

Abstracts

of the 2025 Middle Tennessee Psychological Association Conference

Volume 33 • April 2025

#MTPA2025

2025 MTPA CONFERENCE

**College of Education Building (COE)
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Saturday April 26, 2025**

REGISTRATION/WELCOME

*Registration
Lobby, First Floor
College of Education Building
8:30 am-10:00 am*

*Welcome
Lobby, First Floor
College of Education Building
8:45 am-9:00 am*

POSTER SESSIONS

*Lobby and Atrium, First and Second Floors
College of Education Building
Poster session I
9:00 am-9:45 am*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*College of Education Building 160
10:00 am-11:00 am
Dr. Ruth Walker (she/her)
Department of Psychology, University
of Tennessee at Chattanooga*

**Beyond the Rainbow: Measuring and
Promoting LGBTQ+ Inclusion in
Higher Education**

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

*College of Education Building
Concurrent sessions
11:15 am-12:15 pm
Session 1—Room 141
Session 2—Room 145
Session 3—Room 146*

SPONSORS

MTPA acknowledges all faculty advisors for their dedication to student research.

POSTER SESSION I

9:00 am-9:45 am; Lobby and Atrium, First and Second Floors

1001

Anxiety in Athletes as a Result of Crowd and Gender. Taylor Nickerson (she/her), *Central Magnet School*
Gene Cowart (he/him) faculty advisor, *Central Magnet School*

1002

Spelling and the Motor System: The Influence of Visual Cues in Adolescents. Megan Weber (she/her), *Central Magnet School*
Gene Cowart (he/him) faculty advisor, *Central Magnet School*

1003

Mental Well-being in Adolescents as a Result of Acute Traumatic Exposures. Maggie Holland (she/her), *Central Magnet School*
Gene Cowart (he/him) faculty advisor, *Central Magnet School*

1004

Crowd Noise Effect on Basketball. Everett Smith (he/him) and Beckett Pogue (he/him), *Central Magnet School*
Gene Cowart (he/him) faculty advisor, *Central Magnet School*

1005

How Instagram Use and Childhood Trauma Influence Body Image. Carissa Lurie (she/her), *Cumberland University*
Chelsea Sterne, Ph.D. (she/her) faculty advisor, *Cumberland University*

1006

Exploring Parents' Journeys in Dyslexia Identification and Support. Gamze Mert (she/her), Karen Kehoe (she/her), and Jennifer Stewart (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Karen Kehoe (she/her) faculty advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1007

Influences of Psychoeducation in Young Adults. Batoul Sawas (she/her) and Christina Haygood (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Christina Haygood (she/her) faculty advisor, *Meharry Medical College*

1008

Trauma Exposure and Sleep Quality. Chloe Emmert (she/her), Megan Zeringue (she/her), and Claire Dobson (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Dr. Megan Zeringue (she/her) faculty advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1009

Mental Health and How it Correlates with Sleep. Trenton McAlmond (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Dr. Megan Zeringue (she/her) faculty advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1010

Exploring the Associations Among Pain and Normative Age-Related Cognitive Decline: An Examination of Selective Attention. Allison G. Throm (she/her), Sophia A. Saavedra (she/her), Jonathan M. Raley (he/him), Shaun M. Burgess (he/him), Gamze Mert (she/her), Talia W. Sanford (she/her), Tara Kirkpatrick (she/her), Anna Robison (she/her), and James R. Houston (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*
James R. Houston (he/him) faculty advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1011

Exploring the Associations Among Pain and Normative Age-Related Cognitive Decline: An Examination of Working Memory. Shaun M. Burgess (he/him), Gamze Mert (she/her), Talia W. Sanford (she/her), Allison G. Throm (she/her), Sophia A. Saavedra (she/her), Jonathan M. Raley (he/him), Tara M. Kirkpatrick (she/her), Anna M. Robison (she/her), and James R. Houston (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*

University

James R. Houston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1012

Does Linguistic Incivility Predict Officer-citizen Conflict Outcomes. Alexander Gonzalez Irizarry (he/him), Bailey James (she/her), Faith Smith (she/her), Jacob Gardner (he/him), Sameer Srivastav (he/him), and John Pennington (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*
John Pennington (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1013

From Scribbles to Spelling: Tracing the Journey of Kindergarteners' Writing. Edgar Rodriguez (he/him), Elizabeth Ledbetter (she/her), Stuart Bernstein (he/him), and Katie Schrodt (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Stuart Bernstein (he/him) faculty advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1014

Optogenetic Stimulation of the VTA to Enhance Effortful Social Behavior in Mice. Caitlyn Wells (she/her) and Tiffany D. Rogers (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Tiffany D. Rogers, Ph.D. (she/her) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1015

Effects of Intra-PVN Infusion of Oxytocin on Maternal Shepherd in C57 Mice. Haley Adams (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Tiffany D. Rogers, Ph.D. (she/her) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1016

Synesthesia Prevalence Survey. Jacob Kittrell (he/him) and William Langston (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*
William Langston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1017

How Relationship Status and Satisfaction Influence Sleep Quality. Carley Smoot (she/her), Claire Dobson (she/her), and Dr. Megan Zeringue (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Dr. Megan Zeringue (she/her) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1018

Construction of the Multiplatform Online Trolling Assessment (MOTA) Questionnaire. Cameron Harman (he/him) and James C. Tate (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*
James C. Tate, Ph.D. (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

1019

Inter-Individual Differences in Delay Discounting Behavior. Allison Barrera Flores (she/her), Sarah Boldt (she/her), Asha Tharakan (she/her), Valentino Cheek (he/him), and Thomas R. Reppert (he/him), *Sewanee: The University of the South*
Thomas R. Reppert (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Sewanee: The University of the South*

1020

Perceptions and Motives for Cannabis Use Amongst Students of Color: Implications for Drug Education Programming. Enistin Moon Gomes (she/her) and Kate Cammack (she/her), *Sewanee: The University of the South*
Kate Cammack (she/her) faculty
advisor, *Sewanee: The University of the South*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

10:00 am-11:00 am; Room 160

Beyond the Rainbow: Measuring and Promoting LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Higher Education

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

11:15 am-12:15 pm; Concurrent, Various Rooms

• COE Room 141 •

(11:45)

(11:15)

Intersectionality and Sleep. Deeyana Ahmed (they/them), *Middle Tennessee State University*
William Langston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

(11:30)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Beliefs and Experiences. Cale Emery (he/him), Jessica Latimer (she/her), and Jada Collier (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
William Langston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

(11:45)

The Impact of Stereotype Threat on Technology Use in Older Adults. Anna Robison (she/her) and James Houston (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*
James R. Houston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

• COE Room 145 •

(11:15)

Does Structure Building Correlate with Belief Change? November Varden (they/them), Isaac Agustin (he/him), Ky Elliott (she/her), and Alyssa Nelson (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
William Langston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

(11:30)

Is Experience Related to Belief and Changes in Belief? Nayeli Diaz (she/her), Nate Daniel (he/him), Jaydon Favors (he/him), Kathryn O'Brien (she/her), and Allison Miller (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
William Langston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

Personality's Relation to Belief and Belief Change. Angelica Aranda (she/her), Rebecca Bordash (she/her), Dylan Scott (he/him), and Hannah Hardin (she/they), *Middle Tennessee State University*
William Langston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

(12:00)

Modeling the Relationship Between Schizotypy and Conspiracist Ideation. Cody Kimbrell (he/him) and David Farris (he/him), *Middle Tennessee State University*
William Langston (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

• COE Room 146 •

(11:15)

Validation of the General Mistake Response Scale. Kaitlyn Kilburn (she/her), *Middle Tennessee State University*
Alexander Jackson (he/him) faculty
advisor, *Middle Tennessee State University*

(11:30)

Maternal Mortality in a Post-Roe America: The Impact of Restrictive Reproductive Policies. Meagan Tsai (she/her), Katherine Johnson (she/her), and Emma Gilland (she/her), *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*
Dr. Ruth Walker (she/her) faculty advisor, *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*

(11:45)

Exploring Resilience and Psychological Distress: The Moderating Role of Belonging in College Students. Shyla Khan (she/her), Dr. Kevin Doyle (he/him), and Dr. Ruth Walker (she/her), *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*
Dr. Kevin Doyle (he/him) faculty advisor, *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*