CENTRE FOR SOCIAL ISSUES RESEARCH

Issue 2 2023 April to June

CSI-R NEWS

The Newsletter for the Centre for Social Issues Research

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

European Association of Social Psychology Pre-Conference Workshop

On the 30th of June, Mike Quayle facilitated an EASP Pre-conference Workshop in the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, titled “Mapping attitudes as networks: a guided workshop applying the bipartite network approach to opinion-based groups ad group-based opinions”. Twenty-six participants attended this all-day workshop, in which Mike presented a method for mapping survey data as a bipartite network, and showcased the recently launched SurveyGraph package for R.



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Featured Project: Identity Salience and Women Runners

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Lisa Skilton
Supervisors Professor Orla Muldoon and Dr. Grace McMahon



Lisa presenting her first two experiments in a symposium at the EASP

Lisa's PhD is focused on Social Identity Salience and Health, focusing on gender health disparities. The first paper (under revise and resubmit) for her PhD was comprised of two experiments examining identity salience for runners

Identity Salience and Women Runners

According to the World Health Organization, women have lower physical activity levels than men, with 1 in 3 women not reaching the recommended physical activity levels to stay healthy. Safety concerns for women are prevalent and influence their likelihood to exercise outside; while some change their exercising behaviour, others continue to exercise outside despite safety concerns. Two experiments with women runners were conducted to investigate whether identity salience explained these variations in women's safety concerns and behaviour i.e whether women thought of their runner or gender identity affected their likelihood of exercising outside and their sense of safety.

Study 1 showed a trend, with women in the runner condition reporting a higher likelihood to exercise outside than those in the gender condition. Study 2 aimed to examine this trend further with a larger sample and used a stronger social identity salience manipulation. These findings showed a trend that women in the runner condition had a higher likelihood of exercising outside than those in the gender condition. There was a significant effect of the experimental condition on women's sense of safety in the same direction, with women in the runner condition scoring significantly higher on feelings of safety than women in the gender condition.

These findings suggest that identity salience may be one potential explanation for this variation in women's sense of safety and outside exercise behaviour. We propose that women's gender identity is entwined with the threat of violence towards women, while the runner identity has a strong norm to engage in exercise. We need to be aware of how we communicate with intention to increase exercise. When we focus on women's gender we inadvertently remind woman of gender violence and safety concerns . We may need to help women develop an exercise affiliated identity, while being aware of the real-world risks of outside exercise.

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Featured Person: Two minutes with ...Dr. Magdalena Skrodzka

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Postdoctoral Researcher in the ERC grant of Prof. Orla Muldoon. Magda completed her Ph.D. at the University of Warsaw.

What are your hopes for the Centre for Social Issues Research?

My hope for the Centre is that through collaborative work and knowledge exchange, we will be closer to finding answers to urgent problems in a rapidly changing world.

Describe yourself in three words.

Curious. Empathetic. Courageous.

What is one book you think everyone should read?

I highly recommend "Man's Search for Meaning" by Viktor Frankl. This thought-provoking work challenges readers to reflect on their values, priorities, and personal growth.

What is one moment that changed your career?

After completing my master's degree, I once again moved away from family and friends. I asked myself what interests me enough, and is related to my hobby, that I could pursue it for the next 50 years – this led me to choose social psychology.

What is one thing about you that other people find surprising?

People often find themselves surprised by my age. What adds a touch of humour to the surprise is that I possess an "old soul". Instead of the present 2020s aesthetic, I gravitate towards the 1920s for design, architecture, fashion, and music.

What is your most embarrassing moment?

I do not remember!

What keeps you awake at night?

Deadlines! However, I usually sleep peacefully.

What is your guilty pleasure?

Harry Potter, gluten, and chocolate. Especially those three at the same time.

Who would you invite to your ideal dinner party?

I would invite the reviewers of my future grants and articles.

In the movie of your life, who would play you?

Oh, I wish it would be Maggie Smith or Emma Thompson.

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New Publications

Deutsch, R., Ebert, J., Barth, M., & Roth, J. (2023). Biased perception of distributions: Anchoring, interpolation and smoothing as potential causes. *Cognition*, *237*, 105448. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105448

Deutsch, R., Roth, J. (2023). Soziale Kognition. In: Ullrich, J., Stroebe, W., Hewstone, M. (eds) Sozialpsychologie. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-65297-8_4

Loughnane, J., Roth, J., & van Tilburg, W. (2023). A cognitive balance approach to understanding intergroup attitudes in post-Brexit Northern Ireland. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 00, 1– 19. https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12656

Lashkay, A. M., Kinsella, E. L., & Muldoon, O. T. (2023). When trauma is stigmatized: Disidentification and dissociation in people affected by adverse childhood experiences. *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.2702

Griffin, S. M., Lebedová, A, Ahern, E, McMahon, G, Bradshaw, D, Muldoon, O. (2023). Protocol: Group-based interventions for posttraumatic stress disorder: A systematic review and meta-analysis of the role of trauma type. Campbell Systematic Reviews. https://doi.org/10.1002/cl2.1328

Ntontis, E., Blackburn, A., Han, H., Stoeckli, S., Milfont, T. L., Tuominen, J., Griffin, S. M., Ikizer, G., Jeftic, A., Chrona, S., Nasheedha, A., Liutsko, L., & Vestergren, S. (2023). The effects of secondary stressors, social identity, and social support on perceived stress and resilience: Findings from the COVID-19 pandemic. Journal of Environmental Psychology, 88, 102007. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2023.102007

McMahon, G., Walsh, T., Griffin, S. M., & Muldoon, O. T. (2023). Institutional status and identity dimensions to cardiovascular stress responses. Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology. https://doi.org/10.1002/casp.2712.

McHugh, C., Zhang, R., Karnatak, T. *et al.* Just wrong? Or just WEIRD? Investigating the prevalence of moral dumbfounding in non-Western samples. *Mem Cogn* 51, 1043–1060 (2023). https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-022-01386-z



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