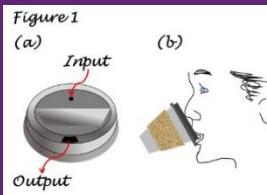


## TCU's EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGIST

### Faculty Thoughts: Mauricio R. Papini



I usually get a decaf Americano from our fantastic clothing store on campus, across the street from our building. I enjoy drinking my coffee at lunch time like anybody else. But when my coffee cup is about half full, I noticed that I need to make a stronger effort to get anything out of my cup. This has troubled me for years, until I recently figured out what happens. As we all know from our physics courses, nature "horror vacui" (Aristotle, 2019), a principle that applies to many aspects of our life. For example, we need to constantly talk to the person close to us or else silence could be devastating.

Applied to our problem, a coffee cup lid must have a hole through which air can flow in so that coffee can flow out on the other end (see Figure 1a). As I drink my decaf Americano, my nose tends to occlude the input channel, which forces me to work harder to get any coffee out of the cup (see Figure 1b). Several solutions are available: don't drink coffee anymore, hold your cup with one hand while you twist your nose to a side with the other, or drink your coffee while reclining on a proverbial psychologist's couch. I now feel happy that I have identified a problem, illustrated it scientifically, and suggested several potential solutions. There are many difficulties in life, but this one does not have to bother me anymore. And they say there is no progress, ha!

### Publications

- Ariel, R., Karpicke, J.D., Witherby, A.E., & Tauber, S.K. (2021). Do judgments of learning directly enhance learning of educational materials? *Educational Psychology Review*, 33, 693-712. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10648-020-09556-8>
- Devine, B., & Petursdottir, A.I. (2021). Exploring effects of differential observing responses on vocal tact acquisition. *Behavioral Interventions*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bin.1782>
- Lehman, W.E.K., Pankow, J., Muiruri, R., Joe, G.W., & Knight, K. (2021). An evaluation of StaySafe, a tablet app to improve health risk decision-making among people under community supervision. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 130. Advanced online publication. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0740547221002063>
- Miller, A.C., Cox, R.E., Swensson, R.M., Oliveira, J.S.C.D., & Petursdottir, A.I. (2021). Effects of blocking echoic responses on tact emergence following stimulus pairing. *European Journal of Behavior Analysis*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15021149.2021.1896070>

### Conferences

- Nguyen, Q., Sullivan, W., Lindig, K., Rafferty, D., Kouros, C., & Ekas, N.V. (2021). *Helicopter parenting and mental health: The mediating role of emotional efficacy*. Society for Research in Child Development Biannual Conference, Virtual.
- Park, J., Kelly, M., Risko, E., & Hargis, M.B. (2021). *Don't take it at face value: The effect of external store availability on predicted and actual value-directed recall*. Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science. Virtual format.
- Raab, T., Torres, D., Nerz, J., Melo, M., Alvarado, M., Waterman, E., & Leising, K.J. (2021). *Habituation in wheel running rats*. International Conference on Comparative Cognition. Virtual Conference.
- Swets, J.A., & Cox, C.R. (2021). *Existential concerns and growth among romantic partners of military service members*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, Virtual Conference.

### In the News

- Dr. Cathy Cox and Julie Swets, PhD student, were interviewed by TCU Magazine/Summer, 2021. *Covid-19, Anxiety and Death*. <https://magazine.tcu.edu/summer-2021/covid-19-anxiety-death-existential/>