Self-Talk:
Cognitive Techniques to Increase Self-Esteem
Nicole Auerbach

This study looks at how self-talk can be created from others’ evaluations of one’s self and how both self-affirmations and affirmations from others effects self-esteem. Participants completed an initial questionnaire measuring trait self-esteem and then recorded affirmation messages for five consecutive nights before completing a final questionnaire measuring state self-esteem. Results show that recording affirmations from others only and affirmations from both the self and others produces the highest levels of state self-esteem. Additionally, if a participant had low self-esteem, it did not matter if he/she participated in affirmations from the self or affirmations of others, people with trait low self-esteem had lower state self-esteem than those with high trait self-esteem.

Attitudes Towards Cosmetic Surgery:
A Cross-Cultural Analysis of South Korean and U.S. Females
Christine Cha

Despite the increasing prevalence of media attention and national cases of cosmetic surgery, little scientific research has focused on a cross-cultural examination of attitudes towards cosmetic surgery. The present study is a cross-cultural analysis assessing the difference in attitudes and perceptions towards plastic surgery in the United States and South Korea. This study tries to determine whether attitudes toward plastic surgery are founded on inherent cultural orientation, and how television exposure influences attitudes towards cosmetic surgery.

Appropriation Art and Copyright: Do Layperson Judgments of Image Similarity Match Legal Constructs?
Vremmy Kahn

Intellectual property law is central to the American legal system. It is granted in Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution. The goal of this protection is to “Promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive rights to their respective writings and discoveries”. Since the days of the founding fathers, the ‘limited times’ interpretation for copyrights has been greatly enlarged to now encompass the life of the author plus 70 years. Many artists and corporations use current copyright laws to take legal action against those whom they view as having infringed on their intellectual property. However, infringement does not occur as long as the new work is ‘transformative’. Vincent Van Gogh did studies of other artist’s works, and other famous artists such as Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol have used appropriation art. These derivative works have added to the artistic richness of society, they have had an impact on Presidential elections (see Shepard Fairey’s Obama ‘Hope’ poster) and they sometimes sell for vast sums of money (see Lichtenstein’s ‘Sleeping Girl’ which went for $45 million at auction). However, these works might be considered copyright
infringement and therefore illegal for the artists to produce. This study seeks to identify what people consider ‘transformative’, and whether they use the legal constructs created by the courts in their judgments. This study also examines the effects of authorship awareness on judgments about "transformativeness", as well as how personal characteristics such as viewers’ artistic and technological experience contribute to judgments about works of appropriation art.

Seeking Forgiveness:
Motivations, Communication Behaviors, and Relationship Changes

Jessica Bragg

This study examines the impact of altruistic vs. egotistic forgiveness seeking motivations on forgiveness seeking behavior. This study also investigates if altruistic vs. egotistic forgiveness seeking motivations are predictive of positive vs. negative post-transgression relationship changes. Participants were asked to write narratives and answer questions to judge their motivations for seeking forgiveness, assess the communication behavior that they used to seek forgiveness, and determine the changes that occurred after the forgiveness episode. Results show that altruistic motivations for seeking forgiveness, as opposed to egotistic motivations, result in more explicit acknowledgement, nonverbal assurances, and explanation forgiveness seeking behavior. Results also show that egotistic motivations for seeking forgiveness, as opposed to altruistic motivations, resulted in more compensation and humor forgiveness seeking behavior. Surprisingly, the results found that participants who were high in egotistic motivations for seeking forgiveness, as opposed to altruistic motivations, resulted in more positive relationship changes.

Negative Attitudes Towards People with Broca’s Aphasia:
Examining Knowledge, Empathy, Listening Skills, and Communication Accommodation

Blair Siegal

This present study used Communication Accommodation Theory as a framework for examining attitudes towards Broca’s Aphasia patients. Prior research showed that people have little knowledge about Aphasia and this lack of familiarity may lead to misperceptions and prejudice attitudes towards these patients. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether awareness of the disorder, listening skills, and empathy influenced negative attitudes towards Aphasic patients. Participants were brought into the lab and divided into one of three conditions (experimental-told of Aphasia, experimental-not told of Aphasia, and control). Participants were asked to fill out two questionnaires that gauged their empathy levels, listening skills, and attitudes. In addition, each participant viewed a short video of either an Aphasic patient or a person with no language disability. Overall, this study found that viewing a patient with Aphasia led to negative attitudes towards the Aphasic patient and a belief that the patient had a mental disability. In addition, it was found that level of empathy did not make a difference in the evaluation of Aphasic patients compared to the influence that was found for the control.