



Apr 14th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## Satiation, Habituation, and Elasticity: An Economic Analysis

Amanda Zang  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

James Dougan, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

Zang, Amanda and Dougan, Faculty Advisor, James, "Satiation, Habituation, and Elasticity: An Economic Analysis" (2007). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 2. <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2007/oralpres2/2>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O2.2

**SATIATION, HABITUATION, AND ELASTICITY: AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

Amanda Zang and James Dougan\*  
Psychology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Response rates typically change systematically within operant conditioning sessions. Proposed explanations for this phenomenon include habituation and satiation. The present study investigated these explanations. Six Sprague-Dawley rats were exposed to a series of variable interval (VI) schedules. Each schedule consisted of a baseline, same pre-feed, and different pre-feed condition. During the same pre-feed, the rats received the same food as was earned during the session, whereas in the different pre-feed, the rats received a food that differed from that earned during the session. A larger decrease in responding during a same food pre-feed condition would support habituation as the explanation. As predicted, there were greater decreases in responding in the same pre-feed conditions. These effects were seen at the higher VI schedules. The results support habituation theory and replicate earlier results from our lab. This research has implications for both habituation and satiation theories as well as eating disorders.