AWARD

Matt Lerner has received the 2009 American Psychological Association Early Graduate Student Researcher Award. Out of several hundred applicants in this national competition, Lerner was one of three graduate students given the award. This distinction and cash prize of $1000 is provided to psychology doctoral students within their first three years of the program who have “demonstrated outstanding research abilities” and who “show a considerable level of independence in conducting their research”.

PUBLICATIONS


MEDIA MENTIONS

- NPR's Science Friday on 11/13 mentioned the Human Dynamics Lab's avatar project. A video news story was published on the Science Friday front web page with portions of a telephone interview with Steven Boker: [http://www.sciencefriday.com/videos/watch/10254](http://www.sciencefriday.com/videos/watch/10254)
- Joe Allen’s new book *Escaping the Endless Adolescence* was mentioned in multiple outlets, including two Newsweek blog entries, titled Why Teenagers Are Growing Up So Slowly Today, and Why Teens Care So Much About Clothes, a Boston Globe article, and a Globe and Mail (one of the two largest circulation newspapers in Canada) article.

DEPARTMENT in NUMBERS

The Newsletter continues to report departmental paper usage statistics

Number of paper reams taken from the Main Office by different labs:

- October 2008: 72 reams
- October 2009: 47 reams

The reduction for this October relative to October 2008 was **34.7%**. For the month of September, we had reported a 27.5% reduction relative to last year.
RESEARCH PROFILE
In this series, we ask researchers: **What is a recent finding of yours that you are excited about?**

**Erik Pettersson:** Lately our lab (Turkheimer lab) has been delving into the issue of evaluation in self-report data. Evaluation represents everything good versus bad you say about yourself. Although saying negative or positive things about yourself predicts the negativity or positivity of your behaviors in general, it does not, we argue, discriminate about the different kinds of positive or negative behaviors you will engage in. In fact, saying one negative thing about yourself may predict a negative behavior with the opposite meaning. The problem appears to be that individuals tend to endorse items of equivalent valence without discriminating among the item content. So, for example, if I have a positive view of myself, I might endorse positive items such as 'bold' and 'cautious,' while denying negative items such as 'reckless' and 'timid.' We propose that this cannot tap an actual behavioral dimension - how can you be both bold and cautious? – and we have examined ways to isolate the tendency to respond positively about oneself from the covariance matrix. We are currently exploring how the non-evaluative part of the covariance matrix in different sets of data relate to various outcomes.

EVENTS of the WEEK

**Monday, November 16, 2009**

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225
  Wendy Kliewer, VCU, *Project COPE: A Study of Stressors, Coping, and Adjustment in Urban Adolescents*

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009**

- Community Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Megan Raymond & Maryfrances Porter, *Developing University Community Partnerships for Research and Learning*
- Social Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Jim Coan, *Social Baseline Theory*

**Wednesday, November 18, 2009**

- Cognitive Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Jamie Morris
Thursday, November 19, 2009

- Quantitative Lunch: Design And Data Analysis (DADA), 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Jean Hu & Geneva Dodson, Dual Research Presentation

Friday, November 20, 2009

- Clinical Lunch: 12pm-1pm, GIL 225
  Russ Federman, Director of UVa Counseling and Psychological Services,
  Treating University Students with Bipolar Disorder

For news submissions, comments and suggestions, respond to this message or e-mail psych-news@virginia.edu.