

# QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

## INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AND RELATIONSHIP CONTEXTS IN THE PERCEPTION AND RESPONSE TO CRITICISM: AN INVESTIGATION OF BEHAVIOURAL AND NEURAL MARKERS

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### Abstract

Criticism is both a ubiquitous term in our lexicon and an unavoidable aspect of our everyday social interactions. Given the prevalence of criticism encountered in social interactions on a regular basis along with its association with mental well-being and relationship outcomes, examining the factors that influence how individuals perceive and respond to criticism is important in better understanding how we navigate the social threat posed by criticism. This report integrates both social and neuroscience perspectives and methods in investigating how both individual differences and relational contexts influence the perception and response to criticism. First, the report outlines neuroimaging studies which aim to examine neural processes involved in criticism from different relational contexts including romantic partners, friends, parents and workplace supervisors. Second, the report focuses on the link between relationships within the family unit and criticism. A cross-cultural comparison of the effect of parental bonding on the perception and response to criticism is discussed as well as a study investigating the effect of spousal and parental criticism and marital and parent-child relationship outcomes. The findings from these studies would provide insight in illustrating how the perception and response to criticism changes as a function of the interplay of individual factors and relational contexts that the criticism occurs in.

### Proceedings

Duration	Session
5 mins	Chair Welcome & Introduction of Panel
30-45mins	Presentation by Student
15 mins	Q&A (by audience – faculty / students)
Break	Audience to leave the meeting
30 mins	Q&A by Panel
15 mins	Chairperson to ask candidate to leave the meeting Private Panel Discussion and Decision on the Qualifying Examination
15 mins	Candidate invited back by Chairperson Feedback and Outcome of Qualifying Examination

Friday  
04 Dec 2020

3pm

Venue:  
TEAMS Meeting

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