

Michael J. Roche
The Pennsylvania State University
Department of Psychology
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Education

2009 (expected) B.S., Psychology, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
2009 (expected) B.S., Business Management, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania
2009 (expected) Minor, Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania

Cumulative Grade Point Average: 3.76

Research Experience

Pennsylvania State University, Department of Psychology, State College, PA
Personality Psychology Laboratory Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Aaron Pincus, 2007-present

Administered questionnaires to student and clinical participants. Attended weekly lab meetings, cleaned data, coded qualitative data using the interpersonal communication rating scale, reviewed research articles for group discussion, assisted in construction of interpersonal stressors circumplex (ISC), aided in the recruitment of participants for peer nomination study and assisted in building online questionnaire. Selected as the undergraduate project manager for current research project.

Pennsylvania State University, Department of Criminal Law and Justice, State College, PA
Criminology Independent Research

Advisor: Dr. Darrell Steffensmeier, 2007-present

Developed coding scheme to measure the effects of gender in corporate crime based on archival data from U.S. Department of Justice. Supplemented data collection through internet searches to acquire sentencing information, aggregate worth estimates of indicted companies, and ages of individuals indicted. Preparing a presentation on the female involvement in white-collar crime for a graduate seminar.

Pennsylvania State University, Department of Psychology, State College, PA
Cognition and Action Laboratory Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. David Rosenbaum, 2007-present

Scheduled and ran participants in experimental studies to investigate the planning of human actions. Organized and coded data using Matlab. Assisted in the research design of experiments to solve logistical problems in collecting data using web cameras and optotrak equipment. Gave presentation on research findings to fellow undergraduate and graduate students within the laboratory.

Research Interests

I have a broad interest in clinical psychology, particularly relating to interpersonal theory and associated circumplex models. I am interested in how circumplex data can contribute to a better understanding of personality traits and Axis II personality disorders. Also of interest are interpersonal rigidity, intrapsychic influences on perception of interpersonal transactions (e.g. parataxic distortions), individual variability in personal expression of psychopathology (e.g. pathoplasticity), and complementarity.

Current Independent Research Project:

My current research project focuses on the effects of dispositional variables on the acceptance of neutralization techniques. Neutralization techniques are a priori justifications used by an individual to mitigate dissonance over an anticipated action that is inconsistent with one's usual values. The majority of research on neutralization emphasizes the situational and/or demographic factors that predict increased acceptance of neutralization techniques. Surprisingly, few studies have addressed how dispositional variables relate to neutralization acceptance. The present study related a variety of dispositions (achievement motives, personality traits, interpersonal style, and narcissism) to the acceptance of neutralization techniques. Hierarchical regression analysis suggested that dispositional variables significantly contributed to explaining neutralization acceptance above and beyond demographic variables. Future research and real world applications of neutralization acceptance are discussed.

Professional/Work Experience

The Meadows Psychiatric Center, Centre Hall, PA, 2008-present
Mental Health Technician, Adult Unit.

Provided direct patient care for psychiatric patients and monitored them for safe behavior. Reviewed progress notes on patients, facilitated group discussions, and counseled patients 1:1. Experience on adult, child, adolescent and stabilization units.

Psi Chi, National Honor Society in Psychology, President 2008-2009

Create agenda for Psi Chi officer meetings, coordinate speakers for student meetings, presented brief lecture on the duties of a Mental Health Technician, planning the Psi Chi National Honor Society Research Conference, overseeing mentor program, managing the development of a monthly psychology newsletter, working as an advising peer assistant in coordination with academic advisers, planning induction ceremony for new members, recruiting new members, managing and updating chapter website.

Teaching Assistant Experience

Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology, State College, PA

Criminology Teaching Assistant, Dr. Darrell Steffensmeier, 2007

Proctored examinations, held individualized review sessions, scheduled weekly office hours. Presented video and gave a 10 minute lecture on the ecology of methamphetamines in the United States to classes of 25, 200, and 350 students.

Professional Presentations

Steffensmeier, D. J., **Roche, M. J.**, Schwartz, J. (In preparation). Women's Involvement in High-Level White Collar Crime: Findings from Recent Corporate Crime Prosecutions.

Roche, M. J., Lukowitsky, M. R., & Pincus, A. L. (2009, August). *What can personality tell us about neutralizations in academic cheating?* Paper presented at the American Psychological Association annual meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Wright, A. G. C., Pincus, A. L., Rohlfing, J. E., Lehner, A. N. and **Roche, M. J.** (2008, May) Cognitive Adherence to Circumplex Structure, Parataxic Distortion, and the Interpersonal Transaction Cycle. Paper presented at the symposium on *Normative and non-normative adherence to the interpersonal circumplex*, T. J. G. Tracey (chair). Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research annual meeting, Tempe, AZ.

Professional Memberships

American Psychological Association, Student Affiliate

Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology, President

References

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