

Understanding the factors that predict involvement in accidents and near misses whilst driving

- Supervisor:** Assoc Prof Tony Machin
Ph 07 46312587
Email machin@usq.edu.au
- Research Purpose:** This project will examine the attitudinal and demographic variables that involvement in accidents and near misses of Australian drivers.
- Research Description:** The project aims to determine which attitudinal and demographic variables predict involvement in accidents and near misses. This study will use data collected during two of my Honours projects in 2007 and 2008 which examined predictors of speeding. Additional data collected relating to involvement in accidents and near misses will be analysed for the current project.
- Participants:** I have collected 400 responses to an online questionnaire. I will also contact several organisations that may be willing to encourage their members to participate. However, the data set is already sufficiently large enough to allow the analyses to be conducted with an adequate level of power.
- Methodology:** The questionnaire included several sections such as a set of demographic questions, the Driver Coping Questionnaire, the Driver Stress Inventory, measures of risk perceptions, driving behaviour and traffic accidents and near misses. The survey is available online at <https://psych.sci.usq.edu.au/ols/surveys/datt2008> . The coding of the accident and near miss data is complete but there will be some additional work in recoding these variables as well as reporting the supplementary questions about the accidents.
- Data Analysis:** The analyses will include calculating the correlations between variables and using hierarchical regression to test which variables are the best predictors of the accidents and near misses.
- Student friendliness:** This project is suitable for both external and on campus students. Supervision will occur via regular telephone calls throughout the project.
- Expected research outcomes:** I hope to submit a conference presentation to the International Congress of Applied Psychology (Melbourne, 2010) and to submit a journal article to *Accident Analysis and Prevention*.
- Further reading:** I will supply a copy of these readings:
Vassallo, S., Smart, D., Sanson, A., Harrison, W., Harris, A., Cockfield, S., & McIntyre, A. (2007). Risky driving among Australian drivers: Trends, precursors and correlates. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 39, 444-458.
Vassallo, S., Smart, D., Sanson, A., Cockfield, S., Harris, A., McIntyre, A., & Harrison, W. (2008). Risky driving among Australian drivers II: Co-occurrence with other problem behaviours. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 40, 376-386.

Ethics:

This project has received Ethics Approval from the USQ Psychology Department Ethics Committee (EP200733).

Resources:

This project will be funded within the \$150 departmental limit

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Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\User\Local
Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.MSO
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\User\Application
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Title: Getting Inside Heads: Using Cognitive Mapping to
Enhance Learning and Teaching
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