UCO Department of Psychology
Thesis Guide

First Semester

1. START NOW
   a. Take PSY 5193: Experimental Design in your first semester.
      i. Use the course as preparation for your thesis.
      ii. Work wiser, not just harder.
      iii. Provide your thesis chair with your proposal for the course.
   b. Decide what you want to study for your master’s thesis.
      i. Begin reading abstracts/discussions of journal articles in the general area.
      ii. Create an annotated bibliography using the conclusions (found in the discussion section) of those articles.
      iii. Identify an area of need in the literature (potentially using ideas for future research found in the discussion section of those articles).
   c. Meet with your thesis chair (assigned to you upon your admission to the program) no later than week 4 of your first semester (note: you cannot enroll in classes for your second semester without completing a plan of study in collaboration and signed by your thesis chair).
      i. Discuss a well-researched idea.
      ii. Identify independent/predictor and dependent/outcome variables.
      iii. Understand your particular thesis chair’s management style: note that some like a lot of control and give a lot of advice whereas others prefer students exhaust all other avenues before approaching them for assistance.

2. Choose your thesis committee (with your thesis chair).
   a. Committees consist of three full-time faculty members: thesis chair (psychology faculty member from experimental/forensic psychology), content knowledgeable (psychology) faculty member, and outside member (may be from psychology if student is Experimental Psychology track but must be from Forensic Science if student is Forensic Psychology track).
   b. Committees may have additional members (such as faculty from other departments or universities, if appropriate).
   c. Students should ensure that they can work with the committee members they choose and that the committee members can work with each other.
   d. Formally ask the members you have chosen (in person, if possible) if they would be willing to serve on your master’s thesis committee. Provide them with the general topic of interest and your proposed graduation date.
Second Semester

3. Propose your thesis
   a. Schedule a thesis proposal with the members of your committee.
      i. Doodle poll is a great way to organize schedules of your members
         (see https://doodle.com/create).
      ii. Once scheduled, see the departmental administrative assistant to
          reserve a room. Remember that if you use a conference room
          instead of a classroom, you will need to provide a laptop
          computer with an HDMI port to use in the presentation.
      iii. Send an e-mail confirmation to your committee once the room is
          reserved. Be professional in all correspondence with your
          committee.
   b. Two weeks before your proposal meeting, send your thesis proposal
      document (this will vary by thesis chair, but is typically at least 15
      pages of text in length) to the members of your committee (click here
      for an example). This is also a good time to remind your committee
      about the chosen date/time/location of the proposal.
      i. Although thesis chairs may differ regarding the extent to which
         they want a complete review of literature in the area included, all
         proposals should contain the following:
            1. Introduction/Background: Present previous literature that
               suggests a knowledge of the content area but also leads
               specifically to the present project.
            2. Research Questions/Hypotheses: Provide specific
               questions/hypothesis (derived from the background
               information) to be addressed in the present project.
            3. Method: Detail the proposed method of the study,
               including participants (who, when, where, how, and how
               many), materials/instruments, and procedure. Include a
               section regarding the design, if appropriate. NOTE: this
               should be the majority of the information provided.
            4. Results: Review the projected statistical analyses used and
               reiterate predicted results. NOTE: be aware that your
               committee members may have their own “favorite” types
               of analyses.
            5. Discussion: Convince the committee why the project
               matters, including the contribution to psychology and to
               society.
      ii. Note that although you will use the proposal document as a basis
          for your thesis itself, your committee will likely make changes,
          both to your background and to your design.
   c. Create a thesis proposal presentation to summarize your thesis proposal
      document (click here for an example).
      i. Use the same sections as those in your thesis proposal document.
ii. Captivate your committee's attention, but be respectful in the presentation.

iii. Provide your committee with a printed copy of the presentation the day of the proposal.

d. Remind your committee about the meeting the day before the proposal.
e. Be prepared on the day of your proposal.
   i. Bring extra copies of your thesis proposal document.
   ii. Bring copies of your thesis proposal presentation.
   iii. Bring copies of all instruments/apparatuses (including IRB application, if completed).
   iv. Bring the Thesis Project Committee form (which the committee members will sign at the meeting, see http://www.uco.edu/graduate/forms/Thesis-ProjectCommittee.pdf.) Once signed, submit this document to the graduate college (NUC404).
   v. Understand that your committee will ask you questions about the study.

   a. Begin completing the IRB application before your thesis proposal meeting occurs, but note that your committee may require changes to your design that will affect the IRB application.
   b. Note that IRB applications require that you are familiar with the design of your study and that you have identified all materials/apparatuses you will use as well as risk inherent in your design.
   c. For more information on the UCO IRB, see http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/research-compliance/board.asp.
   d. To complete an IRB application, visit https://uco.my.irbmanager.com/. Click on the link to use your UCO username and password. Under your dashboard, choose “Click here to start a new application.”
      i. Note that there are three types of review:
         1. Exempt projects pose minimal risk to participants, have no identifying information, and often include existing data that are publicly available or data used for evaluation purposes.
         2. Expedited review projects included no more than minimal risk to participants and often include surveys, behavioral observation, and physiological measures.
         3. Full board review projects involve more than minimal risk to participants (such as with deception or considerably sensitive information) or involve vulnerable populations (such as children). NOTE: applicants must submit these projects at least 10 days before the full board meeting for the IRB to review the application at the full board meeting (typically scheduled as the first Wednesday of the month during the academic year).
IRB applications require a variety of documents for completion.

1. The application document requires researchers to describe the purpose/hypothesis of the study, recruitment methods, methodology/procedures, data storage, and risks to participants. See Appendix A for an example of an IRB application.

2. Researchers must provide PHRP certificates (see https://phrp.nihtraining.com) that are no older than two years for each researcher included in the study (see Appendix B). NOTE: PHRP certificate are required for faculty advisors as well as all confederates participating in the study.

3. Researchers must provide all recruitment materials, such as scripts, flyers, or e-mails. This includes Sona-Systems screenshots (see Appendix C) and Facebook status updates.

4. Researchers must provide letters of support from all off-campus data collection sites, if applicable.

5. Researchers must submit an informed consent form (see Appendix D).

6. Researchers must provide all surveys, questionnaires, and/or scripts participants will see/hear (see Appendix E).

7. Researchers must provide a privacy form (such as HIPAA), if applicable.

8. Researchers must provide a Waiver of Documentation of Consent form (for studies completed online without signed consent forms), if applicable (see Appendix F).

iii. Do not collect data until you receive an IRB approval letter (see Appendix G). If you are collecting data via Sona-Systems, send a copy of the approval letter to the Sona-Systems administrator (experimenttrak@uco.edu).

5. Consider submitting a proposal for funding.
   a. Research, Creative, and Scholarly Activity (RCSA) grant applications are due each Spring (see https://ucohip.infoready4.com/ for more information).
      i. Grants provide funding for up to 5 hours per week toward the project.
      ii. Grants provide up to $500 stipend (for materials/travel) for the project.
      iii. Grants provide a partial tuition waiver.
      iv. Grants are designed to cover an academic year.
   b. Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR) grant applications are due each semester (see https://ucostlr.infoready4.com/ for more information).
      i. Grants provide funding for up to 20 hours per week
toward the project.

ii. Separate grant applications can provide up to a $500 stipend for materials for the project.

iii. Grants are designed to cover one semester projects (but may be requested for more time).

iv. Researchers are encouraged to include multiple researchers (such as assistants) in the proposals; priority is given to projects including undergraduates.
Third Semester

6. Collect data.
   a. Aim to finish data collection during this semester.
   b. Be organized with your data collection. If you use paper copies, keep a binder for your paperwork.
   c. To reserve rooms in EDU309 or OLN114/116 or to request equipment, visit http://psyencefriday.weebly.com/reserve-space--equipment.html.
   d. Be sure to reserve rooms and equipment before posting timeslots on Sona-Systems (see Appendix H).
   e. Be courteous to other researchers and to participants in your (and other) studies.
   f. Be respectful of the lab space (do not leave personal belongings in the lab).
   g. Save data to a USB drive or cloud drive, not the computer you are using.

7. Become familiar with computer programs necessary for data analysis.
   a. Note that DirectRT, MediaLab, and SPSS are on all computers in EDU309.
   b. Note that SPSS is on all computers in OLN114/116.
   c. Each lab contains manuals for the programs installed; however, there are other helpful documents and YouTube videos on the Internet.

8. Revise the Background, Method, and Discussion section of your thesis draft as you collect data. Do not forget to keep writing during this data collection period.

9. Begin analyzing data. Do not wait until you are finished collecting data to create an SPSS template, practice running analyses, and examine preliminary findings.

10. Consider a data meeting and/or present at Psyence Friday (see https://www.facebook.com/groups/113014089309144/ for more information).
    a. Data meetings can consist of partial or whole thesis committees and may be as formal or as informal as preferred. Committee members can provide feedback on analyses.
    b. Psyence Friday provides a low-key opportunity for students to practice orally discussing projects, answering questions, and responding to feedback. Psyence Friday is a BYO lunch meeting that occurs on Fridays at (approximately) noon.

11. Consider enrolling in thesis hours.
    a. Students can enroll in up to 6 hours of thesis credit to count towards their degree (but once thesis credits begin, students must continue enrollment until graduation).
    b. Students must enroll in 3 hours of thesis credit the last semester before graduation.
    c. Thesis enrollment is considered irregular enrollment (see https://sites.uco.edu/graduate/forms/IrregularEnrollmentGR.pdf).
       i. Complete this form with your thesis chair.
ii. The course is PSY 5990.

iii. The title should be Thesis: (name/topic of thesis).

iv. After obtaining relevant signatures, submit the form to enrollment services (NUC124). Be sure to bring your student ID.

v. Review the thesis packet prepared by the graduate college for additional information (see http://sites.uco.edu/graduate/forms/ThesisPacketAll.pdf).
   a. Revise all necessary sections of your thesis, add your results
      (and additional discussion), transition to thesis format (see
      Appendix I), and submit a draft to your thesis chair (this will
      vary by thesis chair, but is typically at least 35 pages of text in
      length). NOTE: you may go through multiple versions of your
      document with your thesis chair before you have approval to
      send the document to your committee. Be sure to allot adequate
      time prior to your thesis defense for this contingency.
      i. Thesis formatting differs slightly from typical APA style.
         For example, margins are 1.5” on the left side (for
         binding) and 1” elsewhere. Page numbering changes.
         Additional pages (such as a table of contents) are
         included.
      ii. There are two types of thesis formats: article preparation
          style (see Appendix I) and chapter style. Clarify with your
          thesis chair about which style is appropriate for you to
          use.
           1. Article preparation style includes a manuscript
              intended for submission to a specific journal
              (identified to the committee) immediately
              following successful defense proceedings.
           2. Chapter format includes five separate chapters.
              This option – although not ready for publication in
              its current form – includes a more thorough
              literature review (typically) than the article
              preparation option.
      iii. Organization of the thesis follows a specific structure:
          1. Title Page
             a. The first page of the written report is the
                title page. This page is page 1, but does not
                include a page number. It includes the title
                of the thesis, the institution to which the
                report is submitted, the author's name, the
                date of submission (month and year only),
                and location of the institution. Your title
                should be brief, but must provide a
                complete and accurate description of your
                study.
          2. Signature Page
             a. The second page of the report is the
                signature page. It is page 2, but does not
                include a page number. It should include
the title of the study, the words “A THESIS APPROVED FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN EXPERIMENTAL (or Forensic) PSYCHOLOGY” and space for signatures for your Thesis Committee members.

3. Copyright Page
   a. The copyright page immediately follows the signature page and includes the copyright symbol © followed by your name and the year of your thesis defense. It is page 3, but does not include a page number.

4. Acknowledgements (optional)

5. Table of Contents
   a. The Table of Contents page follows the copyright page or acknowledgements (optional). Center “Table of Contents” at the top of the page. Number this page with the lower case Roman numeral "iv" or "v" depending on whether you included an acknowledgements page.
   b. The Table of Contents lists the major divisions of the thesis report. For each division, the beginning page number is given. The Table's purpose is to provide the reader with an outline of the material covered in the report. Indicate the relationship between sections with appropriate use of capitalization and indentation. The titles List of Tables, List of Figures, Abstract, Background, Method, Results, Discussion, References, Tables, Figures, and Appendix are included as major divisions on the Table of Contents page. If your report contains more than one appendix, list them separately.
   c. All titles and headings listed in the Table of Contents should correspond exactly with the titles and headings as they appear in the text of the report. In spacing the entries of the Table of Contents, list (only first) page numbers on the right-hand side of the page.

6. List of Tables (if applicable)
   a. Each written report will differ on this item. The format should generally follow that of
the Table of Contents. List tables (with correct page numbers) separately. Use the titles of tables for the entries in this list. Number this page as “v” or “vi.” Omit this page if your thesis does not include tables.

7. List of Figures (if applicable)
   a. Each written report will differ on this item. The format should generally follow that of the Table of Contents. List figures (with correct page numbers) separately. Use the figure captions for the entries in this list. Number this page as “v,” “vi,” or “vii.” Omit this page if your thesis does not include figures.

8. Abstract
   a. The abstract provides the reader with a quick, comprehensive summary of your thesis. The condensed summary enables other researchers to determine whether you have sufficiently related the contents to the research (and thus, it is worthwhile to read your thesis). Number this page with a Roman numeral (it is the last page numbered this way). The entire abstract should be no more than one double-spaced, typewritten page in length. As stated in the APA Manual, a good abstract should be accurate, self-contained, concise and specific, non-evaluative, coherent, and readable.

9. Text of Report
   a. Following the abstract is the actual text of the report. As mentioned previously, the body of the report follows the guidelines of manuscript preparation outlined in the Manual. The title should be centered at the top of the page (and is numbered page one) and appropriate heading levels should be used throughout the report. Page numbers should appear centered at the bottom of each page. If using chapter format, each chapter should begin on a new page.
      i. Introduction (Chapter 1)
      ii. Background (Chapter 2)
      iii. Method (Chapter 3)
         1. Participants
Prepare for your thesis defense.

a. Schedule a thesis defense with the members of your committee.
   i. Doodle poll is a great way to organize schedules of your members (see https://doodle.com/create).
   ii. Once scheduled, see the departmental administrative assistant to reserve a room. Remember that if you use a conference room instead of a classroom, you will need to provide a laptop computer with an HDMI port to use in the presentation. Also remember that thesis defenses are open to the public, so be sure to reserve a room that is big enough to be accommodating.
   iii. Send an e-mail confirmation to your committee once the room is reserved. Be professional in all correspondence with your committee.

b. Schedule a thesis defense with the graduate college. Complete the form (see http://sites.uco.edu/graduate/current/ThesisDefenseSchedulingForm.pdf) at least two weeks before your defense date.

c. **Two weeks before** your thesis defense, send your thesis to the members of your committee. This is also a good time to remind your committee about the chosen date/time/location of the proposal.

d. **Two weeks before** your thesis defense, advertise it. Post flyers with
your thesis information (see Appendix J) in multiple locations.

e. Consider competing in the Three Minute Thesis event (see http://sites.uco.edu/graduate/three-minute-thesis.asp) to practice explaining your research and potentially win up to $1,000.


a. Create a thesis defense presentation to summarize your thesis.
   i. Use the same sections as those in your thesis.
   ii. Captivate your committee’s attention, but be respectful in the presentation.
   iii. Provide your committee with a printed copy of the presentation the day of the proposal.

b. Remind your committee about the meeting the day before the defense.

c. Be prepared on the day of your defense.
   i. Bring extra copies of your thesis proposal document.
   ii. Bring copies of your thesis.
   iii. Bring copies of all instruments/apparatuses (if not included as appendices).
   iv. Bring food for your committee (breakfast, snacks, or lunch). Satiated committee members make for happy committee members.
   v. Dress professionally and look presentable.
   vi. Invite your colleagues and your loved ones.
   viii. Get plenty of rest the night before.

d. Do not forget to include an acknowledgements slide. Thank the your thesis chair, your committee, the department, the college, the university, any grant support for the project, and anyone else who helped you survive the process.

e. Note that following the presentation, your thesis chair will open for questions.
   i. Your outside member goes first, followed by your in content-department member, followed by your thesis chair, followed by graduate college representative, followed by any other faculty members present, followed by anyone in the room.
   ii. The point of the questions is to see if you can defend why you did what you did and why you found what you found. It is to make sure that you thoroughly understand your project and can explain it to others successfully.

f. Following these questions, your thesis chair will ask everyone outside the committee to leave the room. During this time, the committee will deliberate the merits of your thesis. Following deliberation, you will re-enter the room and hear the decision of the committee. NOTE: expect revisions, even if/when you successfully pass your thesis defense. Plan plenty of time to make
required changes before the deadline to submit your thesis to the library before graduation.
g. Bring signature pages (on 25% cotton paper) to the thesis defense. Your committee will sign these (which are used for the actual binding of the thesis) there. Make sure you bring plenty of copies (you must have at least three for the university) and that the page follows the format required of the thesis. It is also customary to provide your thesis chair with a bound copy of your thesis (and add as many copies as you want for your other members, your family, and yourself).

15. Revise your thesis.
   a. Even the best thesis documents require changes following defenses. Be sure to allot adequate time post-defense to make all changes required by your thesis chair (and your thesis committee).
   b. Once the revisions are complete, send the final document to your thesis chair. Your thesis chair will have to approve the final document before 1) assigning you a passing grade on your thesis for your transcript, and 2) allowing you to bind and deposit your thesis with the university.

   a. Submit the title page, signature page, and abstract to the graduate college no later than the last day of classes before graduation.
   b. Submit two paper copies of the thesis (on 25% cotton paper) for binding to the Archives and Special Collections in the Chamber Library (Lib215) no later than the last day of the semester (see also http://library.uco.edu/services/Thesis%20Deposit%20Guideline.pdf).
      i. Complete the binding form (see http://library.uco.edu/services/Binding%20Form-Original.pdf).
      ii. Pay $10 per bound copy (cash or check only).
      iii. Organize each copy with binder clips for ease of use.
      iv. Note that the archives office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
      v. Binding takes approximately two months. Following binding, you can pick up your personal copies from the library or have them mailed to you (for an additional fee of $5 per copy).
      vi. The library will keep one bound copy of your thesis. The library will send a copy to the Psychology Department.
      i. Save your document as a .pdf file.
ii. Insert your signature page (that you will have to scan with signatures) into the document.

iii. Follow the online guidelines for submission.

17. GRADUATE!!!
   a. Do not forget to check with your thesis chair about hooding you during the graduation ceremony.
   b. Celebrate!
Appendix A
IRB Application Form

View xForm - Initial Review Application (IRB)

New application for proposed research effort.

New Protocol Data Entry Type of Application

Has this study previously undergone exempt determination, was determined ineligible for exempt status, and now requires submission of this application?
No-First Application

Project Information

Submitter
Limke-McLean, Alicia Ph.D.
Email: alimke@uco.edu
Phone:

What is the title of the project?
Protestant Theology Project

If one of your study contacts is not currently available within the UCO IRBManager system, please use the following link to add the new contact.
Please click here to begin the New Contact Form

Please enter the UCO email address of the Principal Investigator (PI), if you are the PI please enter your own email.
Limke-McLean, Alicia Ph.D.

Expiration: PHRP Certification - 03/08/2019

Please identify the role of the PI to UCO.
Faculty Member

Please choose a funding source from the list provided.
Wright, Ronald
Unfunded

Expiration: PHRP Certification - 03/08/2019
Describe the purpose/hypothesis of the project or the research problem in enough detail that we can ascertain what the project is about. Describe why it is being done and the importance of the knowledge expected to result. Explain how the project/study fits with and extends current knowledge.

One particularly under-researched area of religiosity and spirituality involves examining individual differences in theological beliefs. These theological differences include interpretation of scripture, church practices, and moral judgements (Johnson, 1967) among other differences and are often described using a continuum of conservative to liberal (or conservative to modernist; e.g., Spilka & Bridges, 1991; Strunk & Larsen, 1974). Research involving theological differences has examined ideas about mental health, medical training/decisions, and empathy in pastoral situations (McLeland & Sutton, 2008; Neumann & Leppien, 1997; Stack & Wasserma, 1992; Virkler, 1980). Other research has illustrated the link between theological differences and economic, political, and social beliefs (e.g. Barker & Carman, 2000; Bean, 2014; Green, 2003; Guth et al., 2003; Johnson, 1967, 1998; Kiecolt & Nelson, 1988; Spilka & Bridges, 1991). Researchers have even associated theological beliefs and job satisfaction (Mueller & Mc Duff, 2004). However, language and terminology are important (Smith, 2008) when defining and measuring these differences and most research hosts a variety of methodological issues. For example, surveys used may too short to contain a variety of aspects of theological beliefs (cf. Kaldestad, 1992; Reimer, 2011), the surveys were originally validated using a narrow/biased sample (e.g., Kaldestad, 1992), or the differences were based on denominational distinctions that assumed theological differences as a result (e.g., Ellison & Goodson, 1997; Taylor & Merino, 2011) even though considerable variability exists within denominations, both between and within denominations (Blakie, 1976; Davidson, 1972; Hoge, Johnson, & Luidens, 1994; Reimer, 2011) and even self-identification is more appropriate (Taylor & Merino, 2011) than utilizing denominational categories. To address these methodological issues and to (for the first time) examine the link between theological beliefs and attachment to God, we created a new scale – the Protestant Theology Scale – that included a variety of beliefs relevant to wide range of Protestant denominations and provided a scale on a continuum of liberal to conservative theological beliefs. We have also included a variety of currently used measures of religiosity, spirituality, and philosophy for convergent and discriminant validity purposes. We expected attachment to God (both anxiety about abandonment by God and avoidance of intimacy with God) to predict theological beliefs.

Recruitment

Please choose all types of subjects.

Other
Please describe the other subjects to be included in your research.

UCO students will register through Sona-Systems (an experiment facilitation and registration website through the University of Central Oklahoma) to participate in this study. Students will be given instructions on how to register for use of Sona-Systems during their General Psychology classes. Only participants who are 18 years of age or older will be allowed to participate. This age restriction will be a selection criterion that will be entered into Sona-Systems to help assure that only participants 18 years of age or older will be allowed to view, access, and register for the study. The Sona-Systems announcement will read as follows: "For this study, participants will complete online questionnaires (for one credit towards their research requirement). Participants must be 18 years or older." After registering for the study, participants will be directed to www.surveymonkey.com, where there will be a statement on the informed consent form that reads "By continuing I affirm that I am at least 18 years of age."

AND/OR

Participants will be recruited through a link provided to them with a message containing a link to the study and an indication of possible reward for their complete participation. The principal investigator and research team personnel will post a "status update" on Facebook that provides information about the study, including the link to the online data collection mechanism, SurveyMonkey (see www.surveymonkey.com). The status updates will read as follows: "Hello everyone! We are working on a research study regarding the theological beliefs of Protestants that has been approved by the University of Central Oklahoma Institutional Review Board. (#XXXX). We need as many people as possible to complete some questionnaires. Please complete the whole study (for a chance to win a $25 gift card) found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ProtestantTheology. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Participation in the study is completely confidential (you only provide an e-mail address for the drawing and your odds of winning will be no worse than 1/50). Feel free to share the link as well. Thanks for participating!"

Please check the procedures you plan to recruit participants. You must attach a copy of your recruitment flyer, script for email or online posting, or in-person announcement at the end of this application form.

Other
Please describe other recruitment procedures you plan to use in your research.

UCO students will register through Sona-Systems (an experiment facilitation and registration website through the University of Central Oklahoma) to participate in this study. Students will be given instructions on how to register for use of Sona-Systems during their General Psychology classes. Only participants who are 18 years of age or older will be allowed to participate. This age restriction will be a selection criterion that will be entered into Sona-Systems to help assure that only participants 18 years of age or older will be allowed to view, access, and register for the study. The Sona-Systems announcement will read as follows: "For this study, participants will complete online questionnaires (for one credit towards their research requirement). Participants must be 18 years or older." After registering for the study, participants will be directed to www.surveymonkey.com, where there will be a statement on the informed consent form that reads "By continuing I affirm that I am at least 18 years of age."

AND/OR

Participants will be recruited through a link provided to them with a message containing a link to the study and an indication of possible reward for their complete participation. The principal investigator and research team personnel will post a "status update" on Facebook that provides information about the study, including the link to the online data collection mechanism, SurveyMonkey (see www.surveymonkey.com). The status updates will read as follows: "Hello everyone! We are working on a research study regarding the theological beliefs of Protestants that has been approved by the University of Central Oklahoma Institutional Review Board. (#XXXX). We need as many people as possible to complete some questionnaires. Please complete the whole study (for a chance to win a $25 gift card) found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ProtestantTheology. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Participation in the study is completely confidential (you only provide an e-mail address for the drawing and your odds of winning will be no worse than 1/50). Feel free to share the link as well. Thanks for participating!"

Please describe all recruitment locations, including on campus or off campus, as well as specific identification of location. You must attached an email/letter of permission to conduct your research at each location at the end of this application form. Indicate steps to be taken to minimize undue influence or coercion when using a classroom.

Participants will be recruited from the participant pool in the Department of Psychology at the University of Central Oklahoma. They will receive credit towards their research participation course requirement for their participation in the study. Students will be given instructions on how to register for use of Sona-Systems during their General Psychology classes.

AND/OR

Participants will be recruited on the Internet through Facebook.com.

What is the maximum number of subjects you expect to recruit?

400

Provide justification for the number of subjects you expect to recruit.

It is expected that approximately 400 subjects will participate in this research. This number is based on estimates of the potential variability among the subjects and the high likelihood that participants will choose to participate in an online study for which they do not need to schedule an appointment. Moreover, research utilizing a multiple regression design follows a general rule for determining sample size: A sample of 40 is necessary to examine how one predictor explains variability in one outcome. For each variable added (in which an interaction is examined), the sample size needed doubles.
Methodology / Procedures

Describe the methods to be used in this study, including study design, measurements or observations of subjects, and what subjects will experience. Provide the estimated total time to complete research participation.

Participants will be provided a link to a questionnaire available on SurveyMonkey (see www.surveymonkey.com). After clicking on the link, participants will read an informed consent form (see attachment). By continuing, they will indicate their consent to participate in the research project. Participants will then complete measures assessing their theological beliefs, religiosity and spirituality, and cognition:

- Attachment to God Inventory (Beck & McDonald, 2004)
- Christian Orthodoxy Scale (Fullerton & Hunsberger, 1982)
- Death Anxiety Inventory - Revised (Tomas-Sabado, Gomez-Benito, & Limonero, 2006)
- Defensive Theology Scale (Beck, 2006)
- Implicit Theories of Relationships (Knee, 1998) - ADDDED
- Meaning in Life Questionnaire (Steger, Frazier, Oishi, & Kaler, 2006)
- Need for Closure Scale (Webster & Kruglanski, 1994)
- Need for Cognition Scale (Cacioppo, Petty, & Kao, 1984)
- Need to Evaluate Scale (Jarvis & Petty, 1996)
- New Indices of Religious Orientation (Francis, 2007)
- Personal Need for Structure Scale (Neuberg & Newsom, 1993)
- Post-Critical Belief Scale (Duriez, Fontaine, & Hutsebaut, 2000)
- Protestant Theology Scale (NEW)
- Religious Fundamentalism Scale - Revised (Altemeyer & Hunsberger, 2004)
- Demographic and Cultural Background Survey (DQ)

Participants will receive a link to a questionnaire available on SurveyMonkey (see www.surveymonkey.com). After clicking on the link, participants will read an informed consent form. By continuing, they will indicate their consent to participate in the research project.

Do you plan to conduct any of your research via the internet?

Yes

Check which of the following you plan to use.

SONA
Survey Monkey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will you be using questionnaires, surveys, tests, or other written instruments? If yes, you will be required to attach copies of the scripts/documents at the end of this form.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where will data be collected and stored? Identify where exactly data will be collected and stored (which would include blood draw location if blood being drawn), as well as what steps that will be taken to ensure that data is securely stored.</td>
<td>Participants will receive a link to a questionnaire available on SurveyMonkey (see <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com">www.surveymonkey.com</a>). After clicking on the link, participants will read an informed consent form. By continuing, they will indicate their consent to participate in the research project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who will have access to the data collected?</td>
<td>PI, Co-PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who will be responsible for the security of the data?</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What length of time will each type of data be maintained. Please identify whether electronic or paper. <strong>Signed consent forms are required to be maintained for 3 years following the close of the study by Federal Regulations.</strong></td>
<td>The electronic files will be destroyed (in accordance with the policies of the American Psychological Association) five years following publication of the results from the data. Electronic files will be deleted. No paper copies of data will be kept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please identify who will be responsible for destruction of data and how data will be destroyed, given the type of data to be destroyed.</td>
<td>The PI will be responsible for destroying the electronic data.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will you be using existing data?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will tissue or blood samples be collected for data?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will medical clearance be necessary for subjects to participate because of tissue or blood sampling, administration of food or drugs, or physical exercise conditioning?</td>
<td>Please check all of the potential risks for the participants of this study. Personal or sensitive information about subject or family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please identify the level of risk for this study.
Research not involving more than minimal risk.

Please justify the rationale for subjecting the participants to the risks of this study, explain what will be done to minimize the risks for the study, and describe the benefits of participation for the subjects (if there are any, if not state that there are none).

It is necessary to ask participants these questions to test the hypotheses of this study. Asking these questions (which are minimal in risk) is the least intrusive way to assess these links.

**Methodology / Procedures Continued**

**Will subjects be deceived or misled in any way?**

No

**Please check the inducements used for this study.**

Course Credit
Other

**If course credit or extra credit is offered, what alternative means of obtaining additional credit are available to those students who do not wish to participate in this research project?**

Some participants will complete the study for research credit. In General Psychology courses, students are required to earn some "units" of research experience. This requirement may be fulfilled in two ways 1) serving as a participant in current projects, or 2) researching and writing short reports on designated research topics. Each hour of participation in a research project is generally regarded as satisfying one "unit" of the requirement. Students will be allowed to substitute credit for writing short reports on designated research topics for participation credit. OR Participants will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a $25 gift card (there will be one drawing per 50 participants).

**Please explain what other inducement you plan to use for participation in this study.**

Some participants will complete the study for research credit. In General Psychology courses, students are required to earn some "units" of research experience. This requirement may be fulfilled in two ways 1) serving as a participant in current projects, or 2) researching and writing short reports on designated research topics. Each hour of participation in a research project is generally regarded as satisfying one "unit" of the requirement. Students will be allowed to substitute credit for writing short reports on designated research topics for participation credit. OR Participants will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a $25 gift card (there will be one drawing per 50 participants).

**Will the participant be required to sign a consent form to participate in this study? If yes upload a copy of the consent form. To access UCO consent template click here.**

No
**UCO Department of Psychology**  
**Thesis Guide**

### If the participant will not sign a consent form check the box of what type of consent will be sought for participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Consent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attach either the Waiver of Documentation form or the Waiver of Consent form here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Waiver of Documentation**

**Waiver of Consent**

*You must upload a Waiver of Documentation (to get this document click here) in instances where the participant will not sign a consent form but you will retain personal identifiable information of that participant or upload of Waiver of Consent (to get this document click here) in instances where the participant will not sign a consent and the research will not obtain any personal identifiable information about the participant.*

### Who will be consented, check all that apply?

- Participant

### Please identify where the consent process will occur.

Participants will be provided a link to a questionnaire available on SurveyMonkey (see [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)). After clicking on the link, participants will read an informed consent form. By continuing, they will indicate their consent to participate in the research project.

### Will you use a Certificate of Confidentiality for this study? If yes please upload a copy of obtained certificate at the end of this form.

- No

### Will any aspect of the data be made a part of a record that can be identified with the subject?

- No

### Will a master code sheet be kept for purposes of identity security?

- No

### Does this study involve?

- None of the above

### Will the fact that a particular subject did or did not participate or complete a specific experiment or study be made a part of any record available to supervisor, teacher, or employer?

- Yes
Please explain the justification for the necessity in reporting a particular participant's non-participation or non-completion.

For participants completing the study for credit, General Psychology instructors will be informed of the participation (but not information provided) of their students. This information must be released so that instructors may audit the number of research participation credits each student earned (to determine whether that course requirement was satisfied). They do not need nor do they receive any other information.

Please describe the benefits of your study to society.

Findings from this research will be of benefit to marriage counselors, spiritual leaders, marriage advocacy groups, parents, and to individuals seeking to understand their affiliation with God.

### Necessary Attachments

**Please attach training certificates.**

**TRAINING CERTIFICATES ATTACHED HERE**

**Please attach protocol.**

*No answer provided.*

**Please attach all recruitment material such as scripts, flyers, or emails.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sona-Systems Information.pdf</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Please attach your letter of support from off UCO campus study sites, as well as instructor's approval for classroom interruption on campus.**

*No answer provided.*

**Please attach the test battery you planned to use in this study.**

*No answer provided.*

**Please attach the survey or questionnaire to be used.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEASURES.pdf</th>
<th>Questionnaire / Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEASURES - updated.pdf</td>
<td>Questionnaire / Survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please attach the research team agreement.**

*No answer provided.*

**Please attach the privacy form.**

*No answer provided.*

**Please attach any documentation you believe needs to be considered for your research effort that is not called out.**

*No answer provided.*
Investigator's Statement

Please confirm agreement to each statement by checking the statement.

This application represents an accurate and complete description of my proposed research project. I agree to provide the proper surveillance of this project to ensure that rights and welfare of the human subjects are properly protected. I agree to comply fully with any requirements made by the UCO IRB.

The Human contact portion of my research will not be begin until the UCO IRB has given its written approval. Any additions or changes after the project has been approved will be submitted to the IRB and approved prior to implementation.

Unless otherwise directed by the IRB, I will renew this application with the IRB no more than every 11 months as long as I intend to continue the research effort.

Everyone listed as Key Personnel, including myself, will comply with the SOP regarding staying current with human subjects research training completed every 2 years or be in good standing with his or her home institution.

I do not have an economic interest that could affect or appear to affect the design, conduct, or reporting of the research. I am responsible for reporting any emergent problems, serious adverse effects, or reactions participant's may experience.
Certificate of Completion

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Extramural Research certifies that Alicia Limke-McLean successfully completed the NIH Web-based training course "Protecting Human Research Participants".

Date of completion: 03/08/2017.

Certification Number: 2346763.
# UCO Department of Psychology

## Thesis Guide

### Appendix C

### Sona-Systems Screenshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Information</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Name</strong></td>
<td>A: Protestant Theology Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Type</strong></td>
<td>Online External Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This study is an online study located on another website. Participants are not given access to the Study URL until after they sign up for the study.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Status</strong></td>
<td>Visible to participants: Approved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Active study: Appears on list of available studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Online (web) study: Administered outside the system</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
<td>1 Credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">CP View Study Website</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Instructions**

You can also configure it so that participants receive credit in the system immediately after finishing the survey. If you are using SurveyMonkey, add `&LSURVEY_CODE%` to the end of the URL to make use of this feature.

[Get help](#) for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>In this study, participants will complete online questionnaires taking approximately 45 minutes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Age 18 or older</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescreen Restrictions</th>
<th>No Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Additional Study Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant Sign-Up Deadline</th>
<th>0 hours before the study is to occur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant Cancellation Deadline</td>
<td>0 hours before the study is to occur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a direct URL for participants to access the study. You may use this in an email or study advertisement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Created</th>
<th>February 6, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Researcher Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Alicia Limke</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

[Get help](#) for more information.


University of Central Oklahoma
Informed Consent Form for Participation

Family and Relationships

This is to certify that I agree to participate in research as part of an authorized research program of the University of Central Oklahoma, under the supervision of Dr. Alicia Limke-McLean. The purpose of this study is to examine the nature of attitudes and relationships. I understand that I will answer a variety of questions toward this goal, including describing my feelings and opinions about religion and spirituality and providing demographic information.

If I have any questions about this study, I may contact Dr. Alicia Limke-McLean by phone, at (405) 974-5454, or by e-mail, at alimke@uco.edu. If I have any questions about my rights as a research participant, I may contact the UCO Institutional Review Board by phone, at (405) 974-5479, or by e-mail, at irb@uco.edu.

1. I understand that I will be answering questions about items that may be personal in nature. Some of these items may make some participants slightly uncomfortable. However, I also understand that participants in this study may gain insight into their own psychological state by answering the items during the laboratory session. In addition, they will be exposed to the research process by participating in the study (which is a benefit to the participants as well as the researchers in this study).

• This study is voluntary – I do not have to participate if I choose not to, and I may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. I understand that I may refuse to answer any question at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.

• I understand that this study is anonymous – any information collected from me will only be used in an analysis as part of a larger group of participants. Any identifying information (i.e., my email address) will only be used for the purpose of the gift card drawing and I do not have to provide it to complete the study (only to be eligible for the gift card drawing). Moreover, the online data collection mechanism used in the study (i.e., www.surveymonkey.com) will deidentify the answers provided by me, such that none of my responses will be linked to me. To this end, I understand that the researchers cannot refer me to anyone on the basis of my answers to the materials, but if I would like to visit with someone regarding sensitive or special concerns, I may contact the UCO Center for Counseling and Well-Being (for UCO students; see see http://sites.ucol.edu/student-affairs/ucc/index.aspx) or call the Crisis Call Center free hotline at (800) 273-8255 (see https://www.opencounseling.com/hotlines).

• I understand that I must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

I understand that by agreeing to participate in this research, I do not waive any of my legal rights. I understand that the research investigator named above will answer any of my questions about the research procedure and my rights as a participant. I understand that the research investigator is also available and willing to answer any questions I may have about the nature, importance, or contribution of the results of this study. I understand all of the above information and understand that I will not be deceived during the course of the study. If I would like a copy of this form, I should print a copy for my records now.

☐ I consent to participation
☐ I do not consent to participation
**Attitudes and Religion**

*2. Instructions: The following statements concern how you feel about your relationship with God. We are interested in how you generally experience your relationship with God, not just in what is happening in that relationship currently. Respond to each statement by indicating how much you agree or disagree with it.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree strongly</th>
<th>Neutral/mixed</th>
<th>Agree strongly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I worry a lot about my relationship with God.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I just don’t feel a deep need to be close to God.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. If I can’t see God working in my life, I get upset or angry.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I am totally dependent upon God for everything in my life.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I am jealous at how God seems to care for others more than for me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. It is uncommon for me to cry when sharing with God.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sometimes I feel that God loves others more than me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. My experiences with God are very intimate and emotional.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I am jealous at how close some people are to God.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. I prefer not to depend too much on God.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I often worry about whether God is pleased with me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. I am uncomfortable being emotional in my communication with God.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Even if I fail, I never question that God is pleased with me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. My prayers to God are often matter-of-fact and not very personal.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Almost daily, I feel that my relationship with God goes back and forth from “hot” to “cold.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16. I am uncomfortable with emotional displays of affection to God.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. I fear God does not accept me when I do wrong.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Without God I couldn’t function at all.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. I often feel angry with God for not responding to me when I want.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. I believe people should not depend on God for things they should do themselves.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Thesis Guide
Appendix F
Waiver of Documentation of Consent

UCO IRB REVIEW DOCUMENTATION: Waiver of Documentation

If you are granting a waiver of the requirement to obtain a signed consent form, you must document the following:

1. The entire consent (or elements) was waived under 45 CFR 46.116(d).
   [ ] Yes [x] No

2. The only record linking the subject and the research is the consent document and the principal risk is from a breach of confidentiality. Subjects are asked if they want documentation and their wishes will govern.
   [ ] Yes [x] No

3. The research involves no more than minimal risk and involves no procedure for which written consent is normally required outside of the research context.
   [ ] Yes [x] No

4. It is not practicable to conduct the research without the waiver.
   (i.e., Internet survey)
   [ ] Yes [x] No

5. The participant population is too young to give consent.
   [ ] Yes [x] No

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, provide a brief description of the reason(s) the waiver is necessary. Participants will receive a link to an online questionnaire (see www.surveymonkey.com). After clicking on the link, participants will read an informed Consent Form. By continuing, they will indicate their consent to participate in the research project. See the statement from the informed Consent Form (provided electronically as part of the survey) below:

I understand that by agreeing to participate in this research, I do not waive any of my legal rights. I understand that the research investigator named above will answer any of my questions about the research procedure and my rights as a participant. I understand that the research investigator is also available and willing to answer any questions I may have about the nature, importance, or contribution of the results of this study. I understand all of the above information and understand that I will not be deceived during the course of the study. I hereby agree to participate in the above-described research. I understand my participation is voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without penalty. By continuing, I affirm that I am at least 18 years of age. If I would like a copy of this form, I need to print a copy for my records before continuing to the next page.

If a waiver is granted, the IRB will still require that subjects are provided with some form of information about the research. Indicate which of the following it will be:

- [ ] Written information sheet/summary
- [ ] Verbal explanation
- [x] Other (specify)

Form revised 4/3/13
February 26, 2018

Proposal Title: Protestant Theology Project

Type of Review: Initial Review-Expedited

Investigator(s):
Alisik Limke-McLean, Ph.D.

Dear Dr. Limke-McLean:

Re: Application for IRB Review of Research Involving Human Subjects

We have received your materials for your application. The UCO IRB has determined that the above named application is APPROVED BY EXPEDITED REVIEW. The Board has provided expedited review under 45 CFR 46.110, for research involving no more than minimal risk and research Category 7.

Date of Approval: February 23, 2018

Date of Approval Expiration: February 22, 2019

If applicable, informed consent (and HIPAA authorization) must be obtained from subjects or their legally authorized representatives prior to research involvement. A stamped, approved copy of the informed consent form will be made available to you. The IRB-approved consent form and process must be used, where applicable. While this project is approved for the period noted above, any modification to the procedures and/or consent form must be approved prior to incorporation into the study.

It is the responsibility of the investigator to promptly report to the IRB any serious or unexpected adverse events or unanticipated problems that may be a risk to the subjects.

Please let us know if the IRB or Office of Research Integrity and Compliance can be of any further assistance to your research efforts. Never hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Melissa Powers, Ph.D.
Chair, Institutional Review Board
University of Central Oklahoma
100 N. University Dr.
Edmond, OK 73034
405-974-3497
irb@uco.edu
1. E-mail the Sona-Systems administrator ([experimenttrak@uco.edu](mailto:experimenttrak@uco.edu)) to be added as a researcher on the site.

![Sona-Systems login page]

3. Login to Sona-Systems using your UCO email and the generated password that the system will send you.
4. Go to “Add New Study” to create your study information.
UCO Department of Psychology
Thesis Guide

5. Choose study type (standard is the default).
6. Enter study information.
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7. Review study information. Be sure to provide enough detail to encourage participation but not too much detail (so that you do not give away your hypothesis). Note that each hour of participation equates to one credit of participation. Click on Modify Restrictions, select age, and select every age 18 and above.

8. Select “submit for approval” and attach a copy of your IRB approval for review.

9. After booking rooms/equipment (if appropriate), create timeslots. Select View/Administer Time Slots on the study information page (or go to My Studies).

10. Select Add a Timeslot or Add Multiple Timeslots.
11. You will then be taken to this screen. Here you specify the date, time, and location of your timeslot (REMEMBER: These should have already been reserved online). You can specify how many participants you want to run at once as well.

12. Now you have studies that participants can see and sign up to do. You give them credit after they participate through SONA.

13. Email SONA questions to experimenttrak@uco.edu or the GA. SONA should be self-explanatory once you begin using it.
Appendix I
Selected Sample Thesis Pages

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
GRADUATE COLLEGE

ORGANIZATION OF PARENT KNOWLEDGE

A DISSERTATION
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

©Copyright by ALICIA LIMKE 2005
All Rights Reserved.

ORIENTATION OF PARENT KNOWLEDGE

A Dissertation APPROVED FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

By

Carolin J. Showers, Ph.D.

Jennifer K. Blanton, Ph.D.

Acknowledgements

It has been my lifelong goal to complete a doctoral education. However, I
certainly could not have done it without the help and support of several individuals.
First, I would like to thank my advisor and mentor, Dr. Carolin Showers, for believing in
me enough to take a chance on a young student with much to learn. Over the past five
years, she has invested her time and interest in my education and training, and I feel very
blessed to have been able to work with her throughout my graduate career. I truly feel
like I have become a better researcher and writer because of her guidance.

I am also grateful to the other members of my advisory committee, Dr. Jennifer
Blanton, Dr. Scott Greenland, Dr. Susan Sharp, and Dr. Robert Terry, for their interest,
insight, and encouragement throughout this process. I feel privileged to have been able to
learn from their diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. In addition, I would like to
thank my undergraduate research assistants, Janell Holman, Brent Horner, Jason
Hewiden, Stawi Benz, and Uhle Thieser, for their help in collecting and entering data.

Finally, I would like to convey my gratitude to my family. I cannot express the
appreciation I have for my husband, Andy. His unflinching love, dedication, and support
have made my doctoral education possible. He is also my reality check – reminding me
although this is a wonderful achievement, my faith, family, and friends are the true
foundations of fulfillment and happiness in life. I would also like to thank my parents,
Jay and Norma Lyon, for their patience and confidence in my education and throughout
my life.
Abstract

The present study explored the association between organization of knowledge about parents and the types of relationships that adult children have with them. This study demonstrated that for fathers, types of relationships were predicted primarily by the content of parent knowledge and not knowledge structure. However, for mothers, structure of parent knowledge was associated with three distinct types of parent-child relationships. Positively contextualized structure (in which positive and negative beliefs about mothers were categorized together) and positive beliefs were rated as more important than negative ones were associated with relationships characterized by positive attitudes and attributions and high levels of closeness, contact, and cooperation in the relationship. Positively evocative structure (in which positive and negative beliefs about mothers were categorized separately, and positive beliefs were rated as more important than negative ones) were associated with relationships characterized by moderately positive attitudes, moderately high levels of closeness, positive attributions, and low levels of contact and cooperation. Negative parent structure (in which there were high levels of negative belief about mothers, and these negative beliefs were considered more important than positive ones) were associated with relationships characterized by negative attitudes and attributions, and low levels of closeness, contact, and cooperation.

Organization of Parent Knowledge

Researchers who study adult relationships have suggested a variety of strategies that people use to cope with relationship partners’ negative characteristics and behaviors (Fink & Bradley, 1992; Murray & Holman, 1993; Showers & Kershaw, 1989). For example, individuals may decide to distance themselves emotionally or physically from the partner (Ginsburg & Hensel, 1989; Vangelisti & Young, 2000) or employ more cognitively-oriented strategies, such as focusing only on positive behaviors and characteristics and ignoring negative ones (Birnie & Boss, 1999; Johnson & Rotterham, 1989). Individuals may even transform negative characteristics or behaviors into positive ones, for example, by interpreting a partner’s behavior as criticisms in the partner’s dedication to detail and perfection (Murray & Holman, 1993).

Of particular interest are strategies of cognitive reorganization of knowledge (e.g., Reibstein, 1992; Luschei, 1981; Showers, 1989b). The model of cognitive reorganization of knowledge suggests that strategies for reorganizing positive and negative beliefs about a relationship partner have an impact on how one thinks about a partner’s negative characteristics and behaviors, and even predict positive feelings about a partner and relationship outcome, such as relationship longevity (Showers & Kershaw, 1989; Showers & Ziegelbauer, 2004). It is also possible that these organizational structures are linked to other strategies individuals might use. Thus, these strategies might correspond to or even facilitate the use of additional cognitive or behavioral mechanisms. The present study applies the model of reorganizational schemas of knowledge to parent-child relationships in an attempt to investigate this link.
References

Footnotes
1 In a study of middle-aged and geographically matched non-mated college students (Linaka, Zepil-Hill, & Showers, 2013), analyses revealed that children from single-gender families were likely to have integrative self-structures. In addition, low parental education was associated with greater differential importance (citing positive traits as more important than negative ones) for females.

2 The additional 20 traits were chosen based on a pilot study in which eight participants generated aspects and traits that described their parents. Participants were given the basic instructions, “your task is to think of different aspects of your father’s mother or your father’s father’s life and then form groups of traits that go together, where each group of traits describes an aspect of your father’s mother or your father’s father’s life.” However, instead of providing a card deck of traits, participants were told to generate the traits that should be included in their parent-aspects. They were interested that they could use as many or as few traits as they wished, and that traits may be reused in different parent-aspects. Any trait generated by a participant in this procedure that was not already represented in the card deck was added.

3 Each of the 35 added traits was presented to an independent group of 16 individuals who used the valence of the trait. Participants were given instructions to rate the positivity and negativity of each trait on a 7-point scale. These ratings had a high inter-item reliability, r = .95.

4 With the exception of the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1963), measures of adjustment and attachment were not included in dissertation analyses.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Personalized</th>
<th>Shared</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>Guaranteed</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Intellectual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le</td>
<td>Adaptable</td>
<td>Smart</td>
<td>Stable</td>
<td>Smart</td>
<td>Practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le</td>
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<td>Smart</td>
<td>Practical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: A minus sign indicates negative attributes. These five sets of items, including the open labels, were presented to 12 participants in this study.
University of Central Oklahoma
Public Defense of a Master’s Thesis
Personality and Situational Correlates of False Confessions
by
Kathryn Schrantz

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology
Tuesday, March 25, 2014
8:30 AM
EDU 306

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