficulties with emotion regulation are risk factors for intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration and victimization. Yet perpetrators and victims of IPV are a heterogeneous population. In the present research, we sought to determine whether individual differences in attachment and emotion regulation could be used to classify individuals into meaningful groups with similar response patterns. To do so, we conducted a latent profile analysis (N = 554) of attachment dimensions, intrapersonal emotion dysregulation, and the use of interpersonal emotion regulation in a sample of people largely involved in IPV. Results showed four classes. One group was characterized by high scores on anxious and avoidant attachment, moderate emotion dysregulation, and the tendency not to rely on their partner to help with emotion regulation ("insecurely attached, dysregulated, and independent"). This group was much more likely to be a perpetrator and victim of physical, psychological, sexual, and cyber IPV than the other three groups. Results suggest that the combination of attachment insecurity, poor intrapersonal emotion regulation, and the failure to seek out one's romantic partner when experiencing negative emotions may put people at risk of IPV perpetration and victimization.

Emotion Regulation in Healthcare Teams: A Qualitative Study of Healthcare Workers.

Alistair Barkl, Carolyn MacCann
(School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Given the high levels of burnout and other staffing issues in the healthcare sector, it is important to know how healthcare workers emotionally support each other. Emotion regulation is a key mechanism through which healthcare workers support each other. Further, as teams are ubiquitous in modern workplaces, emotion regulation may be viewed as an interaction process amongst team members. This inductive, qualitative study comprised interviews of Australian healthcare workers (N = 20), including nursing and allied health staff. Codebook thematic analysis resulted in three overarching themes: 1) Transgressive emotions, 2) Hiding emotions, and 3) Regulation through a shared understanding. Put simply, participants reported feeling emotions that were in conflict with organisational expectations and sought either to hide these emotions or to share them with trusted colleagues. We saw a clear link between our findings and the concept of "psychological safety", such that the level of psychological safety in a team may impact how team members choose to regulate their emotions. This study brings to light the surprising ways healthcare workers emotionally support each other in extraordinary circumstances, adding new layers of richness to extant emotion regulation research.

Symposium 12: Endorsement of harmful ideologies across time and contexts.

Symposium Chair: Chelsea D'Cruz (Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact: chelsea.dcruz@vuw.ac.nz

People can support unfairness in society, even counterintuitive endorsement for beliefs that harm their own group. This symposium brings together four talks that demonstrate how people's endorsement of different ideologies is linked with harmful outcomes for themselves and their communities, extending knowledge of the mechanisms and contexts of this endorsement. The first talk illustrates that LGBTQIA+ people with stronger ingroup identity tended to reject cis-heteronormative beliefs and policies (e.g., "bathroom bans"), but this was counteracted by endorsement of gender essentialism. Second, longitudinal methods tracked how the belief that "gender relations are fair" remains stable or changes over time and between age groups for men and women. The third talk explores the intergenerational links between parents' and children's sexism, showing that fathers' hostile sexism significantly predicted children's hostile sexism, while mothers' benevolent sexism significantly predicted children's benevolent sexism. The final talk examines linguistic features within manosphere ideology, demonstrating that sigma, as an innovative linguistic feature, failed to infiltrate the Reddit manosphere. Overall, these studies illustrate the importance of considering why people endorse ideologies that contribute to greater harm, and how endorsement changes across time and contexts.

Cis-heteronormativity within LGBTQIA+ communities.
Chelsea D'Cruz (Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington)

Cis-heteronormativity is the societal assumption that everybody is cisgender, heterosexual, and endosex. This assumption can be held by both cisgender heterosexual and LGBTQIA+ populations. Across two studies, the current research explored LGBTQIA+ people's beliefs about the innateness and stability of gender/sex (i.e., gender essentialism) and how much they deny discrimination towards LGBTQIA+ communities. Study 1 (N = 291 LGBTQIA+ people) indicated that participants who had stronger LGBTQIA+ ingroup identity were less likely to deny discrimination, unless they also had high endorsement of gender essentialism. Study 2 (N = 293 LGBTQIA+ people) partially supported this; participants who had stronger LGBTQIA+ ingroup identity were less likely to deny discrimination, even when accounting for age and socioeconomic status. Comparatively, people who endorsed gender essentialism showed more support for policies that were discriminatory towards LGBTQIA+ communities. Altogether, this research suggests that some LGBTQIA+ people's endorsement of gender essentialism may be a mechanism to justify unfair, cis-heteronormative systems. This raises the question as to the potential danger of messaging that relies on essentialist notions of gender and sexuality (e.g., "born this way") to be validating. Accordingly, research must consider ways to address endorsement of gender essentialism within LGBTQIA+ communities.

Gender-Based System Justification Across the Adult Lifespan: Exploring Aging, Period and Cohort Effects.
Natalia M Simionato (University of Auckland)

Since 2009, several local and global events including the Roast Busters scandal, the election of Jacinda Ardern, and the #MeToo movement impacted gender relations in New Zealand. As such, the current study sought to examine longitudinal trends in the perception that 'gender relations are fair' in New Zealand. We estimated a cohort-sequential growth curve model to investigate men's (N = 25,277) and women's (N = 42,482) gender-based system justification (G-SJ) from

2009 to 2024. Results from the Aging model suggest that men's levels of G-SJ were more stable and slightly higher than women's, whose scores varied more. No relevant Period effects were identified for both genders, but the Cohort model revealed that younger cohorts of women had lower and decreasing levels of G-SJ, which progressively became more stable for older cohorts. In cohorts of men, however, few significant changes were identified. By analysing men's and women's G-SJ scores separately, we increase understanding of the changing perceptions of gender inequality in New Zealand and discuss potential implications.

Where does sexism come from? Intergenerational links between parents' and children's sexism.
Oksana Voznyuk (University of Auckland)

Men's and women's sexist attitudes sustain gender inequality. Hostile sexism constrains women's freedom through aggression, discrimination, and control, whereas benevolent sexism encourages women to adopt traditional gender roles. These well-established processes involve adults' sexist attitudes harming adult women and men. Yet, new research shows men's and women's sexist attitudes shape behaviour toward children, and that children also agree with hostile and benevolent sexism at a young age. Our research connects these emerging insights to test the intergenerational links between parents' and children's sexism in a family sample of 175 mothers, fathers, and their 8-year-old children (51% girls, 49% boys). Mothers and fathers independently completed assessments of hostile and benevolent sexism. Separated from their parents, children also engaged in a newly developed task involving endorsing or rejecting statements of a 'visitor from far, far away' (Feppy, a stuffed toy), which measures children's hostile and benevolent gender attitudes. Fathers' hostile sexism significantly predicted children's hostile sexism, and mothers' benevolent sexism significantly predicted children's benevolent sexism, irrespective of gender. These results provide the first direct test of the intergenerational transmission of sexism, highlighting the critical role that mothers and fathers play in the early development of boys' and girls' sexist attitudes.

Rise and fall of the sigma male: A centrist alternative to a toxic masculine identity.
Sidney Wong (University of Canterbury)

With roots in the men's liberation movement in the 1970s, advocates of the manosphere promote masculinity, and in extreme cases, misogyny. Based on manosphere ideology, men are divided into alpha and beta males. Since 2010, an alternative sigma identity has emerged disrupting this binary identity framework. With increased interest in community polarisation online, our primary research question is: did sigma succeed in disrupting the manosphere binary? We approach this from a variationist sociolinguistic perspective treating sigma as an innovative linguistic feature. Using Reddit, we extracted 185,283 tokens of alpha, 162,228 tokens of beta, and 6,558 tokens of sigma from nine subreddits associated with masculinity between 2012 and 2024. We found the proportional distribution of alpha, beta, and sigma remained consistent across the majority (n=7) of subreddits. We also found alpha (58%) and beta (81%) were over-represented in r/TheRedPill, while sigma (52%) was over-represented in r/AskMen. Focussing on the comments, we documented an inverse relationship between r/TheRedPill and r/AskMen. This suggests that while the frequency of sigma in r/TheRedPill decreased over time, the frequency of sigma in r/AskMen increased. The results suggest sigma failed to infiltrate the Reddit manosphere despite its initial success in penetrating the most radical of subreddits.

Symposium 13: Social and psychological dimensions of climate change.

Symposium Chair: Christoph Klebl (University of Queensland)
Contact: c.klebl@uq.edu.au

This symposium brings together new evidence on how people perceive climate change, assign responsibility for action, and how people manage the mental health impacts of worrying about climate change. Klas and colleagues mapped climate change audience segments in rural and regional communities in Australia and Indonesia and revealed both within- and between-country differences in climate perceptions and emotional intensity. Klebl and colleagues explain how cross-national variation may be rooted in institutional quality, showing that responsibility attributions to governments, businesses, and individuals depend systematically on governance contexts. Turning to the psychological consequences of these perceptions, Gago and colleagues examined climate anxiety in New Zealand, identifying sociodemographic groups more vulnerable to severe worry and exploring how this relates to wellbeing and pro-environmental behaviour. Finally, Mackay and colleagues showed how climate action may mitigate the negative mental health impacts of climate-related worry, suggesting a possible pathway from concern to constructive engagement.

Using the Six Americas Super Short Survey to Understand Climate Change Perspectives in Rural and Regional Australia and Indonesia.
Anna Klas (Deakin University)

Australia and Indonesia face immediate climate risks, with rural and regional communities disproportionately more vulnerable compared to metropolitan locations. However, research often treats rural and regional communities as homogeneous, overlooking variations in climate perceptions. In this study, we used the Six Americas Super Short Survey (SASSY) to explore the distribution of rural and regional Australian (N = 1227) and Indonesian (N = 1037) adults across different audience segments, which differ in their level of perceived threat from climate change (ranging from “Alarmed” to “Dismissive”). We also investigated several climate-related outcomes (e.g., emotional reactions to climate change) across these segments. While our findings showed that most Australian and Indonesian participants perceived climate change to be a serious threat, the Indonesian sample reported a stronger emotional intensity towards climate change. Segment distribution revealed other meaningful differences in climate-related outcomes both within rural communities and across geographic regions. These insights can guide tailored interventions for people living in these understudied areas.

Institutional quality shapes who citizens hold responsible for climate mitigation.
Christoph Klebl (The University of Queensland)

Despite growing consensus on the urgency of climate action, public beliefs about who is primarily responsible for climate mitigation vary widely across countries, and little is known about what explains this variation. Drawing on data from 106 countries (N = 101,728), we examined how indicators of national institutional quality (e.g., government effectiveness, regulatory quality and corruption control) shape people’s attributions of climate responsibility for governments, businesses and individuals. Results showed that the higher a country’s institutional quality, the more likely its citizens were to attribute responsibility for climate mitigation to businesses. Government responsibility attributions followed a U-shaped relationship: citizens in countries with very low or very high institutional quality were more likely to hold governments responsible than those in countries with moderate institutional quality.

Individual responsibility attribution showed the opposite pattern (inverted U-shaped), with citizens in countries with moderate institutional quality most likely to view individuals as responsible. These associations held after controlling for GDP per capita, perceived importance of climate change, or demographic factors. The findings suggest that climate mitigation strategies cannot be divorced from institutional contexts. Policies that succeed in high-quality governance contexts may fail where institutions are weak, and strategies that assign responsibility to actors citizens do not expect to lead may risk undermining public support.

Prevalence and Nomological Network of Climate Anxiety in a Representative New Zealand Sample

Tomás Gago (University of Waikato)

Climate anxiety, the negative emotional reactions a person can have to climate change, has been shown to be significantly negatively associated with indicators of psychological wellbeing, as well as conflicting associations with behaviours needed to mitigate the climate crisis. Few reports have examined how prevalent climate anxiety is across the world. This study aims to measure levels of climate anxiety in New Zealand, explore the sociodemographic variables associated with it, and how climate anxiety predicts wellbeing and non-linearly predicts pro-environmental behaviour using a representative sample by gender, age, ethnicity, and region. We collected data from 429 New Zealanders and will use structural equation modelling to examine the associations between our measured variables. Preliminary results show levels of climate anxiety were low in our sample (M = .364). We hope the findings from this study will be helpful in identifying populational groups more vulnerable to severe levels of climate anxiety, and whether this could be impacting their mental health, their ability to live a satisfying life, and ability to contribute towards climate change mitigation efforts.

Climate-related Worry and Mental Health: Exploring the Protective Role of Climate Action.

Matthew I. Mackay (Deakin University)

Climate-related worry may have negative mental health impacts, yet it may also drive climate action, which has been associated with better mental health. Using a geographically representative cross-sectional sample of Australian adults (N=1,972), we examined associations between climate-related worry, climate action, and mental health (i.e. mental distress and subjective wellbeing). Based on previous research, we chose to assess two potential protective mechanisms of climate action: 1) a response to climate-related worry that mediates mental health outcomes, and 2) a modifying factor of the relationship between climate-related worry and mental health. Our results showed some support for mediating, but not the modifying role of climate action on subjective wellbeing. Climate-related worry was associated with slightly worse mental health and moderately more climate action. Overall, climate action may play a mitigating role in the broader mental health effects of climate worry, but longitudinal data are required to test causality and directionality.

Symposium 14: The role of Psychology in building Responsive Legal Systems.

Symposium Chairs: Sarah E. Ratcliffe (Law and Justice Foundation NSW), Emily Kothe (Law and Justice Foundation NSW)
Contact: ekothe@lawfoundation.net.au

Legal problems, whether governed by civil, family, administrative or criminal law, are common across all communities. This symposium aims to demonstrate the critical role psychology has in developing responsive, accessible justice systems that serve diverse community needs. Across four presentations we explore how psychological principles, including memory for repeated events, risk perception, moral reasoning, and social power dynamics, have a role in legal contexts, from accessing legal supports to interviewing victim survivors of sexual abuse. Presentations cover the use of novel and applied methodologies used to build the evidence base about law and justice across a variety of populations and contexts including natural disasters, gender and sexuality, disability, and rural and remote communities. This symposium presents the case that psychology research is well positioned to build evidence-based approaches for ensuring access to justice. By understanding how legal problems are experienced and addressed individually and systemically, we can inform more effective approaches to ensuring access to justice and equitable outcomes.

Access to justice for people with disability and in regional, rural, and remote NSW.
Sarah Ratcliffe (Law and Justice of NSW)

Legal needs are often not recognised as 'legal issues' and frequently intersect with non-legal problems, a complexity that can be difficult to capture. This presentation shares findings from two mixed-method studies using stakeholder engagement to understand access to justice for two groups with intersecting needs: residents in regional, rural, and remote (RRR) NSW, and people with disabilities using Legal Aid's NDIS Appeals Program. Analysis of interviews, case studies, service data, and public documents indicates that the justice system is a complicated, daunting, and highly legalistic process, often perceived as designed to make it "easy to dropout." Access is further hindered by compounding barriers, including limited transportation, scarce local resources, and digital literacy and service awareness. Findings show that professional legal support is crucial for "levelling the playing field." Tailored service delivery models—such as telephone advice, outreach, and specialised programs—are identified as approaches to improve equitable justice access and outcomes. By exploring these experiences through a psychological lens, examining concepts like decision-making, morality, and power dynamics, we can develop more responsive, evidence-based, equitable justice systems.

Confronting Unwanted Futures: Risk Perception and Preparedness in the Community Legal Sector.
Dr Emily Kothe (Law and Justice Foundation of NSW)

Effective planning to manage legal risk, whether for natural disasters, divorce, or end-of-life planning, requires confronting unpleasant future events. This presentation explores engagement in legal preparedness using the lens of risk perception, drawing on findings from a qualitative study that examined disaster preparedness within Community Legal Centres. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 21 staff from community legal providers across New South Wales. Data was analysed using Braun and Clarke's reflexive thematic analysis. Risk perception and other psychological barriers were key to understanding disaster preparedness within the legal context. At the organisational level, providers' own disaster risk perceptions

drove their centre's preparedness. At the community level, providers identified low risk perception and psychological avoidance as primary barriers to client engagement. Providers reported that community members often resist legal preparedness choosing not to engage until a crisis is imminent. These findings, while focused on disaster, highlight the potential value of psychological principles for understanding people's willingness to plan for potential legal problems. Examining the alignment between providers' views of community attitudes and community members' beliefs, and how those beliefs relate to preparedness activities, would be a useful next step in understanding the psychological foundations of legal preparedness.

'A Word of Warning': Understanding Delay, Warnings, and Recall Confidence in Repeated-Event Memory Accuracy.

Simone Grenfell-Uijland, Helen Paterson, Sonja Brubacher, Martine Powell
(School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Complainants of repeated events, such as victims of domestic violence, are often required to describe specific instances of abuse in detail, which poses a considerable challenge for memory. This has prompted researchers to consider factors that influence recall accuracy and develop strategies to reduce memory errors in repeated-event testimony. One proposed strategy is the use of warnings, which prompt individuals to reflect on the source of their memories and may reduce memory errors. The present study investigated the role of warnings and delay on memory accuracy, in addition to the influence of memory self-efficacy and confidence in recall. Participants viewed four videos depicting mild domestic violence and, following either a one-day or one-week delay, recalled details from one video. Preliminary findings indicate that delay had a marked impact on recall, whereas warnings showed limited effectiveness. Memory self-efficacy and confidence in recall also emerged as important factors. These findings will be discussed in light of practical implications for interviewing repeated-event witnesses and theoretical contributions to understanding memory in repeated-event contexts.

A sequential analysis of investigative interviews with children alleging repeated abuse.

Timothy Dutton, Helen Paterson, Sonja Brubacher, and Martine Powell
(School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

The majority of child abuse cases involve repeated abuse; however, research shows that children's memories of repeated events can be prone to error and contamination. Consequently, interviewers are recommended to use non-leading, open-ended questions where possible to obtain an uninterrupted account when interviewing children alleging repeated abuse. Field interview evaluations reveal that interviewers frequently struggle to follow this recommendation. The current research project explores the timing and sequence of specific interviewer practices to develop a more thorough understanding of the issues that occur in these interviews. Specifically, we present findings from a descriptive study examining interviewer practices and child responses in approximately 75 field interviews with children alleging repeated abuse from Australian police organisations. We coded question types and topic content in each interview and used sequence analysis methods to identify common trajectories and patterns in these interviews. Our findings describe the range of interviewer prompts used to help children particularise repeated abuse, when these techniques are employed during interviews, and common sequences that occur. Implications for investigative interviewing training will be discussed, with consideration of how improved practices can enhance access to justice for child victim-survivors of repeated abuse.

Symposium 15: Humans, Robots, and AI: Rethinking Social Connection and Intelligence in the Digital Age.

Symposium Chair: Eric Vanman (University of Queensland)
Contact: e.vanman@psy.uq.edu.au

As artificial intelligence and robotics move rapidly into daily life, psychologists face new challenges in understanding how humans think, feel, and behave in relation to these technologies. This symposium brings together four complementary perspectives on the psychological dynamics of human–AI interaction. Rose presents qualitative insights into the paradoxical nature of relationships with AI companions, highlighting both the benefits of safe, always-available support and the barriers posed by simulated connection. Temtsin revisits Alan Turing's original imitation game, showing how a rigorous implementation with GPT-4-Turbo underscores both the promise and current limitations of large language models as candidates for "intelligence." Shier explores the humanisation of robots, revealing how subtle cognitive and emotional processes shape social responses and the broader societal implications of treating robots as quasi-human entities. Finally, Vanman examines whether social facilitation effects extend to robotic observers, finding that robots may occupy a distinct category in social cognition. Collectively, these papers show how traditional psychological concepts—such as authenticity, intelligence, social presence, and group identity—are being reshaped in an era where social interaction is no longer exclusively human.

Safe but Simulated: Exploring the Paradoxes of Human–AI Relationships.
Noah Rose (University of Queensland)

People are increasingly using AI chatbots as friends, therapists, and partners. Despite this growing trend, the psychological reasons behind these relationships remain underexplored. This presentation reports on a qualitative study that investigated these motivations through semi-structured interviews. A reflexive thematic analysis revealed that participants held complex, often contradictory, views about their AI companion relationships. They were drawn to the unique benefits these companions offered, valuing them for providing safe, non-judgemental, and always-available therapeutic support. However, these benefits were contrasted with significant barriers. The simulated nature of the interaction raised concerns about authenticity, one-way emotional connection, and a lack of shared experience. Furthermore, users expressed fears of over-reliance and the potential for negative impacts on their real-world social skills. These findings suggest that AI relationships involve a complex psychological trade-off between accessible, idealised support and the perceived limitations of a non-human connection. This research provides a crucial perspective on the future of social connection in a digital world.

From Machines to Social Beings: The Normalisation of Humanising Robots.
Jacob Shier (University of Queensland)

Treating robots as if they were human is one manifestation of a tendency to humanise robots. Humanisation of robots may also include cognitive and emotional responses logically incompatible with a view of robots as mindless machines. Humanisation of robots, however, does not constitute or necessarily imply explicit belief that robots possess real minds or emotions. Humanisation is an approach to thinking about and interacting with robots consistent with many beliefs about their core nature. Some humanisation of social robots, in particular, is necessary for effective engagement with them. The normalisation of the humanisation of social robots has major societal implications. Whatever explicit beliefs people

may hold, as social robots proliferate, they may come to be identified as a unique social group. Spatola and Wudarczyk (2021) reported a semantic priming paradigm that they claim works both as an implicit measure of the tendency to humanise robots and as a predictor of attitudes and behaviours towards robots. Validated with a larger sample and more rigorous statistics, this measure becomes a valuable asset both in predicting varied social responses to social robots and in assessing the effects on participants of interactions with social robots.

Rapport, behaviour and AI technology in meaningful settings.

Mark G. Frank, (University at Buffalo, State University of New York)

Building rapport has been shown to produce more comfortable conversations (Chartrand & Bargh, 1999), more disclosure (Novotny et al., 2021), and more detailed memories (Collins et al., 2002) in a variety of interpersonal interactions, including investigative settings (Meissner et al 2023). This presentation will briefly summarize these findings and then report on more recent findings from 59 dyads where various nonverbal markers demonstrating behavioral synchrony were extracted using various computer vision algorithms and were able to predict rapport at 81.97% (Sharma et al 2022). One of these markers of behavioral synchrony characteristic of rapport – the overlap of Duchenne smiles between interviewer and interviewee - was then applied to an investigative context where people were interviewed about two different thefts. When participants were classified into low, medium, and high rapport based on the frequency of Duchenne smile overlaps, it showed that facial expressions of distress, fear, disgust, and contempt predicted deception but only in medium and high levels of rapport (Duchenne smile overlaps). The implications of this finding for human interaction and AI/computer vision systems will be discussed.

Revisiting Social Facilitation: Human Performance Under Robotic Observation.

Eric J. Vanman (University of Queensland)

Do people work harder when a robot is watching? This study explored whether the well-known social facilitation effect—where human observers boost arousal and performance—extends to social robots, and whether the robot's perceived intelligence shapes these effects. Forty-one university students completed easy and hard anagrams while interacting with either a "smart" or "dumb" NAO robot. Robot intelligence was manipulated through response timing and appropriateness. Throughout the task, participants' skin conductance responses were recorded as an indicator of physiological arousal, along with task performance and self-reports of evaluation and perceived robot intelligence. Manipulation checks confirmed that participants viewed the "smart" robot as more intelligent. As expected, participants showed greater arousal and poorer performance on difficult compared to easy tasks. However, the robot's perceived intelligence did not significantly affect arousal, performance, or feelings of evaluation. Although participants in the smart condition reported feeling slightly more evaluated, this difference only approached significance. These findings suggest that being observed by a social robot does not mirror the classic effects of human observation. Instead, robots may represent a distinct social category, highlighting the need to refine psychological theories of social presence and evaluation as we enter an era of increasing human–robot interaction.

Symposium 16: ‘How, when and for whom’ can contact promote positive intergroup attitudes and actions?

Symposium Chair and Discussant: Fiona White (University of Sydney)
Contact: fiona.white@sydney.edu.au

This symposium presents a unique and innovative set of studies that evaluate new avenues to examine ‘how, when and for whom’ contact can promote positive intergroup attitudes and actions. First, Maunder et al. provide meta-analytic evidence showing that, contact interventions’ effectiveness significantly varied according to the dimension of stigma measured and the target of the measure, medium of contact, number of contact mediums, inclusion of educational information, country, and participant occupation. Second, McDermott conducts a narrative synthesis and subgroup analyses of school-based contact interventions’ effectiveness, implementation patterns across age groups, and contact modalities (e.g., direct, indirect) to reduce mental health stigma amongst youths aged 4–18, an empirically neglected cohort. Finally, we present an experiment by Shi who explores the extent to which video-based vicarious contact with an Asian person can be effective in encouraging White people’s anti-racism action in support of Asian people, and the extent to which outcomes differ depending on how the discrimination is framed in the contact scenario. White will subsequently lead a discussion on how social psychology researchers can draw on these findings to better streamline contact interventions to more effectively promote positive attitudes and actions across different contexts and life stages.

Improving intergroup contact interventions for reducing mental health stigma.
Presenter: Rachel D. Maunder (ACAP University College), Daniel du Plooy (university of Newcastle), Jessica Sipes (ACAP University College)

Previous meta-analyses suggest intergroup contact to be effective at reducing public mental health stigma. However, results are mixed regarding intervention and participant characteristics which may strengthen the effect of contact, making it challenging to improve interventions. We conducted a meta-analysis of 202 published and unpublished articles reporting the effect of contact immediately after the intervention and in the short- and medium-term, on various dimensions of stigma. The effect of contact on stigma was significant at all three timepoints, but the size of the effect significantly varied according to the dimension of stigma measured and the target of the measure, medium of contact, number of contact mediums, inclusion of educational information, country, and participant occupation. For example, there was no significant effect on implicit bias and behaviour; and the effect was larger when multiple mediums of contact were used, when educational information was included, and in non-Western compared to Western countries; and was smaller in community members compared to other groups of participants. These results may inform researchers of gaps in the literature still to be filled and may inform recommendations for the development and implementation of contact interventions in the laboratory and real world.

School-Based Social Contact Interventions to Reduce Mental Health Stigma in Young People: A Systematic Review.
Emma A. McDermott (University of Sydney), Lauren J. Harvey (University of Sydney), Annabel Songco (University of New South Wales), Jennifer L. Hudson (University of New South Wales), Rachel D. Maunder (ACAP University College), Ellen Shi (University of Sydney), Fiona A. White (University of Sydney)

Mental health stigma poses a prominent barrier to help-seeking and can diminish social cohesion and individual wellbeing. Schools provide a critical setting for early interventions to counteract stigmatising attitudes before they become entrenched. Social contact interventions, involving facilitated interactions with individuals with lived experience of mental health, are effective in reducing stigma, yet remain under-utilised and inconsistently applied in school settings. Existing approaches vary widely in how contact is operationalised and often lack alignment with social psychological frameworks. This systematic review synthesises evidence on the effectiveness, implementation, and theoretical alignment of school-based social contact interventions in youths aged 4–18. Six electronic databases were searched, yielding 9000+ records. Eligible studies incorporated social contact in schools and reported quantitative stigma-related outcomes. Screening, data extraction, and quality appraisal were conducted independently by multiple reviewers. Narrative synthesis and subgroup analyses examined intervention effectiveness, implementation patterns across age groups, contact modalities (e.g., direct, indirect), and adherence to Allport's facilitating contact conditions and the WHO's Mosaic Toolkit. Findings indicate effectiveness of stigma reduction, variability in design and implementation, and evidence gaps, particularly for younger cohorts. Theoretically grounded and developmentally appropriate stigma reduction programs that bridge school-based mental health research and social psychology are recommended.

The impact of vicarious intergroup contact on willingness to take anti-racism action.
Ellen Shi (University of Sydney), Fiona A. White (University of Sydney), Emma A. McDermott (University of Sydney)

Today's digital era provides opportunities for social psychologists to create more engaging intergroup contact interventions, such as via video-based vicarious contact. While existing evidence suggests vicarious contact can reduce prejudice towards outgroup members, the question of whether this extends to willingness to take action in support of the outgroup remains underexplored. Further, whilst past research indicates that contact experiences that highlight intergroup discrimination are the most conducive to action, little attention has been paid to the effects of framing the discrimination content as a systemic or individual issue. The current experimental study ($N \approx 300$) tested whether video-based vicarious contact with an Asian person was effective in encouraging White people's anti-racism action in support of Asian people in Australia, and whether outcomes differed depending on how the discrimination was framed in the contact scenario. The results shed light on the extent to which vicarious contact can move beyond attitudinal improvements to promote action and how the content of the contact experience plays a role. Overall, this study provides practical insights for future contact interventions that can be implemented in a variety of contexts, such as education and workplace settings, to foster anti-racism action in support of our diverse communities.

Symposium 17: A social identity approach to the manosphere and radical misogyny.

Symposium Chair: Georgina Lee (Australian National University)
Contact: Georgina.Lee@anu.edu.au

A social identity approach to the manosphere and radical misogyny Brooke Franklin-Paddock (The Australian National University) Christienne Javier (The Australian National University) William J. Bingley (University of Melbourne) Georgina Lee (The Australian National University; Chair) The manosphere is a network of online sites coalescing around radical misogyny (i.e., extreme prejudice against women and girls). Emerging research suggests young men are radicalising to misogyny more than ever, with negative effects on social cohesion and health. This highlights a need for social psychologists to examine the manosphere and why youth are drawn to it. We bring together four presentations in response. Franklin-Paddock will open this symposium with the Aggrieved Sexism Questionnaire – a new scale for quantifying radical misogyny emanating from the manosphere. Next, Javier will present the Thwarted Identity Measure – currently under development using Item Response Theory – that measures people's feelings of disconnection and rejection from a desired social identity. Both presentations offer useful tools to define and measure radical misogyny. Operationalising both scales, Lee will present experimental evidence for the causal impact of gender-based social identification versus multiple group memberships on young men's radical misogyny and ill-health. Finally, Bingley will critically examine current interventions addressing misogyny in Australian schools by applying a digital social identity approach to radical misogyny. Together, this symposium will provide a Manosphere 101, measurement tools, social-psychological explanations for its appeal, and shed light on possible interventions for better health and social relations.

Measuring Radical Misogyny: Introducing the Aggrieved Sexism Questionnaire.
Brooke Franklin-Paddock (Australian National University)

In recent years, psychologists have turned increased attention towards the manosphere, a constellation of online misogynistic spaces including men's rights forums, incel communities, and broader "red pill" networks. These communities are more than echo chambers for misogyny; they function as sites of ideological development where beliefs about gender and society are formed, reinforced, and disseminated. The rhetoric is often explicitly sexist and violent, and once-fringe ideas from the manosphere are increasingly visible in mainstream discourse, particularly among young men. As the first presentation in this symposium, I will examine the manosphere's role in cultivating grievance-based, anti-women worldviews and present how we studied this empirically through the development of the Aggrieved Sexism Questionnaire (ASQ). Across three studies (total N = 1,183), we established the ASQ's factorial validity, convergent and discriminant validity, incremental predictive power, and test–retest reliability. Importantly, the ASQ predicted harmful outcomes, including online harassment and violent fantasies, above and beyond existing sexism measures. By introducing the concept of aggrieved sexism, this presentation sets the stage for the symposium by providing both a conceptual and methodological foundation for understanding how radical misogyny develops and produces negative outcomes for individuals and society.

Thwarted Identity: A New Theoretical Framework for Measuring the Relationship Between Prejudice and Psychopathology from a Social Identity Perspective.
Christienne Javier (Australian National University)

To date, intervention efforts to reduce prejudice have been largely unsuccessful, as policymakers lack a theoretical framework that can explain how psychopathology (e.g., paranoia) and membership in extremist groups interact in ways that lead to and maintain prejudice and the violence that can arise from it. This talk will introduce thwarted identity – a novel construct that occurs when people experience poor mental health and become prejudiced because they feel excluded from the groups they want to belong to. In this talk, findings from the development and validation of the Thwarted Identity Measure. Findings from an exploratory factor analysis demonstrate that thwarted identity is a distinct unidimensional construct from its related constructs of thwarted belongingness, ostracism, and loneliness. Thwarted identity has also been linked to increased racism and sexism, as well as poor mental health. Findings from item response theory analyses demonstrate the measure's precision in identifying people with higher levels of thwarted identity. Implications for applying the concept of thwarted identity in the context of radical misogyny and the manosphere will be discussed, focusing on how the framework can help understand why and how young men engage in these radical movements.

Men's gender-based social identification, radical misogyny and mental (ill)health.
Georgina Lee (Australian National University)

Grievance-based radical misogyny (i.e., extreme hostility rooted in perceived collective injustice and threat) and engagement with the manosphere are increasing in young men. The reasons why are unclear. It is possible that the manosphere (and its distinct sub-communities) provides members with an anchoring source of online social belonging in the face of real-world social disconnection. Yet, manosphere engagement is linked to undesirable consequences for people of all genders. Investigating these relationships, we report a recent experiment (data collection underway at the time of writing) that manipulated young men's (aged 18-25-years-old) unitary gender-based social identification as a man versus social identification with multiple group memberships. We report effects on radical misogyny, aggrieved sexism, perceived social connection to others, and mental (ill)health. We also report men's subsequent responses (e.g., acceptance, intentions to seek out similar materials) to graphic content of varying extremity from manosphere sub-communities. Overall, we provide insights into the causal risk and protective impacts of gender-based social identification by comparison to multiple group memberships on radical misogyny, manosphere engagement, and health in young men. We conclude by discussing implications and future directions for research on social identification and the manosphere.

A social digital identity approach to addressing misogyny
William J. Bingley (University of Melbourne)

Misogyny appears to be on the rise in Australia and across the anglosphere, particularly in youth. This is suggested by research showing that young men are increasingly endorsing traditional gender roles and attitudes, that there are increases in some forms of gender-based violence perpetrated by young men, and that there is a growing 'blacklash' against gender equality. Furthermore, recent reports indicate an increase in sexualised behaviour and disrespect of female staff by male students in schools, and there is increasing concern about misogynistic extremism in youth. A variety of interventions have been proposed to address this issue, notably respectful relationships education in schools. In this talk we survey existing interventions and apply a social digital identity model of misogyny to analyse how these might be enhanced, with a particular focus on educational interventions. To further support this analysis, we present results of an initial study of Australian men, a survey of teachers, and a systematic review of psychological interventions.

Symposium 18: Decolonising Social Psychology: Reflections, Challenges, and Futures.

Symposium Chairs: Olivia Evans (Australian National University), Hema Preya Selvanathan (The University of Queensland)
Contact: olivia.evans@anu.edu.au, h.selvanathan@uq.edu.au

Decolonising social psychology requires critically examining the colonial and Eurocentric roots of our field. Hegemonic social psychology places the authority of knowledge creation within White and WEIRD (Western, educated, industrial, rich, and democratic) scholars, populations, and institutions. Decolonisation is therefore a process of questioning whose knowledge is centred, how research is conducted, and who benefits from it. A decolonial approach calls for a reorientation of the field whereby Indigenous and Majority World realities are centred. Framing decolonisation as an ongoing journey rather than an aspirational outcome, this symposium will engage with political and practical challenges involved in addressing our discipline's complicity in colonial projects and ongoing manifestations of inequality. The first presentation reflects on the discipline's historical and contemporary engagement with anti-colonialism. The second addresses the underrepresentation of Indigenous scholars and need for Indigenous leadership. The third examines Whiteness as a cultural bias that pervades the research process. The fourth makes a practical case for decolonising psychology to improve the accuracy, comprehensiveness, and relevance of our theories and concepts. Joining a global movement towards decolonial scholarship, this symposium invites audience participation. Moving beyond critique and towards action, attendees are encouraged to reflect, connect, and contribute to a decolonial social psychology.

Creating Change: Anti-colonialism in social psychology and among social psychologists.
Iain Walker (University of Melbourne)

Drawing threads from across a century of social psychology (action research, field theory, Marxist psychology, emancipatory psychology, feminist psychology, queer psychology), this talk will aim to weave a consideration of what and how social psychology can contribute to the anti-colonialism project. It will also consider how social psychology resists or militates against anti-colonialism, in terms of knowledge production and social change. I argue for the importance of challenging social habits of ignorance, denial, forgetting, and knowledge hoarding. Specifically, this talk will stress the importance of connecting anti-colonial struggles to fighting neo-liberalism, of exposing social structures and patterns of power, of fomenting sociological imaginations, and developing a praxis-based approach to social psychological theory and knowledge. In doing this, I focus attention mostly on questions of 'race' in Australia, which returned to the forefront of the nation's consciousness during and after the debate about the referendum to establish a Voice to Parliament. Finally, I consider how social psychology can inadvertently get itself in the way, and call for reflection on steps academic psychology departments can take.

Building an Army and Opening the Gates: Growing and Welcoming Indigenous Leadership in Social Psychology.
Olivia Evans (Australian National University)

This talk explores the urgent need to grow, support, and retain Indigenous scholars within social psychology, not only as a matter of representation but as a transformative force for the discipline. Social psychology in Australia remains deeply shaped by colonial assumptions about universality and objectivity, often reproducing deficit-based narratives about Indigenous

peoples rather than centring Indigenous knowledges, priorities, and sovereignty. Despite being a discipline that prides itself on researching inclusion, social justice, and inequality, social psychology continues to have alarmingly low Indigenous representation, particularly within professional societies. This is not just a pipeline problem, but the result of structural barriers that sideline Indigenous scholarship unless it conforms to dominant frameworks. Moreover, while social psychology is fundamentally cross-disciplinary, Indigenous scholars producing critical, community-driven, and culturally grounded work in adjacent fields are too often excluded from, or not genuinely welcomed into, the conversations and spaces that shape our discipline. In this talk I will discuss persistent barriers for inclusion, as well as potential initiatives and collective strategies for transformation. I offer a call to action: to move beyond token inclusion and commit to Indigenous leadership as essential to the future of social psychology.

Whiteness in the Research Process: Cultural Biases and Structural Barriers.
Hema Preya Selvanathan (University of Queensland)

Psychological science, including social psychology, has long positioned itself as based on objectivity and universality. Yet, its foundations are primarily guided by Eurocentric norms, practices, and institutions that privilege Whiteness. Historical and epistemological analyses reveal how dominant approaches to research, publishing, and application of social psychology have been established largely by scholars based in resource-rich institutions in the Western world. These standards, while often framed as neutral, reflect specific cultural and institutional contexts. As a result, the underrepresentation of scholars from outside the Anglophone world is not incidental – it is systemic and by design. Minoritised scholars face numerous barriers to full participation as intellectual equals, including resource inequalities, language hierarchies, epistemic exclusion, cultural taxation, and extractivist dynamics in collaborations. These challenges are compounded by narrow definitions of scientific rigor that often marginalize alternative methodologies and ways of knowing. This talk will examine how cultural biases shape the research process – from the development of research questions to methodological choices, data interpretation, and the dissemination of knowledge. It invites meta-reflection on how we might shift toward a more reflexive, pluralistic, and inclusive science. In doing so, this talk opens space for reimagining a social psychology that values diverse epistemologies and centers minoritised voices.

Practical arguments for decolonising psychology: On the incompleteness of our science.
Fiona Kate Barlow (University of Queensland)

There are many compelling moral reasons to decolonise psychology, grounded in the core values of social psychology and broader concerns about accountability for historical and ongoing injustices. In this talk, however, I will highlight some of the practical arguments for decolonisation. Drawing on qualitative, participatory, and cross-cultural research, I will argue that current psychological understandings of gender, sexuality, prejudice, discrimination, and wellbeing are often limited and biased. These limitations not only affect the validity of our knowledge but also impact the relevance and inclusivity of our research and practice. I will suggest that by broadening our methods, perspectives, and assumptions, we can move towards a more accurate, comprehensive, and socially just psychology. Finally, I will propose a few small but concrete steps we can each take to begin this process of change within our own work.

Symposium 19: Diverse experiences and perspectives among sexual and gender minority individuals: Showcasing the limits of seeing LGBTQ+ as a cohesive category.

Symposium Chair: Ilan Dar-Nimrod (University of Sydney)
Contact: ilan.dar-nimrod@sydney.edu.au

This symposium brings together empirical research showcasing the diversity in methodology, conceptualisations, and populations that often gets flattened as LGBTQ+ research. First, Miss Zhou will highlight an intersectional angle, using a quantitative analysis to evaluate the wellbeing of Chinese LGB migrants to Australia, integrating both ethnic and sexual identities' related aspects as its predictors. Keeping the focus on Chinese individuals, Mx Ji will present how a sample of gender diverse young individuals reports their experiences with gender identification processes in their own words, and the common themes that emerged from those narratives. Gender diversity is also central to Dr Morandini's quantitative evaluation of the effects of framing of a highly controversial theory in this space – autogynephilia – on the endorsement of the phenomenon at the heart of the theory, comparing responses from cisgender, cross-dressers, and transgender individuals. Lastly, Mr Kassara will discuss the myriad of reasons that bisexual-identified individuals give to explain their choice of the bisexual label, demonstrating different psychological processes as correlates of those explanations. Together, these presentations provide depth to the understanding of the rich variety of experiences and psychosocial processes in a heterogeneous population that is often clumped together as a singular group in research analyses.

Acculturation, Internalised Sexual Stigma, and Social Support: Psychosocial Pathways to Well-being among Chinese LGB Migrants in Australia.
Ting Zhou (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Sexual minority migrants experience heightened mental health risks that can arise from both cultural adjustment and minority stress. Guided by the minority stress model, 249 Chinese LGB individuals residing in Australia completed a survey assessing migration generational status, Australian acculturation, internalised sexual stigma, social support, and well-being. Path analysis showed that second-generation migrants reported higher levels of Australian acculturation, which, in turn, was associated with both greater internalised stigma and stronger social support. While social support was positively associated with well-being, internalised stigma and acculturation showed negative associations with it, suggesting that acculturation predicts both protective and risk dimensions through its relationship with key psychosocial mechanisms. These findings highlight the complex psychosocial landscape of dual cultural contexts for sexual minorities, underscoring the importance of culturally responsive mental health strategies tailored to the intersectional experiences of LGB migrants.

Exploring gender identification processes among gender-diverse individuals in Mainland China: A Qualitative Study.
Sue Ji (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

The research on gender diverse (e.g. genderqueer, genderfluid, and non-binary) individuals—remains limited in China. This study adopted interpretative phenomenological analysis, which emphasises participants' lived experiences and personal narratives, to explore the gender identification processes of individuals with diverse gender identities beyond the binary framework. The project included participants with gender diverse identities living in mainland China. Seven participants (aged 19 to 31; $M = 25.0$, $SD = 4.38$) were interviewed in Mandarin via

online TenCent Meeting. Interviews were audio-recorded and ranged from 67 to 93 minutes in duration (M = 79.14 minutes). Findings revealed a distinct process of gender identification among participants. They critically reflected on the construction and impact of gender, highlighting its intersection with community belonging, queer theory, and personal experiences that contest mainstream norms. Participants described how gender is socially shaped and discussed unique strategies for navigating binary structures, resisting normative expectations, and affirming their unique gender experiences. The findings highlight the need to consider cultural specificity, social discourse, and the functional utility of identity in understanding gender-diverse identity. Future research should adopt decolonising perspectives to understand gender identity in diverse contexts and develop culturally responsive interventions to affirm gender identity and enhance well-being.

Exploring Autogynephilia Beliefs, Transgender Attitudes, and Demographics across Cisgender and Transgender Groups.
Dr James Morandini (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Autogynephilia (AGP) is simultaneously a scientific construct describing "a natal male's sexual arousal at the thought or image of being a woman" and more recently a pejorative term used to undermine the validity of trans women's identities and to insinuate sexual deviance. We tested whether the valence of how AGP is communicated—pejorative versus value neutral descriptions of the phenomena—better explains endorsements of the phenomena and it's associations with anti transgender attitudes than the content itself. Participants (cis men, cis women, male cross dressers, transfeminine people) completed explicit AGP (more pejorative tone) and subtle AGP (value neutral) scales, Transgender Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs (T KAB), feminist consciousness (FCS), and AGP familiarity. Familiarity differed by group (cross dressers, transfeminine > cis; χ^2 p < .001) being highest among cross-dressers and transfeminine individuals whereas understood by only a minority of cisgender participants. Cross dressers reported the highest subtle AGP endorsement; transfeminine respondents the lowest explicit endorsement. Correlational analyses showed explicit AGP endorsement consistently tracked lower T KAB (more negative attitudes) among cis men, cis women, and cross dressers, while subtle AGP was not associated with anti trans attitudes in cross dressers and weak/absent in transfeminine participants; in cis groups subtle AGP related only modestly to lower T KAB. We found that framing of AGP influenced levels of endorsement and its associations with anti-transgender attitudes, particularly among cross-dressers and transfeminine individuals. Many cross dressers—and a subset of transfeminine participants—affirm subtle AGP content as an objective description, distinct from pejorative cultural deployments. We discuss implications for measurement, science communication, and stigma reduction.

Sense-making around bisexual identification in cisgender men and cisgender women: Associations with wellbeing, sexuality, and minority stress.
Michael Kassara (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Individuals construct their sexual identities in diverse and complex ways with recent years seeing a significant rise in bisexual identification. However, little is known about how individuals' reasons for identifying as bisexual relate to wellbeing, sexuality, and minority stress. From February to July 2025, data were collected from an international sample of cisgender men (n = 484) and cisgender women (n = 326) who primarily identify as bisexual. Widely recruited participants completed an online survey and indicated their 'top' reason for identifying as bisexual. Three groups of participants were identified: Ambiphilic Bisexuals (equal sexual arousal to male and female bodies), Sexually Fluid Bisexuals (fluctuating patterns of

attractions), and Ideological Bisexuals (attractions and arousal are not directed towards specific sex/gender categories). Welch's ANOVAs and Games–Howell post hoc tests were conducted to explore differences between groups on psychological variables, measures of wellbeing and sexuality, and experiences of minority stress. Evaluating the relationships between individuals' personal reasoning about their bisexuality and relevant variables promote a more nuanced understanding of the heterogeneity of bisexual orientation and minority stress pathways, while informing the design of future research and clinical interventions.

Symposium 20: The social-psychological dynamics of clinical practice: The role of clinician perceptions, humility, and reflexivity.

Symposium Chair: Isabelle Hermes (Flinders University), Ho Huynh (Australian National University), Cara Rossi (Flinders University)
Contact: isabelle.hermes@flinders.edu.au

Therapeutic alliance, engagement, and outcomes are in large part dependent on the interpersonal dynamics between clinicians and their clients. Indeed, clinical engagement is an inherently interactive, social phenomenon. This symposium brings together four empirical papers exploring how clinicians' beliefs, approaches, and awareness of both themselves and their clients in interaction, impact upon the therapeutic alliance, client engagement, and client outcomes. The first paper explores how clinicians' subjective judgments of client defensiveness, shaped by perceptions of blame, lead to confrontational approaches that risk rupturing therapeutic engagement. Perhaps an antidote, the second paper demonstrates how clinician humility – that is, being reflective about one's strengths and weaknesses, being open to new information, and holding egalitarian beliefs – predicts a stronger therapeutic alliance and therapeutic outcomes. The third paper extends on this by identifying clinician behaviours that clients perceive as humble, offering opportunities for clinicians to demonstrate humility in practice. The final paper provides a multidimensional, validated measure for capturing clinician reflexivity – a related concept and core clinical competency involving the capacity to assess and manage one's own values, beliefs, and biases. Together, these papers provide new insights into approaches that can strengthen the therapeutic alliance and therapeutic outcomes, with clear applications for clinical practice.

Clinician perceptions of client defensiveness: a subjective assessment with consequences to therapeutic engagement.
Isabelle Hermes (Flinders University)

Clinicians conducting assessments in child protection or forensic settings are often tasked with assessing whether a client understands and accepts concerns raised against them, and if they are willing to take responsibility for their behaviour and for making future positive change. However, these assessments require subjective judgments by clinicians, about the client's level of insight, responsibility, and defensiveness. We used an experimental paradigm to explore, first in a sample of lay participants (N = 300), and then in a sample of clinicians (N = 75), perceptions of a client's defensiveness, and how these perceptions influence clinical judgments in a child protection context. For clinicians, we found that stronger beliefs about a client's level of personal blame for their circumstances predicted higher perceptions of the client's defensiveness. In turn, perceiving a client as defensive increased the likelihood of clinicians endorsing a more confrontational approach to their interaction with the client. Such an approach is likely to lead to a further deterioration in engagement between clinicians and clients and, we argue, warrants an alternative approach by clinicians in this context.

Humble clinicians, healthy clients? Associations between mental health clinician humility and treatment outcomes.
Ho Phi Huynh (Australian National University)

A lack of connection between clients and mental health clinicians has contributed to high dropout rates and lower rates of improvement in treatment outcomes. Research on clinician humility, characterized by being secure and accurate about one's strengths and weaknesses, being open to new information, and holding egalitarian beliefs, could help turn the tide.

Participants (*N* = 342) completed an online study in which they rated their clinician's humility, therapeutic alliance, and other client-related outcomes. They also provided details about themselves (e.g., age, gender), their clinician (e.g., gender, professional title), and their visits (e.g., number of sessions). Hierarchical multiple regression demonstrated that clinician humility moderately and positively predicted therapeutic alliance, treatment effectiveness, satisfaction, treatment acceptability and adherence, intrinsic motivation, and willingness to return, and negatively predicted amotivation, above and beyond client, clinician, and visit characteristics. Additionally, mediation analyses showed that therapeutic alliance fully mediated the associations between clinician humility and treatment acceptability and amotivation; it also partially mediated the relationships between clinician humility and treatment effectiveness, client satisfaction, intrinsic motivation, and willingness to return. These findings indicate that clinician humility not only predicts treatment outcomes distinctively but also suggests that therapeutic alliance could explain associations between clinician humility and specific treatment outcomes. These outcomes emphasize the potential for clinician humility to strengthen client-clinician relationships and advance research to improve treatment outcomes in therapeutic contexts.

What do humble mental health clinicians do?
Ariel Jee (Australian National University)

Previous research presented in the session highlights the importance of clinician humility to client outcomes including therapeutic alliance, treatment effectiveness, satisfaction, treatment acceptability and adherence, and motivation to pursue treatment. That begs the question: What do humble clinicians do? We asked participants (*N* = 342) to list behaviors that their mental health clinician displayed which made them think they were humble or not humble. We followed Braun and Clarke's qualitative analysis methods for creating themes from these responses. We found that clients reported that humble clinicians: 1) were self-aware of their strengths and weaknesses and were committed to continued growth; 2) communicated respectfully, demonstrating active listening and speaking with consideration; 3) focused on interpersonal aspects of care by being authentic, compassionate, and professional in their care; 4) were collaborative, effectively managing power imbalances, being patient-focused, and creating common ground; 5) and generally had an understated self-presentation, wearing professional but casual attire, and were generally unconcerned with status or image. These themes offer a rich understanding of behaviors that patients find indicative of being humble for mental health clinicians. They offer direct opportunities for clinicians to practice this virtue should they value its importance to their practice.

Operationalising reflexivity: a social behaviour fundamental to clinical psychology practice.
Cara Rossi (Flinders University)

Reflexivity - the capacity to assess and manage one's own values, beliefs, and biases - is a foundational competency for Australian client-facing professionals (e.g., psychologists, social workers, teachers, counsellors). So important is this skill, that psychology course accreditation and regulatory bodies (AHPRA, 2023; APAC, 2019; APAC, 2025) stipulate its integration into tertiary education curricula and demonstration in professional practice. Reflexivity enables practitioners to consider both their and the client's positionalities, facilitating objective, client-centered, and ethical responses during interpersonal interaction. Despite strong interdisciplinary support for reflexivity's importance across various sectors, its practical definition remains unclear. Further, it is unclear how this social behaviour can be measured, taught, and assessed within tertiary psychology programs and clinical placements. Across three

years of pilot testing (*N*= 311) and cross-validation with associated constructs (*N* = 97), we have developed a 5-lens measure of reflexivity that aims to capture its multiple dimensions (epistemology, metacognition, social systems, responsiveness, transformative practice). Our work provides a foundational understanding of the social and cognitive processes that contribute to the development of reflexivity, while also highlighting the unique challenges associated with capturing this skill.

Symposium 21: Emotions in Everyday Life and Extraordinary Situations.

Symposium Chair: Katie Greenaway (University of Melbourne)
Contact: katharine.greenaway@unimelb.edu.au

Emotions are the fabric of life, shaping the highs, the lows, and everything in between. Modern advances in methods have made emotions more assessable than ever before, allowing researchers to track emotional states in myriad consequential contexts. This is fortunate, because emotions as experienced in real life are often more powerful, personally relevant, and predictive than those elicited in the lab. Four talks illustrate this point. Moeck explores the emotions of students in the fraught context of end-of-year exams for highly competitive medical programs. Kalokerinos overturns a gender stereotype regarding the emotions of men and women. Koval tracks emotions and mood in daily life, testing their persistence over time. Greenaway explores how emotional people are about climate change, and whether their emotions matter for climate action. As these talks show, emotions shape the everyday and extraordinary experiences we have in life, from our most personal experiences to the most public issues of our time.

Using predictable changes in uncertainty and controllability to study whether these contextual factors shape emotion regulation effectiveness
Ella Moeck (University of Adelaide)

A popular idea is that context shapes emotion regulation. Outside the lab, this idea has been tested by relying on changes in contextual factors (e.g., emotional intensity) in everyday life. But due to the kind of events that characterise everyday life, contextual factors are often stable and at floor, limiting the ability to establish whether context matters for emotion regulation. I will present an alternative approach to studying context in daily life: deliberately targeting stressors where contextual factors fluctuate over time. We leveraged changes in controllability and uncertainty that surround exam periods. We surveyed 151 medical students repeatedly for 12-days: 4-days before sitting exams (when the outcome is uncertain but controllable), 4-days before receiving end-of-year grades (when the outcome is an uncertain and uncontrollable), and 4-days after receiving end-of-year grades (when the outcome is certain but controllable). Participants repeatedly rated positive and negative outcome-related emotions and recent use of emotion regulation strategies. Controllability and uncertainty fluctuated in expected ways over time. But these fluctuations were not accompanied by expected effects of controllability and uncertainty on emotion regulation effectiveness. Nevertheless, this method holds promise for bridging the gap between the lab vs. everyday life, where contextual factors rarely occur in isolation.

Men do not suppress emotions more than women: Evidence from large-scale daily life data.
Elise Kalokerinos (University of Melbourne)

Expressive suppression—hiding the outward expression of emotions—has been linked to negative mental health outcomes in Western samples. Despite common assumptions that men suppress emotions more than women, empirical findings are mixed and rely on global, trait-based self-reports. In a preregistered large-scale analysis, we examined gender differences in expressive suppression in daily life across 11 experience-sampling studies (N = 1,611; 107,051 observations). While men reported greater habitual suppression than women on trait questionnaires, no such gender difference emerged in momentary reports of suppression in everyday contexts. Additionally, there were no gender differences in the types of emotion suppressed (overall negative emotion, anger, and sadness). These findings suggest that gender

differences in suppression may reflect internalized stereotypes rather than behavioural reality. Our findings have potential implications for understanding gendered emotion norms, measurements, and interventions aimed at regulating emotions and mental health.

Distinguishing the regulation and dynamics of moods and emotions in daily life.
Peter Koval (University of Melbourne)

Many affect theories distinguish between emotions and moods, principally in terms of their (lack of) 'intentionality'. Emotions are defined as intentional, or object-related (i.e., tied to a specific person, situation, or event), whereas moods are non-intentional or diffuse feelings not consciously tied with a particular object. However, this distinction is often ignored in empirical research, especially in experience-sampling studies where researchers observe people's naturally occurring feelings with limited knowledge/control over the contexts in which they arise. Here, I report findings from an experience-sampling study that aimed to distinguish between moods and emotions and to investigate how these distinct affective processes differ in terms of attempts to regulate them and their temporal dynamics. Community adults (N = 326, aged 18 to 66 years, 80% female), reported their momentary feelings, whether these feelings were object-related (intentional), and their recent regulation attempts, 10 times daily for one week. I will report results of multilevel analyses testing how object-related feelings (i.e., emotions) differ from objectless feelings (i.e., moods) in their likelihood of being deliberately regulated and their 'inertia' or persistence over time, at both the within- and between-person levels. I will discuss implications of our findings for basic affective science and for clinical/applied interventions.

Eco-emotions in everyday life.
Katharine Greenaway (University of Melbourne)

Theory and research suggest 'eco-emotions' – emotions people feel about climate change and the environment more broadly – may be useful 'levers' to pull in the fight against climate change. And yet, researchers have neglected to do some basic groundwork on eco-emotions, including assessing their prevalence in daily life. Laying this groundwork, we explored the emotions people feel about climate change in New York Times articles from 1979 to 2000 and report in daily life data collected during the LA fires and the recent Australian election. These data provide a window into what emotions people feel about climate change on a daily basis, and the degree to which those emotions vary according to individual differences and situational context.

Symposium 22: Sexual Norms, Prejudice, and Conversations Across Contexts.

Symposium Chair: Katie Knowles (Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact: katie.knowles@vuw.ac.nz

Sexuality is a complex aspect of the human experience, shaped by evolving cultural norms, social scripts, relational contexts, and individual differences across the lifespan. Despite the fundamental role of sexuality in intrapersonal and interpersonal wellbeing, conversations regarding sexual diversity, desire, and dysfunction remain constrained by social taboos and cis/heteronormativity. Few studies, however, systematically explore these processes. As such, this symposium brings together four studies that consider sexuality and sexual norms within varied social and relational contexts. First, Clarke examines generational and societal shifts in sexual prejudice, highlighting how social movements influence attitudes. Lilly then synthesises the workplace experiences of LGBTQIA+ healthcare professionals, focusing on the impacts of cis/heteronormativity and education. The third study by Harris explores postpartum sexual desire, highlighting the role of heteronormative scripts in this missing discourse in healthcare settings. Finally, Knowles examines how personal, relational, and social norms shape people's self-disclosure of sexual dysfunction within romantic relationships. Collectively, these studies advance an underexplored area in social psychology by interrogating how social norms influence sexual attitudes, experiences, and communication across time and diverse contexts.

Examining Sexual Prejudice Across the Adult Lifespan: A Cohort Sequential Latent Growth Curve Model.

Eden V. Clarke (University of Auckland)

Despite increased acceptance and protections for the LGBTQIA+ community, older cohorts consistently report higher rates of sexual prejudice than their younger counterparts. To date, it is unclear if this generational difference emerges due to normative ageing or cohort differences associated with the distinct social norms each generation was born and raised in. The current pre-registered study addresses this problem by utilising cohort sequential latent growth curve modelling to examine the developmental trajectory of sexual prejudice for men and women across 10 annual waves of longitudinal panel data (N = 63,318). We reveal a period effect whereby older (compared to younger) cohorts and men (compared to women) display higher initial mean levels of sexual prejudice. More importantly, due to shared social conditions (e.g., the proliferation of LGBTQIA+ rights), most cohorts display comparable curvilinear declines in sexual prejudice across time. These results highlight the malleability of sexual prejudice across the lifespan and suggest that the proliferation of LGBTQIA+ rights is essential for changing attitudes toward the LGBTQIA+ community over time.

Out in the Workforce: A Scoping Review of the Workplace Experiences of LGBTQIA+ Health Professionals.

Kieren J. Lilly (Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland)

The proliferation of LGBTQIA+ rights movement has increased attention to the healthcare barriers and needs of LGBTQIA+ people. Little is known, however, about the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people working within the health sector. This systematic scoping review synthesises existing literature on the workplace experiences of LGBTQIA+ health professionals, including physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, and medical students. Systematic literature searches of the PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, and PsycINFO databases identified 91 studies published between 1992 and 2025 (43 quantitative, 35 qualitative, and 13 mixed-

methods). Findings reveal both positive and negative workplace experiences across seven domains: the macro-level climate, affirmation, discrimination and exclusion, identity management, community responsibility, professional development, and health and well-being. Experiences varied according to perceived institutional levels of LGBTQIA+ education, cis/heteronormativity, and the visibility of other LGBTQIA+ people within the sector. Notably, LGBQ+ cisgender women, transgender and non-binary people, and multiply marginalised individuals reported distinct experiences of discrimination and harassment, identity erasure, and barriers to career advancement compared to cisgender gay men. These findings highlight the urgent need for structural and cultural change to promote LGBTQIA+ inclusion and belonging within the health sector.

Sexual Desire in Postpartum Healthcare: Another Missing Discourse.
Emily A. Harris (University of Melbourne)

Healthcare providers are involved in helping people who have just given birth understand their postpartum experiences. However, when it comes to sexuality, these discussions are often limited to the resumption of penetrative sex. Similar to adolescent sex education for girls/young women, there may be a 'missing discourse' of sexual desire (Fine, 1988) in education about postpartum sexual desire. We asked people who had recently given birth (N = 202) questions about their postpartum experiences with healthcare providers in relation to sexual desire. Healthcare providers rarely discussed sexual desire or postpartum sex outside the resumption of penetrative sex and were unlikely to suggest additional resources about postpartum sexual desire. More than half of participants sought out additional information about postpartum desire from other sources, such as online forums. Our results are in line with research on youth sex education and provide insight on the current state of adult postpartum sex education.

Navigating Self-Disclosure of Sexual Dysfunction: A Mixed-Methods Analysis.
Katie O. Knowles (Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington)

Sexual dysfunction—including difficulties relating to desire, arousal, orgasm, and pain—occurs within social and relational contexts that shape how people navigate and discuss these experiences. Self-disclosing sexual dysfunction to a romantic partner has positive outcomes at the individual and interpersonal level, however, because sexual dysfunctions inherently conflict with heteronormative, gendered expectations about what occurs during 'normal' sex (e.g., penetration, orgasm), sharing this information can be costly. Presently, minimal research has examined how much people self-disclose, their reasons for doing (or not doing) so, and the factors predicting self-disclosure. An anonymous online survey (N = 121) of partnered people experiencing sexual dysfunction addressed this gap. Participants' mean level of self-disclosure to their partners was moderately high. In a simultaneous regression model, only people's attachment avoidance uniquely predicted lower self-disclosure. A thematic analysis of participants' self-described reasons for (non)disclosure included perceiving sexual dysfunction as indicative of sexual failure, seeking to address the dysfunction collaboratively, and viewing self-disclosure as integral to healthy relationships. These findings extend self-disclosure theory to the context of sexual dysfunction, and suggest a need for theoretical models to consider how self-disclosure can be facilitated or restricted by individual differences, relational motives, and social norms about sexuality.

Symposium 23: Moralization in the Modern World: Predictors, Processes, and Consequences.

Symposium Chair: Brock Bastian (University of Melbourne)
Contact: brock.bastian@unimelb.edu.au

Moralization—the process by which increasing moral relevance is attached to issues, actions, or entities—shapes political and social life. This symposium brings together new research on the predictors, processes, and consequences of moralization. Kelly Kirkland will begin by examining online interaction as a driver of moralization. Using an experimental social media platform, they will show how active engagement, rather than exposure to extreme views or moral language, predicts increases in moralization over time. Amy Lee will then turn to the role of polarization, using an experience sampling method dataset to demonstrate a link between perceptions of polarization and the harshness of moral judgments in everyday life. Shifting focus to outcomes, Samantha Mayes will discuss how moral circle expansion relates to wellbeing, showing that moralization through compassion and expansiveness can promote purpose and satisfaction but may involve hedonic trade-offs. Finally, Charlie Crimston will present evidence that zero-sum mindsets shape moralization, with those primed to view moral concern as unlimited displaying broader and more inclusive moral circles. Together, these talks provide a comprehensive picture of moralization, highlighting the conditions under which it emerges and its wide-ranging consequences for individuals and societies.

From Conversation to Conviction: How Online Interaction Moralizes Attitudes.
Kelly Kirkland (University of Queensland)

Moral conviction is a powerful driver of political behaviour, activism, and conflict. Even modest increases can influence voting, protest participation, and willingness to compromise. Social media plays a central role in contemporary political life, yet little is known about whether and how these platforms contribute to the emergence of moral conviction. We examined this in an experimental social media environment. U.S. partisans (N = 311) engaged for three days on a custom-built social media platform, discussing climate change, transgender rights, artificial intelligence, and the Israel–Palestine conflict. Conditions varied in whether covert extreme left- or right-leaning accounts were embedded, or no intervention occurred. Moral conviction was measured pre- and post-exposure, alongside engagement, status seeking, and content features. Across issues, conviction rose modestly but consistently, driven almost entirely by participants starting with low conviction. Increases were unrelated to exposure to extreme viewpoints, moral language, expressed outrage, or status motives. Instead, the strongest predictors were behavioural: actively participating in discussions and having more followers and followees. These effects held regardless of conversational tone or ideological slant. Findings suggest social media may catalyse moralization through public, interactive engagement—potentially via processes of articulation, reflection, and commitment—particularly among the previously uncommitted.

Polarization and Moral Judgments in Everyday Life.
Amy S. G. Lee (University of Melbourne)

Polarization is not merely an abstract political phenomenon but a lived social reality that increasingly permeates our everyday lives. While moralistic thinking is theorized as a key driver of intractable political divisions, less attention has been given to the possibility that polarized contexts may also elicit moralization. Through an experience sampling method study (N = 201), we explored how experiences of polarization relate to the harshness of moral judgments in

everyday life. Drawing on intensive longitudinal data, we investigated (1) how often people encounter situations that highlight current political divisions, and (2) whether exposure to such situations and perceived levels of polarization relate to the harshness of moral judgments. We found that exposure to polarized situations did not predict the harshness of moral judgments in daily life. However, stronger perceptions of polarization were related to greater moral condemnation, particularly for those who felt more threatened by polarization. These findings illuminate the micro-dynamics of polarization and moralization as they unfold in daily life, extending research on political polarization into the domain of lived social experience.

The Moral Circle and Wellbeing: Benefits and Trade-offs of Moral Expansion.
Samantha Mayes (Australian National University)

What is the relationship between happiness and the size of one's moral circle? Does belonging to a more morally expansive community carry wellbeing benefits, or potential trade-offs? Prior research shows that compassion is associated with improved wellbeing, and that greater compassion predicts broader moral concern. Building on this, the proposed research will examine how compassion and moral expansiveness relate to four distinct indicators of mental health and wellbeing – life satisfaction, eudaimonic wellbeing (having a sense of purpose or meaning), affective wellbeing (emotions associated with the concept of hedonic wellbeing) and clinical measures of distress. Using an initial correlational design, we test the hypothesis that higher levels of compassion and moral expansiveness are positively associated with life satisfaction, eudaimonic wellbeing, and lower distress. However, we also anticipate a potential trade-off where those with narrower moral circles may report higher hedonic wellbeing, to the extent that prioritising personal concerns may come at the expense of concern for others. This research will advance understanding of the psychological consequences of moral expansiveness, highlighting both its potential benefits and costs for wellbeing. Future studies will investigate whether compassion-focused interventions can expand moral concern and improve wellbeing, with implications for therapeutic practice and public health applications.

A limited morality pie? Zero-sum beliefs about moral concern shape moral expansiveness.
Charlie Crimston (Australian National University)

Public debates often frame moral concern as a zero-sum resource, for example, when extending care to refugees is portrayed as detracting from resources available for citizens, or when protecting the environment is seen as coming at the cost of economic growth. But to what extent do these zero-sum perceptions shape the scope of our moral boundaries and drive moral circle expansion (Singer, 2011; Crimston et al., 2016)? We developed the Zero-Sum Morality Scale (ZSM) to assess the extent to which people believe moral concern is finite, both at the individual and societal level. Across two experiments, participants were primed to view moral concern as either limited or unlimited before completing measures of moral expansiveness, compassion and prosociality. Participants primed with an unlimited mindset reported significantly greater expansiveness than those primed with a limited mindset. Moreover, this effect was accounted for by ZSM scores, suggesting that zero-sum beliefs help explain why some people draw narrow moral boundaries while others extend concern more broadly. These findings provide the first experimental evidence that shifting mindsets can expand people's moral circles, advancing theory on moral expansiveness, moral decision-making, and zero-sum thinking, and offering a novel pathway for promoting prosociality in times of global crisis.

Symposium 24: Social, Emotional, and Contextual Influences on Teacher Recruitment and Wellbeing.

Symposium Chair: Lisa E. Kim (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)
Contact: lisa.kim@sydney.edu.au

Teachers work in complex social, emotional and contextual environments. Identifying the factors that support teacher recruitment and wellbeing is crucial given high rates of burnout and attrition in the profession, and their impact on students and school communities. This symposium presents four papers examining how these influences shape the career intentions of undergraduate students not enrolled in teacher education, and the wellbeing of in-service teachers and their students. The first paper investigates how social status, pay, and working conditions influence career interest in teaching, highlighting factors affecting teacher recruitment. The second paper explores longitudinal associations between teachers' extrinsic emotion regulation—both the strategies teachers use to manage student emotions, and the support teachers receive from school leaders—and teacher wellbeing. The third paper focuses on rural teacher wellbeing, examining how environmental challenges, personal resources, and interpersonal relationships foster or hinder wellbeing among rural teachers. The fourth paper examines teachers' socio-emotional characteristics and instructional practices from both teacher and student perspectives, and their associations with student wellbeing. Collectively, the symposium offers a holistic perspective of the social, emotional, and contextual dimensions of teaching, with implications for supporting sustainable teaching careers and promoting positive student outcomes.

Exploring the role of Social Status, Salary and Working Conditions in Shaping Career Interest in Teaching.
Madeleine English (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Understanding what motivates individuals to pursue teaching is critical for addressing teacher shortages in Australia and internationally. This study examines the impact of intrinsic motivations (occupational interests, personality traits, and beliefs about the teaching profession) on initial interest in the teaching profession. Additionally, the study examines how changes in extrinsic job characteristics (social status, salary and working conditions) affect one's likelihood of pursuing a career in teaching. In the current study, participants were presented with hypothetical teaching jobs, where levels of social status, salary, and working conditions were systematically varied (high or low) across job advertisements. For each combination, participants rated their likelihood of pursuing the role. Participants also completed measures assessing their occupational interests, personality characteristics, and beliefs about the teaching profession. Preliminary results suggest that manipulating extrinsic characteristics (social status, salary, and working conditions) leads to varied associations with one's likelihood of pursuing a career in teaching. This study findings may illuminate which extrinsic factors could be prioritised to attract intrinsically motivated individuals who might otherwise be deterred from becoming teachers.

Emotion Regulation in Educational Contexts: Linking Teachers' Extrinsic Emotion Regulation to Self-Efficacy and Wellbeing.
Jessie Brown (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Teaching is an emotionally demanding profession. Teachers must manage their own emotions (intrinsic emotion regulation) and help regulate students' emotions (extrinsic emotion regulation). Teachers may also receive assistance from their school leaders with regulating their

own emotions. The role of teachers' use of different categories of extrinsic emotion regulation strategies and reception of emotion regulation assistance from school leaders in affecting teacher wellbeing is underexplored. Accordingly, this study investigates longitudinal associations between teachers' use of extrinsic emotion regulation strategies, their sense of self-efficacy, and wellbeing outcomes, and pilot tests a brief intervention aimed to increase teachers' awareness and use of extrinsic emotion regulation strategies. Primary and secondary teachers completed two online surveys, two weeks apart. The first survey captured baseline measures of extrinsic emotion regulation strategy use, self-efficacy, burnout, and job satisfaction, and included a randomised intervention. The second survey re-assessed the same measures. Preliminary findings indicate that teachers' use of extrinsic emotion regulation strategies requiring higher levels of cognitive or affective engagement positively predict teachers' self-efficacy and job satisfaction. Given the findings, future research and teacher professional development opportunities may consider how both intrinsic and extrinsic emotion regulation strategies could help sustain teachers in the profession.

When You Can't Leave It at the Gate: A Thematic Analysis of Australian Rural Teachers' Experiences of Wellbeing and Ability to Cope.
Tara Coburn (University of Sydney)

Rural teachers work in unique contexts characterised by geographical isolation, limited professional networks and multiple community roles. While overlapping professional–personal roles can strengthen teachers' ties and attachment to the community, they also heighten the risk of conflict and work–life boundary issues, impacting teachers' ability to cope with stress. This study explores how rurality shapes teachers' wellbeing experiences, the resources they use to manage job demands, and the role of relationships (e.g., with students, colleagues, leaders and the broader community) in their wellbeing. Participants were in-service teachers across rural Australia, recruited via special interest social media groups and passive snowballing. Participants completed demographic surveys and semi-structured interviews, which were transcribed and analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. Preliminary themes include Rural Teachers at Breaking Point: The Inability to Cope Due to the Gap Between Demands and Emotional Capacity, Coping in Practice through Individual Striving: Using Personal and Relational Resources, Beacon of Hope: Critical Motivators and Sources of Strength that Hold Rural Teachers in Place, and What Rural Teachers Want: Supports that Make Rural Teaching Sustainable. These findings present the current context of rural teaching while identifying specific support mechanisms and structural approaches needed to sustain and enhance rural teachers' wellbeing.

Too Much, Too Little, or Just Right? Teachers' Socio-Emotional Characteristics and Instructional Practices are Associated with Student Wellbeing.
Lisa E. Kim (School of Psychology, University of Sydney)

Teachers' socio-emotional characteristics and instructional practices (SEI) are central to students' wellbeing. Yet teachers and students often perceive these characteristics and practices differently. This study investigated the levels of teacher–student agreement on teachers' SEIs (e.g., emotional self-control, growth mindset, teaching pace, trusting students) and how both perspectives were related to student wellbeing. Data was collected from 143 secondary school teachers (M_{age} = 42 years; 65% women) and 1,993 students (M_{age} = 15.4 years; 60% girls) using parallel SEI questionnaires and the Student Subjective Wellbeing Questionnaire. Results showed moderate agreement between teachers and students, with notable variations across the SEIs, while extreme disagreements were rare. Multilevel models revealed curvilinear associations between specific SEIs and student wellbeing, with higher

wellbeing observed when the SEIs were perceived as more aligned with each other. These findings highlight the value of considering both teacher and student perspectives when studying teaching effectiveness and how they may be associated with student wellbeing.

Symposium 25: Investigating causal and methodological issues in conspiracy theory research.

Symposium Chair: Mathew Marques (La Trobe University)
Contact: m.marques@latrobe.edu.au

Research on conspiracy theories has skyrocketed in recent years, including in Australia and New Zealand. In this symposium, speakers will present research addressing questions around sincerity, overconfidence, and experience of precarity in belief formation. First, Marques presents three studies (2 longitudinal, 1 experimental) evaluating the socio-functional theory of conspiracy belief that suggests that experiences of precarity are a causal antecedent. Next, over 3 experiments, Hill investigates how overconfidence shapes causal knowledge, and whether this varies for people higher and lower on conspiracy belief. Finally, our last two presenters tackle a critical issue in the study of conspiracy belief: insincere responding. Ross demonstrates that a sizeable minority may not sincerely report their beliefs, and that this inflates prevalence estimates. In the final talk, Williams presents findings from a registered report demonstrating that insincere responses may distort several purportedly well-established empirical observations about belief conspiracy theories.

Testing the socio-functional model: Does precarity cause conspiracy belief?
Mathew D. Marques (La Trobe University)

Research seeking to explain why people believe conspiracies has largely focused on intrapsychic factors, but there is growing research examining structural level elements of disadvantage. The socio-functional model of conspiracy belief (Adam-Troian et al., 2023) posits that subjective feelings of permanent insecurity arising from objective material strain (i.e., precarity) causes conspiracy belief directly or indirectly through institutional distrust. Across three preregistered studies using observational longitudinal designs over 3 (n = 637) and 11 months (n = 832), and a between-groups experimental design (n = 285), we use various methods to estimate causal effects for this proposition during the current cost-of-living crisis. In Studies 1 and 2 using random intercept cross-lagged panel models we find no evidence that increases in precarity temporally precede increases in conspiracy belief (or vice-versa), but find stable between-persons effects over time. In Study 3, despite successfully manipulating precarity using a self-imagine paradigm, we find no direct or indirect effect on conspiracy belief through decreased government trust. We discuss the importance of using methods that permit credible causal inferences, and key directions for future studies investigating the socio-functional model.

How do personal experiences of attempting to explain causal phenomena affect perceptions of consensus?
Stephen R. Hill (Massey University)

People who believe conspiracies tend to be overconfident in their understanding of relevant causal phenomena and wildly overestimate how many people share their beliefs compared to non-conspiracists. However, it's not immediately clear how (or if) explanatory overconfidence and susceptibility to false consensus effects are linked. To explore this idea further we conducted a series of experiments that examined how experiences of trying to explain phenomena lead to recalibrations of judgements of both one's own understanding and the understanding of others. In Experiment 1 (n = 46) we found that the experience of constructing a functional diagram of an artefact leads participants to recalibrate their evaluation of their personal understanding of how the artefact works but not evaluations of the understanding of a

collaborator or to assessment of the dyad's collective understanding of the phenomenon. In Experiment 2 (n = 110) we explore how attempts to explain the causal workings of phenomena also affect perceptions of the general public's understanding of these phenomena. In Experiment 3 (n = 200) we examine whether people who believe conspiracies are more or less likely to recalibrate their judgements of their own understanding, and the understanding of others, after attempting to explain social phenomena.

Do people sincerely believe conspiracy theories that they endorse?
Robert M. Ross (Macquarie University)

Survey data are widely used to estimate the prevalence of belief in conspiracy theories and to test hypotheses about the correlates, causes, and consequences of these beliefs. However, concerns have been raised about how often endorsement of conspiracy theories reflects sincere belief. We examined the sincerity of conspiracy theory belief reports in a survey of 1,044 Australians and found evidence that a sizeable proportion of participants who endorsed conspiracy theories do not sincerely believe them. Notably, 10.0% of participants endorsed a novel and highly bizarre conspiracy theory about a raccoon army that we invented, and endorsement of this conspiracy theory was a strong predictor of endorsing pre-existing conspiracy theories, including simultaneously endorsing two that clearly contradict each other. In addition, 13.0% of participants reported that they had responded insincerely during the study, which was also a predictor of endorsing pre-existing conspiracy theories. Overall, our results suggest that surveys can provide inflated estimates of the prevalence of belief in conspiracy theories.

Examining the prevalence and predictors of belief in conspiracy theories when accounting for insincerity
Matt N. Williams (Massey University)

Ross et al.'s findings demonstrate that some survey respondents who endorse conspiracy theories are responding insincerely, and that this may inflate estimates of the prevalence of belief in conspiracy theories. In this Registered Report, we follow up by examining whether insincere responses may distort other key empirical findings with respect to belief conspiracy theories. We recruited a demographically representative quota sample of the New Zealand population. Following Ross et al. (2025), we probed sincerity by two methods: Presenting a farcically bizarre conspiracy theory and explicitly asking respondents if they had been insincere in any of their responses. A substantial minority of participants displayed evidence of sincerity according to one or both of these probes. Participants displaying signs of insincerity were much more likely to endorse conspiracy theories—including contradictory theories. This phenomenon may largely account for the apparent presence of belief incoherence amongst conspiracy theorists reported in prior studies. Furthermore, we find that insincere responses appear to distort the relationships between belief in conspiracy theories and several purportedly well-established predictors (paranoia, belief in a dangerous world, cognitive reflection, and trust). We conclude that insincere responses appear to be a serious problem for research on belief in conspiracy theories.

Symposium 26: Sexism: Threat and Internalization.

Symposium Chair: Michael Platow (Australian National University)
Contact: Michael.Platow@anu.edu.au

Despite positive advances toward gender equality in Western societies, sexism remains ever-present. Women dominate the statistics as victims of domestic violence; women's wages remain lower than those of men for equal work; and men dominate the statistics of those with power and wealth. The escalation of social media fora has facilitated the escalation of old expressions of sexism and misogyny repackaged, justified and proffered in new forms through the manosphere. One hypothesis for the increased proliferation of sexist and misogynist attitudes considers the role of social identity threat perceived by men. Three of the four papers in this symposium examine the role of social identity threat in the expression of men's sexist and misogynist attitudes. Each demonstrates how threat does enhance men's expression of sexist attitudes. The fourth paper examines the insidious ways in which hostile sexist (anti-women) attitudes can be judged as relatively true rather than prejudice by women themselves.

Sequences of Ostracism, Inclusion and In-Group Favouritism amongst Men.
John A. Hunter (University of Otago)

This paper sought to examine the link between ostracism, inclusion and in-group favouritism. To this end, two Cyberball studies were conducted. Each study comprised four conditions (inclusion followed by inclusion; inclusion followed by ostracism; ostracism followed by inclusion; ostracism followed by ostracism). Study one (n = 244) examined the idea that men who were ostracised and then included by in-group members (i.e., men) would show high levels of in-group favouritism. Study two (n = 264) addressed the same question when men were included and then ostracised by out-group members (i.e., women). The findings from both studies revealed that men who were ostracised and then included showed relatively high in-group favouritism insofar as they sacked more out-group (i.e. women) than in-group members (i.e. men). Across both studies, no effects were found for those who were included and then ostracised. Study one additionally found that men who were ostracised twice by in-group members showed high levels of in-group favouritism. Study two additionally showed that men who were included twice by out-group members, also showed high levels of in-group favouritism. The theoretical and practical ramifications of these findings are discussed.

The Impact of Acceptance and Categorization Threat on Men's Sexist Attitudes.
Kaity Davidson (Australian National University), Michael J. Platow (Australian National University) & Brooke Franklin-Paddock (Australian National University)

This study investigated the role of social identity threat in men's expressions of prejudiced attitudes towards women. Male participants (N=482) were presented with an online paradigm simulating a masculinity-salient all-male group environment, in which they answered questions on the extent to which they identified with being a man, provided a short self-description, and responded to the self-descriptions of supposed other participants. False feedback was provided regarding whether the other male participants had rejected them (IV 1: "acceptance threat"), and whether the study's algorithm had deemed them more eligible for a study designed for women (IV 2: "categorization threat"). Measures of sexism were then administered. Contrary to predictions, neither threat manipulation significantly affected sexist attitudes. However, both forms of social identity threat interacted with measured levels of social identification as a man. Moreover, perceived threat positively predicted sexist attitudes. A structural equation model was tested to confirm this relationship. These results will be

discussed within the context of social identity processes concerning prejudice, sexism, and identity threat, as well as the settings which enable extreme manifestations of these processes.

Masculine Identity Threat and Sexist Attitudes: Examining Precarious Masculinity.
Isabella Gilbert (Australian National University), Michael J. Platow (Australian National University), Brooke Franklin-Paddock (Australian National University)

This study examined how masculinity threat influences sexist attitudes and tolerance for online gender-based harassment. Male participants were randomly assigned to complete either a gender role-incongruent task (masculinity-threat condition) or a gender-neutral task (control condition). Afterward, participants completed measures assessing sexist beliefs, tolerance of online gender-based harassment, and masculine social identity strength. Results supported all hypotheses. Men exposed to masculinity threat reported significantly higher endorsement of sexist beliefs and greater tolerance of online gender-based harassment compared to men in the control condition. Furthermore, these effects were moderated by masculine social identity: men with stronger masculine identification displayed the most pronounced compensatory responses to threat. In contrast, the responses of women who completed the same tasks did not differ by condition, indicating that the threat manipulation uniquely affected men. These findings advance existing literature by showing that masculinity threat extends beyond traditional intergroup outcomes, including enhancing acceptance of harmful online behaviours that perpetuate gender inequality. By highlighting the role of masculine social identity in moderating these effects, the study underscores the importance of identity-based processes in shaping responses to gender-relevant threats.

Gender-Based In-Group Social Influence can Lead Women to View a Hostile Sexist Attitude as Less Prejudiced and More True.
Michael J. Platow (Australian National University) & Isadora Strong (Australian National University)

Social influence processes by which women come to judge a hostile sexist attitude as relatively true and unprejudiced were examined. Based upon status characteristics theory, women's judgments were expected to be more strongly influenced by a man's than a woman's interpretation of the sexist attitude as true or prejudiced. Based upon self-categorization theory, women's judgments were expected to be more strongly influenced by a woman's than a man's interpretation. Support was primarily observed for the self-categorization theory prediction. This effect, however, was initially suppressed by participants' acceptance of the legitimacy of gender status differences. A post-hoc mediational analysis revealed two pathways by which in-group social influence affected women's acceptance the relative veracity of negative claims about their own group: a direct path from shared in-group membership with the influencing agent, and an indirect path through their acceptance of the legitimacy of gender status differences. The research highlights how women's endorsement of sexist views can have the capacity to minimize other women's challenges of these views as prejudice.

Symposium 27: Social, Cognitive, and Conceptual Approaches to Understanding Misinformation and False Beliefs.

Symposium Chair: Nick Bordeleau (Flinders University)
Contact: nick.bordeleau@flinders.edu.au

The proliferation of misinformation, conspiracy theories, and extremist ideologies poses a significant societal challenge. This symposium brings together four methodologically diverse papers to explore the complex psychological factors that drive the endorsement and spread of these beliefs. The first paper experimentally examines how cognitive styles and social influence interact, finding group discussion can both amplify and buffer conspiracy beliefs. The second paper finds that social identity is a powerful predictor of sharing ideologically-congruent misinformation, as in-group norms and identity-signalling can override accuracy motives. The third paper uses a meta-analysis and a multinational survey to show that age is associated with higher conspiracy endorsement, a relationship explained by political disaffection and lower self-esteem. Finally, the fourth paper provides a conceptual review of the term "narrative" in extremism research, highlighting how definitional ambiguity limits theoretical progress and mapping a path toward greater clarity. Collectively, these papers offer a multi-faceted perspective on the cognitive, social, and developmental underpinnings of contentious beliefs, providing crucial insights for researchers.

Information and influence? Examining the joint effects of rational thinking and social influence on conspiracy beliefs.
Cassandra Quarisa (Flinders University), Emma Thomas (Flinders University), Morgana Lizzio-Wilson (Flinders University; University of Exeter), Ryan Balzan (Flinders University)

One consequence of conspiracies is that people who hold them tend to want to talk about them with others. Such sharing of conspiracies is likely to be important in consolidating conspiracy beliefs, but also means that others can be influenced to endorse (or reject) them. We developed an experimental paradigm in which people either talked about a conspiracy with others or deliberated individually. We pre-measured peoples thinking styles (intuitive thinking) to explore whether individual differences interact with influence. Study 1 (N=239) confirmed our hypotheses. People with more intuitive styles of thinking appeared more susceptible to influence and were more likely to endorse conspiracies in groups (rather than individually). Study 2 (N=374) did not replicate these findings, however. Rather, interaction had a buffering effect, such that conspiracy endorsement was lower for people who had engaged in interaction. We conclude that social influence and its relationship with cognition is nuanced and conditioned upon the content of discussions and/or the configuration of opinions within groups.

Social Identities Shape Belief in and Willingness to Share Ideologically-Congruent Misinformation.
Tylor Cosgrove (University of South Australia)

Social identities influence how people evaluate and share information online. In a preregistered study (N = 455), we examined whether belonging to political, religious, ethnic, and sexual orientation groups shaped susceptibility to ideologically congruent misinformation and willingness to share it. Across domains, individuals were more likely to endorse content that aligned with their group values or disparaged out-groups, with increased identification strengthening this effect in most cases. An intervention that primed participants to reflect on how their identities shape perceptions of truth showed limited effects, suggesting that even when aware of identity's influence, individuals may continue to engage in ideologically

motivated reasoning. To expand on this, we used an adapted Theory of Planned Behaviour framework which showed that perceived in-group agreement and ideology-signalling motivations were robust predictors of sharing. Moreover, we found that identity strength predicted willingness to share misinformation uniquely above perceived veracity, suggesting identity-motivations may increase the conscious sharing of false or misleading information. The findings suggest that social identity, perceived in-group norms, and ideological expression influence the spread of value-laden misinformation. We also observe variability across social groups, suggesting differences in when and why people are willing to adopt and share misinformation.

On the relationship between age and conspiracy beliefs.
Nick Bordeleau (Flinders University), Daniel Stockemer (University of Ottawa)

Research on conspiracy theories has long turned a blind eye on the role of age in explaining conspiracy beliefs. Few studies include age and those that do have yet to consider how and why age matters when it comes to the spread of conspiracy theories. In this article, we investigate the relationship between age and conspiracy beliefs with two complementary studies. In Study 1, we conduct a meta-analysis of a large sample of studies on conspiracy beliefs published between 2014 and 2024 (k = 191; N = 374,224). The results reveal a small but robust negative association between age and conspiracy endorsement. In Study 2, we use an original multinational survey to investigate three potential mechanisms that may explain the relationship between age and conspiracy beliefs (N = 6098). We explain youth's higher beliefs in conspiracy theories by their predisposition to unconventional styles of political participation, lower levels of self-esteem, and general political disaffection.

What's the Story? A Scoping Review of the Concept of Narrative in Psychological Studies of Ideological Extremism.
Silas Ellery (Flinders University)

Narrative is widely discussed in the psychological literature as a driver of ideological extremism, ostensibly accounting for online influence on radicalisation to violence. However, despite its broad and common usage, there is a lack of consistent agreement or understanding of what a "narrative" is. In some literature, the term "narrative" refers to a shared cultural story; in others, it is used as a persuasive frame, and in others as a synonym for ideology. This definitional ambiguity limits conceptual clarity, undermines its operationalisation from a psychological scientific perspective, and constrains theory-building. It also creates challenges for practitioners, where "narratives" and "counter-narratives" are treated as mechanisms of influence without a shared psychological definition. Without conceptual clarity, it is difficult to formulate reliable, replicable hypotheses, operationalise constructs through measurement, or build predictive models. To address this gap, we conducted a scoping review of peer-reviewed psychological research on radicalisation, violent extremism, and collective action published since 2000. Guided by PRISMA-ScR, we systematically searched four databases and coded eligible studies to identify how narrative was defined, theorised, and operationalised. This review provides conceptual clarity, identifies gaps, and maps pathways toward a more robust psychological definition of narrative.

Symposium 28: New insights into the predictors and consequences of aggression in couple and family relationships

Symposium Chair: Nickola Overall (University of Auckland)
Contact: n.overall@auckland.ac.nz

Four talks offer new perspectives to advance understanding of the predictors and consequences of aggression in couple and family relationships, including intimate partner violence, child maltreatment, and child-to-parent violence. Showing the importance of multi-factor explanations of aggression, Karantzas et al. use dyadic latent profile analysis to reveal that individual (e.g., insecurity), situational (e.g., stress), relational (e.g., conflict patterns), and social (e.g., norms) factors combine to determine risk of couple violence in heterosexual and same-sex relationships. Challenging dominance motives as the principal risk of gender-based violence, Hammond et al. use data from NZ and India to reveal that both hostile protection of men's power and benevolent idealization of women promote tolerance of violence against women in intimate relationships. Emphasizing the need to distinguish distinct pathways between child maltreatment and aggression, Bereznicki & Miller show that different types of child maltreatment experiences are differentially related to shame and trait aggression. Finally, uncovering a critical underexamined form of aggression in family relationships, Curtis & Harries adopt a family systems lens to evaluate the factors that contribute to child-to-parent violence. Each advance offers new insights into the factors and processes that interventions should target to reduce aggression in couple and family relationships.

Taking a Dyadic Approach to Situational Couple Violence: An I3 Perspective.
Gery C. Karantzas (Deakin University), Pam D. Pilkington (Deakin University), Laura Knox (Deakin University), Daniel A. Romano (Deakin University), Susan Chesterman (Deakin University), Peter G. Miller (Deakin University), Christopher Eckhardt (Purdue University), Jeffry A. Simpson (University of Minnesota)

Despite the widely held view that situational couple violence (SCV) involves the perpetration of abuse by both members of the couple, there currently exists very little research that takes a dyadic perspective. Furthermore, very few studies attempt to model the complex interplay between the myriad of individual, relational and contextual factors assumed to contribute to SCV perpetration. To address these gaps, we apply the I3 model to determine how the interaction between couples impelling, instigating, and inhibiting factors predict the trajectory of SCV over time. A sample of Australian couples (N=307) who were in a heterosexual or same-sex romantic relationship completed 5 assessments of SCV over 12 months. At baseline, participants also completed assessments of impelling factors (attachment insecurity, psychological distress, dark traits, dehumanisation), instigating factors (life stress, abuse victimisation, negative relationship behaviours), and inhibiting factors (relationship quality, constructive conflict patterns, partner support, gender and violence norms, substance use). Dyadic latent profile analysis identified high risk and low risk profile groups, and these groups were found to differ in their levels of impelling, instigating, and inhibiting factors. Furthermore, the two profile groups differed in their trajectories of SCV. The findings have important implications for the conceptualisation and assessment of SCV.

The risks of insecurity and idealization: Applying ambivalent sexism theory to intimate partner aggression.
Matthew D. Hammond (Victoria University of Wellington), Nikhil Sengupta (University of Kent), & Nickola C. Overall (University of Auckland)

Robust evidence illustrates that people's endorsement of sexism is a risk factor for intimate partner aggression. However, perspectives commonly overlook relationship-based explanations for violence because they focus on 'dominance' as motives for IPV and concentrate on the more overt and antagonistic form of sexism toward women (hostile sexism). Two illustrative studies develop theory by showing how aggression can stem from people's concerns about losing power (rather than being dominant) and, perhaps unexpectedly, aggression linked with protective and paternalistic idealization of women ("benevolent sexism"). First, consistent results across three dyadic studies (N = 309 couples) illustrate that men's endorsement of hostile sexism predicts relational aggression via insecure concerns about being powerless and rejected. Second, in nationally representative data from India (n = 133,398), we illustrate that hostile sexism is consistently linked to greater tolerance of violence against women. In contrast, benevolent sexism is associated with lower tolerance of violence in public but higher tolerance of spousal violence, identifying its subtle role in legitimizing aggression within intimate relationships. These findings address misconceptions about the seemingly 'dominant' beliefs of hostile sexism and seemingly 'protective' beliefs of benevolent sexism, emphasizing that relational insecurity and idealization are both possible pathways toward aggression.

Childhood maltreatment, shame, and interoceptive sensibility associations with trait aggression.
Hannah Bereznicki (Deakin University), Peter Miller (Deakin University)

Adult aggression has well-established links with the earlier experience of maltreatment in childhood, but the processes underlying this relationship are less clear. In a community sample of Australian adults (n = 430), we examined whether specific maltreatment subtypes relate to trait aggression indirectly via shame propensity and facets of interoceptive sensibility. Models indicated that physical and emotional subtypes were differentially related to shame, interoception, and aggression beyond total maltreatment scores. Shame showed a positive association with aggression, whereas the non-distracting facet of interoceptive sensibility was inversely associated with both shame and aggression. Findings underscore the value of modelling maltreatment subtypes alongside affective and interoceptive processes to guide longitudinal designs and inform intervention targets.

Child-to-Parent Violence from a Family and Functional Perspective.
Ashlee Curtis (Deakin University), Travis Harries (Deakin University)

Dysfunctional family environments can, over time, lead to children becoming aggressive toward their parents, harming the developmentally critical parent-child relationship. Child-to-parent Violence (CPV), which includes physical and non-physical aggression from a child toward the parent, can persist into adult intimate partner relationships and represents a critical secondary prevention target to disrupt this trajectory. We will present findings from recent studies examining child, parent, and family-level correlates of CPV, including the contribution of and interactions between factors such as trauma, neurocognitive functioning, and substance use, as well as parenting and household unpredictability. Acknowledging the different interdependent systems within the family (i.e., between co-parents, and parents and their children), we will apply a family systems framework to interpret these findings and outline how they advance understanding of the development and maintenance of CPV. Recognising that not all CPV is the same, differences between proactive, reactive, and affective CPV will also be discussed, as well as how different types of CPV may emerge within the family. A family systems framework for CPV has implications for improving currently ineffective CPV intervention programs as well as progress toward an integrated model of CPV.

Symposium 29: Testing strategies to reduce people's victim blame and toleration of intimate partner aggression.

Symposium Chair: Olivia Nop (Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact: olivia.nop@vuw.ac.nz

Intimate partner aggression, sexual violence, and people's attribution of blame to victims of violence are vital areas of research to inform social interventions. This symposium examines the personality, ecological, and ideological qualities that foster intimate partner aggression, sexual violence, and victim blaming. We address the efficacy of potential avenues for reducing the toleration of violence and victim blame, including information about the context, bystander action, and educational interventions. Using a range of diverse methods, such as experimental vignettes, dynamic modelling, and testing an intervention, we address potential avenues for mitigation of the harm associated with intimate partner aggression, sexual violence, and victim blame. Implications of our symposium also extend theory on violence and violence toleration, specifically different strategies underlying male versus female perpetrated intimate partner aggression.

Honor Concern, Reputation Threats, and Victim Blame: A Replication and Extension.
Olivia Nop (Victoria University of Wellington)

This talk addresses mixed perspectives on how concerns about honor shape how they assign blame to victims of sexual assault. Honor concern is an ideology describing that self-worth is based in social reputation. Sometimes "honor" is researched as an individual difference (i.e., variance in honor concern) or as a situational feature (e.g., a reputational threat vs. no threat). Three pre-registered experimental studies (total N = 479) examined the distinct and interactive properties of honor concern and situational honor threats. Unexpectedly, people's honor concern did not robustly predict victim blaming. Instead, people consistently placed relatively more blame on the victim of assault when there was a reputation threat (i.e., infidelity) than no reputation threat (no mention of infidelity). Results indicate that perceived threats to a perpetrator's reputation appear to be considered by people, and act to place relatively more blame on victims, regardless of the general levels of people's honor concern.

Cultural Contexts and Intervention Intentions in Intimate Partner Violence Scenarios.
Andressa Santos Lisboa De Almeida (University of Sydney)

Bystanders play a crucial role in responding to intimate partner violence (IPV), both through direct intervention and as witnesses in legal contexts. Their actions are shaped by cultural orientation, gender beliefs, and perceptions of safety and confidence. To investigate these influences, two vignette-based experiments examined responses to physical and non-physical IPV. In the first experiment, the cultural background of the victim and perpetrator was manipulated (Australian-born vs foreign-born). Findings revealed that both participants' cultural orientation and the cultural background of those involved influenced intervention decisions. This suggests that cultural norms and identity shape perceptions of responsibility and social harmony. Additional analyses showed that cultural factors also affect how gender-based violence is perceived in Australia. These results highlight the importance of considering cultural and individual differences in understanding bystander behaviour. They underscore the need for culturally informed approaches to violence prevention and the legal evaluation of witness credibility.

Strategic Functions of Female Intimate Partner Aggression: Ecological, Cognitive, and Personality Mechanisms.

Mark Leak (University of Melbourne)

Female-perpetrated intimate partner aggression (IPA) is often framed as reactive or defensive. This leaves its potential strategic functions underexplored. My research offers an alternative account: that some forms of women's IPA are context-sensitive behaviours aimed at either retaining a partner under scarcity or facilitating mate-switching when alternatives are abundant. In this symposium presentation, I will share findings from Study 1 of my doctoral project — an agent-based model simulating strategic aggression dynamics under varying levels of mate availability. The model predicts a U-shaped pattern for women: aggression peaks when mate availability is very low (mate retention) or very high (mate switching), with jealousy and justificatory cognition (e.g., moral disengagement, partner dehumanisation) serving as key mediators, respectively. Male aggression increases primarily under low mate availability. The simulation also tests how trait antagonism (vulnerable vs. grandiose subtypes) and attachment insecurity moderate these patterns. By formalising theory through dynamic modelling, this study provides a generative framework for understanding the ecological and personality factors shaping female IPA. It also shows how computational modelling can clarify the adaptive logic of behaviours often dismissed as purely reactive, laying the groundwork for subsequent empirical tests.

Does Education about Benevolent Sexism Reduce Victim Blaming?

Beatrice Alba (Deakin University)

Research shows that benevolent sexism is associated with attitudes that legitimise violence against women, such as victim-blaming those who experience sexual violence. Furthermore, many scholars have argued that violence against women is at least partly driven by sexist attitudes towards women, and that they should be targeted by interventions aiming to reduce violence against women. Therefore, we examined whether an intervention offering education about benevolent sexism and the harms associated with it can reduce victim-blaming attitudes as well as benevolent sexism. In a sample of adults living in Australia recruited via paid advertisements on social media, we exposed one group of participants to an explainer of benevolent sexism and its potential harms. The control condition viewed a general presentation about sexism and its harms and did not mention benevolent sexism. Prior to the intervention, we measured participants modern sexism attitudes, and after the intervention we measured victim-blaming attitudes and benevolent sexism. We predicted that education about benevolent sexism would reduce victim-blaming and benevolent sexism relative to the control. We also predicted that modern sexism would moderate these effects, where those higher on modern sexism would show a weaker reduction in victim blaming and benevolent sexism.

Symposium 30: Resistance and Allyship as Pathways to Change: Critical Social Psychological Perspectives.

Symposium Chairs: Peta Callaghan (University of Adelaide), Brianne Hastie (Murdoch University)
Contact: peta.callaghan@adelaide.edu.au

Much of social psychological and discursive research has focused on demonstrating how racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice are reproduced in everyday talk and social practices. While this work remains vital, an important emerging direction is to examine how prejudice and inequality are resisted, challenged, and disrupted. This symposium brings together research that foregrounds resistance – from critical examinations of identity and gender to rethinking dominant theoretical frameworks. By focusing on the discursive and social psychological mechanisms that enable alternative narratives, counter-hegemonic practices, and spaces of possibility, we seek to shift attention from the reproduction of inequality towards the construction of anti-prejudice rhetoric and transformative social action. In doing so, the symposium highlights the contribution of critical social psychology in broadening the field's theoretical and methodological horizons, and in engaging with urgent social issues in contemporary contexts.

Life in the in-between: The identity experiences of being born between ethnic and Western cultures. A qualitative meta-synthesis.
Juliana Wu (University of Adelaide)

Self-identity is a key determinant of wellbeing, and understanding how individuals perceive and embody identity can inform improved healthcare outcomes. Social Identity Theory (SIT), often regarded as the "grandfather" of identity theories, links self-identity to in-group affiliation and out-group differentiation. However, SIT does not adequately explain the experiences of those born between two groups, specifically, individuals negotiating both an ancestral ethnic culture and a Western home culture. While many primary accounts describe such "in-between" experiences, the literature lacks a unified evidence base to support emerging theories of liminal identity. This study employed meta-aggregation to synthesise qualitative research on second-generation adults: Western-born children of non-Western immigrants. Twenty-five publications, representing 351 participants across 34 ethnicities and four Western nations, were reviewed. Three synthesised findings emerged: (a) making sense of oneself, (b) everyday experiences, and (c) structural forces. Participants experienced identity as liminal and paradoxical, shifting across contexts rather than fixed to a single group. Importantly, the negative connotations of liminality stemmed less from internal instability and more from experiences of racism, out-group ascription, and institutional forces. By recognising liminality as central to second-generation identity, traditional narratives can be reframed to better reflect contemporary, diverse, and dynamic social worlds.

'Until Women's Rights Are Recognised': Western Understandings of South Korea's 4B Movement Post-2024 – A Reflexive Thematic Analysis of Reddit Discourse.
Lara Li (University of Adelaide)

This presentation examines how the South Korean 4B movement is understood in Western contexts following the 2024 U.S. election, and the implications this holds for contemporary feminism. Using a critical realist paradigm, a qualitative reflexive thematic analysis of Reddit discourse explored how individuals of diverse genders engage with and interpret the 4B movement. Four themes were generated. First, Election results fuel gender divide highlights

women's readings of electoral outcomes amid intensifying misogyny and conservatism. Second, Women's affective responses to feeling unsafe captures fear around bodily autonomy and healthcare access. Third, Western understandings of 4B traces the diverse motivations and meanings behind engagements with the movement. Fourth, Tensions of appropriation versus adaptation (with subthemes on cross-cultural tensions between South Korea and the West, and intersectional tensions within Western feminism) illuminates the risks of cultural appropriation and exclusion within feminist spaces. Findings suggest the 4B movement operates as a site for negotiating identity, safety, and resistance amid sociopolitical unrest. Implications span clinical, health, and social psychology, highlighting how political trauma, gendered power dynamics, and systemic inequities are experienced as embodied psychological distress. The study underscores the need for intersectional, politically contextualised approaches in psychology to address emerging mental health crises in polarised societies.

"You Have to Acknowledge That Pain": Emotion discourse in the development of antiracism and allyship.

Monica Emery & Brianne Hastie
(Murdoch University)

Dominant narratives in settler-colonial states often obscure the realities of Indigenous dispossession and uphold racial hierarchies. One way to challenge these narratives has been through cultural competency training. We draw on accounts of participation in an Aboriginal place-based cultural immersion unit by European-descendant Australians, which aimed to develop allyship identities and behaviours. Using a critical discursive psychology approach, we focus on transformations attributed to the program and how emotions were deployed in participants' transformation talk. Participants invoked emotions such as shock, anger and sadness when describing exposure to silenced histories, and when condemning the distorted accounts of colonisation embedded in early Australian schooling. Emotion talk was used rhetorically to call out perceived injustice and to legitimise rejection of dominant narratives. More affirmative emotions, including empowerment and gratitude, were mobilised to demonstrate a willingness to challenge racism and align with social change. The analysis is situated within broader settler-colonial power relations and highlights how emotion talk functions as a resource for both critiquing and unsettling inequality. By tracing how participants use emotion to signal their developing antiracism and allyship, this study contributes to understanding the discursive dynamics of solidarity with Indigenous peoples and the pursuit of a more equitable society.

Rethinking Evolutionary Psychology: Beyond Determinism, Universality, and Heteronormativity.

Peta Callaghan (University of Adelaide)

Traditional evolutionary psychology has often framed human behaviour through narratives of mate selection and reproductive strategies, privileging gene-centric and heteronormative explanations. Such accounts risk reinforcing patriarchal assumptions and have been mobilised in popular discourse – particularly in online "manosphere" communities – to legitimise gender polarisation and the oppression of diverse gender identities and expressions. This presentation reports on a systematic review of evolutionary psychology scholarship on mate selection and reproductive behaviours. Rather than evaluating the validity of empirical claims, the review interrogates the discursive frameworks through which psychologists themselves construct evolutionary explanations of human relationships. By analysing the language, metaphors, and assumptions embedded in this literature, the study demonstrates how psychology can function as a site of discursive oppression, where scientific authority is used to naturalise and reproduce

gender inequality. In concluding, the presentation reflects on how critical social psychology might challenge these narratives, and on the possibilities for rethinking evolutionary accounts in ways that acknowledge diversity, cultural context, and social change.

Symposium 31: Old Assumptions, Fresh Insights: Advancing the Science of Emotion Regulation.

Symposium Chair: Rachel Low (Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact: rachel.low@vuw.ac.nz

Emotion regulation plays a vital role in physical health, psychological well-being, and the quality of our relationships. Yet, many of the ways we define, measure, and theorize about emotion regulation rest on assumptions that have not been fully tested. This symposium brings together four talks that directly examine key assumptions in affective science, using diverse methods to offer fresh insights and highlight new directions for advancing the field. First, O'Brien presents a scoping review clarifying how social sharing of emotion has been operationalised across qualitative and quantitative research. Second, Tran tests a central theoretical claim in emotion regulation, "context is everything" through a large-scale integrative analysis of over 134,000 observations. Third, Kim examines cultural differences in expressive suppression using both global and momentary self-reports. Finally, Low investigates how suppression and rumination interact across relationship conflict and recovery interactions. Together, these talks revisit longstanding claims in affective science and provide valuable insights to advance the field of emotion regulation.

What is Social Sharing? A Scoping Review of Operationalisations of Social Sharing
Sarah O'Brien (University of Melbourne)

Social sharing refers to the process of talking about an emotional experience with another person(s), including what happened and how they reacted. Whilst a relatively consistent definition of social sharing exists, the construct is broad and comprises many components, and researchers have not consistently mapped their operationalisation of social sharing onto this definition. We believe that inconsistent operationalisation of social sharing may contribute to mixed findings in research investigating the outcomes of social sharing, thus hampering us from creating a cumulative science. We conducted a scoping review to understand how social sharing is operationalised in (i) qualitative, and (ii) quantitative research using both correlational and experimental designs. Further, we aim to determine how existing operationalisations of social sharing map onto the most widely accepted definition of the construct and, thus, what proportion of social sharing research actually captures the central features of the process. Our search strategy located 1,352 published and unpublished articles in English by searching PsychInfo (Ovid), ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global, PsyArXiv, and PubMed. After screening with two reviewers, our final sample size was 100 articles investigating social sharing of emotion. We found that operationalisations varied widely and focused on different components of the process across studies.

Context Matters, Doesn't It?: The Role of Context in Everyday Emotion Regulation Strategy Use.
Anh Tran (University of Melbourne)

A common maxim holds that "context is everything". This perspective transformed the field of emotion regulation, which has evolved from centering on which regulation strategies people use, to understanding how strategy use varies by context (i.e., strategy-situation fit). Theoretical accounts suggest contextual features—such as intensity, controllability, or the presence and closeness of others—are crucial in guiding how people use emotion-regulation strategies. However, empirical evidence is isolated to piecemeal studies with inconclusive results. To comprehensively explore context-dependent emotion regulation, we need data on emotion

regulation across many contexts, at scale. Combining up to 11 experience-sampling datasets in an integrative analysis (NID=1,720, Nobservations=134,470), we found limited support for theories suggesting that strategy use varies with changes in context. Our study provides a well-powered foundational step to test a theory central to emotion-regulation research, and highlights the complexity of capturing strategy-situation fit as it unfolds in daily life.

Cross-Cultural Differences in Daily Expressive Suppression.
Sooyeon Kim (University of Melbourne)

Expressive suppression is one of the most extensively studied emotion regulation strategies. Despite its known maladaptive impact on psychological health, individuals continue to employ this strategy, with those who self-identify as East Asian, in particular, assumed to rely on it more than those who self-identify as White/Caucasian. Most evidence for these claims, however, comes from global self-reports that reflect abstract beliefs about habitual expressive suppression rather than real-time use in everyday contexts. This raises the question: do cultural differences in expressive suppression emerge when examining everyday expressive suppression use (as captured by momentary self-reports)? The current study aims to replicate previous findings using global measures of expressive suppression and examine whether they generalise to momentary self-report. We conducted secondary analyses on three experience sampling datasets (14,508 occasions nested within 419 participants), in which participants reported both global and momentary expressive suppression use. We applied Bayesian linear regression for global data and Bayesian multilevel regression for momentary data to estimate cultural effects. The results will be presented at the symposium. This project is the first to empirically demonstrate that cultural differences in expressive suppression are evident not only in individuals' abstract beliefs about their use but also in their actual use of expressive suppression in ecologically valid, real-world contexts.

The bidirectional links of emotional suppression and rumination across conflict and recovery interactions.
Rachel Low (Victoria University of Wellington)

People often try to suppress negative emotions to minimize conflict, but emotional suppression (ES) reduces responsiveness and impedes problem solving. People also often ruminate about conflict, which interferes with responsiveness and problem resolution. How do these strategies relate to each other? We apply relationship science to investigate how ES and rumination during conflict influence each other across social interactions. In two studies, couples discussed an area of conflict and then had a subsequent interaction discussing an area of strength in their relationship (Study 1, N=143 couples) or engaging in a family interaction (Study 2, N=104 families). After each interaction, participants rated how much they engaged in ES and rumination of conflict-related emotions and thoughts. Cross-lagged analyses revealed that greater ES during discussions predicted increased rumination in the subsequent relationship and family interactions. Similarly, greater rumination during conflict predicted greater ES in subsequent interactions. By showing that ES increases rumination, these findings confirm central propositions in affective science that ES has ironic effects by increasing the accessibility of negative thoughts and emotions. These studies highlight how emotion regulation shapes relationship conflict and recovery, and reveal the importance of examining emotion regulation in relationship interactions to advance key propositions in affective science.

Symposium 32: Intentionality, Dynamics, and Contexts of Emotion Regulation in Everyday Life.

Symposium Chair: Runqiu Fei (University of Melbourne)
Contact: runqiu.fei@student.unimelb.edu.au

Emotion regulation (ER) is fundamental to well-being, yet in daily life it unfolds with variability in intentionality, reciprocal interplay with affect, and sensitivity to social and contextual demands. This symposium brings together four complementary research agendas to provide an integrated perspective on ER across individual, social, and applied contexts. We begin by examining whether certain ER strategies are inherently more/less intentional, providing a conceptual foundation for understanding strategic choice. Building on this, large-scale evidence from 22 experience-sampling datasets demonstrates how emotions and ER strategies dynamically shape one another. The third talk turns to the social domain, exploring how loneliness is intertwined with interpersonal ER processes in daily interactions. Finally, we extend to applied contexts by investigating extrinsic ER in the workplace and its role in affective spillover between professional and home life. Together, these contributions move from theoretical grounding to large-scale empirical dynamics, and from personal to social and applied contexts. They collectively advance theory, highlight methodological innovations, and offer practical insights into how people regulate emotions in the complex settings of everyday life.

Do Emotion Regulation Strategies Differ in Intentionality?

Aya Uchida (University of Melbourne)

Emotion regulation refers to the process through which people influence and change their emotions. Theory suggests that initiation of emotion regulation occurs before people select and implement strategies (e.g., Gross, 2015). However, research has not investigated whether intent to regulate predicts emotion regulation strategies. In this research, we explore these links, investigating whether certain strategies are more likely used with intention – that is, 'more intentional' – than other strategies. We investigated this in three experience sampling studies (*n* = 173, 326, 194) where participants self-reported 6-10 times a day for 7-10 days whether they intended to regulate their emotions, followed by which emotion regulation strategies they used. Using multilevel models, we investigated whether intention to regulate predicted each strategy, and whether the intention-strategy endorsement relationship differed across strategies. We found that all strategies were endorsed even when there was no intention to regulate. The strategies Distraction and Reappraisal were comparatively more intentional than Rumination, Suppression, and Social Sharing, suggesting that strategies which down-regulate negative affect may be more intentional than those that do not. These findings shed light on potential discrepancies in lay perspectives and theoretical understandings on emotion regulation and strategy use, and highlight the potentially habitual nature of strategies.

Reciprocal Dynamics of Affect and Affect-Regulation Strategies in Everyday Life: Evidence from Large-Scale Data.

Runqiu Fei (University of Melbourne)

Theory suggests that affect-regulation strategies influence affective experience in everyday life, and vice versa. Although research on this topic is growing, previous studies have been constrained by (i) statistical approaches that could not simultaneously model reciprocal effects among affect and affect-regulation strategies; (ii) small samples (typically <200 participants); and (iii) limited coverage of regulation strategies (<5 strategies). We address these limitations in a large-scale secondary analysis of 22 datasets from the EMOTE database comprising data from

2,875 participants assessed at 201,250 measurement occasions, and covering a total of 10 affect-regulation strategies. In each study, participants completed experience sampling surveys approximately 10 times daily for 7 days, reporting their momentary positive and negative affect and their use of several regulation strategies. We use dynamic structural equation modelling (DSEM) to examine the bidirectional dynamic relations among affect and regulation strategies. Furthermore, by leveraging a variation of DSEM designed to address floor effects, we account for zero-inflation in negative affect and certain regulation strategies. This study delivers the most comprehensive evidence to date on the dynamic interplay between affect and affect-regulation strategies in daily life, advancing both theoretical understanding and practical applications in affective science.

Loneliness and Interpersonal Emotion Regulation in Everyday Life.
Jasmin Stariolo (University of Melbourne)

Theory suggests when loneliness manifests as a trait, it is associated with social withdrawal, and when it manifests as a momentary state is associated with social affiliation. However, little empirical evidence exists testing these hypothesized dynamics of loneliness. We investigated how trait and state loneliness are associated with interpersonal emotion regulation, a mechanism of social connection. Across two daily life studies—an experience sampling study (N = 239) and a daily diary (N = 170)—participants completed a baseline survey measuring trait loneliness, followed by daily assessments over seven days to measure state loneliness and interpersonal emotion regulation processes. In both studies, state loneliness was associated with greater engagement in regulating one's own emotion through others and other's emotion. In contrast, trait loneliness was either unrelated to interpersonal emotion regulation or was associated with less engagement in adaptive strategies. These results support the affiliation-seeking account of state loneliness, suggesting feeling lonely in the moment is associated with certain types of social engagement, though not always adaptively. Overall, loneliness—whether transient or chronic—appears linked to impaired social functioning, highlighting its complex role in everyday interpersonal dynamics.

Bridging Work and Home: Extrinsic Emotion Regulation and Bidirectional Affective Spillover.
Hester Xiao (University of Sydney)

Daily interpersonal interactions involve dynamic emotional exchanges that shape well-being across social contexts. While affective spillover between work and home domains is well-documented, no research has examined how extrinsic emotion regulation—deliberate efforts to manage others' emotions—transmits bidirectionally across these contexts. This study integrates affective spillover and extrinsic emotion regulation frameworks to understand how emotional support behaviours with coworkers and romantic partners influence cross-domain well-being. Employed adults in committed relationships (N = 172) completed surveys across three timepoints over two consecutive workdays, reporting on extrinsic emotion regulation behaviours in both regulator (providing support) and target (receiving support) roles. Participants assessed eight regulation strategies (e.g., receptive listening, humor, cognitive reframing) alongside emotional and relational outcomes including satisfaction, conflict, support exchange, and affect in work and home contexts. This research aims to advance our understanding of how interpersonal regulatory behaviours serve as mechanisms for cross-contextual transmission of well-being. The novel dual-perspective design captures experiences from the regulators' and targets' perspectives across domains, addressing limitations of prior single-role studies. Findings will identify high-impact strategies that mitigate negative spillover

or enhance positive spillover, informing interventions to improve work-life balance and relational health in both professional and domestic spheres.

Symposium 33: Moral judgements and the non-human world.

Symposium Chairs: Tim Kurz (University of Western Australia), Aisham Ali (University of Melbourne)
Contact: tim.kurz@uwa.edu.au

Morality has become a focus of much social psychological work in recent decades. While early work traditionally concentrated on moral processes within human-to-human interactions, increasingly, attention is turning to the non-human world, where moral intuitions profoundly shape how people think about preserving the natural environment and their relations with non-human animals. This symposium brings together four papers that collectively advance this agenda across diverse domains, methods, and contexts. Aisham Ali examines how intuitions about naturalness influence perceptions of value, risk, and moral worth, with implications for food innovation and environmental judgements. Karri Neldner investigates the developmental roots of environmental responsibility, exploring how ownership rights and stewardship obligations are negotiated across childhood and adulthood. Jo Watson highlights the contested moral status of Indian street dogs, showing how divergent constructions of the same species can generate powerful emotional and policy conflicts. Finally, Tim Kurz explores how morally framing waste infrastructure as serving the collective good can paradoxically foster greater wastefulness, with implications for sustainability communication. Together, these contributions demonstrate how the social psychology of morality can illuminate the complexities of human engagement with the non-human world and chart pathways for fostering more environmentally and socially sustainable futures.

Nature in the design: The role of naturalness in value, morality, and risk perception.
Aisham Ali (University of Melbourne)

This research examines how perceptions of naturalness shape judgments about value and risk. Experimental studies demonstrate that natural entities are consistently attributed greater moral standing than their man-made counterparts, an effect mediated by intrinsic qualities including purity, beauty, and authenticity. These qualities are perceived as inherent to natural origins yet diminished in artificial replications, reflecting the broader intuition that nature contains elements of intrinsic value that cannot be fully understood or reproduced by human effort. Extending this principle, in our current work we investigate aversion to unnaturalness in the context of food. Across multiple experiments, willingness to try cultured or lab-grown foods is reduced compared to their natural counterparts, an effect explained primarily by perceptions of risk and uncertainty rather than disgust. Importantly, this aversion does not emerge when comparing replicas of man-made products, where no natural exemplar exists. Together, these findings support the thesis that naturalness is perceived as carrying unknowable, yet crucial, elements that confer special value and reduce perceived risk. When these elements are absent in man-made replications, entities are judged as less valuable, less worthy of moral consideration, and more dangerous or uncertain to consume.

Balancing rights and responsibilities: How ownership and stewardship shape environmental judgments across development.
Karri Neldner (University of Western Australia)

Judgments about how humans ought to treat natural environments are shaped by multiple normative frameworks. Injunctive norms (what people approve) and descriptive norms (what others do) shape environmental attitudes and behaviour. Highlighting stewardship norms increases environmentally conscious actions, partly because people wish to align with perceived social conventions. Less is known about how ownership norms interact with

stewardship. Ownership may act as a double-edged sword: people perceive owners to have greater obligations to care for environments they own but also grant them privileged rights to exploit them. Examining when children adopt ownership/stewardship norms provides a window into the developmental genesis of environmental attitudes. From early childhood, children recognize owners' rights to use, control, and even destroy property. At the same time, they condemn environmental harm, with disapproval strengthening with age. We investigated these dynamics through vignette studies with children and adults to explore (1) whether children believe ownership grants greater rights to exploit and stronger responsibilities to care for environments and (2) if manipulating the degree of harm involved may reveal tipping points at which stewardship overrides ownership rights. We discuss age-related patterns in how ownership and stewardship are consolidated and consider pathways for fostering environmental responsibility across the lifespan.

Seeing animals differently: Intraspecies contestation and Indian street dogs.
Jo Watson (University of Western Australia)

The human-animal relations literature often assumes animal species are perceived in relatively uniform ways. Models such as the Stereotype Content Model (SCM) categorise different species as pets, predators, pests, or prey, based on mean level ratings of warmth and competence. Variation in social perception is thus understood in terms of interspecies differences (e.g., dogs as companions, rats as pests, tigers as predators, cows as prey). We argue, however, that such an approach obscures conflicts arising when the same species is construed in starkly different, and often competing, ways by different (groups of) humans. Nowhere is this more evident than in the case of India's street dogs, which are variously regarded as loyal companions, dangerous predators, unsightly pests, or vulnerable creatures. These competing constructions influence not only moral judgements and disputes at the community level but also escalate into fierce national debates about how street dog populations should be managed. Drawing on survey data and analyses of (social) media discourse, we examine how divergent perceptions of street dogs influence emotional responses and moral acceptability of policies. More broadly, our work demonstrates how models such as the SCM can be extended to account for plurality and contestation in social perceptions of animals.

Good Homes for Waste: Unpacking the Moral Ambiguities of Providing Waste Management Infrastructure.
Tim Kurz (University of Western Australia)

There are a multitude of sustainability initiatives that attempt to limit the environmental damage associated with consumption. These include the recycling of our waste into new products and the recovery of energy from such waste through high-end incineration processes. The common intuition of government and corporate actors is to publicly promote how the provision of such waste infrastructure is providing 'good homes' for people's waste that lead to environmental and/or community benefits. Our work explores the potential implications of telling people that the stuff they throw away is doing moral good. In experimental work, we have shown how psychologically framing waste creation as a contribution to the collective good gives people a moral warm glow that leads them to behave more wastefully than they otherwise would. In current work, we apply this lens to the recent provision of waste-to-energy (WtE) plants in Western Australia. Using novel remotely-moderated focus group (RMFG) methods, we explore the potential risks that public communication about WtE's benefits might hold for behaviours further up the waste hierarchy, such as recycling or waste avoidance. We reflect upon whether such potential 'wasteful contribution' effects need to be considered in assessing the true sustainability benefits of waste infrastructure investments.

Symposium 34: The social psychology of education: Pathways to youth wellbeing and learning in schools.

Symposium Chair: Haochen Zhou (Australian National University)
Contact: haochen.zhou@anu.edu.au
Discussants: Kate Reynolds & William Bingley

Education systems are facing urgent challenges: growing concerns about student wellbeing, persistent inequalities, and disengagement from learning. Policy responses often focus on individual behaviour change, yet social psychology offers distinctive insights into the relational and collective processes of identification and belonging that underpin young people's educational and developmental pathways. This symposium brings together three longitudinal research programmes applying a social identity perspective to education. Together, they show how schools function as social environments that shape students, parents, and communities. Across large-scale datasets, findings consistently demonstrate that psychological connections to school – through identification, belonging, climate, and shared norms – play a central role in student engagement, wellbeing, and future opportunities, over and above demographic factors. These processes not only buffer against disadvantage but also highlight modifiable levers for intervention at the school and system level. By integrating evidence on parents, students, and disadvantaged youth, the symposium advances a collective understanding of how schools can strengthen identification to support learning and wellbeing. It offers a forward-looking agenda for education policy and practice, showing how insights from social psychology can inform strategies to reduce inequality and promote equitable, engaged, and healthy futures for young people.

School climate, identification, and their impact on primary-school children's learning and well-being.
Sean Marshall, Haochen Zhou, Jon Quach, Georgia Dawson, Kate Reynolds

School climate (academic emphasis, peer relations, staff, student relations, shared values) and school identification (belonging, connectedness) are associated with student well-being and academic performance. Evidence for primary-school students is limited, with most existing studies being cross-sectional. This constrains causal inference and limits understanding of change and stability over time. This study examined whether school identification mediates longitudinal associations between school climate and students', self-reported well-being and learning outcomes in primary school. Data came from three Grade 4 cohorts in one Australian jurisdiction (N = 11,101) who completed annual surveys over three years. Measures included well-being (happiness, life satisfaction) and learning outcomes (behavioural and emotional engagement, perceived teacher support). Cross-Lagged Panel Models were tun to examine the mediation and compare effects across cohorts while controlling for gender, ethnicity, language background, and parental education. Positive perceptions of school climate predicted higher well-being and stronger learning outcomes over time. School identification mediated effects of climate on well-being and most learning outcomes across cohorts. Findings show that the social environment of schools exerts robust influence on children's psychological and learning outcomes beyond individual factors. This highlights the value of building positive climates and strong school identification to support primary students' well-being and engagement.

Supporting students to exit entrenched disadvantage: The role of school belonging and academic engagement norms.
Elissa Baker, Emma Knight, Tegan Cruwys

Completing high school, and obtaining full time employment, education or training is vital for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to exit the cycle of entrenched disadvantage. However, students from disadvantaged backgrounds tend to experience poorer educational outcomes than their more advantaged peers. A deeper understanding of modifiable school-level mechanisms is needed to identify points for intervention to better support disadvantaged youth through school. The current study investigates how school belonging and academic engagement norms affect the relationship between disadvantage and educational and employment outcomes using data from the Longitudinal survey of Australian Youth (2015 Cohort, N = 15078, Ages 15-25). Results show that school belonging mediates the relationship between disadvantage and educational and employment outcomes. Students from more disadvantaged backgrounds experienced less school belonging, which led to poorer educational and employment outcomes. This was particularly the case for students at schools with poorer academic engagement norms. The current study highlights the importance of policy efforts to increase disadvantaged students' feelings of belonging at school. In doing so, their educational outcomes could be improved, thus supporting them to exit the cycle of entrenched disadvantage.

Beyond participation: A longitudinal investigation of parental school identification and its impact on student achievement and wellbeing.
Haochen Zhou, Junwen Chen, Diana Cardenas, Kate Reynolds

Parents are central to their children's learning and wellbeing, yet most research emphasises behavioural participation (e.g., parent-teacher meetings) rather than parents' psychological connection to schools. Drawing on a social identity approach, we reconceptualise the role of parents through their identification with school. Using a three-year longitudinal linked dataset of parent and student responses, we examined how parent-reported school identification, parental participation, and school inclusion predicted student outcomes in a multilevel framework with repeated measures (Level 1) nested within individuals (Level 2). Results showed that higher levels of parental school identification were consistently associated with higher behavioural and emotional engagement in learning, higher wellbeing, and lower depression and loneliness, even after controlling for parental education, students' age and gender. By contrast, parental participation and school inclusion had little direct effect. Exploratory mediation analyses indicated that participation and school inclusion contributed indirectly by fostering parental school identification, which in turn predicted student outcomes. These findings highlight the distinctive importance of parental school identification and suggest that fostering parents' psychological connections to schools may be a powerful pathway to improving student engagement and wellbeing.

Symposium 35: (Mis)information Across Epistemic and Social Contexts.

Symposium Chair: Li Qian Tay (Australian National University)
Contact: li.tay@anu.edu.au

Misinformation can be challenging to identify, particularly across competing epistemologies and social groups. While we maintain that scientific epistemology, grounded in empirical inquiry, offers the best route toward truth, we must also acknowledge that not everyone shares these assumptions. Researchers should therefore avoid inadvertently alienating groups that operate under different epistemologies, and instead promote inclusive strategies for reducing the spread of harmful falsehoods. This symposium brings together four complementary perspectives that advance understanding of how (mis)information is defined, communicated, and judged as true or false. Tay et al. introduce a conceptual framework and agent-based model grounded in critical realism, highlighting the role of evidence retrievability and epistemic standards. Prike et al. expand the scope of misinformation research beyond headlines and posts to peer-to-peer communication chains. Wang et al. examine how people judge scientific and religious claims through a social identity lens, testing the roles of epistemology, motivated reasoning, and social influence. Finally, Syed et al. explore how the social identity relevance and presentation format of claims can interact with their repetition. Together, these talks show that misinformation is not only a cognitive challenge but also an epistemic and social one, pointing toward multi-level considerations that future research should address.

Rethinking misinformation research through evidence retrievability and epistemic bridging.
Li Qian Tay (Australian National University), Michael Platow (Australian National University), Russell Spears (University of Groningen), Kate Reynolds (University of Melbourne), Toby Prike (University of Adelaide), Ullrich K. H. Ecker (University of Western Australia)

Misinformation can negatively impact societal outcomes, but debates persist regarding its definition and scope. We argue that further theoretical and practical progress requires addressing three key challenges: (1) some claims are inherently difficult to identify as misinformation, (2) researchers and the public may not always share a common evidential standard, and (3) each of these creates challenges in developing social consensus (particularly intergroup consensus) about what is and is not misinformation. To this end, we introduce a framework grounded in critical realism, which maintains that a mind-independent reality constrains the consequences of (mis)information, but that evidence can only be accessed through epistemic standards that are partial and contestable. Within this framework, we define evidence retrievability as a time-indexed property of claims and distinguish objective misinformation (claims that contradict reality) from attributional misinformation (claims labeled false within a given epistemology). We then present an agent-based model that assigns agents trust weights over multiple evidence channels, such that epistemic conflict arises when agents discount others' evidential standards and epistemic bridging occurs when they adopt them. Simulations show that objective and attributional misinformation can diverge, and that bridging may produce a socially cohesive but objectively false consensus under low-retrievability conditions.

Misinformation spread in communication chains.
Toby Prike (University of Adelaide), Bradley Walker (University of Western Australia), Nicolas Fay (University of Western Australia), Andrew Perfors (University of Melbourne), Yoshihisa Kashima (University of Melbourne), Ullrich K. H. Ecker (University of Western Australia)

Misinformation research has primarily focused on social media posts, headlines, and articles, largely ignoring peer-to-peer transmission. In this study, we examined how news articles are communicated between individuals, focusing on the transmission of misinformation and corrections. Participants (n = 120 per wave; total N = 600) viewed and wrote summaries of four news articles (conditions: control, misinformation-only, weak correction, strong correction). These summaries were then presented to four subsequent waves of participants, who in turn wrote their own summaries to be passed on. The summaries were coded for the presence of misinformation and correction details, and misinformation reliance. In the initial summaries (position one), both weak and strong corrections reduced misinformation reliance, although strong corrections were more effective. However, both misinformation and correction details were lost during transmission, leading to increased misinformation reliance in the correction conditions. At the end of the communication chain (position five), there was no longer a significant difference in misinformation reliance between the weak correction and misinformation-only conditions. These results show that corrections can "lose out" to misinformation during peer-to-peer transmission. The findings also highlight the importance of using detailed corrections to reduce the risk of misinformation re-emerging.

When are scientific and religious claims judged as more truthful? A social identity analysis.

Chris Wang, Michael J. Platow, Eryn J. Newman
(Australian National University)

Social-psychological research has revealed people can reach an understanding of what is and is not truth through a variety of ways tied to their salient social identities. Without shared meaning between people about "who I am," beliefs about the true nature of reality can diverge, even when they share a common accuracy motive. This can be by social identities guiding people towards different claimants (source), ways-of-knowing (epistemology), or a known directional-belief about reality (motivated reasoning). These modes of knowing can be aligned, at times, but misalignments can still occur (e.g., a scientific scholar who has used the scientific method to reach the conclusion that humans do not share a common ancestor with chimpanzees). Without clarity about the conditions that activate the truth-seeking processes of social influence, in-group epistemology, and directional-motivated reasoning we evaluated three hypotheses, one for each truth-seeking process, to test empirically. Participants were sampled from the CloudResearch platform (N = 825). We measured social identification with categories that can lead people towards an understanding of reality aligned more with science, or religion. Namely, the categories of person-of-faith and believer-in-science. We then presented between-participants, a piece of written communication released by (1) a group of scholars who, (2) followed an epistemology, and (3) reached beliefs about reality, that each aligned with either science or religion. Then, claims about reality were presented to participants who were asked to rate the truthfulness of each claim. Results supported the hypothesis for directional motivated reasoning, with the hypotheses for in-group social influence and epistemology each supported partially.

Social identity relevance and repetition can cause claims to be judged as more truthful.

Iqra Syed, Raichel Brodie, Li Qian Tay
(Australian National University)

The dissemination and acceptance of misinformation remains a pervasive societal challenge. A well-documented contributor is the illusory truth effect, viz. the finding that repeated claims are judged as more true than novel ones. Although research has extensively examined the cognitive

mechanisms underlying this effect, relatively little attention has been paid to its social psychological dimensions. To address this gap, we tested, across two studies (total $N = 400$), whether (1) making salient particular aspects of participants' identities as well as (2) altering claim presentation to mimic a social-media stream (allowing scrolling) would affect both the illusory truth effect and truth judgments more generally. Results consistently demonstrated that repeated claims were judged as more true than new claims, and identity-relevant claims as more true than identity-irrelevant claims. We also found interactions, such that the illusory truth effect was attenuated under identity priming, and that identity-relevant claims were judged as especially true when presented in the social-media stream format. An analysis examining response time as a secondary dependent variable further revealed that response times were higher for new and relevant claims, compared to repeated and irrelevant claims. Together, these findings highlight how social psychological processes interact with cognitive mechanisms in shaping truth judgments.

Blitz Talk Session 1: Politics

1.1 Parasocial relationship impact on belief formation and its influence on pro-social, civic, and political behaviours.

Nicolle Kelaiditis, Dr Natasha van Antwerpen, Dr Rachel Stephens, Prof. Peter Strelan.
(The University of Adelaide)
Contact details: nicolle.kelaiditis@adelaide.edu.au

This research investigates parasocial relationships, defined as a one-sided emotional connection with individuals unaware of the other's existence. It explores the role these relationships play in shaping individual beliefs, values, and opinions, and how these in turn influence pro-social, civic, and political behaviours. As media figures, including celebrities, influencers and politicians increasingly engage across multiple platforms, parasocial bonds have intensified and become integrated into daily life.

Guided by Social Cognitive Theory, Social Identity Theory, and Cognitive Dissonance Theory, this study examines the psychological mechanisms underpinning belief formation and behavioural mobilisation within parasocial dynamics. The project explores how individuals internalise values expressed by media personas, how these values translate into behaviours and dissonance is navigated within these relationships.

The first phase is a scoping review mapping current literature, identifying theoretical frameworks, observed effects, and methodological approaches aiming to inform future studies and contributing to further understandings of media-driven social influence.

1.2 Nanny state nuance: Divergent Effects of Right-Wing Authoritarianism and Social Dominance Orientation on Support for Public Health Policies.

John Kerr (Department of Public Health, University of Otago), Mathew Marques (School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University), Michael Baker (Department of Public Health, University of Otago)
Contact details: john.kerr@otago.ac.nz

Policies that aim to improve public health are, in part, dependent on public support which in turn can be predicated on ideological beliefs and attitudes. In this preregistered survey of New Zealanders (N = 1,013) we examine right wing authoritarianism and social dominance orientation—theorised antecedents of conservative political ideology—as predictors of support for several public health policies, including community water fluoridation, compulsory childhood vaccination and placing a tax on high-sugar beverages. We find that while both RWA and SDO are correlated with a general opposition to government intervention, they have differing and at times countervailing relationships with support for specific policies. SDO is consistently negatively correlated with support for all policies while RWA is uncorrelated, or weakly positively correlated with support. The findings suggest that socially dominant individuals are generally less supportive of any public health policies across the board, while authoritarians' support for such policies is more complex and issue-specific. The findings offer avenues for further research as well as insights for policy-makers and communicators seeking to avoid ideological conflicts when developing or discussing preventative public health policies.

1.3 Political Violence and Ethnic Worldview in New Zealand.

Scott Danielson (Lincoln University / University of Canterbury), Kumar Yogeeswaran (University of Canterbury), Jamila Badis (University of Canterbury), Chris Sibley (University of Auckland)
Contact details: scott.danielson@lincoln.ac.nz

Right-wing extremism is a growing threat in the world as well as in Australasia. We explore predictors of support for political violence in New Zealand using data from the 2023-24 wave of the New Zealand Attitudes and values survey (N=28,000). We find that a particular type of ethnic worldview, which we call "insecure white narcissism," is uniquely predictive of support for violence as a means to political change. While this relationship is unique to NZ Europeans (not Māori, Asian, or Pasifik New Zealanders in our study), it is not true of all NZ Europeans: a healthy form of attachment to one's ethnic group has no relationship to support for political violence. We find that a worldview characterized by ethnic victimhood and a sense of entitlement might explain why individuals in New Zealand may gravitate towards violence as a possible avenue for political change.

1.4 A qualitative investigation into the role of emotion in conspiracy theory belief.

Terise Broodryk (Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington), Kealagh Robinson (Massey University), Marc S. Wilson (Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact details: terise.broodryk@vuw.ac.nz

While recent theorising around conspiracy theory belief identifies emotion as central, we know very little about the nature and extent of the role of emotion. The few studies to investigate their role rely on quantitative methods and find mixed results. This may be due to a misalignment between academic conceptualisations of these constructs with conspiracy theory believers own understanding, particularly when it comes to emotional experience. By approaching this question from a qualitative perspective, we may gain further insight into the emotional experiences of those who believe in conspiracy theories that quantitative approaches may struggle to capture. Here, we interviewed eight adults from Aotearoa New Zealand who scored highly on pre-administered measures of conspiracy theory belief about their emotional experiences when engaging with politics. Participants expressed their views on the failure of traditional systems to hold governments to account, the negative emotions they experience when thinking about politics, and how these emotions motivate their continued political engagement and action. Data analysis was conducted using Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2021). My findings contribute to growing conceptualisations of emotion within political psychology generally, as well as current debate regarding how emotion may specifically contribute to conspiracy theory belief.

1.5 Conservatives love dogs! Perceived alignment of lifestyle preferences with politics and affective polarisation.

Viola Pucci (University of Melbourne), Andrew Perfors (University of Melbourne), Yoshihisa Kashima (University of Melbourne)
Contact details: vpucci@student.unimelb.edu.au

Are we becoming more polarised? Recent research found that the politicisation of issues has expanded past political topics into lifestyle preferences. However, few studies have attempted to experimentally induce this spillover effect, making the mechanisms behind it unknown. To investigate this phenomenon, participants were placed in fictitious online focus groups where lifestyle preferences were either linked to political opinions (e.g., liking dogs with conservative politics; experimental condition, N = 186) or were not linked with politics (control condition, N =

215). Their political and lifestyle opinions were rated before and after the focus groups, as well as their impressions of the members in the focus groups and of the general population. Only progressive participants tended to change their lifestyle preferences in accordance with the experimental manipulation, with conservatives showing similar opinion change across both conditions. However, all participants in the experimental condition perceived lifestyle opinions to align with political orientations in both the focus groups and the population. Perceived alignment, consequently, influenced affective polarisation, with greater perceived alignment resulting in greater polarisation. This suggests that the spillover of political meaning to lifestyle issues has important implications for polarisation as the mere perception of opinion alignment can exacerbate societal divisions.

1.6 Stable Loyalties, Shifting Power: Political Identity and Workplace Behaviour Across Two US Elections.

Yuan-Hsi Liao (Australian National University), Michelle Ryan (Australian National University), Alexandra Fisher (University of Edinburgh)
Contact details: u1141821@anu.edu.au

Political identity has become a salient and divisive force that extends beyond the political arena into everyday professional life, yet little is known about how it shapes coworker interactions. This study investigates how political identity and power status (winning or losing an election) jointly influence workplace behaviour. Using data from American employees around the 2020 (Trump lost) and 2024 (Trump won) US presidential elections, we examine how shifts in political power affect workplace dynamics. We focused on three coworker-directed behaviours spanning destructive and constructive domains: antisocial behaviour, knowledge sharing, and distinctive treatment. In 2020, Trump supporters reported elevated antisocial behaviour after their candidate's loss, alongside an increase in knowledge sharing. In 2024, we specified behavioural targets, asking participants to report actions toward political ingroup or outgroup coworkers. This revealed that Trump supporters consistently shared more knowledge and received greater recognition from ingroup peers, while antisocial behaviour was directed toward outgroup members. Together, the results suggest that political identity functions as a stable lens guiding workplace interactions across electoral wins and losses. Contrary to prior research suggesting that winners extend generosity beyond their ingroup, our findings highlight enduring identity-based norms shaping behaviour irrespective of power status. These insights extend opinion-based identity into organisational contexts and underscore the importance of recognising political identity as a dimension of workplace diversity.

Blitz Talk Session 2: Victimisation and Forgiveness.

2.1 Knowledge, Connection, and Courage: Women's process of leaving a psychologically abusive partner.

Florencia Restivo, Felicia A. Lawrie (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngā Puhi), Alannah Corson Keogh, Gareth J. Treharne, Amanda E. Clifford (Waitaha, Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe), (Department of Psychology, University of Otago)
Contact details: florencia.restivo@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Psychological abuse is a subtle yet pervasive form of intimate partner violence, creating significant barriers to leaving a relationship. This study applied the Transtheoretical Model of Change to explore women's experiences of leaving a psychologically abusive intimate partner. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 12 women in Aotearoa New Zealand, and data were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. One overarching theme, having the courage within myself, was evident. In addition, three key themes were developed: 1) recognising psychological abuse (reflecting the contemplation stage), 2) the role of friendships and interdependence (within the preparation stage), and 3) sustaining meaningful change (representing the maintenance stage). These themes highlight the importance of knowledge and connection in women's liberation from psychologically abusive intimate partners. Findings emphasise the value of readiness-informed support by mental health professionals and community members throughout the leaving process.

2.2 Your explanation threatens my needs: When victims perceive offender explanations as defensive.

Antonia Scoufis, Michael Wenzel
(Flinders University)
Contact details: scou0009@flinders.edu.au

Offenders of interpersonal wrongdoings may want to (and often are expected to) explain their actions. However, explanations — accounts that provide context to wrongdoing — are inherently ambiguous, and victims could perceive them as defensive, thereby reducing their willingness to reconcile. We investigated the proposition that attributions of defensiveness can themselves be defensive, self-protective responses. Specifically, when victims have a strong need to have their status/power repaired, they may be more suspicious of the offender being defensive (i.e., unwilling to address those needs). In this study, 403 US participants, recruited through CloudResearch Connect, imagined a hypothetical scenario of having been embarrassed by a friend. The offender provided an apology with (vs. without) explanation. Through a reflective written task, participants' status/power threat was made more (vs. less) salient. Explanations led to attributions of defensiveness, which significantly mediated the relationship between explanation and willingness to reconcile. Conversely, explanations led directly to greater willingness to reconcile. Manipulated status/power threat did not moderate the effect of explanation, but measured status/power threat did; experiencing a greater threat, victims attributed greater defensiveness to an offender providing an explanation. The findings suggest that victims being assured in their status and power may be more positively receptive of offender explanations.

2.3 Understanding the Motivators and Barriers for Perspective-Giving in Moral Repair Processes: A Qualitative Approach.

Jordan Patterson (Flinders University), Michael Wenzel (Flinders University), Lydia Woodyatt (Flinders University)
Contact details: jordan.patterson@flinders.edu.au

The process of perspective-giving — that is, when an individual recognises a difference in thoughts, feelings, or worldview between themselves and another, and chooses to share their own — holds promise as a mechanism for conflict resolution. However, dedicated perspective-giving research is limited, and, therefore, so too is our understanding of mechanisms which motivate and create barriers to perspective-giving. Employing a qualitative approach, we asked participants recently involved in a transgression (N = 97) about their experiences with perspective-giving to investigate the diversity of factors which motivate and de-motivate perspective-giving within the context of moral repair. Conducting a Reflexive Thematic Analysis, we identified six themes which contribute in decisions to give one's perspective as motivators: (1) (re-)establishing commitment and growing the relationship, (2) to advance understanding, truth and values, (3) to regulate and exchange emotions, (4) to uphold justice, (5) to defend one's moral-social identity and (6) to attain agency, status and power. Additionally, each theme describes correlating concerns, many of which centre around anticipated reactions from perspective-receivers, acting as barriers to perspective-giving. Our findings contribute to understanding the complexity of decision-making behind acts of perspective-giving and highlights potential implications for moral repair processes.

2.4 Dignity Violations Target Stigmatised and Immutable Attributes: Distinguishing Ethics of Dignity.

Milan Andrejevic (University of Technology Sydney), Jakob Hohwy (Monash University), Linda Barclay (Monash University)
Contact details: milan.andrejevic@uts.edu.au

Dignity is central to ethical treatment, yet it remains unclear how people identify dignity violations in practice. Philosophical accounts suggest dignity violations involve degradation, but lack empirical grounding. We propose a new theory: dignity violations are degrading because they target attributes that are both stigmatised and plausibly immutable. To test this, we had participants (n=277) rate textual vignettes in which a perpetrator made offensive remarks to a victim. Each vignette varied whether the targeted attribute was immutable, improvable, or absent (within-subjects). Participants judged how well each remark represented a dignity violation versus a respect violation. Afterwards, they rated the societal stigma of each targeted attribute. All hypotheses, methods, and analyses were preregistered. We found extreme evidence (Bayes Factor > 100) that plausibility and immutability increase perceived dignity violation. Using Bayesian general linear mixed models, we also found extreme evidence that perceived stigma predicts stronger dignity-relatedness. These findings provide the first empirical foundation for a distinct ethics of dignity. Our results offer actionable, evidence-based guidelines for treating people with dignity, with implications for ethical practice in organisations, healthcare, and service industries.

2.5 Serenely Unaware: The Impact of Cognitive Factors on Inattentional Blindness for a Crime.

Queeneth Inyang (Macquarie University)
Contact details: queeneth.inyang@outlook.com

Eyewitness testimony is a powerful form of evidence in legal proceedings that greatly contributes to wrongful convictions. One factor affecting witness evidence is inattentional blindness, where people fail to notice an event happening right in front of them. When witnesses claim they did not notice a crime, they can be perceived as being dishonest. Therefore, it is important to investigate what factors predict the likelihood of witness inattentional blindness. Research about predictive factors for inattentional blindness have focused primarily on the features of the scene or task, with less research on individual differences. The current study aimed to address this by measuring multiple cognitive factors — need for closure, hypervigilance, and recent and chronic sleep quality — to determine if they predict inattentional blindness for a crime. Three-hundred and three participants viewed a video while completing an attention-capturing task. During the video, an unexpected assault occurred. Participants were asked a series of questions about what they noticed during the video to establish inattentional blindness. Then, participants completed cognitive scales on need for closure, hypervigilance, and recent and chronic sleep. We will discuss the findings as to how each predictor impacts witness inattentional blindness, along with implications for determining witnesses' perceived credibility.

Blitz Talk Session 3: Families and Aging

3.1 Social identity and cognitive health in middle-aged or older adults: A scoping review.

Kai Ping Tan (Australian National University), Gabrielle Guillermo-Tregoning (Monash University), Michael Chapman (Canberra Health Services), Paul Campbell (Australian National University), Tegan Cruwys (Australian National University)
Contact details: kaiping.tan@anu.edu.au

Dementia research in recent years has highlighted the importance of understanding shared identity in people living with dementia. The Social Identity Approach could provide insight to the psychological mechanisms underlying this shared identity. However, the interrelation between social identity processes and cognitive health remains unclear. To identify knowledge gaps and inform future research, we are conducting a scoping review to map the literature examining social identity processes in relation to cognitive health in middle-aged or older adults. Quantitative/qualitative empirical studies across academic sources/grey literature that meet review criteria will be included. PubMed, APA PsycInfo, Web of Science, Scopus, and Proquest have been searched, resulting in ~2,800 studies to be screened after de-duplication. In exploring the relationship between social identity processes and cognitive health, the review will also explore the study variables examined, theorised pathways, and social worlds of participants. This talk will discuss review design, progress, and preliminary reflections.

3.2 Unpacking the role(s) of parenthood in pro-environmental behaviour.

Ava Disney, Kelly Fielding, Winnifred Louis
(University of Queensland)
Contact details: a.disney@uq.edu.au

Particular intersectional sociodemographic groups — such as young parents — have been identified as strategic targets for pro-environmental campaigns due to their more moderate (i.e., malleable) positions on environmental issues like climate change. Young parents are a key group to engage in environmentalism because they (1) influence the behaviour of future generations, (2) are undergoing a major life transition, which can be a strategic period to build new, lasting habits, and (3) have the chance to create shared parent-child environmental actions with co-benefits for family wellbeing. However, the literature has not reached consensus about how becoming a parent impacts pro-environmental behaviour. On one hand, the 'legacy hypothesis' suggests that having children prompts parents to consider the world that will be left to their children and thus motivates them to think and behave more pro-environmentally. Yet other research shows that becoming a parent decreases pro-environmental behaviour due to the competing physical and psychological demands associated with having children. In the present research, we unpack the role(s) of parenthood in environmentalism in a representative sample of Queenslanders (N = 1069) by examining the potentially competing mechanisms in a parallel mediation analysis. Theoretical and applied implications will be discussed.

3.3 A Pilot Study of a Social Participation Intervention in Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment/Mild Dementia and their Carers.

Diana Matovic, Gabrielle Picard, Jessamine Chen, Abhirami Viju, Wing-Yin Leung, Aswathi Neelakandan, Viviana Wuthrich
(Macquarie University Lifespan Health & Wellbeing Research Centre)

Contact details: diana.matovic@mq.edu.au

BACKGROUND Older adults with mild cognitive impairment (MCI)/mild dementia and their carers often face social isolation, yet few interventions specifically address their unique barriers to social participation. This pilot study evaluated the feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary efficacy of a targeted intervention designed to enhance social connection in this population. METHODS Eight dyads (N=16, 60+, Mage=73.12 years, SD=5.61, 50% female) completed a 3-month remotely delivered intervention, co-developed with clinicians and dementia advocates. The intervention incorporated psychoeducation and CBT-based strategies on communication, managing embarrassment, and maintaining social support. It was delivered via booklets and brief check-in phone/videocalls. Outcomes included validated measures of social connection, loneliness, participation, support, functioning, caregiver burden, anxiety, and depression, alongside participant feedback. RESULTS Among those with MCI/dementia, 80% felt highly motivated to apply strategies to manage embarrassment and communicate their diagnosis, while 66% felt very confident applying strategies to manage communication changes. Carers reported high confidence in maintaining social support networks (83%) and high motivation to widen networks (80%). All participants reported little to no difficulty in implementing the strategies. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION Findings suggest that the intervention successfully provided valuable, actionable strategies for individuals with MCI/dementia and their carers, supporting social participation and reducing barriers to social connection, warranting further evaluation with larger samples.

3.4 Parental Anxiety and Child Emotion Regulation: The Mediating Role of Parent Emotion Socialisation Processes.

Emma Pitt, Rachel Low, Mele Taumoepeau
(Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact details: emma.pitt@vuw.ac.nz

Research indicates that parental anxiety is related to poor emotion regulation (ER) in children. It has been theorised that parent emotion socialisation processes, namely, parents' responses to children's negative emotions and emotional self-expressiveness in the family, may mediate the relationship between parental anxiety and child ER. However, this has not yet been empirically tested. Parents (N = 104) with a 4-5-year-old child completed questionnaires pertaining to their mental health, emotion socialisation processes, and their child's ER strategies (problem-focused strategies, attention-focused strategies, dominant venting, and submissive venting). Preliminary results revealed that parents who reported greater anxiety reported more unsupportive responses when coping with children's negative emotions and greater negative emotional self-expressiveness in the family. In turn, unsupportive responses predicted lower problem-focused strategies in children, and greater negative emotional self-expressiveness predicted greater dominant venting in children. These findings reveal that parental anxiety interferes with parents' emotion socialisation processes, which has implications for the adaptive development of emotion regulation in early childhood.

3.5 Exploring relationship dynamics of people who occupy parental roles and their middle-aged single friends: An attachment perspective.

Luella Leon
Contact details: lullabella23@gmail.com

With the rise of singledom and the occupation of parental roles later in life, shifts in relationship dynamics between parents and their insecurely attached middle-aged friends pose an interesting line of enquiry. Although attachment theory has explored the attachment dynamics between romantic, parental, and friendship bonds, it has not examined how parental roles could shape the underlying processes aligned with seeking support and connection by their insecure single middle-aged friends. For several reasons, those occupying parental roles unwittingly re-prioritise their relational needs with their friends, such that their friends are required to navigate complex emotional responses associated with the re-prioritisation of support. These shifts may reflect underlying attachment processes, and placing attention in this relational space could expand the scope of attachment theory to consider how adult friendships evolve in midlife. Thus, it is important to discuss what happens to single middle-aged adult's mental representations of their friends who occupy parental roles when seeking support and connection.

3.6 The Effect of Expressive Suppression on Parent Behaviour in Parent-Child Interactions: The Moderating Roles of Parent Mental Health.

Camille Driscoll O'Keefe, Rachel Low, Paul Jose
(Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact details: camille.driscollo'keefe@vuw.ac.nz

Emerging research suggests that parents' expressive suppression is associated with lower levels of parent responsiveness in parent-child interactions. However, there is minimal research that has experimentally examined the effects of suppression on parent behaviour during parent-child interactions, while also considering parent mental health. Eighty-four parents participated in the study and provided self-reports of depression and anxiety. During the study, parents completed a speech task designed to increase negative emotions. We then experimentally manipulated parents' use of suppression during a cooperative parent-child interaction task and examined the effects of parents' suppression on their responsive behaviours towards their 4-5-year-old child. Results demonstrated that parents in the suppression condition displayed lower observed responsiveness and guidance quality. Moderation analyses revealed that suppression differentially affected parents depending on anxiety levels: parents low in anxiety self-reported higher interaction quality and responsiveness, whereas those high in anxiety self-reported lower interaction quality and responsiveness. These findings provide experimental evidence that parental anxiety amplifies the relationship between suppression and parent behaviour during parent-child interactions. Overall, the results suggest that anxiety heightens parents' vulnerability to the negative effects of suppression, highlighting the importance of considering emotion regulation and mental health in parent—child relationships.

Blitz Talk Session 4: Theory and Methods

4.1 Co-Design as Social Process: A Social Identity Lens.

Sophie Griffiths (University of Queensland)
Contact details: s.griffiths1@student.uq.edu.au

Co-design is increasingly used in health research to involve people with lived experience in shaping services, systems and research priorities. However, there remains limited clarity around how group dynamics influence participation in practice. My PhD approaches co-design as a social process shaped by group interaction and identity, drawing on Social Identity Theory and interdisciplinary insights from psychology, design, and health. I examine how power, trust, and engagement are signalled through interaction— focusing on affordances (such as facilitation, space, and tools) and social signals (such as turn-taking and silence) that shape who participates, and how. Alongside this, I'm developing a taxonomy of co-design methods to map how different approaches consider these dynamics. The goal is to build a theory-informed framework to support more meaningful and measurable participation, especially in settings marked by ambiguity or power imbalance. This talk shares the conceptual foundations of the project and outlines how this work contributes to building a framework for evaluating and supporting participation in co-design.

4.2 The role of emotions in discriminatory tendencies after interindividual difference versus sameness: two fEMG studies.

Eliane Deschrijver (University of Sydney)
Contact details: Eliane.deschrijver@sydney.edu.au

Recent research suggests that discriminatory money allocations can arise from arbitrary, individual-level differences outside of group labels, such as after estimating dots in a different (versus the same) way than another person, or after receiving a different (versus the same) coin flip outcome. To investigate the role of emotional responses to sameness and difference in these allocation patterns, facial electromyography (fEMG) was employed in two studies to capture activity in the zygomaticus major (smiling) and corrugator supercilii (frowning) muscles at two key moments: (1) when participants saw the other's outcome, and (2) when they were asked to allocate money. Contrary to expectations, we only detected an increase in corrugator activity 800 ms after a different versus the same dots estimation outcome. No other significant differences between congruent and incongruent conditions were detected at either timepoint or in either study. In Study 2, exploratory analyses however indicated that participants self-reported to feel more positive emotions in the congruent condition relative to the incongruent condition. While fEMG may not fully capture emotional responses, this study yields preliminary evidence for the role of positive and negative emotions in at least some versions of the paradigm.

4.3 How Researchers Identify and Communicate Limitations: An Expertise-Responsive Interview Analysis of Scientific Knowledge Production Practices.

Peter Hayes (School of Medicine and Psychology, Australian National University)
Contact details: peter.hayes@anu.edu.au

Researchers routinely report limitations, yet cognitive and cultural factors shape how these are identified and communicated. Despite important implications for empirical social science,

research on these factors remains scarce. We interviewed 30 researchers who analysed Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children data, tracking the wellbeing of Indigenous children and families over two decades. We developed a novel expertise-responsive interview protocol adapting to participants' knowledge levels within Bloom's taxonomy. Complementary analyses assessed protocol effectiveness through cognitive level achievement rates and Jaccard-based novelty analysis measuring response content beyond prompt content. Elicitation effectiveness varied dramatically by domain. Cultural and methodological considerations achieved very high success rates (93% met/exceeded target cognitive level). Technical domains showed striking variation: strong engagement with generalisability, methodological documentation, reciprocal causality, and measurement issues (82-92% success), but challenges with specialised psychometric concepts. Unit-of-analysis framing showed particularly low engagement (25%). Questions connecting technical concepts to lived experience or Indigenous knowledge frameworks consistently generated more comprehensive responses. Our expertise-responsive semi-structured interviews, complemented by novelty analysis methods, provide systematic assessment of how researchers reason about constraints limitation reporting practices while quantifying elicitation effectiveness. This advances understanding of how cognitive biases, cultural norms, and disciplinary socialisation influence scientific knowledge production and communication practices.

4.4 Integrating the Neurodiversity Paradigm, Stigma Theories, and Social Identity Theories into Autism Cultural Competence and Safety Interventions: Theoretical Review.

Phoebe Jean Campbell, Gareth Treharne, Charlene Rapsey, Brigit Mirfin-Veitch
(University of Otago)
Contact details: phoebe.campbell@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

This talk explores how autism cultural competence and safety interventions could reduce stigma, promote inclusion, and support more equitable relationships between autistic and non-autistic people. There's a pressing need for autism cultural competence and safety interventions to support non-autistic people in engaging respectfully with autistic people. In this context, cultural competence relates to increasing understanding of autistic culture—including shared identities, communication styles, and behavioural preferences. In comparison, autism cultural safety relates to increasing non-autistic people's willingness to address power imbalances and challenge systems that are oppressive of autistic people. This talk critically integrates the neurodiversity paradigm, stigma theories and social identity theory to guide the development of education and protest components within autism cultural competence and safety interventions. Educational components grounded in the neurodiversity paradigm may encourage equally beneficial interactions between autistic and non-autistic people built on mutual responsibility for reasonable adjustments in social and communication expectations. Additionally, protest components grounded in stigma theory and social identity theory may enhance the recognition of the autistic community and increase non-autistic community allyship to achieve equitable outcomes that empower autistic people. Overall, autism cultural competence and safety interventions have huge potential to increase autism acceptance and decrease autism stigma.

4.5 Does Truth Pay? Testing the Bayesian Truth Serum in Psychological Research.

Claire Neville, Matt Willias
(Massey University School of Psychology)
Contact details: claire.m.neville@gmail.com

Self-report surveys are central to psychological science, but their validity is threatened by biases such as social desirability. The Bayesian Truth Serum (BTS), which rewards "surprisingly common" answers, has been promoted to encourage greater honesty in survey responding. We evaluated its effectiveness in reducing bias on sensitive questions and tested whether an interim bonus payment would strengthen trust in the mechanism. In a preregistered online experiment (N = 877), participants were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: Regular Incentive, BTS, or BTS with Interim Payment. Contrary to predictions, participants in the BTS conditions reported lower agreement with socially undesirable statements than those in the control group. The interim payment did not enhance outcomes. Instead of mitigating bias, BTS appeared to increase socially desirable responding for some items. These findings challenge assumptions about the BTS and, as the second registered report to produce null or contrary results, raise doubts about its reliability as a tool for improving survey validity in psychology.

4.6 From deficit to elevation: Quantitative insights from corpus linguistics on language used to describe neurological conditions.

Jesse Tse, Stefano Occhipinti
(Department of English and Communication, Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
Contact details: jesse.tse@polyu.edu.hk

The emergence of the neurodiversity movement has been accompanied by apparent increases in public discourse around autism and related conditions from deficit-oriented to identity-affirming frameworks. This study uses quantitative analyses from corpus linguistics to identify potential changes in socially shared constructs. The primary aim is to demonstrate the rise of an elevated illness identity (defined by a shared positive belief that people with these conditions have exceptional positive qualities) by examining linguistic shifts in how neurodivergence is discussed in a balanced English corpus from diverse sources (i.e., The Corpus of Contemporary American English). We conduct frequency, collocation, and concordance analyses of key terms (e.g., ADHD, autism, Asperger, and neurodiversity) before and after the late 1990s (the introduction of the neurodiversity movement). The analyses explore changes in the semantic prosody and co-occurring discourse surrounding these terms, focusing on whether and how public discourse evolves to signal positive empowering identities instead of deficit-based narratives. These results are discussed in terms of how language not only reflects but actively constructs elevated illness identities, changing narratives surrounding neurological conditions. This research contributes to understanding how social movements reshape language and, by extension, cultural conceptions of illness identity.

Blitz Talk Session 5: Decision making and dilemmas

5.1 Neither extraversion nor anhedonia predict reward sensitivity in a probabilistic reward task: A pre-registered replication.

Allyson K. Alblas, Daniel Bennett, Luke D. Smillie
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: aalblas@student.unimelb.edu.au

Variation in reward sensitivity is thought to reflect individual differences in extraversion and anhedonia, yet behavioural evidence remains scarce for extraversion and mixed for anhedonia. An exception to this is a study by Blain et al. (2021) that reported that broad extraversion, but not anhedonia, predicted reward sensitivity in a probabilistic reward task (PRT). We attempted to replicate and extend these findings by including a range of anhedonia scales and leveraging the hierarchical structure of extraversion, measuring each level from the domain to the facets. Across two studies (Study 1, N = 371; Study 2, N = 398), we found no evidence that either extraversion or anhedonia consistently predicted reward sensitivity, a finding that held across both structural equation models and computational modelling. We also conducted a meta-analysis of 26 studies examining the association between anhedonia and PRT response bias, an index of reward sensitivity, and found no significant effect. Together, these findings challenge the validity of the PRT as a behavioural index of anhedonia, an assumption that is widespread within the literature. Furthermore, this research highlights the need to investigate if and how extraversion and anhedonia are related to other reward-related behaviours.

5.2 What is the optimal amount of discount on goods to increase incentives while minimizing suspicion of phantom costs?

Andy Vonasch, Blake Cartwright, Sophie Meiritz-Reid, Petra van Turnhout, Calliope Wang
(University of Canterbury)
Contact details: andrew.vonasch@canterbury.ac.nz

There is a fundamental tension in discounting prices, due to conflicting psychological factors of greed versus interpersonal suspicion. Greed increases interest in discounted goods: businesses can attract customers by offering appealingly high discounts on goods and services. However, interpersonal suspicion decreases interest in goods that are discounted "too much": People imagine phantom costs when they believe a deal is "too good to be true." Given these conflicting motives, how much can goods be discounted before they become suspicious? We tested how the amount of discount (from 0% to 100% in 10% increments) affects phantom costs perception, price appeal, and purchase intentions in five studies (N = 3210) comparing 8 different products. Across various products, approximately a 40-50% discount was optimal, with higher discounts increasing phantom costs to such a high degree that purchase intentions decreased despite increased price appeal. We examined other factors that could influence responses to discounts. Expirable goods may require lower discounts because phantom costs are easier to imagine (i.e., discounted milk may spoil soon). Expensive goods may require higher discounts because people may appreciate the bargain but cannot afford them. Permanent goods (e.g., tattoos) may be perceived as riskier than temporary ones (e.g., manicures) when discounted.

5.3 Narrative Communication as a Learning Tool for Resolving Exploration-Exploitation Dilemmas.

Isobel Moore, Yoshihisa Kashima, Frank Mollica
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: icmoore@student.unimelb.edu.au

Narratives and storytelling are an important form of social learning that enable humans to acquire, preserve and transmit information about their environment. The current project investigated this process of learning and narrative transmission in the context of a muti-armed bandit task; an experimental paradigm that simulates an uncertain decision-making environment. The task had three learning conditions (Explore narrative vs. Exploit narrative vs. No narrative)and two environmental conditions (Stationary vs. Dynamic) to vary, if a narrative was received, how much exploration was encouraged in the task, and whether this was adaptive in the environment or not. Following the bandit task, participants taught the next generation of players how to find rewards in the task by writing the ending to a folktale about two foragers, one explorer and one exploiter, living in the same environment. Preliminary analyses indicate that behaviour and performance in the task was influenced to a certain extent by learning condition. Exploit narrative receivers exploited significantly more than those in the other conditions. This occurred even in the dynamic environment where this behaviour was less adaptive. Exploit narrative receivers in the congruent, Stationary, environment outperformed those in the other conditions in terms of accumulated score. Interestingly, behaviour and performance were not significantly different to control for receivers of the explore narrative, regardless of environment. Narrative transmission is currently being explored, however early indications are that participants tended to pass on narratives in line with the stories they initially received.

5.4 Start with Values, Sustain with Reminders: Tailoring Goal Setting for Sustainable Savings.

Sunisa Satitanekchai, Emily Hughes, Joanne Smith
(University of Exeter)
Contact details: ss1569@exeter.ac.uk

Why do people fail to save, even when they want to? Most financial literacy programs raise awareness but struggle to create sustainable behaviour change. Drawing on goal setting theory, we examined how different types of saving goal — values-based superordinate ‘why' goals versus action-oriented subordinate ‘how' goals — influenced savings-related outcomes. Across three experiments (N = 887), we found that a superordinate savings goal positively influenced savings-related outcomes compared to a subordinate goal. However, a five-month longitudinal study (N = 385), participants were assigned to one of three conditions: a superordinate goal, a superordinate goal with personalized biweekly reminders, or no-goal control condition. Results showed that reminders generally sustained savings over time but results also revealed a paradox: they boosted savings for individuals with low and medium savings intentions but backfired among those already highly motivated to save. Overall, our findings suggest that sustainable savings behaviour require a tailored strategy: start with values, sustain with reminders, but adapt to the individual. This research offers practical insights that can be readily integrated into existing financial practices and policy, highlighting the need to move beyond ‘one-size-fit-all' approaches to promote long-term financial well-being.

5.5 Sameness is more important than difference: examining resource allocation and emotion using the sheer difference paradigm.

Xizhuo Zou, Fiona Kumfor, Evan Livesey, Eliane Deschrijver
(The University of Sydney)

Contact details: xzou0770@uni.sydney.edu.au

Previous studies show that people tend to allocate more money to another person when they both get the same outcome, even when the outcome is based on chance. This may be because the cognitive system treats difference more negatively than sameness. However, it remains unclear whether this money allocation effect is driven by a preference for sameness, a derogation of difference, or both. Across three preregistered online experiments, we employed dot estimation (Exp. 1, n = 75), painting preference (Exp. 2, n = 75), and coin flip (Exp. 3, n = 84) versions of the paradigm, while introducing a new baseline condition. Additionally, in the coin flip task (Exp. 3), we explored emotional responses (measured by a self-report rating scale and PANAS-Short Form). We found that: (1) money allocations in the sameness (congruent) condition were significantly higher than in the baseline and difference (incongruent) conditions; and (2) the congruent condition elicited stronger positive emotions than both the baseline and incongruent conditions. Notably, emotion was significantly correlated with the congruency effect, such that more positive emotions in the congruent condition were associated with more money allocated. These findings reveal an asymmetry in the drivers of unequal allocation: a positive evaluation and valuation of sameness trumps a derogation of difference. This study helps clarify the underlying mechanisms in the Sheer Difference Paradigm, while also offering preliminary evidence for the influence of emotion on money allocations after individual similarity.

5.6 The Role of Risk Propensity in Moral Decision-Making Using the CNI Model.

Benjamin Kai Ni, Bruce Burns, Sabina Kleitman
(University of Sydney)
Contact details: beni6908@uni.sydney.edu.au

Background: Cooperative morality theory proposes that morality evolved to regulate self-interest in ways that promote social cohesion. Cooperation balances between self and public interest by rewarding short-term sacrifice with long term benefits. However, some individuals may choose short-term self-interest over cooperation. Traits that relate to self-regulation—impulsivity control, risk propensity, and behavioural inhibition/activation systems—are central to navigating moral decision-making. Understanding how these traits interact with morality and darker personality traits that undermine cooperative morality can clarify the psychological mechanisms that support or undermine moral decision-making. Method: A sample of 360 undergraduate psychology students completed measures assessing moral identity, dark personality traits, self-regulatory capacities, and moral sensitivities via the Consequences, Norms, and Inaction (CNI) model. Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) identified clusters based on individual response patterns. ANOVA and pair-wise comparisons were then conducted on variables of morality, dark traits, self-regulation, and demographics. Results: LPA revealed four classes: Moral Risk-Averse (~22%), Amoral Risk-Seeking (~36%), Opportunistic Risk-Seeking (~41%). The Moral Risk-Averse group showed higher levels of morality and self-regulation, while the Amoral Risk-Seeking group displayed the opposite trend. The Opportunistic Risk-Seeking group was notable for high impulsivity and risk-taking but preserved higher levels of morality. Conclusions: These findings underscore the complex relationship between morality, self-regulation, and moral reasoning. The Person-centred approach reveals distinct moral profiles, informing theory, public policies and potential tailored interventions.

Blitz Talk Session 6: Prosocial Behaviour

6.1 Using social representations theory and co-creation to engage with migrant communities about organ donation.

Gail Moloney (Southern Cross University), Dhaval Ghelani (SRMD), Maddison Norton (Southern Cross University), Ramanathan Lakshmanan (SWS Organ and Tissue Steering Committee), Bhavini Doshi (Southern Cross University), Meena Lakshmanan (Southern Cross University), Senthil Ramalingam (Southern Cross University), Swetha Adaikalavan (Southern Cross University), Marie Hutchinson (Southern Cross University), Michael Sutherland (NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service)
Contact details: gail.moloney@scu.edu.au

Introduction Registration rates on the Australian Organ Donor Register in Australia's migrant communities are disproportionately low compared to the national average, with many communities characterised as difficult to reach or seen as not wanting to engage. Conceptualised within social representations theory, we adopted a dialogical approach within a co-creation methodology to work collaboratively with an Indian Advisory Panel to co-create nine interactive dialogical videos addressing questions and concerns about Australia's organ donation system. The videos were made by the Indian community for the Indian community — Advisory Panel members wrote the scripts, starred in the videos and were involved in their production. Methods The videos were hosted on a specifically designed website, and community members were invited to engage through a community diffusion strategy. Results and Conclusion The website was visited 1005 times over five months, and 482 videos were watched. Each video was evaluated through Likert-scale and free-response questions. The findings showed the importance of familiarity and trust through either knowing someone in the video or being invited to visit the site by someone they knew, and with this familiarity and trust, a desire to know more about organ donation in Australia.

6.2 Attentional control associated with reduced feelings of empathic concern but increased altruistic helping.

Mark Edwards, Stephanie Goodhew
(Australian National University)
Contact details: mark.edwards@anu.edu.au

Observing another person in distress typically elicits feelings of care, concern, and sympathy for the other person (empathic concern), but can also result in a preoccupation with one's own distress elicited by the other person (personal distress). Feelings of empathic concern more robustly predict prosocial behavior. Across two studies we tested the extent to which individual differences in attentional control, fluid intelligence, and the propensity to use cognitive reappraisal as an emotion regulation strategy were associated with trait empathic concern and personal distress and examined the links between these variables and prosocial tendencies. Results showed that higher levels of attentional control were associated with reduced empathic concern and personal distress, which could be considered a ‘cold’ reaction to others' distress. However, attentional control was positively associated with increased altruistic helping, showing that strong feelings in response to others' distress are not the only route to prosocial behavior. Fluid intelligence was unrelated to either empathic concern or personal distress. Reappraisal propensity was associated with increased empathic concern and reduced personal distress and increased prosocial tendencies including increased anonymous helping. While the

benefits of reappraisal to the individual are well known, this novel finding highlights that reappraisal may have broader prosocial benefits.

6.3 Do Phantom Costs Prevent People from Receiving Random Acts of Kindness?

Mohsen Rahmani Tabar, Andrew Vonasch
(University of Canterbury)
Contact details: mra255@uclive.ac.nz

People often imagine "phantom costs" when others offer unusually generous transactions, leading them to ironically reject offers that seem too favourable (Vonasch et al., 2024). The present research extends this idea to the domain of helping behaviour, asking whether people infer phantom costs when offered overly selfless acts of help without explanation. The study was conducted in the library at the University of Canterbury. A female undergraduate research assistant approached students who appeared to have an empty water bottle and offered to refill it. By random assignment, she either gave a reason ("Today I'm doing acts of kindness") or provided no explanation. A second researcher later approached participants to collect responses. We measured whether participants inferred phantom costs, whether they accepted the offer, and their reported wellbeing. Results show that 56.7% accepted with an explanation compared to 30.5% without one, œá¬≤(1, N = 119) = 8.27, p = .004, Cramer's V = .26. Qualitative analysis of participants' open-ended responses confirmed that phantom costs were a key factor in rejection. Overall, the findings indicate that providing even a brief explanation can reduce phantom costs, increase acceptance of prosocial acts, and improve recipients' experiences of kindness.

6.4 Towards a Taxonomy of Pro/Anti-social Personality Facets.

Rhys Davies Noulton (University of Melbourne), Isabel Thielmann (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law), Luke Smillie (University of Melbourne)
Contact details: r.daviesnoulton@student.unimelb.edu.au

Personality domains such as Big Five Agreeableness and HEXACO Honesty-Humility comprise a selection of facets related to prosocial tendencies. However, despite their distinctions, such domains tend to overlap in the tendencies they measure, and they are also not intended to capture the whole range of prosocial traits that might exist. The recent Facet MAP inventory provides a taxonomy of 70 unidimensional personality facets that can be used to decompose these domains into their constituent facets to identify their overlap, and to consider other facets which may be missing from these domains. Using the multi-method "elemental approach", we use the Facet MAP to identify 27 facets conceptually related to five broad pro/anti-social personality domains. We then explore the empirical relations between these facets and domains across two pre-registered samples (N = 354, 301), with a third sample being collected. A final study aims to find consensus among experts in their opinions of facets that capture pro/anti-social tendencies. The results of these studies will reveal specifically how the different pro/anti-social personality domains differ or overlap in the tendencies they measure, and also provide a more comprehensive collection of specific personality traits researchers can use in their studies of personality and pro/anti-social outcomes.

6.5 Social norms and charitable giving: A meta-analytic review.

Cassandra Chapman, Jessica Spence, Lucas Dixon, Aimee Smith, Matthew Hornsey (University of Queensland)

Contact details: c.chapman@business.uq.edu.au

Charitable giving is essential for supporting collective action on some of the world's most pressing problems. Social norms are known to sometimes affect giving, but not always. In this multilevel meta-analysis, we aggregate data from 113 published independent samples from published research involving 93,673 people in 21 countries to understand the extent to which social norms influence charitable giving (r = .22). We test a range of theoretical, methodological, and sample moderators to understand the conditions under which norms may be most effective at promoting giving. The relationship was stronger for injunctive than descriptive norms, when the norm referent group was a social group the participants belonged to, and for internalized (vs externally presented) norms. Whether the giving behavior was observed did not moderate the relationship. Norms appear effective for most people, and especially in non-WEIRD contexts. Results can inform social and environmental campaign strategies.

6.6 Relations between the belief in a just world and reactions to interpersonal transgressions.

Isaac M. Lipkus (Duke University School of Nursing), Eric Stone (Wake Forest University)
Contact details: Isaac.lipkus@duke.edu

We tested if the belief in a just world (BJW) buffers against negative emotions during interpersonal transgressions and whether this association is explained by downplaying violations of social norms and negative consequences of the transgression. Data were analyzed from 399 online participants recruited using Prolific (Mage= 37.5, 46% male, 64% white). Participants completed the 8-item BJW-for-self scale and then described an event when someone upset them or fostered negative feelings. Participants rated the act's badness, the extent the perpetrator's actions violated 14 social norms (e.g., acted unfair, immoral), the impact on 14 consequences (e.g., friendship/relationship, finances) and felt anger, frustration and irritation. The BJW was uncorrelated with perceived act's badness, social norm violations, consequences, or resulting negative emotions. In exploratory analyses, the BJW interacted with perceived act's badness. At lower levels of badness, a stronger BJW was associated with reduced perceived norm violations and lower negative emotions. At higher levels of badness, a stronger BJW predicted increased perceived norm violations but not negative emotions. Findings suggest that when transgressions as more egregious, a stronger BJW leads to greater perceived norm violations but not necessarily reduced negative emotions. Results contribute to the scant literature linking interpersonal behaviors and the BJW.

Blitz Talk Session 7: Cross-cultural and Indigenous Perspectives

7.1 Before "I Do": Developing SELARAS for Pre-Marital Readiness in Indonesia.

Karel Karsten Himawan (Universitas Pelita Harapan), Eunike Mutiara Himawan (Universitas Pelita Harapan; Sampoerna University), Sandra Handayani Sutanto (Universitas Pelita Harapan), Pradipta Christy Pratiwi (Universitas Negeri Semarang), Kartika Sari Dewi (Universitas Diponegoro)
Contact details: eunike.mutiara@lecturer.uph.edu

Research in relationship science has largely focused on predictors of relationship quality and stability, yet far less attention has been devoted to how couples prepare for marriage in the first place. This gap is particularly striking in Indonesia, where divorce rates are rising and culturally grounded frameworks for pre-marital preparation remain scarce. To address this, we conducted focus group discussions (FGDs), expert evaluations, and collaborative author discussions to identify the essential dimensions of pre-marital readiness within the Indonesian cultural context. This process resulted in the development of SELARAS (Pre-Marital Readiness Assessment), which comprises eleven dimensions: spiritual beliefs, values and life vision, psychological maturity, communication, conflict resolution, relational expectations, role distribution, family and social ties, leisure management, financial management, and sexual expectations. We propose that these areas serve as critical discussion points for couples, offering a structured psychological framework to guide pre-marital interventions and support individuals in building fulfilling marriages.

7.2 Self-Construal Gaps and Cultural Fit: Predicting Life Satisfaction and Mental Health.

Youngsun Yuk (Kanazawa University), Eiko Matsuda (Toyo University)
Contact details: yysring@hotmail.com

This study investigated how discrepancies between actual and ideal self-construals (cultural fit) influence psychological well-being and health outcomes among Japanese university students. A total of 619 participants completed measures of self-construal (Subjective self:SS, Objective self:OS, Autonomous self:AS), cultural fit, life satisfaction, mental health, insomnia, and dream frequency. Paired t-tests revealed significant gaps: participants reported higher actual OS but lower SS and AS compared to their ideal selves. Correlational and regression analyses showed that larger SS and AS gaps predicted lower life satisfaction and poorer mental health, while OS and AS gaps were linked to increased nightmare frequency. Additionally, greater discrepancies in SS and AS reduced approach coping behaviors. These findings suggest that cultural misfit between actual and ideal self-construals undermines psychological adjustment, particularly life satisfaction and mental health, while also contributing to sleep disturbances. The results highlight the importance of considering self-construal gaps in understanding well-being in cultural contexts.

7.3 Pai T≈´, Pai Hinga: Exploring Rangatahi Māori Understandings and Experiences of Māuiui K≈çtihitihi (Perfectionism).

Ellie Rukuwai, Marc Wilson, Awanui Te Huia
(Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact details: ellie.rukuwai@vuw.ac.nz

Perfectionism is a transdiagnostic risk factor linked to many illnesses. Several factors related to colonisation, such as negative media portrayal of Maori potentially leading to feelings of needing to prove these stereotypes wrong, suggest perfectionism may be relevant and prevalent for rangatahi Maori today. However, perfectionism research focuses on Western contexts. A Kaupapa-Maori consistent approach was used to conduct semi-structured interviews with 10 rangatahi Maori. Reflexive Thematic Analysis was used. Four themes were identified: Perceptions and Expectations; Claiming a Maori Identity; Māuiui Kotihitihi; and Support. These findings highlighted the need to contextualise rangatahi experiences within broader experiences of colonisation to understand why they had these perfectionistic feelings. Ultimately, challenging the blind use of Western-developed measures, definitions, and interventions with Maori.

7.4 Cultural Orientations and Perspective Taking: A Closer Look at Collectivism.

Hashini Madarasinge, Marea Colombo, Jamin Halberstadt
(Department of Psychology, University of Otago)
Contact details: hashini.madarasinge@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Perspective-taking, a crucial dimension of Theory of Mind, is the ability to understand others' mental states. Research suggests cultural variation in this ability; some studies link Eastern cultures' collectivist nature to better perspective-taking skills, although recent findings are more mixed. Inconsistent results may stem from the multi-dimensional nature of collectivism, such that two "collectivist" cultures may differ markedly in their orientations and, consequently, in perspective-taking abilities. To examine this, we assessed the perspective-taking skills of Americans and Singaporeans (Study 1) and American, Italian, and Indian participants (Study 2) via a "Director Task" that requires participants to adopt the visual perspective of an avatar. Participants also completed the eight-dimensional Self-Construal Scale (Study 1 and 2), and the four-dimensional Vertical/Horizontal Individualism and Collectivism scale (Study 2). The results confirm that collectivism is not a uniform construct: Singaporeans and Indians, ostensibly the most collectivist groups, differed on some dimensions but not others. In Study 1, Singaporeans displayed stronger collectivist tendencies and better perspective-taking than Americans. In Study 2, Indians showed both individualist and collectivist traits and poorer perspective-taking than their supposedly more individualist counterparts - an effect statistically explained by Indians' higher vertical collectivism scores.

7.5 Perspectives on the 'fair go': A mixed methods exploration.

Heidi Renner (Deakin University), Janquel Acevedo (University of Queensland), Abby Robinson (University of Melbourne), Melinda Hewett (University of Queensland), Roger Gamble (Queensland Treasury), Michael Thai (University of Queensland)
Contact details: heidi.renner@deakin.edu.au

The ‘fair go’ is an Australian expression used by various interest groups to justify their policy positions. However, scant research has explored how Australians interpret the ‘fair go’ and how these interpretations influence support for First Nations policies. This research aims to examine two interpretations of the 'fair go' and identify whether they increase or decrease support for Australian First Nations policies. The first study uses an online mixed methods design to explore how Australians perceive the ‘fair go’ and who they believe receives a ‘fair go’ in Australia. Responses will be coded as endorsing either an equity or equality frame and associations with related variables, such as political orientation, national identity, and age, will be explored. Study 2 involves an online 2 (frames: equity vs equality) x 2 (the ‘fair go’: present vs absent) between-

participants experiment. Framing of Australian values and the 'fair go' as a legitimising device will be manipulated (reading a mock news article) and participants will then rate support for five First Nations policies. Understanding the link between popular narratives and the construction of justice can inform how to mobilise support for First Nations policy to close health, economic, and cultural disparities.

7.6 Freeing Forgiveness: The Psychological Benefits of Undermining Free Will Belief.

Aaron Walton (University of Melbourne), Stefan Bode (New York University, Abu Dhabi), Kelly Kirkland (University of Queensland), Brock Bastian (University of Melbourne)
Contact details: aaronjbwalton@gmail.com

There is growing philosophical and scientific rejection of the notion of free will, but the psychological implications of this shift remain underexplored. While prior work has emphasized potential negative outcomes of weakening free will belief, the present studies examine possible benefits. In two experiments, we tested whether exposing participants to deterministic arguments would increase forgiveness. In Study 1 (N = 260), participants who recalled a personal transgression and read pro-determinism texts reported greater self-forgiveness. In Study 2 (N = 262), participants who recalled being wronged by someone else showed greater forgiveness and less hatred toward their transgressor after the same manipulation. Extending these findings cross-culturally, we surveyed 8,917 participants across 44 countries and found that individuals with stronger belief in free will were more punitive in response to everyday moral transgressions. At the country level, stronger free will belief predicted greater support for the death penalty and higher incarceration rates. These results suggest that undermining belief in free will may foster forgiveness and reduce punitive attitudes.

Blitz Talk Session 8: Climate Change

8.1 Patterns and Drivers of Climate Risk Information-Seeking.

Monica Trezise (Institute of Climate Risk and Response (ICRR) & School of Psychology, UNSW), Ben Newell (Institute of Climate Risk and Response (ICRR) & School of Psychology, UNSW), Tanya Fiedler (ICRR & School of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation, UNSW), David Grant (ICRR & School of Management, UNSW)
Contact details: m.trezise@unsw.edu.au

Many people are aware of climate change but nonetheless pay little attention to the issue. In two studies, we test whether individual's judgements about i) the usefulness of climate information ii) how the information will make them feel, and iii) whether the information relates to concepts they think of often predicts climate information-seeking behaviour. Adopting the risk-as-feelings hypothesis, we build upon prior research by testing whether immediate emotions guide information-seeking behaviour in addition to anticipated emotions. Finally, we test if the relative weights assigned to the information-seeking motives change in relation to an individual's power position.

8.2 Longitudinal Associations between Australian Identity, Subjective Attribution of Bushfires to Climate Change and Climate Outcomes.

Emma-Jean Schneps, Anna Klas, Julian W. Fernando, Emma M. Marshall
(School of Psychology, Deakin University),
Contact details: emma.schneps@live.com.au

Bushfires are anticipated to become more severe in Australia due to climate change, yet they also form part of the Australian identity. We hypothesised that stronger Australian identity would reduce subjective attribution of bushfires to climate change, leading to lower climate worry and policy support. The present pre-registered longitudinal study (N = 322 Australian adults) builds on that work by testing these relationships across time and extends the model to include climate worry. In support of our hypotheses, subjective attribution at T2 explained the relationship between Australian identity at T1 and both climate worry and policy support at T3. Specifically, stronger Australian identity predicted lower subjective attribution, which in turn, predicted reduced climate worry and policy support overtime. These findings extend prior cross-sectional evidence by demonstrating that Australian identity can in to some extent lower concern about climate change and undermine and climate action via reduced attributions of the cause of extreme weather, like bushfires, to climate change. This suggests that public campaigns should be cautious when appealing to national identity as country-specific norms may lower engagement in high-impact climate actions like support for climate policy.

8.3 The psychological consequences of failure in the Australian climate movement.

Janquel D. Acevedo, Kelly Fielding, Winnifred Louis
(University of Queensland)
Contact details: janquel.acevedo@gmail.com

Failure (i.e., not achieving the desired goal) is ubiquitous in social change movements and can profoundly influence participants' willingness to engage, from enabling persistence to generating more radical tactics. However, much of the psychological research has focused narrowly on single, isolated failure events, overlooking the complex effects of long-term failure.

To address this, we conducted a 2 (short-term outcome: short-term success versus failure) √ó 2 (long-term outcome: long-term success versus failure) between-subjects experiment with N = 610 Australian climate action supporters on their radical action intentions, willingness to compromise, and willingness to build coalitions. The results did not confirm our pre-registered hypotheses. Instead, short-term failure (versus success) only increased willingness to compromise, whereas long-term failure had no main effects. Significant interactions were found on willingness to build coalitions in general and radical action intentions. We discuss our results' theoretical and applied implications in the context of the temporal dynamics of failure and sustained advocacy.

8.4 Climate change storytelling in practice.

John Pearce, Kelly Fielding, Angela Dean
(University of Queensland)
Contact details: j.pearce@uq.edu.au

Despite the widespread acknowledgement of storytelling's potential to engage non-expert audiences, little research addresses its systematic application by communicators. This research fills this gap by investigating recommendations suggested by practitioners and climate change advocates regarding narrative techniques in climate change communications. It explores psychological mechanisms that underly storytelling persuasiveness whilst investigating alignment between recommendations and academic discussions. Employing a hybrid methodology combining inductive and deductive thematic analysis, the study examines digital resources such as websites and toolkits from diverse advocate groups. By synthesizing practical advice with theoretical frameworks, the study aims to provide actionable insights into effective storytelling strategies and applied psychological theory. Ultimately, this research contributes to refining practices for crafting climate narratives that resonate with audiences, thus fostering more impactful communication on pressing environmental behaviour and action.

8.5 Towards a Taxonomy of Climate Actions: A Framework for Describing and Categorising Climate Action.

Shaneka Saville (Deakin University), Adam Cardilini (Deakin University), Anna Klas (Deakin University), Gabi Mocatta (University of Tasmania)
Contact details: sbsaville@deakin.edu.au

The climate crisis is one of the most crucial issues of our time. To limit global heating and adapt to locked-in climate impacts, we must encourage drastic and immediate action at all scales — from individuals, communities, organisations and governments. To do this, we must understand the climate actions available to us and how they affect the climate. Climate action is typically categorised and investigated as either mitigative, adaptive or mobilising, with relationships between these categories underexplored. However, we need an integrated suite of climate actions to achieve a safe climate. Therefore, understanding these categories and their relationships is imperative for us as researchers to motivate meaningful climate action. Through quantitative content analysis and qualitative thematic analysis, we developed a framework to define and categorise 365 publicly recommended climate actions. We analysed actions based on 7 variables, including the impact of climate action (e.g., mitigation, adaptation, sociopolitical) and the sphere and scale of the action, and developed 4 distinct themes based on the purpose of climate actions, to construct a working taxonomy of climate actions. With this, we provide a framework for describing climate action that is applicable both in academic and real-world settings.

Blitz Talk Session 9: Environment and Nature

9.1 Fostering responsible wildlife tourists: developing typologies based on welfare knowledge and values to inform communication interventions.

Emily M McLeod (Wildlife, Conservation & Science, Zoos Victoria; School of the Environment, University of Queensland), Kelly S Fielding (School of Communication and Arts, University of Queensland), Angela J Dean (School of the Environment, University of Queensland)
Contact details: emily.mcleod@student.uq.edu.au

Responsible wildlife tourism efforts aim to encourage people to engage in wildlife experiences that have positive animal welfare practices and do not have negative conservation impacts for the species involved. However, there is little research exploring the factors that shape engagement with wildlife tourism. We surveyed 4690 Australians to develop a community profile of wildlife tourists based on cognitive and affective factors related to animal welfare. Hierarchical agglomerative cluster analysis identified four clusters of participants based on differing levels of welfare knowledge, welfare values, and beliefs around captive wildlife tourism. In this talk we will discuss the demographics and social profiles of these clusters, and how they differ in their willingness to make a commitment to be a responsible wildlife tourist and to seek more information on this topic. We will discuss how this research can inform communication and behaviour change strategies to increase engagement in responsible wildlife tourism.

9.2 Promoting sustainable mobility through speculative fiction and guided reflection: An experimental study with Australian car users.

Abby Robinson, John Cook, Iain Walker
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: abby.robinson1@unimelb.edu.au

Automobility is a sociotechnical system that entrenches the dominance of car travel and harms the environment and human wellbeing. Transitioning to sustainable mobility is challenging as automobility is legitimised not only via infrastructure but cultural norms, beliefs, and aspirations. Social psychological theory suggests that perceiving the status quo as illegitimate and envisaging an alternative can increase desire and social action for change. Speculative fiction and guided reflection have been used in climate communication to help people critique the status quo and imagine more sustainable futures, but few studies have combined these methods to disrupt automobility. The aim of the present study is to examine whether reducing the legitimacy of automobility or increasing the availability of sustainable alternatives via hybrid fiction and guided reflection interventions can increase support for sustainable mobility policies and activism intentions amongst Australian car users. Using a post-test-only control group design (N = 624), participants will be randomly allocated to an experimental group where they will listen to a story about a dystopian or utopian city followed by guided reflection and a questionnaire, or a control group. This study will explore whether narratives and reflection can challenge automobility and inform scalable approaches to foster sustainable mobility.

9.3 Worldviews in research on human-environment relations.

Kathryn Williams (University of Melbourne)
Contact details: kjhw@unimelb.edu.au

In recent decades there has been rapid growth in psychological research on environmental issues, with social psychology playing a central role in how environmental attitudes, emotions, and behaviour are understood and observed. Environment is often understood in an abstract way (e.g. 'climate' or 'nature'), with the focus on psychological and social processes that shape human action toward the environment. This approach to studying human-environment relations contrasts with a well-established approach in environmental psychology, focusing on 'human-environment transactions'. Here, environment is typically addressed at smaller scales (e.g. places and settings), while qualities of people and environment are observed as aspects of whole systems or events. The difference between these two approaches goes beyond topic and scale of analysis to reflect different assumptions about the nature of reality and knowledge. In this presentation I will discuss different worldviews and paradigms underpinning research on human-environment relations. I consider their strengths and weaknesses for understanding and transformation, and invite reflection on implications for psychological research on environmental issues.

9.4 Understanding conflict in problematic species management.

Rebecca Toohey, Kathryn Williams, Iain Walker
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: toohey.r@unimelb.edu.au

This study explores the social and cultural dimensions of problematic species management in the Otway Range region, Victoria. Such species often provoke strong and divergent views about whether and how they should be controlled, used, or managed. As such, management is not only about the species themselves but also about navigating relationships, both among people and between people and the environment. This research draws on a social representations framework to examine the diversity of socio-cultural understandings of problematic species, how these connect to broader conceptualisations of nature, as well as how they relate to perspectives on control, use, and management. Thirty semi-structured interviews were conducted with a wide range of stakeholders and analysed thematically, particularly in relation to points of tension. By building an in-depth understanding of perspectives, the study aims to support more constructive dialogue around conflict and strengthen capacity to navigate relational tensions in problematic species management.

9.5 Moderating Effects of Gender Nature Identity Centrality on the Relationship between Affinity with Marine Environment and Animals and Seafood Consumption

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Alexa Hayley (School of Psychology, Deakin University), Sara Cook (School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University), Prue Francis (School of Psychology, University of Tasmania), & Adam Cardilini (School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University).

Limited attention has been paid to human perceptions and relationships with marine animals and environments by human-animal interaction researchers, despite our extensive use and dependence on these spaces and animals. This study examined how Australians' affinity with marine environments and animals is associated with their seafood consumption, accounting for gender and age effects. A panel sample of N=1025 Australian adults aged 18 -95 years (Mage = 46 years, SD = 17.5; 56% men) completed an online mixed-method survey measuring age, gender, relatedness to ocean environments, solidarity with marine animals, and seafood consumption and perceptions of this. We found significant differences between affinity with land environments and animals overall and by gender, compared marine environments and

animals. While affinity with ocean environments was not significantly associated with seafood consumption, solidarity with marine animals was; gender and age both significantly moderated this latter relationship. Qualitative insights about participant perceptions of seafood consumption will contextualise results.

Blitz Talk Session 10: Gender and Sexuality

10.1 Fit for Whom? Reimagining Attraction, Fitness, and Mate Choice Across Identities.

Kaitlyn Gregory (James Cook University), Helena Radke (James Cook University), Charlie Topping (Macquarie University)
Contact details: kaitlyn.gregory@my.jcu.edu.au

Historically, evolutionary psychology has centred on heterosexual, cisgender mating strategies, largely excluding the lived experiences and mating behaviours of LGBTQIA+ individuals. This project addresses that exclusion by examining how gender and sexual diversity reshape core constructs in evolutionary mating psychology — namely, fertility cues and attraction. Using simulated dating profiles, this project examines how individuals across identity groups assess physical (e.g., skin quality, height) and social traits (e.g., income, education) in potential partners. These attributes, long theorised as markers of genetic fitness or resource provision, are reinterpreted across diverse identities to test the applicability of the good genes and direct benefits models beyond heterosexual contexts. Rather than retrofitting LGBTQIA+ experiences into existing frameworks, this research challenges the presumed universality of traditional evolutionary theories. It moves beyond tokenistic inclusion to offer an empirically grounded, inclusive framework in which LGBTQIA+ experiences are not peripheral, but foundational to the evolution of human mating theory itself.

10.2 'Positive Masculinities' as Gendered Prosociality: Preliminary Study Insights.

Bronte Montgomery-Farrer, Alexa Hayley, Olga Poberezovska, Lewis Burns, Kieran O'Gorman (Deakin University, School of Psychology Faculty of Health)
Contact details: bronte.montgomeryfarrer@deakin.edu.au

Aim: While Australian social discourse emphasises gender divides in wellbeing and politics, we aimed to explore how Australian adults conceptualise 'positive masculinity' and to profile their conceptualisations based on their own self-reported prosociality. Method: N=500 mixed-methods, mixed-gender online survey used content analysis to categorise positive masculinity perceptions, and employed mixed-model LCA/LPA to profile participants based on their endorsement of positive masculine characteristics, demographics, and their own Emotional Intelligence, Light Triad, Big 5, and Character Strengths scores. Results & Conclusions: Preliminary findings of this novel dataset will be reported.

10.3 Dimensions of Cisheteronormativity that Influence Healthcare Utilization Practices in LGBTQ+ Populations: A Systematic Review.

Mik Bartels, Caroline Ng Tseung-Wong, Dimity Crisp, Patricia Brown
(University of Canberra)
Contact details: Mik.Bartels@canberra.edu.au

Cishetronormativity is a societal system that assumes, endorses, privileges, and enforces cisgender and heterosexual identities. Subsequently, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer or questioning individuals (LGBTQ+) experience marginalisation and discrimination, facilitating elevated mental and physical ill-health. Therefore, there is a need for healthcare services sensitive to the needs of LGBTQ+ people. Despite the increased need for healthcare, LGBTQ+ people experience cisheteronormativity in healthcare services and discontinue services at higher rates than non-LGBTQ+ people. Therefore, the aim of this systematic review was to

identify which dimensions of cisheteronormativity appear in healthcare settings and are linked to healthcare discontinuation. PubMed, Web of Science and several databases hosted via EBSCO were searched for relevant articles. The search identified 8,148 articles, which were screened. Fifty-three studies remained for inclusion. Thematic synthesis identified five themes linked to negative healthcare use: 1) Lack of Provider LGBTQ+ Knowledge, 2) Endorsements of Cisheteronormativity, 3) Assumptions of LGBTQ+ experiences and assumptions of non-LGBTQ+ identity, 4) Negation, and 5) Abuse of Power. Findings indicate cisheteronormativity acts as a structural and personal barrier to healthcare utilisation for LGBTQ+ individuals. Addressing these issues requires systemic changes, including comprehensive provider education, and a shift towards affirming, client-centred care.

10.4 Tradwives, TERFs and girl bosses. Women's identities and progressive and reactionary social change.

Gosia Mikolajczak (Australian National University), Morgana Lizzio-Wilson (University of Exeter), Julia C. Becker (University of Osnabrueck), Danny Osborne (University of Auckland)
Contact details: gosia.mikolajczak@anu.edu.au

Research on gender-based collective action has predominantly centred on feminist activism, often overlooking the activism of women who reinforce gender inequalities and traditional gender roles. This includes groups like tradwives, women aligned with radical right-wing social movements, such as the alt-right, that promote explicitly misogynistic messages, or neoliberal women who believe their success is solely due to individual effort and skills. The present study aims to address this gap by employing latent profile analysis on two large online samples of women from (Study 1: N = 1825) and the UK (Study 2: N = 992) to investigate how distinct combinations of gender identity content are associated with progressive and reactionary forms of gender-based collective action.

10.5 Gender differences in preferences for financially successful romantic partners reduce or disappear when women have more money.

Macken Murphy (University of Melbourne), Sylvia K Harmon-Jones (University of Wollongong), Auguste G Harrington (New York University, Abu Dhabi), Rob C Brooks (UNSW), Khandis R Blake (University of Melbourne)
Contact details: macken.murphy@student.unimelb.edu.au

Women, more than men, tend to prefer mates with traits linked to being financially successful. For 36 years, scholars have vigorously debated whether this results from evolution or cultural gender inequality. We use a novel experimental paradigm to show that this gender difference reduces—and, in some cases, disappears—when women earn more money. Our pre-registered experiment placed 602 people from five countries in one of 45 virtual ecologies, varying participants' personal income and their local gender economic inequality. Results show that individuals exhibit stronger mate preferences for resources when they are poorer and when their gender is poorer. This pattern was evident in three different measures of mate preferences for resources (rated preferences, ranked preferences and importance placed on "dating/marrying up"). Mate preferences for age were, surprisingly, unaffected, even though older age is associated with access to resources in naturally varying populations. Consistent with our theoretical perspective, which expects mate preferences will adapt only to environmental variables that alter the fitness of those preferences, gender differences in mate preferences for physical attractiveness were largely unaffected. Our results suggest that mate preferences for

resources adapt strategically to personal and gendered economics; a finding with strong implications for a long-standing debate.

10.6 Gender Inequality in the Music Industry: Insight from Musicians.

Sofia Mariani (University of Bologna), Christian Compare (University of Bologna), Elvira Cicognani (University of Bologna)
Contact details: sofia.mariani7@unibo.it

Women remain underrepresented in the music industry: not only as artists, but even more so in songwriting, production, and technical roles. Gender inequality persists, shaping career opportunities and creating unique challenges for women working in the field. This study explores how musicians experience gender inequality, focusing on the challenges women face, the stereotypes shaping professional interactions, and the barriers limiting their recognition and career progression. Data were collected through a two-hour online focus group discussing sexism and the role and the experiences of women in the music industry, involving eleven musicians (six women, five men) with diverse levels of professional experience. Using thematic analysis, three main themes emerged: competence, discrimination, and gender segregation. Participants described how women are often praised in ways that feel condescending, as if their skills were surprising, while at the same time being held to higher standards than their male colleagues, particularly in technical and studio settings. Many also spoke about the pressure of having their appearance overshadow their artistic work, reinforcing stereotypes rather than acknowledging talent. These findings point to the need for concrete strategies to challenge gendered assumptions, ensure fair recognition of skills, and foster more inclusive and equitable practices across the industry.

Blitz Talk Session 11: Media and Technology

11.1 Unveiling the driving forces: Examining what predicts self-image and compassionate goals on Instagram.

Danielle Villoresi, Stephanie J. Tobin, Patricia Obst
(Queensland University of Technology)
Contact details: danielle.villoresi@hdr.qut.edu.au

Emerging research highlights the importance of interpersonal goals in understanding Social Network Site (SNS) behaviours and experiences. Self-image goals, aiming to showcase a favourable image, and compassionate goals, aiming to support others, tend to guide different SNS behaviours and subsequent outcomes. Yet what predicts these goals needs further clarification and represents a gap in our theoretical understanding of interpersonal goals and what drives SNS behaviour. The current study investigated self-related variables as predictors of interpersonal goals on Instagram. The self-related variables broadly reflected two dimensions: threats to the self and enhanced capacity for considering others. In a cross-sectional study of 261 Instagram users, we investigated the relationships between self-esteem, self-concept clarity, the need to belong, meaning in life, gratitude, Instagram use variables, and interpersonal goals. Results indicated that users with a higher need to belong and lower self-concept clarity had stronger self-image goals, while those with greater meaning in life, specifically feelings of mattering, had stronger compassionate goals. Unexpectedly, Instagram intensity and story posting frequency also positively predicted self-image and compassionate goals, respectively. These findings suggest that self-related and platform-specific factors can shape interpersonal goals on Instagram, advancing a nuanced understanding of what could guide variations in SNS experiences.

11.2 Feelings Matter: How Emotion Shapes the Transmission of Information.

Emily Mullins (University of Adelaide), Martin Wood (Department of Defence, Australia), Rachel Searston (University of Adelaide), Carolyn Semmler (University of Adelaide), Rachel Stephens (University of Adelaide)
Contact details: emily.mullins@adelaide.edu.au

People share information daily - from news articles to funny videos - but what makes people hit 'share'? Research shows that information that is more frequently shared often evokes an emotional response. However, it remains unclear which emotions drive sharing. To investigate this, we conducted a scoping review of the existing literature to determine which emotions are most likely to drive information transmission, how emotion and sharing are measured, and which theoretical frameworks have been proposed to explain this relationship. Findings were mixed, though positive emotions (particularly high arousal) more consistently increased sharing than negative emotions. Self-report measures predominated for assessing both constructs and arousal emerged as the most frequently cited explanatory mechanism. This review underscores the prematurity of definitive conclusions about which emotions drive information sharing. In light of the mixed findings, we conducted several experimental studies which tested the influence of emotion on social media engagement (sharing and responding), while also varying content type (social anecdotes vs news headlines) and perceived audience (private message vs public post). Consistent with the review, positive emotions lead to greater sharing. The implications for important issues such as addressing online influence campaigns will be discussed.

11.3 Individual Differences in Stress Responses During Digital Learning: Cognitive and Emotional Impacts.

Maliha Mian, Nadine Marcus, Gelareh Mohammadi
(UNSW)
Contact details: maliha.mian@outlook.com

In digital learning environments, students often work independently with cognitively demanding material under time pressure. These conditions can heighten stress and impair performance. This presentation draws from a paper presented at the 2024 Cognitive Science Conference, which focused on how socially induced stress affected learning outcomes in female students completing an introductory coding module. The study, part of a broader MPhil project at UNSW adopted an interdisciplinary approach that integrates psychology, education, and human-computer interaction (HCI). Using performance and self-report data, the study explored how stress influences cognitive load and learning outcomes. Initial findings suggest that stress impairs learning for female-identifying students, depending on their perceived difficulty of the task, highlighting individual differences in stress sensitivity and coping. These results raise important questions about how emotional and personality traits shape the learning experience under pressure. Further work (in progress) involving other gender identities and physiological measures, is underway and will further examine how stress responses vary by gender and trait-level factors. This work contributes to a more emotionally aware understanding of individual differences in digital learning, with implications for educational design and student well-being.

11.4 Media use, cognition and mental health.

Myoungju Shin (Charles Sturt University), Karen Murphy (Griffith University), Eva Kemps
(Flinders University)
Contact details: jshin@csu.edu.au

Frequent media use has generally been associated with poor mental health (e.g., depressive symptoms) in young people. Across two studies, we examined the relationship between frequent multitasking with media, perceived cost for cognitive effort and avoidance coping. In Study 1, media multitasking was associated higher perceived effort for a cognitive task. In Study 2, frequent media multitasking was associated with negative emotions and cognitive behavioural avoidance coping in stressful situations. The results suggest that those who frequently engage in media multitasking are more likely to perceive a task cognitively effortful and that media multitasking may be used as an avoidance coping tool in situations that require cognitive effort (e.g., work, study, awkward social situations, stressful situations). The link between media multitasking, higher perceived cost for cognitive effort and avoidance coping may help understand the mechanism underlying the relationship between frequent media use and poor mental health in young people.

11.5 Who likes AI 2.0? Associations between personality and attitudes toward artificial intelligence.

Sharon Horwood, Jeromy Anglim
(Deakin University)
Contact details: shorwood@deakin.edu.au

Accessibility to, and usage of, artificial intelligence (AI) by the general public has increased enormously in the past few years. While platforms such as OpenAI or Microsoft Copilot are

often used for entertainment and curiosity, AI applications are becoming commonplace in everyday settings such as healthcare, employment, and education. If and how people engage with AI in these settings is likely to be driven by the attitudes they hold towards it. The current study replicates and extends an ACPID 2024 presentation by presenting a more robust measure of attitudes to AI and their relationship to personality and wellbeing. Data collection is ongoing, but at present the sample consists of 591 adults (79% female, mean age =26.8, SD= 9.1) who completed the 100-item Big 5 Aspects Scale, the 100 item HEXACO Personality Inventory, several measures of wellbeing, and a newly published (2024) scale assessing attitudes to AI. Results will investigate personality and wellbeing correlates with positive and negative attitudes to AI, as well as compare the same associations with 2024 personality — AI attitudes data. Implications for understanding attitudes to emerging technologies are discussed.

11.6 More Than Screen Time: Daily Associations Between Social Media Interaction Quality and Student Well-Being.

Aseel Sahib (Australian National University), Stephanie L. Hardacre (University of Newcastle), Olivia Evans (Australian National University), Alysia Robertson (Australian National University)
Contact details: aseel.sahib@anu.edu.au

Amid growing moral panic around young people's social media use, the nuanced and context-specific role of social media in supporting mental health remains underexplored. Existing literature has been hampered by methodological limitations, including cross-sectional designs and reductive time-based measures of use. This study addresses these gaps using a daily diary approach to examine how university-specific social media interactions relate to student well-being. Over seven days, 40 university students reported on the valence of their daily university-related social media interactions (e.g., within course groups and faculty pages), along with their sense of community, social support (provided and received), and psychological well-being. Multilevel modelling revealed that more positive interaction valence was significantly associated with higher daily well-being, greater sense of community, and increased support (both provided and received). However, none of these social resources significantly mediated the relationship between interaction valence and well-being. These findings suggest that while positive online interactions can enhance daily well-being, their benefits may not translate through community and support mechanisms in the short term. Overall, this study highlights the potential for university-based social media platforms to foster student well-being, particularly when designed to promote positive interactions.

Blitz Talk Session 12: Mental Health and Wellbeing

12.1 Investigating the Use of Alcohol as a Coping Mechanism in Young Men with a History of Suicidal Ideation.

Connor Mousley, Marc Wilson
(Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact details: connor.mousley@vuw.ac.nz

Suicide remains a significant public health crisis, with men at disproportionately higher risk, in part due to societal expectations of masculinity that discourage emotional expression and help-seeking, thereby increasing vulnerability to mental distress. These expectations and stigma could lead to men turning to alcohol as a coping mechanism, which can exacerbate risk of suicide by impairing judgment, increasing impulsivity, and deepening feelings of hopelessness. This qualitative study contributes to social-psychological understandings of masculinity, stigma, and coping in the New Zealand context by exploring young men's lived experiences of using alcohol to cope with suicidal ideation. Using an interpretivist phenomenological approach, semi-structured interviews were conducted with ten men (18—25). Reflexive thematic analysis is underway to generate themes around masculine norms, alcohol use, emotional regulation, impulsivity and hopelessness. First observations suggest alcohol provides short-term relief yet escalates risk and acts as a form of emotional release. Final themes will inform gender-sensitive suicide prevention, culturally responsive practice, policy and service delivery.

12.2 Investigating the motivational and regulatory intersection between tattoos, deliberate bodily damage, and non-suicidal self-injury.

Imogen Scholfield, Marc Wilson
(Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact details: imogen.scholfield@vuw.ac.nz

Tattoos (and other forms of body modification; e.g., non-suicidal self-injury, or NSSI) involve deliberate bodily damage and are relatively stigmatised. Limited research has focused on the potential link in motivation between different forms of deliberate damage that people do to their bodies, but indicates that regulatory functions can be involved in these behaviours. Despite this, tattoos are excluded from the DSM-5 definition of NSSI-Disorder as a ‘culturally sanctioned’ behaviour. Tattoos and their intention vary between wearers, having unique functions that are important to each person. I conducted a mixed-methods study to examine the intersection between NSSI and tattoos and their differing regulatory functions, recruiting 1405 tattooed people to complete an online survey in Aotearoa. NSSI incidence, emotion regulation, affect, and tattooed experiences were assessed. Tattoo demographics regarding size, amount, body placement, and meaning were collected. Preliminary results indicate that the lifetime incidence of NSSI increases with the participant's number of tattoos. Personal expression was the most common function of tattoos, followed by social functions. Concern over negative tattoo stereotypes is moderately, positively correlated with regulatory tattoo functions. Analysing the relationship between tattoo factors (e.g., tattoo size) and NSSI is important for distinguishing the uniqueness of tattoos and their motivations.

12.3 Building the Body, Becoming the Self: Women's Body Image Journeys through Performance and Image-Enhancing Drug (PIED) Use.

Hannah C. Schuurs (School of Psychology, University of Queensland), Zoe Walter (School of Psychology, University of Queensland), Leanne Hides (School of Psychology, University of Queensland; National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research, University of Queensland), Mair Underwood (School of Social Science, University of Queensland)
Contact details: h.schuurs@uq.edu.au

Women who use performance and image-enhancing drugs (PIEDs) must navigate competing pressures around strength, appearance and gendered expectations. This study explores how body image is constructed and negotiated by women engaged in PIED use within weight-training and bodybuilding cultures. Moving beyond reductive framings of PIED use as either empowering or pathological, we used Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to examine the lived experiences of nine women, drawing on in-depth interviews and photo elicitation. Body image emerged as a cyclical, emotionally charged process shaped by muscularity, social comparison and enhancement. Participants described shifting relationships with their bodies across on- and off-cycle phases, amplified by social media and industry norms. The findings suggest that muscle dysmorphia may manifest uniquely in women, with persistent dissatisfaction even at peak physical conditioning. Framed through embodiment, objectification and social comparison theories, the analysis reveals how bodily ideals are internalised, resisted and reshaped. These insights challenge gender-blind understandings of PIED use and call for more nuanced, socially grounded approaches in research and clinical contexts. The study also highlights the need for greater transparency within fitness subcultures to address the complex emotional terrain women must navigate in pursuit of the "ideal" body.

12.4 The associations between resilience and post-traumatic growth: insights from cross-sectional and cross-lagged panel network analysis.

Yuxiao Yin (Key Laboratory of Cognition and Personality (SWU), Ministry of Education, Chongqing, China; Faculty of Psychology, Southwest University (SWU), Chongqing, China); Xiangyuan Zhang (Key Laboratory of Cognition and Personality (SWU), Ministry of Education, Chongqing, China; Faculty of Psychology, Southwest University (SWU), Chongqing, China); Peiduo Liu (Key Laboratory of Cognition and Personality (SWU), Ministry of Education, Chongqing, China; Faculty of Psychology, Southwest University (SWU), Chongqing, China); Jiang Qiu (Key Laboratory of Cognition and Personality (SWU), Ministry of Education, Chongqing, China; MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom); Wenjing Yang (Key Laboratory of Cognition and Personality (SWU), Ministry of Education, Chongqing, China; Faculty of Psychology, Southwest University (SWU), Chongqing, China)
Contact details: u7908496@anu.edu.au

Background: The relationship between post-traumatic growth and resilience has long been a topic of debate, yet previous studies rarely examined their longitudinal dynamics or structural distinctions at the domain level. Method: To address this gap, the present study gathered 1237 data (901 for longitudinal sample, 336 for validation sample) and combined evidence from cross-sectional and cross-lagged panel network model (CLPN). Result: We first verified the distinctiveness of PTG and resilience under the domain level with evidence from a cross-sectional network. It needs to be noted that we replicated this result across independent samples and timepoints, highlighting its stability. CLPN was further employed to analyze the longitudinal relationship of these two variables. The results showed a bidirectional enhancement relationship, with key bridge nodes: changes in life value and self-reliance linking PTG and resilience dynamically. Conclusion: By integrating cross-sectional and longitudinal network approaches, this study provides empirical evidence for the distinctiveness and reciprocal interplay between PTG and resilience. Besides, the cross-sample validation further

reinforces the robustness of the findings, offering practical insights into intervention strategies targeting trauma recovery.

12.5 The Relationship Between Attachment to Pets and Mental Health and Wellbeing: A Systematic Review.

Katherine Northrope, Joanna Shnookal, Matthew B. Ruby, Tiffani J. Howell
(La Trobe University)
Contact details: katherineandrea90@gmail.com

While pet ownership is sometimes associated with better mental health, research on this relationship has been inconsistent. Some researchers have considered what factors may impact this relationship, such as owners' attachment to their pets. The aim of this systematic review was to investigate how attachment to pets relates to owner mental health and wellbeing. Of the 116 included studies, 15 studies found that higher attachment was associated with better mental health, 22 studies found that higher attachment was associated with worse mental health, 36 studies found mixed results and 33 studies found no significant relationship. Having a stronger attachment to one's pet tended to be associated with better mental health when investigating outcomes in children, and when investigating outcomes related to wellbeing. Stronger attachment tended to be associated with worse mental health when investigating mental health symptomology (e.g., depression and anxiety). It may also be influenced by the owner's relationships with other people. Results indicate that having a strong attachment to one's pet is not necessarily associated with better mental health and wellbeing. Future longitudinal research is needed to better understand how attachment to pets affects mental health, and what factors may influence this relationship

12.6 From Despair to Values Flow: a DBT informed framework linking emotion regulation, flow, and vital engagement across social contexts.

Peggy Kern, Cedomir Ignjatovic
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: Peggy.Kern@unimelb.edu.au

Psychological ill being has risen globally, highlighting the need for approaches that translate emotion regulation skills into sustained, prosocial engagement. We present Values Flow, a DBT informed framework that links wise mind with two elements: ARIA (Attend—Reflect—Inform—Act) micro processes and VIVA (Virtue—Involvement—Vitality—Acceptance) macro components. Values Flow is socio culturally embedded: it targets actions that benefit self and community. We map the framework to social psychological mechanisms (attentional control, challenge—skill balance, identity based motivation) and propose falsifiable predictions: (1) within person ARIA flexibility will mediate the association between mindfulness and flow in daily life; (2) VIVA alignment will predict prosocial intentions and enacted helping via meaning in life; (3) perceived normative support will moderate these effects. We outline a multi method program—experience sampling, lab challenge tasks, and short scales—to evaluate the model and present the Values Flow cards as a translational tool for coaching/therapy and for non clinical populations. We discuss how Values Flow can extend social and personality research on emotion regulation, engagement, and wellbeing, and how it can be used to design interventions that generalise beyond sessions into everyday contexts.

Blitz Talk Session 13: Cognition and the Workplace

13.1 Employment Outcomes for Young Adults with Autism in Malaysia: Insights from Families, Educators, and Employers.

Azimeh Jafari Sadr, Shamsul Haque, Yeong Yoong Ern, Nurul 'Atikah Ab Wahab
(Monash University)
Contact details: azimeh.jafarisadr@monash.edu

Young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Malaysia face significant challenges in achieving meaningful employment, despite the existence of vocational training programs and policy initiatives. Families often bear the burden of limited opportunities, navigating financial strain and uncertainty about long-term career prospects. This study explores the lived experiences of families, together with educators, vocational trainers, and employers, to examine how current policies influence employment outcomes and career development for young adults with ASD. Using a qualitative design, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 15 participants across stakeholder groups. Thematic analysis will identify recurring barriers, facilitators, and gaps in policy implementation. Findings are expected to reveal both systemic challenges and effective support practices, highlighting the crucial role of families in career pathways. The study will provide evidence-based recommendations to strengthen policies, enhance vocational training, and promote inclusive workplace practices in the Malaysian context.

13.2 When Accent and Gender Interact: Do Non-standard Accents Work Against Women More Than Men in Hiring Decisions?

Jessica L. Spence (University of Queensland), Matthew J. Hornsey (University of Queensland), Elena Zubielevitch (University of Auckland), Cassandra M. Chapman (University of Queensland), Kana Imuta (University of Queensland)
Contact details: j.spence@uq.edu.au

Accent bias in hiring is well-documented: job candidates with standard accents are typically favoured over candidates with non-standard accents. Yet emerging evidence suggests these penalties fall more heavily on women than men, with the underlying mechanisms unclear. Across two studies in the United States, we examined how accent and gender jointly shape impressions of job candidates and, in turn, their perceived hirability. Participants evaluated either multiple candidates (Study 1) or a single candidate (Study 2) varying by accent (American, Chinese, Mexican) and gender (woman, man). Consistent across studies, non-standard-accented candidates were rated as less hireable, with penalties particularly pronounced for women. While reduced comprehensibility disadvantaged both men and women with non-standard accents, competence mattered especially for women, and warmth offered selective benefits for men. Results suggest that accent bias operates through gender-contingent evaluative pathways, highlighting how stereotypes about competence and warmth may amplify discrimination against women while occasionally buffering men.

13.3 Social Cognition and Driving: Theory of Mind is Associated with Drivers' Hazard Perception.

Stephanie C. Goodhew (Australian National University), Mark Edwards (Australian National University), Crystal Choy (Australian National University), Philippa Neary (University of

Queensland; Queensland University of Technology), Andrew Hill (University of Queensland), Mark S. Horswill (University of Queensland)
Contact details: stephanie.goodhew@anu.edu.au

For many, driving enables participation in different aspects of life. However, crashes can incur substantial personal and economic burdens. There has been ample research documenting the cognitive factors that predict crash risk (e.g., attention). However, a large part of driving involves interaction with other road users. This means that social-cognitive factors may also be implicated in crash risk. Here, in a sample of N = 120 young adult drivers, we measured important aspects of driver skill (hazard perception) and driving style (following distance), which predict crash risk, and tested their association with two novel social-cognitive variables: (1) theory of mind (for hazard perception), and (2) empathic concern (for following distance). Empathic concern was not associated with following distance. However, individuals' theory of mind was associated with their hazard perception skill performance. This highlights that social-cognitive factors can be associated with crash risk and demonstrates the potentially far-reaching consequences of drivers' theory of mind for road-user safety.

13.4 Should I Stay or Should I Go? Inclusive Language in Organizational Communication as a Buffer against Employees' Intentions to Resign.

Denise Ruggieri, Monica Rubini, Michela Menegatti
(University of Bologna)
Contact details: denise.ruggieri3@unibo.it

Gender-fair language policies promoting inclusivity have become increasingly widespread in organizations, yet their impact on employees remains underexplored. We conducted two studies to examine the relationship between inclusive language and resignation intentions within an Italian public administration. In Study 1 (N = 366), employees evaluated the inclusivity of formal communications (e.g., official documents), perceived gender discrimination, their sense of inclusion, and intention to quit their job. Formal inclusive language was negatively associated with resignation intentions via perceived inclusivity, but not via perceived gender discrimination. Study 2 (N = 588) focused on informal communication (e.g., casual conversations) and found a similar negative association, mediated by perceived inclusivity and, subsequently, job satisfaction. These findings suggest that the effectiveness of inclusive communication relies on alignment between organizational policies and employees' everyday language practices, highlighting the importance of both formal and informal channels in shaping retention-related outcomes. Keywords: gender-inclusive language, organizational communication, gender discrimination, job satisfaction, workplace social exclusion, resignation intentions

13.5 Braids, Bodies, and Boundaries: Exploring the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality, and Workplace Performance Among Young Adult Women.

Yvonne Otubea Otchere (Ghana Armed Forces), Irene Botchway (University of West London)
Contact details: dr.otubea@gmail.com

This study explores the intersections of gender and sexuality among working young adult women and how these dimensions influence workplace performance. Drawing from a purposive sample of 50 working class women aged between 20 and 39, the research employed a mixed-method approach involving a structured survey and a visual stimulus exercise.

Participants responded to questions exploring how their experiences of gender expression and perceived sexuality shaped their professional interactions, role expectations, and self-perception at work. In addition, participants were shown a series of images depicting varying skin tones and hair braid styles, to assess implicit and explicit attitudes toward appearance-based judgments and their perceived impact on occupational performance. Preliminary findings reveal that gendered appearance and expression, particularly in terms of hairstyle and tone, significantly affect how women are perceived and treated in professional environments. Participants reported instances of both positive and negative stereotyping, which influenced their confidence, task allocation, and access to leadership opportunities. The study highlights the need for inclusive organizational cultures that acknowledge and respect diverse gender and sexual identities and expressions. It calls for further intersectional analysis in workplace equity efforts, particularly in African professional settings where gender- and appearance-based biases remain underexplored yet deeply consequential.

Blitz Talk Session 14: Wellbeing

14.1 Longitudinal associations between personality and meditation practice.

Yana Ryakhovskaya, Nicholas I. Bowles, Haisu Sun, Nicholas T. Van Dam, Luke D. Smillie
(The University of Melbourne)
Contact details: yryakhovskay@student.unimelb.edu.au

Research into meditation practices suggests that meditators vary widely in their practice habits, leading to differential outcomes as a function of the amount and frequency of practice (Bowles et al., 2022). However, little is known about personality traits that may influence the amount and variability of one's meditation practice over a period of time. In the current study, 1052 participants responded to questionnaires over eight weeks measuring the amount of meditation practice they undertook in the previous week. A Bayesian hierarchical location scale model was used to predict average meditation practice and variability with the Big Five personality traits and prior lifetime meditation practice. Results reveal that whilst meditation practice increased over time, openness was associated with lower amounts of meditation practice during the study, whereas conscientiousness was associated with higher amounts of practice. Furthermore, conscientiousness was associated with more consistent practice, whereas openness was associated with less consistent (i.e., more variable) practice. Personality effects on practice amount and consistency were small. Overall, these findings contribute to research into individual differences that may influence one's meditation habits.

14.2 Humble Minds, Balanced Hearts: Testing Whether Humility Predicts Equanimity at Trait and State Levels.

Darcy, Brighton (Australian National University)
Contact details: darcy@bluebrighton.com

Philosophical and religious traditions have long highlighted the connection between humility and equanimity; however, psychological research has yet to examine their association. This project examined the relationship between the constructs and explored a potential mechanism for their interconnection. Study 1 (N = 325) sought to establish them as separate factors and examined their trait level correlations. Confirmatory factor analyses examined discriminant validity between humility and equanimity, and multiple regression tested the association between them, while controlling for related variables such as personality, mindfulness, and cognitive reappraisal. Study 2 (N = 325) attempted to establish the causal direction between humility and equanimity. It utilised an experimental design to determine whether induced humility created changes in state equanimity and tested de-centering as a mechanism. Results showed that humility and equanimity emerged as distinct but correlated constructs (H1), trait humility significantly predicted trait equanimity beyond control variables (H2), and experimental induction of state humility increased state equanimity through enhanced de-centering capacity (H3). This research provides the first empirical validation of a relationship long assumed in traditions, offering numerous avenues for future research. Findings have implications for intervention development, suggesting that humility cultivation may represent a pathway to enhance emotional balance and psychological resilience.

14.3 Situational Activation of Imposter Phenomenon: An Experience Sampling Investigation.

Heather E Douglas (School of Psychological Sciences, University of Newcastle), Trinity Patrick (School of Psychological Sciences, University of Newcastle), Jessika Tisdell (School of Psychological Sciences, University of Newcastle), Elise Kalokerinos (Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne),
Contact details: heather.douglas@newcastle.edu.au

Imposter Phenomenon (IP) - perceived intellectual fraudulence despite evidence of competence - has been predominantly studied as a stable trait. Emerging evidence suggests IP may vary situationally, yet limited research has examined broad situational characteristics that activate momentary imposter feelings. We conducted a four-day experience sampling study with university students (N = 173) measuring momentary IP and situational characteristics twice daily, yielding 999 complete timepoints. Situational characteristics were measured using the Situational Eight DIAMONDS taxonomy. Multilevel models examined concurrent and cross-lagged associations. All eight situational dimensions significantly related to IP in the same moment. Higher IP was positively associated with situations perceived as more duty-bound, intellectually demanding, adverse, negative, deceptive, and social, but negatively with situations perceived as romantic and positive. Cross-lagged effects were generally non-significant. IP showed limited stability across time-points, supporting state-based conceptualisations. This study provides initial evidence that IP may vary with specific situational characteristics, suggesting that it might involve systematic reappraisal of one's entire situational context. However, our temporal spacing might have obscured stability patterns. A full ESM study with more frequent sampling is needed to disentangle the dynamic versus stable components of IP and inform potential interventions that target situational interpretation processes.

14.4 The Strengths of an Imposter: Assessing Character Strengths of Individuals Experiencing Imposter Phenomenon.

Kirsty Richards, Heather Douglas
(University of Newcastle)
Contact details: kirsty.richards@newcastle.edu.au

Imposter Phenomenon (IP) describes individuals who are unable to internalise their success, and has been associated with negative impacts on mental health and career development (Clance & Imes, 1978). Despite limited evidence suggesting interpersonal benefits of IP, including in vocational settings where those with IP are considered more interpersonally effective than their colleagues, systematic examination of associated character strengths and benefits of IP remains largely unexplored in the literature (Tewfik, 2022). This cross-sectional correlational study explicitly assessed relationships between IP and character strengths among 473 undergraduate Psychology students at the University of Newcastle. Participants completed the Clance Imposter Phenomenon Scale (CIPS) and the Values in Action Character Strengths Survey (VIA-72) online. Analysis will utilise Pearson correlations and multiple regression to examine relationships between IP and character strengths. Various relationships are hypothesised, including positive associations between IP and humility. Findings will contribute to an enhanced understanding of IP by identifying potential character strengths that may accompany this phenomenon, offering individuals a framework for recognising positive attributes rather than focusing solely on maladaptive impacts. This research has particular relevance for therapeutic practice by providing evidence-based foundations for positive reframing interventions with clients experiencing IP.

14.5 Multiple health behaviours and mental health and well-being in early adolescence: Evidence from Growing Up in New Zealand.

Jenna Gawn (Department of Psychology, University of Otago), Benjamin D Fletcher (Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland), Katie M Douglas (Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Otago), Te Kani R Kingi (Research and Innovation, Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, Whakatāne), Megan Gath (Child Wellbeing Research Institute, University of Canterbury), Tamlin S Conner (Department of Psychology, University of Otago)
Contact details: jenna.gawn@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Health behaviours have been individually linked to youth mental health. Less research has investigated multiple health behaviours and mental well-being in early adolescence. This cross-sectional analysis of the prospective study, Growing Up in New Zealand, examined associations between physical activity, sleep, diet, screen-time, and substance use, and depression symptoms, anxiety symptoms, and quality of life (N = 4,563, Mage = 12.3, SDage = 0.27, range 11.6 — 13.3). Being physically active every day, sleeping 9-11 hours per night, less time on screens, and abstaining from alcohol and vaping were associated with lower depression and anxiety symptoms and greater quality of life. Healthier diets were associated with greater quality of life. Sleep quality was most strongly related to mental health compared to other health behaviours. Overall, healthier behaviours were related to positive mental health among 12-year-olds from New Zealand. Future research will apply longitudinal modelling to examine the direction of these relationships.

Blitz Talk Session 15: Intergroup Relations

15.1 Intra-religious intolerance: rethinking ingroup and outgroup boundaries.

Nesya Adira, Hema Preya Selvanathan, Jolanda Jetten
(School of Psychology, The University of Queensland)
Contact details: n.adira@uq.edu.au

Religious intolerance is often framed as a problem between religions, but within a single religion, boundaries can be more fluid and contested. In Indonesia, as the world's largest Muslim-majority country, Muslims identify in diverse ways, from broad religious identity to narrower sectarian and organizational affiliations. This study examines how Indonesian Muslims perceive diversity within Islam, and how they respond to differences in belief and practice among fellow Muslims. By mapping these perceptions, the project hopes to give new insights into intra-religious intolerance and its implications for community cohesion.

15.2 From compassion to moral expansiveness: How trait dispositions relate to stigma towards those with depression and anxiety.

Amanda B. Chan, Lisa A. Williams
(School of Psychology, UNSW Sydney)
Contact details: amanda.chan@unsw.edu.au

Although mental health stigma is associated with negative psychosocial outcomes for those with depression and anxiety, current stigma reduction strategies are limited. Prior research suggests that compassion and moral expansiveness may reduce stigma, however, these relationships have yet to be investigated in the mental health context. Thus, the present study investigated whether compassion is linked to lower stigma towards those with depression and anxiety, and whether this relationship is mediated by moral expansiveness. Participants (N = 530) completed measures of trait compassion, moral expansiveness, and stigma (operationalised as stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination) towards those with either depression or anxiety in a between-participant design. Results revealed that compassion significantly predicted moral expansiveness over and above empathy, awe, or contentment. Multigroup analysis revealed no differences in the relationships between compassion, moral expansiveness and stigma across depression and anxiety. Using a structural modelling approach, compassion predicted both moral expansiveness and stereotypes, and the indirect effect of compassion on stereotypes via moral expansiveness was significant. Compassion also directly predicted prejudice and discrimination, but indirect effects via moral expansiveness were not observed. These findings indicate that compassion is linked to lower depression and anxiety stigma, and that these effects are mediated by moral expansiveness when looking at stereotypes specifically, offering insight into more targeted stigma reduction strategies.

15.3 "I am feeling a lot right now": Complex emotions as motivators of reactionary collective.

Bridget C Ramsey, Charlie Pittaway, Emma F Thomas
(Flinders University)
Contact details: bridget.ramsey@flinders.edu.au

Reactionary movements are increasingly prominent in social and political life, yet relatively little is known about the psychological mechanisms that mobilise individuals to oppose

marginalised groups. People who oppose immigration, for instance, may feel angry at politicians who set migration numbers, fear for their country, contempt for immigrants and/or angst about the future vitality of their group. Some people may encounter all of these emotions, yielding complex emotional experiences. We draw on intergroup-emotion theory to suggest that complex emotions motivate distinct action intentions. Latent profile analysis of self-identified immigration opponents (N = 1192) identified distinct subgroups based on combinations of anger, fear, contempt, and angst. We identified four meaningful profiles: apathetic opponents (n = 557; low on all emotions), moderates (n = 430; moderate on all emotions), low-contempt moderates (n = 102; moderate anger, fear and angst with low contempt), and highly emotive (n = 103; high on all emotions). Membership of each profile was associated with diverging perceptions of symbolic and realistic threat and, in turn, were associated with conversionary and/or confrontational collective action. These findings highlight the diversity within reactionary social movements and supports the need to consider the role of complex emotions in motivating collective action.

15.4 Social Identity Networks demonstrate how Group Identity is Compressed in Social Information Systems.

Michael Quayle (University of Limerick – Ireland)
Contact details: mike.quayle@ul.ie

Fundamental to social identity is the ability for groups to become associated with recognizable features. I define social information systems as any feature of our collective physical and symbolic environment in which recognisable traces of group identity can be written or read. Taking attitudes as an example, I apply recently developed methods (surveygraph and ResIN) to visualize attitude surveys as Social Identity Networks defined by the answers of people; and in which people are uniquely located by their answers. With empirical examples, I discuss how: (1) group structure is dynamically embedded in attitude systems, through direct action and stigmergy; (2) people are positioned by the attitudes they express and their position can shift as the system shifts around them; (3) in sufficiently structured attitude systems, people can perceive each-others' positions with minimal information. Returning to the more general argument, I explain how identity-imbued systems can be understood as group-related information compressibility. This compressible information structure allows people to 'read' group identity from minimal information, and redundancies facilitate recognition even where communication is noisy or lossy. I discuss some consequences for theorizing social polarization.

15.5 Evidence of a Negative Bias towards People who are Childfree by Choice

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Nida Denson (Western Sydney University), Thomas Denson (University of New South Wales)
Contact details: n.denson@westernsydney.edu.au

For many people, the decision to have children or not is one of life's most personal decisions. The number of people without children is growing in many Western countries. Some of these people consciously choose not to have children. In three studies (Study 1 N = 475; Study 2 N = 450; Study 3 N = 293), we provide evidence of a negative bias towards people who choose to be childfree. We compared the childfree to several other social categories as well as people who are involuntarily childless, adoptive parents, and parents of their biological children. Relative to childless people, adoptive parents and parents, participants generally rated childfree people as the least positive. Childfree people were rated low in warmth, but high in competence. Childfree women were rated lower in warmth than childfree men. Discrimination toward childfree people

was predicted by perceived narcissism, dehumanization, and violation of pronatalist norms. This research provides evidence of a negative bias toward people who choose not to have children.

15.6 Crowding-Out, Spill-Over, and the Group-Frame: How Social Identity Prevents Perverse Outcomes in Individually-Oriented Interventions.

Charles Durkin (Australian National University)
Contact details: Charles.Durkin@anu.edu.au

Individually oriented (i-frame) interventions, such as nudges and choice architecture, designed to "fix" behaviour, have come to be seen as the gold standard of behaviour change in academic circles. Problematically, emerging research suggests these i-frames may generate a perverse effect: that by framing responsibility at the individual level, we may divert support away from systemic reform. Despite the apparent certainty of these claims, the empirical literature is highly polarised. While some studies report that i-frame interventions increase personal responsibility while reducing policy support (crowding-out), others report increases in both variables (spill-over). In reconciling this conceptual melee, we introduce the g-frame, a novel model integrating insights from the Social Identity Approach. We propose that the impact of i-frame interventions depend on the social identity processes they activate. In our study (n = 445) we find that group-based factors play a crucial role in determining whether i-frames produce crowding-out or spill-over. This shifts the paradigm to understanding crowding-out as a group-level process rather than a cognitive bias. In doing so, we identify the conditions under which i-frames hinder versus promote collective action and provide clear implications for policy design and the academic community.

Standard Paper Session 1: Culture and Wellbeing

1.1 Why We Regulate, How We Regulate: Cultural Differences in the Goals and Strategies People Use to Regulate Others' Emotions

Yue Li, Namira Uddin, Carolyn MacCann
(University of Sydney)
Contact details: yue.li@sydney.edu.au

Research in interpersonal emotion regulation is burgeoning, yet most studies rely on Western, individualistic samples. It remains largely unclear how culture—an important influence on intrapersonal emotion regulation—shapes the regulation of others' emotions. Here, we addressed this gap by testing cultural differences in the goals and strategies people use to regulate others' emotions in a daily diary study. East Asian (n = 92) and Anglo-Celtic (n = 111) participants completed a five-day daily diary (725 entries). Each day, participants indicated their use of four extrinsic emotion regulation strategies (expressive suppression, distraction, cognitive reappraisal, and receptive listening) and four emotion regulation goals (pro-hedonic, performance, relational, and impression management). Three key findings emerged. First, East Asians reported greater use of expressive suppression, distraction, and reappraisal than Anglo-Celtic participants, with no cultural difference for receptive listening. Second, compared to Anglo-Celtic participants, East Asians endorsed greater performance, relational, and impression management goals, but not pro-hedonic goals. Lastly, at the within-person level, pro-hedonic goals predicted greater use of all four strategies, whereas performance goals predicted greater use of expressive suppression, distraction, and reappraisal (but not receptive listening). Implications of these results for cross-cultural communication will be discussed.

1.2 A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Polycultural Identity in Super-Diverse Australia.

Ariane Virgona, Matthew Ruby, Emiko Kashima
(La Trobe University)
Contact details: a.virgona@latrobe.edu.au

Due to international migration and globalisation, urban Australia provides opportunities for individuals to be exposed to diverse cultural elements and people in everyday life. In such spaces, recent literature suggests that the polyculturalism perspective, which views culture as fluid, interconnected, and continually shaped, can help people navigate intercultural interactions more effectively than the categorical multiculturalism perspective. Yet, little is known about how the polycultural perspective influences identity development. To address this, we conducted three studies. Study 1 identified common experiences of cultural identity in contemporary Australians through 45 semi-structured interviews. We generated five themes, including: 1) being the product of multiple influences, 2) sharing meanings with social groups, and 3) learning, bridging, and blending them into the self. Building on these themes, study 2 developed the Polycultural Identity Scale (PIS), which was validated with two samples. In study 3, we found that cognitive flexibility and self-expansion motivation were indirectly linked to well-being, flourishing and a psychologically rich life, via polycultural identity. Taken together, these studies show how the dynamic polycultural perspective can support flexible adaptation in the presence of abundant cultural information and experiences. They also suggest that the dynamic nature of polycultural identity can provide benefits for a meaningful and engaging life.

1.3 The Muslim Diversity Study: Protocol and Early Insights.

Usman Afzali (University of Otago), Joseph Bulbulia (Victoria University of Wellington), Chris Sibley (University of Auckland), Kumar Yogeeswaran (University of Canterbury), Aarif Rasheed (University of Otago)
Contact details: usman.afzali@otago.ac.nz

The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS) is a national longitudinal study tracking social values and attitudes over time. Until recently, Muslims were underrepresented by a factor of ten, leaving little robust, population-level evidence about their experiences. Following the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks, the Muslim Diversity Study (MDS) was established to address this gap by recruiting a proportionately representative Muslim cohort into the NZAVS. Developed in consultation with Muslim community leaders, the MDS aims to document both adversity and resilience, and to share findings in ways that support community flourishing. Using a population-weighted sample of 667 Muslims and 31,526 non-Muslims, we find that while Muslims are no more likely than others to endorse general spirituality (61% vs 63%), they report substantially higher belief in God (91% vs 40%) and far greater engagement in regular worship and prayer. Despite experiencing markedly higher rates of targeted religious and ethnic discrimination, Muslims show few negative disparities in health and social outcomes. In fact, they report greater meaning in life, neighbourhood cohesion, and self-esteem. These findings suggest that shared religious beliefs and practices may foster prosocial capital that buffers against prejudice — a foundation for ongoing longitudinal research into the pathways of resilience.

1.4 Te Waharoa ki Te Ao Māori: Māori Martial Arts as a Gateway to Cultural Embeddedness.

Taylor Winter, Aaron Hāpuku
(University of Canterbury)
Contact details: taylor.winter@canterbury.ac.nz

In 2024, we found that justice-involved Māori youths conducting the Social Identity Mapping (SIM) task did not identify their Māori identity as part of their social group memberships. We interpreted this to mean the youths were so culturally disconnected that their Māori identity is not salient, or that their Māori identity is so inherent that they did not think to mention it. We sought to follow up this line of research with a group of ten practitioners of Māori martial arts (Mau Rākau). During a hui (similar to focus group), participants completed a survey, conducted the SIM task, then discussed reflections as a group. Although participants did not explicitly identify a Māori identity, they engaged in the cultural practice often with the express purpose of facilitating cultural growth of that identity. Mau Rākau was experienced as culturally safe because of the tikanga (protocols) governing its practice. Participants found it holistically addressed wellbeing (physical, mental, and spiritual). Taken together, our findings suggested that participants viewed Mau Rākau as a cultural gateway to deeper cultural embeddedness within the wider Māori community.

Standard Paper Session 2: Technology

2.1 Dark tetrad traits and cyberbullying bystander behaviours: The mediating roles of moral disengagement and empathy

Minyi Chu, Stephanie J. Tobin, Marilyn A. Campbell
(Queensland University of Technology)
Contact details: minyi.chu@hdr.qut.edu.au

Cyberbullying has been shown to exert substantial negative effects on emerging adults, including social anxiety, depression, and the risk of suicide. Previous research has primarily focused on exploring the associations between neutral or bright personality traits (e.g., the Big Five) and cyberbullying bystander behaviours, while largely ignoring the dark side of personality traits. Drawing on Trait Activation Perspective, Social Cognitive Theory, and the Empathy-altruism hypothesis, this study investigated how dark tetrad traits (Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, and sadism) relate to cyberbullying bystander behaviours (passive, positive, and negative). Moral disengagement and empathy were proposed as parallel mediating mechanisms. A total of 371 emerging adults (aged 18-25), recruited from mainstream Chinese social media platform (WeChat), participated in an online study. Data were analysed using path analysis. The results revealed that dark tetrad traits significantly predicted different forms of bystander behaviours, and that moral disengagement and empathy partly mediated these relationships. This study is the first to explore how dark tetrad traits operate through cognitive and emotional processes to predict cyberbullying bystander behaviours, thereby enriching theoretical understanding and offering new insights for designing interventions to reduce cyberbullying incidents.

2.2 Honest Help or Unfair Advantage? How Employer Messaging Shapes GenAI Use in Interviews.

Patrick D. Dunlop (Curtin University), Mengting (Rachel) Xia (Curtin University), Ho Ting Yeung (Curtin University), Nicolas Roulin (St Mary's University), Joshua Bourdage (University of Calgary), Djurre Holtrop (Tilburg University)
Contact details: patrick.dunlop@curtin.edu.au

Personnel selection hinges on accurate measurement of job candidates' individual differences in aptitude, personality, and other characteristics, most of which are measured via online unproctored tests or interviews. The advent of GenAI tools like ChatGPT, however, has turned candidate assessment on its head, as candidates can use it during assessments without the employer knowing. Employers are especially concerned about candidates using AI as a total substitute for themselves, and many now warn candidates not to use it. Others are more philosophical, encouraging candidates to use GenAI as long as they remain honest. In this study, we provided participants with a GenAI tool to use during a one-way interview for a role in a fictional company. One-third received a 'warning' from the company not to use the AI, one-third received an encouraging message, and one-third received no message. Participants responded to four interview questions during which they could use the GenAI tool. We will share analyses of the effects of these messages on how participants interacted with the AI tool, the extent to which they responded honestly or dishonestly, and overall interview performance. This is the first study to investigate detailed AI-user interactions in interviews and the effects of AI-related messaging.

2.3 Development and validation of critical issues beliefs and concern scales.

Timothy Bainbridge (CSIRO), Sinead Golley (CSIRO), Naomi Kakoschke (CSIRO) Mat Marques (La Trobe University) Emily Brindal (CSIRO)
Contact details: tim.bainbridge@csiro.au

Society faces many risks to our collective health, prosperity, and well-being, including climate change, anti-vaccine movements, and aging populations. These critical issues require technological or innovative solutions that, in turn, require public acceptance. Acceptance of such technologies is influenced by anti-science attitudes, conspiracy mentality, and distrust of institutions but it remains unclear whether beliefs or concern for different critical issues covary sufficiently to form reliable scales. In the current research, we assembled a collection of critical issues beliefs and concerns items, which we assessed in a demographically matched sample of 1496 Australians. Through factor analysis, the items that had the best measurement properties were selected before being validated in a 2-part follow-up study (Ns = 306, 301). We identified a technology and health hesitancy scale (THH) and a critical issues concern scale (CIC). Both scales had good measurement characteristics and incremental validity predicting self-reported behavioural outcomes beyond a host of covariates. THH had moderate to large correlations with other anti-science and conspiracy scales suggesting it forms part of a cluster of such scales, whereas CIC had only small correlations with other scales suggesting it may measure largely untapped variance and be a useful tool for research on critical issue topics.

2.4 Text or AI? Impact of traditional and novel information communication on mental models.

Vera Maria Fahrner (German Aerospace Centre, Institute of Transport Research, Germany; University of Siegen, Germany), Alexandra Zapko-Willmes (University of Siegen, Germany), Kelly Fielding (School of Communication and Arts, University of Queensland), Kai T. Horstmann (University of Siegen, Germany)
Contact details: vera.fahrner@dlr.de

With a growing political and social divide, attitudes and behavioural intentions regarding emerging environmentally-friendly solutions are becoming increasingly ideological. In this context, biased media communication and motivated reasoning play a key role in influencing mental models that people form regarding novel technologies. Mental models of these novel technologies are complex in that they cover knowledge and attitudes as well as predicting relevant behavioural criteria. Considering mental models of renewable fuels in Germany as an example, we investigate the effect of information valence and format on mental models through a preregistered longitudinal intervention study (NPost-Measure = 342). Specifically, we analyse the impact on mental models of information regarding efuels that either contained a positive, negative or neutral judgement across six weekly assessments and a post measure. Information was either provided in a text-based or an AI chatbot interaction format. Additionally, we examine the effect of relevant constructs such as political and environmental attitudes on renewable fuel evaluation and use intention. Analyses comprise multiple regression analyses and multilevel structural equation modelling. Recommendations on the design of information communication for mental model change will be derived.

Standard Paper Session 3: Eating and drinking

3.1 Masculine Gender Role Stress and Hostile Attribution in Alcohol and Non-alcohol Related Contexts.

Elizabeth Summerell, Sarah Bakker
(Adelaide University)
Contact details: elizabeth.summerell@adelaide.edu.au

Masculine gender role stress (MGRS) is the psychological distress experienced when men perceive themselves as unable to meet societal expectations of masculinity. Although extant studies link MGRS to aggression, underlying mechanisms remain unclear. One promising mechanism is hostile attribution; the tendency to ascribe negative intent to others ambiguous behaviour. MGRS may increase hostile attribution by sensitising men to cues that signal status threat. Contextual factors such as exposure to alcohol cues may also increase hostile attribution by increasing the accessibility of aggressive cognitions. Indeed, given associations between traditional masculine norms and alcohol, MGRS and alcohol context may interact to increase hostile attribution. In 2 experiments we investigated the influence of a brief MGRS induction on hostile attribution in ambiguous social scenarios and tested whether this effect differed as a function of alcohol (vs non-alcohol) scenario context. Contrary to predictions, hostile attribution was lower in alcohol contexts compared to non-alcohol contexts in both studies. MGRS did not influence hostile attribution directly. However, exploratory mediation analysis indicated a significant indirect effect of MGRS on hostile attribution via humiliation in Study 2. Discussion will focus on interpretation and implications.

3.2 Investigating profiles of public support for protein transition policies in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Madeline Judge (University of Otago)
Contact details: maddie.judge@otago.ac.nz

To help combat the climate crisis, there have been calls for high income countries to engage in a protein transition; a shift in practices of production and consumption towards less animal proteins and more plant-based or alternative proteins. Participants in Aotearoa New Zealand (n = 733) completed a survey measuring their support for nine protein transition policies, including ‘push' and ‘pull' measures targeting different actors in the food system. The survey also measured perceptions of the fairness, effectiveness, and levels of public support and opposition for the policies. In general, pull measures were more popular than push measures, and participants tended to overestimate levels of public opposition to the policies. Perceived public support (positively) and opposition (negatively) predicted willingness to engage in conversation about the topic, even when controlling for personal support. A latent profile analysis revealed three profiles: moderately supportive, push-resistant (i.e., opposed mainly to taxes and restrictions) and strongly opposed. These profiles varied in the responsibility attributed to different actors for reducing animal agricultural emissions (e.g., consumers, the government, industry), levels of perceived public support, as well as other attitudinal and demographic factors. I will relate the findings to theory on norm dynamics in sociotechnical transitions.

3.3 Plant-forward diets: How do mainstream consumers differ from vegans and vegetarians?

Matthew B Ruby (La Trobe University), Carla Riverola (Griffith University), Ozgur Dedehayir (Queensland University of Technology), Stephen Harrington (Queensland University of Technology)
Contact details: m.ruby@latrobe.edu.au

As worldwide adoption of plant-forward diets is still limited and the burden of responsibility for transitioning such diets falls largely on the consumer's decision-making process, demand for new plant-based alternatives/products is highly uncertain and volatile. In a large, pre-registered study (N = 3014 Australian residents), we examine factors that drive and hinder demand for both meat-free and fully plant-based food. For trendsetters and mainstream consumers, motivation and capability are the strongest predictors of meat-free meal consumption, followed by perceived opportunity. We also identify key differences in motivations and barriers to engage in plant-based eating between early adopters (vegans and vegetarians), trendsetters (pescatarians, reducetarians, and flexitarians), and mainstream consumers (omnivores), offering valuable insights to advocates, industry stakeholders, and policymakers.

3.4. Identifying distinct profiles of social anxiety: Exploring differences in alcohol use and alcohol-related problems.

Anton J. Fichtenmaier, Amanda M. George
(University of Canberra)
Contact details: anton.fichtenmaier@canberra.edu.au

Data indicates that as levels of social anxiety increase, the risk of co-occurring problematic alcohol use also rises. However, research also stipulates that elevated social anxiety symptoms are associated with lower alcohol use but greater alcohol-related problems. Distinct social anxiety profiles may clarify this unexpected disparity. Namely, a more risk-prone, approach orientated, socially anxious impulsive (SAI) subtype distinct from the prototypical shy, inhibited, and avoidant profile of social anxiety. However, conceptualisation of the SAI profile has been inconsistent and theoretically underdeveloped. Therefore, to address this, a theory-driven latent profile analysis was conducted to distinguish the SAI profile from both the prototypical socially anxious and a non-anxious profile. Preliminary results supported a three-class model as the most parsimonious and robust. The SAI profile endorsed significantly higher hazardous alcohol use, ARPs, coping and conformity motives, and drinking in coping contexts. Gender influenced class membership, with further variation in alcohol use and ARPs.

Standard Paper Session 4: Prosocial Behaviour

4.1 Volunteer Motivation Fulfilment and Wellbeing.

Arthur A. Stukas (La Trobe University), Mathew D. Marques (La Trobe University), Mark Snyder (University of Minnesota), E. Gil Clary (LTO Development)
Contact details: a.stukas@latrobe.edu.au

Does volunteering improve the wellbeing of volunteers? Conventional wisdom says yes. Cross-sectional surveys also suggest a correlation. However, personality may explain this relationship and the direction of the effect has also been questioned. Possible boundary conditions include volunteer motivation: other-oriented goals are more positively associated with wellbeing than self-oriented goals. But motive fulfilment (beyond just espousing motivations) has not been investigated. In our research, we surveyed 406 current volunteers, registered with Prolific, from selected English-speaking nations, three months apart, assessing motivations to volunteer (using the Volunteer Functions Inventory), personality (Mini-IPIP6) and well-being (Satisfaction with Life, Flourishing, Social Connectedness, and Psychologically Rich Life) at T1 and motive fulfilment and wellbeing at T2. We calculated other-oriented and self-oriented match indices to summarise motive importance x motive fulfilment. Results demonstrated that other-oriented match scores (greater fulfilment of more important other-oriented motives) were more positively associated with well-being at T2 than self-oriented match scores; these results remained significant when controlling for personality and, for three out of four scales, T1 wellbeing. We conclude that fulfilling other-oriented goals in volunteer work is associated with changes in wellbeing over time, unlikely to be due simply to the type of person who volunteers. We discuss the implications.

4.2 Investigating the impact ally motivations has on well-being and collective action among disadvantaged group members.

Helena R. M. Radke (James Cook University), Maja Kutlaca (Durham University)
Contact details: helena.radke@jcu.edu.au

Advantaged group members may engage in allyship because they genuinely want to improve the status of a disadvantaged group (outgroup-focused motivations) or because this behavior benefits themselves (personal motivations). However, limited empirical research has investigated the impact these different motivations have on disadvantaged group member especially with regards to their well-being and participation in collective action. We therefore conducted four studies (N = 862) which exposed women (Studies 1 and 2) and LGBTQIA+ people (Studies 3 and 4) to an ally motivated by outgroup-focused or personal reasons. We found that participants disliked the ally, reported poorer well-being, and were less willing to engage in collective action with the ally when they were motivated by personal compared to outgroup-focused reasons. Our findings suggest that allyship motivated by personal reasons has consequences for the well-being of disadvantaged group members and progress towards social equality.

4.3 Is Virtue-Signalling Persuasive? The Impact of (Perceived) Motives on the Effectiveness of Social Media Calls to Action.

Lisette Yip, Emma Thomas, Lydia Woodyatt
(Flinders University)
Contact details: lisette.yip@flinders.edu.au

People who post on social media about humanitarian or political causes often face speculation about their motives; they may be perceived as acting for self-serving reasons such as to look or feel good. Drawing on self-determination theory, we examined how (perceived) motivation impacts social media users' persuasiveness in advocating for a cause. In three studies (N=916), participants viewed posts or interacted with a mock social media feed where a user encouraged them to sign and share a petition. We experimentally manipulated the motivation of the user, who stated that they made these posts because it was important to them (autonomous motivation), because they would feel bad/their friends would get mad if they didn't (controlled motivation), or no motive was specified (baseline). We measured opinion-based group identification and collective action intentions after viewing the posts, and compared the extent to which participants interacted with posts (likes, comments, shares, petition clicks) between conditions. Participants who viewed controlled-motivated posts perceived the user as less autonomous and consequently reported lower social identification with supporters of the cause, lower collective action intentions and interacted less with the post. Thus, users who are perceived as virtue-signalling are less influential when promoting support for a cause.

4.4 Threat, Defensiveness, and Helping: Clarifying the Role of Self-Compassion.

Leah Smolarek, Michael Wenzel, Lydia Woodyatt
(Flinders University)
Contact details: leah.smolarek@flinders.edu.au

Self-threat, defensiveness, and distress can impede prosocial action in helping opportunities. Given that self-compassion is associated with enhanced emotional regulation and a stable sense of self, we examined whether it may mitigate these barriers to helping behaviour. Studies one (N = 226) and two (N = 312) used scenario-based designs to manipulate self-threat by making salient and criticising the unearned privilege of the participant relative to the person in need of help. Across both studies we found that defensiveness and cognitive avoidance strongly predicted less helping, while distress and existential guilt were positively associated with helping. Likelihood to help was lower in the threat condition in study two, however there was no experimental effect on defensiveness or distress in either study. Interestingly, the effects of both trait and state self-compassion were inconsistent between the studies, particularly in relation to defensiveness. Therefore, a third study, currently underway, aims to clarify these findings by manipulating self-compassion via a writing exercise in addition to the self-threat scenario manipulation. It also includes a measure of threat response after exposure to the privilege salience but prior to the self-compassion induction and helping opportunity to disentangle the appraisals that are most relevant to prosocial decision making.

Standard Paper Session 5: Gender

5.1 Leadership, allyship, and social (identity) change in organisations: Mobilisation for gender equality at work.

Emina Subasic (University of Newcastle), Michelle Ryan (The Global Institute for Women's Leadership (GIWL), Australian National University)
Contact details: Emina.Subasic@newcastle.edu.au

Organisations are a microcosm of our social world. As such, they are sites not only of (ubiquitous) organisational change but also of social change. Leaders play a key role in driving change. Without their support, change initiatives—particularly those that demand a systemic rethink of established practice—are likely to fail. We examine the intersection of leadership, allyship, and social/organisational change for gender equality from a social identity perspective. We start by considering organisations as sites of social change for gender equality and offer a critique of current approaches that see women shoulder much of responsibility for leading, designing, and implementing change for gender equality, including as targets of change interventions. Then, we consider resistance to gender equality, including men's role as proponents of the status quo, but also how women and men can work together as leaders and transformative allies to address resistance. In doing so, we propose a conceptual model of (de)mobilisation for gender equality in organisations that highlights both how status quo is fortified but also the (social identity) processes that can help transform workplace systems and cultures towards gender equality and, more broadly, towards organisations where we all belong.

5.2 Centering Kinship in Gender Psychology: Institutions, Ecology, and Cultural Evolution.

Khandis Blake, Wen Chen, Said Shafa, Yoshihisa Kashima
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: khandis.blake@unimelb.edu.au

Kinship systems— comprised of interconnected rules and practices concerning descent, residence, marriage, and inheritance—are foundational yet underexplored institutions in gender psychology. They define membership and the flow of resources and roles; and by structuring proximity, shape relationships, caregiving, and social learning. Despite classic anthropological work on their variation and importance, psychology has largely overlooked kinship, obscuring how informal institutions shape individuals, relationships, and groups. Here I aim to provide a theoretical framework that centers kinship as the foundational institutional logic of gendered psychological life. To do so, I propose a theory in accordance with the logic of Cultural Evolution and Niche Construction, that integrates ecological context, psychological mechanisms, and the cultural evolution of socially transmitted information. I argue that kinship systems not only reflect ecological realities but actively reshape them—constructing feedback loops that reproduce gender and intergroup dynamics across generations. The framework offers a powerful explanation for the stability and variation of kinship systems, and their enduring impact on gender psychology and social organization. With it, I hope to shed light on how norms can be shifted, entrenched feedback loops disrupted, and more equitable gendered futures can be realized.

5.3 Effects of Experimentally Manipulating Economic Gender Inequality on Gender Differences in Romantic Attachment.

Sylvia K. Harmon-Jones (University of Wollongong), Robert C. Brooks (UNSW Sydney), Khandis R. Blake (University of Melbourne)
Contact details: sylviahj@uow.edu.au

Past research on adult romantic attachment suggests that women tend to be higher in anxious-preoccupied attachment while men tend to be higher in avoidant attachment. We hypothesised that this difference in romantic attachment may be partially due to economic gender inequality. To test this hypothesis, we experimentally manipulated economic gender inequality by assigning heterosexual, cis-gendered participants to one of five fictional societies that differed in the average earnings of men and women. Participants then reported their perceived degree of social stress within their fictional society, were asked to imagine a hypothetical romantic partner within their society, and then reported their degree of anxious and avoidant attachment towards their imagined partner. Results revealed that the effects of the gender inequality manipulation on perceived social stress, avoidant attachment, and anxious attachment were all moderated by participant gender. In addition, perceived social stress mediated the effects of gender inequality on avoidant and anxious attachment. These data suggest that economic gender inequality can have negative impacts on romantic attachment via social stress, but these effects are likely dependent on one's gender.

5.4 Modelling domestic violence from individual attitudes to experiences.

Kiara Minto (Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Queensland)

Domestic violence is occurring at alarming rates in Australia. As such, it is essential that we build our understanding of not only the drivers of domestic violence, but also the mechanisms through which these drivers are linked to use and experience of violence. Gender norms are known to be a key societal and individual driver of partner violence. Beliefs about gender and relationships are also linked to violence on the individual level. My research employs a schema theory approach to understand the recognition, response, and experience of non-physical forms of domestic violence including coercive control behaviours. Though it is more common than physical forms of violence and awareness of non-physical forms of violence is growing, my research suggests that uncertainty in identifying patterns of non-physically abusive behaviour persist. Modelling shows that higher sexism and romanticisation of jealousy are linked to reduced identification of non-physical (e.g., coercive) forms of domestic violence, that in turn predicts higher levels of victim blame and greater personal use and experience of domestic violence behaviours.

Standard Paper Session 6: Organisational

6.1 Psychological Safety and Standing: Rethinking Bystander Intervention in Workplace Harassment.

Annabelle Neall, Lucy Bird
(Flinders University)
Contact details: annabelle.neall@flinders.edu.au

Workplace sexual harassment remains pervasive, yet employees often hesitate to intervene. Classic bystander models (Latan√© & Darley, 1970) inadequately capture the organisational dynamics shaping intervention decisions. This research introduces an updated framework integrating psychological safety, psychological standing, and empowerment theory to explain when and why employees act. Across two vignette-based experiments (N ‚àà 700, Prolific), we manipulate harassment severity, organisational climate cues, and perpetrator role (peer vs. manager) to examine their effects on intervention intentions. Study 1 tests whether psychological safety strengthens the link between standing ("Is it my place?") and intentions to intervene, using a 2√ó2 within-subjects design (severity √ó climate). Study 2 extends the model by incorporating perpetrator role and empowerment as mediators, and by probing boundary conditions for managers versus non-managers. Multilevel moderated mediation analyses will assess whether climate cues and severity influence intentions indirectly via standing and empowerment, and whether safety amplifies these effects. Findings will advance theory by contextualising bystander decision-making within workplace power structures and organizational climates, offering practical insights for designing interventions that enhance employees' perceived legitimacy, capability, and safety to act.

6.2 Are You Better Than Me? Competitive Work Climates Fuel Impostorism via Upward Social Comparisons.

Michelle K. Ryan (Australian National University), Sanne Feenstra (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Felenka Phillips (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Christopher T. Begeny, (University of Exeter)
Contact details: michelle.ryan@anu.edu.au

The impostor phenomenon refers to an experience whereby individuals believe that others overestimate their abilities, prompting fears of being exposed as impostors. Research has predominantly conceptualised impostorism as a individual, trait-based phenomenon and if often used to explain workplace gender inequalities. This leads to attempts to "fix women" through confidence training and offers a limited understanding of how organisational contexts fuel impostorism. To address this gap, we examine the role of organisations' work climates in eliciting employees' impostorism. Across six studies (N = 1,288) we demonstrate that when an organisation's work climate emphasises stereotypically masculine competition, employees' impostorism increases. This effect is partly explained by employees' tendency to compare themselves to higher-performing colleagues in such competitive work climates. These findings have important implications for how we conceptualise and understand the impostor phenomenon—suggesting it is a feature not just of particular individuals (or of women), but of particular, stereotypically masculine, work climates.

6.3 Organizational responses to whistleblowers: overcoming willful ignorance

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Dick de Gilder (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Naomi Ellemers (Utrecht University), Matthew Hornsey (University of Queensland), Jolanda Jetten (University of Queensland)
Contact details: tc.de.gilder@vu.nl

Whistleblowers reporting misconduct often trigger defensive responses within organizations. Organization members have a tendency to avoid, dismiss, or deflect early signs of wrongdoing, as the exposure by the whistleblower is a threat to their social identity. Managers especially have the opportunity and responsibility to implement change. However, they sometimes deliberately and actively avoid collecting information that would force them to transform organizational practices. This phenomenon is known as 'willful ignorance', and may turn out to be very costly for the organization's reputation and financial performance. Based on theory and research we highlight three types of thresholds organization members need to overcome before responding adequately to the exposed issues. They have to accept: (1) the validity of the concern (2) their responsibility to act and (3) their ability to address it. We connect these into an integrative framework that offers a new perspective to understand willful ignorance in organizations. We propose what managers, regulators, and employees can do to deal more constructively with early signals of organizational problems.

6.4 Interventions that backfire: How to support change in organizations

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Naomi Ellemers (Utrecht University)
Contact details: n.ellemers@uu.nl

Clients, employees or regulators suffer from biased evaluations, unethical decision making, and irresponsible business practices in the workplace. Filing complaints, exposing malpractices or imposing sanctions aim to deter people in organizations from displaying morally questionable behaviors. Unfortunately, this does not align with empirical evidence documenting the impact of such interventions in light of what people need to support behavioral change in organizations. Instead, the available evidence reveals that commonly used deterrence strategies easily backfire and raise defensive responses instead of improvement efforts. This talk reviews evidence from experimental interventions and studies of regulatory impact in real life settings, combining multiple research methods and impact measures. Physiological indicators of cardiovascular reactivity, self-reports and behavioral responses suggest that standard intervention features tend to backfire because of the stress, defensive responses, and cognitive closure they raise. Comparing standard interventions with alternative approaches reveals what are key conditions that need to be met and what can be done to more effectively invite efforts toward organizational improvement. These findings indicate how to support organizations that are willing to change and offer clear guidelines that benefit the work of regulators, team leaders and compliance officers aiming to achieve behavioral change in organizations.

Standard Paper Session 7: Morality

7.1 "You can not like cake but still have a favourite": Evaluation and engagement with political parties in multi-party systems.

Francesca Aarons, Edward Clarke
(Phillips University Marburg)
Contact details: francescaaarons@gmail.com

While partisanship is a popular measure for predicting a broad range of political and social variables, its true nature is not well understood, particularly outside the U.S. in multi-party democracies. This study uses a series of open-ended survey questions (Australian sample, N = 81) to inductively examine party evaluation, whether this can lead to identification with parties and for whom. Further, we explore negative partisanship and the nature of political independence. Using qualitative content analysis, we find issues of morality, party effectiveness and value/policy congruence are among the most common factors of positive and negative party evaluation. However, negative attitudes were often directed toward a particular group (not necessarily a political party, e.g. "all left-wing parties") denoting their most threatening out-group. Most participants claimed not to identify with any political party, due to their values (which some acknowledged a political party represented) being the aspect relevant to their identity, rather than the party itself. Political independents were described in a similar way to previous U.S.-based research; morally superior and free from party constraints or biases. Overall, our research suggests that more complex measures are required to capture and understand partisanship than what currently exists in political and psychological research.

7.2 The Influences of Mindfulness Interventions on Empathy, Compassion, and Altruism.

Kaja Bergmann, Tom Denson
(School of Psychology, UNSW)
Contact details: z5605324@ad.unsw.edu.au

Empathy and compassion are important social emotions that positively influence our society. Empathy is the ability to share and understand others' emotions. Empathy encompasses a cognitive and an affective component. Cognitive empathy is the ability to identify another person's emotions for example identifying if someone else is sad or happy whilst affective empathy is the ability to experience an appropriate emotional response to others' emotions Empathy includes concern and compassion towards others' negative emotions and suffering. Compassion is the urge to reduce the suffering of another. Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) have positive effects on empathy, compassion and altruism. Mindfulness is the concept of non-judgmental awareness and attention towards one's own experiences and emotions in the present moment. So far meta-analytic work only focused either on specific groups or empathy whilst disregarding compassion. Therefore, this study creates a comprehensive meta-analysis including the general population while focusing on various empathy and compassion measures. Published studies and dissertations found on EMBASE, PubMed, ProQuest, PsychINFO were included. Studies included used an experimental design with randomized controlled trials of Mindfulness-based interventions and reported quantitative data on empathy, compassion or altruism. Results will be finalized for the conference.

Standard Paper Session 8: Emotion

8.1 Beyond Social Categories: First Impressions of Personality from Faces Influence Emotion Perception.

Belinda Craig (Bond University), Ottmar Lipp (Queensland University of Technology), Jack Ochsner (Bond University), Ursula Hess (Humboldt University of Berlin)
Contact details: bcraig@bond.edu.au

Research demonstrates that a range of social contexts influence perception of emotion from faces. Initially, research focussed on social categories (e.g. race, sex, age, etc.) finding that certain expressions (e.g., happiness) were recognised with greater ease when expressed on certain faces (e.g., women). Beyond social categories, observers also infer personality attributes such as dominance and trustworthiness from the structure of faces. The current study aimed to investigate the influence of these facial attributes on the speed and accuracy of emotion recognition. In Experiment 1 (N = 68), participants categorized happy and angry expressions on male faces high and low in dominance. In Experiments 2 (N = 147) and 3 (N = 147), participants categorized happiness and anger on faces high and low in trustworthiness. Poser gender was also manipulated. In Experiment 1, results demonstrated that anger was recognised faster than happiness on dominant, but not submissive faces. In Experiments 2 and 3, happiness was recognised faster than anger on faces high in trustworthiness, but not low in trustworthiness, but only when poser gender was not salient. Together, these results demonstrate that personality inferred from faces can influence the ease of recognising certain emotional expressions.

8.2 Income Inequality and Emotions in Daily Life.

Auguste Harrington (New York University, Abu Dhabi), Brian Don (University of Texas, Austin)
Contact details: harrington.a@nyu.edu

Income inequality is steadily growing worldwide and is associated with numerous harmful physical and psychological outcomes. Yet, despite the central role of emotions in health and well-being, little research has examined how income inequality influences daily affective experiences. The few prior studies linking inequality to affect report inconsistent findings, potentially due to methodological limitations, including reliance on recalled, binary measures and cross-sectional designs. To address this gap, we employed a 21-day daily diary design with a large sample to investigate whether income inequality at two spatial scales (U.S. city and county) predicts individual-level positive and negative emotions. Consistent with predictions, results indicate that greater income inequality is associated with day-to-day affective experiences, namely decreased positive emotions (e.g., happiness, joy) and increased negative emotions (e.g., stress, anxiety). Observed effects are consistent across levels of socioeconomic status and replicated across both spatial scales. This work advances understanding of how structural economic disparities shape everyday emotional life.

8.3 Metacognitive Monitoring Predicts and Enhances Emotion Management Ability.

Riley Leckie, Carolyn MacCann, Kit S. Double
(School of Psychology, University of Sydney)
Contact details: kit.double@sydney.edu.au

Although metacognitive monitoring is widely studied in cognitive domains, its role in emotional functioning remains underexplored. The present research investigates whether traditional measures of metacognitive monitoring, assessed through confidence judgments in cognitive tasks, are associated with and can influence emotional intelligence. In Study 1 (N = 226), participants completed a perceptual discrimination task with confidence ratings and an ability-based emotion management measure. Results showed that metacognitive sensitivity (the correspondence between confidence and accuracy) was positively related to emotion management performance, while metacognitive bias (overall confidence) was negatively related. In Study 2 (N = 200), participants were randomly assigned to complete the emotion management task either with or without confidence ratings. Participants prompted to make metacognitive judgments performed significantly better, providing causal evidence that metacognitive engagement can enhance emotion regulation. These findings suggest that metacognitive monitoring, typically studied in 'cold' cognitive contexts, may play a functional role in the regulation of emotion. They also point to new opportunities for improving emotional intelligence through scalable, cognitively grounded interventions.

8.4 Liberals are 'snowflakes', conservatives are 'anger-tainers'? Assessing the truth of political stereotypes in a large New Zealand sample.

Marc Wilson, Terise Broodryk, Paul Jose
(Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington)
Contact details: marc.wilson@vuw.ac.nz

Politics, almost everywhere in the world, has become more divided and more divisive in the past decade. Partisan legacy media and online discourse see division of voters into extremes, characterised negatively. In this presentation, we test the extent to which there is any truth in the characterisation of political liberals as 'snowflakes' (needlessly anxious, easily offended) and political conservatives as 'anger-tainers' (people who seek out media that will engender righteous anger). We do so using a large New Zealand community sample (N=4454, 57% female, Median age band 55-59) who completed an omnibus survey of personality, emotion, and political questions, including the Big Six, Highly Sensitive Person Scale, and General Emotion Regulation Measure. Greater conservatism was associated with lower self-reported emotion dysregulation and comfort talking about emotion, stronger beliefs about the controllability of emotions, and also a greater preference for avoiding positive, but seeking out negative, emotions. Greater liberalism was associated with higher scores on the Highly Sensitive Person Scale, with notable differences across subscales. Importantly, the Highly Sensitive Person Scale explained significant variance in liberalism even after consideration of Big Six personality. There may be some validity to the stereotypes, but also important nuance.

Standard Paper Session 9: Intergroup

9.1 Discrete Profiles of Positive and Negative Intergroup Contact Across Time: Negative Contact is Rare but Undermines Positive Contact

Alexander W. O'Donnell (University of Queensland), Patrick Kotzur (Durham University), Stefania Paolini (Durham University), Danielle L Blaylock (Queen's University Belfast), Joanne Hughes (Queen's University Belfast), Fiona Kate Barlow (University of Queensland)
Contact details: alexander.odonnell@uq.edu.au

Negative intergroup contact has stronger effects on attitudes than positive contact, yet positive contact is more common. This raises the question of whether positive contact can offset the detrimental impact of negative encounters. Most prior work relies on cross-sectional averages, obscuring how patterns of contact unfold within individuals. We address this using longitudinal latent class growth models to identify distinct groups of people with similar trajectories of positive and negative contact across two contexts. In Study One, Protestant (N = 1,042) and Catholic (N = 2,015) adolescents were surveyed across three years in Northern Ireland. Three classes emerged in each sample: positive-only, rising negative contact, and mixed valence. In Study Two, 2,584 German adults were surveyed biannually in 2022—23. Contact with police yielded three classes, positive-only, mixed valence, and low contact, while contact with criminals produced only two: mixed valence and low contact. Across all contexts, positive-only configurations consistently predicted the most favourable attitudes, while sustained or rising negative contact was more damaging than no contact at all. We did not observe any evidence that negative contact occurred independent of positive experiences. Positive contact, although more common, may therefore not effectively protect against the detrimental impact of negative contact.

9.2 When Perspective-Taking Reduces Prejudice - and When It Doesn't: Meta-Analytic and Cross-Sectional Evidence.

Eliana Kasichon Buonaiuto (Flinders University; The Westerman Jilya Institute), Emma F. Thomas (Flinders University), Mariette Berndsen (Flinders University), Lisette Yip (Flinders University), Paul Williamson (Flinders University)
Contact details: Eliana.Buonaiuto@thejilyainstitute.com.au

Prejudice, including racism and sexism, remains a pervasive challenge with significant social and individual costs. A widely used strategy to address prejudice is encouraging members of dominant groups to adopt the perspective of marginalised groups (i.e., "perspective-taking"). Although often effective, perspective-taking can sometimes backfire, increasing prejudice in certain contexts. We propose that its effects depend on factors such as the nature of intergroup relations (e.g., benevolent vs. hostile), how perspective-taking is applied, and the intended outcome (attitudes vs. behaviours). This talk presents findings from two projects investigating when and why perspective-taking facilitates, or exacerbates, prejudice. First, a meta-analysis (k = 147, N = 21,841; 23 countries) examined its effects on attitudes, behaviours, and solidarity. Results show these effects vary by application and outcome, and perspective-taking can even heighten prejudice toward some groups. Second, two cross-sectional studies in Australia (N = 213) and the United States (N = 886) explored factors shaping motivation to engage in perspective-taking. Findings indicate that stereotyped perceptions and associated threats influence willingness to perspective-take. Together, these results emphasise the importance of contextual considerations (e.g., the social nature of "prejudice") when designing effective interventions for reducing prejudice and fostering social connection.

9.3 What are the consequences of blurring the boundaries that frame social categories?

Ilan Dar-Nimrod (University of Sydney)
Contact details: ilan.dar-nimrod@sydney.edu.au

People tend to believe that members of social groups share an underlying metaphysical essence, or nature, that makes them who they are. This erroneous essentialist thinking often shapes how we navigate our social world, with research identifying a host of (mostly harmful) attitudinal and behavioural outcomes (e.g., prejudice, stereotyping). The presentation introduces studies designed to assess how focusing on a specific aspect of essentialist cognitions offers a promising interventions' target. The discreteness bias, an essentialism-derived tendency to see social groupings as having rigid boundaries, has been argued to intensify taxonomic perceptions of the social world, leading to an array of detrimental personal and social outcomes. In a series of studies, short interventions designed to undermine perceptions of clear, calcified boundaries between social categories in different domains (e.g., sexuality, mental illness) were used to explore whether targeting the discreteness bias directly offers a promising direction to reduce essentialist-related tendencies. Findings suggest that such interventions increase perceptions of similarity with outgroup members, as well as a host of interpersonal and intrapersonal outcomes. Implications of such findings for varied domains, including prejudice reductions, are briefly discussed.

9.4 The Flight of the Manu: Exploring Migrant Youth Experiences and Understandings of Mental Wellbeing in Aotearoa.

Niusha Aryan (School of Psychology, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington), Marc Wilson (School of Psychology, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington), Mahdis Azarmandi (School of Social and Cultural Studies, Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha - University of Canterbury)
Contact details: niusha.aryan@vuw.ac.nz

This research explores how migrant youth in Aotearoa understand and experience mental wellbeing, platforming their voices. It addresses two questions: (1) How do migrant youth conceptualise and experience wellbeing? (2) What factors promote wellbeing for them? Adopting a strengths-based lens, we conducted interviews with 16 first- and second-generation migrant and refugee youth (16—24 years). Using Reflexive Thematic Analysis, we produced The Flight of the Manu, a narrative framework describing wellbeing as the journey of a migratory bird leaving home, navigating new lands, and returning. Six themes structured this story: (1) Nesting Grounds, (2) Flying Between Grounds, (3) The Tension of Being in Flight, (4) Air Currents, Winds, and Storms, (5) Resting Grounds and Accompanying Birds, (6) The Return Home. We found evidence suggesting migrant youth view wellbeing as dynamic, interconnected, and relational, resonating with Māori models and contemporary shifts in mental health paradigms. Wellbeing was grounded in belonging, cultural reconnection, identity formation, key relationships, and self-empowerment, in the context of New Zealand's social, cultural, and political environments. This flexible framework can be applied across clinical, community, health, research, and youth work contexts, amplifying migrant youth voices that are too often excluded from research, policy, and practice.

Standard Paper Session 10: Justice and Conflict

10.1 Divide et impera: the strategic undermining of intergroup trust in populist anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Chiara Venanzetti, Mariska Kappmeier
(University of Otago)
Contact details: ch.venanzetti@gmail.com

Populist propaganda typically exploits anti-immigrant sentiment. While previous scholarship focused on the political promotion of an 'Them/I' divide, this mixed-methods study investigates a more insidious divide-et-impera strategy. Drawing on a deductive content analysis of Matteo Salvini's posts on X from a 7-month period and a cross-sectional survey of 313 Italian citizens, the study uncovers a political strategy consisting in fostering a ('Them/I' divide by eroding particular patterns of trust towards foreigners. Implementing the Intergroup Trust Model, the qualitative analysis revealed a distinct 'pattern of distrust' in Salvini's online rhetoric: foreigners were only occasionally depicted as deviant in terms of morality or culture (exploiting ingroup boundaries), but were heavily portrayed as a pervasive threat to the physical safety of isolated individuals (exploiting individual insecurity). This strategic framing ('Them/I' divide) may foster a politically profitable ,'culture of fear', hyper-fragmenting society. Consistent with these findings, an exploratory survey showed that exposure to Salvini's online content was significantly correlated with heightened anti-immigrant attitudes. Additionally, this relation appeared to be mediated by the erosion of security-based trust rather than trust components based on collective values, reinforcing the idea that populist rhetoric can strategically generate negative attitudes by fostering a sense of individual vulnerability and fear.

10.2. Islamophobia in Aotearoa New Zealand: Variable-Centred and Person-Centred Approaches.

Jamila Badis (University of Canterbury), Chris Sibley (University of Auckland), Usman Afzali (University of Otago)
Contact details: jamila.badis@canterbury.ac.nz

Understanding anti-Muslim sentiment is critically important in Aotearoa New Zealand's post-Christchurch attack context. This presentation details two interconnected studies analysing Islamophobia using the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS). The first paper establishes that Islamophobia and general coldness towards Muslims are highly correlated constructs ($r = .82$, $p < .001$). Analysing data from $n = 33,722$ participants, it demonstrates that both attitudes share nearly identical demographic predictors (e.g., being male, older, religious [non-Muslim], lower SES) and personality correlates (e.g., lower Agreeableness and Honesty-Humility). This confirms that simple warmth thermometers can act as a reliable proxy for Islamophobic attitudes. The second paper extends this work by applying Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) to Wave 11 NZAVS data ($n = 42,460$) to identify nuanced population subgroups. This approach reveals three distinct profiles: a large majority of 'Selectively Tolerant' individuals, alongside smaller groups of 'Moderately' and 'Intolerantly' Islamophobic people. This granular profiling moves beyond variable-centred analyses to identify specific subpopulations, enabling the development of tailored, rather than one-size-fits-all, intervention strategies to combat prejudice and foster social cohesion. Together, these studies provide a comprehensive picture of Islamophobia's structure and distribution in New Zealand.

10.3. Latent Radicalism Emerges from the Repeated and Incontrovertible Failure of Collective Action.

Emma Thomas (Flinders University), Ben Ye (Adelaide University), Simon Angus (Monash University), Tony J Mathew (Curtin University), Winnifred Louis (University of Queensland), Liam Walsh (Curtin University), Silas Ellery (Flinders University), Morgana Lizzio-Wilson (University of Exeter), Craig McGarty (Western Sydney University)
Contact details: Emma.Thomas@flinders.edu.au

Protest is ubiquitous in the 21st Century but social change takes times and involves interactions between individual protesters, within movements and the authorities to whom they appeal for change. These complexities of time and scale have frustrated efforts to isolate the conditions that foster an enduring movement, on the one hand, and the emergence of radicalism, on the other. In three Experiments we modelled 10,000 cycles of interactions in an empirically informed, agent-based model of collective action that provides a unified framework to address these dual challenges. Results revealed that where the movement is succeeding (Experiment 1), and protesters individually (Experiment 2) and/or collectively contest the failure of their movement (Experiment 3), a moderate-sized conventional movement persists. Conversely, repeated (Experiment 1) and incontrovertible (Experiment 2-3) failure produces a population that is disengaged but radicalized. Results highlight the potential for simulations to reveal emergent, as-yet under-theorized, phenomena.

10.4. Perceptions of Defensiveness in Others During Relationship Conflict are Vulnerable Person Perceptions Shaped by Individual Differences.

Lydia Woodyatt, Jessie Lau, Sarah Murchison, Isabelle Hermes, Michael Wenzel
(Flinders University)
Contact details: lydia.woodyatt@flinders.edu.au

Perceiving another person as defensive can be associated with attributions of the person being unwilling to accept responsibility or change following wrongdoing. In interpersonal relationships, this can lead to conflict escalation and impair reconciliation. However, in this paper, we explore the vulnerability of this person's perception, within a sample of heterosexual men and women responding to a hypothetical conflict. In an online study (N = 600) we explore how perceiver characteristics (attachment security and attitudes of ambivalent sexism) moderate the relationship between receiving an explanation for a partners poor relationship behaviour on the resulting perception of defensiveness in the partner, and test how this in turn mediates the effect on reconciliation, forgiveness, and hope for the future of the relationship. We will explore how this research contributes to a growing body of evidence that supports the notion that defensiveness is a vulnerable person perception and not a clear signal of a lack of responsibility taking or willingness to change, as it often is understood in a range of social, clinical, justice, and organisational contexts.

Standard Paper Session 11: Judgment and Decision Making

11.1 Individual Differences in Decision-Making in Clinical Research Participation.

Yiyun Shou (National University of Singapore; Australian National University), Eshele Anak (Libau1, National University of Singapore), David Paterson (National University of Singapore), Yin Mo (National University of Singapore; National University Hospital, National University Health System, Singapore; Mahidol-Oxford Research Unit, Mahidol University, Thailand; Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford)
Contact details: yiyun.shou@nus.edu.sg

Public engagement in medical and health research is essential for the validity and timely completion of research studies, which in turn is crucial for medical advances and improvements in healthcare quality. This study explored factors that influence people's decisions in clinical trial participation as well as individual differences. We conducted an experiment that examined two study design-related factors, random allocation and novel drug with 990 community adults residing in Singapore. We assessed participants' risk perceptions, benefit perceptions, and willingness to participate in a hypothetical clinical study presented in the experiment. Participants' responses showed distinct clusters, implying subgroups of participants that approached the decision scenarios differently. The results suggested that participants with either overly strong trust in or distrust of general medical research were less sensitive to the specific characteristics of the hypothetical trial scenario. Trust, distrust and knowledge of medical research appeared to influence participants' decisions via their risk and benefit perceptions. We discuss the implications of the results for the psychological mechanisms underlying the decision-making about medical research participation.

11.2 What's really behind influence tactics? Examining the individual behaviours within.

Craig Lewis (University of Melbourne), Jennifer Overbeck (Melbourne Business School), Michael Kirley (University of Melbourne)
Contact details: c.lewis1@student.unimelb.edu.au

Influence tactics continue to be researched as much as ever as we seek to better understand how people influence one another. The reduction of influencing behaviours to a small number of 'influence tactics' continues to provide a productive foundation. But what are these 'tactics' really based on? To extend our understanding of influence beyond upward versus downward, and hard versus soft, we undertook two steps. First, we considered the influencing behaviours within each influence tactic category. This increased the specificity with which we could research those behaviours before returning to the tactic-level. Then, we incorporated a recent theory from the power literature, the Social Alignment Theory of Power, which considers both power and volitional influence. For each of 97 influencing behaviours, we surveyed 601 people for what an influencer would need for the respondent to comply. We present the results for each influencing behaviour, as well as presenting these within the context of the influence tactic categories. The findings have practical implications for which influence tactics may be available in any given situation and theoretical implications for how we interpret other research at the tactic-category level.

11.3 Utopian thinking: A hopeful story.

Julian Fernando (Deakin University)
Contact details: j.fernando@deakin.edu.au

Envisioning an ideal for society — or utopian thinking — has been shown to elicit motivation for social change. As positive, possible visions of a future society, utopias share much in common with hope, which emphasizes the possibility of desired outcomes. Thus, the hopeful feelings evoked by utopian thinking may explain its motivational function. While some recent research supports this hypothesis, these effects have not been observed consistently, and at times hope shows a relationships with a more compensatory, or escapist, function of utopian thinking. These are findings are consistent with the ambiguous role of hope in collective action and social change more generally. One possible explanation for this ambiguity is that the hope elicited by utopian thinking may need to be balanced by more negative or critical feelings in order to drive motivation for social change. Here, I present the results of correlational and experimental studies examining the role of hope in utopian motivation and the potential influence of factors such as mixed emotions and system justification in explaining the aforementioned ambiguities. In so doing, I also hope to shed some light on the nature of the compensatory function of utopian thinking and its relationship with social change motivation.

11.4 The Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire (1997): A Retrospective Assessment.

Leon Mann AO. (Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne), Mark Radford (Queensland Eye Institute, University of Queensland)
Contact details: leonm@unimelb.edu.au

The Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire (1997): A Retrospective Assessment We review the Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire and evaluate its contribution to the field of decision making knowledge, research and practise. The Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire (Mann, Burnett, Radford & Ford (1977) is an instrument for measuring self-reported approaches to making consequential decisions. It is based on Irving Janis and Leon Mann's Conflict theory of decision making (1977) which identifies vigilance, hypervigilance (impulsiveness), defensive avoidance (procrastination, buck-passing, and rationalisation) as major coping patterns in decision making. Several different questionnaires measure aspects of decision making. (1) Decision making competence. Adult Decision Making Competence Scale (Bruine deBruine, et al 2007). (2) Decision making style. General Decision-Making Style (Scott & Bruce 1995). (3) Decision coping patterns. Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire (Mann et al 1997). The Melbourne Decision Making Questionnaire (MDMQ) was developed from a cross-national study of 2051 University students in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. We found the MDMQ's four scales comprising 22 items measuring self-reported vigilance, hypervigilance, buck passing and procrastination had sound factorial validity. Another scale measuring self-esteem as a decision maker also had sound validity. The 6 item procrastination scale is often used in procrastination research (Mann 2016). The MDMQ has 761 citations according to a 2024 Google count. It has been translated into more than 15 languages including Bengali, Brazilian, Flemish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish (Filipe, et al 2020) and validated in many studies. Our research found cross cultural differences in decision making coping patterns (Mann et al, 1998). The MDMQ has been used to study decision making coping patterns in a range of settings including academic, career, and employment decisions, health habits and medical choices, smoking, overweight and drug addiction, behavioural compliance, psychiatric disorder and depression, personality and cognitive correlates of decision making, counselling and behavioural interventions, helpfulness and cooperation, email usage and habits. We conclude with suggestions for further MDMQ research, e.g., artificial intelligence and decision making, changes in decision making with aging, decision making in extreme situations, susceptibility to

conspiracy theories and decision making, neuro correlates of decision making in difficult decisions.

Standard Paper Session 12: Theory and ideas

12.1 From Community Engagement to Lived Experience Leadership: A Systematic Review with Narrative Synthesis on HIV Health Service Provision and among Men who have sex with Men.

Aron Harold G. Pamoso, Elizabeth Waldron, I Nyoman Sutarsa, Mary Lou Rasmussen, Brett Scholz
(Australian National University)
Contact details: aron.pamoso@anu.edu.au

Despite the critical role of communities in the HIV response and achieving ending AIDS by 2030, men who have sex with men (MSM) have often been excluded from authentic involvement in HIV health service provision and the cascade, resulting in tokenism and poor access to health. A growing momentum of research and praxis is moving towards lived experience leadership, where health systems acknowledge the value of experiential expertise of people with lived experiences from multiple marginalized populations and how they inform, design, and lead health systems and policy. Embedding an intersectional approach in lived experience leadership ensures authentic representation, redresses power disparities and addresses how marginalization shapes health outcomes. To date, no review has explored how MSM perceive the use of their lived experience in shaping HIV health services and how intersectionality is operationalized within this context. Following the PRISMA guidelines and consultations with librarians, we conducted the search from two databases: Medline and Scopus. Out of 11,198 articles screened, 40 studies met our inclusion criteria and were fully extracted. We included qualitative and mixed-methods studies that met our eligibility criteria and analyzed and synthesized them using reflexive thematic analysis. Our synthesis produced five meta-themes with corresponding sub-themes. Each meta-theme illustrates how these men embraced lived experience leadership, negotiated power and agency, advocated for the humanization of HIV services, constructed their identity as leaders, and utilized intersectionality to navigate the complexities of HIV health services. Our findings highlighted how lived experience leadership in HIV health services and cascade is strongly tied to the complexity and nuances of the nexuses of culture, gender, sexuality, and construction of community among these men. Our review highlighted the ongoing underrepresentation of these men in leadership roles and policymaking in HIV health services and cascade and tackles a critical point of how HIV health systems and infrastructures are equipped to embed the lived experience expertise of these men in informing, designing, and implementing HIV health services and cascade.

12.2 The "I" and "me" in authenticity: an integrative framework for self-authenticity.

Lara King, Michael Wenzel
(Flinders University)
Contact details: lara.king@flinders.edu.au

Authenticity has a long-standing history as a valued ideal; from the maxim "know thyself" in 500BCE to being Merriam-Webster's "word of the year" for 2023. Yet despite its cultural prominence, authenticity has remained conceptually and theoretically ambiguous. The literature is fragmented, consisting of a seemingly growing number of diverging operationalisations, and empirical findings that poorly align with both theory and intuition. We present an integrative theoretical framework founded on a single point of consensus: authenticity, when applied to people, implicates the self. Our theoretical model repositions authenticity within the self literature, offering three key insights: (1) conceptual inconsistencies

can be resolved through established findings within the self literature, and specifically, in treating authenticity as a strictly subjective construct; (2) meaningful distinctions emerge across self-concept ("me") and present-state ("I") dimensions; and (3) authenticity should be understood differently as a cognitive-affective experience versus a subjective perception (rather than across state-trait dimensions necessarily, which has been the prior approach). This analysis underscores the value of distilling, rather than expanding, psychological constructs. By clarifying authenticity's conceptual foundations, we aim to support a more unified and cumulative empirical agenda.

12.3 Parts, Sides, and Versions of Me: An Integrative Review of Multiplicity Concepts in Personality and Social Psychology.

Reb Rebele (Melbourne Business School)
Contact details: reb@rwrebele.com

Everyday language reveals an intuitive understanding of our multiplicity: "A part of me wants to stay, but another part thinks I should go"; "My creative side emerges when..."; "The younger version of me would never have done this." These common expressions suggest people routinely experience themselves as comprising multiple components, or perhaps even multiple selves. This paper presents an integrative review examining how scholars have approached this aspect of our psychology. Across our field, there are diverse literatures that implicitly or explicitly address mental multiplicity. The co-occurrence and interaction of multiple mental phenomena—think of concurrent goals, ambivalent attitudes and relationships, dynamic personality states, and competing role demands—have been both timeless and recently trendy topics in personality and social psychology. Yet these research streams rarely speak to each other, and we lack a unifying terminology for potentially overlapping phenomena. This review explores whether organizing these concepts around everyday metaphors of "parts," "sides," and "versions" might provide a useful heuristic for both scholarly integration and research translation. It examines how different research traditions conceptualize and operationalize different aspects of our multiplicity, with an aim to foster dialogue across subdisciplines and identify promising directions for understanding mental multiplicity.

12.4 Approaching system change empirically in psychology.

Winnifred Louis (School of Psychology, University of Queensland)
Contact details: w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au

In this talk, I will summarise a new book on THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SYSTEM CHANGE in five minutes, pithily outlining our approach to the psychological reality of being in multiple ingroups, oriented to multiple outgroups, with diverse goals and behaviours. Persons and groups are understood to be changing over time, located in place and social spaces, and cycling identities and norms as they are moving and migrating in spatial and temporal patterns. In the remaining five minutes, I then present and seek feedback on current and new directions of empirical research as well as possibilities for better targeting social change interventions. I hope to invite students and scholars into a conversation about how we might collectively concretely study system change and the psychology of being people in groups who are alive within the vast social-environmental systems of human societies in their built and natural environments existing in historical time.

Standard Paper Session 13: Development

13.1 How Cybernetic Control Theory (CCT) Helps Resolve The Human Reproductive Success Paradox.

Chris J Jackson (UNSW)
Contact details: c.jackson@unsw.edu.au

The human reproductive success paradox concerns why humans have a strong propensity to engage in cardinal behaviors unrelated to reproductive success (such as voluntary childlessness) when they might be expected to be much more focused on behavior that promotes their genetic heritage. We recognize that there are many existing arguments including natural selection (e.g., kin selection and group selection), cultural selection and mismatch which seek to explain how these behaviors remain in the population, yet there lacks a straightforward explanation of why they occur and mechanistically how they the occur. We use Cybernetic Control Theory (CCT) and personal goal theory to argue that reproductive success is best conceptualized as a cardinal goal of individualized perceived anticipated cognitions of desired states framed by prior learnings and context. Other goals, even those unrelated to reproductive success, may also be similarly defined, and can therefore occupy the top-most position in the goal hierarchy of CCT. We conclude that humans have the capacity to enact any goal-oriented behavior, including those detrimental to achieving reproductive success, as a result of CCT.

13.2. The efficacy of imitation training in infants and children: A systematic turned scoping review.

Ee Liz Puah (School of Psychology, University of Queensland), Jonathan Redshaw (School of Psychology, University of Queensland), Virginia Slaughter (Graduate School, University of Queensland)
Contact details: e.puah@uq.edu.au

Following comprehensive failures to replicate neonatal imitation effects, the developmental origins of human social learning are back in question. One leading perspective is Associative Sequence Learning (ASL), which purports that infants develop imitation skills through simultaneous activations of sensory and motor inputs. However, despite the fundamental role that imitation plays in social learning and development, it remains unknown whether imitation can be trained through the principles of ASL. The original aim of this study was to systematically review imitation training effects in infants, but it became clear that the previous research was too varied and limited to meet this aim. Instead, a qualitative approach synthesised insights from 21 studies published from 1965 to 2023. A scientific merit appraisal revealed that study quality improved over time ($r = .836$, $p < .001$), with findings broadly suggesting that imitation training can affect imitation behaviour. Existing evidence is nonetheless limited in study design and demographics, with most studies employing single-participant designs (57%) and clinical populations (57%) for whom training served therapeutic purposes. This review highlights the scarcity of research on imitation training in typically developing infants and illuminates the potential for future research to systematically document the emergence of social learning.

13.3. In the Name of Love and Protection: Developing a Scale of Overparenting in the Digital Age.

Sentha Govin-Vel (Queensland University of Technology)

Contact details: sentha.govinvel@hdr.qut.edu.au

Overparenting, often characterised by excessive parental involvement, has become increasingly visible in the digital age through behaviours on social media. This study developed and tested a scale to assess the extent to which parents of 18—20-year-olds engage in overparenting behaviours in a social media context, as reported by both parents (n = 356) and emerging adults (n = 580). A 30-item scale was generated from four focus group discussions held separately with parents and emerging adults, ensuring both generations informed item development. Participants were recruited via convenience and snowball sampling through Facebook and LinkedIn. Exploratory Factor Analysis revealed three underlying dimensions of overparenting behaviour in digital contexts: (1) sharenting and involvement, (2) protection and reputation, and (3) monitoring and comparison. 19 items were retained for the final scale. These findings provide insight into how digital platforms magnify intergenerational dynamics, shaping perceptions of care, control, and autonomy. This study contributes to broader discussions in social and personality psychology by situating parenting practices within contemporary digital culture and emphasising their implications for wellbeing and relationships across generations.

Standard Paper Session 14: Economic

14.1 What should you do? A guide to ‘resource dilemmas’ and (avoiding) confusion about cooperation therein.

Elle Pattenden, Simon Cropper
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: elle.pattenden@student.unimelb.edu.au

Popular experimental paradigms since the 1950s, so-called economic games have long been praised for allowing cooperative behaviour to be easily identified, precisely measured, compared across studies, and, therefore, better understood. With their simple and "highly standardised nature", the Prisoner's Dilemma and linear Public Goods game are deserving of this descriptor. Games that model common-pool resources provision and/or appropriation, not so much. Like their real-world counterparts, ‘resource dilemmas' are complex and variable — especially in comparison to the aforementioned ‘social dilemmas' more commonly used in social psychology today. Motivated by personal mistakes and some recent misinterpretations/misrepresentations (for e.g., in JPSP), this talk will explore the challenges people face when making as well as analysing decisions in resource dilemmas. Using the CoDa cooperation databank (Spadaro et al., 2022) as a reference, I will outline the: (1) diversity of games within the resource dilemma category, (2) different ways people cooperate in them, and (3) difficulties this creates for cross-study comparisons of a metric that can, but does not necessarily, reflect ‘rates of cooperation'. Along the way, I will show that complexity can be a perk, not a pitfall, for studying cooperation — as long as it is acknowledged and accounted for appropriately.

14.2 A Lego wall between us: How socio-structural conditions shape disadvantaged groups' willingness to resist inequality.

Jolanda Jetten, Kelly Kirkland, Shengrui Peng
(University of Queensland)
Contact details: j.jetten@psy.uq.edu.au

Economic inequality undermines the social and political vitality of society, yet the conditions under which disadvantaged groups resist remain poorly understood. This study examined how socio-structural features of inequality shape resistance behaviours. Participants took part in groups of 4—12 and were randomly assigned to one of two fictional towns within the same country: one with abundant resources (high-resource group) and one with scarce resources (low-resource group). Inequality was operationalized through access to valuable LEGO blocks used to complete a shared food-production task. On top of this disparity, we manipulated the socio-structural conditions whereby society either had initiated attempts to overcome inequality (through progressive tax) or not (flat tax condition whereby both groups paid the same tax amount). The primary behavioural outcome was initiation of intergroup exchange, as well as self-report measures of fairness and legitimacy. Results showed that, across all participants, flat taxation was perceived as less fair and weakened trust in the system's legitimacy compared to progressive taxation. Critically, low-resource participants in the flat tax condition engaged in greater resistance, stealing more LEGO pieces from the high resources group than under progressive taxation. These findings demonstrate how socio-structural conditions of inequality shape disadvantaged groups' willingness to resist.

14.3 The experimental effects of socioeconomic status and inequality on internal attributions and social attitudes.

Roger Yan, Damian Scarf, Ted Ruffman
(University of Otago)
Contact details: roger.yan@postgrad.otago.ac.nz

Three studies examined the conditions under which wealth influences internal attributions and social attitudes. In Study 1, participants played a rigged Monopoly game where a "wealthy" player had double the resources of a "poor" player. Study 2 placed participants in an artificial society with varying levels of inequality and assigned them high-, medium-, or low-income status. Study 3 replicated this but determined income status through a bogus stock-selection task, making wealth appear earned. Before and after, participants completed measures of social dominance orientation (SDO). They were also asked about the factors leading to their in-game success using internal (e.g., skill) or external (e.g., luck) attributions. We hypothesised that high-income participants would (1) make more internal attributions for their success and (2) show a corresponding increase in SDO. Studies 1 and 2 failed to support these hypotheses. In Study 3, wealthy participants did make more internal attributions, but only when perceived inequality was low and their wealth was determined by a stock-selection task. No condition across the studies showed an increase in SDO. These results demonstrate that social class is deeply nuanced and with respect to experimental manipulations at least, wealth's relationship between attributions and SDO is difficult to replicate.

14.4 “I’m the problem, it’s me” – Testing Taytay’s hypothesis

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Hunter Ludlam (University of Waikato)
Contact details: hunterludlam8@gmail.com

Neoliberalism led to a dramatic shift in the ideology of western countries through the 90s. We shifted our thinking from labour being a system issue, to it being an individual issue. Competition within the labour force then became a core component of our economy (work harder than the next person and get better pay). Initial research suggests that our neoliberal ideology both drives perfectionism, and drives loneliness, both manifesting mental ill-health. Taytay’s quote, “I’m the problem, it’s me” captures how we focus on poor outcomes being a product of the individual, not a product of environment. Replicating and extending a study by Becker et al. (2022), we sought to test whether perfectionism, loneliness, or both resulted in poor mental health. We adopted an experimental design and presented participants with either a fictional neoliberal or egalitarian society. Participants then responded to a survey from the mindset of being in that society. Interestingly, we found that both loneliness and perfectionism produced two distinct pathways from neoliberal society to a state of mental illbeing. Moderators and potential buffers of the effect of neoliberalism will be discussed. However, as Taytay would remind us, “Band-aids don’t fix bullet holes.”

Standard Paper Session 15: Big Data/Text Analysis

15.1 Resolving Interpretational Issues in the RI-CLPM: Discussing the Need for Phantom Variables in Longitudinal Research.

Danny Osborne (University of Auckland), Kieren Lilly (University of Queensland), Taciano Milfont (University of Waikato), Zachary Stickley (Yhat Enterprises), Todd Little (Texas Tech University)
Contact details: d.osborne@auckland.ac.nz

Although random intercept cross-lagged panel models (RI-CLPMs) are quickly becoming the analysis of choice for longitudinal researchers seeking to explain within-person change, standard estimation procedures suffer a common flaw: Variables are invariably on different metrics. This creates (at least) two challenges. First, standardized effects in stationary models vary from wave-to-wave despite constraining parameters to equality. Second, interpretations of competing cross-lagged effects are difficult and can sometimes be misleading. The current talk presents an alternative scaling approach that uses phantom variables to place variables on a common metric. I then present a re-analysis of an RI-CLPM using 13 years of longitudinal panel data (N = 72,910) to show that this rescaling approach can help resolve these two major challenges. I conclude by discussing extensions to this approach and by providing practical suggestions for estimating both cross-sectional and longitudinal data.

15.2 Representations of ADHD and autism have converged on social media: A computational analysis of trends in Reddit data.

Jemima Kang, Nick Haslam, Mike Conway
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: jemimak@student.unimelb.edu.au

Background: Interest in the co-occurrence and overlap of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism has risen since the DSM-5 allowed them to be diagnosed together in 2013. Public attention to the two conditions has also risen due to neurodiversity advocacy on social media, although the impact of this heightened visibility remains underexplored. Objective: We aim to examine how the relationship between ADHD and autism has evolved in public discourse over the past decade and explore reasons for their growing alignment. Methods: Using Reddit data from 2012 to 2022, we investigated the frequency of ADHD mentions in r/autism and autism mentions in r/ADHD. We analyzed user overlap between the two subreddits to track cross-community discussions. Semantic similarities between ADHD and autism were also evaluated. Finally, thematic changes in subreddit discussions were explored using a BERT-based topic modeling method. Results: ADHD and autism have become progressively more associated based on increasing co-mentions, overlapping users, and semantic similarity. In addition, topic modeling indicated growing thematic convergence in ADHD- and autism-related discussions, which reflected an increasing shared emphasis on the experiences of adults with ADHD and autism, challenges in accessing diagnostic assessments, and interpersonal difficulties. Conclusions: Our study clarifies how discourse around these two conditions has converged during a period when they have both attracted rising public attention.

15.3 Video gaming, mental health and subjective well-being in adults: A meta-analysis and review.

Oliver Draper-Griffiths, Chris Sibley
(University of Auckland)

Contact details: odra963@aucklanduni.ac.nz

The association between the time adults spend playing video games and their (a) mental health and (b) subjective well-being remains unclear, with substantial variability in study design, participant recruitment, and specific outcomes being considered. We reviewed and meta-analysed the associations between adults' self-reported hours playing video games with self-reported indicators of (a) mental health (screening measures of depression, anxiety, psychological distress) and (b) well-being (self-esteem, satisfaction with life, social support). Hours spent playing video games was weakly positively correlated with indicators of poor mental health (r=.117), averaged across k=25 studies with n=83,841 participants; and weakly negatively correlated with indicators of subjective well-being (r=-.102, k=24, n=85,022). The relationship between time spent gaming and well-being was stronger among US-samples, and ad hoc samples (often recruited from social media and focused on gamers specifically). We found no evidence of publication bias (11 published studies, 17 unpublished). Our review also highlights key gaps in the field, including the need for longitudinal research assessing these effects over time, developmental studies assessing aging and cohort effects across generations, and a call for greater consistency in the measurement of mental health across the diverse research areas studying gaming.

15.4 Understanding Personality Through Self-Descriptions: Thematic and Computational Insights.

Jeromy, Anglim, Sharon, Horwood
(Deakin University)
Contact details: jeromy.anglim@deakin.edu.au

Self-descriptions help to reveal the mental models people hold about their own personality. Unlike typical forced-choice questionnaires, which constrain responses, open-ended essays allow individuals to describe their personality in their own words. In this study, participants (n = 512; 82% female; M age = 26.9, SD = 9.5) wrote 100—200 word essays describing their standing on each of the Big Five traits, alongside self- and informant-reports on the Big Five Aspects Scale (BFAS). We analyse these essays to address three questions: (1) what themes and linguistic features characterise personality self-descriptions, (2) what are the implications of individual differences in these features for personality assessment and general understanding of personality structure, and (3) how do different analytic approaches, including traditional (e.g., LIWC, sentiment analysis), machine learning, and LLMs (local and proprietary), differ in the insights they provide. Findings highlight the distinctive ways that open-ended self-descriptions capture personality expression, complement traditional measurement, and illustrate the potential of new computational methods to enhance personality assessment.

Standard Paper Session 16: Politics & Policy

16.1 The Influence of Political Congruence on Corrections of Scientific Misinformation.

Natasha van Antwerpen, Toby Prike
(University of Adelaide)
Contact details: natasha.vanantwerpen@adelaide.edu.au

Misinformation corrections are generally effective, but correction efficacy varies depending on different factors including political congruence and content. In a pre-registered experiment, we tested whether framing (fact-check, scientific disagreement), source traits (integrity, expertise, benevolence), and political valence or congruence of scientific claims (neutral, political) impacted beliefs and trust. We examined belief in the original misinformation claim, belief in the correction, and trust in the original claimant and the refuter, along with broader trust in science. Correction source traits, particularly expertise and integrity, increased belief in the correction and trust in its source, and reduced belief and trust for the misinformation and misinformation source. Participants were sensitive to correction framing, with lower misinformation belief and greater correction belief when corrections were labelled as a 'fact-check' rather than a scientific disagreement. Political valence reduced belief updating and lowered trust in the refuter when misinformation was politically congruent. Participants were also less responsive to corrections for political than neutral claims. Importantly, although political congruence impacted the efficacy of corrections, corrections were still effective for political claims. To enhance efficacy, we recommend labelling corrections as 'fact-checks' where appropriate, and to highlight the expertise and integrity of the correction source.

16.2 Can inclusive framing improve communication about vaccines and climate change?

Samuel Robson, Manisara Drew, Kate Faasse, Kristy Martire
(UNSW)
Contact details: sam.robson@unsw.edu.au

Convincing people of the safety of vaccines and reality of climate change is crucial but potentially impeded by ineffective communication. Those who endorse official narratives sometimes stigmatise and "other "sceptics, fostering hostile exchanges. This is not conducive to persuasion. Building on the Common Ingroup Identity Model, however, recategorising those who disagree with us into superordinate group identities may improve communication. Here we assess whether changing the communicator's view of their audience influences how they craft persuasive messages. In Phase 1, we recruit believers and non-believers on vaccines and climate change to write persuasive messages. They are randomly assigned with instructions framing their audience either as similar, dissimilar, or unspecified. In Phase 2, another group of believers and non-believers (N > 1,000) then evaluate these messages. Data are currently pending. However, we hypothesise that readers will rate messages as more persuasive when the writer shares their belief, and that inclusive instructions will be more persuasive than neutral or exclusive instructions. We also expect inclusive instructions to reduce the gap between ingroup-source and outgroup-source messages. These results would suggest that framing the audience as "like us" can make counter-attitudinal messages more persuasive.

16.3 Using modern policy impact tools to evaluate the uptake of our research on policy and practice.

Tegan Cruwys (Australian National University), S. Alexander Haslam (University of Queensland), Niklas K. Steffens (University of Queensland), Catherine Haslam (University of Queensland), Stephen D. Reicher (University of St Andrews)
Contact details: tegan.cruwys@anu.edu.au

In this talk I will describe how use this novel method for evaluating research impact, which can be utilised across disciplines. I will also describe our findings from this method that social identity and health research has had an outsized impact on policy and provide examples of the theory and evidence that underpin this impact. This research evaluated the uptake of research on social identity and health among policymakers and practitioners. It also sought to identify the research outputs that have had the greatest impact and to understand the nature of their impact. Policy impact tools in Elsevier's SciVal institutional subscription were utilised in combination with Overton. We extracted all articles within the social identity approach to health topic 1996—2023 as defined by SciVal, along with all citing policy documents as captured by Overton. Summary statistics and trends for this topic along with seven comparable topics were also extracted. We found that more than 1 in 5 articles on the social identity approach to health have been cited in policy documents, a proportion greater than that reported in other areas of applied psychology; for example, theory of planned behaviour, self-determination theory, and ego-depletion. Policy documents that advocated for community and social interventions to improve population mental health were particularly likely to draw on this research.

Standard Paper Session 17: Relationships

17.1 Memory for Repeated IPV Events: Effects of Interview Timing and Event Accumulation.

Rachel Watkins, Stefanie Sharman, Meaghan Danby
(Deakin University)
Contact details: rlwatkins@deakin.edu.au

Understanding how adults remember repeated experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) is critical for both psychological theory and applied contexts. This study examined how intervening interviews and exposure to additional IPV scenarios affect recognition accuracy and internal intrusion errors. Participants viewed multiple simulated IPV events and completed memory tests under four conditions: with or without an intervening interview, and with or without additional video exposure. Two-way ANOVAs showed that intervening interviews significantly improved recognition accuracy and reduced intrusion errors. In contrast, additional IPV exposure impaired accuracy and increased errors. No interaction effects were found, suggesting that retrieval practice and trauma accumulation influence memory independently. These findings support the backward-testing effect in emotionally charged, repeated-event contexts and highlight the cognitive burden of accumulating trauma. This study contributes to understanding how people process and remember complex social experiences over time. The findings reflect schema activation and source monitoring errors, where repeated exposure to similar events increases confusion and distortion. They also show how retrieval practice can help organise socially meaningful information, reducing interference and improving recall. By mimicking the cyclical nature of IPV, this study informs how survivor testimony is interpreted and supports trauma-informed approaches in legal settings.

17.2 Making Meaning Together: Investigating the Impact of Dyadic Meaning Making on Relationship Quality in Couples Experiencing Mental Illness.

Madeline Heygers (Flinders University), Lydia Woodyatt (Flinders University), Blake Quinney (University of Adelaide)
Contact details: maddy.heygers@outlook.com

Research has found that romantic relationships where one partner experiences mental illness have lowered relationship quality. However, several qualitative studies have found that some couples report maintenance of relationship quality or even improvements in their relationship quality. Given the importance of relationship quality for the health of both partner's, examining how couples can maintain their relationship quality while coping with mental illness is significant. We propose that how couples make meaning of the mental illness may affect whether their relationship quality is negatively impacted. In Study 1 (N = 34), we conducted a qualitative survey to explore this meaning making process and inform the development of a scale to measure dyadic meaning making. In Study 2 (N = 395), we conducted a cross-sectional quantitative study to validate the scale and test our initial hypothesis that dyadic meaning making would moderate the relationship between mental illness severity and relationship quality. We found that as couples engaged more in meaning making, the negative relationship between mental illness severity and relationship quality was reduced. These results indicate that dyadic meaning making may be a protective process for couples to maintain their relationship quality when one partner is experiencing mental illness.

17.3 Community Cohesion: a double edged sword in the climate adaptation space?

Michael Dare (University of Queensland), Jolanda Jetten (University of Queensland), Hema Preya Selvanathan (University of Queensland), Charlie Crimston (Australian National University)
Contact details: michael.dare@student.uq.edu.au

Sea levels are accelerating at an alarming rate and early adaptation is essential if communities are to mitigate the potential damage to infrastructure, biodiversity, and their economies. Although there is an intuitive case that more cohesive communities will be better equipped to face and adapt to these challenges, the reality may be more complex. Cohesion has been linked to group identification, greater psychological resources, and improved collective coordination and cooperation, especially in response to disasters. However, it has also been argued that excessive group cohesion can result in a tendency to ignore or underestimate threats. In this conceptualisation, greater cohesion could lead to reduced collective angst and a sense of invulnerability that undermines the perceived need for action. This paper presents correlational and experimental evidence from 3 studies showing that while cohesion has an overall positive effect, there is also a suppression relationship at play whereby greater cohesion reduces angst at the prospect of sea level rises and thereby undermines need for action.

17.4 Investigative Interviewing with CaLD Sexual Assault Victim-Survivors.

Ruichun Zhang (School of Psychology, University of Sydney), Celine van Golde (School of Psychology, University of Sydney), Hayley Cullen (School of Psychological Sciences, Macquarie University), Sarah Walker (School of Education , Durham University)
Contact details: dora.zhang@sydney.edu.au

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) victim-survivors of sexual assault experience heightened vulnerability, particularly when investigative interviews overlook cultural differences. This study examines potential disparities in memory report between CaLD and non-CaLD interviewees and explores whether interpreters can mitigate these differences. Bilingual Mandarin speakers and native English speakers experienced a virtual reality implied sexual assault scenario, followed by a cognitive interview after a one-week delay. Mandarin speakers were randomly assigned to be interviewed in Mandarin, English, or in English with an interpreter, while English speakers were interviewed in English using the same cognitive interview protocol. Stress levels were measured pre- and post-scenario and then pre- and post-interview, along with participants' perceptions of the interview, interviewer, and interpreter (when applicable). Interpreter stress levels were also assessed (when applicable). Preliminary findings will be discussed to shed light on the nuances that demand attention for a more culturally sensitive approach in investigative interview practices.

Standard Paper Session 18: Environment

18.1 Planting the seeds of cultural restoration through connection with place: Indigenous Future Leaders programme as a case study.

Christopher Lockhart (University of Canterbury), Sanna Malinen (University of Canterbury), Steph Blair (Rangatahi Tumeke Trust), Stevie-Rae (Blair, Rangatahi Tumeke Trust), Phil Lyver (Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research)
Contact details: christopher.lockhart@canterbury.ac.nz

Connection with nature is a fundamental human need. Place is central to the relationship between nature connectedness and wellbeing. This is relevant to many Indigenous communities, for whom place-based practices are critical expressions of one's sense of self. We examine the impact of a Future Leaders programme for Indigenous rangatahi (youth) on their identity and wellbeing. Using the Rangatahi Tumeke (RT) programme in Aotearoa New Zealand as a case study, we interviewed 54 rangatahi and their whānau (family). Findings showed that before attending RT many rangatahi struggled with a sense of disconnection from their cultural identity . Following the camp, rangatahi described RT as giving them a stronger sense of connection to their cultural identity and strengthening their Taha Māori perspectives through place and people. RT was identified by both rangatahi and their whānau as critical to empowering rangatahi with a sense of belonging, safety, and self-esteem. Interviews revealed that RT supports a sense of connection to te o Taha Māori (the Māori concepts) amongst the community through a focus on ako (learning), discovery of their whakapapa (heritage), and by providing an immersive experience that allows both rangatahi and whānau to fully engage with and experience their Māori identity through place-based practices. This emphasises how uplifting Indigenous peoples and supporting environmental wellbeing can begin by supporting cultural regeneration through place-based practices.

18.2 Telling stories to communicate about climate change: Perspectives from Indonesian practitioners.

Kelly Fielding, Hanna Chrisyandra
(University of Queensland)
Contact details: k.fielding@uq.edu.au

There is an increasing focus in the climate change communication field on the use of stories as a communication tool because stories are thought to help audiences emotionally engage with the topic and make scientific information more relatable. Much of the research has empirically investigated the effectiveness of climate narratives, but there is little research exploring how climate storytelling is used in practice. In this research, we addressed this gap through interviewing practitioners from Indonesian environmental non-government organisations to understand their experiences and perspectives of using storytelling to communicate about climate change. Thematic analysis of their interviews pointed to key themes relating to (1) the storytelling process, (2) the need for stories to emotionally engage, (3) the use of positive stories, and (4) the need for stories to have personal relevance. All of the practitioners used storytelling in their communication work, adopting structured storytelling processes that aligned with narrative rationality principles. They also discussed using stories to emotionally engage their audiences, prioritising hope-based narratives over fear-based approaches and they emphasised developing stories that were relevant and resonated for their audience. The findings are discussed in relation to their alignment with narrative persuasion principles.

18.3 Caffeinated conservation: Testing behavioural spillover from wildlife-friendly coffee in a zoo café.

Nita Lauren (RMIT University), Emily McLeod (Zoos Victoria), Sarah Kneebone (Monash University), John Abiad (RMIT University), Yoshihisa Kashima (University of Melbourne), Liam Smith (Monash University), Angela Dean (University of Queensland), Georgia Garrard (Zoos Victoria), Matthew Selinske (RMIT University), Sarah Bekessy (RMIT University)
Contact details: nita.lauren@rmit.edu.au

The biodiversity crisis demands effective strategies to shift human behaviour. Behavioural spillover (where one behaviour influences engagement in others) offers potential for amplifying conservation interventions. This study tested whether purchasing a cup of wildlife-friendly coffee could catalyse engagement in additional conservation behaviours. In a café setting within a zoo, we conducted a between-subjects field intervention with 163 customers, using visual and verbal prompts across three conditions: Direct (made explicit links to other behaviours), Indirect (prompted reflection about potential behaviours), and Control (neutral messaging with no behavioural links). Both Direct and Indirect approaches increased likelihood of engaging in similar conservation behaviours relative to the Control. The Direct approach led to higher likelihood of purchasing a bag of wildlife-friendly coffee and participating in citizen science, with coffee bag sales also highest during this condition. Moderation analyses showed the Indirect approach was more effective among non-members or those with lower conservation identity, while the Direct approach supported broader engagement across groups. These findings demonstrate that accessible behaviours may be leveraged to promote broader engagement with biodiversity behaviours, with tailored messaging offering further benefits for behaviour change.

18.4 Social identity theory can help untangle controversial wildlife management issues.

Lily van Eeden (School of Science, RMIT University)
Contact details: lily.van.eeden@rmit.edu.au

Environmental management often involves controversial actions including culling wildlife and introduced species. Attitudes of the public and special interest groups may be increasingly important in shaping whether and how such management is practiced. In this presentation, I will summarise findings from four applications of social identity theory to explore the attitudes (n = 3) and behaviours (n = 1) of different audiences towards wildlife management and conservation-related issues. These include exploring Australian public support for lethal and nonlethal wild animal management, comparison with United States residents, exploration of links between political support and wildlife issues, and a comparison of factors predicting Australian farmers' behaviours in managing risk of predation on their livestock by dingoes. The studies generally find social identity to be one of the strongest predictors (if not the strongest) of the dependent variable in all studies. This highlights the value of understanding identity groups and the social and political nature of wildlife management issues to improve environmental governance and manage conflict.

Standard Paper Session 19: Identity

19.1 Social Representations of Organ Donation: A co-creation enquiry with young adults associated with Sydney's Indian Community.

Juliet Howe (Southern Cross University)
Contact details: j.howe.25@student.scu.edu.au

In Australia, the organ donation registration rate for young adults aged 18-24 is 5-10%, compared to 36% of the adult population, with no data available on young people from culturally diverse communities. This disparity led to a scoping review of the existing international literature on the attitudes and behaviour towards organ donation of young adults from culturally diverse communities. Themes relating to gender, age, and religion were found, with only one Australian study involving young Arabic-speaking adults identified (Ralph et al., 2016). As part of an ongoing co-creation study, an advisory panel (AP) of young adults from Sydney's Indian community participated in focus group discussions that explored thoughts, ideas, and imagery associated with organ donation and registration in Australia. Attitudes, beliefs, and behaviour were conceptualised within a dialogical approach to social representations theory. Analysis of these discussions will now underpin the co-creation of communication strategies designed to increase awareness of and engagement with the organ donation registration system in Australia. Findings from this phase of the research will be presented.

19.2 A new look at capturing social identity compatibility in transition: identity work in the student transition to university.

Lillian Smyth (Australian National University), Joanne J.S. Chong (Australian National University), Kasia Banas (University of Edinburgh)
Contact details: Lillian.Smyth@anu.edu.au

We explore measuring the work required to integrate a new social identity into an existing self-concept during life transitions. We propose a method to quantify the degree to which attributes associated with the new identity are not already associated with existing identities. The central hypothesis is that a higher degree of novel content would mean more work to integrate the identity and a more cognitively taxing transition. The measure avoids subjective self-reports of compatibility (which can be biased by level of identification) and also accounts for the subjective importance of the aspects in the existing self-concept and weighs the content accordingly. Two studies test this proposed measure in real-word samples to measure self perception and subjective wellbeing of students who have made the transition from high school to university. Findings indicate that the new measure of work acts as a "cost" in a cost-benefit model of identity transition, such that a greater degree of novel content to be integrated into the self was negatively associated with known protective factors (identification with the new identity, social resources), positively associated with costs (baseline self-complexity) and was a significant predictor over and above these, in a model predicting wellbeing outcomes.

19.3 Social identity processes in online support groups for Long Covid: Implications for group members' health and wellbeing.

Freya Mills (University of Sussex), John Drury (University of Sussex), Charles Symons (UK Health Security Agency), Dale Weston (UK Health Security Agency), Richard Amlôt, (UK Health Security Agency), Holly Carter (UK Health Security Agency)

Contact details: fm410@sussex.ac.uk

Background: 65 million people globally have Long Covid and many turn to online support groups for help. Building upon the ‘social cure', this research aimed to i) identify evidence of shared social identity amongst support group members; ii) explore identity leadership in group moderators; and iii) understand whether effects of shared social identity on health are moderated by negative posting norms. Methods: We conducted two interview studies and a three-wave longitudinal survey. Findings: Shared social identities developed through shared Long Covid experiences, illness management values, and pre-existing identities. Moderators displayed all four dimensions of identity leadership, fostering shared social identity through group names, descriptions, and norms. Shared social identity is likely to enhance group members' wellbeing, particularly at low levels of negative posting norms. However, shared social identity is unlikely to affect physical and mental health. Discussion: This is the first application of the social identity approach to health and leadership to online Long Covid support groups. We recommend support group members explore different groups to find the most suitable group in terms of low levels of negative content, enablement of social identities, and shared approaches to illness management.

19.4 Voices of Malaysia: Accent perception in a multiracial country.

Liz Jones (University of Melbourne), Komalpreet Kaur (Monash University), Vanlal Thanzami (Monash University)
Contact details: liz.jones@unimelb.edu.au

Research on accent perception has primarily been conducted in WEIRD countries, where there is typically a clearly identifiable standard accent. Our study, in multiracial and multilingual Malaysia, examined how Malaysians perceived Malay, Chinese, Indian and British speakers of English. Using the matched-guise technique, N=108 participants rated the status and solidarity of the speakers, as well as providing open-ended descriptions of the speaker. Results revealed that the British accent was rated highest on status, followed by the Chinese accent, and then Malay and Indian accents. For solidarity, British and Malay accents were rated highest, followed by Indian and then the Chinese accent. We tested three potential moderators (listener ethnicity, number of languages spoken, and attitudes toward diversity), finding no significant effects for the moderators. We will also present a content analysis of the open-ended descriptions and tests of their accuracy in identify the accents. In our discussion we consider how our findings align or not with Accent Prestige Theory and Social Identity Theory, demonstrating the importance of accent perception research in culturally diverse and post-colonial countries.

Standard Paper Session 20: Health & Wellbeing

20.1 The Psychosocial Hazards of Military Discharge and Their Impact on Veteran Identity and Wellbeing.

Cameron Grant (College of Education Psychology and Social Work, Flinders University; Military and Emergency Services Health Association), Lydia Woodyatt (College of Education Psychology and Social Work, Flinders University), Henry Bowen (College of Education Psychology and Social Work, Flinders University; Military and Emergency Services Health Association), Jonathan Lane (School of Medicine, University of Tasmania)
Contact details: cam.grant@flinders.edu.au

Military identity loss is typically conceptualised and investigated as an individual-level consequence of discharge. However, social identity perspectives suggest that identity is constructed, sustained, and potentially dismantled through social and institutional processes. Three studies draw on social identity perspectives to investigate how social, relational and institutional dynamics shape military identity loss as an unfolding process across discharge, rather than a singular event anchored to the point of separation. Study 1 (N = 179) found that a negative discharge experience was associated with a subjective loss of self, and poorer mental health and well-being. Study 2 (N = 379) found that discharge-related institutional betrayal mediated these relationships, suggesting that organisational and relational factors may exacerbate transition challenges. Study 3 (N = 313) qualitatively examined veterans' discharge experiences, finding that perceptions of discharge-related institutional betrayal often lead to social-moral identity threat, signalling rejection, low-worth and potentially enduring losses of identity and belonging. Together, these studies challenge traditional understandings of military transition by suggesting that identity loss is not an inevitable consequence of discharge but a cumulative outcome of institutional processes, transition-related identity disruptions as structurally produced phenomena requiring systemic, not solely individual, intervention, positioning military identity loss itself as a psychosocial hazard.

20.2 Trait Extremes and Life Impairment: Competing Unipolar and Bipolar Models of Personality Psychopathology.

Conal Monaghan, Peter Hayes
(Australian National University)
Contact details: conal.monaghan@anu.edu.au

The theoretical foundation of contemporary dimensional personality disorder models assumes that psychopathology risk increases unidirectionally along trait continua—which assumes only one pole of each trait domain poses clinical concern. This assumption, now embedded in diagnostic frameworks worldwide, contradicts broader personality theory suggesting that extreme standings on any trait dimension can prove maladaptive depending on environmental demands. We conducted a systematic investigation of this fundamental assumption across two independent samples (N = 800 and N = 250) representing diverse levels of personality functioning. Using multiple indicators of wellbeing and dysfunction, and two distinct bipolar trait assessment approaches (Five Factor Form, Sliderbar inventory), we employed novel analytical methods (Simonsohn's two-line regression) to identify optimal breakpoints and test competing models of risk architecture. Results suggested predominantly unipolar risk patterns, contradicting bipolar theoretical predictions. Notable exceptions for interpersonal (submissiveness/dominance) and social (introversion/extraversion) domains where both extremes predicted dysfunction. These findings suggest that although most personality trait

domains follow unipolar risk patterns consistent with current diagnostic models, certain interpersonally-relevant domains may require bipolar conceptualisation and clinical consideration in diagnostic frameworks.

20.3 The Amplifying Effect of Self-Quantification on Self-Perception: The Role of Goal Attainment.

Zifei Li (Faculty of Psychology, Beijing Normal University; Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne), Fang Wang (Faculty of Psychology, Beijing Normal University), Brock Bastian (Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne)
Contact details: zli4160@student.unimelb.edu.au

Self-quantification—the use of digital technologies to monitor health and behavior—has become increasingly prevalent, yet its psychological consequences remain ambiguous. While prior research highlights both benefits and drawbacks, less is known about the mechanisms driving these mixed outcomes. Across three studies, we examined how self-quantification influences self-perception, with particular attention to self-empowerment, self-objectification, and self-optimization pressure, and whether these effects depend on goal achievement. Study 1 (N = 300) identified associations between self-quantification and these self-perceptual outcomes. Study 2 (N = 1136) employed an experimental design to test how self-quantification interacts with goal success or failure, while Study 3 (N = 230) used a 14-day diary to capture daily fluctuations in goal pursuit and self-perception. Results consistently showed that self-quantification acts as a psychological amplifier: when individuals achieved their goals, self-quantification strengthened feelings of empowerment, but when goals were unmet, it heightened self-objectification and pressure to optimize. Together, these findings suggest that self-quantification magnifies the emotional consequences of goal pursuit, making success more rewarding but failure more detrimental, and highlight the critical role of goal outcomes in determining whether self-tracking supports or undermines well-being.

20.4 Viewing the Self in Context: Promoting Resilience after Negative Events.

Jingyi Ou, Brock Bastian, Peter Koval
(Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne)
Contact details: jingyiou1119@gmail.com

Negative events are inevitable, yet individuals differ in their responses. For some, a single setback becomes a lens through which the self is defined, leading to globalized negative self-judgments and heightened vulnerability to psychological difficulties. This project develops the concept of self-in-context — a representation of the self as embedded in contexts rather than decontextualized. We propose that self-in-context influences responses to negative events by fostering balanced self-attributions, preventing catastrophizing and overidentification, supporting flexible regulation, and increasing psychological distance from distressing experiences. Two studies examined the role of self-in-context in reactions to failure. In Study 1, participants recalling failures online were less likely to make self-blame attributions when instructed to describe the self in contextualized rather than decontextualized terms. In Study 2, participants induced to experience failure in the lab reported greater positive affect, lower negative affect, and higher self-compassion when viewing the self in context, compared to who did not. Findings suggest that self-in-context promotes resilience and adaptive coping. Theoretically, this work highlights the context-dependent nature of self, integrating insights from

social-cognitive, clinical, and cultural psychology. Practically, it offers a foundation for low-cost, scalable, self-administered interventions to support mental health.

Poster Session

1. Dream Sharing as an Emotional Coping Process: Evidence from Japanese and Chinese University Students.

Junyi Shi (Graduate School of Sociology, Toyo University)
Contact details: w554295486@gmail.com

Hierarchical multiple regression analyses, with dream sharing as the dependent variable and controlling for gender, dream recall frequency, and nightmare recall frequency, revealed that emotion-focused coping was the strongest predictor of dream sharing behavior. Friends were the most common recipients of dream sharing, followed by mothers and classmates, while sharing with other recipients (e.g., psychotherapists) was relatively rare. Dream sharing was generally perceived positively by recipients, and positive dreams were most frequently shared. This implies that under conditions of stress, dream sharing may serve as part of a coping process aimed at utilizing social resources to resolve real-life problems. Thus, among Japanese and Chinese university students, dream sharing appears to serve emotional coping functions.

2. Among All Social Determinants, Connection Matters Most for Australian Youth Suicide Prevention.

Alysia Robertson, Emma Knight, Veronica Sheanoda, Paul Campbell, Jason Proulx, Tegan Cruwys
(Australian National University)
Contact details: alysia.robertson@anu.edu.au

This study aimed to provide the first empirical validation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS) 2025-2035 social determinants framework. Using nationally representative Australian Bureau of Statistics data, we examined how NSPS-specified social determinants influenced 12-month suicidal ideation and self-harm among Australian youth aged 16-24. Population-weighted logistic regression analyses tested seven key predictors: social connectedness, household income, financial security issues, government payment receipt, homelessness experience, study/work engagement, and urban residence. Unexpectedly, social connectedness was the only consistently significant predictor, reducing the odds of suicidal ideation by 52% and self-harm by 55% per unit increase. These findings reveal that, of those outlined in the NSPS, social connectedness is the most impactful protective factor against youth suicide and self-harm, highlighting the critical need for interventions that prioritise building and maintaining social connections.

3. Existential Threat Anxiety: Caught through Emotional Contagion.

Felicity Coluccio, Benjamin Walker
(Monash University)
Contact details: colucciof4@gmail.com

Susceptibility to catch emotions has been associated with shared threats. Although, it is unknown how anxiety relative to existential threats predicts this tendency. This study investigated how Existential Threat Anxiety (ETA) predicts Emotional Contagion Susceptibility (ECS), to address growing concerns regarding effects of existential threats on public mental health. A correlational survey of 238 US adults assessed predictions that ETA and its facets would positively predict Fear ECS and negatively predict Happiness ECS. Total ETA and Climate

Change Anxiety were positive predictors of Fear ECS. Unexpectedly, Asteroid Strike Anxiety negatively predicted Fear ECS, and the former were also positive predictors of Happiness ECS. Findings suggested that threat-specific anxiety predicts emotion-specific ECS. Overall, higher ETA is associated with a greater tendency to "catch" emotions; a potential adaptive function of anxiety and primitive emotional contagion. Findings have important implications for public health efforts, informing effective group resilience programs, particularly relevant to climate-change-affected populations.

4. They kept the ball, I kept my cool: No evidence ostracism strengthens Moral Attachment.

Laura Weatherhead, Brock Bastian
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: lweatherhead@student.unimelb.edu.au

Social exclusion threatens fundamental needs for belonging, control, self-esteem, and meaningful existence. Past research suggests exclusion can elicit harsher moral judgements and compensatory belief reinforcement, characterised by greater endorsement of extreme or rigid positions. Similarly, individuals may attempt to regain stability and meaning by strengthening Moral Attachment, or holding moral beliefs as central to identity as marked by certainty, emotional defensiveness and character judgement. This honours thesis investigates whether exclusion intensifies Moral Attachment, and explores whether this relationship is mediated by need-threat. Undergraduate participants (N ,âà 120) played Cyberball under inclusion or exclusion conditions before completing measures of need-threat, Moral Attachment, and moral judgements. Preliminary analyses suggest that, contrary to predictions, exclusion did not significantly strengthen Moral Attachment, nor moral judgements. These null findings question previous research, and suggest that the effects of social threat on Moral Attachment may be more complex or context-dependent than anticipated.

5. Personality profiles of Hexad personality.

Man-Chung Fung, David Silvera-Tawil, Christiaan R. Dippenaar, Mahnoosh Kholghi, Marlien Varnfield
(CSIRO)
Contact details: fun024@csiro.au

User types determine how people respond to behavioural intervention, necessitating the use of user type models when tailoring behavioural interventions. This study focuses on how Hexad user types are linked to personality factors relevant to response to interventions. 2,099 Australian adults (80% female) completed an online survey that measures Hexad user types and various personality factors. We used regressions to investigate how Hexad user types are predicted by personality traits related to gameful design, including the Big Five, sensation seeking, and flow proneness. Results showed that the Hexad user types reveals distinct personality profiles. From correlations and regression coefficients, we noted that four of the Hexad user types (Philanthropist, Socialiser, Free Spirit, and Achiever) seem to be linked to "adaptive traits", which is supported by a post-hoc exploratory factor analysis. Overall, we expand on theoretical understanding of Hexad user types by providing further information about their potential factor structures.

6. Exploring Psychosocial Pathways from Parental Rejection to Migraine Outcomes.

Sheharyar Ahmad, Paolo Senese

(University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvtiell')
Contact details: sheharyar.ahmad@unicampania.it

Episodic migraine (EM) is shaped by a range of psychosocial influences, yet the developmental origins of migraine-related quality of life remain underexplored. This study, informed by Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection Theory (IPARTheory), investigated whether remembered parental rejection during childhood is linked to migraine-specific quality of life (MSQOL) through its effects on psychological adjustment and social preferences during migraine episodes. A sample of 300 adults completed questionnaires assessing perceived parental acceptance-rejection, adults' psychological adjustment, social preferences during migraine attacks, migraine features, and MSQOL. Results indicated that lower parental acceptance was associated with poorer psychological adjustment, which in turn predicted a greater preference for solitude during migraine, which subsequently predicted lower MSQOL. Psychological adjustment, migraine features, and social preferences also directly predicted MSQOL. These findings highlight the importance of early relational experiences and current emotional functioning in shaping how individuals experience and manage the broader life impact of episodic migraine.

7. How Kinship Systems Shape Gender Differences in Psychological Outcomes: A Cross-Cultural Investigation.

Wen Chen (School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne)
Contact details: w.chen80@student.unimelb.edu.au

While non-human animals can recognise and act preferentially towards kin, kinship systems have developed into elaborate cultural constructions in humans, showing extensive cross-cultural variations. Kinship systems fundamentally structure human social life by determining descent, marriage, co-residence, inheritance, and the giving and receiving of care. Crucially, these systems predominantly organise roles and responsibilities along gender lines, creating divergent social and economic landscapes for men and women. This doctoral project investigates how kinship systems may predict cross-cultural variations in gendered psychological outcomes. Guided by cultural evolutionary theory, we hypothesise that the norms and practices of kinship shape gender differences in psychological outcomes that are relevant to wellbeing and interpersonal relationships, such as belonging, shame, and rejection sensitivity. This project seeks to illuminate how a macro-level social structure shape gender psychological differences, complementing individual-level explanations.

8. Intergroup Contact Volition and Urban Mobility in Multicultural Sydney.

Aaron Lauterbach (Western Sydney University), Stefania Paolini (Durham University, UK), Kevin Dunn (Western Sydney University), Jonny Huck (University of Manchester, UK), Cymbeline Buhler King (Western Sydney University), John Dixon (Open University, UK)
Contact details: a.lauterbach@westernsydney.edu.au

Despite living in an era of unprecedented diversity in urban settings, individuals often choose to avoid members of perceived outgroups, perpetuating subtle yet persistent forms of informal segregation. This paradox challenges the assumption that contact opportunities will be taken up naturally, underscoring the pivotal role of individual and collective choices in sustaining these divides. It is within this dynamic that the concept of intergroup contact volition emerges, highlighting the multilayered and multilevel determinants of whether individuals decide to seek or avoid engagement with outgroups. Building on this growing body of research, this research

investigates how individuals' psychological profiles interact with both the structural and psychological characteristics of their environments to shape real-world spatial behaviours in the multicultural setting of Greater Sydney. Through an interdisciplinary approach, I address gaps in conventional intergroup contact research by merging a large-scale GPS-tracking component with a comprehensive psychological questionnaire. This mixed-methods design provides both objective measures of spatial movement and in-depth attitudinal data, enabling analysis of how individual-level predictors converge with navigation patterns in spaces perceived as belonging to the ethnic ingroup, outgroup(s), or both. By applying latent class analysis, the study identifies typologies of spatial—psychological engagement, offering a multidimensional account of how and why people navigate diversity - or choose to avoid it.

9. Hidden Preferences and Collective Inaction: Pluralistic Ignorance in Pro-Environmental Behavior: Evidence from the Ganga River, India.

Anjali Yadav (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur)
Contact details: anjali2015du@gmail.com

Pluralistic ignorance occurs when individuals misjudge the attitudes or behaviors of peers, often sustaining weaker norms of action than truly exist. We examine this phenomenon in the context of water pollution in the Ganges River, focusing on residents of Kanpur Nagar and Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. A cross-sectional survey of 306 adults living within 5 km of the river measured respondents' own environmental attitudes and behaviors alongside their perceptions of local norms. Sampling across three proximity bands (0—1 km, 1.1—3 km, 3.1—5 km) allowed us to assess heterogeneity by exposure. Results reveal systematic misperceptions: respondents consistently underestimated peers' concern about pollution and willingness to act. Many individuals who expressed strong pro-environmental preferences believed others were less supportive, a pattern confirmed by Wilcoxon signed-rank tests indicating significant within-person gaps between own views and perceived peer norms. While concern and readiness to act were higher among those living closer to the river, misperceptions persisted across all distance bands, suggesting that direct exposure alone does not correct pluralistic ignorance. These findings highlight how misperceived norms may suppress expression of concern and collective action in high-stakes environmental contexts. Policy implications include the potential of norm-correction strategies, such as feedback on community attitudes, public commitments, and communication forums, to reveal existing support and reduce perceived social costs of participation. By documenting pluralistic ignorance in the Ganga pollution setting, this study underscores the importance of addressing social misperceptions to foster environmental governance and collective engagement.

10. The effect of effort on the motivation to change behaviour.

Cindy Harmon-Jones (Western Sydney University)
Contact details: c.harmon-jones@westernsydney.edu.au

Past research on effort justification has shown that individuals value rewards more when they work harder to achieve them. According to cognitive dissonance theory, increasing the value of a reward is a way to reduce the psychological discomfort one feels over having exerted unpleasant effort. In the current studies, we tested the effect of effort on the motivation to change a behaviour. Participants identified a behaviour that they wanted to change, such as reducing consumption of junk food, reducing procrastination, or stopping smoking. They were then randomly assigned to an effortful or easy version of a mental contrasting task, during which they reflected on the benefits they would receive from changing their behaviour and the

challenges they would face as they did this. They then rated their motivation to change. Results suggested that those who perceived having exerted more effort reported greater motivation to change. We also examined modifiers of this effect. These results suggest that greater perceived effort might improve individual's ability to change their behaviours.

11. Challenging Ethical Decision making: A Comparison of Experimental and Real-Life Distress.

Ishi Jamdagni (University of Adelaide), Deanne M. Green (University of Adelaide), Nadine S.J. Stirling (Flinders University), Melanie K.T. Takarangi (Flinders University)
Contact details: deanne.green@adelaide.edu.au

Psychological research often requires exposure to unpleasant stimuli, yet ethics committees frequently raise concerns about potential participant distress. This study compared reactions to a highly unpleasant laboratory task, the cold-pressor task (CPT), with everyday negative events. We conducted 2 experiments. In Experiment 1, participants compared imagined negative life events with the CPT. In Experiment 2, half of the participants compared life events with the CPT and half compared life events with a cognitive task. After completing the experiments, all participants completed a post-experiment reactions questionnaire (Stirling et al., 2023), assessing negative and positive emotions, perceived benefits, mental costs, and ethical concerns. Across both experiments, participants rated the CPT as significantly less distressing than everyday negative events. In Experiment 2, participants also rated the control task as less distressing than negative events. Ratings of the CPT and control task did not differ. For the post-experiment measures, participants reported no mental costs, nor negative emotions. Participants rated some perceived benefits of participation, only a slight decline in positive emotions and participants disagreed with items assessing ethical concerns. These findings indicate that unpleasant lab tasks are less distressing than common negative life events, challenging ethics committees concerns of undue distress to participants.

12. Understanding social dysfunction in schizotypy: anxious attachment and rejection sensitivity.

Dr Emma Walter (School of Psychology, Western Sydney University)
Contact details: e.walter@westernsydney.edu.au

Humans have an inherent need to belong. Effective social functioning—the ability to form and maintain social bonds—is critical for mental health, with declines in relationships often predating clinical diagnoses. Rejection sensitivity contributes to poor social functioning through maladaptive social-cognitive patterns, behavioural avoidance, and interpersonal instability, undermining one's capacity to maintain supportive relationships. This study aimed to investigate how key interpersonal vulnerabilities relate to rejection sensitivity. Participants were adults residing in Australia and the UK (N=327; Mage=31.21; 69% female). Validated self-report measures assessed interpersonal vulnerabilities including schizotypy, anxious attachment, and rejection sensitivity. Mediation analysis was performed using bootstrapped confidence intervals. Schizotypy showed moderate positive correlation with rejection sensitivity ($r(124)=.37$, $p<.001$) and strong positive correlation with attachment anxiety ($r(124)=.67$, $p<.001$). Anxious attachment fully mediated the relationship between schizotypy and rejection sensitivity, indicating schizotypal traits increased rejection sensitivity predominantly through attachment anxiety (indirect effect: Œ≤=0.28, 95% CI: 0.17, 0.41). Our findings suggest anxious attachment represents a crucial psychological mechanism connecting schizotypal traits to interpersonal difficulties. Targeting attachment insecurity may enhance clinical interventions aimed at

improving social functioning in schizotypal populations. Cultural factors influencing attachment and social sensitivity warrant future exploration. Additionally, replication in more diverse or underrepresented populations is recommended.

13. Personality as a Signal: Linking Personality Expression, Beliefs, and Behaviours.

Helena Luo, Juan Pablo Franco, Nitin Yadav, Luke D. Smillie
(University of Melbourne)
Contact details: helena.luo1@unimelb.edu.au

Personality is central to cooperation, yet most research treats personality as a static predictor of behaviour rather than a dynamic signal that individuals can strategically modify. This gap leaves open whether people choose to use personality as a signal, and if so, how such signals influence partners' beliefs and behaviour. We integrate personality psychology with economic signalling theory to model prosocial personality expression as a strategic signal linking expression, perception, and behaviour. In an exploratory Study 1, experts (n = 6) and the general population (n = 315) converged in ranking the relevance of prosocial signals in the Trust Game. These results informed a preregistered laboratory Study 2 (n = 250), in which participants first completed personality questionnaires and then played incentive-compatible Dictator and Trust Games. Before each game, Role B participants could bid to alter the personality score shown to their partner. Participants bid more to signal their prosocial scores compared to non-prosocial scores in both the Trust and Dictator Game, and prosocial signals increased partners' generosity beliefs and led to higher giving. These effects resulted in greater efficiency in the Trust Game and more equal outcomes in the Dictator Game.

14. Individual Differences in Positive Emotion Dysregulation Influences Alcohol and Other Drug Use.

Kayla Herbert, Amanda George
(University of Canberra)
Contact details: Kayla.Herbert@canberra.edu.au

Difficulties regulating emotions are associated with behavioural outcomes, such as alcohol and other drug use. Moreover, alcohol and other drug use can influence affective states, representing a reinforcing relationship. Prior research supports the association of negative emotion dysregulation with alcohol and other drug use. Yet, the ability to regulate positive emotions may also influence alcohol and other drug use, but this is far less investigated. A systematic review and meta-analysis were conducted to examine the relationship of positive emotion regulation abilities with the use of alcohol and other drugs. Of the 8,078 articles identified for screening, 12 were included in the meta-analysis. Results identified a small positive relationship of positive emotion regulation abilities with alcohol consumption, and a medium positive relationship with alcohol misuse and drug misuse. Findings are pertinent as positive emotions are often overlooked in clinical settings. Understanding an individual's positive emotion regulation abilities may be important when considering maladaptive approach-motivated behaviour.

15. Sexism in young Australian adults.

Linda Peach (School of Psychology, Charles Sturt University), Ella Rust (School of Health and Medical Sciences, Edith Cowan University) Lisa Allan (School of Psychology, Charles Sturt University)
Contact details: lpeach@csu.edu.au

Decades of research have effectively challenged gender essentialism and patriarchal dominance, but recent signs suggest that young adults are re-engaging with these ideas, particularly the notion that men should dominate in heterosexual relationships. We used ambivalent sexism data collected from two cohorts of young Australian adults aged 17 to 24 years (N = 874) to investigate changes in strength of sexist attitudes between 2009 and 2024. Sexist attitudes were generally lower in the latter cohort for both women and men but change on two subtypes of benevolent sexism was less clear. Young women's support for protective paternalism (that women need men's protection) did not change between cohorts, and their support for complementary gender differentiation (gender essentialism) significantly increased in the latter cohort. Men's scores on protective paternalism decreased between cohorts but their scores on complementary gender differentiation did not change. Current 'lost boys' narratives are used to interpret these results.

16. The Role of Material and Form in the Perception of God.

Navdeep Kaur (University of Otago), Jamin Halberstadt (University of Otago), Joseph Watts (University of Canterbury)
Contact details: kauna685@student.otago.ac.nz

For thousands of years, people have used religious objects such as statues and temples to connect with something greater than themselves. While it is often assumed that art reflects belief, we propose that in some cases this relationship may be reversed, with beliefs influenced by how religious concepts are represented in art, which is itself shaped by the materials and techniques available at the time. For example, in our first study, we demonstrate that the material used to create Buddha statues predicts how people perceive the Buddha's personality and powers, mediated by the forms that different materials allow. In our second study, we extend this approach to preindustrial religious spaces, using data from the Database of Religious History to examine how material-driven dynamics influenced religious expression. Together, these studies suggest that religious expression is not only a personal or communal experience but also deeply embedded in material culture. By examining how materiality contributes to religious cognition, this work offers a broader understanding of the interaction between environment, culture, and belief systems.

17. Between Ideals: Appearance Concerns Among Bicultural Chinese-Australian Women.

Rebecca T. Pinkus (University of Sydney), Cen Kylie Ma (University of Sydney), Lenny R. Vartanian (UNSW Sydney)
Contact details: rebecca.pinkus@sydney.edu.au

Appearance concerns among young women are shaped by sociocultural ideals, and bicultural individuals may experience unique pressures when navigating competing standards. This study extends the Tripartite Influence Model (TIM) to examine how aspects of bicultural identity (i.e., cultural identification, cultural identity conflict, self-concept clarity) relate to social comparisons and internalised ideals for body size/shape (thin, fit) and skin tone (pale, tanned) to predict appearance dissatisfaction. Using cross-sectional and Ecological Momentary Assessment designs, 127 undergraduate bicultural Chinese-Australian women completed

baseline measures, and then completed brief questionnaires four times per day for seven days. At the trait level, stronger internalisation of the thin ideal predicted greater body dissatisfaction, and stronger internalisation of the pale skin ideal predicted greater skin-tone dissatisfaction. At the state level, upward body-focused comparisons predicted greater body dissatisfaction and worse affect, and upward skin-tone comparisons predicted worse affect. Cultural identity conflict and low self-concept clarity predicted negative outcomes across body-focused and skin-tone comparison domains. Consistent with past research, upward comparisons were the most frequently reported body-focused comparison. Notably, lateral comparisons were the most frequently reported skin-tone comparisons. These findings highlight the complexities of appearance concerns among bicultural women and support extending the TIM framework to include bicultural identity constructs.

18. Friendrepreneurs: Social Signaling in Entrepreneurial Team Pitches.

Sophia Humps, Julian Fellner, Nina M. Junker
(University of Oslo)
Contact details: sophihum@uio.no

Social relationships between entrepreneurial team (ET) members can create relational capital that has been associated with venture success. While research has examined the effect of prior social ties, such as friendship, on ET formation and performance, the effect of communicating these social ties toward stakeholders outside the team (e.g., potential investors) has largely been neglected. We combine signaling theory with the social identity approach to examine how the explicit communication of social ties (e.g., "we are friends") and the use of collective-referencing (e.g., "we", "our team") in ET descriptions independently and in conjunction influence investors' perceptions and evaluation of ETs. Using a convenience sample from Germany (nStudy 1 = 100) and two experienced crowdfunding samples from the UK (nStudy 2 = 148; nStudy 3 = 144), we conducted 2x2 within-subjects vignette experiments to assess the impact of collective-referencing and friendship-referencing on team perceptions (perceived warmth, competence, goal orientation, and team fit) and evaluations (team attractiveness and evaluation score). Our findings indicate that while both friendship and high collective referencing enhance perceptions of warmth, they do not impact competence perceptions. Moreover, both referencing methods increase team attractiveness and evaluations. We discuss the results and their theoretical and practical implications for ETs.

19. Muslim Diversity Study: Inception and Co-Design.

Tuba Azeem (University of Otago)
Contact details: tuba.azeem@otago.ac.nz

Abstract: Background: The Muslim Diversity Study (MDS) emerged in response to the under-representation of Muslims in the NZAVS and the need for a more inclusive and culturally grounded research approach. Aim: This presentation outlines the consultative and co-design processes that shaped the MDS, reflecting the values of partnership, equity, and community agency. Method: We document the early development stages of MDS, including nationwide community consultations, co-designing sensitive questionnaire items, research assistant (RA) training, and culturally competent data management strategies. Results: These processes led to the development of a research infrastructure that honours Muslim epistemologies while integrating with the national longitudinal framework. Conclusion: The MDS offers a replicable model for community-led research that aligns with Kotahitanga, demonstrating how equitable research practice can support collective wellbeing.

20. Big Girls and Their Dolls — A Psychological Analysis of the Reborn Doll Phenomenon.

Weronika Kubińska (Jagiellonian University; University of Melbourne)
Contact details: werkub14@gmail.com

Reborn dolls are hyper-realistic replicas of infants that have recently gained popularity, especially among middle-aged women in online communities. This study aims to analyze the psychological aspects of the reborn doll phenomenon and the motivations of its users. Secondary data, consisting of posts and comments from online groups, was examined through factor analysis to identify key motivations and activities. The findings suggest that users are often motivated by the need to nurture, cope with trauma, or reconcile feelings of loss, such as children growing up. Another important dimension concerns the types of activities users engage in with the dolls and the number of dolls they own. Sharing these interests within closed groups may be linked to societal stigmatization. Negative outside reactions are often explained by the Uncanny Valley effect, defensive attitudes rooted in strong family values, or simple lack of understanding. As current research on this topic is limited, popularizing and expanding it may provide deeper insights, particularly into the therapeutic potential of reborn-related practices.

21. Click, Stretch, Connect: Social Identity Leadership in YouTube Yoga.

Katherine Harris (School of Psychology, University of Sussex)
Contact details: kh574@sussex.ac.uk

Social identity leadership (SIL) refers to leaders creating, representing, advancing and embedding social identity within their groups. Understanding of leaders' roles in exercise settings—particularly online—is relatively limited. Consequently, and building on promising findings in other domains, we used a SIL approach to conduct a qualitative study of nine YouTube yoga channels (including videos, user comments, newsletters, and interviews with participants). Using abductive thematic analysis we identified three themes whereby leaders (1) crafted inclusive norms and values that made followers feel comfortable and competent to engage in yoga, (2) demonstrated authenticity, modelling average and aspirational qualities, and (3) redistributed leadership and promoted co- constructed social identities by decentering themselves and empowering followers to lead. This study extends SIL research by identifying concrete ways leaders can strengthen identification in asynchronous online group contexts.

22. Dream Sharing as Emotional Coping: Cross-Cultural Evidence from Japan and China.

Eiko Matsuda (Department of Social Psychology Faculty of Sociology, Toyo University)
Contact details: eikom@toyo.jp

This study examined the psychological functions of dream sharing behavior and its associations with stress coping strategies among 857 Japanese and 865 Chinese university students. Data analyses revealed that, in both countries, dream sharing frequency was associated with being female, higher dream recall frequency, higher nightmare recall frequency, as well as greater use of problem-focused, emotion-focused, and avoidant coping strategies. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses, with dream sharing as the dependent variable and gender, dream recall frequency, and nightmare recall frequency controlled, showed that emotion-focused coping was the strongest predictor in both cultural groups. Regarding recipients, friends were the most common targets of dream sharing, followed by mothers and siblings in both Japan and China. Dream sharing was generally perceived positively by recipients in both countries. However,

cultural differences emerged in dream content: Japanese participants tended to share more positive dreams, whereas Chinese participants more frequently shared neutral dreams.

SASP ECR Award Session

The Dark Duo: Exploring Change and Tokenism in Colonial Ideologies.

Zoe Bertenshaw (University of Auckland)
Contact details: zoe.bertenshaw@auckland.ac.nz

Inequality between coloniser and Indigenous groups is justified by two colonial ideologies—historical negation, which denies the contemporary responsibility to address colonial injustices, and symbolic exclusion, which marginalises Indigenous culture from the mainstream national identity (the 'Dark Duo'). Yet, little is known about the within-person effects of the Dark Duo, tokenism within them, and their development over time. Across five studies, I address these gaps using a large longitudinal sample of New Zealand adults. Study 1 demonstrates the longitudinal effects of the Dark Duo on support for bicultural policies. Study 2 reveals mean-level declines in the Dark Duo among Pākehā from 2009 to 2018, and Study 3 reveals ideological polarisation between those high and low in the Dark Duo from 2009 to 2024. Study 4 identifies a tokenistic profile of Dark Duo endorsement (among others), and Study 5 demonstrates the influence of patriotism among settler colonisers on tokenism within the Dark Duo. Throughout, we outline demographic and sociopolitical predictors of the identified patterns of Dark Duo endorsement and associated political attitudes. Together, these studies enrich our understanding of the nuanced ways in which settler colonisers maintain their privilege and provide novel insight into the development of colonial ideologies over time.

The Siren's call: How social media influencers are using identity leadership to shape diagnostic label identification and self-care intentions.

Yuang Cheng (Australian National University)
Contact details: yuang.cheng@anu.edu.au

As social media becomes a central source of mental health information, concerns grow around how influencers can lead people interpret everyday experiences as symptoms of mental ill-health. This project examined how, by creating, representing, advancing, and embedding a shared sense of "us" (i.e., engaging in identity leadership), influencers' ADHD-related content shapes perceptions of self, symptoms, and behavioural intentions. In two experiments using authentic social media stimuli, we examined effects of identity leadership. Across both studies, identity leadership was associated with greater identification as ADHDers, help-seeking attitudes, and self-care intentions. Study 1 found that high-identity-leadership content increased participants' identification as ADHDers. In Study 2, identity leadership was particularly important for mental-health professional influencers (compared to lay influencers) in promoting self-care intentions. These findings suggest that influencers can use identity leadership to meaningfully influence both people's understanding and response to mental-health content. As digital mental-health-related content surges, understanding its influence is essential.

The Future Under Threat: Climate Change as a Problem for the Present and Future Self.

Charlie Pittaway (Flinders University)
Contact details: charlie.pittaway@flinders.edu.au

My thesis investigated relationships between temporal thinking and conventional and radical climate actions. Structural equation models in Studies 1-2 (N = 967, 953) confirmed past

evidence that more future-oriented thinking and less present-oriented thinking was associated with intentions to take conventional forms of climate action. Novel evidence revealed that present-oriented individuals are not universally disengaged: both present- and future-focused thinking were indirectly associated with more conventional and radical intentions via environmental cognitive alternatives and eco-anxiety. Study 3 (N = 268) confirmed that these same direct and indirect relationships extended over time. Studies 4-5 (N = 303, 319) aimed to increase participants' connection to and perceived vividness of the future self, theoretically promoting future orientation, through exchanging letters with the future self. However, the letter paradigm demonstrated very little impact on climate action intentions or support for environmental advocacy groups. Overall, my results suggest that environmental future-mindedness (as indicated by access to environmental cognitive alternatives and eco-anxiety) thought to be critical for climate mobilisation can be developed by individuals who are otherwise present-oriented, as well as those who are generally future-focused. As climate threats are perceived as more immediate, present mindedness may increasingly associate with climate action.

Minority Stress and Resilience at the Intersection of Gender and Ethnocultural Background within the Trans Community in Australia

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Kianjin Tan (La Trobe University)
Contact details: kianjin.tan@latrobe.edu.au

Minority stress theory (MST) is widely used to examine how stress and resilience factors affect health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ people. However, most research treats LGBTQIA+ communities as homogenous, overlooking how intersecting identities shape these experiences. My PhD addresses this gap by investigating how trans and gender diverse (TGD) people in Australia experience minority stress and resilience at the intersections of gender and ethnocultural background, extending MST through an intersectional lens. Using a mixed-methods design, this project integrates three quantitative studies and one qualitative study. The quantitative studies examined: (1) associations between minority stress, resilience, and mental health among trans binary and non-binary people; (2) the moderating role of gender positivity; and (3) differences across gender modality and ethnocultural background. Minority stressors were strongly associated with psychological distress and suicidality; gender positivity buffered some of these effects—particularly for non-binary participants—and trans people of colour reported the highest levels of ethnicity-related discrimination. The qualitative study explored the lived experiences of trans Asian Australians, revealing themes of gender euphoria and cultural connection, the salience of discrimination, and resilience beyond identity categories. Together, these findings advance MST and call for more inclusive research, policy, and clinical practices that reflect the diversity of TGD communities.