

PSYCHOLOGY

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ABSTRACTS

Familiarity With A Male's Flank Gland Odor In Mate Selection In Female Hamsters. PAT BROWN, ERIC LIS, and BOB FISCHER, Dept. of Psychological Science, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.—There is little direct evidence that the hamster's flank gland effectively functions in intermale aggression. The odors of this gland do convey information concerning a male's familiarity (identity) and dominance to sexually receptive females and may play a role in mate selection. Two experiments evaluated the ability of flank odors to influence a female's choice of a mate. The first experiment indicated that a female would selectively mate with a tethered male whose flank odors were familiar over a male whose secretions she had not previously encountered. The second experiment simultaneously varied dominance and familiarity in order to judge the relative effectiveness of each stimulus. Females exhibited no consistent mating preference. The males did differ in the amount of sexual contact with females. Familiarity with a male's flank odors is an important factor in mate selection. When familiarity is confounded with status, the females may judge the stimuli as being equally attractive or are, perhaps, confused by the unnatural combination of stimuli and are thus unable to exhibit a clear preference.

Karl Pearson, Correlations, and Inherited Traits: The Use and Misuse of Statistics. WALTER HARTMANN, Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, IN 46323.—Pearson (of the correlation coefficient, Director of the Galton Laboratory, Fellow of the Royal Society, etc.) together with Margaret Moul issued a massive study in 1925 warning the British government against permitting immigration of a certain group. In 121 pages with numerous tables summarizing all kinds of mental, environmental, and physical tests, Pearson and Moul "prove" the inherent physical, intellectual, cultural, and moral inferiority of this group—Eastern European Jews. This paper adumbrates Pearson and Moul's assumptions and methods. Their almost comical fallacy is discussed in the light of their misunderstanding of genetics, and of what statistics can and can not do—errors not uncommon to this day.

Is the Self-Defeating Personality Disorder a Viable Diagnosis? KATHLEEN M. HILTON and PAUL W. HORN, Department of Psychology, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.—This study considers the Self-Defeating Personality Disorder (SDPD) in relation to the other DSM-III personality disorders. The prevalence of personality disorders was assessed using the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI) and a newly designed scale for measuring SDPA

(H-SDPD), both of which were administered to 168 subjects. Of those classified as self-defeating using the H-SDPD criteria, 95% met the MCMI criteria for one or more other personality disorders. In addition, over 40% of the self-defeating subjects in this study met the criteria for diagnosis as schizoid-asocial, avoidant, dependent-submissive, passive-aggressive negativistic, and/or borderline, suggesting that SDPD may be a more generalized construct. The findings also showed both striking similarities and significant differences in personality disorders between self-defeating males and self-defeating females.

Personality Dimensions and Obesity. PAUL W. HORN and KATHLEEN M. HILTON, Department of Psychology, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.—This study examines the personality profiles of members of a nationally recognized group for overweight individuals. The prevalence of personality disorders was assessed using the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI). The findings from a normative sample ($N = 91$) and the overweight sample ($N = 91$) indicated significant differences between these groups on both personality factors and Axis I classifications. More specifically, differences were found in the histrionic, compulsive, passive-aggressive, anxiety, and hypomanic areas. Our analyses showed that these areas were in a direction opposite to what popular belief and previous research would lead one to expect. In addition our data suggest the possibility of personality differences associated with magnitude of obesity.

A New Four-Stage Theory of Grief as a Response to Loss. BARBARA KANE, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.—Grief as a response to loss is discussed and a new four-stage theory of grief response is proposed. The cognitive theory of Piaget is used to explain the process. The new theory has the characteristics indicated by Flavell to be necessary for stage theories: invariant sequence, gradual development, subsumation and integrity. In Stage One, Anesthesia, the griever ignores the loss. During Stage Two, Sensitivity, the loss is experienced. When the griever is in Stage Three, Deliberation, the loss is understood. In Stage Four, Adaptation, the griever changes with the loss. Grief work related to each stage is discussed.

The Case for Psycho-Optometry: A Selective Review of the Literature. ROGER L. TERRY, Department of Psychology, Hanover College, Hanover, IN 47243.—This paper selectively reviews the accumulating research demonstrating the role of psychological variables in various areas of optometric concern. There is mounting evidence that psychological factors are important influences on persons' decisions to seek out professional eye care and on the success of patients' adaptation to various types of visual correctives. Attention is directed to the writer's research on the psychological side effects of frame glasses and contact lenses. The construct of a spectacle image component of the self concept is advanced to account for the negative psychological effects of framed spectacles and the positive effects of contact lenses. Suggestions are offered of fertile areas for future investigation.