The LEAD Graduate School and the Hector Research Institute of Education Sciences and Psychology at the University of Tübingen invite you to attend the lecture by

Jordan P. Davis, PhD
University of Southern California

Just Count to Ten: The Role of Self-Regulation and Exposure to Violence on Substance Use Outcomes Among At-Risk Youth

Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 10:15 hrs
Hector Research Institute of Education Sciences and Psychology, seminar room, Europastraße 6, 72072 Tübingen

Abstract: Deficits in behavior, such as impulse control, place adolescents and young adults at greater risk of early (and continued) use of alcohol and other drugs. More specifically, marginalized youth (e.g., criminal justice involved, low education) consistently report higher alcohol and drug use, violent behavior, and self-regulation problems. This is important as adolescents and young adults have the highest rates of alcohol use (12% and 60%, respectively) and binge drinking (6 and 38%, respectively) in the United States. Further exacerbating the problem, experiences of early victimization (e.g., abuse, exposure to violence) has also been identified as a predictor of adolescent and young adult substance use and long term psychological and physiological problems. Understanding how self-regulation and exposure to violence independently and jointly influence at risk behaviors is vital to developing and maintaining prevention or intervention strategies. The current talk will focus on multiple studies investigating the role of self-regulation and violence exposure on substance use outcomes among at risk youth, and touch on some preliminary intervention work to address self-regulation among a sample of high risk young adults.

Biography: Jordan Davis is an assistant professor in the department of Children, Youth and Families and associate director of the Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society. He has devoted much of his career to research addressing substance use and the developmental needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations. Specifically, his work investigates aspects of exposure to violence, self-regulation, personality, and stress as it relates to the treatment and development of substance use disorders. Davis also focuses on the utility and development of longitudinal data analyses in the structural equation modeling framework. Davis’ primary research focuses on substance use disorder treatment among marginalized youth. His intervention work mainly concentrates on Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention and how it can be utilized to address issues facing at-risk youth. Davis has conducted the first randomized controlled trial assessing Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention and the effect on stress, craving and substance use among at-risk young adults in residential treatment. Davis’ research spans to understanding both psychological and physiological stress responses and self-regulation, and how changes in these systems can alter treatment and developmental outcomes. Recently, Davis has focused on understanding how the development of early life risk and protective factors are associated with sexual violence victimization and perpetration, as well as teen dating violence.

Important Publications: