Recent research has shown that there are significant differences between the competition attitudes of males and females. Men choose competition too frequently whereas women choose it too little. Such differences in competition attitudes are likely to contribute to the observed differences in job, career, major, and even class choices. Self-reported stress has been found to be related to the differential competition attitudes helping predict competition choices. The perceived stress of activities can therefore contribute to gender differences in academic and career choices. The design of tasks can determine the competition choices of males and females.

In addition to discussing these results and their relevance for our teaching, in particular, but not only the STEM fields, I hope to get input from the group about how we can address these issues in our teaching and where we can investigate further the relationship between competition attitudes, performance, stress, and academic choices.

This talk is part of the STEM Education Research Seminar series. The goal of the series is to provide a forum for faculty working on research related to STEM education to present and discuss their work. All interested welcome.

This is a brown-bag seminar – bring your own lunch (microwave available). Water, coffee and cookies provided by CTE.

This program will be video and audio taped and may be podcast. By your willing participation in the program, you expressly and irrevocably consent to be photographed, videotaped and/or audio taped and quoted/cited. The films, tapes, and other digital recordings will become the property of the Center of Teaching Excellence, LMU.