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INVESTIGATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONAL JUSTICE, ABUSIVE SUPERVISION, AND WORK OUTCOMES

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Abstract

Abusive supervision and organizational injustice have been seen as a common issue arose in many organizations due to the rising frequency of undesirable organizational outcomes in organizations. In this thesis research, we investigated how abusive supervision and organizational justice (i.e. distributive and interpersonal justice) affects employees' job outcomes such as job satisfaction and job performance in an Asian context. This research involves a survey design study, with 196 working adults in the Klang Valley region, Malaysia were approached via convenience and snowball sampling method. Questionnaires regarding organizational supervision, organizational justice, job satisfaction and performance were utilized. The current study was analyzed with Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient, using SPSS Version 23.0. Findings showed that organizational justice had a positive significant impact of on job satisfaction and job performance, whereas abusive supervision had a negative significant impact of on organizational justice, job satisfaction, and job performance. These findings indicate how organizational justice can positively affect employees' work outcomes. However, abusive supervision can be destructive in the organizational setting. Justifications of the findings, practical implications and future research directions are discussed. It is suggested that supervisors' ratings and types of leadership should be administered for higher accuracy in assessing employees' job outcomes.

Keywords: *Abusive supervision, distributive justice, interpersonal justice, job satisfaction, job performance.*

THE PERCEPTION OF CONSUMER BEHAVIOR TOWARDS BRANDED PRODUCTS AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Current study was conducted to identify the perception of consumer behavior towards branded products among university students. In this study, six participants from Malaysia were recruited, which consists of 5 females and 1 male that between 18 to 24 years old. This study related to the research paradigm of social constructionism, researcher would have better understanding and perceptions from the different perspectives of the participants. Interview approach was used in this study instead of focus group because this was a one-to-one interview and thus the confidentiality and the identity of the participants were being protected. The perception of consumer behavior towards branded product is the first main category of our topic. The sub-categories for this main category are branding and quality. Also, the quality coding is good quality, durable and functionable. The second main category is about the reasons on people choosing to purchase on branded products. In this category, there have two sub-categories, which are internal factors and external factors. The limitation for this study would be the ratio between male and female participants were not the same. Different gender might have different perception towards branded products. The possible implication for this study is people should be more rational and understanding towards other who is not able to purchase on branded product instead of judging them due to their financial status. The advice that would be given to society is, when people want to purchase on a certain product, they should do some researches about the product included the functionality, quality or even the price. For the future research, the researcher may examine the gender differences on the perception and behavior towards branded product.

Keywords: *consumer behavior; branding; peer pressure; branded products.*

**THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INTRINSIC CAREER GOALS, JOB SEARCH
SELF EFFICACY AND JOB SEARCH INTENTION AMONG UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS IN MALAYSIA**

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Abstract

This research aims to investigate the relationship between job search self-efficacy (JSS) and job search intention (JSI) as well as the mediation effect of intrinsic career goals (ICG) on the relationship between JSS and JSI. Previous works on the relationships between JSS and JSI had reported mixed results, some of them suggested that the two variables are positively related, some reported no significant relationship. On the other hand, several works mentioned about how JSS predicts ICG. Other related works reported the positive link between ICG and JSI. Based on these premises, it was hypothesized that ICG mediates the relationship between JSS and JSI. 100 participants have been recruited to respond to the questionnaires of Job Search Self Efficacy scale which tests for JSS, Job Search Behavior scale which assesses JSI as well as Career Goals Scales which would be used to evaluate ICG. Regression analyses were used to analyze the interrelationship among the variables in order to test the hypothesis. Up to the date this abstract is being written, the result has not been fully analyzed. Full results of the study will be presented during the MAPSA conference.

Keywords: *Job search self-efficacy, job search intention, intrinsic career goals*

**A SURVEY ON FINANCE AND INSURANCE EMPLOYEES IN MALAYSIA: THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP,
ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AND EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT**

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Abstract

In nowadays business environment more towards teamwork, it was hypothesized that leadership and culture would have great influence on engagement of employees. The reviewed of the Malaysia Productivity Report in recent years has been found that services and financial sectors persisted as the first and second largest contributors to the country's gross domestic product. Although the employment success rate was the highest among the sub-sectors, finance and insurance sub-sector had the lowest productivity and also lowest added value towards the economy among other sub-sectors. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the relationships between transformational leadership, organizational culture and employee engagement in the organization of finance and insurance sectors. Data was collected from 400 employees of the organization within Malaysia stock market list via Qualtric software. The measurements used were Global Transformational Leadership scale, Organizational Culture Index and Gallup Organization Q-12 scale. Exploratory Factor Analysis and Confirmatory Factor Analysis have been carried out. The result confirmed the suitability of the scales used in Malaysian context. Analysis of the data collection was done using Pearson correlation and multiple regression analysis. Result showed the increasing in both transformational leadership and organizational culture could significantly and independently predict an increase in employee engagement. The result of this study contributed useful information to the literature in behavioural and industrial-organization studies and moreover provided useful knowledge to guide the organization in concerning welfare and growth of employees. Further study is expected to examine the influences of other possible moderating and mediating variables that is related.

Keywords: *transformational leadership; organizational culture; employee engagement*

The Effects of Positive Lyrical Music on Work Motivation

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Abstract

Past research has focused mostly on how music in general affects performance but did not consider the influence of positive lyrics especially in an organizational setting. Positive lyrics are those with express positive emotional experiences and connotations. Since past studies showed that positive lyrics affect behaviours, such as increased altruistic behaviours, we predicted that positive lyrical songs would increase motivation and positive emotions, relative to non-lyrical songs. To test this hypothesis, a total of 21 men and 7 women ($N = 28$) with age ranged between 21 and 40 years old ($M = 29.64$ and $SD = 0.44$) were randomly assigned to listen to either positive lyrical songs (e.g. Hall of Fame by The Script) or non-lyrical music (Sibelius by Jean Sibelius). Participants were required to listen to a given playlist according to the assigned group for 3 to 5 hours per day at work. Before and after the manipulation of music, participants completed questionnaires that measure motivation and emotion. Results gathered showed that employees listening to non-lyrical songs reported a higher level of task motivation than those listening to positive lyrical songs. This unexpected finding could be because the workplace tasks occupy phonological working memory resources, leaving no sufficient resources to process the positive lyrics.

Keywords: *Music, emotions, motivational level, lyrics*

**THE COPING STRATEGIES STUDY OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS AUTISM SPECTRUM QUOTIENT**

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Abstract

In Malaysia, due to the low awareness among different levels autism spectrum quotient, it had caused the communities being ignorance toward the autistic traits showed by the students and not acquiring the correct coping strategies. The purpose of this study is to examine if there is any significant difference among secondary school students with different levels of autism spectrum quotient in terms of the coping strategies (problem-focused and emotion-focused coping). In the methodology part, a total of 539 secondary school students were recruited by using purposive sampling method. There are 2 measurements in this research includes the Autism-spectrum Quotient (AQ-Adolescent Version) which is to measure the different levels of autism spectrum quotient , while BRIEF COPE is to measure the coping strategies among the secondary school students. The result of ONEWAY ANOVA shows no significant differences in both problem-focused and emotion-focused coping strategies among the four levels (low, the average, above average and very high) of autism spectrum quotient (AQ). In this research, the researchers able to provide information on the coping strategies of different levels of autism spectrum quotient and help the potential students to have better life transition from adolescent to adulthood. In the future, this study can be further extended by including the primary school students in Malaysia.

Keywords: *Autism; coping strategies; secondary school students.*

**THE EXPERIENCE OF RAISING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDER IN THE MALAYSIAN MULTILINGUAL CONTEXT**

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Abstract

It was widely believed that children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) should not be exposed to more than one language due to their language learning difficulties. This qualitative study aimed to explore the experiences of parents raising children with ASD in the Malaysian multilingual society. Language exposure interviews (LEI) and semi-structured interviews were conducted with 8 mothers. Participants' children were 7–12 years-old, government Chinese primary school students and were exposed to at least 3 languages. Using interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA), four themes were identified: *Decision making about language choices, parents' view on multilingualism, challenges related to multilingualism, and other challenges*. All mothers thought that learning multi-languages was important for children to connect with family members and be accepted in the wider community. Most of the challenges reported related to ASD in general and not to the number of languages learned. The results supported the findings of previous studies. Multilingualism did not negatively affect the language development of children with ASD. This finding suggests that professionals should give advice based on individual children's abilities, family needs, and research evidence. The theory of language socialization may be applicable to understand the integration between the process of language acquisition and socialization.

Keywords: *Multilingualism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Language development, Language Socialization, Cultural and linguistic diversity.*

**PREVALENCE OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN MALAYSIA:
A REVIEW OF LOCAL LITERATURES**

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Abstract

Developmental disability is characterized by impairment or delay in functions due to disorders or injuries to the developing nervous system that occurs during infancy or childhood. Developmental disability is not a fatal situation. Studies have shown positive outcomes in children with early identification of developmental disabilities and who enrolled in early intervention programs. However, there is paucity of data information and research on developmental disabilities in developing countries such as Malaysia. A total of 22 articles were identified conducted in Malaysia, but only five examined or discussed on prevalence data of developmental disabilities in Malaysia. The current prevalence statistics stated in Malaysia are underestimated (Unicef, 2014). It may be underestimated possibly because of the lack of standardized working definitions and non-integrated healthcare system for development disabilities within healthcare and services departments in Malaysia. The non-standardized definitions used within healthcare and services industries for developmental disabilities in Malaysia may have caused some causes to be undetected and lead to underestimation of developmental disabilities prevalence. The patient health records in Malaysia are non-centralized and non-unified. Furthermore, the lack of integrative and centralized patient health records and healthcare system in Malaysia may have also contributed to underestimated prevalence statistics of developmental disabilities. These findings implicate the importance for standardized definition and integrated health records to examine the actual prevalence of developmental disabilities in Malaysia.

Keywords: *developmental disabilities; definition; integrated; health records.*

**THE LONG-TERM EFFECT OF WAR TRAUMA ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL
WELL-BEING OF REFUGEES: SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN**

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Abstract

There are several millions of war refugees worldwide. The vast majority find themselves trapped in protracted situations in recipient countries for many years without being able to reach a third permanent resettlement country nor returning to their home country. The consequences of wars have received considerable attention in the recent literature. However, the largest focus to date has been on the pre-migration experience and little is known about the long-term psychological well-being of refugees in a protracted situation. An exploratory study is designed to investigate the psychological well-being among long-settled war-refugees in protracted situations by focusing on the combined influence of the pre-migration trauma, post-migration living difficulties, and psychological support. This study will fill the gaps in the current knowledge to assist these refugees by understanding the perceived long-term psychological needs. In this paper I will present some of my observations about the long-term psychological needs. A few emergent themes were: Experience of war, Living difficulties and the uncertain future. Discussion will focus on the perceived psychological needs and the unmet intervention programs in the long-term context among camp refugees who are trapped in protracted situations.

Keywords: *protracted situation, refugee, war trauma, PTSD, depression, anxiety, risk factors*

HOW TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES OF INDIGENOUS MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES: A METHODOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATION

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Abstract

The past literature suggest to choose culturally appropriate indigenous methods when working with marginalized indigenous communities. The focus of indigenous research is on qualitative, collective, participatory methods, and empowerment frameworks. The qualitative methods, utilizing semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions as the data collection methods, has become common among applied health researchers to study marginalized indigenous populations. Similarly, I used two qualitative methods i) Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and ii) Consensual Qualitative Research (CQR) to study the two indigenous communities in Pakistan (Kalasha and nomads). The aim of the project is to explore the resilience mechanisms, identification of cultural protective factors, and mental health perspectives of these two groups. IPA was used for detailed exploration of the way research participants make sense of their own world. There is involvement of a two-stage interpretation process also called double hermeneutic. The research participants are involved in sense making of their world; however, the researcher tries to develop sense of participants' sense making of their world. Similarly CQR is adequate for the research studies aimed at exploring inner experiences, viewpoints, and convictions. CQR has various key elements, such as: having open-ended questions in semi-structured data collection procedures (mostly interviews), which not only serves the purpose of gathering consistent data from participants but also helps in in-depth investigation of participants' experiences. The significance and implications of using CQR and IPA to study indigenous populations has been highlighted. This study shows an appropriate methodological recommendations for health researchers to use multiple qualitative methods in order to study marginalized indigenous communities.

Keywords: *qualitative, indigenous, marginalized, method*

**PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS TO THE IDEA OF CONDOM PROVISION IN
DISTED COLLEGE**

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Abstract

This qualitative study involving with social constructivism was conducted in order to comprehend the perception of students to the idea of condom provision in a private college in Penang. Six students (three males and three females) between the ages of 19 to 20 were interviewed in order to answer the central research question: What is the perception of students to the idea of condom provision in the College? This interview was semi-structured and the students were asked to answer 5 questions with a number of probing questions. The data was then transcribed for further interpretation. Three themes were emerged through thematic analysis which is factors (personal educational/family backgrounds), perception of condom provision and participants' actions after receiving a condom. Research's findings showed that participant's points of view and responses when receiving condom were varied as their educational and family backgrounds differ. Majority of the samples showed neutral responses to the idea of condom provision, yet the decision of the participant's participation is dependent on the level of the idea of conservativeness each participant's education and family background provided. Therefore, future quantitative studies are suggested to be conducted to examine the effect of level of conservativeness on response when receiving a condom with a covariate variable which is the way of condom distribution (discreetly/indiscreetly).

**FUNCTIONAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SHOWS BRAIN
ACTIVATION IN RESPONSE TO ANTI-TOBACCO PICTORIAL HEALTH
WARNING**

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Abstract

The ineffectiveness of the anti-tobacco campaign has been an issue. This study aims to investigate the role of impulsive and executive systems in human brain activation in response to various anti-tobacco pictorial health messages. No earlier studies of this aspect have been conducted. Three smokers and three non-smokers were recruited for a within-subjects design. Each subject lay inside an MRI scanner to view a series of images categorized under themes (i.e. “Disease and Death” (DD), “Cosmetic” (COS), “Endanger Others” (EN), “Negative Lifestyle” (NE) and “Natural” (NA)). Blood-oxygenated dependent level responses were recorded. In terms of intensity, inferior frontal gyrus (role in executive control) was activated in all image conditions, except for NA and EN among the smokers while this region of non-smokers was activated by the DD images only. Precentral gyrus (motor area) was activated by the COS and NE images for the smokers but not activated in any conditions among the non-smokers. In terms of spatial extent, the middle temporal gyrus (associated with impulsive choice) of the smokers was activated by all conditions, with the exception of COS images. The middle frontal gyrus (associated with refrained choice) was activated by the DD and NA images for the smokers. Activity in these regions was not observed in the non-smokers. Findings from the current study can help to assess the effectiveness of the message themes and refine the design according to the different brain mechanisms of the smoker and non-smoker populations. Larger sample size is needed to draw population inferences statistically.

Keywords: *fMRI; anti-tobacco; health message; impulsive; executive*

**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND HEALTH IMPACT ON PERSONAL DIABETES
CARE IN USING HOME REMEDY: A PROPOSAL**

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Abstract

There is increasing evidence of using home remedy alongside prescribed medicine among individuals with chronic disease especially with internet being affordable by many. Without exception, home remedy ideas are very commonly shared among diabetic individuals. A reason home remedy is popular because there is no cure or solution for diabetes in conventional medicine today. Malaysians consisted of mainly Malay, Chinese, and Indian that are rich in their own cultural heritage have their own unique methods in managing health issues. However, little is known about the actual benefits of home remedy ideas being practiced by the patients despite its popularity. Research on psychological effects among those who consume home remedies is scarce. Therefore, this research project is planned to investigate the effect on diabetes patients' psychology and health on those who consume any form of home remedy as part of their diabetes care regimen. The study will be conducted via a mixed-method cross-sectional design in which data will be collected using interview and questionnaire. It is proposed to recruit 10 interviewees and 200 survey participants who meet the inclusion criteria. The data will be analysed using Nvivo, multiple regression and ANOVA. The potential findings would provide more knowledge to understand the pattern, determinant and actual effect of home remedy used on diabetes care; and hence, allowing medical researchers and practitioners a more steady grip on the role and impact of home remedy in their patients.

Keywords: *home remedy, diabetes, self-care management*

MEDITATION FREQUENCY AND DEPRESSION LEVEL

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between the frequency of meditation and the level of depression. It is known that depression at any level is common among college and university students, and numerous studies had conducted to identify the causes, it is also important to study how to reduce it. Some studies discovered that meditation is one way to reduce the depression levels. 12 students from a private college in Penang participated in this study and were asked to respond to Hamilton Depression Scale. Sequentially, they were divided into three different groups, where the first one was taught and asked to do meditation every other day, the second one for twice a week, and the third one was not told to meditate at all. After three weeks, both groups were asked to fill up the same depression scale. One-Way ANOVA was utilized in order to analyze the data, and it was hypothesized that a group who meditates had their depression score significantly reduced when compared to those who did not mediate. Until the day this abstract is written, the data analyses have not been thoroughly done. Full version of the result will be presented during the MAPSA conference.

Keywords: *Meditation, Depression*

THE SEARCH FOR NIRVANA: DOES HELPING OTHERS LEAD TO HAPPINESS?

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Abstract

Nirvana is a perfect state of happiness when one is able to be free from all kind of sufferings. According to Buddha's teaching, one may achieve happiness in life through giving, kindness, and compassion. Buddhists are encouraged to do good deeds in their life, of which can be described as prosocial behaviors. The present study investigates the relationship between intrinsic and extrinsic religious orientations with prosocial behavior and subjective well-being. Survey method with convenience sampling method by using Buddhist sample was implemented for this exploratory study. Participants ($n= 395$) are undergraduate students from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Kampar campus. Prosocial behavior is measured by Prosocial Behaviour Battery (PSB), intrinsic-extrinsic religiosity is measured by Religious Orientations Scale (ROS), and subjective well-being is measured by the combination of Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) and Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS). Data collection and analysis process is currently on-going and should be concluded soon. Nevertheless, based on previous research on Christian sample (Soon & Ayob, 2017), it is expected that both religious orientations and prosocial behavior will predict subjective well-being. The research has shown positive moderating effect of religious orientation in the relationship between prosocial behavior and life satisfaction. It was also found that intrinsic religiosity has higher impact in the relationship compared to extrinsic religiosity. It is expected that intrinsically religious people will tend to have a higher level of prosocial behavior and subjective well-being, while extrinsically religious people will tend to have a lower level of prosocial behavior and subjective well-being. This study could implicate the role of religious orientations on the positive aspects of subjective well-being and prosocial behavior, specifically among university students. Further study is expected to shed more lights on the nature of religiosity of Buddhist youth and how prosocial behaviors may affect their level of happiness and subjective well-being.

Keywords: *Religiosity; subjective well-being; prosocial behaviour; happiness.*

A STUDY ON STRESS AND ITS IMPACT ON MULTIPLE ROLES WOMEN

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Abstract

The concept of 'Role Strain' and 'Role Conflict' have been evidently tied to an individual's psychological well-being particularly to those who have to shoulder multiple-roles. The objective of this study is to explore the causation of stress on women by examining the impact of stress on multiple-roles women concentrating on housewives' autonomous daily activities. Finally, it also identifies what are the possible coping strategies that multiple-roles women used to reduce their stressful life. A total of 15 participants were involved in this study. They were chosen through the method of convenient sampling from 2 schools, namely; SRJK Kuen Cheng 1 and Kuen Cheng Independent High School, both located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A qualitative research method has been used for the purpose of data collection. Semistructured questionnaires were the main tool of this research when interviewing respondents. Approximately 345 minutes of recorded interviews have been collected and the results shown that 100% of participants' stress level were caused by anxieties on their children's educational attainment. Besides, 73% of 15 participants bridge their stress level with their spouse's unhelpful plus ignorant behavior. With this, the finding demonstrated that all participants developed negative physiological and emotional changes such as increased heart-rate, shortness of breath, excessive sweat, anger, frustration as well as having depression during their stressful period. Consequently, it strains not only themselves but family members too. Even though majority of them has deployed coping strategies to lighten their stress level, they are still unable to delegate their duties to others although being conscious on their drained energy. Multiple-roles women are highly recommended to gain knowledge on adverse children's social and emotional development under stressful parenting environment. Thus, women of multiple-roles may also seek the acceptance on their children's different level of learning abilities in order to feel 'relax' over their educational progress. Keywords: multiple-roles women, stress, psychological well-being, depression

ANXIETY LEVEL AMONG UTAR FINAL YEAR STUDENTS

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Abstract

Anxiety is a very common condition all throughout the world and undergraduate students in Malaysia are not exceptions to experience its alarming negative effects. On top of that, every university students somehow goes through certain challenges in life, and within their mental state however there are still traces of anxiety remain. Hence, this study was aimed to examine the anxiety level among UTAR final year students in measure of variables which are gender, race and type of beliefs. Extensive studies` review related to present study has been analyzed. Survey method with stratified random sampling will be implemented in this study. In this research population, participants ($N= 80$) are final year students from UTAR, Kampar and the instrument to measure is State-Trait anxiety inventory (STAI) by Speilberger, 1983. The result of this study found that there were no significant difference between type of beliefs ($P= 0.350$) in anxiety level but there is a significant difference between type of beliefs in state anxiety level ($P= 0.030$). Next, no any significant race and gender differences were found in anxiety level. Overall, the anxiety level among UTAR final year students is high. Specific intervention can be developed from the findings of this study especially towards university students.

Keywords: *state anxiety; trait anxiety; type of beliefs.*

EXPERIENCE OF HOMESICKNESS IN FIRST-YEAR STUDENT IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

This study aimed to understand the homesickness experience of first-year university students in Malaysia based on a social constructionism view. This basic qualitative study aimed to answer the central research question: “What does homesickness mean to first-year university students in Malaysia?” Two male participants and two female participants (3 Chinese, 1 Indian) were recruited using purposive sampling. Participants attended a semi-structured interview session and shared their experience on homesickness. The findings of current study can be narrowed down into three major themes: experience of homesickness, healthy coping strategy and positive outcomes of homesickness. The findings of current research are able to provide some understanding on the experience of homesickness among first-year university students in Malaysia. One of the most exciting findings is that most participants reported positive influence of homesickness, instead of negative ones, which was more commonly perceived. Further study is expected to shed more lights on intervention that can help students cope better, maximizing positive influence and minimizing negative influence.

Keywords: *homesickness; first-year student; healthy coping strategies; positive outcomes; away from home*

STRESS AMONG FIRST YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

First year university students are faced with numerous challenges especially in the aspect of academic performance. This research aims to explore and understand about the experience of students encountering stress. Social constructionism was used as the research paradigm because it was suitable to have an in-depth understanding of students who have gone through stressful events. The research question of this study is: What is the experience of university students encountering stress? A purposive sampling was used to recruit participants and four HELP University first year Chinese students (3 females, 1 male) between the ages of 18 and 25 ($M = 20.3$ years) who are currently pursuing the course of psychology were recruited in this research. Semi-structured interview was conducted to develop a keen understanding on the topic. The results were analysed through thematic analysis and the researcher has found that stress among university students can be caused by people, studies and disappointment. It is found that stress can affect the physiological, emotional, social and performance aspect of the participants. The findings on the causes and impacts of stress helped to develop in-depth understanding of lived experience from the perspectives of first-year students. Future research should focus on exploration of effective stress reduction strategies for first-year psychology students.

Keywords: *stress; first year university students; physiological aspect; emotional aspect; academic performance.*

**STUDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS AN ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATIONAL
PROGRAM AND ITS EFFECT ON ACADEMIC SELF-EFFICACY**

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Abstract

This study examines the students' attitude towards an achievement motivational program and its effect on academic self-efficacy. An achievement motivational program with the theme of "Strive for Excellence: Achieving Your Academic Goals" was conducted on the same day in three different secondary schools. The program's contents were similar for each school and were delivered through various structured activities (e.g., motivational talks, shared academic experiences, motivational videos, small group discussions, and motivational games). A total of 268 students took part in this program, each completing a questionnaire that consisted of three sections. Section A measured the participants' demographic profile (8 items); Section B measured the students' attitudes towards the achievement motivational program (9 items) and Section C measured their academic self-efficacy (3 items). The questionnaire was given to the participants after they completed the one-day program in each school. Our study shows that the students' attitudes towards the achievement motivational program have an effect on their academic self-efficacy. The students' attitudes towards the achievement motivation program contributed to 31% of the variance on their academic self-efficacy ($\beta=.18$, $t = 2.82$, $p = .00$). These findings show that the students' attitudes towards the one-day program can increase the students' academic self-efficacy in various ways, such as believing that they can complete the hardest academic tasks if they try, that they can learn new things taught in school and that they can figure out difficult homework assignments. It is suggested that the students' positive attitudes towards various activities in the achievement motivational program can help to increase students' academic self-efficacy.

Keywords: *achievement motivation program, academic self-efficacy, attitude*

**THE EFFECTS OF ACADEMIC SELF-EFFICACY ON ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT AMONG STUDENTS IN RURAL AREAS**

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Abstract

This study examines students' academic achievement towards their academic self-efficacy. Two hundred and two students from two rural secondary schools took part in this study, completing a questionnaire that consisted of two sections. Section A contained eight items for measuring the demographic profile, and Section B contained three items measuring the students' academic self-efficacy. Our study found that academic self-efficacy (i.e., students can do the hardest academic tasks if they try, learn new things and can figure out difficult homework) contributed to 9.6% of the variance on academic achievement ($\beta=.31, t=4.60, p=.00$). These findings indicate that academic self-efficacy is one of the factors that can increase students' academic achievement. This shows that one way to increase academic achievement among rural students is by providing them strategies to cope with challenging academic tasks and also to boost their motivation to learn something new. In light of these findings, relevant programs that focus on academic self-efficacy and motivation should be organized to increase students' academic achievement.

Keywords: *academic self-efficacy, academic achievement, motivation*

RAINBOW: THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT COLOURS ON VISUAL ATTENTION

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Abstract

The purpose of this experiment is to determine the effects of how different types colours can influence individuals' ability on a visual search task. A one-way within subject's design was utilized with twenty-four participants. The participants were at least minimum of 18 years of age regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, have normal visions; which also includes visions with corrected lenses. It was hypothesized that colours perceived to be 'warm' specifically red/yellow would facilitate longer reaction time in a visual search task, compared to colours perceived as 'cool' specifically blue/green. Participants were shown set of images containing different strokes of line on each trial. Participants were instructed to search for a specific target line informed by the researcher. Non-targeted lines were coloured on each trial randomly either in red, yellow, blue or green. Response time was recorded after identifying the target line. Using a within-subjects t-test, findings suggests no significant difference in reaction time in visual task regardless of types of colour, as $t(23)=-1.3, p>.05$. This implies that although the colours could participant's visual attention, but it was not enough to distract the participants focus on the visual search task. Therefore, future directions will be discussed on methods to further improve the study.

Keywords: *colours, distraction, visual attention, reaction time*

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LEARNING RUBIK'S CUBE ALGORITHMS ON
IMPROVING DECLARATIVE AND PROCEDURAL MEMORIES**

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Abstract

Previous studies stated that declarative memory (DM) and procedural memory (PM) are require topic-specific exercises to improve. This study aims to investigate the impact of deliberate exercise of DM and PM in a specific topic might help to improve the quality of DM and PM in general. Algorithm of solving Rubik's Cube (RC) is chosen to be the topic to be deliberately learned in order to see its effect on general DM and PM score. 12 college students who have not been exposed to RC algorithms were purposively recruited given a test on DM and PM in the form of paired words test and mirror-tracing test respectively. Afterwards, they were randomly divided into two groups of six, where the experimental group members were taught the algorithm and were asked to meet every week to have their speed in RC-solving recorded (in minutes and seconds). After 4 weeks, both groups were given the post-test of DM and PM. The data will be analyzed by utilizing MANOVA in order to investigate the multivariate effect on the combination of DM and PM as well as the univariate effect in case the multivariate effect is significant. It is hypothesized that there is a significant difference between the mean of the DM and PM scores gap between the control and the experimental group, as well as that RC-solving skills significantly improves the general DM and PM. Up to the date this abstract is written, the data has not been completely analyzed. The complete results of this study will be amended when it is obtained, as well as be presented in the MAPSA conference.

Keywords: *Rubik's Cube, Declarative Memory, Procedural Memory*

THE IMPACT OF LEARNING PURPOSE ON CONCEPTUAL SHORT TERM MEMORY

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Abstract

The objective of this experimental study is to investigate the effect of learning purpose (LP) on conceptual short term memory (CSTM). Studies mentioned that knowing the purpose of learning yields better memorization than learning without any knowledge of the purpose. As many as 37 undergraduate students from a private College in Penang were recruited as participants and divided into 3 groups and were exposed to reading materials. The first group was informed that they would have to teach about the material to young children; another was informed that they would be tested about the material, while the last were not informed about anything. After 30 minutes of reading time, a free recall test was used to measure CSTM after the participants have done their reading. The data was analyzed by employing One-Way ANOVA method, and the results showed no significant differences among the three groups. It is suggested for the future research to replicate the study with higher number of participants and more variables to measure. The practical implication of this current study can be useful to be practiced at any educational institution, especially whether educators should let the learners know about the purpose of their learning.

Keywords: *Learning, Learning purpose, Short term memory*

**THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSIC ON INFORMATION
PROCESSING SPEED AMONG TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS**

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to examine the effects of pop and classical music on the information processing speed (IPS) in terms of information processing accuracy within a given time among teenagers and young adults. It is hypothesised that there will be a significant negative effect of pop music on IPS and there will be a significant positive effect of classical music on IPS among teenagers and young adults due to the difference in brain activation caused by the different types of music. Participants completed a set of surveys, namely Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT) under three different music conditions (pop music, classical music and no music). The SDMT is used to measure how accurate a person can associate the digits with the given symbols in 90 seconds which explains how fast a person can process the given information accurately within a period of time. The results showed that the hypothesis was supported in which there was a significant positive effect of classical music on IPS by improving their performance in the SDMT within the fixed time and a significant negative effect of pop music on IPS. The current study shows that the brain activation caused by the music genre affects the information processing speed in which pop music causes higher brain activation which delays the IPS through fewer items being associated accurately within 90 seconds whereas classical music calms a person and decreases the brain activation which speeds up the IPS by being able to associate more items accurately within the given period. In conclusion, classical music can be used during a cognitive task to improve the performance of the task. Future studies could focus on individual differences in music preference before carrying out any studies pertaining to music genre.

Keywords: *IPS; types of music; pop music; classical music.*

THE INFLUENCE OF SPATIAL DISTANCE AND POSITION IN THE RUBBER HAND ILLUSION

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Abstract

The Rubber Hand Illusion (RHI) is a perceptual illusion in which participants experience a model hand as part of their body. In this illusion participants see touches applied to a model hand while their own hidden hand is touched at the same time. Past studies have investigated spatial boundaries of the RHI and found increasing distances to reduce illusion susceptibility. These studies have nevertheless, been limited to the lateral or vertical direction only. The current study aimed to compare illusion susceptibility across both lateral and distal hand positions. Participants rated their experience of ownership and referral of touch using a 7-point Likert-scale. The hand was positioned at three positions (lateral near - 13cm; lateral far - 38cm; distal near - 13cm – from the participant’s hand). Results indicated illusion susceptibility at both the lateral near and distal near positions, with the distal position being the strongest and lateral far being the weakest. Furthermore, a trend for a stronger illusion at the distal position was observed, as compared to the lateral position with the same distance. These results suggest that illusion susceptibility is influenced by both distance and the relative position of the two hands. Future research could further investigate illusion susceptibility in different directions of space in direct comparison, and examine how the perceptual processes underlying the illusion are influenced by spatial manipulations. The findings may be relevant in virtual-reality applications, particularly in improving realism in virtual-gaming industries and could also be useful in the development of illusion based therapeutic interventions.

Keywords: *rubber hand illusion; ownership; referral of touch; multisensory integration; peri-personal space.*

THE EFFECT OF STATE ANXIETY ON FALSE RECALL

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Abstract

Previous research examining the relationship between moods and false memory have found mixed findings where sadness reduced false memories whereas fear, anger and happiness increased false memories. The current study aims to extend the body of research by investigating the effect of state anxiety on false recall. Most cognitive research on anxiety often focus on trait anxiety and anxiety disorders, but few on state anxiety. Using the affect-as-information framework, state anxiety was predicted to foster a relational encoding strategy which should increase false recall. In the current study, 70 participants were recruited via convenience sampling. State anxiety and calm mood states were induced before testing false recall. As a mood-manipulation check, participants rated their mood on a scale of 0 (not at all) to 10 (extremely) after watching respective mood-inducing video which were both 3 minutes long. Videos were chosen based on an initial stimulus validation study which consisted of 20 young adults rating on a scale of 0 to 10, five anxiety-inducing and five calm-inducing video clips used in past studies. Video clip with the highest mean rating for each respective mood were chosen as the stimulus for the present study. False recall was measured using the standard 24-word lists Deese-Roediger-McDermott (DRM) paradigm which were presented in English. Unexpectedly, state anxiety significantly predicted lower false recall of critical lure as compared to a calm mood. Nonetheless, it does provides further insight into the effect of state anxiety on cognition and the potential impact it could have on eyewitness testimony. Limitations of the study include a lack of valid scale to measure state anxiety and the omission of an initial measure of state anxiety before the mood-induction procedure.

Keywords: *state anxiety, false recall, DRM paradigm.*

DECEPTION AND FALSE MEMORY IN DELINQUENCY

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Abstract

Delinquents are often associated with deception, an act of concealing the truth but little that we know there is another phenomena which is far more menacing, phenomena of false memory. This two phenomena is different but resulting the same detrimental consequences especially in the life of delinquent. Thus, the aim of this study is to examine the difference between two groups which consists of normal individuals and delinquents in comparing their performance in false memory and intentional deception task. Using DRM paradigm, both groups performance were measured by highlighting their reaction time and percentage of 'Yes' response to the different types of target words relevant to the task. At the same time, another purpose of this study is to identify an Event Related Potential (ERP) marker for false memory and deception which is P300. Findings showed there is significant difference between groups in term of percentage only for false recognition. While the performance measured by percentage was very much similar between the two groups. It seemed that reaction time played a significant role in differentiating both of the groups. The result showed that the normative group took a longer time to decide a deceptive response while the delinquent group took a slightly longer time in responding to false recognition. Finally researcher managed to find P300 as a benchmark for deception. In conclusion, reaction time should be studied more toward a better understanding of difference between mechanism underlying false memory and deception.

Keywords: *deception, false memory, delinquents, ERP*

FACEBOOK USAGE AND STUDENTS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCES OF HELP UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Prior studies have found negative relationships between internet usage and academic performances. Thus, the purpose of this current study is to examine the correlation between Facebook usage in terms of hours per day, and academic performance based on student's GPA of previous semester. Fifty undergraduate students recruited in this study were at least the minimum age of 18, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender. It is hypothesized that the more hours spent on Facebook, the lower the participants' academic performance in terms of GPA. Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient was used to examine the relationship, and found that there was negative correlation between the two variables $r(48)=-.237, p=.049$. Specifically, results suggest that students who spend more time on Facebook reported to have lower GPA scores of their previous semester. This finding seem to imply that using social media such as Facebook may impact on students' academic. However, despite the analysis being a negative correlation, the relationship was also weak, which could suggest that other factors may have an influence between Facebook usage and academic performance. Hence, the limitation as well as its future improvements will also be discussed.

Keywords: *social media, Facebook usage, academic performance*

WHO IS THE REAL CULPRIT? ATTACHMENT STYLES AND FACEBOOK-RELATED CONFLICT AS PREDICTORS OF RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION AMONG MALAYSIAN ROMANTIC COUPLES

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Abstract

This study aims to examine attachment styles and Facebook-related conflict as predictor variables and its association to relationship satisfaction among Malaysian romantic couples. While married couples' research are extensive, the field of dating couples are lesser-known. Moreover, the majority of romantic relationship studies are conducted on American soil. The literature on Asia Pacific countries, such as Malaysia, are sparse. With the increased usage of social networking sites (SNS), Facebook-related conflict can be detrimental to romantic couples, although it is largely unexplored. As such, three hypothesis is generated, where attachment styles will be a better predictor of relationship satisfaction; participants with higher levels of insecure (avoidant or anxious) attachment styles will have lower relationship satisfaction; and that participants with more frequent Facebook-related conflict will have lower relationship satisfaction. A non-experimental correlation study will be carried out among Malaysian romantic couples between the ages of 18-34 via the SNS, Facebook for this study. The variables of relationship satisfaction, attachment styles, and Facebook-related conflict were measured with the Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS) (Hendrick, 1988), Revised Adult Attachment Scale (RAAS) (Collins, 1996) and Facebook-related Conflict Scale (Clayton, Nagurney, & Smith, 2013) respectively. Multiple regression analysis will be conducted to examine the data. The results will clarify the negative roots of a romantic relationship, and provide knowledge for couples to better their relationship. Until the day that this abstract was written, the data analyses have not been thoroughly done. Full version of the result will be presented during the MAPSA conference.

Keywords: *Attachment styles; Facebook-related conflict; Relationship satisfaction; Romantic couples*

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAYING “TRADERS” BOARD GAME IN
IMPROVING SELF-ESTEEM AND RESILIENCE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

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Abstract

This study aims to evaluate the effect of the frequency of playing TRADERS board game (TBG) on the players' Self-esteem style, resilience and effectiveness of opportunity pursuing. TBG was developed in 2015 to enhance entrepreneurship skills among young adults, and a previous qualitative study discovered that the frequency of playing it improved the quality of six entrepreneurship elements, where self-esteem and resilience were included. Twelve college students were conveniently recruited, and were given pre-test on self-esteem style (SES) and resilience (RES) by using Mruk Two-dimensional Self-esteem Scale and Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale respectively. The participants were randomly divided into three groups of four, where one of them was the control group. The first experimental group members were taught and asked to play TBG for 10 times within three weeks duration, while the second experimental group was asked to play TBG for 15 times within same duration. The opportunity pursuing skills (OPS) were measured by the amount of 'profit' the players made at the end of each game. The data will be analyzed by utilizing MANOVA. A significant multivariate effect of the frequency of playing TBG on the three dependent variables is hypothesized, as well as the significance of univariate effect on each of SES, RES and OPS. At the moment this abstract is being written, the final results haven't been obtained yet. Nevertheless, it will be presented completely during the MAPSA conference.

Keywords: *Board Game, Resilience, Self-esteem, Entrepreneurship*

**PERCEPTION TOWARDS EMOTICON USAGE IN COMPUTER-MEDIATED
COMMUNICATION (CMC) AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

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HELP University

Abstract

As past studies might imply the cultural differences in emoticon usage, this study explored the perception of university students toward emoticon usage in computer-mediated communication in Malaysia. Six undergraduates in a private university were recruited through purposeful sampling for a one-to-one semi-structured interview. They were required to be 18 or above and actively used emoticon in any CMC for at least past three months. Four main interview questions were asked throughout the interview sessions and the sessions were audio recorded. Verbatim transcription of recordings was conducted and the data collected was analyzed through open coding and axial coding. Results showed that participants perceive emoticon usage based on three main categories: functions of emoticons, factors of influencing emoticon usage, and interpretation of emoticon. Each of the main categories consisted a few specified sub-categories. It was highlighted the functions of emoticons can be categorized into interpersonal context and non-verbal cues. For the factors of influence in using emoticons, the usage of emoticons is determined by sender-receiver relationship, personal mood, context formality and social influence. Lastly, the interpretation towards emoticons explains the influence of individual differences and situational differences towards the accuracy of interpretation of emoticons, which potentially lead to the occurrence of misunderstanding of their meanings and is subsequently followed by some coping strategy. Current study aids to further understand how university students perceive emoticons and emoticons are recommended to use in CMC.

Keywords: *Emoticons; Computer-mediated communication (CMC); Malaysian university students*

THE EXPERIENCE OF FACEBOOK USAGE AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

The study was aimed to explore the experiences of Facebook usage among university students. Social Constructionism was used as the research paradigm of this study to understand how university students make sense of their experiences and subjective feelings of using Facebook. A basic qualitative study was conducted by using one on one interviews to collect data from participants who were university students. The interviews were audio recorded to be transcribed verbatim into written form. Four participants were recruited via purposeful sampling. Current study suggested that social conformity and communication purposes were the long term motivation for participants using Facebook. Surprisingly, habituation was found as the reason for participants to continue using Facebook and in the future. Additionally, the result revealed that participants experienced social comparison when they are using Facebook. The finding also revealed that Facebook will affect their emotion, but the feeling will not be last for a long period. This study hopes to contribute in understanding of the experience of Facebook usage among university student by uncovering the perception and long run's motivation of Facebook usage toward individuals, as well as the subjective feelings of the individuals when using Facebook. Further study is recommended to recruit more participants, as well as to examine how Facebook usage has become a habit for individuals.

Keywords: *Facebook; Facebook usage; social conformity; habituation; emotion*

**MEDIATION ROLE OF LEARNED HELPLESSNESS, SELF-ESTEEM, AND
LOCUS OF CONTROL ON HOW STUDENTS' PERCEIVED TEACHERS'
EXPECTANCY PREDICTS THEIR WRITING PROCRASTINATION.**

Christine Tan Yin Hsien, Yong Poh Ling, Reimy Tan Ting Sen,
Jonathan Yong Hoong Ern, Sharvini Tinagaran, and Prihadi Kususanto
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Abstract

This study aims to study the mediation role of perceived helplessness, self-esteem, and locus of control on the impact of perceived Lecturers' Expectancy on Students' Writing Procrastination. It was discovered previously that many college students fell into procrastination trap when it comes to academic writing in any form; furthermore, it was also discovered that the students' perception of their teachers' expectancy (PTE) predicts the procrastination. PTE was also discovered to predict self-esteem (SE), locus of control (LOC) and learned helplessness (LH), and the latter three variables had reported to predict writing procrastination (WP) among college and university students. Data was collected from 100 university students from North Malaysia by utilizing instruments such as Rosenberg Self-esteem scale, Duttweiler's Internal Control Scale, Pure Procrastination Scale, Perceived Teachers' Expectancy Scale, and Learned Helplessness Scale (LHS). Multiple regression and Sobel test have been employed to analyze the interrelationship among the variable in order to test the hypotheses. It was hypothesized that PTE significantly predicts WP, and the prediction is mediated by SE, LOC, and LH. Up to the date this abstract is written, the data has not been fully analyzed. A complete presentation of the data is going to be provided in the MAPSA conference

Keywords: *Procrastination, self-esteem, locus of control, Perceived Teachers' Expectancy*

BILINGUALISM ON CREATIVITY AMONG MALAYSIAN UNDERGRADUATES

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University of Reading

Abstract

Recent research has shown a positive correlational relationship between multilingualism and creativity among children. However, this relationship was not fully exploited to cater to bilingualism, or young adults. Hence, the purpose of this study is to shrink the research gap by examining the association between language capacity (including bilingualism) and creativity among young adults. We also aimed to investigate gender differences in creativity, since there is little evidence of it in previous literature. We tested this phenomenon on undergraduate students (n=150) throughout various universities in Malaysia to see whether the relationship is present in bilingualism as it is with multilingualism. We intend to use Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking (TTCT), a psychologically valid creativity test, to measure creativity. A self-report survey, assisted by a proficiency test will be used as a means to measure participants' language capacity. Pearson's correlational test will be used to analyse the relationship between creativity and language capacity. Meanwhile, a t-test will be used to compare the means of both genders. We hypothesised that bilingualism would have a similar relationship with creativity as multilingualism does with it. It was also hypothesised that women would perform better on creativity tests. It is worth noting that, until the day this abstract was written, the data collection had not been completed wholly. More details about the results may be presented during the conference.

Keywords: *Correlation, bilingualism, creativity, gender*

**THE SCHOOL UNIFORM'S ROLE IN SHAPING NATIONAL SOCIAL COHESION:
A MALAYSIAN PERSPECTIVE**

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Monash University Malaysia

Abstract

Do national school uniforms promote social cohesion? This qualitative study examines whether Malaysia's national secondary school uniforms promote national social cohesion, an extension of social cohesion owing to their national standardisation. In semi-structured interviews with 6 Malaysian government secondary school counsellors of varying cultural backgrounds and genders (1 Malay male, 1 Malay female, 1 Chinese male, 2 Chinese females, and 1 Indian female) the following topics were discussed: general views on uniforms, perceptions of permitted variations and community context, and potential changes in perceptions over time. An interpretive phenomenological analysis of the interviews revealed that: (1) counsellors were in disagreement on whether school uniforms could be to promote national social cohesion (2) counsellors generally supported national school uniforms but recognised significant student dissatisfaction; (3) variations to uniforms appear more permissible when serving larger collectives (religion, culture, or institution) compared to individual needs; (4) there appears some asymmetry as to the acceptability of cross-cultural variability; and (5) counsellors were in disagreement on whether they felt that the local context/community affected people's perspectives. As a direct result, while counsellors suggested school uniforms could contribute to national social cohesion, potential tensions in their implementation can be identified within the Malaysian context. Potential suggestions and implications regarding these factors were discussed in detail.

Keywords: *school uniforms; national social cohesion; cross-cultural psychology; Malaysian context.*

THE EFFECT OF CONTEXTUAL INTERFERENCE AND LEARNING MEDIUM ON FINE MOTOR SKILLS ACQUISITION

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Abstract

While much research has focused on the contextual interference effect in gross motor skill training contexts, there is little research on its applicability in fine-motor skills training. The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of contextual interference and learning medium on fine motor skill acquisition. University students were selected for this study ($N = 38$) where they performed a series of origami tasks instructed through tutorial videos during the practice phase. Fine motor skills acquisition was measured using the level of completion of a post-practice origami task, where each completed step is considered one level and the higher the level, the higher the acquisition of fine motor skills. The study utilized a between-subjects, 2×2 (high or low interference) and (visual only or audio-visual), experimental design. Based on past studies showing the robustness of high contextual interference and the effectiveness of congruent audio-video presentation, it was predicted that there would be an interaction effect between contextual interference and learning medium. A two-way ANOVA was used to measure the scores, however results did not support the hypotheses; no interaction effect was found between contextual interference and learning medium on fine motor skills acquisition, nor were any significant main effects found. Given previous evidence demonstrating the robustness of high contextual interference, a possible explanation of findings is the researcher-generated method used to measure fine-motor skills acquisition, which may have not reflected actual skill acquisition. Past research supports the use of contextual interference and its wide applicability in gross motor skills training, and the current study adds some discussion to the generalizability of contextual interference to fine motor skills, where generalizable method(s) for training and testing fine motor skills acquisition is needed.

Keywords: *Fine motor skill acquisition; contextual interference; learning medium, fine motor skill training*

**THE PREFERENCE OF CLASSROOM DESIGNS AND ITS IMPACT ON
MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' LEARNING ENGAGEMENT AND
LECTURERS' TEACHING COMPETENCY**

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Abstract

This study investigated the impact of classroom layouts on students' learning engagement and lecturers' teaching competency. Forty-seven postgraduate students (male = 8, female = 39) and four lecturers (male = 1, female = 3) were recruited from the Masters of Professional Counselling course offered in Monash University Malaysia. Participants rated their learning engagement, teaching competency, and satisfaction towards a creative and a traditional classroom in a self-designed questionnaire. The satisfaction measures were taken from both students and lecturers on eight different classroom attributes. Students reported higher satisfaction towards the creative classroom space, $t(46) = -4.47, p < .001$, two-tailed, $d = -.82$., comfort, $t(46) = -2.30, p = .026$, two-tailed, $d = -.44$, and interior ambience, $t(46) = -3.60, p = .001$, two-tailed, $d = -.65$; lecturers were indifferent to both settings. No significant impact of classroom attributes on the students' learning engagement was observed. Lecturers showed no difference in teaching competency between classrooms. However, students perceived their lecturers to have higher teaching competency in the creative classroom setting. The findings contribute quantitative knowledge towards future classroom designs for Malaysians. Limitations include the inability to generalize results and restriction on research time. Notably, the research on Malaysian classroom designs is not commonly conducted. This study contributes beneficial knowledge as a starting point for future creative classroom layouts suitable for Malaysians. Further research recommends discovering adaptable and flexible creative classroom designs that accommodate all academic course fields.

Keywords: *creative classroom, students' learning engagement, lecturers' teaching teaching competency, students' perceived teaching competency*

SMARTPHONE USAGE AMONGST UNIVERSITY STUDENT FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

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Abstract

Prior observations have noticed how smartphones have generally influence the lives of ounger generation, especially university students. For this, the current aim of this research wishes to investigate this phenomenon by conducting qualitative study to examine the phenomenon of “Why students frequently rely on smartphones specifically for academic purposes?” A mixed method sequential-exploratory design was used for the purpose of finding a more concrete result explaining this phenomenon. For qualitative study, five students from HELP University were interviewed regarding why they would mostly use smartphones for their studies in university. Based on the qualitative study, the main theme emerged from the study is “Motivated to perform in academics”, which were derived from sub-themes ‘Convenience’, ‘Cost-saving’, and ‘Communication’. Hence, the current research hypothesized that there is a positive relationship between Smartphone usage and student’s motivation to perform better in academics. For quantitative study, the research recruited fifty-five participants, students from HELP University, regardless of gender, race and ethnicity. Participants were required to complete a questionnaire, regarding motivation for academic pursuit, in relation to using smartphones. Using Pearsons’s R, results showed that there is no relationship between smartphone usage and students motivation to perform in academics $r(53)=0.043, p>.05$. This implies that the usage of smartphones may not necessarily be facilitating student motivation towards the academic purposes after all. Hence, the limitation as well as its future improvements will be further discussed.

Keywords: *Smartphone usage, academic motivation, mobile technology*

INTERPRETING HOW INTIMACY IS COMMUNICATED BETWEEN BROTHERS**Sara Musarrat**

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Abstract

The study looked at the unique bond between brothers, including a theoretical framework of familism and the novel way they exchange moments of connection through basic qualitative research. The 3 male participants are from HELP University's Introduction to Qualitative Methods (106) module who were interviewed using semi-structured questions. A social constructivist view was adapted to understand each individual's response to give an insightful compiled answer to the central research question, how do brothers communicate intimacy? All their responses were tape recorded and the transcriptions were thematically analysed which gave rise to two themes which were being each other's social support and ending past conflicts. These themes will be beneficial for comprehending the dynamic relationship between brothers and can be added to the literature of Familism, resulting in society's well-being.

Keywords: *intimacy; brothers; communication; qualitative study.*

YOUNG ADULT'S PERCEPTION ON THE LGBT COMMUNITY IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the perception of young adults towards the LGBT community in Malaysia. The philosophical paradigm in this study was social constructionism which emphasizes an individual's point of view which can be affected by cultural and social factors due to Malaysia's diverse cultural background. One on one interviews were conducted to collect data from three female Chinese participants who were university students from the age of 18 till 25-year-old. The interviews were audio recorded to be transcribed verbatim into written form. The findings revealed that young adults perceive western culture to be more open than eastern in accepting LGBT community; young adults are more open than the older generation in LGBT issues and there was a mixed result on how religion influences the perception on the LGBT community. This study hopes to contribute to the literature by finding out how different is the perception of Malaysia's young adults towards the LGBT community than other samples as Malaysia is an Islamic country. Further study is recommended to recruit more participants and include participants from different cultural background.

Keywords: *LGBT community; young adults; religion; culture*

DEVELOPING POSTFORMAL THOUGHT THROUGH VYGOTSKIAN SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACH: A CONCEPTUAL PAPER

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Abstract

Formal operational thought, once thought to be the highest form of cognitive development, is now proposed to be succeeded by postformal thought, which is the ability to perform multiple formal operations simultaneously in perceiving a situation or evaluating a decision. Proponents of postformal thought also suggest that individuals who have arrived at this stage of development would be able to make wiser decisions by considering multiple viewpoints so that an agreement can be reached, thereby increasing success in resolving conflicts. In view of the congruent abilities with the higher order thinking skills based on the Bloom's taxonomy, this paper proposes the employment of Vygotsky's social constructivist approach in learning the higher order thinking skills of the Bloom's taxonomy to assist with the development of postformal thought. Theoretically, the scaffolding method utilized by the Vygotskian approach would allow a learner to reach a higher mastery with the aid of a more able individual. It is hoped that with the strategies proposed in this paper, parties involved in educational decisions of individuals will take these into consideration as part of the components of education.

Keywords: *Postformal thought; Vygotsky; social constructivism; cognitive development; higher order thinking skills*

**FACTORS OF ROAD RAGE AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVING BEHAVIORS: A
DOCUMENTARY ANALYSIS STUDY**

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Abstract

This documentary analysis research aims to seek for the root cause of road rage and aggressive driving behavior. As many as 50 studies across the globe that were conducted between 2004 and 2017, which involved 67 independent variables and 13 dependent variables have been collected and scrutinized. It was discovered that gender, age, and individual psychological traits are the demographic factors that predicts RR and aggressive driving behavior (ADB) across 8 countries. Traffic congestions, driving speed, frequency of driving, and vehicle performance are the external factors with highest impact on RR and ADB across 12 countries. Some country-specific regulations and cultures also affect the findings of the reviewed studies; studies in the USA advocated that the presence of firearms in the car positively predicts ADB and RR, while traffic congestions, slow red traffic light, and other drivers' driving behaviors have high impact in China, Pakistan, India, and Malaysia. Other factors, such as rumination, urban living style, vehicle performance, and drug usage are taken as the most impactful factor of RR and ADB in New Zealand, UK, Spain, and Australia. There were many other factors that were significant, however their contribution were not as significant as the aforementioned ones. It can be concluded that a step to reduce RR and ADB in Malaysia should involve any steps that reduce the traffic congestions, limiting the number of underperforming vehicle on the streets, and improving the social wealth of the motorists in general.

Keywords: *Road Rage, Aggressive Driving Behavior, Documentary Analysis*

**EGO IDENTITY, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND SOCIAL ANXIETY AMONG
HOMOSEXUAL MALES IN PENANG, MALAYSIA.**

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Abstract

Aim of this study is to identify if ego identity significantly moderates the relationship between social support and social anxiety among homosexual males in Penang. Previous studies have implied existing correlation among statuses of ego identity (Exploration and commitment) and anxiety. A high level of social anxiety was then discovered to be present among individuals with low satisfaction of social support, which is a component essential to the development of ego identity among non-homosexual individuals. Because homosexual individuals in Malaysia tend to be more plagued with social anxiety due to bigotry they face, and it might disrupt the process of the ego identity development among them, a study involving the three components can be considered imperative to be conducted. A non-experimental study was carried out among 60 homosexual males through snowball data collection method as well as purposive sampling method. The self-consciousness scale - Revised (SCS-R), Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) and Ego Identity Process Questionnaire (EIPQ) were utilized. The data amassed in this research will be analyzed by utilizing SPSS's Hierarchical multiple regression. Until the day this abstract is written, results of this current study has not been completely analyzed and the complete data will be presented during the MAPSA conference

Keywords: *Homosexual, Ego Identity, Social Support, Social Anxiety*

PROCRASTINATING FOR CREATIVE IDEAS? YOU BETTER NOT

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Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman

Abstract

Procrastination has often been scrutinised and viewed at negatively. While a majority of previous research imposes that procrastination negatively impacts creativity, some researchers, on the contrary, found that procrastination benefits creative performance. This study examined the hypothesis that procrastination has a curvilinear relationship with creativity, and that creative self-efficacy moderates this relationship. A total of 232 undergraduate students from Malaysia and Pakistan were recruited through convenience and snowball sampling. Participants responded to an online survey which consisted of the General Procrastination Scale, Creative Self-Efficacy Scale, and Kaufman Domains of Creativity Scale. The results showed that there was no curvilinear relationship between procrastination and creativity, nor was there any moderating effect of creative self-efficacy on the model. It was, however, found that procrastination had a negative linear relationship with two (Self/Everyday Creativity and Mechanical/Scientific Creativity) of the five domains of creativity. Moreover, procrastination was negatively associated with mechanical/scientific creativity when the level of creative self-efficacy was high. The findings not only support the negative effect of procrastination but also imply that our participants tend to delay their tasks instead of utilising the time to improve performance. Limitations and future recommendations are also explored.

Keywords: procrastination, creative self-efficacy, creativity, moderating effect, domain specific

**MEDIATION ROLE OF SELF-ESTEEM ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLES AND EATING BEHAVIOR AMONG YOUNG
ADULT IN PENANG**

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Abstract

Purpose of this current study is to investigate the mediation role of self-esteem on the relationship between perceived parenting styles (PPS) and eating behavior (EB). Numerous studies declared that authoritative parenting style played prominent role in shaping the healthy EB among children and the authoritarian parenting style tend to grow children with tendency to attempt unhealthy food. At the same times, EB was also reported to be predicted by self-esteem of the children. Apart from forming the EB of the children, PPS was also reported to predict the self-esteem; therefore, because PPS predicts EB and self-esteem, while self-esteem also predicts EB, the mediating role of self-esteem is hypothesized. 40 young adults between 19 and 25 years old participated in responding to three different scales will be used to measure this study which is Rosenberg Self-Esteem scale, Self-regulation of Eating Behaviour Questionnaire and Parenting Style Scale. Hierarchical multiple regression will be used to analyze the data. Until the day this abstract is being written, the data has not been completely analyzed. The complete result will be presented during the MAPSA conference. Results of this current study are considered important to be known by parents in order to protect their children from unhealthy EB in the future.

Keywords: *Parenting Style, Eating Behavior, Self-esteem*

**THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN FAMILY EXPRESSIVENESS AND
FRIENDSHIP ATTACHMENT IN YOUNG ADULT**

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Abstract

The current study investigates how family expressiveness associates to friendship attachment in young adult. Three hundred university students completed the Family Expressiveness Questionnaire (FEQ, Halberstadt, 1986) and Adult Attachment Scale (AAS, Collins and Read, 1990). Linear regression analyses was conducted to predict the role of family expressiveness in friendship attachment among young adult. Results showed that positive dominant was more positively predictive of secure friendship attachment compared to positive submissive whereas negative dominant negatively predictive of secure friendship attachment. Negative dominant was more positively predictive of anxiety friendship attachment compared to negative submissive. Moreover, positive dominant and negative dominant were only type of family expressiveness that were associated to avoidance friendship attachment. The results indicate that the study offer a meaningful system for understanding the role of family expressiveness on friendship attachment in young adults.

Keywords: *family expressiveness, friendship attachment, young adult*

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTROL AND
RELATIONAL AGGRESSION TOWARD PEERS**

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University Tunku Abdul Rahman

Abstract

This study aimed to investigate the predicting role of paternal psychological control and maternal psychological control on relational aggression among Malaysian young adults. A total of 456 Malaysian young adults (213 males and 243 females) were recruited through purposive sampling method. Respondents recruited were age ranging from 18 to 25 years old and stayed with both parents for more than or equal to 18 years. This quantitative research used Psychological Control Scale-Youth Self-Report (PCS-YSR) to assess young adult's perception of experienced paternal and maternal psychological control whereas Forms and Functions of Aggressive Behaviour was used to measure relational aggression. The study showed a significant relationship between paternal psychological control, maternal psychological control, and relational aggression among young adults. In addition, the results also revealed that maternal psychological control was the strongest predictor on young adult's relational aggression. In brief, present findings may provide a new perspective for clinical and counselling practices in understanding of paternal and maternal psychological control and the development of relational aggression tendency among Malaysian young adults.

Keywords: psychological control; relational aggression; young adults; Malaysia

**A STUDY ON RELIGION AND FAMILY: HOW INDIVIDUAL RELIGIOSITY
AFFECTS FAMILY SATISFACTION; AND
HOW RELIGIOUS CONGRUENCY AFFECTS PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP**

Cheng, G. T. K. and Woo, P. J.

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Sunway University

Abstract

Many previous studies have shown the importance of religion and family towards an individual as well as how both of them interrelates. The present study focuses on the manner on how religion could impact one's family. Hence, this study was designed to examine the role of religion on family regardless of any religion within a Malaysian context by ascertaining whether individual religiosity could affect family satisfaction; and whether religious congruency between parent and child could affect the parent-child relationship. A total of 167 participants consisting of both adult children and parents took part in the survey designed study through convenient sampling via online and paper survey. A simple linear regression revealed an insignificant effect of individual religiosity on family satisfaction while an independent-sample *t*-test displayed no significant difference between religious congruence and incongruence in a better parent-child relationship. The result thus rejected both the hypotheses and suggest that religion does not have an impact on family as contrary to previous studies. The implication of this study and future studies will be discussed.

Keywords: religiosity, family satisfaction, religious congruency, parent-child relationship

**MALAYSIAN YOUNG ADULTS' SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING: FAMILY
SUPPORT, PEER SUPPORT AND SENSE OF AUTONOMY**

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Abstract

With the rise of positive psychology, subjective well-being research attempts to understand how to improve quality of life for all. Subjective well-being studies in Malaysian context are scarce. Noting culture plays a role in individual's subjective well-being; current study aims to better understand the role of family support, peer support and sense of autonomy in predicting Malaysian young adults' subjective well-being. One hundred fifty eight data of Malaysian young adults aged 18-30 years ($M = 21.9$, $SD = 2.57$) were collected using a series of questionnaires. Family support, peer support and sense of autonomy together positively predict subjective well-being after controlling for gender and income level $F(5, 150) = 7.051$, $p = .001$, $R^2 = 0.123$. When comparing relative strength of predictors, peer support is a stronger predictor than family support for both components of subjective well-being which are affective well-being and life satisfaction. Sense of autonomy on its own did not significantly influence subjective well-being for Malaysian young adults. Additionally, past research indicated gender difference in affective, whereas current study found no significant gender differences for affective scores. Current findings support that culture difference exists in factors that are prioritised when it comes to individual's subjective well-being.

Keywords: *Subjective well-being, Social support, Sense of autonomy*

A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF SEX WORKERS IN MALAYSIA: DOES FAMILY SUPPORT MATTER?

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Abstract

Sex workers' well-being is often overlooked as they are viewed negatively by the society at large. Past literatures in Western society were well denoted that family support is the crucial dimension of social support for sex workers. The purpose of the current study is to provide preliminary findings in regards to the subjective well being (SWB) of sex workers in Malaysia specifically linking it with family support. A total of 35 sex workers from Ipoh and Klang Valley were recruited in this study using purposive and snowball sampling methods. It is a cross-sectional quantitative study. The respondents completed a self-reported question on Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS; Diener et al.,1985) and family support sub-scale (MSPSS; Zimet et al.,1988). Findings revealed that the SWB of sex workers in Malaysia was moderately correlated with perceived family support. This study provides an understanding that family support is very much relevant and needed for high risk community such as sex workers. Individuals with secure, comfortable and continuous support from family can serve as protective factors from emotional disturbance and consequently ensure one's well-being. Sex workers are a heavily-stigmatized group of people and are unwelcomed by the general society which further contributes to their distress. The present study creates new insights and perspectives towards sex workers in Malaysia whereby their SWB is equally important as they too are part of the society. Thus, future studies may need to expand the constructs of the study in order to further understand the need of various supports in contributing to their well-being as an effort to optimize positive development.

Keywords: *Malaysia, sex workers, perceived family support, subjective well-being*

YOUNG ADULTS' VIEW OF LOVE IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Chia Fa Hang, Kelvin Tan Chuin Keng, Leslie Low Chee Liang,

Goh Ke Xing, Ong Cheng Qi, Lim Yi Sing, Lee Ze Yee,

See Qiao Ying, Chew Chia Ming, and Prihadi Kususanto

School of Psychology

DISTED College

Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative research is to provide a greater understanding on romantic love in the perspectives of young adults. Six students, three males and three females, who have or had romantic relationship experiences, were recruited to a semi-structured interview session. Audio transcripts of the interviews had been reviewed to search for themes with two themes of commitment and intimacy had been found and explored. Thematic analysis method has been utilized to analyse the data. The research paradigm used in this research is social constructionism. Research's findings showed young adults perception of love in romantic relationships should consist primarily of high qualities of both intimacy and commitment, along with high degrees of value acceptance, tolerance, and effort for partner's happiness. Findings of this study are in line with numerous previous studies; however, future research is suggested to include quantitative method with larger sample in order to develop generalization of the finding. The perspectives, expectations and decisions made by young adults regarding ideal romantic relationships are recorded and analysed in the results of this study; and base on the recorded results we can speculate what is to be anticipated when involving in a romantic relationship and discover methods in maintaining the relationship.

DATING RELATIONSHIPS AND ITS EFFECTS ON SELF ESTEEM

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Abstract

Self-esteem and being in romantic relationships are important aspects and events of life. This study aims to assess if relationship status of individuals (single or dating) would have an effect on their self-esteem. This study also assesses whether daters' romantic self-confidence, relationship satisfaction and perceived social support would predict their self-esteem and out of these three predictors which one would strongly predict their self-esteem. Participants (N = 241 Malaysians) ages 20 to 28 years old took part in an online survey assessing the respective variables. The results found that daters had higher self-esteem than single individuals. Results also showed the three variables predicted self-esteem of daters while romantic self-confidence was the strongest contribution out of the three. Results suggest that self-esteem is more of a consequence model and that the relationship between significant others (daters or couples) offer something that other interpersonal relationships such as those shared between families, siblings, or friends may not. Results also suggest that people place importance in different areas (i.e., relationship satisfaction) in viewing themselves as good enough or not. Where they place their importance and the state or condition of it (i.e., low relationship satisfaction) is what could likely boost or decrease their levels of self-esteem the most.

Keywords: *relationships, self-esteem, self-confidence, social support*

THE INFLUENCE OF MOTIVATIONAL POSTERS ON INDUCING GREATER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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Abstract

Obesity is a rising issue in Malaysia, thus, interventions to increase physical activity is necessary. This study investigated the effects of motivational posters on increasing stair climbing behaviour. Based on previous literatures, messages targeting weight and time management were chosen as seen most effective for university settings. Hence, it was hypothesized that intervention 1, “Burn Calories, Take the Stairs” and intervention 2, “Burn Calories, Save Time, Don’t Wait!, Take the Stairs” would significantly increase frequency of stair climbers compared to baseline. It was also hypothesized that these interventions would be more effective in the college building with 5 floors compared to the university building which had 13 floors. The study followed a multiple baseline design, baseline-intervention1-intervention2-break-baseline-intervention2-intervention1 format counterbalancing the two interventions between the two data collection cycles. Two trained observers counted the number of stair and elevator users. Each observational period was for a week, totalling 7 weeks, including a week break in between with no observations. Results analysed using chi square tests did not support any of the hypotheses as both weight and time management prompts did not increase stair climbing behaviour significantly. Possible explanations for insignificant results include prior unfavourable perspective towards physical activity among the Malaysians (Tam et al., 2016), thus, lower probability of translation into action upon reminder from the prompts and possible ceiling effect due to high baseline of stair users (39.0%, 47.2%) in the case of the college building.

Keywords: *Motivational posters, stair climbing, physical activity*

THE EFFECT OF CONTACT ON OTHER-RACE EFFECT (ORE) AMONG MALAYSIAN CHINESE

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Abstract

The other-race effect (ORE) refers to the tendency to be better at recognising own-race face as compared to other-race face. This can be explained by the contact hypothesis which suggest that increase interaction with own race group results in better recognition of own race face. Similarly, increase interaction with other race group will also decrease ORE. A study by Tan, Stephen, Whitehead and Sheppard (2012) suggests that Malaysian Chinese showed higher accuracy of recognising Caucasian faces in their study, could be due to frequent exposure to Western cultures and media. This study aimed to investigate whether such exposure indeed affects ORE among Malaysian Chinese. 71 participants were recruited from Sunway University and Monash University and were self-reported to have minimal exposure to Caucasian and African faces. Using the old/new paradigm method, participants were found to have better recognition of own race face. In contrast to Tan et al.'s (2012) study where participants showed equally well recognition for Caucasian and Chinese faces, this present study's results showed significantly better recognition for Chinese faces compared to Caucasian faces. Participants in Tan et al.'s (2012) study were recruited from a university that have considerable amount of Caucasians, whereas participants in this study lacked such interaction comparatively. These findings point to the importance of quality of interaction in organising face representation. Further studies will shed light on the extent of the other race effect in a multiracial context.

Keywords: *Other-race effect, face recognition, contact hypothesis*

DIFFERENCES ON DECISION-MAKING STYLES (RATIONAL & INTUITIVE STYLES) TOWARD GENDER AND ITS EFFECT ON AGE

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Abstract

This study examines the differences in decision-making styles (rational & intuitive styles) between gender and the effect of age on decision-making styles. A total of 186 undergraduate students of University Malaysia Sabah took part in this study. Each student completed a questionnaire which consists of two sections. Section A, measured students' demographic profile (eight items), while section B measured students' decision-making style, which consist of four items to measure their intuitive decision-making style and another four items to measure their rational decision-making style. This study revealed that there were significant differences in the decision-making style between male and female students. The mean score for intuitive decision-making style among male undergraduate students was higher (mean=15.08) than female undergraduate students (mean=14.66), $t(61,125) = 2.15$, $p < .05$. However, there was no significant differences in rational decision-making between male and female undergraduate students $t(61,125) = 1.49$, $p > .05$. Our study also shows that student's age had a significant effect on both decision-making styles. Student's age contributed to 2.2% of the variance on intuitive decision making style ($\beta = .15$, $t=2.05$, $p= .04$) and 3.2% of the variance on rational decision making style ($\beta=.18$, $t=2.46$, $p=.02$). The analysis revealed there was a significant difference in intuitive decision style between both gender. In addition, age had a significant effect on both decision-making styles among the undergraduate students. The recognition of the sources of dissimilarity is an obligatory step towards a better understanding of both sexes.

Keywords: *decision-making style, rational, intuitive, gender, age.*

THE EFFECT OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS ON ADULTS'EXECUTIVE FUNCTION IN RURAL JOHOR

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Abstract

The correlation between socioeconomic status (SES) and executive function (EF) is well established. However, the mechanisms underlying this SES-EF link remain unclear. This study had two aims. First, it sought to replicate the results of this effect in a rural area of a developing country testing 100 participants from a sample based in Johor, Malaysia. Further, it tested whether the effects of SES on EF are mediated by cognitive stimulation and Emotional Well-being. Current SES was measured by a income-to-need ratio and Childhood SES was measured by participants' subjective report. We found that EF performance on the Three Back working memory task was significantly predicted by Current SES ($R^2=.16$, $F(1, 74) = 14.06$, $\beta = .400$, $p < .001$) The Childhood SES predicted both Three Back task ($R^2=.12$, $F(1, 75) = 10.02$, $\beta = .343$, $p = .002$) and One Back task ($R^2=.06$, $F(1, 81) = 5.14$, $\beta = .244$, $p = .026$). Mediation tests found significant indirect effect of Childhood SES on One Back task through Childhood Cognitive Stimulation ($b = .0057$, BCa CI [0.0002, 0.017]), but not through Emotional Well-being. These preliminary results confirmed the SES-EF link and the mediation effect of cognitive stimulation in rural Johor. This study can potentially provide support for organisations and government to develop intervention and policy to target the specific age groups and improve people's executive function. Future study is expected to incorporate more culturally related considerations to address the ecological issues in the specific social and cultural setting.

Keywords: socioeconomic status; executive function; mediation effect; stress; cognitive stimulation

**Effect of Intrapersonal Emotional Intelligence and Interpersonal Emotion Intelligence
on Pro-Social Behaviour among Adolescents in Malaysia**

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Abstract

The attachment young people especially adolescents developed with their smartphones and iPads has been concerning. The constant need in receiving affirmation and response virtually may have weakened the relationship that they develop with people around them. This may also lead to a much lesser development of prosocial behavior among adolescents. To gain a much better understanding on this situation; the study intends to examine the effect of emotional intelligence in both intrapersonal and interpersonal perspectives on pro-social behaviors such as caring among adolescents in Malaysia. Multistage cluster sampling method was used to recruit a total of 496 school-going adolescents from three states (Johor, Penang and Perak) in Malaysia, with their mean age of 15.16 ($SD = 1.07$). A multiple linear regression was used to predict prosocial behaviour based on interpersonal and intrapersonal emotional intelligence. Result indicates interpersonal emotional intelligence is the only predictor of pro-social behavior. The finding reinforces the need for adolescents to disconnect from their phones and spend quality time via face-face interaction. Through this, adolescents who are more sensitive to wellbeing of others will be developed, which in turn increase their engagement in prosocial behaviours. Through this study, it can be seen that schools should aim their campaigns and intervention programs at increasing adolescents' interpersonal emotional intelligence.

Keywords: *adolescents, emotional intelligence, intrapersonal, interpersonal, pro-social behaviour.*

PERCEIVED BODY OWNERSHIP OVER NON-CORPOREAL OBJECT IN A REAL WORLD SETTING

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Abstract

Body ownership refers to the sense of awareness which allows one to differentiate between our own bodies and bodies that do not belong to us. Studies have shown that body-ownership could be induced on a rubber hand through synchronous visuotactile or visuomotor stimulation. This illusion is assessed by using a self-report questionnaire, or a skin conductance response (SCR) after a potential threat to the rubber hand (e.g., a needle attack). A few studies have investigated if this illusion can be induced with objects, which are not hand-shaped, and generally found participant do not experience ownership after visuotactile stimulation. A recent study by Ma and Hommel (2015) however has observed that participants can perceive non-corporeal objects (e.g., a balloon) as part of one's body by using visuomotor stimulation in virtual reality. Therefore, the objective of the current study was to investigate whether the illusion can be perceived when it is conducted with a real balloon instead. A sample of 40 participants participated were examined. All participants underwent 4 conditions in balanced order (within-subjects design). There were 2 experimental (balloon/ rubber hand synchronous stroking) and 2 control conditions (balloon/ rubber hand asynchronous stroking). Participants rated their experience of body ownership using an established questionnaire on a 7 point Likert scale. The skin conductance response (SCR) will be used in combination with the questionnaire. We predict that a balloon would not be perceived as part of one's body, as reflected in low questionnaire ratings and a lacking SCR response. The results of this study can help to clarify whether non-corporeal objects can be perceived as part of one's body.

Keywords: *self-awareness, body ownership, agency, skin conductance response*

MECHANISMS UNDERLYING VISUO-TACTILE INTEGRATION IN A SCHIZOTYPY SAMPLE

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Abstract

Altered states of bodily awareness is characteristic of schizophrenia (SZ) and schizotypy (sub-clinical of schizophrenia). Studies examining altered bodily states have demonstrated distorted experiences of ownership (an aspect of bodily awareness) in sensory illusions such as the rubber hand illusion (RHI). Indeed, RHI studies have demonstrated ownership even during asynchronous (control) conditions for SZ populations indicating altered sensory integration. There were also RHI studies regarding schizotypy populations with positive symptoms (mild hallucination and delusions effects) which also experienced this distorted visuo-tactile integration. However, the mechanisms underlying this altered sensory integration has been poorly examined. Therefore, the proposed study aims to investigate the mechanisms underlying visual-tactile integration between individuals scoring high and low on the Schizotypal personality questionnaire. Participants will perform the Somatic Signal Detection Task. In this task, participants are required to report the presence or absence of tactile pulses delivered to the index finger regardless of whether or not it was accompanied by a light (visual) stimulus. Responses can then be analysed using signal detection theory statistics; d' (sensitivity) and c (response bias). If visual dominance is stronger in high scorers, liberal response biases are predicted in light present conditions. Alternatively, another possibility may show liberal response biases across all stimuli conditions of the task. It leads to the meaning that responses are light independent. This happens if high scorers may display general positive responses to sensory integration. In conclusion, the current research may shed light on the link between altered sensory processes and distorted self-experiences in schizotypal populations.

Keywords: *visuo-tactile integration, schizotypal personalities, somatic signal detection task, signal detection theory*

THE FORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE REMINISCENCE BUMP: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Abstract

One of the most consistently observed phenomenon in autobiographical memory literature is the reminiscence bump - a tendency for older people to recall more personal events from 10-30 years of age compared to the adjacent lifetime periods. We have conducted a systematic review aiming at synthesizing current literature pertaining to the timing and explanations of the reminiscence bump. We searched nine databases between dates of inception of each database to 2017. Keywords that were searched in each database included “reminiscence”, “reminiscence bump”, “bump”, and “reminiscence effect”. Sixty-four studies (from a total 523) met our inclusion criteria reporting 59 quantitative studies, 1 qualitative study, and 4 review papers. The data were extracted for analysis using a thematic analytic technique. Four main themes were generated. An in-depth analysis revealed that types of items to be recalled in most of the studies were personal/autobiographical events, important events related to hypothetical cases and public events. Similarly, methods of recall used in most studies were important memories method, cue word method, and free-recall method. The findings reveal that overall location of the reminiscence bump for important memories and questionnaires method is between 10-30 years, and the bump for cue word method is 5 - 30 years. While explaining the bump, the cultural life script account received the most support, followed by the self-narrative/identity development account.

Keywords: *reminiscence bump; autobiographical memory; cultural life script theory; identity development theory.*

SELF-IDENTITY AND THE FORMATION OF THE REMINISCENCE BUMP IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

The reminiscence bump is an enhanced accessibility of autobiographical memories from 10–30 years of life, shown by people over the age of 35. One account which explains this phenomenon is the identity development theory, although with limited support. Therefore, this study aimed to directly test this theory with its origins in two stages of Erikson's psychosocial development theory: Fidelity (identity/role confusion) during adolescence (ages 13–19), and Love (intimacy/isolation) during early adulthood (ages 20–39). A sample of 57 participants, between 38–70 years old ($M = 55.16$ years, $SD = 10.12$ years), were recruited from the Malaysian community. This study involved a novel methodology of using self-descriptive statements from the Modified Erikson Psychosocial Stage Inventory as cues to elicit memories from participants. The results of this study revealed two distinct reminiscence bumps for the two types of statements, illustrated by two lifespan distribution curves of participants' ages at the time of the events recalled. These findings indicate that Fidelity-related statements activated more memories from adolescence and early adulthood compared to other life periods, whereas Love-related statements activated more memories from only the first half of early adulthood. Overall, these findings show that the reminiscence bump is made up of periods of identity formation and social relationships, offering further support to the identity development theory of the reminiscence bump. These findings have theoretical implications on the applicability of the identity development theory of the reminiscence bump in the Malaysian context, which should be explored in further studies.

Keywords: *autobiographical memories; reminiscence bump; identity formation; identity development theory; psychosocial development theory*

**AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY IN PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA:
A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW**

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Abstract

Following systematic review PRISMA standard, we identified and reviewed 28 articles examining autobiographical memories of patients with schizophrenia. The most common feature appeared in the literature is that the patients recollected less specific and fewer autobiographical memories, and patients with the history of suicidal attempt retrieved more specific autobiographical memories compared to those without the history of suicidal attempt. While examining the papers focusing on depression, it was found that the level of depression was not associated with the specificity of autobiographical memory. Moreover, the content of autobiographical memory that the patients with schizophrenia recollected appeared to be incoherent and odd. This review paper employed the theoretical framework of Conway and Pleydell-Pearce (2000) known as the Self-Memory System to explain the current findings. This review paper has been registered with PROSPERO with the number CRD42017062643.

Keywords: *autobiographical memory; schizophrenia; systematic review; Self-Memory System (SMS).*

IMPULSIVITY, DARK TETRAD, AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION

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Abstract

Social media platforms (SMPs) are currently the crucial media by which individuals build personal networks. However, habitual use of SMPs which is seemingly innocuous can develop into SMP addiction. Impulsivity is a trait that has often been associated with addictive behaviour. Although relationships between impulsivity and personality traits making up the “Dark Tetrad” (psychopathy, Machiavellianism, narcissism, sadism) have been examined individually, no studies have explored the relationships between the Dark Tetrad, impulsivity, and SMP addiction simultaneously. This study aims to examine the role of the Dark Tetrad and response inhibition in predicting SMP addiction. Participants’ social media use are first tracked using a mobile app. Participants then complete the Bergen Social Media Addiction Scale that assesses problematic social media use, as well as the Short Dark Triad and Assessment of Sadistic Personality which measure the Dark Tetrad of personality. Finally, participants take part in the GoStop task, a laboratory behavioural measure of impulsivity. It is expected that there will be significant positive associations between the Dark Tetrad, impulsivity, and SMP addiction. This study has implications for health care professionals and SMP users; prevention and intervention programmes can be targeted at those who are at risk of problematic social media use. The present study may provide evidence for aversive personality traits and impulsivity as predictors of addictive social media behaviour.

Keywords: *impulsivity; Dark Tetrad; social media; addiction.*

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PROBLEMATIC INTERNET USE: A STUDY ON COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

We examined the contributing factors to problematic internet use among university students representing different academic faculties. 800 students (Mean age 20.39, SD 1.56, 48% female), randomly selected from a large university in Bangladesh, completed a pool of questionnaires: Internet Addiction Test, General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12), The revised UCLA Loneliness Scale, Beck Hopelessness Scale, and Rosenberg's Self Esteem Scale. The results revealed that 37.5% of the students scoring very high on the Internet Addiction Test (≥ 45), a confirmation for them to be problematic internet users. Problematic internet use was positively correlated with psychological distress ($r=.44, p<.001$), loneliness ($r=.334, p<.001$), and hopelessness ($r=.310, p<.001$), but negatively correlated with self-esteem ($r=-.261, p<.001$). Multiple regression analysis revealed five factors contributing significantly to the problematic internet usage, explaining 23.7% of the variance [$R^2=.237, F= 50.64, p<.0001$] with psychological distress ($\beta=.330, t=9.19, p<.001$) and loneliness ($\beta=.164, t=4.56, p<.001$) to be the strongest factors followed by single status, male gender, and hopelessness. While data were analyzed across academic faculties, psychological distress and loneliness appeared to be significant predictors for Science and Engineering students. For the Arts and Social Sciences students, psychological distress, loneliness, and the single relationship status were the significant predictors. However, psychological distress was the lone predictor for problematic internet use among the Computer Science and IT students. The findings are discussed in the light of the theories of addiction behavior.

Keyword: *Internet addiction, Problematic Internet Use, GHQ-12, Students, Bangladesh*

Word count: 224

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES WITH CHILDRENS'
DEATH CONCEPT AND DEATH ATTITUDE**

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Abstract

This research aims to study the relationship between violent video games and children's death concept and death attitude (Fear of death, Death avoidance, Approach Acceptance, Escape Acceptance). Malaysia lacks death education for children which causes children not to have an appropriate channel to learn about death. Furthermore, death is often a taboo topic that the elderly avoid to discuss about especially among Chinese community. Most of the video games are spreading wrong value of life and death which can easily affect children's thoughts. In this booming technological era, playing video game is a very common activity among children through smart phones or personal computers. Therefore, without parents' close supervision, deformed death concept and death attitude will be molded in children. Misconception of death concept and death attitude can manipulate primary school children's attitude towards death and caused biased value towards life. This misconception might lead children to harm themselves or others. Data will be collected from 400 Malaysian Chinese children between 10 to 12 years old by using purposive sampling method. Instruments used in this research are demographic information, Death Attitude Profile-Revised (DAP-R), Concepts of Life and Death Questionnaire (CLDQ) and a survey on violent video game experience. This study helps to stress the importance of death education in implanting awareness for public such as schools or media that death education should be practiced because children are exposed and easily influenced by violent contents in video games.

Keywords: *violence video games, death concept, death attitude*

**EFFECT OF GADGET USAGE AMONG ELEMENTARY CHILDREN ON THEIR
AGGRESSION AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

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Abstract

As gadget serves as the one important tool to support people in term of resolving problems, preserving connections between people and bringing out entertainment, most people had incorporated them into their day to day lives. In acclamation to the research by Hatch (2011), children had been highlighted to be one of the smart gadget users themselves. Considering how fast children adapted to the advance technologies around them, it inspire us to study on the effect of gadget usage among elementary school children on their aggression and social emotional learning. Quantitative method using questionnaire consisting instruments such as Behavioral Anger Response Questionnaire (BARQ-C) and Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire (SDQ) test for aggression and social emotional learning. The study involves children aged from 10-12 years, which they will be recruited throughout a few selected states and areas using cluster sampling technique. Through this study, it provides better insight for parents, educators as well as researchers to further understand on the development of aggression and social emotional learning among young children in relation to the gadget usage in daily life.

EXPLORATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS OF THE SHORT GRIT SCALE (GRIT-S) IN A MALAYSIA SAMPLE

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Abstract

The 8-item Short Grit Scale (Grit-S; Duckworth & Quinn, 2009) is the short version of the Grit Scale that measures trait-level perseverance and passion for long-term goals. Although the Grit-S has been applied on Malaysian samples, it is not clear if the Grit-S is psychometrically sound. On an exploratory basis, the present study examined factor structure of the scale in a sample of emerging adults. A cross-sectional study was performed by distributing an online questionnaire to 141 undergraduate students, age ranged from 20 to 27. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) using maximum likelihood and promax rotation supports the theoretical two-factor solution. While all the items loaded on the target factor, the factor loading of item 2 was lower than the acceptable cutoff. Moreover, in contrast to the past findings, there was no significant relationship between the two factors. Another EFA without the item 2 and using varimax rotation was conducted on the remaining 7 items. Similarly, a two-factor structure was observed: four items were loaded on the Consistency of Interest subscale and three items were loaded on the Perseverance of Effort subscale. Moreover, the factor loadings were satisfactory and the model explained 59.64% of the total variance. The two factors also demonstrated satisfactory internal consistency. The findings not only shed light on the factor structure but also highlight the need to investigate cultural differences in the concept and items of the scale. Confirmatory Factor Analysis is warranted in future study to confirm suitability of the 7-item Grit-S in the Malaysian context.

Keywords: *Short Grit Scale, Malaysia, Exploratory Factor Analysis, Emerging Adults*

EXPLORATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS OF THE TRIARCHIC MODEL OF GRIT SCALE (TMGS)

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Abstract

The 15-item Triarchic Model of Grit Scale (TMGS; Datu, Yuen, & Chen, 2017) is a newly developed self-report to measure the three dimensions of grit — perseverance of effort, consistency of interests, and adaptability to situations. Although the TMGS was found psychometrically sound on a sample of Filipino emerging adults, the suitability of TMGS in the Malaysian context remained unknown. The present study examined factor structure of the scale in a sample of Malaysian working adults. A cross-sectional study was conducted by distributing an online questionnaire to 113 employees, age ranged from 20 to 60. Exploratory factor analysis using maximum likelihood and Promax rotation supported the hypothetical three-factor solution. Consistent with past findings, three items loaded on the perseverance subscale and consistency subscale respectively, and four items loaded on the adaptability subscale. Additionally, all factor loadings were satisfactory and the three-factor solution explained 68.13% of the total variance. Acceptable to satisfactory internal consistency was found for the subscales. Interestingly, the consistency subscale was negatively correlated with the other two subscales. While the results offer empirical support to the factorial validity of the scale, the items of the consistency subscale require further attention to ensure its appropriateness.

Keywords: *Triarchic Model of Grit Scale, Malaysia, Working adults, Exploratory Factor Analysis*

PERSONALITY: SELF AND OTHER EVALUATIONS IN EMERGING ADULTS

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Abstract

Impression management is a common behaviour that people engage in when it comes to social interactions. It mediates the accuracy of one's self-presentation and self-representation. It means the more a person manages his or her social image, the likelier it is to enlarge the gap between perceived interpersonal traits and actual personality. Hence, it would be more difficult for others to understand the individual precisely. The aim of the study is to examine the discrepancy between self and others' assessment of an individual's personality. A total of 131 participants consisting of degree students have taken part in this quantitative cross-sectional study. Each data collection involved the participant, one close friend and a family member rating on the target participant's personality using Big Five Inventory-10. Neuroticism was found to have the highest discrepancy in self-other agreement while Agreeableness has the lowest discrepancy. These findings suggest that people tend to display more positive interpersonal traits and conceal the negative aspects of self due to social desirability. Further studies can increase the accuracy of findings by including the original scale for Big-Five personality test, which is the Big Five Inventory-44.

Keyword: *emerging adults, Big 5 personality, traits, discrepancy, self-other agreement*