

Undergraduate Research Newsletter

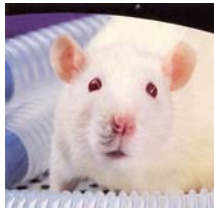
Summer Edition (Issue 3), June 8, 2009

June 10, 2009, 12:00 pm
Lower Herrick

Wednesday's Featured Speaker



Nancy Dess, Professor and Chair of Psychology and Psychobiology
Taste Matters: How Studying Rats Leads to Culture and Back Again.
Lower Herrick, includes lunch!



"In his book, *The Ape and the Sushi Master* (2001), Frans de Waal reflects, 'I often get the distinct impression of being surrounded by two distinct categories of people: those who do and those who don't mind being compared with [other] animals' (p. 10). I get that impression sometimes, too -- especially when the other animals are rats. At one level, my talk will concern my research on the relationship of taste to reward and emotion, how I got interested in it, and how we study it in our lab. At another level, my talk will concern the intriguing, ambivalent relationship between human and rats and some ideas I have about it."



Quispe-Hansen is researching with Professor Mancuso so his project is within the scope of her work on emotions. His favorite area of psychology is Transpersonal psychology which he describes as "Psychology plus spirituality, Freud and Buddha mixed together". It's a field concerned with self-actualization and the process of people reaching their full potential. He finds it interesting as "two different angles getting at the same thing", a combination of Eastern and Western philosophies that seeks to understand the underlying human condition.

If you're interested in being a subject he will be looking for Oxy students to participate in his experiments. Additionally if you think your research is awesome and you want to see it written up here, contact mstewart@oxy.edu.

JEALOUSY

"Jealousy is one of the most difficult emotions to study. It's hard to get physiological responses and data because it's such a subjective and fleeting emotion," Andres Quispe-Hansen explained. The psychology major plans to spend the summer testing two methods for stimulating the emotion of jealousy in order to determine the best way to study it. Part of the problem in studying jealousy is making the stimuli relevant since it's not an emotion that usually pops up on its own. The first task will be to have the subject recall and write about a time when they felt jealous. The second task will have them watch a clip from a TV show where a character discovers their significant other cheating on them. The subject will then put themselves in the shoes of the character and imagine how they would feel. The response will be measured through changes in skin conductance and tension in facial muscles. Quispe-Hansen believes that the first task will show a stronger response because it's "more personal, not observed."



Weekend Ideas



June 12, 2009
5:00-9:00 pm

Eagle Rock Farmer's Market
2100 Merton Ave
Fresh Fruits and Veggies, roasted nuts, crepes, and more!
www.yelp.com/biz/eagle-rock-farmers-market-los-angeles

June 14, 2009
7:00 pm

Touch the Water: A River Play
Come early for a free river walk before the show
Tickets are Pay-What-You-Can
www.cornerstonetheater.org/content/index.php



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