**Carmel, Tomer (PS4-A)**

**Retrospective Self-Reports of Childhood Neglect**

Although child neglect is three times as prevalent of physical abuse (ACF, 2017) and is as damaging as child abuse (Gilbert et al., 2009), it had received relatively little academic attention (Stoltenborgh, Bakermans-Kranenburg, & van IJzendoorn, 2013). Most of the existing research in the subject of child neglect is based on retrospective recollections of childhood events (Yancura & Aldwin, 2009), and there is controversy about the validity of such reports. Retrospective reports can be biased for different reasons, such as self-preservation and memory problems. The goal of this study was to determine a set of questions might indicate child neglect retrospectively, and ultimately, be used to eliminate biases. To achieve this goal, we used a set of 71 questions describing a wide range of parenting behaviors that might be considered neglectful. The questionnaire was administered to a large sample of adults who have a documented history of neglect and a matched sample of adults who do not have such a history. The correlation between self-reported childhood neglect and actual events is assumed to be complex: it is possible, that severe incidents will not be reported at all or will be reported as less severe than they were. To allow for complex models, a machine learning algorithm was implemented using the full set of 71 questions to discover the optimal subset of questions indicative of childhood neglect. Results and implications will be discussed.