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Program & Abstracts

11th Australian Conference for Personality and Individual Differences

November 29-30 2012
The University of Melbourne

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Preface

This booklet contains the program and abstracts of the 11th Australian Conference for Personality and Individual Differences, held at the University of Melbourne, November 29-30, 2012. ACPID is the premier scientific conference in Australia for personality and individual differences research. The notable contribution of Australian researchers to this area of psychological science (see Allik, 2012, EJP) is reflected in this year’s program. These contributions – which consist of posters, rapid presentations, regular presentations, themed symposia and keynote lectures – demonstrate the depth and diversity of the personality and individual differences field. It is also gratifying to note the strong contribution to this year’s program by student researchers, which is in keeping with ACPID’s pedagogical and development role.

ACPID 2012 is an official event of the Personality and Individual Differences Interest Group within the Australian Psychological Society (APS), and proudly hosted by the Personality Processes Laboratory of the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences.

Sincere thanks must go to Rachel Kabbani, who provided tireless assistance, advice and enthusiasm at all stages of organising this event.

Luke D. Smillie
Acknowledgements

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- Nicolas Kambouropoulos
- Rachel Kabbani
- Simon Laham
- Joshua Wilt

Thanks are also owing to the following individuals, who helped in many and varied capacities in the lead up to and during ACPID 2012:
- Nerina Caltabiano
- Joachim Geaney
- Joan Harken
- Paul Ho
- Phillip Hall
- Patrick Heaven
- Rachel Kabbani
- Jodie Valpied
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<td>Sharon Dawe --- Personality development, reward &amp; disinhibition Yolanda Gribble --- Personality influences on relapse prevention Yixin Jiang --- Adult attachment and reinforcement sensitivity Paul Harnett --- Personality and attachment style Simon Boag --- r-RST and personality explanation</td>
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<td>09:00-10:40</td>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>11:00-12:20</td>
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<td>13:00-14:00</td>
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<td>14:00-14:50</td>
<td>Invited Keynote 2: Colin MacLeod --- Paying attention to emotion: The contribution of attentional selectivity to emotional disposition</td>
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Investigating the Psychosocial Mechanisms Underlying the Influence of Trait Emotional Intelligence on University Adjustment: The Mediating Roles of Coping and Social Support

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¹University of Southern Queensland
²University of Technology, Sydney
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Heretofore, no studies have investigated the psychosocial mechanisms underlying the effects of trait emotional intelligence (trait EI) on recent school leavers’ adjustment to university. This is surprising since trait EI is, theoretically, expected to exert its most beneficial effects on academic and socio-emotional functioning under conditions of potentially high affective arousal, such as adjusting to novel educational environments. The present study specified and tested a short-term longitudinal mediation model in which perceived social support and coping were hypothesised to mediate the relation between trait EI and university adjustment (N = 250). These postulated mediating processes extend the extant literature by elucidating the psychosocial pathways through which distal affective traits may influence university adjustment. Structural equation modeling, with robust maximum likelihood estimation, revealed that trait EI exerted indirect effects on university adjustment via both social support and coping, controlling for the concomitant effects of neuroticism, extraversion and conscientiousness. Students high on trait EI were more likely to perceive greater social support, and more likely to use engagement coping in response to exposure to academic and socio-emotional stressors, which, in turn, positively influenced midterm adjustment. Limitations of this study, future directions and implications for university counselling and student services operations are discussed.

Regular presentations 3: Thursday 15:25