35th Red River Psychology Conference
April 16, 2021

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MOORHEAD®

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Tami DeCoteau
DeCoteau Trauma Informed
Care & Practice, PLLC

Conference Schedule
Wednesday, April 14

6:30 – 7:15 PM   MSUM Undergraduate and
                                      Graduate Psychology Programs

Host: Dr. Christine Malone
Zoom Meeting ID: 209 065 1983   Passcode: 360

Thursday, April 15

3:30 – 4:45 PM   School Professionals Event

"*Strategies for Working with Trauma and Historical Trauma*"
Presenter: Dr. Tami DeCoteau
Host: Dr. Peg Potter
Zoom Meeting ID: 955 7353 9335   Passcode: msum

4:30 – 5:45 PM   Networking Event

Host: Dr. Brenda Koneczny
Moderator: Aujanae Eubanks
Invite only

6:00 – 7:15 PM   Community Event
"Historical Trauma and Healing"
Presenter: Dr. Tami DeCoteau
Zoom Meeting ID: 979 0553 3353   Passcode: Healing

7:30 – 8:30 PM   Graduate Panel Q & A

Host: Dr. Brenda Koneczny
Moderator: Juni Gorden
Zoom Meeting ID: 926 292 7951   Passcode: PsiChi

Conference Schedule
Friday, April 16

Webinar Link: https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/91608433353

Webinar ID: 916 0843 3353   **Passcode:** RedRiver

9:00 – 9:15 AM   Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:30 – 10:50 AM   Morning Paper Session

10:50 – 11:00 AM   Break

11:00 – 12:15 PM   *"Why Cultural Competency Matters"*
                          Keynote Address
                          Dr. Tami DeCoteau

12:15 – 12:45 PM   Break

12:45 – 1:45 PM   *"Turning Your Research into a Journal Article"*
                          Presentation
                          Dr. Debi Brannan, Editor

1:45 – 2:00 PM   Break

2:00 – 4:00 PM   Afternoon Paper Session

Poster presentations can be viewed at:
www.mnstate.edu/rrpc

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Tami DeCoteau

Dr. DeCoteau obtained a doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology in 2003 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with specialization in the cognitive-behavioral treatment of anxiety disorders for adults, adolescents and children.

Dr. DeCoteau is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioner. TBRI is a therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support for at-risk children. She is also trained in various other trauma treatment modalities including EMDR, somatic processing, attachment intervention, NMT (neurosequential model of therapeutics), and TF-CBT. Dr. De Coteau has extensive experience working with patients who suffer from complex trauma, neurodevelopmental disorders, grief, anxiety, depression, and suicidal thinking.

Dr. DeCoteau has worked in a variety of outpatient settings and with a diverse patient population, including Veterans and Native Americans. She received the Indian Health Service 2009 Health Professional of the Year Award for outstanding service and the American Psychological Foundation 2010 Early Career Award for providing culturally competent practice techniques for Native Americans and for developing training programs in rural, underserved areas. This year Dr. DeCoteau was appointed by a member of the U.S. congress to serve the Commission on Native Children to help address the challenges faced by Native children.

Aside from clinical work, Dr. DeCoteau has given numerous lectures on how trauma impacts attachment and brain development, in-school strategies for working with traumatized children, and historical trauma. She is a long-standing member of the American Psychological Association, an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation and a descendant of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

We are pleased to present three presentations by Dr. DeCoteau:

"Strategies for Working with Trauma and Historical Trauma"

"Historical Trauma and Healing" Community Engagement

"Why Cultural Competency Matters" Keynote Address
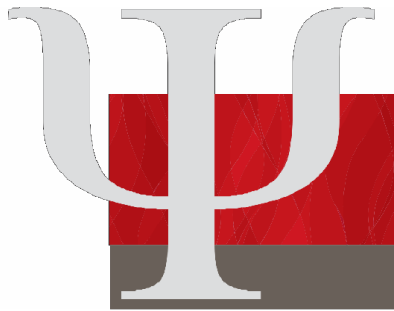
Red River Psychology Conference History

The Red River Psychology Conference began in 1986 for the purpose of providing a forum for students, college and university faculty, and area professionals. Every three years, the tri-college university members - Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead, and North Dakota State Universities - take their turn hosting this regional event.

The conference recognizes achievements in undergraduate and under graduate research in the science and application of psychology and its related fields. It is student-centered and provides a valuable opportunity for professional development and review of their work.

As the Red River Psychology Conference enters its 35th year, acknowledging the conference's dedication to promoting excellence in psychological research and practical application in a world rich with diversity for current and future researchers, practicing professionals, and our greater communities, Shelly A. Carlson, the Mayor of the city of Moorhead, Minnesota, officially proclaimed April 16th, 2021, Red River Psychology Conference Day.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the presenters, their fellow researchers, and their faculty members. We appreciate and recognize your work and dedication advancing psychology as a science.

Morning Paper Session (Live Presentations)

1. Motion Parallax: Perceiving Depth with Virtual Dihedral Angles
Mark Delisi, Emily Johnson, Jade Berg, and Sara Simenson
North Dakota State University, Center for Visual and Cognitive Neuroscience
Faculty Mentor: Mark Nawrot

With the use of environmental visual cues, individuals are able to perceive their surroundings, specifically objects in focus and the relationship they have with other objects. In the following study, we focus on how the visual system processes motion information to recover the slant of a virtual surface (i.e., a dihedral angle). Participants are tasked to view a randomized dot stimulus presented on a computer screen and record the perceived slant with the use of hand position recorded electronically with a potentiometer. Using the data received from the physical slant experiment we can apply a correction to the data of the virtual stimuli. This correction found that although participants underestimate the slant they were quite accurate in perceiving the depth portrayed by the motion of the virtual displays. Furthermore, when impossible stimuli were presented to participants, they accurately interpreted the depth in a physically possible way.

2. Age-Related Microaggressions: A Descriptive Study
Luke J. Gietzen
Minnesota State University Mankato
Faculty Mentor: Jeffery A. Buchanan

In 1970, Chester Pierce described every day, micro-level forms of prejudice and discrimination perpetrated unconsciously. Derald Sue, greatly expanded on Pierce's concept of microaggressions in the early 2000's to include conscious forms and different categorizations. Pierce and Sue, both focused on microaggressions directed toward racial and sexual minorities. Sue, in 2010, mentioned the extension of microaggressions to older adults should be done. To date, no such undertaking has occurred. The purposes of this study are to determine whether individuals over the age of 65 have experienced age-related microaggressions and to understand what these age-related microaggressions look like in the everyday lives of older adults. Our sample will be recruited and assessed through a Qualtrics survey where participants can describe age-related microaggressions they have experienced. Responses will undergo a qualitative content analysis to determine trends in responses to determine how older adults experience microaggressions regarding their age.

Morning Poster Session (Live Presentations)

3. What Catches the Eye: The Relationship Between Facial Features and Race on Guilt Ratings

Aujanae Eubanks
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Faculty Mentor: Rochelle Bergstrom

Past studies have found that Afrocentric facial features play a key role in racial categorization over skin color (Kleider-Offutt, 2019; Stepanova & Strobe, 2012); however, there are little to no studies that investigate this relationship in a mock jury setting. The current study will examine the effects of skin color and facial features on guiltiness ratings in a mock jury. It is expected that Caucasian and African American individuals with Afrocentric features will have a higher guiltiness rating compared to Caucasian and African American individuals with Eurocentric features. This is a between-subjects factorial study where undergraduate college students will be randomly assigned to one of four conditions. They will be asked to view the defendant's photo, read facts from a mock trial, and provide a guilt rating. If the hypothesis is supported, results will have implications on how racial bias impact juror decisions.

The MSUM Chapter of Psi Chi would like to honor and congratulate Aujanae Eubanks' achievement as the first MSUM psychology student to be nominated for the 2021 Goldwater Scholarship based on her research study "What Catches the Eye: The Relationship Between Facial Features and Race on Guilt Ratings."

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 to serve as a living memorial to honor the lifetime work of Senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country as a solider and statesman, including 30 years in the U.S. Senate.

By providing scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering, the Goldwater Foundation is helping to ensure that the U.S. is producing the number of highly-qualified professionals the Nation needs in these critical areas. To learn more, please visit: goldwater.scholarsapply.org

Afternoon Paper Session (Live Presentations)

1. Sexual Gratification as a Distal Motive and Predictor of Sexual Violence

Frances G. Eby
University of North Dakota
Faculty Mentor: Raeann Anderson

It is to establish the role of sexual motives as a predictor of sexual violence, considering impersonal sex as a key component in developing intervention and prevention programs. In doing so, this study will fill a gap in the literature by prioritizing sexual motives. T tests were computed for each of the Sexual Motivations Scale subscales. All these T tests was found to be significant such that perpetrators reported greater levels (self-affirmation, peer pressure, intimacy, partner approval, enhancement), except the subscale coping motivations. Hypothesis 2 states that endorsement of certain motives can predict sexual violence perpetration after accounting for individual's rape myth acceptance and alcohol expectancy levels. This was assessed using 2 logistic regressions, one including all perpetration cases, and one including only perpetration cases that involved penetration with varying significant variables.

2. Configural Face Processing: How Face Coverings Impact Social Judgements in the COVID-19 Era

Linsey Culkins
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Faculty Mentor: Rochelle Bergstrom

The behavioral immune system has been implicated in both adaptive and maladaptive social judgements and behaviors affecting a social environment (Murray & Schaller 2016). As norms change in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, how will covering the nose and mouth—with face coverings as a preventative measure to limit COVID-19 community spread—impact social environments? The current study seeks to investigate whether face coverings influence affect, social comfort, and judgments of trust. Undergraduate college students will be shown images of target faces with and without face coverings which impede configural face processing. It is expected that face coverings which obscure the nose and mouth will affect judgements of trust, social distance comfort, and fear differently than face coverings which obstruct the eyes. Results from this study are intended to shed light on potential cognitive and social impacts of widespread use of face coverings.

Afternoon Poster Session (Live Presentations)

3. The Perceptions of Slant in 3-D Printed Dihedral Objects

Mark Delisi, Emily Johnson, Jade Berg, and Sara Simenson
North Dakota State University, Center for Visual and Cognitive Neuroscience
Faculty Mentor: Mark Nawrot

Visual cues in surrounding environments allow an individual to perceive the location of specific objects and their relationship with other objects in the visual space. The following study focuses on how the brain processes motion-based information to perceive depth. With the use of 3D-printed dihedral angles that vary from 15° to 75° participants were given the task to mimic the angle orientation they are shown with a hand position. Using the comparison of the given angle with the participants' recorded data we find that observers had a systematic underestimation of slant. Angles that were frontward orienting, the regression slopes varied between 0.388 and 0.6799 while angles backward orienting varied between 0.247 and 0.7242. The mean r^2 was 0.90 even with low slopes, suggesting that although individuals were inaccurate they had an orderly relationship with perceiving the correct angle slants.

4. Peer Acceptance and Motivation as Mediators of the Relationships Between Students' Social and Academic Competencies

Shawn L. Carlson
North Dakota State University
Faculty Mentor: Joel M. Hektner

Primary goals of early elementary school are to teach children knowledge in reading and math. During this time, children also continue to develop their social skills, which can be learned from interactions with their peers. Several studies have shown a positive relationship between children's social skills and academic achievement; however, the mechanisms through which this relationship occurs is not well known. Two possible mechanisms are peer acceptance and academic motivation. The current study tests peer acceptance and academic motivation as sequential mediators of the relationship between children's social skills and academic achievement. Participants were 142 early elementary school students. Results indicated significant indirect effects linking socials skills to academic competence through the mediators of peer acceptance and academic motivation in models for both math and reading. These results highlight the importance of social skills to academic achievement in the classroom, and that prevention programs should promote peer acceptance and motivation.

Poster Sessions (Pre-recorded Presentations)

Grouping via Illusory Contours in Simultaneous and Sequential Arrays in Visual Working Memory

Liliana Cannella, Benjamin Swanson, and Dwight J. Swanson
Concordia College
Faculty Mentor: Dwight J. Peterson

Visual working memory (VWM) is the cognitive process that briefly stores visual information for subsequent use in an ongoing task. While this process is critical to cognition, it is capacity limited. As such, studies have leveraged perceptual organization to improve VWM performance (similarity: Peterson & Berryhill, 2013; Brady & Tenenbaum, 2013; connectedness and proximity: Woodman, et al., 2003, illusory contours: Allon et al., 2018; Gao et al., 2016). Previous studies found grouping related benefits for single-item features, but whether grouping-related benefits are apparent for feature bindings within VWM remains unknown. The current study addressed this gap in the literature by examining color-orientation conjunction stimuli organized to form illusory contours (e.g., Kanizsa triangle) or were randomly oriented and formed no illusory percept. Results revealed equivalent grouping-related benefits for orientation and binding, but not color, test conditions. The relevance of the to-be-remembered features comprising the grouped percept mediates benefits to VWM.

Evaluation of the MSUM Violence Prevention Training

Alexis Cigelske
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Faculty Mentor: Sarah Edwards

The purpose of this study was to look at the efficacy of Minnesota State University Moorhead's Sexual Violence prevention program. The program, "In Their shoes and Bystander Intervention Overview" was presented to 542 freshman students in the First Year Experience course. Students took the survey on paper before and after the program measuring each question with a 4-point likert scale. The survey included measures of knowledge surrounding intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and victim blaming. It measured comfortability in having conversations about those topics, getting help/resources, and having the knowledge and skills to intervene in situations of intimate partner and sexual violence. Lastly, the survey measured the belief in the possibility of preventing intimate partner violence and having the ability to positively impact campus culture. It is expected that the program will be shown as effective in comparing surveys before and after the program.

35th Red River Psychology Conference

Poster Sessions (Pre-recorded Presentations)

Sexy For Me: Enjoyment of Sexualization, Embodiment, and Well-Being in Recreational Pole Dancers
Kelly Cuccolo, Marina Brunner, Taylor Baumler, and Richard Ferraro
University of North Dakota
Faculty Mentor: Richard Ferraro

Despite deleterious outcomes associated with sexualization and objectification, some women seek out and report enjoyment from participation in sexualizing activities. It is possible that participation in such activities affords some perceived benefit or positive experience. Certain types of sexualizing activities may promote feelings of body functionality, and "being in" the body (i.e. embodiment). Recreational pole dancing offers an environment to study this hypothesis given both sexualizing/objectifying (e.g., costuming) and embodying (e.g., skill) elements are present. This study used mixed methods to examine associations between enjoyment of sexualization and mental health among recreational pole dancers (N = 82) recruited from five recreational pole dancing studios. Thematic analysis revealed three main themes surrounding women's perception of recreational pole dancing as beneficial for their mental health: mind-body connection, agency, and community. The discussion centers on the practical application of the three themes present in the data, and future directions for research.

Unattended, Task-Irrelevant Object Features are Stored in Working Memory in a Hidden State
Mitchell Ellingson, Nora Wallace, Samuel A. Birkholz, and Andrea Bocincova
North Dakota State University
Faculty Mentor: Jeffery S. Johnson

Previous studies have shown that only task-relevant object features leave a decodable neural trace while held in working memory (WM). This has been taken as evidence for a lack of storage of task-irrelevant features. However, the absence of decodable signals could also mean that irrelevant features are maintained via sub-threshold neural activity because they are unattended. Prior evidence suggests that it is possible to "reawaken" a hidden neural trace using a task-irrelevant flash (Wolfe et al., 2017). To test this possibility, we used classifiers trained on EEG data to track the neural representation of task-relevant and irrelevant features over time. Analyses of the EEG response to the flash revealed above-chance decoding for both task-relevant and irrelevant orientations, suggesting that task-irrelevant features may be stored in WM in a hidden state. An ongoing study is using more sensitive methods to determine whether these findings extend to task-irrelevant colors held in WM.

Poster Sessions (Pre-recorded Presentations)

Are Political Opponents Reliable?: Assessing the Effects of the Information Source on Perceptions of Political Candidates.
Jenna N Laurin, Heather Terrell, and Shannon Hardy
University of North Dakota
Faculty Mentor: Heather Terrell

In a replication of Bauer's (2015) study Emotional, Sensitive, and Unfit for Office? the authors extended the study to assess how message source may affect the perceptions of political candidates. In a 2 x 2 x 2 study, a sample of 216 participants read about a male or female candidate who was either presented neutrally or with stereotypical feminine traits, and the information was presented from either a neutral source or by the candidate's opponent. Results indicate that candidates were rated higher on negative traits when described by the opponent source. Candidates were also rated lower on positive traits when described by their opponent. Male candidates were also rated as less qualified to serve in local elected office when they were described by their opponents, but when described by a neutral source, male candidates were rated as more qualified than female candidates to serve in local elected office.

Identifying Effective Learning Strategies for Students in STEM Fields
Annika Maser
Concordia College
Faculty Mentors: Mona Ibrahim and Mark Jensen

Numerous studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of Metacognitive Learning Strategies (MCLS) in enhancing academic performance. Given the relatively low success and retention rates in STEM fields of study, teaching metacognitive skills may be helpful to students in STEM courses. Throughout two consecutive semesters, study journals were collected from two cohorts enrolled in a course that taught MCLS. Each contained roughly the same number of males and females. The study journals contained qualitative reflections and quantitative data. Results showed that, among both cohorts the most effective of the learning strategies included paraphrasing material and explaining concepts to others. This presentation will summarize further findings obtained from qualitative and quantitative analyses conducted on the student journals, and correlations between the use of MCLS and students' college GPAs. Overall, this study contributes to understanding the effectiveness of teaching MCLS and improving student learning in STEM courses.

Poster Sessions (Pre-recorded Presentations)

The Effects of Antioxidant Status, Omega-6 to Omega-3 Ratio, and Dietary Diversity on Cognitive Performance
Jonathon Santiago, Lindsey English, and Thomas Petro
University of North Dakota
Faculty Mentor: Thomas Petros

Past research on the relationship between nutrition and cognitive performance has suggested that dietary diversity decreased the risk of cognitive decline and diets with higher levels of polyunsaturated fats improved cognitive performance. The purpose of this study was to compare younger (18-35) and older adults (65+) on measures of nutritional intake and examine whether nutritional intake moderates the magnitude of age-related changes in cognitive performance. Participants were 58 younger adults and 21 older adults (60 to 85 years of age). Participants completed a 72-hour dietary record, the WAIS-IV Vocabulary Subtest and the RBANS. Dietary diversity was positively related to cognitive performance on the RBANS Word Recall, Figure Recall and Semantic Fluency. The impact of dietary diversity was larger for older adults than younger adults. Omega-6 fatty acid levels were positively associated with word recall and passage recall while Omega- fatty acid levels were negatively associated with word and passage recall.

Goal Adjustment in Intractable Life Circumstances: Benefits for Mental Health and Well-Being
Jaron Tan, Jeremy M. Hamm, and Katharine A. Duggan
North Dakota State University
Faculty Mentor: Jeremy M. Hamm

The COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a major life stressor that can undermine the controllability of important life goals and elicit psychological distress. Our nationally-representative study (n=300) investigated the association between goal adjustment capacities and psychological well-being for individuals who differed in perceived control during the first wave of the pandemic. Goal Adjustment x Perceived Control regression models yielded significant interactions for perceived stress (b = .17, p = .009), depressive symptoms (b = .12, p = .009) and meaning in life (b = -.24, p = .002), and a marginal interaction for life satisfaction (b = -.23, p = .088) when controlling for age, sex, education, and income. Simple slope analyses suggested that, for individuals who experienced declines in control over their goals, disengaging from unattainable goals and reengaging with new attainable goals protected against elevated stress and depressive symptoms and helped maintain a sense of purpose and satisfaction in life.

Poster Sessions (Pre-recorded Presentations)

The Role of Ambivalent Sexism in Heterosexual Relationship Quality
Noah Tiegs
Concordia College
Faculty Mentor: Darcie Sell

This study investigated how ambivalent sexism and stigma consciousness interact to influence heterosexual relational quality. We explored 1) actor and partner effects on benevolent/hostile sexism on relational quality and 2: moderating effect on women's stigma consciousness on the relationship between their own benevolent sexism and perceived partner support. One study found that when women's stigma consciousness was high, women's benevolent sexism predicted women's perceived partner support (Mattison, 2017). These results were inconsistent with previous research, thus, we aimed to replicate and extend these findings by investigating the role of dangerous world beliefs and transphobia. We hypothesized dangerous world beliefs would partially explain the relationship between benevolent sexism and relational quality and transphobia would correlate with ambivalent sexism and dangerous world beliefs. Participants were ages 18-35 and in a romantic relationship of at least three months; they were recruited through psychology courses and social media. Data were analyzed using the APIM.

Thank you to all of the Red River Conference Presenters
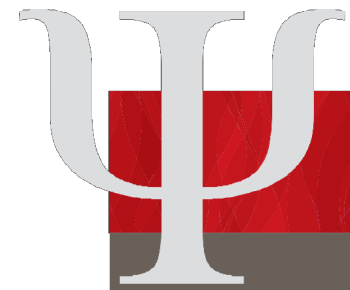
This conference was made possible by:

Conference Coordinator and Psi Chi Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Brenda Koneczny

MSUM Psychology Department Chair:
Dr. Christine Malone

MSUM School Psychology, Director:
Dr. Peg Potter

Student Conference Committee:
Aujanae Eubanks, Alexis Cigelske, Juni Gorden,
Madeleine, Reski, Katlyn Watson

Graduate Student Panelists:
Samuel Birkholz, Emily Dempster, Anna Ellenson, Ilya Nudnou

MSUM Office of Student Activities

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Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research

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Concordia College
North Dakota State University
Minnesota State University Moorhead

Thank you to Shelly Carlson, Mayor of the City of
Moorhead, Minnesota

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*The 36th Annual Red River Psychology Conference will be
hosted by North Dakota State University in 2022.*

"Honor is the reward of merit" ~Cicero

Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, was founded in 1929 with a mission to encourage excellence in scholarship and advance the science of psychology. More than three-quarters of a million lifetime members have joined including Distinguished Members such as Drs. Albert Bandura, B. F. Skinner, and Phillip Zimbardo. A few popular Membership Benefits include international recognition for academic excellence, as well as access to psychology-related publications and more than $400,000* in annual awards and grants.

Psi Chi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association for Psychological Science (APS). Our sister honor society is Psi Beta, the national honor society in psychology for community and junior colleges.

To learn more how to join or to start your own chapter, please visit: psichi.org

MSUM's Psi Chi Chapter is an active chapter and hosts a wide variety of events in areas of professional, academic, and personal growth as well as service opportunities within our community throughout the academic year. In 2020, we were recognized as a Model Chapter and also awarded a Chapter Activity Grant to assist with this conference.

Follow us on Facebook: MSUM Psychology Club and Psi Chi and on Instagram @PSYCHCLUB_MSUM