THE 2015
NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
GRADUATE STUDENT
CONFERENCE

Hosted by
The National University of Singapore,
Department of Psychology

9:15am - 6pm, Saturday,
March 7th 2015

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<td><em>Experiences of married men with HIV during the early phase of diagnosis within the context of mandatory disclosure in Singapore</em></td>
<td><em>A prospective investigation of early precursors of social and non-social autistic traits in a community of 18-month-old Singaporean toddlers.</em></td>
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<td><em>The alcohol clamp method: a novel approach for studying the combined effects of alcohol and sleep deprivation on simulated driving performance in Singapore</em></td>
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| 10:45 | **Jonathan Khoo - A2.1**  
*Transcending Depression: The mediating role of God concept, religious coping, and rumination on depression* | **Yoanna Kurnianingsih - B2.1**  
*Value to utility transformations: Interrelationships of risk preferences and choice strategies across gains and losses domains* |
|       | **Wen Shan - A2.2**  
*Are men better negotiators everywhere? A Meta-analytical review of gender differences in negotiation performance in individualistic vs. collectivistic cultures* | **Egor Ananyev - B2.2**  
*Resistance to adaptation explains suppression effectiveness of a dynamic mask in binocular paradigm* |
|       | **Peter Chew - A2.3**  
*Statistics anxiety is partially unique among anxieties?* | **Maria Teresa Wijaya - B2.3**  
*Gentle Stroking Modulates the Neural Correlates of Face Processing* |
| 12:00 | Lunch                                                                      |                                                                             |
| 1:00  | **Keynote Address**  
(Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium)  

Professor David Chan  
*“It’s About Time: Conceptual and Methodological Issues in Assessing Longitudinal Changes”* |                                                                             |
| 2:30  | **Panel Discussion**  
(Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium)  

*“Graduating with a Masters/PhD: What’s next?”*  
Mr. Ong K C, former head of MINDEF Defense Psychology  
Dr. Mariam Aljunied, Principal Specialist, Educational Psychology, MOE  
Dr. Lidia Suárez, Senior Lecturer, JCU Singapore  
Mr. Lim Yonghao, Senior Research Analyst, HOMER |                                                                             |
| 4:00  | Tea Break                                                                  |                                                                             |
| 4:10 | **Session A3**  
Charlene S.L. Fu - A3.1  
*Tone discrimination in the first year of life: Effects of Language Experience*  
Antarika Sen - A3.2  
*Age-related changes in the expression and recognition of vocal emotions: Effects of sex and peer culture*  
Shao-Min (Sean) Hung - A3.3  
*Syntactic Processing in the Absence of Awareness and Semantics* |
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| **Session B3**  
Melvin Ng - B3.1  
*The Past and Future are in Your Hands: How Gestures Affect Our Understanding of Temporal Concepts*  
Luuan Chin Tan - B3.2  
*Reliability of Masked Repetition and Semantic Priming Effects*  
Mary Lee Lay Choo - B3.3  
*Receptive and expressive vocabulary acquisition of bilingual pre-schoolers: A longitudinal study of three types of bilinguals in Singapore* |
| 5:15 | **Poster Session and Refreshments**  
Andree Hartanto  
*Are bilinguals full-time translators? The evidence of implicit automatic translation in Indonesian-English bilinguals*  
Cheak Ching Cheng  
*Relationship between Borderline Personality Traits, Appraisals, and Coping with Daily Interpersonal Stress*  
Anne Chong Suet Lin  
*Associations between OXT (NP I) SNPs and Social Phenotypes*  
Zhang Xiaoyu  
*Neural network simulation with NMDAR-dependent synaptic plasticity*  
Xinxin Li  
*Disrespected at Work, Unsupportive at Home: The Role of Surface Acting in Linking Coworker Incivility and Social Support to Spouse*  
April Lin Liangyu  
*The Effects of Gratitude Journaling on the Subjective Well-being and Aggression of Male Young Offenders at the Singapore Prison School*  
Mabel Lau  
*Semantic Richness Effects in Memory*  
Yeo Geck Hong  
*The Parental Reactions to Adolescents’ Negative Emotions Scale (Pranes): Scale Construction And Psychometric Properties* |
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor David Chan
Lee Kuan Yew Fellow
Director, Behavioural Sciences Institute
Singapore Management University

It’s About Time:
Conceptual and Methodological Issues in Assessing
Longitudinal Changes

In practically all textbooks on basic research methods and statistics, there are no chapters on longitudinal design and data analysis. Even in advanced texts used in graduate schools, whether in psychology departments or business schools, we have no more than a few paragraphs on longitudinal research, usually simply saying it is useful but difficult to conduct longitudinal research. So it is not surprising that many of us are adverse to longitudinal research and at a loss during data analysis when we have access to longitudinal datasets.

In the last two decades, there have been significant advances in data analyses that have markedly increased our ability to model relevant aspects of change and draw inferences concerning the different types of change over time from longitudinal data. Unfortunately, the majority of the literature in longitudinal analysis is highly technical and the techniques are not something that can be introduced and acquired easily. More importantly, the underlying conceptual and methodological issues are often not given sufficient focus.

In this keynote address, I will provide a non-technical introduction of these critical issues to illustrate the importance of rigour and relevance in assessing changes over time. The issues and substantive examples will allow us to generate new research questions in our specific areas of interest. I will also explicate the value of the knowledge on changes over time for translational research, using applications to public policy in Singapore as examples.

Professor David Chan received his PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Michigan State University. He is Lee Kuan Yew Fellow, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Behavioural Sciences Institute at the Singapore Management University. He is also Adjunct Principal Scientist at the Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Co-Director of the Centre for Technology and Social-Behavioural Insights which is a centre jointly established by A*STAR and SMU. He was formerly the Deputy Provost of SMU.

He has received several awards including the Edwin Ghiselli Award for Innovative Research Design, the William Owen Scholarly Achievement Award, and the Distinguished Early Career Contributions Award from the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and the Dissertation Research Award from the American Psychological Association. He is an Elected Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, the International Association of Applied Psychology and the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.
Mr. Ong Kian Chye is Director and Consultant at EinRelevance Pte Ltd, a consultancy company specializing in strategy and military heuristics. He was formerly the Head and Chief Psychologist at the Applied Behavioral Sciences Department (now Defence Psychology Department) of the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) from 1987 to 2004. At MINDEF, he spearheaded various initiatives, including the development and implementation of selection systems for military leaders, air force pilots, and other specialized vocations. He was also involved in instituting a 360 degree feedback system for the Singapore Armed Forces and conducting public opinion surveys on defence-related issues. Mr Ong was Chartered Psychologist/Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (1990-2013). For his contributions to the profession of military psychology and Singapore, Mr Ong was conferred the Harry Greer Award by the International Military Testing Association in 2006, the Public Administration Medal, Bronze in 1999, and the Singapore President Commendation in 1991.

Dr. Mariam Aljunied is Principal Specialist and Chartered Educational Psychologist at the Ministry of Education (MOE). She obtained her doctorate degree from University College London following a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the National Institute of Education and a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) degree from the National University of Singapore. Dr. Aljunied has garnered several awards throughout her career, including the Fulbright Outstanding Researcher Award and the Public Administration Medal (Bronze). Her work at MOE has made many contributions to the local education system, including raising the quality of education for children with special needs.

Dr. Lidia Suárez is a Senior Lecturer of Psychology and a registered research Supervisor at James Cook University. Before working at James Cook University, Lidia was a scholar at the National University of Singapore, from which she received her Ph.D. and M.Soc.Sci degrees. Her research interests include bilingualism, psycholinguistics, second language acquisition, linguistic relativity, and word recognition. Lidia is a member of the Language Research Centre at the Cairns Institute, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. She also collaborates with researchers from the Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences (A*STAR), and volunteers for the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) in Singapore. She has published her work in scientific journals such as Psychonomic Bulletin and Review and Memory and Cognition.

Mr. Lim Yonghao graduated from the NUS Department of Psychology, with a M.Soc.Sci (Psychology) and a focus in Quantitative Methods. Immediately after his B.Soc.Sci. (Hons.), Yonghao joined the Research and Evaluation Department in the Health Promotion Board working on validation of scales measuring psychological difficulties and well-being, a nation-wide survey on students’ health behaviours and evaluation of health interventions and programmes. While pursuing my M.Soc.Sci., Yonghao was a full-time teaching assistant in the department tutoring undergraduates, mainly in research and statistical methods. Yonghao is currently working in HOMER (which stands for Health Outcomes & Medical Education Research) within the National Healthcare Group. HOMER is a research unit that looks at health professions education (HPE) research. His work involves working with various health professions to look into research and evaluation of their training, learning and education. He is also involved in coordinating and promoting research in HPE.
Countries across the world have seen an increasing number of people being infected with HIV in recent years. This increasing rate of HIV infection has brought a moral dilemma on the decision of disclosing one’s status in societies. In Singapore under the Infectious Diseases Act, it is an offence for persons who know that they are infected with HIV not to inform their sex partners of their HIV status before sexual intercourse. This poses difficulty for individuals with HIV because of a shorter period of time for them to try to come to terms with their diagnosis while having to disclose at the same time. Few studies have explored the experiences of married men with HIV and the impact of the mandatory disclosure law such as having a shorter time frame for adjustment. There is a need for research in this field of HIV mandatory disclosure so that appropriate services could be introduced to facilitate the disclosure process. This study examines the impact of the mandatory disclosure law in the early period after diagnosis that could have an impact on their sense of adjustment with participants from Singapore General Hospital. The results will show the thematic constructs of these experiences that are useful to help healthcare professionals plan the emotional and social support for this group of individuals to both come to terms with their diagnosis and to disclose.

Introduction: Many alcohol-related vehicular accidents occur at night when individuals are partially sleep deprived, but few studies have examined the combined effects of alcohol and sleep loss on driving performance. We implemented an alcohol clamp method to examine the effects of a moderate dose of alcohol on simulated driving performance 2 hours past usual bedtime. Methods: In a within-subjects study, healthy ethnic-Chinese males (n = 12, aged 22-29 years) were kept awake for 24 consecutive hours in a controlled laboratory setting on 2 occasions. Subjects were intravenously administered alcohol or placebo during each visit, with the order randomized and counterbalanced. The infusion process started at midnight with blood alcohol content being clamped at 0.04 g/dL (i.e., half the legal limit for operating a vehicle in Singapore) using a Computer-assisted Alcohol Infusion System. Driving performance was assessed using the standard deviation of lane position (SDLP) on a PC-based simulator. Results: The SDLP increased during sleep deprivation, and variability in lane position was nearly 3 times greater in the alcohol condition relative to placebo. The effects of alcohol on SDLP at 1am were equivalent to driving performance in the placebo condition at 5am. Conclusion: A moderate amount of alcohol can substantially impair driving performance after midnight. In future studies, it will be important to evaluate the interaction of blood alcohol and time spent awake on driving performance. Such information could be used to inform policies on safe driving practices.
Leung Chi Ching - National University of Singapore - Session A1.3
Authors: Leung Chi Ching, and Tong Mun Wai, Eddie
Gratitude, coping & drug use severity

This study aimed to examine the relationship between gratitude and severity of drug use among a group of drug abusers. It was hypothesized that greater dispositional gratitude was associated with less severe drug use through greater use of positive coping methods and lesser use of negative coping methods. Mediation analysis supported the hypothesis and showed that both positive and negative coping mediated the relationship between gratitude and drug use severity. However, the mediation relationship was not found for joy. Thus, results suggested that gratitude has utility in reducing drug use through better coping abilities and this effect was not simply due to positive affect. Interventions targeting drug use behavior could consider introducing gratitude to increase coping abilities to reduce drug use.

Jonathan Khoo - Nanyang Technological University and National Institute of Education - Session A2.1
Authors: Jonathan Khoo
Transcending depression: The mediating role of god concept, religious coping and rumination on depression

Singapore’s rapid economic progress has been the envy of the world but has also come at the high cost of happiness among the local population. The Ministry of Health (2010) reported that 12.9% of the local population suffers from poor mental health. According to the Singapore Mental Health Study published in 2011, the lifetime prevalence of affective disorder such as depression is reported at 6.3% with 2.2% of adult population in Singapore having experienced an episode of major depression over the last 12 months (Institute of Mental Health, 2011). The growing burden of depression in Singapore has raised interest in understanding the etiology of the condition and how mental health services can mitigate its debilitating impact. As a multi-cultural society, Singapore consists of 74.2% ethnic Chinese, 13.3% Malays and 9.1% Indians (Singapore Department of Statistics, 2013). With such diversity, 83% of Singapore population also reported a variety of religious affiliations with Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism among the main religions (Singapore Department of Statistics, 2013). The significant reported affiliations to various religions brings about the question of the role it plays in psychological adjustment and whether interventions can harness this aspect as an extra-therapeutic factor. The current study used 118 participants between the ages of 21 to 71 years old who had reported religious affiliations to examine how religious coping (positive and negative) mediated perceived stress and depression. This study also evaluated the mediating role of rumination in the relationship between perceived stress and depression. Lastly, the study explored religious coping as a mediator to the relationship between God concept (positive and negative) and depression. A standard multiple regression was first conducted to examine the predictive effects of the respective independent variables (religious coping, rumination and God concept) on the dependent variable (depression) Using the Sobel test for mediation, it was found that negative religious coping mediated the relationship between perceived stress and depression. Ruminaton also mediated the relationship between perceived stress and depression. Finally, mediation was found for negative religious coping in the relationship between negative God concept and depression. The importance and implications of the results of the present study was discussed.

Wen Shan - Nanyang Technological University - Session A2.2
Authors: Wen Shan, Joshua Keller
Are men better negotiators everywhere? A meta-analytical review of gender differences in negotiation performance in individualistic vs. collectivistic cultures

Culture and gender have been separately studied as important factors that influence individuals’ negotiation strategies and outcomes. We integrate these two perspectives by providing a meta-analytic review of the impact of the interaction between gender and national culture on negotiation performance. Studies reporting negotiation outcomes from individualistic and collectivistic cultures were reviewed. Results revealed that in individualistic cultures, male negotiators outperformed female negotiators, while in collectivistic cultures female negotiators outperformed male negotiators. Moreover, the interaction effect between national culture and gender was further moderated by the size of the economic payoff in the negotiation, such that in collectivistic cultures the lower the economic payoff of the negotiation, the more likely women outperformed men. Implications for the role of gender in negotiations and organizations more broadly are discussed.
Peter Chew - James Cook University - Session A2.3
Authors: Peter K. H. Chew, Anne Swinbourne, and Denise B. Dillon
Statistics anxiety is partially unique among anxieties?

An attentional bias towards threat appears to characterize many types of clinical and non-clinical anxieties. However, Chew, Swinbourne, and Dillon (2014) found no evidence of attentional bias for statistics anxiety. The purpose of the current study is to address the limitations of Chew et al.’s study by replicating it in a laboratory and by recruiting students who have never taken a statistics course before but will enroll in one in the future. Participants consisted of 99 (67.7% females) students in the James Cook University Psychology programs at the Australia (21.2%) and Singapore campuses (78.8%). Participants completed the emotional Stroop task and the dot probe task, and measures of statistics anxiety and social desirability. No evidence of attentional bias was found. Implications of the results are discussed. In particular, statistics anxiety might be partially unique among anxieties and new explanatory frameworks are needed to address the results.

Charlene S.L. Fu - National University of Singapore - Session A3.1
Authors: Charlene S. L. Fu, Seet Xian Hui, Ashley Tong, Joelle Wang and Leher Singh
Tone discrimination in the first year of life: Effects of language experience

One of the key challenges facing infants is to learn to develop sensitivities to sounds in their environment. This process is known as phonological attunement, and refers to infants simultaneously losing sensitivity to non-native contrasts while improving discrimination of native contrasts. In this series of studies, sensitivity to Mandarin tone contrasts (Tone 3 vs. Tone 1, Tone 3 vs. Tone 2) was compared across infants exposed monolingually to Mandarin or English, or bilingual infants exposed to both these languages at 6 and 9 months, using an auditory habituation paradigm. Analyses revealed unique patterns for each language group – while the Mandarin monolinguals are able to reliably discriminate between the two contrasts selected, and showed improvement with age, the English monolinguals were only able to discriminate one contrast (Tones 3 and 2) at the older age. Bilingual infants were not able to discriminate between the contrasts at either age group. These findings add to the existing literature, which suggests different developmental pathways for native and non-native contrasts (e.g. Kuhl, 2004), as well as a possible delay in bilingual language acquisition. Ongoing follow up studies at 13 months reveal that English monolinguals were able to discriminate Tones 3 and 1, but not Tones 3 and 2, and bilingual infants were still unable to discriminate between both contrasts. Results point to early and potent effects of native language input on tone discrimination.

Antarika Sen - National University of Singapore - Session A3.2
Authors: Antarika Sen, Heng Wai Yuen, Steven Lee & Annett Schirmer
Age-related changes in the expression and recognition of vocal emotions: Effects of sex and peer culture

There is much research documenting that, with age, emotion recognition abilities decline. We sought to replicate this phenomenon, to explore a possible extension to emotion expression and to elucidate the roles of sex and peer culture. In a first phase, we asked young and older adults of both sexes to read neutral sentences with happy, neutral, sad and angry intonation. In a second phase, we presented their readings in an emotion categorization task to a naive group of listeners equally comprised of young and old, male and female individuals. We found that the expressions of young and female speakers were more accurately categorized than the expressions of old and male speakers. Additionally, young and female listeners were more accurate in their categorizations than old and male listeners. Notably, however, the listener age effect differed as a function of speaker age and emotion. It was significant only for expressions from young but not old individuals for happy expression and irrespective of speaker age for neutral expressions. A listener age effect was absent for sad and angry expressions. Together, these results imply important contributions of sex and peer culture to modulating emotion expression and recognition abilities across the lifespan. Moreover, they suggest that interactions with age-matched peers buffer against previously established age-related deficits.
Syntactic processing in the absence of awareness and semantics

The classical view that multistep rule-based operations require consciousness has recently been challenged by findings that both multi-word semantic processing and multistep arithmetic equations can be processed unconsciously. It remains unclear, however, whether pure rule-based cognitive processes can occur unconsciously in the absence of semantics. Here, after presenting two words consciously, we suppressed the third with continuous flash suppression. First, we showed that the third word in the Subject-Verb-Verb format (syntactically incongruent) broke suppression significantly faster than those in the Subject-Verb-Object format (syntactically congruent). Crucially, the same effect was observed even with sentences composed of pseudo-words (pseudo-Subject-Verb-Adjective vs. pseudo-Subject-Verb-Object), i.e., without any semantic information. This is the first study to conclusively show that syntactic congruency can be processed unconsciously in the complete absence of semantics. Our findings illustrate how abstract rule-based processing can occur implicitly in the human brain in the absence of visual awareness, even when deprived of semantics.

Session B

Daniel Gan - National University of Singapore - Session B1.1
Authors: Iliana Magiati, Deborah Amanda Goh, Alicia Chew, Anne Rifkin-Graboi, Birit Leutscher-Broekman, Michael Meaney & the GUSTO Study Group
A prospective investigation of early precursors of social and non-social autistic traits in a community of 18-month-old Singaporean toddlers.

Background: Recent research has demonstrated that while Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and Autistic-Like Traits (ALTs) likely share a common etiology, different domains/clusters of autistic symptoms are likely underpinned by distinct sets of causative influences. Aims: This study investigated whether early precursors of ASD occurring at birth and in the first year of life (pregnancy/birth complications, infant temperament at 3 months, and 12-month social development – imitation/play, gestures, and empathy) were significantly associated with and predicted later social and non-social ALTs in an unselected sample of 18-month-old toddlers. Method: Participants were 368 Singaporean toddlers involved in a larger prospective longitudinal study (GUSTO - Growing Up in Singapore Towards healthy Outcomes). Information on pregnancy/birth complications was obtained from standardized inventories. Caregivers completed measures of temperament, social development and ALTs at 3, 12, and 18 months respectively. Hierarchical regression analyses were conducted to identify significant predictors of later social and non-social ALTs. Results: Pregnancy/birth complications, imitation, and empathy were not associated with later ALTs. Different temperament dimensions were associated with and predicted later social and non-social ALTs. Gesture development was associated with and predicted later social ALTs only. Discussion: The study findings resonate with earlier literature and provide preliminary cross-cultural evidence showing that the etiological contributions and neurodevelopmental abnormalities underpinning the different core autistic dimensions are possibly different. Limitations and future directions are also discussed.
Lee Si Min Stephanie - National University of Singapore - Session B1.2
Authors: Lee Si Min Stephanie

Developmental antecedents of perfectionism in middle childhood

Research shown that perfectionism has both adaptive and maladaptive components, with socially prescribed perfectionism (SPP) and self-oriented perfectionism critical (SOP-Critical) considered maladaptive, and self-oriented perfectionism striving (SOP-Striving) considered adaptive. Little is known about the etiological factors of perfectionism. This research aimed to address this gap in the literature by explicating the developmental antecedents of perfectionism. Specifically, the links between child temperament and parental intrusiveness on the longitudinal development of perfectionism during the middle childhood were examined. Three hundred primary school children, along with their parents, participated in the study over a period of five years. Measures included parental reports of child temperament, a behavioural task of parental intrusiveness, and child self-reports of perfectionism. Latent growth models of perfectionism variables were specified with child temperament and parental intrusiveness as covariates. Higher levels of surgency predicted greater initial levels of maladaptive perfectionism for boys, while higher levels of negative affectivity and parental intrusiveness predicted higher initial level of maladaptive perfectionism for girls. For boys, higher scores on all aspects of child temperament predicted higher initial status of adaptive perfectionism, whereas for girls, greater initial levels of adaptive perfectionism is predicted by higher levels of negative affectivity. Changes in level of perfectionism over time were not predicted by the covariates. Results of the study are discussed.

Amanda Ang - National Institute of Education - Session B1.3
Authors: Amanda Ang and Rebecca P. Ang

Linking narcissistic traits to reactive and proactive aggression, and anxiety as a moderating factor

This study explored two major questions: (a) what is the relationship between narcissistic traits and the type of aggression displayed, and (b) does anxiety serve as a moderator between narcissism and aggression. This paper examines specific traits of narcissism, mainly exploitativeness and superiority, and their relationship with different types of aggression, mainly proactive and reactive aggression, in an Asian sample (N=698) comprising of adolescents. Narcissistic exploitativeness was significantly and positively correlated to both proactive and reactive aggression, while narcissistic superiority was not significantly correlated to proactive and reactive aggression. Additionally, findings indicated that anxiety was a statistically significant moderator between exploitativeness and proactive aggression. Anxiety did not moderate the association between exploitativeness and reactive aggression, superiority and proactive aggression, and superiority and reactive aggression. There are important clinical and theoretical implications to these findings especially for intervention efforts and the development of more effective socialization strategies to curb behavioral problems in youths.

Yoanna Kurnianingsih - National University of Singapore - Session B2.1
Authors: Yoanna A Kurnianingsih and O’Dhaniel A Mullette-Gillman

Value to utility transformations: Interrelationships of risk preferences and choice strategies across gains and losses domains

We investigate the neural mechanisms responsible for computing the subjective value (utility) of available options in human decision making. Utilizing fMRI and a simply two-alternative forced choice economic task. Behaviorally, we find that risk preferences are uncorrelated across the gains and losses domains (r(85) = .15, p = .16), contrary to popular economic models (Kahneman and Tversky, 1979, 2000). In addition, our task and metrics allow us to dissociate an individual's preferences from the strategies that they employ (defined as the degree to which they utilize available information types). We find that choice strategies are correlated across the gains and losses domains (use of relative expected value information r(102)= .61, p < .0001). Interestingly, while strategies were correlated with risk preference in the losses domain (r(102)= .41, p<.0001), this interrelationship was absent in the gains domain (r(102)= .14, p = .18). With neuroimaging (fMRI), we are leveraging this pattern of dissociable preferences (between domains) and choice strategies to preferences (within domains), to examine the neural architecture responsible for the value to utility transformations that are the basis of choice behavior. At the basic level, we find that economic decisions in the gains and losses domains activate largely overlapping neural structures. In the gains domain, we replicate previous studies in finding that the ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC) and posterior cingulate cortex (PCC) encode a linear value signal. In our key analysis, we find that, in the gains domain, the dorsomedial prefrontal cortex (dmPFC) encodes the degree of value modulation across individuals.
Egor Ananyev - National University of Singapore - Session B2.2
Authors: Egor Ananyev and Po-Jang (Brown) Hsieh
Resistance to adaptation explains suppression effectiveness of a dynamic mask in binocular paradigm

Binocular rivalry occurs when conflicting visual information is presented to two eyes. Two major factors could contribute to the effective suppression of stimuli by the mask in binocular rivalry: mask’s resistance to adaptation (leading to higher salience) and feature similarity between the mask and the stimulus. A previous study found support for feature-selective suppression in a translational motion paradigm: the mask speed matching the stimulus speed led to highest rate of suppression (Moors, Wagemans, de-Wit, 2014). In the present study, a novel dynamic mask was developed to suppress rotational motion of Shepard and Metzler (1971) three-dimensional figures. Contrary to the prior findings, higher mask speed led to longer suppression, supporting the adaptation-based interpretation of the mask effectiveness. The difference in results was attributed to rotational, as opposed to translational, nature of motion in the present paradigm. The implications of these findings for models of suppression are discussed.

Maria Teresa Wijaya - National University of Singapore - Session B2.3
Authors: Maria Teresa Wijaya and Annett Schirmer
Gentle stroking modulates the neural correlates of face processing

CT-aferents are a type of mechanoreceptor that is present in hairy skin and that is thought to underpin the role of touch for the processing of other social information. Here we pursued this idea in an event-related potential (ERP) study. Participants were presented with faces and houses as social and non-social stimuli, respectively. On half the trials, the stimuli were presented together with a soft brush stroke, whereas on the remaining trials they were presented alone. In one group of participants, brush strokes were applied to the forearm and thus activated CT-aferents. In another group of participants, brush strokes were applied to the palm, a non-hairy body part that is free of CT-aferents. We found that, in both groups, touch modulated the ERP in the time-range of the N170, a posterior negativity indicative of face processing. In line with previous work, this negativity was larger for faces than for houses. Additionally, ERPs in the N170 time-range were less negative over the left and more negative over the right hemisphere when faces were presented with as compared to without touch. A similar modulation was absent for houses. These results point to a special impact of touch on social processing. However, they also suggest that this impact is not specific to the activation of CT-aferents. Instead, it seems that the activation of mechanoreceptors more generally is relevant for the brain systems that underpin social information processing.

Melvin Ng - National University of Singapore - Session B3.1
Authors: Melvin Ng, Winston Goh, Melvin Yap, Chi-shing Tse, and Wing Chee So
The past and future are in your hands: How gestures affect our understanding of temporal concepts

It is not uncommon to use metaphors to represent and reason about time in our daily conversations. In English, metaphors referring to time are arranged along the sagittal axis. In addition to speech, speakers also gesture about time while speaking. Interestingly, however, it has been found that speakers tend to gesture predominantly along the lateral axis in spontaneous speech (e.g., pointing to the left to represent the past and to the right to represent the future). Sagittal gestures (e.g., pointing to the front for the future and to the back for the past) were observed as well, though in much smaller proportions during spontaneous speech and more prominently during deliberate descriptions. In addition, another possible axis along which our concept of time may be aligned as well exists in Chinese speakers: the vertical axis. The question of interest in this study is whether the conceptual representation of time is predominantly aligned against sagittal, lateral, or even the vertical plane among English-speaking adults. We examined whether the presentation of a pointing gesture (e.g., pointing to the left) would facilitate classification of a semantically related temporal word (e.g., yesterday), using a cross-modal semantic priming paradigm. It is expected that the presentation of congruent pairs of pointing gestures and their co-occurring temporal words (e.g., point to the left and “past”) would result in faster reaction time than the presentation of incongruent pairs (e.g., point to the right and “past”). Results obtained reveal effects of congruency along the sagittal axis, but not the lateral or vertical axes. Implications for present methods of examining the temporal representations as well as findings to this date are also discussed.
Luuan Chin Tan - National University of Singapore - Session B3.2
Authors: Luuan Chin Tan and Melvin J. Yap
Reliability of masked repetition and semantic priming effects

Despite the robustness of the semantic priming effect, the consistency or reliability of semantic priming effects within individuals is surprisingly low (Stolz, Besner, & Carr, 2005). In contrast, repetition priming effects appear to be far more reliable across a range of conditions (Waechter, Stolz, & Besner, 2010). While Stolz and colleagues attribute the low reliability associated with semantic priming to uncoordinated automatic processes in semantic memory, their use of unmasked priming paradigms makes it unclear the extent to which reliability in priming (or the lack thereof) reflects strategic processes. The present study focuses on the reliability of the automatic mechanisms that putatively support semantic and repetition priming in a large-scale study of 240 participants. Specifically, we investigated the reliability of semantic and repetition priming within the same participant when primes are presented too briefly to be consciously processed. Results showed that masked repetition priming effect is reliable whereas masked semantic priming effect is not. In addition, we explored how individual differences in masked repetition and semantic priming are associated with variability in vocabulary knowledge and spelling performance. We found a marginally significant positive correlation between vocabulary knowledge and the magnitude of masked repetition priming effects. The implications of this study for the mechanisms underlying automatic priming and their relationships to individual differences are discussed.

Mary Lee Lay Choo - National University of Singapore - Session B3.3
Authors: Mary Lee Lay Choo & Susan Jane Rickard Liow
Receptive and expressive vocabulary acquisition of bilingual pre-schoolers: A longitudinal study of three types of bilinguals in Singapore

For monolingual children, vocabulary is a good indicator of overall language abilities (Paul, 2001) and predicts literacy skills and academic success. Measuring vocabulary development in bilingual children is more challenging. Few, if any studies have tracked changes in a single setting, using objective, culturally appropriate tests, and contrasting languages. The nature of vocabulary development was investigated in a 3-year longitudinal study (from Nursery to Kindergarten 2, ages 4-6 years) involving three contrasting groups of bilingual pre-schoolers living in Singapore: English L1/Mandarin L2 (n=34), Mandarin L1/English L2 (n=31), and Malay L1/English L2 (n=30). For each child, five different measures of vocabulary were collated: single language receptive vocabulary in L1 and L2, single language expressive vocabulary in L1 and L2, and total conceptual expressive vocabulary (singlets plus doublet overlap in L1/L2). In addition to age and language exposure at home and in kindergarten, the results suggest that the pattern of vocabulary development depends on the relationship between the bilingual child’s two languages, notably the degree of contrast in the phonologies.
**Poster Session**

**Andree Hartanto - Singapore Management University**  
Authors: Andree Hartanto, Lidia Suárez Abalos and Yen Lai Teng, Yvonne  

**Are bilinguals full-time translators? The evidence of implicit automatic translation in Indonesian-English bilinguals**  

This study investigated whether bilinguals implicitly and automatically translate their less dominant language into more dominant language during language processing. Fifty-two Indonesian-English bilinguals and 35 English-dominant bilinguals (English-Chinese and English-Tamil bilinguals) completed a gender-decision task, which involved deciding gender of English words. The critical manipulation lay in the words employed in the gender-decision task: gender-ambiguous and gender-unambiguous. Gender-ambiguous words were English words which Indonesian translation equivalents were ambiguous (e.g., nephew and niece are both commonly translated as keponakan in Indonesian). In contrast, gender-unambiguous words were English words which Indonesian translations indicated gender directly (e.g., aunt is bibi, both female). We predicted that if Indonesian-English bilinguals automatically translate English words into Indonesian, the gender-decision latencies for gender-ambiguous words would be longer than gender-unambiguous words. The hypothesized difference in response latencies would indicate activation of the Indonesian translations, as ambiguity in the Indonesian translations would require extra processing time prior responding in the gender-decision task. In contrast, we expected no significant response latencies differences between gender-ambiguous and gender-unambiguous words in the control group that was consisted of English-dominant bilinguals. The novelty of the current study is that the participants were not prompted to think or use Indonesian throughout the experiment, and no prime was involved, therefore, overcoming the limitations of previous experimental designs (e.g., Thierry & Wu, 2007). The results supported the prediction that bilinguals implicitly and automatically translate their less dominant language to more dominant language during language processing. Moreover, the automatic translations were modulated by second language proficiency.

**Cheak Ching Cheng - National University of Singapore**  
Authors: Cheak Ching Cheng  

**Relationship between borderline personality traits, appraisals, and coping with daily interpersonal stress**  

This paper examined the effect of Borderline Personality (BP) traits on the appraisals and coping of interpersonal stressors, and end-of-day affect. One hundred and fifty-one undergraduate students from the National University of Singapore completed two personality questionnaires measuring BP traits – the Personality Inventory for DSM-5 (PID-5) and the Personality Diagnostic Questionnaire 4th Edition BPD scale (PDQ-4-BPD), followed by 7 days of daily diary entries reporting their most stressful interpersonal stressor of the day, their appraisals of the stressor, how they coped with it and their affective states at the end of the day. The results showed that, in general, BP traits were not associated with appraisals of interpersonal stressors and did not moderate the relationships between appraisals and end-of-day affect. Individuals with high BP traits used significantly more avoidance coping strategies; and the use of avoidance coping was just as ineffective for low-BP traits individuals as they were for high-BP traits individuals. Interestingly, high-BP traits individuals reported increase in negative affect, sadness and guilt even when they used problem-focused coping or social support, suggesting that such coping strategies were ineffective for such individuals.

**Anne Chong Suet Lin - National University of Singapore**  
Authors: Anne S.L. Chong, Soo Hong Chew and Richard P. Ebstein  

**Associations between OXT (NP I) SNPs and social phenotypes**  

Oxytocin is the paramount human social hormone and keen interest has focused on variants in the oxytocin receptor gene (OXTR) and social phenotypes. In contrast little is known regarding the impact of variations in the Neuropehysin I (OXT). In the current study we examined the role of two SNPs in the OXT gene region, as well as plasma oxytocin, for their contributions to individual differences in social phenotypes assessed with several personality measures including Royal Free Religious and Spirituality Questionnaire, Empathy Quotient and NEO-PI-R. Our provisional findings suggest that rs3761248 and rs2770378 resonate with social cognition in humans.
**Zhang Xiaoyu - National University of Singapore**  
Authors: Zhang Xiaoyu, Ju Han, Trevor B. Penney, Antonius M. J. VanDongen  
*Neural network simulation with NMDAR-dependent synaptic plasticity*

Research on learning and memory has achieved affluent outcomes at behavioral and molecular levels. A knowledge gap exists as how molecular signals are processed and magnified into cognitive behavior through neural networks. This study aims to bridge the gap by constructing a biologically plausible neural network with the ability of learning and memory, and simulating its response to face stimuli to glean how learning happens. In detail, we use Liquid State Machine as the template for neural networks and incorporate NMDA receptor-dependent plasticity to endow mechanisms such as LTP/LTD and STDP. After being presented with repetitive face stimuli for learning, networks are able to distinguish familiar faces from novel faces by differential network response, i.e. total spike count. More precisely, networks with dimension of 10x10x5 are able to differentiate beard faces and no-beard faces after learning either group. Networks of dimension 20x20x5 are able to capture the features of a single face presented during learning and later recognize it from 30 mixed face, car and dog images. Networks of even larger dimension are able to learn and memorize multiple faces simultaneously, for example 50x50x6 networks can memorize up to 10 faces. Considering that our brain is made of millions of such small networks, the simulation results potentially explains why we have appealingly limitless explicit long-term memory. Following it, we propose familiarity is the main memory component accounted for Standing’s finding, whereas how familiarity is progressed to recollection and becomes retrievable is something we continue working on.

**Xinxin Li - National University of Singapore**  
Authors: Xinxin Li  
*Disrespected at work, unsupportive at home: The role of surface acting in linking coworker incivility and social support to spouse*

Workplace incivility is “low-intensity deviant behavior with ambiguous intent to harm the target, in violation of workplace norms for mutual respect” (Andersson & Pearson, 1999, p. 457). The literature on workplace incivility has mainly examined its effects on well-being and work-related outcomes. The impact of workplace incivility on family outcomes has not received much attention. This study attempts to examine how workplace incivility influences a specified domestic behavior, social support to spouse. I hypothesize that employee targets of workplace incivility would engage in surface acting to suppress their negative affect. Adopting the work-home resources model (ten Brummelhuis & Bakker, 2012), I suggest that targets of workplace incivility lack resources to provide social support towards spouse due to resource depletion from surface acting. A two-wave and dual-source study of 202 dual-earner couples supports the proposed mediation model whereby workplace incivility is negatively related to social support to spouse (rated by spouse) and this relationship is mediated by surface acting at work. Comparison of nested models indicates that there is no gender difference in the proposed relationships. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.
April Lin Liangyu - National University of Singapore
Authors: April Lin Liangyu and Dr. Albert Liau

The effects of gratitude journaling on the subjective well-being, pro-social behaviour, aggression of male young offenders at the Singapore Prison School

The present study investigated whether gratitude journaling was able to increase levels of gratitude, happiness, positive affect, and pro-social behavior, as well as reduce levels of aggression and negative affect. Empirical evidence has suggested that gratitude not only generates positive outcomes such as enhancing well-being, positive affect, resilience and coping (McCullough, Emmons & Tsang, 2002; Kashdan, Mishra, Breen, & Froh, 2009; Lyubomirsky, Sheldon, Schkade, 2005), it also helps to manage negative outcomes such as depressive symptoms (Senf & Liau, 2012), negative affect (Seligman, Steen, Park, & Peterson, 2005) and aggression (DeWall, Lambert, Pond, Kashdan, Fincham, 2011). Sixty-five male young offenders from the Singapore Prison School were randomly assigned to either the experimental group that started gratitude journaling immediately or the wait list control, which started journaling on the second week. Data were gathered at three time points (baseline, 1-week post intervention, 2-week post intervention). Regression analysis revealed that the experimental group reported lower level of negative affect as compared to the wait list control. Other outcome indicators (gratitude, aggression, happiness, positive affect, pro-social behavior) were not significant. Individual differences on youth’s social-emotional competence (SEC) were examined and provided partial support that SEC differences would moderate the effect of gratitude journaling. The study provided evidence that gratitude journaling helps to mitigate negative outcomes. Future research may consider the applications of positive psychology interventions in youth correctional rehabilitation.

Mabel Lau - National University of Singapore

Semantic richness effects in memory

The memorial representation of a word consists of different aspects, including form (orthography), sound (phonology), and meaning (semantics). The semantic richness of a word is multidimensional, and includes dimensions such as: (1) semantic neighborhood density (the degree to which a word co-occurs with other words); (2) number of senses (the number of meanings a word is associated with); (3) imageability; (4) number of semantic features (the number of attributes of the word); (5) body-object interaction (the degree to which a human body can interact with the word’s referent); and (6) emotional valence. Collectively, these dimensions capture the semantic richness of the word, but how this influences memory for the word remains unclear. Even though certain dimensions (e.g., imageability and valence) have been examined in the memory domain, the bulk of semantic richness research has been confined to visual word recognition tasks. Thus, it is unclear if other dimensions influence memory and in what manner. Our aim was to extend previous works by investigating the relative contributions of these dimensions in memory using the megastudy approach. The megastudy approach allows the language to define the stimuli, rather than have the experimenter select stimuli based on a limited set of criteria. 120 participants studied 532 concrete nouns and 60 of them had to recall these words and the remaining 60 had to recognize these words. Multiple regression analyses were conducted to examine the relative predictive power of different semantic richness dimensions on the memorability of words. We found that although semantically richer words were generally more memorable, this did not generalize to all dimensions. The implications of these findings will be discussed.
Yeo Geck Hong - National University of Singapore
Authors: Yeo Geck Hong, Sim Tick Ngee, & Loh Jen Ing
The parental reactions to adolescents’ negative emotions scale (pranes): Scale construction and psychometric properties

Research is unequivocal concerning the importance of the role parents’ play in the emotional lives of their children. However, the plethora of research on emotion socialisation has remained stalled at the early developmental period of childhood and consequentially, there is a dearth of research examining parental emotion socialisation of adolescents. The present study sought to fill in some of the lacuna by examining specifically parental reactions–parents’ contingent responses to children’s expressed negative emotions–to adolescents’ negative emotions. Based on adolescents’ responses to open-ended questions, study 1 elucidated the concerns that adolescents expressed negative emotions over, the associated parental reactions and the effect felt by the adolescents following their parents’ responses. Results suggest both similarities and differences in adolescents’ concerns and parental reactions from that established with children across cultural contexts. Study 2 involved the development of a self-report measure assessing parental reactions to adolescents’ expression of negative emotions, specifically sadness and anger, based on the results from study 1. Five theoretical subscales were created for the measure–Parental Reactions to Adolescents’ Negative Emotions Scale (PRANES)–for both sadness and anger, and the measure was subjected to three sets of analyses. In terms of measurement analyses, cross-validated results showed that the four-factor structure underlies the five parental reactions. In terms of validity analyses, the positive parental reactions were found to be conceptualised similarly from those in the existing literature. However, the conceptualisation of negative parental reactions indicated otherwise. In terms of associations with parents and adolescents’ demographics, parental and adolescent’s gender differences in reactions were found for each discrete negative emotions–sadness and anger. Relative contributions of these dimensions in memory using the megastudy approach. The megastudy approach allows the language to define the stimuli, rather than have the experimenter select stimuli based on a limited set of criteria. 120 participants studied 532 concrete nouns and 60 of them had to recall these words and the remaining 60 had to recognize these words. Multiple regression analyses were conducted to examine the relative predictive power of different semantic richness dimensions on the memorability of words. We found that although semantically richer words were generally more memorable, this did not generalize to all dimensions. The implications of these findings will be discussed.

Mary Lee Lay Choo - National University of Singapore
Authors: Mary Lee Lay Choo, Susan Jane Rickard Liow, Kuan Yvonne, & Eugenia Tan
Cognitive linguistic assessment profile of bilingual pre-schoolers

Many researchers have identified factors affecting literacy development in unilingual English-speaking children (Rayner, Perfetti, Pesetsky, & Seidenberg, 2001 for review) and bilingual children using English and another European language (Hammer, Hoff, Uchikoshi, Gillanders, Castro, Sandilos, 2014 for review). It is unclear if the results generalize to bilingual children concurrently learning to speak, read and write languages with more contrasting features such as those found in Mandarin and Malay. Almost all of the published tests available for assessing cognition, language or literacy were developed in the UK or US for use with a more homogenous group of unilingual English-speaking children and/or European language-speaking bilingual children. This suggests that the tests may have limited reliability and validity for the local bilingual children. Moreover, identification of language and learning difficulties in bilingual children is not reliable without testing both languages. A systematic 3-year longitudinal study on the cognitive and linguistic development of bilingual children in Singapore was completed and a Cognitive Linguistic Assessment Profile (CLAP) that comprises 12 normed subtests, including measures of vocabulary achievement in two languages, is proposed as a potential solution to the problem of identifying bilingual children at-risk for language and learning difficulties.
Choo Rui Qi - National University of Singapore
Authors: Choo Rui Qi, Mary Lee Lay Choo, Susan Rickard Liow
Predicting nonword repetition and spelling development in bilingual kindergarten children

Orthographic learning during spelling acquisition depends on early language experience and is often influenced by cross-linguistic factors. Brown and Hulme (1996) proposed a model of the causal relationships between receptive vocabulary, phonological memory and spelling for monolingual English-speaking children. However, little is known about the equivalent processing in different bilingual groups. In Singapore, ethnic Chinese and Malay children learning English as a second language (ESL) are exposed to a different phonology-orthography mapping from their first language. To evaluate and extend Brown and Hulme’s model for the bilingual population, Mandarin-ESL and Malay-ESL children (29 pairs of 4-5 year olds) were matched for nonverbal intelligence and single-word English receptive and expressive vocabulary at Time 1, then assessed on phonological memory (operationalised as nonword repetition, NWR) performance at Time 1 and WRAT4 spelling one year later at Time 2. Correlation analyses revealed group differences: (1) Mandarin-ESL children’s receptive vocabulary but Malay-ESL children’s expressive vocabulary correlated with nonword repetition performance; (2) partialling out nonword repetition ability, both groups’ expressive vocabulary correlated with spelling performance. The data suggest there are different underlying cognitive-linguistic factors influencing the variables in Brown and Hulme’s model for different ESL bilinguals.

Eri Sasaki - National University of Singapore
Authors: Sasaki, Eri and Jia, Lile
More Facebook “likes” are not always better: The effects of social endorsement and source credibility of shared articles on Facebook

Social networking sites such as Facebook have become a worldwide sensation. Fifty thousand links are shared every minute on Facebook (IACP, 2014). Yet, the effects of shared content on users’ behavior remain unexplored. The present research examined how social endorsement and source credibility of articles shared on Facebook affect self-reported cognitive involvement, perceived credibility of the article message and behavioral intentions. Participants were presented with a screenshot of an anti-environment article shared on Facebook with its source and number of likes manipulated (N = 156). Then, participants read the article on its original webpage and completed measures of cognitive involvement, perceived message credibility and behavioral intentions. Results demonstrated that low likes resulted in greater cynical behavioral intentions, such as seeking out other sources to validate the article content. Bootstrapping indicated that the relation between number of likes and cynical behavioral intentions was mediated by cognitive involvement with the article message. In addition, when likes are low, higher source credibility led to greater perceived message credibility and greater intentions to verbally share the article message. In contrast, when likes are high, there was no difference across source cues on message credibility and verbal behavioral intentions. Results suggest that more likes of shared articles may not be more effective—participants were less involved with the article message and less sensitive to source cues.
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Walk to Kent Ridge Bus Stop (Bus Stop No. 18331) from Kent Ridge MRT Station (Exit A). Board NUS Internal Bus Shuttle D2 at the bus stop directly in front of NUH (not opposite). Alight 5 stops later at UTown. An usher will be stationed at the stop to provide directions to the conference venue.

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