

SELECTED DIVERSITY-RELATED THESIS AND DISSERTATION PROJECTS

Krisann Alvarez, M. A.

Mentor: Bradley Donohue, Ph.D.

Study title: *Ethnic and Acculturation Differences in Separation Anxiety Symptomatology*

Joseph Boetcher, M. A.

Mentor: Murray Millar, Ph.D.

Study title: *Jury Decision Making and Race-Stereotypic Crimes, Abstract*

Research summary: Four legal factors were reviewed: race, gender, attractiveness, and pretrial publicity. Research supports the conclusion that all four factors do affect jury decision making. The factors of race and gender, affect jury decision making in complex and interactive ways.

Amie Lemos-Miller, M. A.

Mentor: Christopher Kearney, Ph.D.

Study title: *Ethnic Differences Among Maltreated Youths With Respect to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Related Symptoms, Abstract*

Study reference: Lemos-Miller, A. & Kearney, C.A. (2006). Depression and ethnicity as intermediary variables between dissociation, trauma-related cognitions, and PTSD symptomatology in youths. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease, 194, 584-590.*

Research summary: Symptoms associated with the development and maintenance of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) were examined among a group of adolescents in a residential facility. Most of the adolescents reported experiences of maltreatment. Study results were interpreted with consideration for racial and ethnic differences in PTSD symptom expressions.

Nelse Ostlund, M. A.

Mentor: Murray Millar, Ph.D.

Study title: *The Desire for Socio-cultural Similarity in a Mate, Abstract*

Study reference: Ostlund, N. (2004). *The desire for socio-cultural similarity in a mate*. Unpublished thesis.

Research summary: Romantic preferences for socio-cultural similarity in a mate were investigated. Ratings of desirability revealed no systematic preference for similarity in ethnicity and religion. However, similarity in music interest, dress style, education, and political affiliation emerged as desirable qualities in romantic partners.

Jenna Silverman, M. A.

Mentor: Christopher Kearney, Ph.D.

Study title: *Peer relations Among Female Delinquents: A Study of Racial/Ethnic Differences and Violence, Abstract*

Study reference: Silverman, J. R., & Caldwell, R. M. (In press). Peer relationships and violence among female juvenile offenders: An exploration of differences among four racial/ethnic populations. *Criminal Justice and Behavior: An International Journal*.

Research summary: This study examines how peer relationships differentially contribute to violence among several racial/ethnic groups of delinquent girls. These findings suggest that different aspects of

peer relationships better predict violence among Caucasian, African American, and Hispanic girls.

Marilyn Strada, M. A.

Mentor: Marta Meana, Ph.D.

Study title: *Consideration of Race/Ethnicity in Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Outcome Studies*, Abstract

Study references: Strada, M. J. & Donohue, B. (2006). Substance use in ethnic minority youth. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*, 5, 67-89.

Strada, M. J., Donohue, B., & Lefforge, N. (2006). Examination of ethnicity in controlled treatment outcome studies involving adolescent substance abusers: A comprehensive literature review. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 20, 11-27.

Research Summary: The purpose of this paper was to examine the extent to which adolescent substance use treatment outcome studies have considered race/ethnicity-related factors in the design, implementation, and evaluation of treatments to determine degree of generalizability in racially/ethnically diverse populations.

Alejandro Yanez, Ph.D.

Mentor: Christopher Heavey, Ph.D.

Study title: *Character Strengths and Psychological Well-Being as Predictors of Life Satisfaction Among Multicultural Populations*, Abstract

Research summary: The purpose of this study was to examine if facets of character strengths and psychological well-being differentially predicted life satisfaction among four racial groups in a sample of 572 university students.