The Socratic Method (SM) is a method of questioning or dialogue devised by the famous Greek philosopher, Socrates. It is currently as a tool to instigate a dialogue between a facilitator and a subject. In the past, SM has been an ambiguous concept whose definition and application were unclear. Indeed, there are great controversies over SM’s intended application. Commonly, SM is seen in law education and coaching. But a novel application of SM is employed in therapy, specifically Cognitive Behavior Therapies. Recently, SM in therapy has been roughly characterized as a series of questions which guide a client to relevant or new information to aid that client in developing self-sufficient cognitive processes and deepening self knowledge. In order to explore and shed light on SM as it’s applied to therapeutic intervention, the current review analyzes the SM’s origins, therapeutic purpose and application, how it is defined in literature today, and lastly, whether therapy is the most productive application of SM.

Social information-processing (SIP) is an important part of a child’s development because it helps children decipher others’ intentions, create goals, and choose appropriate behaviors for social situations. In the SIP model, the child’s attachment style (secure or insecure) and ability to regulate emotions interact with constructive and destructive behavior choices in social situations. Research on the intersection of attachment theory and the SIP model concludes that social information-processing mediates the link between the internal working models of attachment and social and emotional outcomes in children. While normative populations are prevalent in lines of research on SIP and attachment, there is little research on how the interactions of these two theories relate to non-normative populations of children. Some research has ventured to study children with learning disabilities (LDs) and children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in relation to attachment theory and the SIP model. These non-normative populations are at greater risk for insecure attachment and poor social skills for a variety of reasons. Children with LDs and ASD should be targets of early prevention and intervention programs related to attachment, social information-processing, and emotion regulation.

The current study, in part, extends the current knowledge by examining possible psychological predictors of negative attitudes towards the Mexican undocumented immigrant population and particularly those driving the disparities in conviction and sentencing of the Mexican population, with regard to property and drug crimes. The participant sample consisted of 201 individuals over the age of 18 and were mostly White (80%). Participants were presented with one of six vignettes that described a hypothetical court case which involved an undocumented immigrant from either Mexico, England, or an unspecified country that had allegedly committed either a drug possession crime or a property theft crime. In addition, three covariates, intergroup similarity, social dominance, and symbolic threat were measured. A 3 x 2 between subject ANOVA for the three countries of origin was conducted with intergroup similarity, social dominance, and symbolic threat as predictor variables of sentencing length and conviction outcomes. The ANOVA revealed there was a significant main effect of the symbolic threat total and the conviction outcomes of the drug felony crime, $F(2,199) = 17.26, p < .01$ and the jail time given for drug felony crime, $F(2,199) = 5.28,$
A significant main effect was found for the social dominance total and the conviction outcomes of the class A drug possession, $F(2,199) = 4.08, p < .05$. Regressions are currently being further analyzed. We predict that conviction rates and sentencing lengths would be harshest for Mexican undocumented immigrants in the drug crime condition. We predict that those scoring higher in the social dominance and symbolic threat measures to convict and give immigrants harsher sentences. We expected to find that those indicating to be more similar to the undocumented immigrant group would give more lenient sentences to the undocumented immigrant group. The proposed research can be of importance for real world application when investigating psychological predictors and their relation to the conviction and sentencing of undocumented Mexican immigrants in relation to drug and property crimes.