

Junior Researcher Mentoring Programme

2023

Code:	JRMP2023_21
School / Department:	Department of Applied Social Sciences
Name of Research Team Member(s):	Dr Wu Yin, Associate Professor Dr Mimi Li (SHTM), Associate Professor
Research Topic:	The Difference in Olfactory Discrimination, Olfactory Learning Ability, and Interoceptive Ability among People with Different Wine Expertise
Short Description of the Research Project:	<p>The overarching aim of the project is to investigate the ability of olfactory discrimination, learning and interoceptive ability between wine experts and novices. Furthermore, whether sommeliers' expertise sense and learning capacity in wine can be generalised to other categories of smell. We have the following objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Explore the olfactory discrimination of wine-lexicon descriptors odorants and non-wine-lexicon descriptors odorants between sommeliers and novices; b) Explore the olfactory learning ability of wine-lexicon descriptors odorants and non-wine-lexicon descriptors odorants between sommeliers and novices; c) Explore the interoceptive ability between sommeliers and novices; and d) Investigate the relationship between olfactory discrimination and interoceptive ability. <p>General method: This project includes two experiments. Experiment 1 includes two sub-experiments, i.e. olfactory discrimination experiment and olfactory learning experiment. Experiment 2 is an interoceptive experiment.</p>

	<p>Experiments 1 and 2 are 2×2 within-between-subjects designs with participant category (expert sommeliers, novice in wine) as a between-subject factor, and odor set (wine-lexicon descriptors odorants, non-wine-lexicon descriptors odorants, non-wine-lexicon descriptors odorants) as a within-subject factor.</p> <p>Participants: We will recruit sixty healthy adult participants (half male) with no known smell or taste disorder. The experiment group consists of thirty sommeliers who excel in wine, while the control group is thirty novices in wine.</p> <p>The participating students will gain first-hand experience in conducting psychological experiments. They will also be taught the essential skills of data analysis. Data collected from this project will be submitted for publication, and the students will be one of the major contributors to the paper.</p>
No. of Places Offered:	4
Frequency of Meetings:	Monthly
Special Requirement(s):	The participating students should be interested in psychology, food science and/ or tourism management.

** The information presented above is subject to change.*