“Borderline lab”

Dr. Rosemery Nelson Gray

\*Research focuses on interpersonal relationships (romantic partners, friends) of women with borderline personality disorder traits.

\*Focuses on two diagnostic criteria for borderline personality disorder:

* Frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment
* Affective instability due to a marked reactivity of mood

\*Typical research paradigm:

1. Participants are undergraduates from the participant pool.

2. Borderline personality traits are examined dimensionally, with participants along a continuum of higher and lower degrees of borderline personality disorder traits.

3. Participants higher in borderline traits are identified through mass screening and are oversampled in our studies.

4. Typically, participants come to our lab and partake of the experimental paradigm on lab computers: pre measures, lab manipulation, post measures

Recent related publications:

\*Willis, M., & Nelson-Gray, R.O. (2017). Borderline personality disorder traits and sexual compliance: A fear of abandonment manipulation   *Personality and Individual Differences,* 117, 216-220.

\*Kuhlken, K., Robertson, C., Benson, J., & Nelson-Gray, R. (2014). The interaction of borderline personality disorder symptoms and relationship satisfaction in predicting affect. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment.,* 5 (1), 20-25*.*

\*Willis, M., Birthrong, A., King, J.S., Nelson-Gray, R.O., & Latzman, R.D. (2017). Are infidelity tolerance and rape myth acceptance related constructs? An association moderated by psychopathy and narcissism. *Personality and Individual Differences,* 117, 230-235.

Sample of current studies: (\*\*data collection fall 2018)

\*\*Blake and Shannon – reaction to rejection by potential friends vs. potential romantic partners

\*\* Sudheera and Blake – premeasures of friendship quality and mood, stressful lab manipulation to affect distress tolerance (Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task), hypothesis that friendship quality moderates distress tolerance in face of stressful situation

\*\*Curtis Collazo – first year graduate project – hypothesis that those higher in borderline traits will perceive negative or neutral feedback more negatively than those lower in borderline traits

\*Morgan Howell honors thesis –cyberball task intended to manipulate feelings of rejection or not, lab task intended to assess emotion dysregulation (Emotion Stroop); hypothesis that those higher in borderline traits who are in the rejection condition will report more negative mood and show more emotion dysregulation

\*Ian Culp honors thesis –cyberball task intended to manipulate feelings of rejection or not, lab tasks to assess impulsivity (Stop Light Driving Task, Balloon Analogue Risk Task). Those higher in borderline traits in the rejection condition reported more negative mood, but the lab tasks were not affected.

\*Four other undergraduate honors theses, run as one on-line studies

(Vicki Pinson, Sierra Rufino, Nicole Davis, Scott Fishkin)

\*Ian Penzel – predoctoral research project – used a measure of romantic competence; found that those higher in borderline traits have knowledge of skilled behavior (no difference from those lower in borderline traits), but report that these skills are used less frequently especially in conflictual relationships

\*Sudheera Master’s thesis–stressful lab manipulation to affect distress tolerance (vs. a control task), lab task assessing interpersonal functioning; hypothesis not confirmed that distress disrupts interpersonal functioning more in persons with high borderline traits

\*Shannon Master’s thesis–lab task of writing a prosocial letter or a typical day letter, lab task assessing prosocial or sharing behavior; hypothesis that prosocial acts increase positive mood as well as producing further prosocial behavior