THE 28TH ANNUAL

NOWCAM

Conference

MAY 12-14, 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - VANCOUVER

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01 PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Pre-conference fun, May 12	
4:00pm-7:00pm	Browns Crafthouse (happy hour meet and mingle, light appetizers provided), *6111 University Blvd*
Day 1, May 13 Conference Location: Brock Commons South (Room 1030), *6180 Walter Gage Road*	
8:00am-8:30am	Pick up name tag (coffee, tea, muffins) *Set up for poster 1*
8:30am-8:45am	Opening remarks, Dr. Daniela Palombo, Welcome to the Territory, led by Marny Point
8:45am-10:20am	Paper Session 1 (Chair: Chantelle Cocquyt) – Attention/Perception/Memory (Timekeeper: Kaity St. Cyr)
10:20am-10:30am	Break
10:30am-11:30am	Poster Session 1 (coffee, tea, muffins)
11:30am-12:30pm	KEYNOTE 1: Dr. John McDonald (Intro: Dr. Hee Yeon Im) *Can an intention override stimulus salience to prevent visual distraction?*
12:30pm-1:45pm	Lunch (not provided) Tips provided by Dana Hunter and Joey Manaligod. *Set up for poster 2*
1:45pm-3:15pm	Paper Session 2 (Chair: Omran Safi) – Eyewitness (Timekeeper: Khushi Sharma)
3:15pm-3:25pm	Break
3:25pm-4:25pm	Poster Session 2
4:25pm-5:45pm	Paper Session 3 (Chair: Oliver Bontkes) – Visual Cognition (Timekeeper: Chantelle Cocquyt)
5:45pm-6:30pm	Free time
6:30pm-9:30pm	Banquet Dinner (ticketed), The University Centre, *6331 Crescent Road*
Day 2, May 14 Conference Location: Brock Commons South (Room 1030), *6180 Walter Gage Road*	
8:00am-8:30 am	Pick up name tag (coffee, tea, muffins) *Set up for poster 3*
8:30am-9:45am	Paper Session 4 (Chair: Jasmin Kaur) – Daily Cognition (Timekeeper: Khushi Sharma)
9:45am-10:45am	Poster Session 3 (coffee, tea, muffins)
10:45am-12:15pm	Paper Session 5 (Chair: Melanie Butt) – Phenomenology and Cognitive Judgements (Timekeeper: Kaity St. Cyr)
12:15pm-1:45pm	WiCSC+ Panel (Academia Advice) and Pizza (Panel will begin at 12:45)
1:45pm-2:45pm	KEYNOTE 2: Dr. Sharda Umanath (Intro: Dr. Ira Hyman) *Collective memories can change: Generational differences and mental time travel in the U.S. and Germany*
2:45pm-3:00pm	Closing Remarks, Awards – Dr. Daniela Palombo and Dr. Ryan Fitzgerald

02 KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

John J. McDonald
Simon Fraser University

Can an intention override stimulus salience to prevent visual distraction?

According to one prominent theory, salient visual distractors will almost always pull attention away from the task at hand, causing potentially life-threatening delays in reaction time. Yet, salient stimuli do not always capture attention, to the dismay of frustrated parents, teachers, and advertisers alike. Here, I will overview the debate over salience-driven attention capture and will highlight how event-related potentials (ERPs) have been used to track the processing of visual distractors. The results of most ERP investigations indicate that salient visual distractors can be suppressed or otherwise ignored to minimize attentional disruption. These findings have shifted the debate from one centering on salience-driven attention capture to one centering on the roles of top-down intentions and implicit learning in the prevention of attention capture.

02 KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Sharda Umanath
Claremont McKenna College

Collective memories can change: Generational differences and mental time travel in the U.S. and Germany

Collective memories refer to a group's shared representation of the past. They are slow to change over time, but do change. To investigate such potential shifts, representative samples of American and German Younger Adults (YAs) and Older Adults (OAs) rated the emotional valence of 12 national historic events for their country in a series of studies. Additionally, both age groups were then asked to mentally time-travel. First, OAs reported their past emotional valence on the same events, and YAs provided ratings of their imagined future emotional valence. The results indicated that YAs and OAs hold differing opinions on numerous events today. Mentally traveling back in time, OAs also perceived changes in their own opinions about the events. YAs, on the other hand, anticipated almost no change in the future. The present work further explored this lack of anticipated change in the future.

03 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

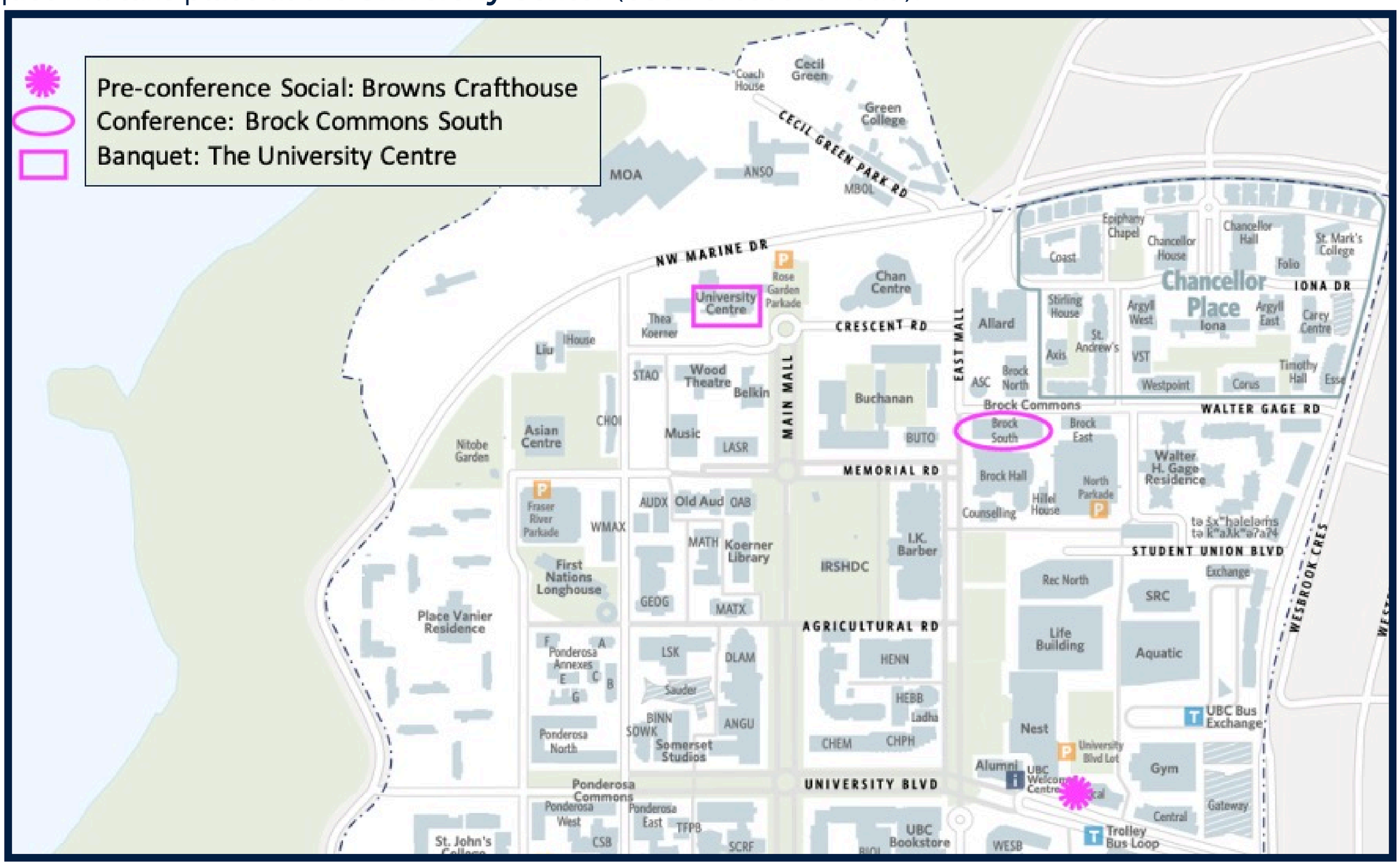
NOWCAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Pacific Northwest is home to numerous wide-flung Psychology departments with strengths in cognition and memory. NOWCAM (“North West Cognition and Memory”) provides a forum for faculty, students and postdocs from these departments to get together and discuss their latest research. Interactions with other researchers can spark innovations and cross-fertilizations that move research forward in new and exciting ways. In any case, it’s good fun to get together with friends and colleagues who share similar interests, chew the cognitive rag a bit, and quaff a beverage or two over a good meal.

The aim of NOWCAM is to support the Pacific Northwest faculty, students, and postdoctoral researchers working in the general area of memory and cognition by creating an annual venue in which they can share their current research activities with an informed, sympathetic, and good-humoured audience. With the exception of keynote addresses, NOWCAM favours papers (i.e., talks) and posters presented by students and postdocs (usually with faculty as co-authors). This gives students and postdocs an opportunity to develop their chops, and faculty a chance to sit back and relax.

GETTING TO THE CONFERENCE

The pre-conference social will take place at **Browns Crafthouse on the UBC campus** (6111 University Blvd). The conference will take place in **Brock Commons South (Room 1030)** (6180 Walter Gage Road). The Banquet will take place at the **University Center** (6331 Crescent Road).



ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

If you are coming from out of town, please arrange for accommodations ASAP.

A **limited number of rooms** are available at UBC's Gage Suites [studio (suite); premium single (budget room)]. You can reserve your accommodation by calling the UBC Reservations Office at (604) 822-1000, Ext. 3, or toll free at 1-888-822-1030. There is no deposit; only a credit card guarantee hold. Payment is collected upon check-in.

You can also reserve using this **link**. Note the tabs for suite versus budget rooms. Please change the dates to fit your stay duration.

While there are no other hotels close to campus, you can consider other options, including staying in downtown Vancouver.

TRANSIT AND PARKING INFORMATION

If you **stay on campus,** you will be a hop, skip, and jump to the conference, as well as all social activities, including our pre-conference mingling event at Browns Crafthouse and the Banquet, which are both located at UBC. Limited parking is available for guests staying in the conference campus accommodation for $18 per day plus tax. Visitor parking is available at various parkades around campus (see map on previous page) for $25 per day. The closest lots to the conference venue are the North Parkade (Height limit: 6'5" / 1.96m) or the Rose Garden Parkade: (Height limit: 6'8" / 2.03m).

If you **stay downtown**, you will need transportation to campus for the early start times. There are direct buses to and from campus, from downtown (estimated time: 45 minutes without traffic). For any questions regarding public transit, please visit this **link**.

BROWNS CRAFTHOUSE Meet and Mingle

Every year, NOWCAM hosts a meet and mingle before the conference, with appetizers provided by the host. This year, the event will take place on **May 12**, 2026, from **4:00 to 7:00 pm** (6111 University Blvd, Vancouver). Brown's Crafthouse is conveniently located on campus. The meet and mingle is a great way to meet other NOWCAMers, including other trainees and professors.

BANQUET INFORMATION

The ticketed Banquet will take place on **May 13**, 2026, from **6:30 pm to 9:30 pm** at The Leon and Thea Koerner University Centre (6331 Crescent Rd, Vancouver). It will include a buffet dinner, dessert, and a cash bar. At the time of assembling this program, tickets have sold out (please visit this **link** for information). Gluten free and vegan options are included in the menu.

FOOD ON CAMPUS

For information regarding food outlets on campus, please visit this **link**. The main conference location is attached to a Harvest Market but there are lots of other food options in walking distance, from Blue Chip Cafe, to Tim Hortons, to the Nest. Use Google maps to navigate on foot.

INTERNET ACCESS

Option 1: Visiting members of **eduroam**-supported institutions may securely connect to the EDUROAM wireless network. Users authenticate using the same credentials as they would at their home institution.
Option 2: **ubcvisitor** is a public wireless network available for guests visiting the UBC campus. Follow the instructions for authentication on the network.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

Each speaker will have **7 minutes** for a presentation, followed by **3 minutes** for questions and **2 minutes** for speaker changeover. Local students, will serve as session chairs and will assist speakers with setup and notify them of the remaining time in their talks during the session. We encourage folks to practice the structure and timing of their presentation in advance with their supervisor or lab mates.

A **Mac laptop** will be provided for presenters to load their talks onto the laptop (LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_NOWCAM2026) during a break or before the start of the day (e.g., during setup). Though we prefer using a single computer, presenters who strongly prefer a PC or their own device are welcome to bring it. Prior to the talk, the slides should be queued along with the required dongle to connect to the presenter setup. Given the tight timing of the conference, there will be little time to troubleshoot on the fly.

Poster panels are 4' x 8' and are displayed horizontal. Thumbtacks will be provided. Posters will be numbered and your poster number can be found in the poster session abstracts section of this program. Minimize text, emphasis main points.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NOWCAM 2026 will be hosted on the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver campus, in the beautiful city of Vancouver, Canada. UBC Vancouver is on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. Through our ongoing learning and unlearning, we make a long-term commitment to consider inclusive and diverse perspectives in the field of psychology. This includes incorporating rich knowledge structures and ways of knowing from Indigenous perspectives into our research, teaching, and practice.

NOWCAM 2026 is grateful for financial support from The University of British Columbia – Vancouver (Psychology and DMCBH), Simon Fraser University (SFU), University of Victoria (UVic), Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), and BIOPAC.

We would like to acknowledge the UBC Organizing Team: Drs. Daniela Palombo, Hee Yeon Im, Joan Ongchoco, Todd Woodward, and Veronica Dudarev. We are grateful for on-site support from Chantelle Cocquyt, Katie Chan, Kim Marty, Joey Manaligod, and Dana Hunter.

This program was made possible by the artistic work led by Devishi Mehra, along with Khushi Sharma, Mihika Mukherjee, and Dr. Daniela Palombo. Photographs were taken by Devishi Mehra, Dr. Daniela Palombo, Chantal Heinen, and Kaity St. Cyr. A special thanks to Sanjana Subramaniam, Juan Domingo Vallejo, Divya Gupta, Chantal Heinen, and Kaity St. Cyr for proofreading and editing this program.

The organizing team is grateful for support from Dr. Ryan Fitzgerald of SFU, the Grand Poo-bah Mother Hen of NOWCAM, and the Exalted Order of 7 +/- 2, consisting of Drs. Deb Connolly (SFU), Daniel Bernstein (KPU), Ira Hyman (WWU), Carla MacLean (KPU), Daniela Palombo (UBC), Heather Price (TRU), Tarek Amer (UVic), Jordana Wynn (UVic), and Adele Quigley-McBride (SFU). We are also incredibly grateful to Dr. D. Stephen Lindsay (formerly the Grand Poo-bah Mother Hen) for continuing to support NOWCAM.

Additional thanks to Tiare Brea, Conference Services Manager at UBC, Sage Catering, Will Harrington for IT support (UBC Psychology), and Farrah Bhanwadia (UBC Psychology) for finance support. We acknowledge the generous support of the WiCSC+ Trainee Board. We additionally thank Perry Lawrence for on-site photography.

04 FULL PROGRAM

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8:45am-10:20am	Paper Session 1 (Chair: Chantelle Cocquyt) – Attention/Perception/Memory (Timekeeper: Kaity St. Cyr) **Talk 1: The effect of gaze reinstatement precision on memory** Yanxin Xu, Tarek Amer, Jordana Wynn, University of Victoria **Talk 2: Divided space, extended time: How spatial boundaries shape retrospective duration memory** Omran K. Safi, Charles Lin, Kimberley Marty, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia **Talk 3: The role of gaze reinstatement in detailed scene memory** Emiko Osborne, Grace Veugelers, Tarek Amer, Jordana Wynn, University of Victoria **Talk 4: The effects of syncopation weights, duration, and beats on perceived rhythmic complexity** CC Liang*, Wendi Ke*, Leigh VanHandel, The University of British Columbia (*Co-presenting) **Talk 5: The effect of prior knowledge on memory precision across the lifespan** Olivia Leyden, Anna K. Lawrance, Yanxin Xu, Jordana Wynn, Tarek Amer, University of Victoria **Talk 6: RUBubbles vs. Warblers: Individual differences in category learning across artificial and naturalistic stimuli** Lucas Copp, Eric Mah, Jim Tanaka, University of Victoria **Talk 7: Dissociable emotional and social influences on associative memory** Khushi Sharma, Chantelle M. Cocquyt, Veronica Dudarev, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia
10:20am-10:30am	Break
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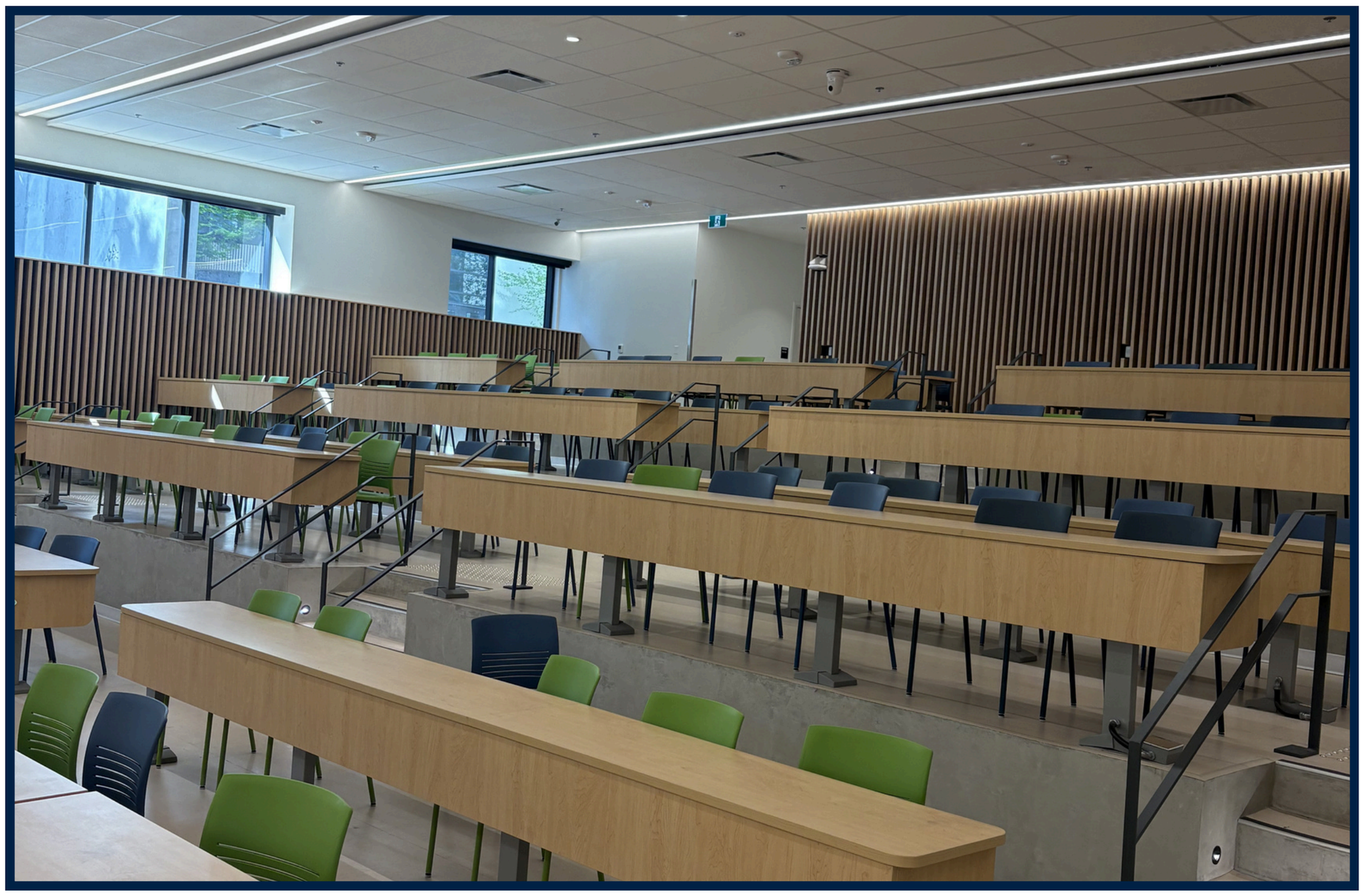
1:45pm-3:15pm	Paper Session 2 (Chair: Omran Safi) – Eyewitness (Timekeeper: Khushi Sharma) **Talk 1: Confirmation bias for transcription of forensic audio evidence** Benedict J. Walters, Daniel G. Derksen, Megan E. Giroux, Deborah A. Connolly, Itiel E. Dror, Daniel M. Bernstein, Kwantlen Polytechnic University **Talk 2: Eyewitness beliefs and the confidence-accuracy relationship** Rhiannon J. Batstone, Jamal K. Mansour, University of Lethbridge **Talk 3: Can recalling culprit descriptions improve the relationship between eyewitness confidence and identification accuracy?** Diana Negrabee, Adele Quigley-McBride, Simon Fraser University **Talk 4: Impact of culprit threat and investigative pressure on deceptive eyewitness lineup decisions** Jonathan Yip, Jamal K. Mansour, University of Lethbridge **Talk 5: Cross-race effects in recognition – but not perception – of faces** Eric Mah, Dilhan Töredi, Megan Lall, Haiyang Jin, Brett D. Roads, James W. Tanaka, University of Victoria **Talk 6: Victim vs. perpetrator: Retrograde memory updating after a surprising negative emotional event** Kaity St. Cyr, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia
3:15pm-3:25pm	Break

04 FULL PROGRAM

Day 1, May 13 Conference Location: Brock Commons South (Room 1030), *6180 Walter Gage Road*	
3:25pm-4:25pm	Poster Session 2
4:25pm-5:45pm	Paper Session 3 (Chair: Oliver Bontkes) – Visual Cognition (Timekeeper: Chantelle Cocquyt) **Talk 1: Neural and behavioural time courses of rapid danger detection** Evelyn Young, Freya Chaytor, Kathleen Botha, Dominika Prihodova, Adrian Bartolome, Hee Yeon Im, The University of British Columbia **Talk 2: Task complexity modulates N2pc magnitude** Graham Voiles, Nadja Jankovic, Vincent Di Lollo, Thomas M. Spalek, Simon Fraser University **Talk 3: "Switching off" visual search prevents salience-driven distraction** Daniel Tay, John J. McDonald, Simon Fraser University **Talk 4: Visual short-term memory ability and depression levels predict cognitive effort choices and discounting rates given shifting rewards and losses** Brandon J. Forys, Nick Moise, Rebecca M. Todd, Catharine A. Winstanley, The University of British Columbia **Talk 5: Tunnel vision or general interference? Visual attention in dynamic environments** Bianca Boicu, Mariana Mota, Hee Yeon Im, The University of British Columbia **Talk 6: Schematic prior knowledge biases covert visual attention** Anna K. Lawrance, Emiko Osborne, Tarek Amer, Jordana Wynn, University of Victoria
5:45pm-6:30pm	Free time
6:30pm-9:30pm	Banquet Dinner (ticketed), The University Centre, *6331 Crescent Road* *Buffet dinner with cash bar*

CONFERENCE ROOM LAYOUT



04 FULL PROGRAM

Day 2, May 14
Conference Location: Brock Commons South (Room 1030), *6180 Walter Gage Road*

8:00am-8:30am	Pick up name tag (coffee, tea, muffins) *Set up for poster 3*
8:30am-9:45am	Paper Session 4 (Chair: Jasmin Kaur) – Daily Cognition (Timekeeper: Khushi Sharma) **Talk 1: What the mind wanders to matters more than how it wanders: Content predicts affect in mind-wandering** Nathaniel Speert, Marla Morden, Vancouver Island University **Talk 2: Greater day-to-day variability in cognition and mood predict lower mean cognitive function in young adults** Melanie A. Butt, Todd C. Handy, The University of British Columbia **Talk 3: Subjective and objective cognitive functioning following COVID-19 infection in a community sample** Tamara L. Cleverdon, Zoë Gilson, Theone Paterson, Kristina Gicas, University of the Fraser Valley **Talk 4: Cultural moderation of the relationship between adaptive self-regulation (SOC) and work–life balance** Conner Bavaro, Lucy Jdanova, Kwantlen Polytechnic University **Talk 5: Dynamic effects between negative affect and gambling in daily life** Raymond Wu, Luke Clark, The University of British Columbia
9:45am-10:45am	Poster Session 3 (coffee, tea, muffins)
10:45am-12:15pm	Paper Session 5 (Chair: Melanie Butt) – Phenomenology and Cognitive Judgements (Timekeeper: Kaity St. Cyr) **Talk 1: Retrieval failure phenomenologies predict accessibility of new information** Jason Bao, Jackson A. Cate, Jennifer H. Coane, Sharda Umanath, Claremont McKenna College **Talk 2: Reconsidering the truthiness effect: A possible two-mechanism account** Bennett King-Nyberg, Hartmut Blank, Eryn Newman, Steve Lindsay, University of Victoria **Talk 3: Children in camouflage: The impact of a person's former child soldier status on their perceived credibility** Fiza Hasan, Nikola R. Klassen, Heather L. Price, Deborah A. Connolly, Simon Fraser University **Talk 4: Mind attribution in synthetic media: an extension of the medusa effect** Jackie Heitzner, Alan Kingstone, The University of British Columbia **Talk 5: Emotion differentially modulates phenomenological ratings and narrative descriptions of mental imagery in episodic future thoughts** Oliver Bontkes, Omran K. Safi, Sarah Lacusta, Isabel Wilson, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia **Talk 6: Using brain science to teach brain science** Jade Lutz, Morgan Farlowe, Heather Hawirko, Adrianna Balic, Nevaeh Bitzer, Moses Suzuki, Kudrat Bhinder, University of Victoria
12:15pm-1:45pm	WiCSC+ Panel (Academia Advice) and Pizza (Panel will begin at 12:45)
1:45pm-2:45pm	KEYNOTE 2: Dr. Sharda Umanath (Intro: Dr. Ira Hyman) *Collective memories can change: Generational differences and mental time travel in the U.S. and Germany*
2:45pm-3:00pm	Closing Remarks, Awards – Dr. Daniela Palombo and Dr. Ryan Fitzgerald

05 PAPER SESSION ABSTRACTS

Paper Session 1 (Chair: Chantelle Cocquyt) - Attention/Perception/Memory
8:45 am — 10:20 am, May 13

Talk 1: The effect of gaze reinstatement precision on memory
Yanxin Xu, Tarek Amer, Jordana Wynn, University of Victoria

Eye movements during memory retrieval often recapitulate those made during encoding—a phenomenon known as gaze reinstatement. The present study aimed to establish a causal connection between precise gaze reinstatement and memory retrieval using eye-tracking. Young adults encoded sequences of coloured shapes. Then, they were instructed to retrieve the corresponding colour of encoded shapes, while their gaze was experimentally manipulated. Results indicate that gaze position was positively predictive of memory performance. These findings suggest that eye movements are tightly coupled to the encoding and retrieval of precise item features and support a functional role for gaze reinstatement in memory.

Talk 2: Divided space, extended time: How spatial boundaries shape retrospective duration memory
Omran K. Safi, Charles Lin, Kimberley Marty, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia

Retrospective duration is shaped by the contents of memory. Event segmentation theory proposes that continuous experience is parsed into discrete events. We examined how segmentation affects retrospective duration using naturalistic virtual reality. In a within-subjects study, participants navigated events with or without a boundary and subsequently estimated their duration immediately or one week later. Boundary events were recalled as being longer than non-boundary events, however this effect did not persist after one week. Additionally, we observe a significant compression effect across both experiments. Collectively, our work demonstrates the nuances of how the organizational structure of memory shapes subjective time.

Talk 3: The role of gaze reinstatement in detailed scene memory
Emiko Osborne, Grace Veugelers, Tarek Amer, Jordana Wynn, University of Victoria

Gaze reinstatement refers to the functional reinstatement of encoding-related eye movements to support memory retrieval. The extent to which gaze reinstatement reflects fine-grained mnemonic details remains unclear. We investigated this relationship using objects in everyday scenes. Participants studied exemplar scenes belonging to distinct categories (e.g., bedroom), visualized them, and completed an object recognition memory test. To index memory, we computed multiple levels of gaze reinstatement (e.g., exemplar- and category-level similarity) and performance (e.g., discrimination of new vs. familiar lures). We show that gaze reinstatement correlates with object recognition, supporting the role of eye movements in memory.

Talk 4: The effects of syncopation weights, duration, and beats on perceived rhythmic complexity
CC Liang*, Wendi Ke*, Leigh VanHandel, The University of British Columbia (*Co-presenting)

Longuet-Higgins and Lee’s (1984) syncopation model used a beat-based weighting system to describe complexity in musical rhythm. Our study, including 456 participants rating complexity for more than 1,500 rhythmic patterns, suggests that other factors must be taken into account. Linear mixed-effects models and linear discriminant analyses revealed that tempo and the duration between syncopated events were the strongest predictors. Notably, silence on the third beat—a moderately strong metrical position underestimated by the model—also significantly influenced ratings. These findings suggest that rhythmic complexity arises less from hierarchical weighting and more from temporal gaps, reframing how rhythm is perceived and experienced.

Talk 5: The effect of prior knowledge on memory precision across the lifespan

Olivia Leyden, Anna K. Lawrance, Yanxin Xu, Jordana Wynn, Tarek Amer, University of Victoria

Prior knowledge can support older adults' memory in congruent conditions and hinder older adults' memory in incongruent conditions. This study investigates how prior knowledge shapes memory in graded congruency conditions by testing older and younger adults' memory for coloured objects that are either schema-congruent (yellow banana), incongruent (blue banana), or near-congruent (orange banana). Young adults demonstrated enhanced memory for congruent objects, impaired memory for incongruent objects, and schema-driven memory bias towards congruency for near-congruent objects. We expect older adults will show comparable memory for congruent objects, worse memory for incongruent objects, and stronger schema-driven bias for near-congruent objects.

Talk 6: RUBubbles vs. Warblers: Individual differences in category learning across artificial and naturalistic stimuli

Lucas Copp, Eric Mah, Jim Tanaka, University of Victoria

Growing evidence suggests that individuals differ in their ability to learn visual categories, but it is unclear how this ability varies across naturalistic and novel stimuli. Here, we compared group-level differences in training performance when categorizing a naturalistic category (Warbler birds) versus a novel one (RUBubbles). To assess learning, we measured overall accuracy and used PsiZ, a machine-learning tool, to infer psychological embeddings for each category. Comparing training performance with PsiZ embeddings, we found that PsiZ is sensitive to group-level differences in performance and that accuracy correlates across stimulus types, suggesting shared learning mechanisms despite differences in fundamental category structures.

Talk 7: Dissociable emotional and social influences on associative memory

Khushi Sharma, Chantelle M. Cocquyt, Veronica Dudarev, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia

Emotional experiences are often social, yet memory research rarely considers social context. Although negative emotion typically impairs associative memory, social cues may reduce this impact. Negative emotion can also transfer to associated neutral stimuli, producing transfer of valence (TOV). As social stimuli facilitate associative binding to negative events, we predicted stronger TOV with negative social stimuli. Replicating prior work, we observed TOV, however, this effect was not stronger for social stimuli. Emotion did not affect associative memory, though social pairs were remembered better than non-social pairs. Thus, negative emotion and social relevance seem to have dissociable effects on associative memory.

Paper Session 2 (Chair: Omran Safi) – Eyewitness
1:45pm-3:15pm, May 13

Talk 1: Confirmation bias for transcription of forensic audio evidence

Benedict J. Walters, Daniel G. Derksen, Megan E. Giroux, Deborah A. Connolly, Itiel E. Dror, Daniel M. Bernstein, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Confirmation bias is the tendency to interpret information in ways that align with prior expectations. We studied confirmation bias by manipulating context (written transcripts with incriminating errors, a criminal suspect, and a control of no context) and asking participants to interpret innocuous degraded audio clips. We found that both humans and AI were more likely to produce incriminating interpretations when provided with forensic context. This bias was most apparent with degraded audio and with AI. With increasing reliance on AI tools for forensic transcription, our findings have implications for forensic audio evidence interpreted by humans and AI.

Talk 2: Eyewitness beliefs and the confidence-accuracy relationship

Rhiannon J. Batstone, Jamal K. Mansour, University of Lethbridge

This study investigated whether lay witnesses' metacognitive beliefs regarding estimator variables (e.g., viewing conditions) moderate the confidence-accuracy relationship. Using a mock-crime paradigm (N = 1,920), we assessed whether holding relevant knowledge improved confidence calibration. We found that metacognitive beliefs (measured after their lineup decision) did not significantly moderate the confidence-accuracy relationship. These findings suggest that despite having a sound awareness of memory-affecting factors, mock eyewitnesses do not draw on this knowledge when assessing their confidence. Instead, these beliefs may function as retrospective justifications for the perceived task difficulty. In a follow-up study, we will elicit beliefs before their lineup decision.

Talk 3: Can recalling culprit descriptions improve the relationship between eyewitness confidence and identification accuracy?

Diana Negrabee, Adele Quigley-McBride, Simon Fraser University

Research shows that when recommended procedures are followed, highly confident eyewitness identifications are often accurate; however, the confidence–accuracy relationship is fragile and sensitive to contextual factors. In Study 1 (N=215), participants recalled a prior description of a culprit either before or after a lineup conducted at least 24 hours later. Recalling the description immediately before the lineup improved the confidence–accuracy relationship. Study 2 aims to replicate Study 1 under more ecologically valid conditions using video-recorded sessions. We will examine how verbal and non-verbal behaviors relate to decision outcomes to better understand how pre-lineup procedures affect indicators of accuracy.

Talk 4: Impact of culprit threat and Investigative pressure on deceptive eyewitness lineup decisions

Jonathan Yip, Jamal K. Mansour, University of Lethbridge

Eyewitness decisions strongly influence juries, yet their reliability is often compromised. My research asks a key question: why do eyewitnesses lie? Participants (N = 334) completed a guided imagery task and viewed a mock crime in which the culprit either did or did not threaten them, then interacted with an investigator who either applied pressure or remained neutral. Logistic regression showed that guilty suspect identifications increased when eyewitnesses were both threatened and pressured, and that correct rejections increased when the culprit threatened the eyewitness. Our results suggest social influences appear to motivate deceptive eyewitness decisions.

Talk 5: Cross-race effects in recognition – but not perception – of faces

Eric Mah, Dilhan Töredi, Megan Lall, Haiyang Jin, Brett D. Roads, James W. Tanaka, University of Victoria

The Cross-Race Effect (CRE) is a robust finding of poorer memory for cross-race than own-race faces. The Face Space model explains this effect in terms of differential perception of cross- and own-race faces, with the former perceived as more similar and densely clustered whereas the latter more dispersed and distinctive. We tested this explanation in four experiments (N = 425) where participants either completed recognition memory tasks or similarity judgement tasks. Results did not provide compelling evidence for the Face Space model, suggesting that the CRE is driven by differences in memory representations rather than differences in perception.

Talk 6: Victim vs. perpetrator: Retrograde memory updating after a surprising negative emotional event

Kaity St. Cyr, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia

Emotional events can retroactively alter memory for preceding neutral information, but boundary conditions remain unclear. We piloted a paradigm to test whether surprise drives retrograde memory effects, hypothesizing that showing a neutral character in a surprisingly negative context would produce a “re-colouring” effect: neutral encounters retroactively remembered more negatively. Participants viewed a neutral video followed by an emotional one with the same character framed as victim or perpetrator, then completed a memory test. Framing (victim vs. perpetrator) was successfully manipulated. No significant memory effects emerged. Numerically, data trended in the predicted direction with a medium effect size, supporting the paradigm’s usefulness in a well-powered follow-up.

Paper Session 3 (Chair: Oliver Bontkes) - Visual Cognition
4:25pm-5:45pm, May 13

Talk 1: Neural and behavioural time courses of rapid danger detection

Freya Chaytor, Evelyn Young, Kathleen Botha, Dominika Prihodova, Adrian Bartolome, Hee Yeon Im, The University of British Columbia

Rapidly detecting danger helps ensure survival. To understand the mechanisms underlying this perceptual ability, we examined the time course of danger detection and the influence of observers' trait anxiety. Participants (n=22) viewed realistic workplace scenes for 14, 42, or 126 ms and categorized them as dangerous or non-dangerous while EEG was recorded. Participants differentiated dangerous from non-dangerous scenes as early as 42 ms, with highly anxious individuals showing a greater bias to report danger at this duration. Event-related potentials showed stronger positive amplitudes over central-parietal channels in response to dangerous compared to non-dangerous scenes, suggesting early attentional allocation to danger.

Talk 2: Task complexity modulates N2pc magnitude

Graham Voiles, Nadja Jankovic, Vincent Di Lollo, Thomas M. Spalek, Simon Fraser University

The N2pc is thought to represent the allocation of attention in a visual-search display. N2pc magnitude can be modulated by factors such as stimulus salience. Can it also be modulated by task complexity? Two experiments examined this possibility. Experiment 1 employed simple one-step tasks that could be completed by merely detecting the target. Experiment 2 involved the added step of determining the detected target's colour. We conclude that task complexity modulates N2pc magnitude. This agrees with a reentrant view of visual information processing where the N2pc reflects the additional iterations required for processing the two-step tasks.

Talk 3: "Switching off" visual search prevents salience-driven distraction

Daniel Tay, John J. McDonald, Simon Fraser University

Latest theories posit that people cannot prevent salience-driven attention capture voluntarily but do so automatically by implicit learning. These theories have been informed by studies that require individuals to search repeatedly for a target. What if people decided beforehand not to search? Using electroencephalography, we discovered that the salient singleton was attended when it was a target in a search trial but was suppressed when participants were cued in advance not to search. Additionally, anterior-brain activity before stimulus onset predicted performance and the degrees to which the singleton was processed. These results demonstrate that salient distractors can be voluntarily ignored.

Talk 4: Visual short-term memory ability and depression levels predict cognitive effort choices and discounting rates given shifting rewards and losses

Brandon J. Forys, Nick Moise, Rebecca M. Todd, Catharine A. Winstanley, The University of British Columbia

In everyday life, we must work for rewards while avoiding often-unpredictable losses. Past research suggests that cognitive ability explains choices of highly effortful options given rewards – but choice behaviours given losses remain unclear. We examined whether cognitive ability predicted effort choices when framed in terms of gains vs. losses. Here, we used a cognitive effort choice task to examine factors predicting high vs. low effort trade-offs given wins vs. losses. Overall, higher visual short-term memory ability predicted later trade-offs of high vs. low effort choices. Thus, similar motivational factors underpin trade-offs in reward-seeking and loss-avoidance given shifting effort demands.

Talk 5: Tunnel vision or general interference? Visual attention in dynamic environments

Bianca Boicu, Mariana Mota, Hee Yeon Im, The University of British Columbia

Drivers must extract critical visual information in dynamic environments despite limited perceptual capacity. This study tested how potentially competing demands, high-speed motion, and multitasking differentially bias attention toward foveal or peripheral regions during first-person driving. An ensemble coding task was embedded in driving videos to assess sensitivity to local and global scene information under varying speeds and cognitive load. Pilot data suggest that cognitive interference, rather than optic flow, limits central scene processing: participants performing a secondary task relied more on peripheral information, while speed had no systematic effect. Findings highlight a mechanism for safety-critical perceptual failures in complex traffic.

Talk 6: Schematic prior knowledge biases covert visual attention

Anna K. Lawrance, Emiko Osborne, Tarek Amer, Jordana Wynn, University of Victoria

Through repeated experience, we acquire schemas - expectations about how the world is structured (e.g., pots are found on stovetops). Although schemas are known to enhance memory and bias overt attention, their influence on covert attention remains unclear. Using an attentional orienting paradigm across two online experiments, participants detected briefly presented (100ms) objects (e.g., soup pot) in everyday scenes (e.g., kitchen), while maintaining central fixation. Participants were faster to detect objects when they appeared in schema-consistent (e.g., stovetop) versus inconsistent (e.g., countertop) locations, suggesting that schemas guide covert visual attention and facilitate perception and behaviour.

Paper Session 4 (Chair: Jasmin Kaur) - Daily Cognition
8:30am-9:45am, May 14

Talk 1: What the mind wanders to matters more than how it wanders: Content predicts affect in mind-wandering

Nathaniel Speert, Marla Morden, Vancouver Island University

The relationship between affect and mind-wandering is often framed in terms of thought mode: task-unrelated thought (TUT) is associated with negative affect, whereas freely moving thought (FMT) is associated with positive affect. Using experience sampling in daily life, we attempted to replicate these associations. Contrary to predictions, thought mode was not reliably associated with affect. Instead, the emotional content of thoughts was more strongly linked to affect than whether thoughts were task-related or freely moving. These findings suggest that the affective correlates often attributed to mind-wandering may reflect the emotional content of thoughts rather than the mode of mind-wandering itself.

Talk 2: Greater day-to-day variability in cognition and mood predict lower mean cognitive function in young adults

Melanie A. Butt, Todd C. Handy, The University of British Columbia

To what extent does cognition vary on a day-to-day level in young adults? Using experience sampling, we collected phone-based subjective cognitive assessments from student participants (N1 = 215, N2 = 146) three times a day for two weeks, alongside mood measures. Cognition showed substantial daily variability and was influenced by daily mood at the within-person level, and greater cognitive variability across the two-week period predicted lower mean cognitive function overall. Further, greater cognitive variability was associated with stronger daily mood-cognition coupling, suggesting it may be a key marker of resilience to mood-related cognitive changes and cognitive wellness in young adults.

Talk 3: Subjective and objective cognitive functioning following COVID-19 infection in a community sample

Tamara L. Cleverdon, Zoë Gilson, Theone Paterson, Kristina Gicas, University of the Fraser Valley

Cognitive complaints are frequently reported following COVID-19 infections. However, evidence of objective cognitive deficits following COVID-19 infections has been inconsistent, particularly within community samples. This study examined whether global deficit scores (GDS), found to be more sensitive to mild cognitive dysfunction, differed by COVID history (COVID+ n = 137, COVID- n = 144) and whether GDS scores were associated with subjective cognitive decline by COVID history, in a community sample. There was no association between GDS and history of COVID, nor objective (GDS) and subjective cognitive functioning overall. However, the association between objective and subjective cognitive functioning differed by sex.

Talk 4: Cultural moderation of the relationship between adaptive self-regulation (SOC) and work–life balance

Conner Bavaro, Lucy Jdanova, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The Selection, Optimization, and Compensation (SOC) model describes how individuals adapt to constraints through strategic self-regulation. This study examined whether individual cultural values moderate the relationship between adaptive self-regulation (SOC) and work–life balance (WLB), operationalized as work interference with personal life. Among 260 employed adults, collectivism and uncertainty avoidance significantly moderated the relationship between SOC and WLB, whereas masculinity, power distance, and long-term orientation did not. These findings suggest that the effectiveness of self-regulation strategies depends on individual cultural values, highlighting the importance of context in adaptive self-regulation.

Talk 5: Dynamic effects between negative affect and gambling in daily life

Raymond Wu, Luke Clark, The University of British Columbia

The expansion of gambling in North America threatens the well-being of many individuals. Prominent theories propose that, via negative reinforcement, negative affect can become a potent driver of gambling behaviour. Often substantiated with cross-sectional data, these accounts do not disentangle “gambling in response to affect” from “affect in response to gambling.” We test these dynamics using an intensive longitudinal design across three weeks among gamblers in North America. Negative affect predicted a lower likelihood of next-day gambling, while gambling predicted higher next-day negative affect. Our findings highlight that focusing on dynamics can provide insight into long-standing beliefs about consummatory behaviour.

Paper Session 5 (Chair: Melanie Butt) - Phenomenology and Cognitive Judgements
10:45am-12:15pm, May 14

Talk 1: Retrieval failure phenomenologies predict accessibility of new information

Jason Bao, Jackson A. Cate, Jennifer H. Coane, Sharda Umanath, Claremont McKenna College

When retrieval fails, the mental experience differs. We've established a framework that captures distinct phenomenologies using natural language, i.e. not remembering/IDR and not knowing/IDK, which predicts accessibility of previously learned information. Here, we extend this framework to newly learned information. Participants learned kanji characters and their translations. Next, participants completed a cued-recall test of learned and novel kanji. When unable to answer, they selected one of two phenomenologies—IDR or IDK. Finally, participants completed a multiple-choice test of learned and novel kanji. Phenomenologies successfully predicted the accessibility of newly learned information, with IDR having higher accuracy on final recall compared to IDK.

Talk 2: Reconsidering the truthiness effect: A possible two-mechanism account

Bennett King-Nyberg, Hartmut Blank, Eryn Newman, Steve Lindsay, University of Victoria

The "photo-truthiness effect" refers to the finding that obscure claims are more likely to be judged as true if they are presented alongside a related image than if they are presented without a picture. Analyses combining data from six experiments (N = 1,300) suggest that there are two qualitatively different mechanisms at play. One mechanism is that related photos facilitate the processing of claims, and this fluency contributes to feelings of familiarity or correctness, increasing the probability of judging the claim as true. The second mechanism is that subjects sometimes perceive the picture as providing evidence for or against the claim.

Talk 3: Children in camouflage: The impact of a person's former child soldier status on their perceived credibility

Fiza Hasan, Nikola R. Klassen, Heather L. Price, Deborah A. Connolly, Simon Fraser University

We explored whether an individual's child soldier status influences credibility perceptions (cognitive competence, honesty, and suggestibility) when they alleged child sexual abuse (CSA) that occurred prior to recruitment. In an immigration setting, a former child soldier was considered more suggestible than a civilian (Experiment 1; N = 276), but there were no differences between a former child soldier and a youth gang member (Experiment 2; N = 311). During case prosecution, guilty verdicts were generally more likely when a former child soldier alleged CSA than a former youth gang member (Experiment 3; N = 304). Implications of these findings are discussed.

Talk 4: Mind attribution in synthetic media: an extension of the medusa effect

Jackie Heitzner, Alan Kingstone, The University of British Columbia

Humans routinely attribute mental states to others. This perception of mind extends to people in photographs, but in diminished form. And when a photograph depicts a person holding another photograph, even less mind (e.g., agency and experience) is attributed to the more abstracted individual. This decline in perceived mind with increasing levels of abstraction is referred to as the Medusa effect. The present study examined undergraduate students and found that the Medusa effect extends to AI-generated stimuli. This both indicates its robustness across media formats and enables researchers to employ a virtually unlimited range of image content in future studies.

Talk 5: Emotion differentially modulates phenomenological ratings and narrative descriptions of mental imagery in episodic future thoughts

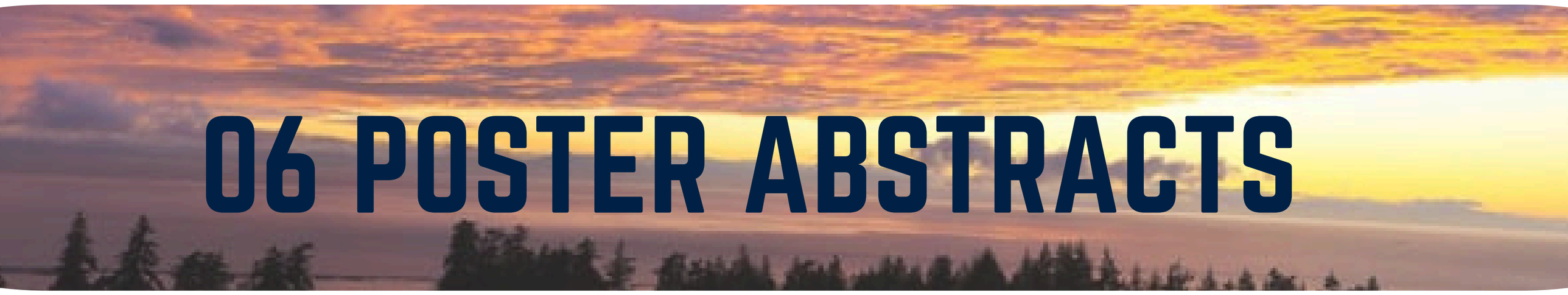
Oliver Bontkes, Omran K. Safi, Sarah Lacusta, Isabel Wilson, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia

Prior work shows that emotional future events are more vivid than neutral events; positive events in particular are rated higher on visual and sensory detail. We investigated whether these effects extend to narratives of episodic future thoughts. In two samples (N1 = 114, 904 narratives; N2 = 113, 854 narratives), we replicated findings with respect to phenomenological ratings of vividness and visual/sensory detail. Yet, contrary to expectations, emotional narratives contained diminished perceptual content compared to neutral narratives. Space and motion words drove this effect. This work highlights how mind's-eye representations and narrative contents do not always align in future thinking.

Talk 6: Using brain science to teach brain science

Jade Lutz, Morgan Farlowe, Heather Hawirko, Adrianna Balic, Nevaeh Bitzer, Moses Suzuki, Kudrat Bhinder, University of Victoria

Adolescence is a period marked by heightened neuroplasticity, yet middle school students are rarely informed of these cognitive changes– despite evidence that such knowledge can enhance both their learning outcomes and well-being. The Curious Minds-Changing Brains (CM-CB) program is delivered through interactive, neuroscience-informed activities to 50 Grade 6–7 students across three 90-minute sessions. Pre- and post- instruction assessments measured students' understanding of brain structure and function, neuroplasticity, neurodiversity, and metacognition. Results showed significant improvements in students' knowledge of brain structure, function, and neuroplasticity. Findings suggest that neuroscience education can enhance adolescent understanding of brain structure, function, and development.



06 POSTER ABSTRACTS

Poster Session 1
10:30am-11:30am, May 13

Poster 1: Too hot to handle: How human and virtual influencers impact women's cognitive performance

Téa Schlegel, Malinda Desjarlais, Mount Royal University

This study examined how human and virtual influencers affect women's state self-objectification and cognitive performance (Stroop test). Thirty-one undergraduate female students participated in a Qualtrics survey with random assignment to one of three influencer conditions (human, human-like virtual, and anime-like virtual). Under the guise of a cover story, participants viewed images of their influencer, and measures of self-objectification and cognitive performance were obtained. Results demonstrated that influencer condition did not significantly predict self-objectification or cognitive performance. However, exposure to idealized images elicited participants' self-objectification consistently across all conditions. Findings suggest that realism may be less influential in self-objectification than idealization.

Poster 2: Foraging performance predicted by trait impulsivity over problem gambling and risk-taking

Kyle Turner, Luke Clark, Maren Sundermeier, A. Ross Otto, The University of British Columbia

Foraging tasks are used to examine decision-making strategies in unpredictable environments emulating the natural world. Gamblers may approach gambling using the same strategies. We recruited gamblers who varied in problem gambling symptoms (n = 150) in a two-site study between UBC Vancouver and McGill. Performance was measured on a patchy-foraging task harvesting apples in an orchard. We assessed problem gambling severity (PGSI), trait impulsivity (UPPS) and risk-taking (DOSPERT). Although our hypothesis for PGSI was not supported, UPPS predicted low foraging success ($r = -0.176$, $p < 0.05$), supporting relevance of foraging strategies to mental health outcomes.

Poster 3: Criminal minds: Misconceptions about criminal profiling among lay individuals

Ryann Ashton, Adele Quigley-McBride, Simon Fraser University

Criminal profiling is one of the most misunderstood investigative tools. Criminal profiling is usually discussed in the field of criminology; however, empirical research on the tool remains limited. Despite the lack of empirical research on criminal profiling, the public is often exposed to this investigative tool through media portrayals, such as shows like "Criminal Minds", which add to the pool of misconceptions. Recruiting student participants (N=237), we examined the frequency of misconceptions this population holds about criminal profiling and criminal investigations. Further, we analyzed the level to which the participants are exposed to media portrayals of criminal profiling and its impacts on their misconceptions. We found that participants held many misconceptions about the reliability and utility of criminal profiling. These findings will improve our understanding of what laypersons believe about criminal profiling and the impact of media on beliefs about criminal profiling, which has implications for how the general public views forensic investigations.

Poster 4: Mentor misperceptions: Do mentors underestimate the value of their mentorship?

Mia Tognotti, Kalum Kumar, Lara B. Aknin, Simon Fraser University

Helpers tend to underestimate the positive consequences of their assistance. We extend prior work by investigating whether peer mentors underestimate the value of their sustained mentorship relative to third-party raters. Twenty-three peer mentors described their weekly acts of mentorship and rated how appreciated and positively impactful these acts were. We shared mentors' descriptions with 163 third-party raters, who rated how appreciated and positively impactful they believed those actions to be. Consistent with predictions, mentors rated their acts as significantly less appreciated than third-party raters. Mentors may underestimate the benefits of their acts, which may be a barrier to providing mentorship.

Poster 5: Factors that affect police-civilian interactions involving summary offences

Ezra A. Yoshie, Adele Quigley-McBride, Simon Fraser University

Police have broad discretion to decide the appropriate action during interactions with civilians. We assessed lay perceptions of police-civilian interactions following the commission of summary offences in a mixed experimental design. Participants read vignettes depicting Indigenous, White, or non-White civilians interacting with White or non-White police officers who gave an undocumented warning, a documented warning, or arrested the civilian. University students (N=329) were asked to judge these interactions before and after being informed of the full range of actions the police could have taken. Results suggest that pre-existing attitudes and knowledge of the options available affect perceptions of police actions.

Poster 6: A prospective study of a highly personal and emotionally evocative reception event memory: The fertility experiences study

Deniz Basakci, Kimberley Marty, Khushi Sharma, Wendi Zhong, Katie Chan, Victoria Wardell, Sabrina Co, Angel Chen, Chantal Heinen, Joaquin Gomez de la Torre, & Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia

Flashbulb memories–vivid, highly detailed memories of learning about consequential events–have been widely studied in the context of public tragedies. However, reception events do not always occur in the public eye. Here, we examined memory for a private reception event: learning the outcome of in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Whether successful or not, IVF outcome news is highly consequential and personally meaningful. We found that IVF memories were phenomenologically vivid and detailed, regardless of the outcome. Arousal, rather than valence, shaped the richness of these memories, suggesting that emotional intensity per se shapes how private flashbulb-like events are remembered.

Poster 7: Imagery-independent drawing benefits in memory: evidence from aphantasia

Ella Goldman, Emiko Muraki, Sophia Tran, Myra A. Fernandes, Penny M. Pexman, University of Western Ontario

Drawing pictures of to-be-remembered words reliably improves their memorability, likely because it engages pictorial, motoric, and elaborative encoding processes. This study examined whether mental imagery is a necessary component supporting the pictorial contribution to the drawing benefit. Word recall was compared across encoding strategies (drawing, writing), word types (abstract, concrete) and imagery abilities (aphantasia, typical imagery). In both participant groups, recall was higher for words drawn rather than written. Our results suggest that drawing benefits arise regardless of imagery ability, and that the relative engagement of motoric and elaborative processes may uniquely support memory in aphantasics.

Poster 8: Referential cues reveal general effects on memory and a unique role for gaze

Paris Yuexiao Wang, Sophie N. Lanthier, Alan Kingstone, The University of British Columbia

Previous studies have shown that communicative eye contact facilitates memory in female but not male participants. We examined whether this effect extends to other referential cues. Across two experiments with female pairs, pointing and verbal naming signaled the intended recipient of words; recognition memory was enhanced when participants themselves were signaled. We then turned to male participants, who previously showed no memory benefit from eye gaze, and found that pointing likewise improved memory relative to no gesture. These findings suggest that communicative signals have a general influence on memory, but eye gaze may not be fully interchangeable with more overt referential cues such as pointing.

Poster 9: The role of emotion regulation in cannabis use and cognition

Alysha T. Ryan, Paria Rahimi, Talya Rosenfeld, Morgan J. Schaeffer, Theone S.E. Paterson, University of Victoria

Cannabis has gained attention as a treatment for chronic pain, yet both chronic pain and cannabis use have been associated with cognitive impairment. The mechanisms underlying this relationship remain unclear. Evidence suggests emotional dysregulation, rather than pain severity, may drive cannabis use among individuals with chronic pain. The present study examined whether emotion regulation mediates the relationship between cannabis use and cognitive outcomes in chronic pain patients. Cannabis use significantly predicted emotional regulation ($p = .001$) and subjective cognitive difficulties ($p < .001$). However, emotion regulation did not mediate the relationship between cannabis use and cognition.

Poster 10: Beyond STORM: Preserved action perception in autism

Rundong Wang, Veronica, Dudarev, James Enns, The University of British Columbia

Understanding others' actions is essential for social interaction, yet autism is often linked to reduced action prediction. In a computerized social prediction task, autistic and neurotypical adults responded to an actor pointing right or left, and the action being self-chosen or externally directed. We also manipulated cognitive load (same- vs opposite-side responses) and visual load (one vs three simultaneous actors). Self-chosen actions were responded to faster than externally directed ones by both neurotypical and autistic participants, yet autistic adults showed reduced overall efficiency under three-actor load. Results suggest largely preserved action-perception mechanisms in autism that become less efficient as perceptual demands increase.

Poster 11: Enhancing eyewitness recall through the electronic self-administered cognitive interview (ESACI)

Brooklyn Brown, D. Stephen Lindsay, Bennett King-Nyberg, University of Victoria

This study evaluates the Electronic Self-Administered Cognitive Interview (E-SACI), an investigative interviewing technique that integrates elements from the Cognitive Interview into a standardized online format modelled after the Self-Administered Interview. 122 participants viewed a simulated crime and were assigned to either the E-SACI or Standard Interview (SI) condition. It was hypothesized that the E-SACI would yield greater total recall and more correct details than the SI, without a significant increase in incorrect details. Results indicate that the E-SACI enhances both quantity and accuracy of eyewitness recall, demonstrating its potential as an effective tool for investigators in laboratory and field settings.

Poster 12: The (dis)appearance of justice: Complainants' and respondents' perceptions of bias in workplace investigations

Kumud Senuri Bhagchandani, Alexis Burgess and Carla L. MacLean, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Workplace investigations are designed to promote fairness and accountability. However, even when formal procedures are followed, parties may still perceive injustice. This study explored the causes of bias provided by complainants ($n = 70$) and respondents ($n = 62$) in their investigations. Participants' responses to an open-ended survey revealed that they perceived bias because of (i) the presence of sources of bias (e.g., allegiance between employees) and/or (ii) a biased investigation process. Groups differed in that complainants more frequently reported that the outcome of the investigation was biased whereas respondents reported bias in the investigative procedures.

Poster 13: Does prediction error influence the fate of negative episodic memories?

Sanjana Subramaniam*, Khushi Sharma*, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia (*Co-presenting)

Prediction error (PE) – the mismatch between expectation and reality – can influence memory encoding and recall. In prior work, we found no effect of PE on memory for negative events. The present study extended these findings by introducing a stronger PE manipulation (imagery-based written endings) and a longer delay period (3–5 days) prior to recall. Preliminary results suggested a pattern whereby participants who received an unexpected positive ending tended to recall numerically more false details compared to those who received no ending, although this effect was not statistically significant. These findings suggest that PE may have nuanced effects on memory, appearing under only some circumstances.

Poster 14: Investigating workplace investigators: Reducing cognitive bias with fact-checking

Bria Schael, Carla L. MacLean, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The current research examined a fact-checking intervention designed to reduce bias in workplace investigations among professionals and students. After receiving biasing background information about a worker, participants read a witness statement containing potentially factual comments and opinions, five implying worker fault and five neutral. Participants classified opinions versus potential facts either before or after evaluating the statement's diagnostic value, witness credibility, and event cause(s). Fact-checking before judgements led to fewer opinion misclassifications but did not significantly affect assessments of witness credibility or causal attributions. The fact-checking intervention successfully promoted objective assessment of witness evidence but did not support higher-level judgements.

Poster 15: Do hand dominance and auditory feedback affect rhythm performance

Lana Marinculic Sijan*, Hailey Hemmerich*, Shannon E. Wright, University of the Fraser Valley (*Co-presenting)

Precise temporal processing of motor and auditory events is essential to music performance. In studying rhythm performance abilities, rhythm complexity and temporal variability are often co-manipulated, yet each may independently affect rhythm performance. This study aimed to manipulate rhythm performance variability while fixing task difficulty. We compared rhythm performances with the dominant and non-dominant hand, with and without auditory feedback. There was no effect of hand used or auditory feedback on rhythm performance variability or accuracy. There was some evidence of asymmetry in left- and right-handers' rhythm performance. Methods to increase tapping variability without altering task difficulty require further investigation.

Poster 16: Why did I fail: Change your reasoning, change your response?

Erik Hayes, Isabella Hooge, Shawn Geniole, University of the Fraser Valley

The reasons we give to explain setbacks or failures affect subsequent thoughts and behaviour. Blaming failure on internal and personally modifiable factors (e.g., effort) may be adaptive, yet little is known about the effects of such cognitions in physically competitive settings. We tested such effects using an experimental approach and a novel intervention that modified these and other performance-related cognitions through reattribution and stress mindset videos. Although the intervention was designed to encourage adaptive cognitions related to performance and stress, its effects depended on whether participants experienced success or failure, sometimes leading to insubstantial or backfiring effects following losses.

Poster 17: How different degrees of familiarity affect face recognition

Gloria Naimi, Melody Fahmy, Andrea Albonico, University of the Fraser Valley

The mechanisms which underlie familiarity within facial recognition are complex. In this study, we investigate how familiarity affects performance within a visual search task. Participants were asked to detect a target face within an array of 2, 4 or 8 faces. The target face could either be a famous, newly familiar, or unfamiliar face. Results showed that accuracy and sensitivity (d') were significantly higher for famous and newly familiar faces than for unfamiliar ones. However, response times and search slopes were significantly reduced only for famous faces. Ratio of target-present and target-absent trials suggested the use of different search strategies for the different familiarity conditions.

Poster 18: Competition and fairness: does winning change how we share?

Tristan Stein, Erik Hayes, Isabella Hooge, Shawn Geniole, University of the Fraser Valley

The resource-rational, sample-based expected utility model proposes that individuals make decisions by sampling a limited number of outcomes relative to their expectations. Recent competitive wins may thus shift expectations about fairness in subsequent but unrelated tasks, potentially increasing selfishness. We test this possibility by rigging wins and losses in a competitive boxing task and then having participants propose offers in the Ultimatum Game, an economic decision-making task. Contrary to predictions, winning did not reduce offers in this task, $F(1, 17) = 0.183$, $p = .674$. Apparent fairness/selfishness motives may therefore persist or be unaffected by recent competitive outcomes.

Poster 19: Impact of sequential and simultaneous stimulus presentation on face recognition and face inversion

Gurneel Kailey, Manjot Kaur, University of the Fraser Valley

This study examined how different stimulus presentation modalities (sequential vs simultaneous) influence recognition accuracy with upright and inverted faces. 65 participants learned 16 upright and inverted faces and completed a recognition test. Faces in the recognition test were presented either simultaneously (three faces on the screen for 3 sec) or sequentially (one face at a time for 1 sec each). Results revealed a significant main effect of lineup format, with higher accuracy and sensitivity (d') in simultaneous than sequential lineup presentation. Face inversion effects were larger for the sequential presentation suggesting lineup format plays a stronger role in test recognition.

Poster 20: Menopausal representations across the lifespan: Perceptions of shame and negative attitudes toward aging

Taylor R. Shak, Andrea Hughes, University of the Fraser Valley

Negative age stereotypes held early in life may influence health outcomes. Little is known about how menopause is cognitively represented across the lifespan. This exploratory study examined whether women's attitudes towards aging, menopause, and shame differ by menopausal status. This was a quasi-experimental design grouped by menopausal status. Measures included a myth accuracy task, Other as Shamer Scale, Attitudes Towards Aging, and Attitudes Towards Menopause. Menstruating women reported lower perceived shame; no other group differences emerged, and all attitudes were negative. This suggests that negative cognitive evaluations of menopause and aging are established early and remain consistent across the lifespan.

Poster 21: The dark side of alerting: Alerting is driven by luminance increments, not decrements

Rachel J. Yapp, Nadja Jankovic, Aaron A. N. Richardson, Vince Di Lollo, Thomas M. Spalek, Simon Fraser University

Alerting is the facilitation of a response to a target when it is preceded by a brief non-informative cue. Luminance increments produce alerting, but it's unclear whether decrements produce alerting. White or black flashes were presented on a grey screen at SOAs of 100, 150, or 200 ms before a simple-search task. A white flash (Exp 1) produced alerting at all SOAs. A black flash (Exp 2) delayed alerting onset. Extending the black flash by 50-ms (Exp 3) further shifted alerting, suggesting that alerting is driven by the return to grey. Overall, alerting is driven by luminance increments, not decrements.

Poster 22: The role of spatial frequency on the perception of AI-generated and human faces

Nicole Sulimani, Andrea Albonico, University of the Fraser Valley

This study examined how spatial frequency (SF) and inversion influence recognition of AI-generated and human faces. In Experiment 1, participants completed a 4-alternative forced-choice recognition task. Recognition was better for human faces than for AI-generated ones. Human faces were recognized better with low-mid SFs, whereas AI face recognition declined with increasing SF. Experiment 2 consisted of a 4-alternative forced-choice recognition task with upright and inverted faces. Inversion effects were smaller for AI faces than for human faces. AI inversion effect was not affected by SFs, but the inversion effect for human faces was larger for low and middle spatial frequencies.

Poster 23: Tell me all the ways it differed: The effects of recalling variable options on episodic memory retrieval

Anastasia Fast*, Sua Han,* Fiza Hasan, Nikola R. Klassen, Heather L. Price, Deborah A. Connolly, Simon Fraser University (*Co-presenting)

Presenting a semantic prompt ("what happens?") before an episodic prompt ("what happened?") yields more details during the semantic prompt than the reverse, without impacting episodic retrieval. To explore adults' recall of a specific instance, 200 participants watched four videos and were interviewed a day later. Participants were either asked if the reported details in the semantic prompt were the same or different across instances or they responded to a standard semantic prompt. All participants then recalled the final video. When asked specific questions about the final video, participants who initially answered the standard semantic prompt reported more details than those who answered same/different questions.

Poster 24: Delegating thinking to generative AI: Hybrid regulation, motivation, and cognitive delegation in academic tasks

Diba Torjani*, Kai Barcellos Luna*, Noor Bidawid*, Zahia Marzouk, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (*Co-presenting)

We extend research by examining undergrads' (n = 310) use of GenAI as a form of task specific hybrid regulation. We investigated the cognitive, metacognitive processes students delegated to GenAI, degree of task contribution attributed to it, and the motivational context of these interactions. Most students reported limited GenAI-generated-output, yet delegated a wide range of cognitive processes and perceived GenAI as effective. This suggests that the value of GenAI may lie less in how much work it produces and more in how it supports students' progress through academic tasks. Notably, patterns of delegation were not fully dependent on students' task-specific motivational beliefs.

Poster Session 2
3:25pm-4:25pm, May 13

Poster 1: Mine, yours, ours: Examining children's use of ownership transgressions in relationship inferences

Eliza Mocanu, Alexis S. Smith-Flores, Lindsey J. Powell, Madison L. Pesowski, University of the Fraser Valley

The Adopted Utility Calculus suggests that children expect those who place value on another's rewards to be closely affiliated with that person. The current study investigates whether the AUC may be used in children's social-cognitive reasoning of ownership. Children aged 3-8 years (N=92) viewed vignettes where one of two agents interacted with an owner's property without permission, and were asked to infer which of the two agents was a friend of the owner. Children inferred the agent who did not interact with the property was likely the owner's friend, suggesting children use the AUC cost-reward framework in ownership reasoning.

Poster 2: Examining trust cues and implications for scam vulnerability in younger and older adults

Brooke Heron, Alyssa Doerksen, Shawn Geniole, Valentina Proietti, University of the Fraser Valley

This study examines how facial appearance and behavioural congruence influence trust decisions in younger and older adulthood. Using an economic interactive game (the "Door Game"), participants chose whether to follow suggestions from high- versus low-trustworthy-looking individuals before and after learning about whether facial appearance was congruent or not with actual trustworthiness in the task. Results indicate that both age groups successfully override initial first impressions in favour of more reliable behavioural information when it becomes available. Implications for scam vulnerability and the cognitive mechanisms of trust across the lifespan are explored and investigated.

Poster 3: Characterizing the expression of cholinergic neurons within the mouse dorsal subiculum

Daniel Girard, Foad Abazari, University of Victoria

The neurotransmitter acetylcholine plays a key role in memory and attention. ChATcre::ChR2-YFP transgenic mice allow yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) to be visualized in choline acetyltransferase (ChAT) expressing neurons in the brain. The dorsal subiculum (DSub) expressed significant YFP fluorescence, suggesting that it is cholinergic despite contradicting evidence. This study characterized YFP expression in six ChATcre-ChR2-YFP mice using ChAT immunohistochemistry in DSub and confocal microscopy to examine whether the DSub contains cholinergic neurons. The DSub contained very sparse ChAT positive neurons despite strong YFP expression in many neuronal cell bodies, dendrites and axons, suggesting expression of ChAT previously during development.

Poster 4: The effects of processing orientation on eyewitness accuracy

Tori Westgard, Rhiannon J. Batstone, Kelly Grannon, Jamal K. Mansour, University of Lethbridge

Processing orientation predicts eyewitness performance (Darling et al., 2009; Macrae & Lewis, 2002; Perfect et al., 2007). However, processing orientation measures (Navon task, global precedence score) are not easily administered in practice—but self-report scales are. We aimed to create a self-report scale of processing orientation and replicate previous findings. Unexpectedly, processing orientation was not predictive of eyewitness performance. Our self-report scale was internally reliable but uncorrelated with processing orientation (measured via Navon task) and only predicted culprit-present lineup accuracy. We will discuss reasons for our surprising results and what future research may be informative theoretically and practically.

Poster 5: Examining the role of quantity in children's cost-sensitive ownership reasoning

Alyssa Doerksen, Emilee Haas, Madison Pesowski, University of the Fraser Valley

Recent findings suggest ownership reasoning may rely on a cost-reward framework, consistent with the naïve utility calculus. This study examined whether children consider quantity-based cost information when evaluating ownership violations. Children aged 3-to-8 years (N=96) and adults viewed vignettes in which a non-owner interacted with an owner's property. Across stories, the number of objects owned (one vs. three) was manipulated, and participants rated the acceptability of each interaction using a scale ranging from very good to very bad. Violations involving an owner's only object were judged less acceptable than those involving one of three; suggesting early quantity-informed, cost-sensitive reasoning.

Poster 6: Agency evokes stronger reward processing signals than earning money during learning

Alix Chong, Mathew Rocha Hammerstrom, Maren Giersiepen, Olave E. Krigolson, University of Victoria

Humans preferentially process reward information for themselves, but does this still apply without control over the preceding decision? Participants completed an investment task where players learned to pick stocks that yielded money, risking either their own or a prior participant's money, while electroencephalography (EEG) data were recorded. Other trials were simulated based on the prior participant's behaviour, similarly risking their money or the prior participant's money. The EEG measure of reward processing amplitude was larger whenever participants controlled the preceding decision, suggesting that self-related biases in reward processing mainly depend on control over decisions.

Poster 7: Visdeep: Automated stimulus selection using Earth Mover's Distance

Deepkhushi Baidwan, Eric Mah, Jim Tanaka, University of Victoria

Researchers studying perception often require stimulus sets matched across conditions (e.g., race) on dimensions such as attractiveness or trustworthiness. Traditional approaches rely on manual selection or limited attribute matching, introducing hidden confounds and reducing reproducibility. VisDeep is a Python-based framework that automates stimulus selection by matching distributions across high-dimensional feature spaces using Earth Mover's Distance (EMD). Researchers specify groups, features, and weights, and the system returns optimally matched subsets with statistical validation. As a working example, VisDeep was applied to the Chicago Face Database to select 20 Asian and 20 White male faces matched across neural, physical, and perceptual features. The resulting sets were closely matched (EMD = 0.028) while preserving within-group variability, supporting more rigorous, transparent, and scalable experimental design.

Poster 8: Eyewitness identification: Investigating 3D interactive lineups and individual differences in face recognition

Callum Sandor, Eric Y. Mah, D. Stephen Lindsay, University of Victoria

This study examined the relationship between facial recognition ability and eyewitness accuracy, as well as the effectiveness of interactive virtual reality (VR) lineup procedures. Participants completed standardized face recognition tests and an eyewitness identification task in VR where they were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: 2D static, 2D interactive, or 3D interactive. Results indicated that interactive lineups improved eyewitness accuracy for culprit-present lineups only, and facial recognition ability significantly predicted eyewitness accuracy. Overall, findings highlight the role of face recognition in eyewitness identification and provide support for using interactive lineup procedures.

Poster 9: Exploring moral fatigue in obsessive-compulsive disorder

Ella Porter, Kevin Smith, University of the Fraser Valley

The COVID-19 pandemic created prolonged uncertainty and high-stakes decision making, increasing cognitive and emotional strain, particularly for individuals with elevated obsessive-compulsive symptoms. This study examined whether OCD symptoms and pubertal timing were associated with moral fatigue in young adults. Participants completed measures of moral fatigue, obsessive-compulsive symptoms, perseverative thinking, and pubertal timing. Results showed that higher obsessive-compulsive symptoms were associated with greater moral fatigue, while pubertal timing did not significantly moderate this relationship. These findings suggest that persistent doubt and responsibility concerns may contribute to sustained cognitive burden in morally difficult contexts during periods of prolonged uncertainty and stress.

Poster 10: Exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on attention span in a diverse lifespan sample

Dareen Alhabees, Katie Schmidt, Eric Mah, Reesha Sidhu, Daniel Bernstein, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Research suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with declines in attention and executive functioning, with deficits observed even in mild cases. We analyzed longitudinal data to examine within-subject pre- to post-COVID changes in executive functioning using the Forward Digit Span (N = 133) and Stroop tasks (N = 111). Linear mixed-effects models revealed that including COVID-19 significantly improved model fit for both tasks, indicating that it explains additional variance in performance beyond age and testing delay (8% for Forward Digit Span; 7% for Stroop). Overall, findings suggest that COVID-19 accounts for meaningful variation in executive functioning.

Poster 11: Childhood adversity, appearance and performance enhancing substance use, and sleep and immune outcomes

Zachary Clarke, Kevin Smith, University of the Fraser Valley

Use of appearance and performance enhancing substances (APES) has been linked to experiences of childhood maltreatment, but little is known about how these factors relate to subjective health-related functioning. Using data from a self-report survey, we tested whether APES use changed how recalled childhood maltreatment related to perceived sleep and immune functioning. We found greater severity of recalled childhood maltreatment and broader APES use were each associated with poorer perceived sleep, although their interaction was not significant. No significant associations were observed for perceived immune functioning. Findings suggest childhood maltreatment and APES use may separately relate to self-reported health measures.

Poster 12: Verbal overshadowing affects mental simulation

Savannah Parsons, Joan Ongchoco, Kelsey Allen, The University of British Columbia

Everyday communication requires translating from perceptual to verbal representations. But this process is imperfect; recognition of visual stimuli is often impaired after describing stimuli in detail, a phenomenon called “verbal overshadowing”. Here, we ask whether verbal overshadowing may have downstream consequences beyond recognition. Participants predicted a ball’s path through obstacles in a physics-based Plinko environment. Crucially, participants who described the scene from memory prior to prediction showed a significant shift in predictions compared to participants describing unrelated scenes. This finding suggests translating perceptual representations into language may force re-coding that impairs precise simulation, with consequences for cognitive processes beyond recognition.

Poster 13: Belief in Human versus AI-generated truth claims

Aidan Sammel*, Jordan Sammel*, Kiran Dogra, Daniel Bernstein, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (*Co-presenters)

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into information environments, understanding how people evaluate AI-labeled content is critical. Participants (N = 200) evaluated 30 true, human-generated claims presented in two blocks: one labeled as AI-generated and one as human-generated. For each claim, participants made a true/false judgment and rated confidence (50–100). There was no difference in belief (AI: 68.60%; human: 66.80%) or confidence (AI: 69.51; human: 69.47) between AI-generated and human-generated claims. Age, sex, education, AI use, and political orientation did not moderate these effects. These findings indicate that labeling information as AI-generated does not meaningfully alter belief or confidence judgments.

Poster 14: The relationship between executive function and conversational turn-taking and topic maintenance in preschoolers: A longitudinal study

Hannah Stein, Ulrich Mueller, Erin Light, University of Victoria

This study examined the relationship between executive function (EF) and pragmatic skills (PS) throughout the preschool period by assessing participants at three points over a year. It was hypothesized that higher PS at time 1 would predict higher EF at time 1 and 3. A correlation model indicated a significant negative relationship between non-elaborative speaking turns at time 1 and EF at time 3. However, hierarchical regression showed that PS at time 1 did not significantly predict EF at time 3 when controlling for initial EF. Moreover, the only significant predictor of later EF was early EF, suggesting developmental stability.

Poster 15: Functional brain networks underlying the Relational and Item-Specific Encoding (RiSE) Task in schizophrenia and related psychoses

Joshua N. Young, John Shahki, Mariana M. Mascarenhas, Sage Radlmeier, Yvette Ni, Todd S. Woodward, The University of British Columbia

Episodic memory is impaired in schizophrenia, and has been associated with persistent negative symptoms, problems in social cognition, and poor functional outcomes. In this study we compare healthy controls to people with schizophrenia using an Item and Relational encoding/recognition task in fMRI. Preliminary results showed that schizophrenia patients were intact in activating the multiple demand mode (associated with analytical thinking) but showed reduced activity in the re-evaluation mode (associated with checking/questioning response). The findings of our study may enhance our understanding of the progression of psychosis and the impacts on functional brain activity underlying relational encoding and memory.

Poster 16: Using high-resolution eye-tracking to compare fixation stability during naturalistic movie-watching vs. motion psychophysics

Adrian Popa, Christina Felber, Meriwether Morris, Audrey Chang, Akosua Asare, Philipp Kreyenmeier, Benoit-Antoine Bacon, Hee Yeon Im, Tamara Vanderwal, Deborah Giaschi, The University of British Columbia

The psychophysical methods used to study visual perception and eye movements can be challenging for children to complete. We assessed the feasibility of naturalistic movie-watching to characterize motion perception and fixation stability, which are often disrupted in developmental disorders such as amblyopia (lazy eye). Eye gaze data were collected from typically-developing children during movie-watching and easy/difficult motion psychophysics tasks using an eye-tracker. Fixation was most stable during movie-watching and least stable during difficult motion trials. Children with more stable fixation performed better on the motion task. This approach holds promise for efficiently identifying problems in motion perception and fixation stability.

Poster 17: Sleep hygiene in university students: A pilot study

Christine M. Sorensen*, Conner Bavaro*, A.J. Monroe, Daniela J. Palombo, Daniel M. Bernstein, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (*Co-presenting)

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) has been intensively studied in middle-aged to older adults, however, less is known about its effects on young adults. Early identification of sleep apnea may mitigate adverse OSA-related effects on cognition. We investigated university students' awareness and practice of good sleep hygiene, the prevalence of OSA, and the probability of seeking medical help using a pretest-posttest design with infographics on good sleep hygiene and OSA. Our feasibility pilot results suggest sensitivity in detecting sleep concerns in young adults, and therefore ability to run a full sleep hygiene and OSA study in this age group.

Poster 18: The persuasive power of personal narratives in social media wellness communities

Andi Buescher, Madeline Jalbert, University of Washington

When promoting products or services, wellness influencers often use personal narratives. In this study, we investigated the potential persuasive impact of this tactic by showing participants mock videos of alleged wellness "influencers" promoting spurious health products using either a personal narrative or no narrative. Participants provided ratings of 1) likelihood of following the influencer, 2) likelihood of purchasing the promoted product and 3) perceived credibility of the influencer. Interim results (N = 80 out of 200) indicate nonnarrative videos receive similar and, for credibility, higher ratings. We explore potential causes and discuss the implications of these findings. Data collection is ongoing.

Poster 19: Do people higher in dominance suffer more from competitive losses?

Ikjot Kandola, Erik Hayes, Isabella Hooge, Shawn Geniole, University of the Fraser Valley

This study examines how trait dominance influences competition-related cognitions and affect. After completing a Dominance-Prestige Questionnaire, participants played several VR boxing matches and then reported their mood and beliefs about their likelihood of success and feelings of threat in a future contest. Dominance did not impact mood, but marginally reduced threat-related feelings. Further, it interacted with previous contest outcomes such that dominance boosted beliefs about success among those who won their previous VR matches but reduced these beliefs among those who lost. We discuss these findings in relation to Approach-Inhibition and Mismatch theories of dominance.

Poster 20: Self-sabotage, shifting blame, protecting confidence: An investigation

Benjamin Allan, Erik Hayes, Isabella Hooge, Shawn Geniole, University of the Fraser Valley

Self-handicapping is thought to affect performance-related cognitions and may specifically protect against self-confidence reductions following a loss. Here, we test this possibility using rigged virtual reality boxing matches. Wins were found to increase confidence and the extent to which participants attributed the outcomes to internal factors (e.g., effort/skill vs luck). However, self-handicapping neither affected these performance-related cognitions (internalization) nor shielded against confidence reductions following losses; instead, self-handicapping reduced confidence regardless of outcome (win vs loss). Self-handicapping may therefore offer no protection against losses and, more generally, reduce confidence related to competition.

Poster 21: Psiz 4 all: The easiest way to create psychological embeddings

Nicholas Argument, Jim Tanaka, Eric Mah, University of Victoria

In a psychological embedding, stimulus items (e.g., objects, faces, scenes, words) are represented as points in a geometric space, with distances reflecting their perceived similarity. As a research tool, psychological embeddings provide a powerful method for visualizing and quantifying the mental representations of categories and concepts. Here, I introduce the “PsiZ for All” platform—a quick and accessible tool that enables researchers to generate psychological embeddings that can be analyzed at either the group or individual level. I will describe applications of “PsiZ for All” across a range of domains, including category learning, expertise, and language.

Poster 22: The perceived credibility of children's sexual abuse disclosures: Language fluency and contextual information

Anna Hrusheva, Patricia I. Coburn, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Due to the secretive nature of child sexual abuse (CSA) these cases are often ambiguous. This may result in cognitive biases influencing decisions (e.g., Kassin et al., 2013). Across 2 experiments we explored how children's language fluency and participants’ exposure to irrelevant contextual information influence decisions in CSA cases. Participants read either a low- or high-fluency disclosure (Ex.1) and received either no contextual information, contextual information, or contextual information and told to disregard (Ex.2). Language fluency affected perceived clarity (Ex.1) and the child's perceived credibility (Ex.2), while irrelevant contextual information affected the accused's perceived credibility and guilty ratings (Ex.2).

Poster 23: To share or not to share: Examining children’s prosocial decisions with robots

Jessica Pike*, Ella Vander Wyk*, Shaylene Nancekivell, Madison Pesowski, University of the Fraser Valley (*Co-presenting)

What motivates children’s sharing behaviours: a concern for emotional responses, reciprocity, or fairness? While human recipients make disentangling these possibilities difficult, robotic recipients allow them to be tested. Children aged 5-8 (n=66) were shown three robots: one with emotional abilities (Heart robot), one with cognitive capabilities (Mind robot), and one lacking any abilities (Basic robot). After sharing four stickers between themselves and the robots, they justified their decisions. Children shared equally between each robot ($p = .68$) and were unable to justify sharing with the Basic robot – indicating that a concern for fairness and equality might be the motivating factor.

Poster 24: Cannabis Use Disorder and Cognitive Performance in Middle-Aged and Older Adults Using Cannabis for Chronic Pain Management

Anastasiya Ishchook, Reaghan Zupan, Olivia Gale, Morgan J. Schaeffer, Theone S.E. Paterson, University of Victoria

This study investigated the relationship between Cannabis Use Disorder (CUD) and cognitive performance in middle-aged and older Canadians (45+) managing chronic pain. Participants included cannabis users (n=178) and non-users (n=41). The CUDIT-R identified problematic use (n=82). The TestMyBrain platform assessed cognitive ability. A one-way ANCOVA examined group differences. After controlling for age, sex, education, pain severity, and mental health, no significant cognitive differences were found between those with CUD, regular users, and non-users. Findings suggest that among middle-aged and older chronic pain patients, cannabis use—even when reaching clinical thresholds—may not significantly impair cognition.

Poster Session 3
9:45am-10:45am, May 14

Poster 1: Working memory impairments in female athletes following a marathon: Links to low energy availability

Nevan Young, Katherine Boere, Rae Dauphinee, Frances Copithorne, Brett S. Kirby, Olave E. Krigolson, Trent Stellingwerff, University of Victoria

Marathon running is physiologically demanding, inducing substantial energy depletion, yet its cognitive effects remain poorly characterized. Female endurance athletes are at elevated risk for low energy availability (LEA), which emerging evidence suggests is separately linked with cognitive impairments. We investigated marathon running's impact on working memory and brain activity in trained female athletes, and whether acute and chronic LEA risk contribute. Using mobile electroencephalography, we observed reduced high-load task accuracy and elevated frontal theta power post-race, indicating diminished working memory and increased cognitive effort. Changes were associated with both acute and chronic LEA risk, underscoring the cognitive cost of inadequate fuelling.

Poster 2: Are bigger wins more motivational?

Ryden Purdy, Isabella Hooge, Erik Hayes, Shawn Geniole, University of the Fraser Valley

The winner effect is a phenomenon whereby winning a previous contest increases the probability of subsequent victories. Nevertheless, this effect varies in strength across individuals and scenarios. Psychological Momentum Theory posits that the decisiveness of the outcome may affect post-contest cognitions (e.g., self-perceived momentum) and moderate the strength of this winner effect. We test this possibility here using rigged, virtual reality boxing matches, finding that that narrower (vs decisive) losses and more (vs less) decisive wins led to better future performance. We discuss the potential role of social cognitive processes, such as social comparison, in explaining these findings.

Poster 3: Change detection task performance compared to adult ADHD self-report scale responses

Ryan T. deKergommeaux, Alyssa Doerksen, Richard D. Wright, Simon Fraser University

We used a flicker task to assess change detection performance. Participants were required to search through an array of bicoloured blocks in which all but one of the blocks were changing into two new colours. This "static" or unchanging block was the target. The static task is traditionally more difficult as the numerous changing objects are distracting. We then compared performance on the task to categorization of participant responses on an ADHD screening tool, the Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale. Using the v1.1 scoring update, we found that participants classified as "high-positive" were less accurate at finding the static target object.

Poster 4: Neurocognitive intra-individual variability in individuals with persistent post-concussion symptoms

Ni An, Daniela Pasqualini, Todd C. Handy, The University of British Columbia

Following concussions, many individuals report persisting (> 3 months) post-concussion symptoms (PCS), including lingering cognitive challenges. However, these subtle cognitive inefficiencies are often missed by traditional neurocognitive assessments. The goal of this study was to determine whether intraindividual variability (IIV) in reaction time provides a more sensitive index of attentional deficits in PCS. Participants with PCS (n = 17) and healthy controls (n = 18) completed a 40-minute sustained-attention-to-response task (SART) while reaction times were recorded. Preliminary analyses indicate overall between-group differences in IIV, as well as modulation of these differences across attentional states.

Poster 5: Organizing the visual world: How children's use of spatial information changes with age

Alexis Fong, Christina Felber, Deborah Giaschi, Hee Yeon Im, The University of British Columbia

The human visual system relies on perceptual grouping to organize complex scenes. This study examined developmental differences in proximity-based grouping between school-aged children and adults. Participants viewed puppy-faced stimuli (6-36 items) arranged in evenly spaced or spatially clustered configurations and grouped them using a drawing tablet. Compared to older children (10-12 years) and adults, younger children (7-9 years) showed more variable grouping sequences across trials and formed larger groups, including more items within each group. Moreover, younger children showed similar grouping patterns across evenly spaced and spatially clustered conditions, whereas older participants' responses were more influenced by proximity cues. These findings suggest that proximity-based perceptual grouping strategies continue to develop before age 10.

Poster 6: Human–LLM collaboration for thematic analysis: A method for assisted coding and theme generation

Tove Jensen, Abby Hunter, Jonathan Kiss, University of Victoria

Human-large language model (LLM) collaboration offers a promising way to support thematic analysis by reducing time and resource demands while maintaining quality comparable to human coding (Mathis et al., 2024; Wellert et al., 2025). We build on a previously developed AI-assisted thematic analysis pipeline in which human researchers and LLMs work together to generate codes and identify themes. We examine how different models (Claude, OpenAI) and prompting strategies affect the consistency and creativity of generated codes and themes. Drawing on testing across data-driven and theory-driven coding frameworks, we provide evidence-based recommendations for model selection and optimal settings for qualitative research.

Poster 7: How a 10-Minute meditation session affects the body and mind: Immediate changes in autonomic response, attention, and emotional control

Navdeep Kaur, Andrea Albonico, Shannon Wright, University of the Fraser Valley

Meditation trains attention to enhance emotional regulation and cognitive control. This study investigated the immediate effects of a 10-minute meditation session on autonomic and cognitive-emotional functioning. Participants were randomly assigned to guided breathing, guided observation, or a neutral control condition. Heart Rate Variability and Skin Conductance were assessed pre- and post-intervention, alongside Emotion Stroop and Flanker tasks. Self-reported stress and anxiety scores both decreased significantly after meditation. Heart rate variability, measured using the standard deviation of normal-to-normal intervals (SDNN), increased following meditation, suggesting enhanced parasympathetic activity. Flanker response times were significantly reduced post-meditation suggesting improved attentional focus and decreased distraction.

Poster 8: Predicting mild cognitive impairment using hindsight bias

Jaskirat Bajwa*, Kiran Dogra, Baoyi Zhang*, Joban Chahal, Edgar Erdfelder, Daniel M. Bernstein, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (*Co-presenting)

We investigated whether Hindsight Bias (HB) predicts scores on the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) among 73 older adults (ages 50+). Using an existing longitudinal dataset, we examined MMSE performance over time and whether time affects HB's impact on MMSE. MMSE scores declined over time, but HB scores did not predict MMSE beyond Year 1. However, a significant Year 1 correlation revealed that higher levels of HB were associated with lower levels of MMSE. This suggests that HB could be an indicator of future MMSE performance. Identifying older adults with HB may detect early-onset cognitive impairment.

Poster 9: Misremembering sharing of misinformation

Kamaljit Bajwa, Jaskirat Bajwa, Luise Metziger, Gordon Pennycook, Edgar Erdfelder, Daniel M. Bernstein, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

We explored sharing behaviour for true/false social media news headlines. In a sharing phase, participants viewed headlines that they could share. In a test phase, a recognition task and source memory task were completed. Experiments 1 and 2 were identical and had a short delay (~5-10mins) while Experiment 3 used a 1-week delay between the sharing and test phase. Source memory was excellent after a short delay, but relatively poor after one week. Our findings show that people have little trouble remembering what they shared on social media after a short delay, but they struggle to remember after one week.

Poster 10: Can we predict how others will feel? Evidence for the Recalibrational Theory of Anger across childhood

Kaitlyn Doerksen, Gursimrat Kaur Gill, Madison Pesowski, University of the Fraser Valley

The Recalibrational Theory of Anger suggests that individuals experience anger when a cost is imposed on them for little benefit, serving as an evolutionary mechanism to prompt others to consider one's welfare. This study investigates whether this theory applies in early development. Children aged 2-8 years (N=107) heard vignettes where either an agent or a natural event destroyed a character's property and were asked to predict how the owner feels (e.g., angry or sad). Children were more likely to predict anger when an agent caused the outcome, suggesting early social-cognitive reasoning consistent with the Recalibrational Theory.

Poster 11: Audiomotor adaptation remaps spatial-auditory representations

Angela Peng, Dominika Prihodova, Hee Yeon Im, The University of British Columbia

Sensorimotor adaptation involves recalibrating motor commands based on sensory feedback. We investigated whether audiomotor adaptation occurs without visual input and whether it drives learning of auditory-spatial mappings. Blindfolded participants used a mouse to reach targets in a 9x9 grid with continuous auditory feedback rotated 30˚, creating a mismatch between expected and actual feedback. Across trials, participants adapted by counteracting the rotation, and adaptation magnitude correlated with performance on a subsequent sound localization task. Localization did not improve following visuomotor adaptation on the same grid. These findings demonstrate that audiomotor adaptation reshapes auditory-spatial representations, suggesting a modality-specific mechanism for sensorimotor learning.

Poster 12: Take it to the grave or 'til death do us part?: Investigating the disclosure of mental health disorders during dating

Sarah Thiessen, Dr. Zoë Francis, University of the Fraser Valley

Using an online experiment in JSPsych, we investigated what people perceived to be the most appropriate way to disclose a mental health disorder during dating. Participants (N = 163) were shown six conditions in two parts in which the timing and delivery of the disclosure, and the disorder being disclosed were randomized. We found that the later and more casually a disclosure occurs, the less appropriate the disclosure is perceived and that the later a disclosure occurs the less romantically capable the discloser is perceived. Romantic capability was also impacted by disorder type.

Poster 13: Parental burnout and immigration: An increased risk?

Virginie N. Rayne, Stephanie Newinger, Myriam Coppry, Isabelle Roskam, Université Catholique de Louvain

Given parenthood's natural difficulty, some individuals experience a clinically significant syndromal variant called parental burnout (PB), which presents with severe physical and mental strain. Similarly, inter-cultural immigration is another high-stress life event and we aimed to assess how that affects PB in immigrant parents. We sampled data from a large PB survey (N = 17,409) based on immigration conditions (such as between collectivistic-individualistic). We found no significant direct relationship between PB and immigration conditions but a model incorporating sex and migration period as moderators proved globally significant ($R^2 = 0.185$, $F = 2.170$, $p < 0.05$). Our findings suggest that PB is influenced by more complex contextual and cultural factors.

Poster 14: Effects of exemplar distribution on information-integration category learning and generalization

Erin Chiu, Hee-Yeon Im, Sang Chul Chong, Jieun Cho, The University of British Columbia

Visual category learning allows people to integrate features and generalize to new exemplars without explicit knowledge of category rules. We examined whether exemplar distributions (normal, uniform, boundary-centered) modulate category learning and generalization. Participants categorized gratings varying in orientation and spatial frequency during the learning phase with feedback, then were tested for generalization. Learning was fastest with exemplars drawn from the normal distribution and slowest with those from the boundary-centered distribution. However, the boundary-centered distribution yielded greater generalization than the others. These results suggest that the statistical structure of exemplar presentation differentially shapes learning efficiency and generalization.

Poster 15: Predicting falls vs. near-falls at event boundaries: behavioural and neural markers

Fintan Casey, Hee Yeon Im, Kathleen Botha, The University of British Columbia

Predicting others' action outcomes requires segmenting movement into meaningful events. We examined how people detect these boundaries when observing others' movements, using falls as a test case. In Study 1, participants viewed videos of falls and near-falls (balance loss with recovery), identifying "the moment something just changed". In Study 2, a separate group predicted falls versus near-falls at this boundary without seeing the outcome, while EEG was recorded. Prediction was above chance, and frontal ERP components emerged 300 ms after the boundary, distinguishing falls from near-falls. These results suggest early involvement of frontal mechanisms in outcome-specific predictions at event boundaries.

Poster 16: Do psychopathic personality traits buffer against stress related to competitive loss?

Holly Desrochers, Isabella Hooge, Erik Hayes, Shawn Geniole, University of the Fraser Valley

The triarchic model conceptualizes psychopathy as a combination of cognitive-affective traits captured by the factors 'meanness', 'disinhibition', and 'boldness'. We examined whether these factors protected against stress responses to competitive loss, predicting the greatest stress-protection for those high (vs low) in boldness, given its links with fearlessness and stress-immunity. Participants won or lost three virtual reality boxing matches and reported stress using an affect-arousal grid. Contrary to predictions, those higher (vs lower) in boldness (and disinhibition) reported greater stress after a loss. Meanness seemed to be the only protective factor, reducing (rather than enhancing) this response to loss.

Poster 17: Reliving emotional events through neutral retrieval cues

Emily Nevokshonoff, Chantelle M. Cocquyt, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia

Emotional experiences do not occur in isolation, but are embedded in a broader episode. Prior research shows an emotional recall boost when memories are cued with content encountered after (vs before) the event. Here, we explored whether using a narrative encoding strategy would reduce this "after bias" by bolstering episodic binding across the episode. Participants encoded image triplets, each including a neutral before-object, a negative or neutral middle-scene, and a neutral after-object. Next, participants' middle-scene memory was probed, using either the before- or after-object as a cue. We again observed the emotional "after bias," demonstrating the robustness of this effect.

Poster 18: Understanding public perceptions of police discretion

Theo Blackall, Adele Quigley-McBride, Simon Fraser University

Perceptions of the fairness of police conduct influence whether civilians view police authority as legitimate. The current study examined how the Canadian public evaluates police-civilian interactions using vignettes describing a search and seizure, a warrantless arrest, or a use of force. The analyses found significant differences between the perceived acceptability of legally ambiguous police conduct and police conduct involving clear violations or clear non-violations. By comparing ambiguous to unambiguous cases, the current research can assess how public perceptions of the limits of police authority align with legal standards and reveal potential disconnects between police practice and public understanding.

Poster 19: Test taking: Student perceptions and performance

Puneet Kaur, Arianna Setchaya, Kevin B. Smith, University of the Fraser Valley

Standardized assessment is central to higher education but may disadvantage students and increase anxiety. This study examined Dynamic Grading (DG), allowing students to choose the weighting of test components, and its effects on performance, anxiety, and equity. Two datasets were analyzed, an experimental sample (n=139) and classroom data (n=270). DG improved academic outcomes across both. Experimentally, scores increased by 9%, with benefits for males reporting lower anxiety, while females showed higher anxiety but stable performance. In classrooms, DG slightly improved averages, with 60% benefiting. Effects did not vary by ethnicity/language, suggesting DG enhances performance without increasing anxiety or inequity.

Poster 20: Reading the room Over time: Extracting and updating emotional ensemble representations from dynamic groups

Gursahil Purba, Rundong Wang, Victor Cui, Alexis Fong, Patricia Rae Villa, Dr. Hee Yeon Im, The University of British Columbia

Ensemble coding enables rapid extraction of a group's emotional atmosphere. We addressed two questions about the temporal properties of this process: Does an initial impression of group emotion persist or update over time? Are observers more sensitive to emotional than membership changes in the crowd? Participants (n=18) estimated average group emotion after watching face-crowd movies containing five individuals with a change in emotion (same actor) or identity (similar emotion) occurring in the middle of the movies. Their estimations shifted toward the post-change average for emotion change, not identity change, suggesting crowd emotion updating is sensitive to continuity of group identity.

Poster 21: Memory in motion: Effects of movement dynamics on retrospective duration estimates

Charles Lin, Ashton Thorpe, Omran K. Safi, Daniela J. Palombo, The University of British Columbia

Event segmentation theory proposes that continuous experiences are divided into discrete events. Here, we explore the effects of boundaries, distance, and spatial displacement on retrospective duration memory using naturalistic virtual reality. Our ongoing work shows that the presence of a doorway increases recalled duration estimates. In this exploratory work, we were interested in examining whether the dynamics of movement also affect such estimates. We found that the presence of a boundary did not significantly change the distance participants traversed. We additionally explore the effect of spatial displacement in relation to the recalled duration.

Poster 22: Change Detection Involving Separation of Bicoloured Block Object Features

Daniela Purvica, Ryan T. deKergommeaux, Richard D. Wright, Simon Fraser University

We used a flicker task to examine how introducing separation between the features of bicoloured block stimuli affects change detection. Bicoloured blocks could have their two colors exchange places or have the colours completely replaced with two new colours. Importantly, the blocks would also vary in the degree of separation introduced between the coloured halves. Task performance was better when the colours were completely replaced compared to exchanging places. Increasing separation of the halves was found to improve performance when colours exchanged places, but not when the colours were completely replaced. It is suggested that this may be because separation helps to reduce uncertainty about colour locations when both colours remain, an issue that does not occur when the colours are replaced.

Poster 23: When more isn't better: evidence for an instructional equivalence hypothesis in multimedia design

Katie J. Schmidt, Kristie R. Dukewich, C. Itzel Symonds, Alex V. Thrasher, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

This study was conducted as a strong test of multimedia design for learning, controlling for content and pedagogy. We presented participants with short educational videos using three different multimedia formats: Rich, sparse, and none. Contrary to previous findings, there was no significant effect of multimedia design on learning performance, $F(2, 126) = 0.52$, $p = 0.60$, $\eta p2 = 0.008$. To account for this pattern, we introduce the Instructional Equivalence Hypothesis—when content and pedagogy are effective and aligned, the format of multimedia may be functionally interchangeable. This framework challenges the existing literature and reevaluates how design principles should be applied in educational settings.