

Fall 2006
IPRO 306 Project Plan

Enhancing Psychology Research through Advanced Communications Technology

Advisors: Michael Young, Ph.D.
Dror Ben-Zeev, M.S.

1.0. Objectives

I PRO 306's overall objective is to augment existing knowledge regarding the patterns and accuracies of retrospective recall of affect in the clinically depressed. This will be done by evaluating recall accuracy in the nonhospitalized clinically depressed population and comparing it to that of the nonclinical population. The specific objective of the Fall 2006 semester is to recruit twenty-five depressed and twenty-five nondepressed controls through advertisement, screen them, train them in the use of PDAs and collect data on their momentary affect rating.

2.0. Background

Although some studies have been conducted on emotional experiences, affect (how someone feels), and memory, there are still a number of questions that need to be addressed. One such question that the Institute of Psychology at IIT is interested in involves whether the patterns of emotional memories in individuals with clinical depression are different than from those of the normal population.

Fortunately, psychological researchers have developed the Experience Sampling Method (ESM) to effectively obtain reliable self reports and the Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS) to measure one's current affect. With the technological advancement of Personal Digital Assistants (PDA), data collection has become not only more reliable, but also simpler for researchers to work with. Hopefully, the data collected from this study would provide some insight on the clinically depressed and their memory accuracy of affect. Results could potentially provide therapists with a clearer understanding of their clinically depressed patients.

Because this study involves human participants, it is necessary to follow all the ethical guidelines set by the Institutional Review Board. For this reason, all members on the team have completed the "Human Participants Protection Education for Research Teams" online course and are eligible to participate as researchers in this study.

With the theoretical portion of the research study already established by the primary researcher from the Institute of Psychology, Dror Ben-Zeev, the team is in charge of setting the study in motion. Over the course of this I PRO, the team will face many difficult tasks, such as recruiting and keeping qualified participants interested in the study, ensuring that the study is as least intrusive as possible to the participants, and collecting enough data to run statistical analyses. To achieve these goals, the team is divided into the following subgroups: recruitment, screening, and PDA.

In addition, everyone is also involved in the following three subgroups to ensure the completion of the I PRO deliverables: Project Plan/Midterm Report/Final Report, Presentation, and Exhibit/Brochure/Abstract.

3.0. Methodology/Brainstorm/Work Breakdown Structure

Research/Study

The team hopes to generate reliable and valid results using specific methodological features. Such features include using the PANAS as the primary measure of affect, recruiting depressed participants from the broad population and not from inpatient settings, and collecting peak (the most extreme affect rating) and end (affect ratings in the final moment) affect ratings in addition to ongoing momentary ratings to evaluate the best predictor for retrospective recall of affect.

The specific tasks needed to complete these methods for the study are as follows:

1. Brainstorm and compile a list of all locations to advertise for the study. The team must consider the following criteria: distance, cost of advertising, and demographics.
2. Recruit participants from the general population by using two different colored ads, one recruiting for the control group (non-depressed adults) and the other for the depressed population.
3. Perform an initial phone screening to inform participants about the study, to ensure that they are interested and eligible, and to set up a date for them to come to their interview. This is followed by a clinical interview with the primary investigator to identify the depressed patients who will be useful for this study.
4. Individuals who meet the inclusion criteria are given a tutorial on the use of the PDA, which will allow the use of one of three free software programs that will generate a computerized version of the PANAS.
5. Mean daily mood ratings will be computed from momentary PANAS PA (positive affect) and NA (negative affect) subscale scores, which will be used to compute weekly mood ratings. Peak and end affect ratings will be collected during the week.
6. The data analysis phase will support or disprove the initial hypotheses of the study. However, this phase may not take place until the second semester of the IPRO.

IPRO Deliverables

The team will work on the mood study and will concurrently develop the IPRO deliverables. The team approached this task by grouping similar projects together and assigning a sub-team leader to plan, manage, and complete each project in the group they are assigned. Four groups were created to encompass all the IPRO deliverable projects:

Group A: Responsible for project plan, midterm report, and final report

Group B: Responsible for the exhibit, poster, abstract, and brochures

Group C: Responsible for the website and CD-Rom

Group D: Responsible for the PowerPoint presentation to be given on IPRO day

4.0. Expected results

The results of this research will have direct implications for therapists and researchers in psychopathology in their interpretation and understanding of retrospective self-report of affect given by their depressed patients and participants. The overall hypotheses that will be tested by the research study are as follows:

1. Depressed and nonclinical comparison participants will retrospectively exaggerate their levels of NA relative to online momentary ratings.
2. Nonclinical participants will retrospectively exaggerate their levels of PA relative to online momentary ratings but depressed participants will not.

Given the fact that many of the tasks to be accomplished in this study are dependent on one another, the IPRO team realizes that the entire study will most likely not be completed (that is, all data collected and analyzed with conclusive, organized results to display) at the end of the semester. Thus, the team has set smart, realistic, yet challenging goals as to what tasks they expect to have completed by the end of the semester. These are:

1. Advertise to obtain volunteers for the study – 25 normal and 25 depressed participants
2. Recruit volunteers for research study regarding the patterns and accuracies of retrospective recall of affect in the clinically depressed
3. Screen volunteers
4. Teach volunteers how to use PDAs to record information
5. Start the data collection phase by having volunteers use PDAs to give a self-report of affect
6. Begin data analysis (may take place next semester)

5.0. Project Budget

Item	Quantity	Amount
Acquisition of 35 Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)*	35	\$ 4000
Participant Newspaper Recruitment Ads and Poster Expenses		\$1500
Participant Compensation (\$75 each)	50	\$3750
Estimated Total		\$9250

*After the study is completed, the PDA units will remain as resources for future work, available to the Institute of Psychology faculty and students.

6.0. Schedule of Tasks and Milestone Events

Task	Duration	Start	Finish	Resources
Recruitment	17.88 days	9/9	9/26	
Final Recruitment List	5.75 days	9/9	9/14	Stephanie, Chris, Emma
Permission Script Complete	5.75 days	9/9	9/14	Stephanie, Chris, Emma
Permission for Posting	3 days	9/17	9/19	Stephanie, Chris, Emma
Posting	7 days	9/19	9/26	Stephanie, Chris, Emma
Screening	75.25 days	9/9	11/21	
Screening Script Deadline	20 days	9/9	9/28	Chris, Alice, Chelsea, Emma, Tina
Phone Screening	48.88 days	9/26	11/15	Chris, Alice, Chelsea, Emma, Tina
Interviews/Distribution	50 days	10/3	11/21	Chris, Alice, Chelsea, Emma, Tina
PDA	12 days	9/22	10/3	
Confirm delivery/price	1 day	9/22	9/22	Chris, Chelsea, Stephanie
Receive PDAs	1 day	9/23	9/24	Chris, Chelsea, Stephanie
Configure and test PDAs	10 days	9/24	10/3	Chris, Chelsea, Stephanie
IPRO Deliverables	85.5 days	9/9	12/1	
Project Plan	12.88 days	9/9	9/21	Tina, Alice, Emma, Tarek
Midterm Report	19.25 days	10/1	10/19	Tina, Alice, Emma, Tarek
Exhibit/Poster	21 days	11/1	11/21	Chelsea, Emma, Stephanie, Tarek
Abstract/ Brochure	17 days	11/10	11/26	Chelsea, Emma, Stephanie, Tarek
Presentation	31.5 days	10/29	11/28	Alice, Chris, Kevin, Tarek
Final Report	20 days	11/10	11/29	Tina, Alice, Emma, Tarek
IPRO Deliverable CD	1 day	11/30	11/30	Everyone
IPRO Day	1 day	12/1	12/1	Everyone

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Pre Resource Names	Aug 27, '06	Sep 17, '06	Oct 8, '06	Oct 29, '06	Nov 19, '06	Dec 10, '06	Dec 31, '06				
						T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	Recruitment	17.88 days	Sat 9/9/06	Tue 9/26/06	Stephanie Walter											
2	Final Recruitment List	5.75 days	Sat 9/9/06	Thu 9/14/06	Stephanie Walter		Stephanie Walter									
3	Permission Script Complete	5.75 days	Sat 9/9/06	Thu 9/14/06	Chris Jones		Chris Jones									
4	Permission for posting	3 days	Sun 9/17/06	Tue 9/19/06	Entire Group		Entire Group									
5	Posting	7 days	Tue 9/19/06	Tue 9/26/06	Entire Group		Entire Group									
6	Screening	75.25 days?	Sat 9/9/06	Tue 11/21/06	Chris Jones											
7	Screening Script Deadline	20 days	Sat 9/9/06	Thu 9/28/06	Chris Jones		Chris Jones									
8	Phone Screening	48.88 days?	Fri 9/29/06	Wed 11/15/06	Entire Group		Entire Group									
9	Interviews/Distribution	50 days?	Tue 10/3/06	Tue 11/21/06	Entire Group		Entire Group									
10	PDA	12 days	Fri 9/22/06	Tue 10/3/06	Chris Jones											
11	Confirm delivery/price	1 day	Fri 9/22/06	Fri 9/22/06	PDA Crew		PDA Crew									
12	Receive PDAs	1 day	Sat 9/23/06	Sun 9/24/06	PDA Crew		PDA Crew									
13	Configure & test PDAs	10 days	Sun 9/24/06	Tue 10/3/06	PDA Crew		PDA Crew									
14	IPRO Deliverables	85.5 days	Sat 9/9/06	Fri 12/1/06	Entire Group											
15	Project Plan	12.88 days	Sat 9/9/06	Thu 9/21/06	Tina Chiu		Tina Chiu									
16	Midterm Report	19.25 days	Sun 10/1/06	Thu 10/19/06	Tina Chiu		Tina Chiu									
17	Exhibit/Poster	21 days	Sat 10/21/06	Tue 11/21/06	Chelsea Miller											
18	Abstract/Brochure	17 days	Thu 11/2/06	Sun 11/26/06	Chelsea Miller											
19	Presentation	31.5 days	Sun 10/29/06	Tue 11/28/06	Alice Jacob											
20	Final Report	20 days	Fri 11/10/06	Wed 11/29/06	Tina Chiu											
21	IPRO Deliverable CD	1 day	Thu 11/30/06	Thu 11/30/06	Entire Group											
22	IPRO Day	1 day	Fri 12/1/06	Fri 12/1/06	Entire Group											

7.0. Individual Team Member Assignments

Instructors: Michael Young, Ph.D
Dror Ben-Zeev, M.S.

Name	Major / Minor	Skills/Strengths/Academic Interests
Tarek Abou-Nemeh	Biology	Creativity, motivation
Tina Chiu	Psychology	Writing, organization
Kevin Franke	Psychology	Management, speaking writing, organization
Alice Jacob	Biology / Psychology	Writing, presentation, organization
Chris Jones	Psychology / Political Science	Writing, speaking, public affairs
Chelsea Miller	Architecture / Psychology	Designing, organization, creativity, writing
Emma Sweikert	Psychology / Political Science	Speaking, writing, organization
Vlad Vilenchik	Information Technology and Management	Writing, organization
Stephanie Walter	Aerospace/Mechanical Engineering/Psychology	MS Word, Excel, organization

Project Manager: Kevin Franke

Responsibilities: Oversee progress of entire project; assign sub-team leaders and delegate tasks to each; encourage participation, communication, efficiency, and enthusiasm

Recruitment Subteam Leader: Stephanie Walter

Responsibilities: Develop and manage the process of obtaining participants for the study.
Team: Chris Jones, Emma Sweikert

Screening Subteam Leader: Chris Jones

Responsibilities: Develop and manage the process of accepting participants for the study
Team: Alice Jacob, Chelsea Miller, Emma Sweikert, Tina Chiu

PDA Subteam Leader: Chris Jones

Responsibilities: Obtain, program, and troubleshoot PDAs
Team: Chelsea Miller, Stephanie Walter

Project Plan/Midterm Report/Final Report Subteam Leader: Tina Chiu

Responsibilities: Planning, organizing, and completing these IPRO deliverables on time
Team: Alice Jacob, Tarek Abou-Nemeh, Emma Sweikert

Exhibit/Poster/Abstract/Brochure Subteam Leader: Chelsea Miller

Responsibilities: Planning, organizing, and completing these IPRO deliverables on time
Team: Stephanie Walter, Emma Sweikert, Tarek

Presentation Subteam Leader: Alice Jacob

Responsibilities: Planning, organizing, and completing these IPRO deliverables on time
Team: Chris Jones, Tarek Abou-Nemeh, Kevin Franke

CD-Rom and Website Subteam Leader*: Vlad Vilenchik

Responsibilities: Complete these IPRO deliverables on time

*Note: Due to a delay in communication (not all team members are on campus), this assignment may change in a way that would benefit the team best.

8.0. Designation of Roles

Minute Taker: Emma Sweikert