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“What I learned was that asking respondents typical questions about how much their annual household income is, and how much their average monthly utility bills are simply do not provide deep enough insights. Though 60% of those respondents highly bothered by their monthly utility bills also were highly constrained by their household budget, the remaining 40% of those of those highly bothered by monthly utility bills were either moderately or unconstrained by their household budget. This insight allows us to see that 40% of the Florida residential irrigation users that were studied are motivated to change the costs of their utility bills for reasons that might be beyond merely not being able to afford their high costs; they are more intrinsically challenged to reduce the costs of their utility bills.” -- Dr. Randy Cantrell, Segmenting Florida residential irrigation users by utility-bill “botheredness” and household budgetary concerns


“We now have some evidence that voluntary after school pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention programs implemented under real world conditions with rural, high-risk girls can result in attitudes more supportive of delaying sex. However, attitudes and behaviors do not always align. This highlights the need for future work aimed at improving refusal skills, in addition to changing attitudes, in order to maximize our ability to reduce rates of unwanted pregnancies and STIs.” -- Dr. Sarah D. Lynne, on Evaluating a pregnancy and STI prevention programme in rural, at-risk, middle school girls in the USA.


“This research highlights the importance of place, specifically neighborhood inequality as measured by median income, education level, and homogeneity, in determining computer-use trajectories among elementary age children. We found that children living in neighborhoods with higher levels of median income had higher computer-use trajectories. Children living in areas with less education and living in more homogeneous neighborhoods had lower computer-use trajectories. This suggests that in order to eliminate digital inequality, we must consider factors beyond those typically addressed in school based computing interventions. Place matters when it comes to technology usage among urban minority youth so we must consider neighborhood context when working to reduce the digital divide.” -- Dr. LaToya O’Neal, on Does Place Matter? The Effects of Concentrated Poverty on the Computer Use of Elementary Students.
“We examined aspects of career and romance exploration of young adults and how they relate to one another. We found that it is normal for emerging adults (18-29 year olds) to explore occupations, jobs, and organizations for possible employment over a 3-month period. Career exploration may actually be expected during this developmental period and not related to significant anxiety and stress, but instead, readily anticipated, especially by undergraduate students pursuing a degree. Our research also examined romantic exploration and found that one dimension of romance, rumination, is related to stress, and is linked to mental health issues, like anxiety and depression. This tells us that it is unhealthy for emerging adults to dwell on difficulties with their romantic relationships. We also found that certain romantic explorations were related to career choices for emerging adults, especially motivation. This tells us that during this life stage, romance and career are decisions that are closely related to one another, and romance may even be a motivator for making career decisions at this time. Efforts to keep young adults healthy and happy during their decision-making years for careers and romance will need to discourage rumination to minimize anxiety and stress, and encourage healthy intrinsic motivation to help them make sound choices in romance and future careers.” -- Dr. Rose Barnett, on *The relationship of motivation and presence of stress and anxiety in emerging adults’ career and romantic exploration.*


RESEARCH QUESTIONS / FINDINGS

Do love types and subjective emotional well-being differ among young people in individualistic culture (America)?

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Future research should focus on the development of a cross-cultural measure of love that can be used in different societies to assess the impact of love on well-being and satisfaction.