YALE CHILD STUDY CENTER
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CSC Postdoc Seminar Series 2021-2022
Thursday 2:30-3:30pm Zoom meeting
https://zoom.us/j/92086460436?pwd=b2JKYXVNTUVVRy9HeEo3UFhvOXkwZz09
Meeting ID: 920 8646 0436   Passcode: 2022
Organizers Karim Ibrahim and Soraya Scuderi

February 17th

"Parental mentalizing during a pandemic: Use of mental state language on parenting social media before and during the COVID-19 pandemic"
Tal Yatziv, Dr. Rutherford's Before and After Baby Lab (the BABL)

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a demanding caregiving context for parents, particularly during lockdowns. In this study we examined changes in parental mentalization, parents' proclivity to consider their own and their child's mental states, during the pandemic, as manifested in mental state language (MSL) on parenting social media. Parenting-related posts on Reddit from two time-periods in the pandemic in 2020, March-April (lockdown; N = 16,084 posts) and July-August (post-lockdown; N = 16,510), were compared to time-matched control periods in 2019 (*Ns* = 12,457 and 13,853, respectively). MSL and self-other references were measured using text-analysis methods. Parental mentalization content decreased during the pandemic: parents referred less to mental activities and to others during the COVID-19 pandemic, and showed decreased affective MSL, cognitive MSL, and self-references specifically during lockdown. Fathers-specific subreddits exhibited strongest declines in mentalization content, whereas mothers-specific subreddits exhibited smaller changes. Implications on understanding associations between caregiving contexts and parental mentalization, gender differences, and the value of social media data to study parenting and mentalizing will be discussed.

March 17th

"Affective Vulnerability during the Perinatal Period: Perceived Stress and Emotion Regulation Strategies across Two Samples"
Francesca Penner, Dr. Rutherford's Before and After Baby Lab (the BABL)

Emotion regulation and perceived stress are transdiagnostic affective factors significant for the health of pregnant people and the developing child. Perinatal emotion regulation in particular remains understudied and would benefit from further examination given that it is modifiable—and therefore applicable for interventions. The current pair of studies aims to extend knowledge on perinatal emotion regulation by expanding on its associations with perceived stress. In Study 1, N=83 expectant mothers and fathers recruited from the northeastern U.S. in the third trimester of pregnancy completed measures assessing perceived stress and emotion regulation strategies (reappraisal and suppression). Expectant mothers and fathers did not differ in perceived stress, reappraisal, or suppression; however, fathers' relative use of suppression to reappraisal was higher compared to mothers. Lower reappraisal, higher suppression, and greater tendency to use suppression over reappraisal predicted higher perceived stress. In Study 2, N=92 pregnant women recruited from the western U.S. completed the same measures of perceived stress, reappraisal, and suppression in the second trimester, third trimester, and at four months postpartum. Cross-lagged panel models revealed significant stability effects over time for perceived stress, reappraisal, and suppression; significant cross-sectional associations between lower reappraisal and higher perceived stress; and a significant cross-lagged path from greater perceived stress in the second trimester to lower reappraisal in the third trimester. Together, these studies extend knowledge on perinatal emotion regulation and stress in mothers and fathers, and on the interplay between these two transdiagnostic affective factors across the perinatal period. Implications for research and intervention are discussed.

April 21ˢᵗ

"Culture and the socialization of emotion"
Wang, Zhenlan Dr. Bailey Lab Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

"Application of machine learning to parse neurodevelopmental heterogeneity in autism spectrum disorder"
Han Gloria, Dr. McPartland Lab

May 19ᵗʰ

"CBT for Anxiety in Children with ASD: Adaptations During the COVID-19 Pandemic"
Carla Kalvin, Dr. Sukhodolsky Lab

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is an effective treatment for anxiety in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), typically delivered via 12 – 16 in-person therapy sessions. However, following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the standard implementation of this intervention warranted notable modifications, including transition to telehealth delivery. This presentation details modifications made to CBT for children who were participating in a clinical trial of CBT for anxiety in ASD during the first wave of COVID-19. Effects of the pandemic on symptom presentation and family functioning, as well as modifications made to the standard CBT protocol due to the transition to telehealth delivery, are discussed. Further, the ways in which delivery of CBT was adapted to address new sources of anxiety and new realities of social distancing and quarantine restrictions are reviewed, with implications for continued delivery of evidence-based treatments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Longitudinal changes in neural activation that discriminates between aspects of reward processing in early adolescence"
Reuma Gadassi Polack, Jutta Joormann, Richard Watts

Little is known on the longitudinal changes that occur in the functional neuroanatomy of reward processing in early adolescence. The present study used fMRI to characterize neural activation to different aspects of reward processing (sign and size), and examined their change over a period of two years.Data is a subset of participants in the Adolescent Cognitive and Brain Development (ABCD) study. Children completed the Monetary Incentive Delay task at baseline (ages 9-10) and year 2 follow-up (ages 11-12). Based on data from 491 children, we identified Regions of Interest (ROIs) that are sensitive to the five Trial types. We extracted activation from an independent set of 1470 children at baseline and follow-up. For each task condition (anticipation, negative feedback, positive feedback) we conducted a two-way repeated measures ANOVA with Time (baseline vs. year 2) and Trial Type (win \$5, win \$0.20, neutral, lose \$0.20, lose \$5) to identify changes in sensitivity to reward aspect over time. The effects of Time and its interactions were significantly smaller ($0.002 \leq \eta^2 \leq 0.02$) compared to the effect of Trial type ($0.06 \leq \eta^2 \leq 0.30$). Regions sensitivity to sign or size changed according to Condition but not over time. In general, subcortical regions were more sensitive to large rewards during anticipation and more sensitive to the size of reward/loss during feedback. At the group level, reward processing shows highly similar patterns over a period of two years, with some evidence of increased reactivity to reward at age 11 vs. 9.

June 30ᵗʰ
"Presentations by Graduates of the Yale/UCL Developmental Neuroscience and Psychopathology Program"
List of Presenters TBD