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Any Questions: A Look at the Effect of Judicial Responses on Juror Misunderstandings

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Feeding Stereotypes While Alleviating Hunger: An Analysis of the Effects of Stigma on School Breakfast Participation

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Perceptions of Mental Illness Etiology and Treatment: A Survey of Nigerian Immigrants in Chicago
Arab Students in the United States: 
Cultural Modification in the Setting of an American University

Due to globalization, channels of communication have opened between different cultures. Research explores this theme by interviewing international Arab students at Northwestern University. Study examined pattern of assimilation of Arab students into Western life and assessed variables impacting acculturation process by using changes in perceptions of gender roles as means of measuring degree of acculturation.

Participants are members of privileged group that embrace Arab and American values and ease into American life rather than following standard pattern of assimilation. Group follows fixed path that allows them to effectively exist in Arab and Western worlds. To accommodate for Arab students in USA, need to understand Arab culture, traditions and its relation to American culture rather than observing culture through Western lenses.
Thinking about the Disproportions: Perceptions and Practices of Disproportionate Minority Confinement among Cook County Juvenile Alternative Detention Staff

Despite participation in a national project to reduce Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) among youth, Cook County’s juvenile justice department has garnered limited success in reducing the problem. Using qualitative research methods, this study investigated how the department’s field level staff perceived and enacted DMC reform efforts. Findings show field level staff had limited knowledge of both DMC and Cook County’s efforts to reduce it. Eleven in-depth interviews with field level staff and a department administrator revealed that the department’s failure to openly acknowledge DMC as an issue coupled with an ideological emphasis on youth’s personal accountability made it difficult for some staff to recognize DMC as a legitimate problem. Instead, many staff members focused on character deficits among the youth, holding them accountable for the disproportion. The study recommends Cook County adopt a specific agenda that makes DMC reduction a priority.
Leaders in an African-American Community Respond to a Hypothetical Anthrax Outbreak

The threat of bioterrorism in America is real; and a bioterrorist attack would be devastating. However, an attack’s impact could be mitigated through collaborative preparation by the government and the public. Minorities’ low levels of trust in government pose a significant obstacle. Previous research showed that many Americans will not follow government instructions to seek treatment during a bioterrorism attack, which could greatly increase the spread of infection. My research reinforces these results, and adds that only approximately fifty percent of community leaders--key resources in minority communities, where government and the media are not trusted--would instruct residents to follow government instructions. A significant groundwork, based on community planning, public education, and emergency communication, must be laid.
Grounds for Change: The Effects of Fair Trade Certification in Coffee Communities in Poço Fundo, Brazil

To millions of producers in developing countries, coffee is more than a morning ritual. Brazil depends on coffee for export revenues and relies on the bean to support families and communities. Research was conducted in Poço Fundo, Brazil to examine effects of Fair Trade Certification on individual producers, families, the community, and the cooperative. Through interviews with members and participant observation, the researcher investigated possible effects of certification. She concluded that Fair Trade Certification does affect communities significantly by ensuring a floor price, access to external markets, long-term buying relationships, access to credit and pre-financing, and community investment projects. She also explored why members connect Fair Trade with community change, environmental effects, women’s development, and hierarchies of understanding within the cooperative.
The Relationship Between Dynamic Patterns of Growth in the Life Story and Well-Being

Past research has demonstrated that individuals with life narratives exhibiting greater coherence and a greater sense of growth over time tend to enjoy higher levels of psychological well-being. This study, which covers the entire life course, proposes a new method for analyzing life stories combining the ideas of coherence and growth. Points of the life story at which a person spontaneously explains a past event as having an enduring impact on the identity are the focus. Existing life story interviews of 88 middle-aged adults were examined for patterns of growth emerging across these causal sequences. Tallies of 4 types of dynamic patterns in each life story were correlated with self-reported well-being. As expected, those with more negative patterns reported higher negative mood, lower positive mood, and more depression symptoms, than did those with fewer negative patterns. Negative trajectory patterns, in which one causal sequence spirals into another causal sequence with an ultimately negative impact on the self, were particularly detrimental. The results have useful implications for psychotherapy and for how life story coherence is conceptualized in future research.
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**Attitudinal and Emotional Factors Influencing the Decision to Enroll in College**

The importance of a college education is continually growing in the United States, yet large segments of the population still do not enroll. In a sample of 126 youth from high schools in the Chicago and Los Angeles suburbs, attitudinal and emotional factors measured when students were juniors in high school were used to predict college enrollment (either two or four year), enrollment in two year college, and enrollment in four year college. Specifically, whether students had past or present major depression or generalized anxiety disorder, their achievement orientation and academic content of thought, and self esteem during high school were examined in relation to college enrollment, controlling for race, gender, high school GPA, and SES. Academic content of thought and achievement orientation emerged as significant predictors of enrollment in college as well as enrollment in two or four year colleges. Students with major depressive disorders were 10% less likely to enroll in college, and 29% less likely to enroll in a four year college. Students with higher self esteem were 85% more likely to enroll in a two year college than to not enroll in college at all, but had no significant effect on enrollment in 4 year college.
Punctuated Equilibrium: The Evolution of Neoconservative Foreign Policy

The trajectory of neoconservative thought from its unipolarist rebirth to the “democratic realist” strategy of Middle East transformation via American military action is one of ideological mutation—the reapplication of an extant agenda and worldview formulated before the specter of Islamic terrorism emerged. Immediately after September 11, neoconservatives and their allies wanted to attack Iraq, and their thinking was grounded in the appraisal they made of Saddam Hussein when their priority was the intersection of rogue states with weapons of mass destruction. In the following period, the neoconservative approach was reconstituted into a strategy of eradicating the root cause of terrorism—deemed repressive societies—through the political liberalization of the Middle East. The new plan was a product of neocons’ preexisting dispositions and bore all their hallmarks: it advocated aggressive confrontation of hostile regimes, it was grounded in American military power, it was to be enacted unilaterally and preemptively, and the center of attention was Iraq.
La Nueva Pobreza Judía: The Needs and Identity Development of the Jewish New Poor Young Adults in Argentina

This study analyzes the role of the Argentine economic crisis of 2001 in creating the “New Poor”. This group consists of individuals who formerly lived comfortable middle class lives but who have become impoverished. Through ethnographic methodology, it analyzes the needs and identity development of New Poor young adults who receive aid from the Jewish community. The study found that these young adults continue to struggle to find work, pursue an education and help support their families. While their personal and familial histories dictate middle class values and characteristics, they are also in the midst of undergoing a deep identity crisis. These findings shed light on possible impacts of the middle class squeeze occurring around the world.
Inclusion Efforts and Their Effect on the Socialization of Youth with Physical Disabilities in a Public School Setting

An urban school system has transitioned 240 students with disabilities from a school dedicated to serving their special needs into 21 community schools. The present study examines how community school inclusion efforts and practices compared to current inclusion best practices. The study also examines student socialization that resulted from these efforts. Few studies have examined the socialization of students with physical disabilities transitioning into general education. In addition, no research could be identified that considered collective perspective of the school district, principals, teachers, students, and parents. Through interviews with these key stakeholders, a wide gap was found between accepted best practice and implementation at the community school level. Transferring students had few opportunities for socialization in their new school setting.
Examiner Race-of-Interviewer Effects Among Low-Income, Urban Mothers

The present investigation addressed an understudied methodological concern: race-of-interviewer effects. Data from *Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three-City Study* is used to determine the extent and direction to which race-of-interviewer effects may be operating during in-person interviews with low-income, urban mothers of preschoolers. Specifically, self-reports from African American and Hispanic mothers interviewed by White, African American, or Hispanic interviewers are compared. Overall, very few differences were revealed among Hispanic and African American mothers questioned by same or different race interviewers. However, African American and Hispanic mothers did report greater use of discipline to White interviewers than to same-race interviewers. Other differences that emerged are reported, and implications of these findings are discussed.
Older age foster care youth encounter a particular set of life challenges due to lack of familial support. However, after the passage of the 1999 John Chaffee Act, more federal, state, and local support is available to promote healthier transitions to adulthood for these young people. This study aimed to understand one set of experiences of older foster care youth under the new provisions of the Chafee Act. Perceptions of older foster youth and non-foster youth (18-23 years-old) were explored to learn how foster youth participants evaluate the resources made available for them through one educational and transitional program. One hundred fifty-five students were surveyed and 22 students were interviewed across five alternative high schools in Chicago. Findings showed older foster youth still in care indicated less familial support but positively assessed the use of incentives and mentoring assistance provided by the program. Thus, the results suggest the educational program assists older age foster youth in overcoming the absence of supportive familial characteristics.
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Any Questions:
A Look at the Effect of Judicial Responses on Juror Misunderstandings

Previous research casts doubt on jurors’ ability to understand instructions—a vital instrument for jurors to render verdicts. Jurors are allowed to submit questions to the judge to clarify any misunderstandings. The question is whether judicial responses actually alleviate juror confusion. 60 juror questions, judicial responses and juror reactions to responses (derived from actual jury deliberation) were analyzed and categorized. Juries generally used judicial responses to clarify confusion and render verdicts consistent with law. Contrary to previous results, judges were not simply referring jurors back to instructions, but provided juries with variety of responses. Juries used themselves as resources, in some cases more so than the judicial response. They often settled their questions before the response returned, demonstrating a significant ability to understand and apply law.
Feeding Stereotypes While Alleviating Hunger: An Analysis of the Effects of Stigma on School Breakfast Participation

School breakfast programs provide students with nutrition crucial to academic achievement and psychological well-being, yet program participation is tenuous. Although several variables that may influence school breakfast participation have been explored, no substantial work investigating the extent to which stigma may thwart participation has been completed. The current study utilized surveys to investigate teachers’ perceptions of the extent to which stigma affects students outcomes and deters student participation. A zero-correlation test and paired sample t-tests were conducted to analyze the data. Results identified correlations between stigma, social behavior, and friend group formation. The study also found that students who received free or reduced breakfast had depreciated self-esteem, academic achievement and psychological well-being. Older students were consistently rated as more adversely affected.
Perceptions of Mental Illness Etiology and Treatment:  
A Survey of Nigerian Immigrants in Chicago

In Nigeria mental illness is often believed to have mystical origins, and supernatural treatment is, consequently, quite popular. Little is known about whether these notions persist in Nigerian immigrant communities in America. This study examines perceptions of causes and treatment of mental illness within Nigerian communities in Chicago. Data were acquired through a questionnaire (n = 46). “Medical”, “occult”, and “religious” causes and modes of treatment were analyzed. Respondents favored medical explanations over occult and religious. However, they also endorsed occult causes and religious treatment. Education significantly predicted beliefs in medical and religious explanations, but gender and length of stay in America were also somewhat important variables. Future research might investigate the effects of such beliefs about mental illness.