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to determine who believes that the system is in need of the most reform. These include level of education, age, gender, and party identification. I found that when party identification was accounted for, then all other variables became significant. These results verified my hypotheses and were similar to the findings in the literature.

### *17. Comparing Racial Disparities across Prison Systems*

Shannon Cassidy (GWA)

There are significant racial disparities in the United States prison systems with people of color being imprisoned at a much higher rate than Caucasian citizens. These disparities have been subject to scholarly debate for some time and causations of these disparities have been explained through various explanations from educational backgrounds of individuals, to socio-economic variances between whites and blacks in the United States. This project intends to investigate the inequalities found in penal systems by comparing them to similar systems in England and Wales, where there are also disparities found but are not as significant as found in the United States.

### *18. Refugee Influx and the Spread of Conflict: The Case of Rwandan Refugees in Tanzania and The Democratic Republic of Congo*

Holly Cherlin (GWA)

Due to refugee movements, political conflict and violence often spreads from one country to the receiving country. This paper studies the conditions causing refugee related political violence and looks at the political stability in the destination country to determine if a war broke out within 5 years. The paper focuses on a 20 year period where over 10,000 refugees have fled into neighboring countries. In addition I will provide a comparison of crises involving the fleeing of Rwandan refugees into Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. I examine a number of factors potentially contributing to refugee-fueled violence including the correlations between socioeconomic factors and the political context of the country the refugees are fleeing from. I will then test and analyze certain factors to determine if these populations of refugees would potentially engage in political conflict or militarize.

### *19. Economic Growth of Nations: Mathematical and Empirical Analysis*

Gezime Christian (MAT)

Using mathematical models for economic growth, we empirically study the convergence of different economies worldwide. All of the mathematical models for economic growth formalize all inputs and outputs in the economy through a production function  $Y(t)$ . Here, we concentrate on the production function of the Solow-Swan model and some of its properties. In addition, the steady state of the model is defined as a point with no growth of the capital-labor ratio. The hypothesis is that each economy converges towards its steady state and poorer economies grow at faster rates than richer economies. As a result, all economies should eventually converge towards a single state. To access the theoretical hypothesis we collected and analyzed data of the GDP of 66 countries across the world. Our findings conclude that absolute convergence of economies does not apply to a broad cross-section of countries, but

Southeastern United States. In comparing the attitudes of students on a 10-point thermometer scale towards cult members and towards atheists, we find that individuals do not have favourable views towards either group, but that students' views towards cult members are significantly less favourable. We attribute this difference in prejudiced attitudes to the idea that "cult member" is a pejorative.

### *22. The Relationship Between Political Systems and Terrorism*

Kyle Denny (GWA)

Terrorism affects everyone, albeit at different levels. This paper aims to figure out if the type of political system influences the prevalence of terrorism at all. Studying and analyzing case studies is the best way to answer this question. This paper did not address every political system nor a large number of countries. This paper only looked at a few that to either prove or disprove my hypothesis. The result is that my hypothesis was proven, the type of political system does in-fact influence the prevalence of terrorism. My results are fairly generalized in relation to the terrorism studies field.

### *23. The Effects of Sexual Activity on Body Image among College Students*

Carina Dominguez & Kathy Guvercin (PSY)

Previous research suggests that women who engage in sexual activity tend to be dissatisfied with their bodies. The present study was designed to further examine the relationship between body image and sexual activity. One hundred thirty seven college students (75 female) responded to a questionnaire regarding their sexual experience and their own perspective of their body type versus their ideal body. Results indicated that females who were sexually active or who had a greater overall number of sexual partners compared their bodies more frequently to others than did those with less sexual experience. This pattern was not upheld for men. This suggests that comparisons to others and sexual experience uniquely contribute to women's perceptions of their bodies.

### *24. Music's Effect on Memory Recall*

Lauren Eavarone & Blakeslee Snyder (PSY)

This study examined whether background music affects word recall. Group one participated in two trials: silence with related words and music with related words. Group two als



This study explored the relationship between fear of negative evaluation, self-esteem and personality type in undergraduate students ( $n=50$ ). Participants completed the Brief Fear of Negative Evaluation Scale (BFNE), the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSE), and the Big Five Inventory-10 (BFI-10) during an introductory class. Findings for the whole sample showed that there was no significant relationship between self-esteem scores and social anxiety scores. There were significant relationships between self-





*42. The Key to Peace is Through Mutual Recognition*  
Zachary Iacovino (GWA)

The question this paper sets out to answer is the following: does a sub-national group's level of political recognition affect that group's willingness to resort to hard power sooner than soft power? The simple answer is yes, it does. In order to answer this question, three cases were analyzed—the case of Northern Ireland, the case of Palestine, and the case of South Africa. These three cases are inherently different, but are similar in one crucial way: they all involve sub-national groups which attempt to increase their overall political recognition. The main difference is that



The current study compared one-sided comparative advertisements and one-sided non comparative advertisements. Comparative advertisement is a strategy that compares two specific brands and compares them on the dimension of a specific attribute while non-comparative advertisement simply focuses on the attribute of one specifically named brand. Each has their own advantages. While comparative advertising messages can be effective because they can eliminate other brands by pointing out their deficiencies, they can also lead to counterargumentation and/or

nations towards one developing nation, spanning over a 40 year period, my project looks to find various trends between arms trade and different political ideals. Through my research, my project looks to find several correlations between certain political ideals, and the expansion of arms trade. More specifically I believe regimes with liberal agendas will tak

was Frederic Spaulding. Prior to starting Tampa Junior College he was the principal of Hillsborough High School. In 2007, The University of Tampa re-organized into four separate colleges: the college of natural and health sciences, the college of math, education and social sciences, the college of business, and the college of arts. 40.8% of the classes at The University of Tampa have less than 20 students. The University of Tampa has had many notable people graduate.

*62. The Influence of Situations on Three Attributes of Alcohol Consumption*

Gino Nachev, Lacey Benjamin, Lise-Marie Homer & Becky Vyzas (PSY)

Situational segmentation can be defined as an advertising tactic of targeting a particular group of individuals. It

such as age, gender, education, and level of religiosity play in this relationship, as well as the impact that social

The purpose of this research is to present information to students, or the general public, about all twelve dorms available at the University of Tampa and to give information on selected buildings that are on campus presently as

The subject of my poster has to do with whether or not the causes of high cost wars experienced a shift in the post-World War II with the collapse of European empires and the rise of hundreds of newly independent states. The cases in question were selected on the basis of the dependent variable of exacting high costs on the nation or nations involved in the struggle. How the dependent variable of high costs was determined is based on three factors high death toll relative to estimated total population, monetary costs, and loss of territory or influence of the state after the war. While in many cases especially pre-World War II it is difficult to get exact monetary figures of cost of conflict it can be shown whether or not the state went bankrupt after the war. The dependent variable is operationalized by six independent variables previously proposed by scholars.

### *77. Family Upbringing and Fear of Negative Evaluation*

Des Vega & Danielle Greer (PSY)

This cross-sectional study examined the relationship between family upbringing and fear of negative evaluation. A sample ( $n=45$ ) of undergraduate students completed a Fear of Negative Evaluation Scale, supplementary negative evaluation questions, and a family history questionnaire. Scores were analyzed using an independent-samples t-test. Results did not show any significant difference in fear of negative evaluation between students brought up in a single-parent home versus both parents being present. Results also failed to show a significant association between fear of negative evaluation and the gender of the absent parent.

### *78. How D*



point average with more extracurricular activities than a regular student. To evaluate these hypotheses a survey was conducted that asked for information about whether they were an honors or regular student, their academic class year, their grade point average, and the amount of activities and how many hours they engaged in activities. The results showed that there was a slight correlation between the amounts of extracurricular activities and grade point average. Supporting the hypothesis, the more activities one s

a questionnaire on communication styles and preferences all in one sitting. The study showed that there was little to no relationship between the levels on the scales and communication styles and preferences, thus not supporting our hypothesis.

## **About the Conference**

The University of Tampa Undergraduate Research Conference allows students to present original, empirical research within any area of the disciplines represented by the College of Social Science, Mathematics and Education. The first conference was in April 2006 and has been held annually since. At the third event held in April 2008, prizes for the best posters were awarded. The fifth event (April 2010) saw a wider representation of posters from across the college.

Example citation for the work presented here

Einstein, A. & Blessing, S. B., (2012, April). *Investigations into the psychology of time perception*. Poster presented at the Spring 2012 CSSME Undergraduate Research Conference, Tampa, FL.

For more information about this conference and previous ones (including all past abstracts), please go to:

[http://utweb.ut.edu/sblessing/cssme\\_research\\_conference.html](http://utweb.ut.edu/sblessing/cssme_research_conference.html)