The 59\textsuperscript{th} Annual
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Conference Abstracts
Humans are implementing and designing AI and these machines are fed massive data many times by the emotionally-flawed. Kate Crawford, Microsoft researcher stated, “The journalists found...real disparity between African Americans who were being labeled as potential recidivists versus white people’s system that produce bias in its very design” (Glaser, 2016). The U.S. goal is to create technology that cognitively elucidate problems and attain goals effectively and efficiently. Accordingly, the Computational Theory of Mind sees the human brain as computer; the mind as the program that the brain runs. With AI there’s a disconnect, the brain (machine) isn’t linked to the mind (computer program), instead is interceded with decision made by design. AI may regulate who gets jobs, medical treatment, mortgage, or parole. Software profiles by name, if it is ethnic or not. What ethical consideration are needed regarding the Cyber-Age, as it relates to African Americans in the U.S.? This research explores AI bias that may infiltrate algorithms and create greater racial and cultural divides within the U.S.

Theodore S. Ransaw, Michigan State University

“Dad Play - More Than You Think: How Six Fathers in Mid-Michigan Use Sports As a Tool for Engagement, Accessibility, and Responsibility to Increase the Educational Outcomes of Their Children”

Caregiver stereotypes typically favor a mother’s parenting style more so than a father’s. Consequently, a father’s parental contribution is often undervalued. While fathers from many cultures are affected by the preference of female parenting styles, Black males are especially troubled by negative preconceived norms. Could the fact that, traditionally, men have only been given space to parent through sports be the reason that contributions of fathers in general, and Black fathers are not valued equally? This study examined how African American father’s relationship with their children and the mother of their children affect their involvement about the educational outcomes of their children. The participants were African American fathers between the ages of 18-52 with children between the ages of 13-25. The results suggest that sports played a key and interrelated role in fostering positive educational outcomes in the three areas of fathering involvement: accessibility, engagement, and responsibility.

Ken Corbit & Cody Dockery
University of Alabama

“An Ideological Criticism of T.I.’s War Zone”

Contrasts between jurisdictional paradigms and community expectations are at extremes. While the militarization of law enforcement advances, so too do the number of protests in multiple cities throughout America. There seems to be distinct opposition in the way each of the parties view one another, and as such the gulf appears to be increasing rather than narrowing. While
communities and governments find opposing stances, both the tension and potential for conflict between the two increase. This research looks at specific ideologies that are in play, utilizing T.I.’s “War Zone” as a rhetorical artifact. This research utilizes a critical methodology to further ideological analysis of the song. This is done through disclosure, identification, and interpretation of ideologies within the lyrics and composition, and an extensive review of existing research on those ideologies. The research reveals T.I.’s shift to conscious rap as a rhetorical tool to identify social inclusion, social control of the black community and police militarization.

George H. Junne, Jr., University of Northern Colorado

“Immigration, Emigration And Communities: African Americans In Colorado”

The presence of African Americans in what is now Colorado can be traced to York of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the explorations of John C. Fremont and others, plus additional historical records of trappers, gold miners and traders. In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, there were also important emigration plans that focused on African Americans resettling to Africa. Further, there were probably about twenty-five African American communities founded in the state, but many were unincorporated. This presentation will highlight some of the diverse experiences of Colorado’s African Americans.

Teresa F. Divine, Central Washington University

“Finding a New Measure for Historically Black Colleges and Universities”

Many HBCUs are struggling with retention and graduation rates. A question that this presentation will attempt to answer: are HBCUs graduating black students at an equal or higher rate than Predominately White Institutions (PWIs)? Furthermore, are there alternative ways of looking at this issue? Some would argue it depends on the actual measure used and the PWIs schools HBCUs are compared against. This presentation will discuss the unique educational, cultural and social features of HBCUs and how to measure their successes.

Barbara Hewins-Maroney & William Austin
University of Nebraska Omaha

“Mindset and African American Student Achievement: An Educational Challenge”

Initial results of a study involving mindset and the academic achievement of African American high school students will be presented. Mindset involves an individual’s core beliefs about themselves which influences a person’s inclination to learn and overcome challenges. Did African American high school students in a Midwestern urban community primarily have a fixed mindset (fear of failure, insecure, and risk avoidant) or a growth mindset (self-directed, resilient, and academically tenacious)? Was their mindset different than other racial/ethnic group respondents in the sample? Based on initial findings, the results may not surprise but raise troubling questions about academic support and quality of instruction.

Theodore S. Ransaw, Michigan State University

“Hood Winked: Exploring, Exposing and Eliminating Miss-truth’s About African American Males and Education

Looking for heuristic ways to educate Black males, researchers have been searching for the best approaches to support Black boys academically. Using evidence-based practices, this presentation will show that not all commonly excepted interventions have significant gains and many assumed positive educational outcomes decrease over time. This presentation will help
attendees critically examine how same race teachers and classrooms, cultural competency, as well as charter schools impact the lives of Black male students.
"#NoDAPL"

Laurence Armand French, Western New Mexico University

“Dakota Access Pipeline Controversy: 150-years of government deceit”

The current Dakota Access controversy involving the completion of the 1,200-mile pipeline that is intended to take sand oil resources from western North Dakota to an Illinois terminal has its foundation: (1) in the 30-year official Indian Wars (1862-1892); (2) the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie that created the Great Sioux Reservation that now encompasses the oil fields and pipeline; and (3) the 1885 Major Crimes Act that federalized crimes by Indians in Indian Country. Despite the Fort Laramie treaty, white settlers illegally entered the Great Sioux Reservation during the Black Hills gold rush provoking the Battle of the Little Big Horn resulting and Lt. Colonel Custer’s defeat along with the Black Hills being confiscated by the U.S. Government and other punitive measures including the murder of both Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse and the U.S. Army killing of hundreds unarmed Indians at Wounded Knee in December 1890. Collectively, these actions of deceit contributed to the emergence of the American Indian Movement (AIM) during the 1960s and 1970s resulting in Wounded Knee II. This paper exam the U.S. Government’s Indian Policies that fueled these situations ultimately leading to the current Indian protest movement.

Robert A. Bell, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

“The Relevance of the Fort Laramie Treaties of 1851 and 1868 Today”

The treaties of Fort Laramie 1851 and 1868 have may implications among the Lakota Sioux tribes today. Article 3 of the 1851 Treaty and article 1 of the 1868 Treaty both describe the commitment of the United States to protect and compensate the Lakota and other Plains tribes if non-Native Americans enter and do damage to any person living on the reservation or the environment of the reservation. Today there is a situation on the Standing Rock Reservation on North Dakota that these two articles of the Fort Laramie Treaties along with a few other minor articles from the same treaties apply. The issue is the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in which many Native Americans are joining the people of Standing Rock to stop the construction of the pipeline across reservation land. This is just one of many issues that the Fort Laramie Treaties cover that the Lakota Sioux face today not just on Standing Rock but on other reservations as well. These treaties were made and agreed upon over one hundred years ago but are still binding agreements that the United States must honor, and protect the rights of Native American through these treaties.
Moana Vercoe, TURN Research

“Pipelines, Protests and Costs: A Human Rights Analysis of the Dakota Access Pipeline”

This paper offers an examination of the Dakota Access Pipeline combining legal and economic perspectives. It examines events related to the water protectors at the Sacred Stone Camp, Oceti Sakowan Camp and other sites on the Cannon Ball community on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. This analysis presents a timeline of events on the ground, in the courts and within the political arena in examining the policy, policing, and legal responses to the actions of water protectors. An estimation of the costs involved in pushing the pipeline forward in spite of resistance and legal challenges is counterbalanced by a discussion of the long term implications of policy and policing decisions in relation to human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Michael Lerna

“Oceti Sakowin-Mni Waconi: World Water Wars at Standing Rock”

As national attention shifts toward Lakota Country, honing in on the standoff at Oceti Sakowin, the dialog about what is going on has been vastly diverse, ranging from nonchalance to outrage. Most of the information has been disseminated through social media. This paper will, hopefully, reframe the way the world processes the actions taking place on the ground, as well as the motives behind those actions. We will offer suggestions on future posts about the #NoDAPL movement. It has been observed that disinterest and ignorance about Indigenous sovereignty has kept a large portion of the population unaware of the standoff taking place. Additionally, clear communication about the importance of observing, respecting and enacting Lakota sovereignty can be further articulated by those opposing the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

“Advocacy for Environment & Water Rights”

Athena Talk, Northern Arizona University

“Uranium, Radiation, and Radon Education and Outreach”

The Navajo Nation has had a long history of uranium mining dating back to 1944 and lasting until 1986, when mines were shut down due to radiation exposure. However, more than 500 abandoned uranium mines left behind. The purpose of the Uranium, Radiation and Radon Education and Outreach internship is to produce adequate ways to communicate with tribal members about the effect uranium mining has had on the environment and one’s health. Although, the federal and Navajo government established a Community Outreach Network which includes representatives from: EPA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, Indian Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Lands/Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Program, and the Navajo Nation Department of Health. However, with this process there have been shortfalls in how these agencies proceed with communication. Many times they continue to use scientific words that many individuals do not understand. It is the goal of this paper is to discuss the best practices to educate Navajo residents and inform grades K-12 curriculum that educates students of the harms that uranium, radiation, and radon has on the environment and health.
Veronica Hirsch, University of Arizona

“Watering Tribal Homelands: Examining Water Rights Settlement Agreement Criteria”

Indian reserved water right settlements and negotiation processes illustrate complex relationships between federal Indian law, various water right doctrines, and standards used to quantify settlement rights. Each of the approximately thirty negotiated settlements that have been ratified by Congress possess unique attributes, including water right priority date; quantified amounts and amount determination methodology; intended water uses; and the number of settlement parties. Settlement negotiations that define and delimit tribal water right claims impact each reservation community’s social, cultural, political, and legal framework. Indian reservations must serve as ecologically and economically viable, permanent homelands and accelerating climate change will affect water resource availability and usage that necessitates balancing settlement criteria enforcement with hydrologically responsible resource management. A brief review of water rights doctrine and court case summaries reveals disparities between individual states regarding what standards and formulas are used to quantify reservation water resource requirements. Tribes contemplating a settlement may use this information to advocate for a methodology that best reflects their reservation’s economic, geographical, and geophysical characteristics. Reviewed settlement criteria are categorized and listed so that tribes may identify and communicate their primary water resource concerns, expectations, and priorities and create a community-specific settlement agreement.

Nicholas C. Peroff, University of Missouri-Kansas City

“Indian Termination Policy by Any Other Name: A Book Review”

In a new book entitled The New Trail of Tears: How Washington is Destroying American Indians, Naomi Schaefer Riley argues that America’s modern policies toward Native Americans deny Indians ownership of their land, refuse them access to the free market and legal protections due to them as American citizens. Dustcover comments describe the book as a powerful antidote to the romantic nonsense pervading our history of American Indian groups and a candidate for the book-of-the-year on racial issues in the United States. This paper critically reviews Riley’s book and in doing so challenges the opinion that Indian termination is a distant political artefact of the 1950s that could never to return in the United States. It concludes with an examination of several reasons why Indian termination policy, by any name, should not be pursued in the 21st century.

Chris Jocks, Northern Arizona University

“Flagstaff Indigenous Community Forums: A Process for Bordertown Justice and Strengthening Community”

Flagstaff, Arizona is a small city at the foot of the San Francisco Peaks, a being and a place of significance to 13 Indigenous nations. It is also a border town, adjacent or proximate to the territories of the Dine, the Hopi people, and others. Native people who live, work, shop, or visit in the city experience injustices and alienation common to border towns everywhere.

In response to a proposal to declare Indigenous Peoples Day in October, 2015, a group of Indigenous residents responded with a challenge: Instead of an empty declaration, could we create a process in which the City would revisit its relationship with Indigenous people, listen to what they have to say about their experiences, struggles, ideas, and demands; and build an action plan with community members and organizations to actually improve the conditions under which Native people live? On the basis of this effort, could we let Indigenous people decide whether the City deserves to declare an Indigenous Peoples Day?
This presentation will describe this process, which is underway and of which I am a participant. I will discuss it as an example of Indigenous community-based participatory research and action, employing principles of Indigenous methodology.

“Resilience”

June Lorenzo, Arizona State University

“Using a Pueblo chthonic lens to examine Spanish colonialism in New Mexico”

Most of current discourse on the Doctrine of Discovery analyzes the doctrine as realized in common law systems. Yet in the three and a half centuries between issuance of the Bull Inter Caetera of 1493, which provided one source of justification for the Doctrine, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, Pueblo peoples in New Mexico were forced to contend with Spain and its exercise of the Doctrine of Discovery under a civil law tradition. This history necessitates a reach for analysis beyond the common law in order to examine the Spanish civil law tradition as it played out in New Mexico during Spanish colonial years. My paper discusses the Spanish civil law tradition and its impacts on the chthonic or indigenous legal traditions among Pueblo peoples. Because indigenous legal traditions relate to our daily lives as Pueblo peoples, this paper transcends a narrow legalistic look at our colonial past. Rather, Spanish colonialism altered the sociocultural and political landscape for Pueblo peoples in ways that we continue to address; we were raced, gendered and sexualized as part of the colonial agenda facilitated by dominant institutions including the military, civil government, courts and the Catholic Church.

James Riding In

“Pawnee Survival during a Time of Death and Cultural Genocide”

Pawnee history in the late 1800s and early 1900s has received scant scholarly attention. This paper addresses this void in our knowledge by examining how several Pawnee families dealt with the U.S. policies of coercive assimilation and allotments during a time of death and dying in a new environment in Oklahoma. It examines the ways in which they adapted to the harsh realities of life under white American totalitarian rule as they struggle to survive through economic hardships, diseases, cultural suppression, and other forms of myopic paternalism. An examination of these families indicates that Pawnees took different approaches to give meaning to their lives. Some took up the Ghost Dance and peyote worship in defiance of U.S. objections while others embraced Christianity and assimilation and still others sought to carry on the old values, beliefs, and customs they had brought with them from their Nebraska homeland. It was the youth who became the victims of an alien educational system that aimed to strip them of their history, cultural identity, and traditional roles. Despite its impacts on Pawnee sovereignty, landholdings, human rights, religious freedom, health, welfare, and cultural integrity, U.S. policy failed to transform the Pawnees into mirror images of white Americans.

Marianne Nielsen, Northern Arizona University

“Conquest by Rape and Violence: Crimes against Indigenous Women”

Crimes against Indigenous women have occurred since First Contact. The colonial ideology of Indigenous inferiority and patriarchy are discussed as a means of justifying rape and other forms of violence against women as part of conquest, contributing to the high sexual victimization and domestic violence rates that exist today, and the devaluing of female leadership in many Indigenous groups. Included are examinations of stalking and the
involuntary sterilization of Native women, as well as crimes against two-spirited people, that is LGBTQIA individuals.

Kent McNeil
Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

“Indigenous Rights and Resource Development in Canada”

In 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada delivered a very significant judgment on Indigenous land rights, deciding for the first time that an Aboriginal people, the Tsilhqot’in Nation, has Aboriginal title to a portion of their traditional territory in British Columbia. This decision follows earlier Supreme Court judgments holding that the federal and provincial governments should consult with Indigenous peoples when decisions are made that might impact on their Aboriginal or treaty rights. These decisions have had a major impact on resource development and infrastructure in Canada. Whereas previously governments often went ahead with projects without even consulting with the Indigenous peoples concerned, they now have court-created constitutional obligations to involve Indigenous peoples in the planning and implementation of resource development in their traditional territories. This paper will discuss this dramatic change in the legal landscape and the implications of it, including its relevance to the current debate over the extension of oil and gas pipelines.

Claire Stewart-Kanigan
University of Victoria

“Beyond Decriminalization: Centering Indigenous Justice in Canadian Sex Work Advocacy”

With the launch of Canada’s National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Canadian social justice movements’ focus on gendered Indigenous struggles is significant. This focus is especially strong given the Inquiry’s intersection with another high-profile struggle: sex workers’ rights. However, mainstream social justice aims do not always align with those of Indigenous communities, particularly regarding Indigenous law and nationhood’s role in achieving justice. This paper will examine this tension in the case of the sex workers’ rights movement’s ability to collaborate with Indigenous justice struggles without re-entrenching Canadian legal domination. I argue that to support Indigenous justice, the sex
workers’ rights movement must interrogate the colonial underpinnings of its second-wave feminist and saviorist origins, and the notion that Canadian legal reform will end gendered colonial violence. Sex workers’ rights actors must look beyond decriminalization to engage in the longer work of building relationships with local Indigenous nations and targeting Canadian law and institutions’ encroachment on Indigenous legal practices. This conclusion will be reached using a theoretical lens sensitive to the liberal politics of recognition inherent to Canadian multiculturalism, and an applied lens drawing on my thesis work with a front-line sex work resource and advocacy organization.

Inge Genee, University of Lethbridge/University of California-Berkeley

“Applying Participatory Action Research to the development of digital resources for the Blackfoot language”

"Junker & Luchian (2009) argue for a Participatory Action Research (PAR; Morris & Myzychka 2002; Junker 2002, 2004; Kemmis & McTaggart 2005) approach to indigenous language documentation, preservation and revitalization work. In describing their collaboration with East Cree-speaking communities in Northern Quebec, they emphasize the following three key principles: 1. Process over results: Focus on the research process rather than on the research results. 2. Success is impact: “Success” is defined as “positive impact on language and speakers”. 3. Collaboration: Goals and methods are determined in collaboration with partners. The Blackfoot Language Resources and Digital Dictionary project (blackfoot.atlas-ling.ca) currently underway at the University of Lethbridge is built on the model of work done by Junker and her collaborators in the context of the Algonquian Languages: Dictionaries and Linguistic Atlas project (Junker 2013; www.atlas-ling.ca). While the local context for the Blackfoot language is quite different, the three principles listed by Junker & Lucian also inform the work being done on the Blackfoot project. In this paper, I discuss how we are working to put the principles of PAR into practice in our project to build long-term relationships with the local community of Blackfoot speakers, learners and teachers.
“Returning the People to the Circle: A Round Table Discussion on Overcoming the Fracturing of Indian Communities”

Leo Killsback, Arizona State University
“Decolonizing the Rez: Rebuilding Native Nations through Traditional Principles of Unity, Brotherhood, and Sovereignty”

Rick Wheelock, Fort Lewis College
“Intratribal Cooperation and Communications: Is Consensus Possible?”

“Prison Reform: Re-entry Advocacy for Native Americans”
North Star-Lyle Daychild, Ralph Ramirez and Cindie Nahsonhoya
Native Americans returning to their communities from post-incarceration frequently are coming back affected by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Coupled with barriers related to collateral consequences- such as, challenges with finding safe housing, access to quality employment, reduced/negative civil rights, exclusion from social services- many Native people struggle to or are structurally prevented from reintegrating into society. This combination of factors makes indigenous populations acutely vulnerable, which in turn contributes to relapse, and eventually the cycle of incarceration begins anew.

This workshop entitled, “The Cumulative Effects of Trauma on Native Americans Involved in the Judicial System: Implications for Trauma Treatment and Reentry Programs”, will focus on the cumulative effects of trauma including historical trauma and trauma related to the experience of the judicial process and offer alternatives that are rooted in indigenous knowledge systems. The panelists are three people who have been directly impacted by the criminal legal system. “The Cumulative Effects of Trauma on Native Americans Involved in the Judicial System: Implications for Trauma Treatment and Reentry Programs” will review approaches that have been shown to be ineffective, outline current evidence informed/based practices (EBP) for treating PTSD in this population, and discuss the urgency of culturally specific reentry programs for Native American communities.

The workshop will close offering an alternative pathway for understanding community re-entry for Native populations. Program alternatives covered will be grounded in indigenous methodologies and therapies.

- Native American Spirituality
- Ceremony as Healing
- Indigenous Methodologies to Create Culturally Specific Re-entry Programs and healing

“Language, Culture, and Traditional Knowledge”

Darrien Benally, Northern Arizona University

“Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Resilient Indigenous Communities”

For centuries, Indigenous peoples have used traditional ecological knowledge to sustain their lifestyles and their environments. The accumulation of traditional ecological knowledge of Indigenous people has resulted from centuries of direct contact with their environment. This knowledge would include use of medicinal plants, agricultural practices and hunting. This type of knowledge is often communicated in the form of traditional stories or ceremonies. Historical trauma experienced by Indigenous communities has displaced and disrupted their traditional lifestyle, including their traditional ecological knowledge. Due to this disruption, traditional ecological knowledge held by tribes is becoming lost with each new generation. This paper will focus on how the use of traditional ecological knowledge can become a key component in the resiliency of Indigenous communities through herbal medicines to promote mental wellbeing.
Cristina Azoca, San Francisco State University

“Who is Indian? The Role of the Media in the Self-Determination of the Indigenous People of the United States”

This research examines the news media frames in stories and social media messages about tribes seeking recognition and the influence of those frames and messages on the federal recognition outcome. Congress determines if Native tribes are tribal entities. But genocidal laws of the 19th and 20th centuries make it nearly impossible for tribes to prove they are Indian tribes. No other racial group’s recognition becomes questionable when political seats and the resources that come with them are at stake. And although mostly invisible in the news media, when federal recognition may cry casinos NIMBY to neighboring communities, the media becomes an important arbitrator of rights. Research on media coverage of tribes seeking federal recognition is scarce, and yet the role of the news media and their influence on politics is well-documented. That a government can decide Who is an Indian is significant in a time when Native rights and the politics that surround those rights are at the forefront of the media. This decision and how the news media reports the story and its implications could have ripple effects on tribes seeking recognition if that recognition might interfere with planned and future infrastructure projects.

“Native Student Success”

Mark L.M. Blair, University of Arizona

“Taking the Next Step: Promoting Native American Student Success in American Indian/Native American Studies Graduate Programs”

Native American doctoral student enrollment has not increased over the past twenty years, despite a steady increase at the undergraduate level. Native Americans are the only group to not see an increase in doctoral degrees granted. There are many individual and institutional factors affecting Native American student success such as cultural and social isolation, financial stressors, racism, and access to indigenous faculty and mentoring. What are American Indian/Native American Studies (AIS/NAS) programs doing about it?

A mixed method approach consisting of intense empirical research and data mining was used to find enrollments of Native students, identify AIS/NAS programs and enrollment trends, and identify factors affecting student success. Native American students are vastly underreported in the federal data base (IPEDS), which affects federal student aid and relegates many students invisible.

Key factors for Native American graduate student success include determination and resiliency, supportive relationships through mentoring and access to faculty, and a desire to give back to their communities. It is recommended that AIS/NAS graduate programs honor their land grant obligations to increase access and funding for Native students through endowments and tuition waiver programs, develop a detailed mentoring plan, and improve outreach to Native communities.

Jamie Folsom, Colorado State University

“Retiring pseudo-American Indian mascots as innovation: Analysis of two early adopter colleges”

Retiring an American Indian mascot is framed within Rogers’ Diffusion of Innovations theory for two Early Adopters at Dartmouth College and Stanford University. Using Brayboy’s Tribal Critical Race Theory it centers the voices and actions of Native groups. A content analysis
identifies diffusion factors contributing to and challenging each college’s decision to retire their mascots - Relative Advantage and Compatibility. Communication Channel and decisive messages are proposed as predictive factors in long-term success for adoption.

Cody Johnson, Ryan Grass, Kaitlyn Haskie

“Embracing Indigenous Nation Building through Economic Viability and Identity in 21st Century”

Native Nation [re]building is the process of increasing the capacities for self-governance, self-determination, sustainable communities and economic development in a culturally appropriate manner. Intrinsic to the Native Nation [re]building is maintaining an Indigenous identity while enhancing economic viability. This panel will focus on how undergraduate students in the Applied Indigenous Studies Department at Northern Arizona University are utilizing culturally appropriate ways to provide for their Indigenous communities. Panel topics include the importance of documenting Indigenous stories, songs, and teachings in a sacred and appropriate manner for future generations; using cultural values to enhance health education and prevention, and; exploring culturally appropriate forms of economic development within Native communities.

Alisse Ali-Joseph, Karen Jarratt-Snider, Linda Robyn, Northern Arizona University, Cheryl Redhorse Bennett, Arizona State University Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox, Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, University of Arizona Anne Luna-Gordinier, California State University Sacramento

“American Indian Social and Criminal Justice”

Participants will discuss their latest research initiatives including: violent crimes against Indigenous women, the Violence Against Women Act, current environmental justice issues, exercising sovereignty, hate crimes, and Federal Data Collection under TLOA. Additional participants: Karen Jarratt-Snider, Northern Arizona University Linda Robyn, Northern Arizona University

Tennille Marley, Arizona State University

“American Indian Reservations as Segregated Spaces”

Segregation is the physical separation of the races in residential contexts (Williams & Collins, 2001, p. 405). The effects of segregation on health are well documented, it can adversely affect health directly and indirectly through social exclusion, economic opportunity, healthy choices, environmental hazards, housing, schools, crime, and incarceration (Kramer and Hogue, 2009; Lee and Ferraro, 2007; Polednak, 1996; Schulz et. al., 2002; Williams & Collins, 2001). However, the segregation literature focuses almost exclusively on African Americans. Williams and Collins (2001) state, Reservations are another prominent example of residential segregation that deserves careful examination in identifying the basic causes of health challenges faced by many American Indians and Alaskan Natives (p. 416). This research is the first step in conceptualizing segregation for American Indian Reservations. As part of this first step I will conduct a systematic review of the segregation literature that is pertinent to American Indians and Reservations. Given their unique status as sovereigns and distinct history, additional mechanisms that operate at the reservation level will be considered. This line of research will fill a gap in the segregation literature by providing a picture of segregation and health in AIAN communities.
Lynette Pollari, Arizona State University

“Building the Din’e Pattern Language for New Neighborhood Design: Engine of Cultural Change and Language Revitalization”

The dynamic nature of Navajo culture is being constrained by a mechanistic planning paradigm supporting delivery of colonial subdivisions across the land. Poor housing and subdivision conditions levy pressures on the Navajo People that reduce their ability to cope with environmental, financial and social pressures. This study has taken this social justice related health challenge to heart through a 2015-2016 school year of PhD driven, community-based participatory action research with high school student participants from Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, NM and community participants from the Shiprock Chapter of the Navajo Nation. Fieldwork focused on case study analysis of cluster settlements across the Navajo Northern Agency and existing subdivisions within Shiprock to develop the Framework for a transformational Navajo model of the Pattern Language (Alexander et al, 1977) for new neighborhood design. An ethnographic research methodology was employed with students, faculty, Board leadership and neighboring Shiprock Chapter and Planning Commission research participants. The study was anchored by a pioneering indigenous planning high school course that was housed within the School’s International Baccalaureate curriculum. Goals for student education in pattern language planning and language-building were married with practical aims for use of the Dine Pattern Language for anticipated Chapter housing projects.

Wanda Dalla Costa, Arizona State University

“Architecture as Storyteller”

Pre-colonial Indigenous built environments were culturally potent: they served the physical, symbolic, social and spiritual needs of the people. Architecture was not simply shelter, but enabled cultural continuity on many levels: “at a physical level, it embodied centuries of learning regarding orientation, climate, building materials and construction techniques. At a spiritual level, the built-form conveyed total harmony with the life-style in all its daily, as well as seasonal rituals, unifying the socio-cultural and spiritual aspirations of the individuals and the community” (Doshi 1985: 112). While cultural continuity (and potency) in North America has been interrupted by several historical events (including loss of traditional form, the outlawing of culture traditions, and the reservation systems), re-operationalizing culture is a common community aim. Indigenous ways of seeing and knowing, are beginning to impact many disciplines including healthcare, natural resource development, education, governance, and now architecture. Architecture, as a discipline is proving powerful in its ability to express culture and to contextualize traditional knowledge. With 1,184 diverse communities in North America, each with a unique story to tell – from history to protocols, processes and systems (social, value, norms, organizational) - the impact of built form is immense. Moreover, beyond the cultural, social and spiritual impact, architecture can influence economics, the environment and even the political realm (enabling autonomy). Architecture in this regard, is a potent vessel of communication. It is a storyteller, a teaching tool, and a means of re-operationalizing culture.

Michelle L. Hale, Arizona State University

“Building the Bridge: Cross-Disciplinary Pedagogy in AIS and Planning for the Advancement of Strategic Community Development for Indian Nations”

I will share three years of data from the “Tribal Community Development” course, a partnership between American Indian Studies, the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning and—more recently, the School of Construction at Arizona State University. The class
offers students exposure to the tools, models, methods and language of urban planning and the cultural, historical, political, and legal context in which community development and planning occur for citizens of Indian nations. Students have opportunity to teach and learn from counterparts in other disciplines to gain appreciation and understanding of the complexity of community development and resource management on Indian land. Class projects challenge students to work alongside peers from diverse disciplines to identify development challenges that commonly face Indian people, and to devise thoughtful and appropriate strategies to address them. I will share reflections from students on the experience of the course and recommendations for the further development of interdisciplinary partnerships and curriculum.

Wanda Dalla Costa, Michelle L. Hale, Tennille Marley

“Reservation Infrastructure: Housing Holds the Key for Healthy Families and Communities”

Many reservations lack adequate infrastructure: roads, communication systems and a reliable power grid. Rural communities sometimes struggle to have access to power, safe drinking water, and indoor plumbing. Existing homes and schools often fail to meet safety standards or provide space that is safe and appropriate for the people who occupy it. Panelists will discuss the correlation between the built environment and Indian health. Tennille Marley will share her research on type 2 diabetes, obesity and neighborhood poverty and housing mobility. Wanda Dalla Costa will discuss project work from Indian Country that demonstrates the possibilities for culturally-appropriate, practical and sustainable housing. Michelle Hale will discuss strategies for public and private sector partnerships and community engagement for localized community development that empowers and better serves reservation communities.
“Racialized Debt and the Corporate Neoliberal University”

Throughout this paper I will explore the context of campus climate during proposed budget cuts to the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU, to explore the neoliberal production of racialized debt as a means of activating and justifying budget cuts against otherwise popular and valuable programs and departments. By examining these budget cuts in tandem with the continued corporatization of the public university and recent racial conflicts on SFSU’s campus, I explore the rich interconnections between political trends, cultural messages, social interactions, and our ideas of self to investigate the continued privatization and corporatization of public education and the role race, racism, and racial symbolism play in justifying widespread divestment from public education.

“Identity Formation of Muslims in America: An Assessment of the Literature”

This paper is a literature review of the research on Muslim American identity formation. This area of research is becoming increasingly important as the Muslim population increases in size and becomes more established in the United States. It is also becoming important as this group becomes the target of resentment and hate by dominant groups within a context of domestic and transnational terrorism. This research is spread across several disciplines, and this is the first paper to condense the findings from these papers into a single paper on this topic. The paper concludes with suggestions for future research in this area.

“From ‘Hipster’ to ‘Hippie’ and Back Again: Hoffman, Rubin, Sanders, and the Evolution of American Hipness”

The 60s, 70s, and 80s were a key moment in the evolution in American popular culture of the meaning of being “hip.” Following on earlier presentations on Anatole Broyard and Terry Southern on the meaning of the term “hipster,” I focus here on the emergence and meaning of the term “hippie” as a variant that spins off and remains separate for the term “hipster,” comparing the terms. My vehicle for this is an examination of three of its key figures of the “hippie” movement: Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, and Ed Sanders. After the three collaborated on the 1972 book “Vote,” an unsuccessful attempt to mobilize radicals to support George McGovern, only Hoffman remained committed to radical agitation, spending many years underground then returning to protest activities until his suicide in 1989. Rubin went through EST, and as an entrepreneur and Wall Street networker became an early exemplar of “Yuppie” culture. Sanders found a home in the avant-garde poetry, music, and art worlds. These three represent different exemplars of the “hippie” ideal of seamlessly combining radical politics, avant-garde aesthetics, and an ethics of personal freedom within a mainstream American culture that remains hostile to such ideals.
“Here is where the map should fold. Here is the boundary between east and west.” These were the words of author John Steinbeck, remarking upon the schizophrenic nature of the North Dakotan landscape at the site of the Missouri River. In this he poses an answer to one of the oldest and greatest riddles of American geography: Where does the West begin? The goal of this paper is not to answer that question, but to provide a fuller understanding of how one might approach issues of Westernness and regional identity. Our investigation opens with a deconstruction of the East/West binary in U.S. cultural history, using Frederick Jackson Turner’s “Frontier Thesis,” the 1911 tour of the Western Governors’ Special, and the cowboy poetry of Arthur Chapman to better understand what it means to be Western. From here it explores this debate in microcosm in the Dakotas, two states segmented first by political boundaries, and then again by East/West social and climatological difference. Finally, it produces some of the results of a major fieldwork project, turning toward North and South Dakota locals to gain insider perspective on life along the Hundredth Meridian.
Rennie Meyers, University of Rhode Island

“An aesthetics of resilience: design and agency in contemporary coral restoration”

If the Anthropocene points to how human action can destabilise earth’s systems, then it also implies that human agency can refurbish and redesign those same systems in the name of mutual survival. On Koh Tao, an island in the Gulf of Thailand, a cohort of tourists and conservationists collect, cultivate, and propagate coral species on artificial reef structures. Koh Tao’s economy is dependent on its local reefs to support scuba tourism, but only the New Heaven Restoration and Conservation Program (NHRCP) maintains conservation efforts to support reef resilience and the island’s economic health. Its students and instructors re-form their relationship to global climate change as doubly active agents in the Anthropocene: first, claiming responsibility for the ecological impacts of anthropogenic climate change; second, reforming the life-path of coral fragments under new scientific and aesthetic paradigms. As scientists, participants prioritise coral species’ genetic diversity and ecological needs. As conservationists, they create narratives that perpetuate investment in resilience. From coral nurseries to underwater sculptures, NHRCP’s participants rework their relationship to global climate change and their own sense of agency made manifest through ecological design. They imagine new livelihoods by fashioning resilient, genetically diverse coral species. Their choices become an aesthetic of resilience.

Jana Haberlein, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland

“Bordering Practices in Swiss Borderscapes”

The management of borders is commonly described as having undergone a large-scale shift and externalisation since the emergence of the Schengen area. Border control posts have been abolished between EU member states and controls have discontinued some time ago. While the long summer of migration in 2015 exemplified how and where European borders have been externalised, this externalisation only partly counts for Switzerland. Switzerland contributes several ways to uphold the Schengen border in global spaces. The case of Switzerland also differs significantly from that of other Schengen members in that it is not a member in the EU Customs Union which has abolished internal customs controls. Thus, Switzerland is still faced with material (customs) border that is crossed by various bodies, vehicles and goods, and this border has not ceased to be controlled. My paper will take these considerations as starting point to reflect upon the Swiss border as a site of inclusion and exclusion of migrants. It will investigate and discuss the current practices of border guarding of the Swiss Border Guard from an ethnographic perspective and relate them to migrants’ and their supporters’ practices of resisting official border making tactics.
Adnan Jamil Quaid-i-Azam, University Islamabad

“Rural-Urban Migration due to Water Scarcity”

The data presented in research paper entitled “Rural-Urban Migration due to Water Scarcity among the Bheel, an Indigenous Community in Tharparkar” was collected while using qualitative anthropological techniques. During the last few decades the natives of Tharparkar have suffered from a severe water scarcity problem. This is particularly visible in the agricultural sector and in the farming communities. These communities are highly dependent on water as primary irrigation source. Lack of water and investments has resulted in the destruction of the agricultural sector in Tharparkar. The aim of this study is to assess the water scarcity as the cause of migration which is taking place in the following area and to look for possible solutions which can help in fulfilling the peoples need for water and to stop them from migrating. For the current study the mode which is used for evaluation includes some qualitative methods such as case study, structured in-depth interviews and focused group discussions. This study is conducted among the Bheel community of Hindu minority at the village of Bahvy-Jo-Tarr Taulka Islamkot, Tharpakr.

A.J. Faas, San Jose State University

“Petit Capitalisms in Disaster, or the Limits of Neoliberal Imagination”

Disaster capitalism is typically defined as the opportunistic reconfiguration of economies and regulations in service of capitalist interests under the cover of environmental crisis. This paper offers a complementary variety of disaster capitalism the production of capitalist subjects, new petit capitalists powered by the state and NGOs via initiation into the special knowledge and crafts of small enterprise. These strategies reveal the limits of neoliberal imagination; the inability to envision recovery but through individualistic, entrepreneurial endeavors. In my ethnographic analysis of recovery from the 1999 and 2006 eruptions of Mt. Tungurahua in Ecuador, I present cases of the state and NGOs providing aid and recovery opportunities to affected highland peasants subsidizing white onion production, small animal husbandry, tourism, and a farm-to-table program. These projects reveal that people can be moved to assume certain subjectivities by limited parameters of possibility and an internalization of dominant discourses. Even as Andean subjects in these cases posture their culture and practices as moral, communitarian alternatives to capitalist greed, local economic strategies take on entrepreneurial characteristics that articulate with neoliberal ambitions of state and global institutions; peasant ambitions and desires are produced and invoked as if locally derived, while simultaneously being co-constituted by dominant interest.

Susan Schmid Western Wyoming Community College

“Fear Culture and Identity: Rural Wyoming and Islamophobia”

The divisive rhetoric today precludes a deeper understanding of issues that many groups agree with, but believe themselves to be divided. Understanding the role Fear Culture plays in this division is key to creating solutions through a cross cultural dialogue. Fear culture as explained by Barry Glassner demonstrates how and why Americans are engrossed with sensationalized fear and explains how the media exposes people to a manipulated perspective of certain situations. Fear culture is being used as a framing device for the growth of Islamophobia in the United States to explain the unique scapegoating situation Muslims currently endure. The purpose of this research is to interrogate various demographics,
within a rural community, concerning the existing perception surrounding those who identify as Muslim. Primary data collection was through a survey asking about what group[s] the subject identifies with, be it a veteran, community youth worker, adamant church attendee, or an intersection. Questions also establish various identities, and their specific sentiments toward people who either are Muslim, or are assumed to be due to regional association. Analysis of data will help establish whether certain demographics hold certain negative or positive perceptions of Muslims.

Elizabeth Moore, Western Wyoming Community College

“Social Media’s Impact on Extremist Views: An Analysis of Group Solidarity and Social Media Use”

Expanding and Protecting the Nation-State in e-Estonia  On December 1, 2014, everyone in the world, became eligible for Estonian e-residency. Though e-Estonians are not entitled to physical residency or social services, they receive digital access to many of the more than 600 online services Estonia already provides its 1.3 million residents. By co-operating with the private sector to create value for digital residents, the state hopes to recruit at least 10 million e-Estonians by 2025. You don’t have to live in Estonia to be part of our country, says Taavi Kotka, Estonia’s Chief Information Officer. What does this new form of belonging in relation to the state mean and how is it similar or different from other types relationships citizens and non-citizens have with states? Drawing on participant observation with the e-Residency team and interviews with e-Residents, this paper will trace the ways in which e-residents are constructed as particular type of subject in relation to the Estonian state and nation. Further, through its exploration of the ways e-Residents subjectively understand themselves as connected not only to Estonia, but also to one another this paper will highlight how emergent information technologies may facilitate new forms of political community.

A. Lorraine Weekes, Stanford University

“Expanding and Protecting the Nation-State in e-Estonia”

On December 1, 2014, everyone in the world, became eligible for Estonian e-residency. Though e-Estonians are not entitled to physical residency or social services, they receive digital access to many of the more than 600 online services Estonia already provides its 1.3 million residents. By co-operating with the private sector to create value for digital residents, the state hopes to recruit at least 10 million e-Estonians by 2025. “You don’t have to live in Estonia to be part of our country,” says Taavi Kotka, Estonia’s Chief Information Officer. What does this new form of belonging in relation to the state mean and how is it similar or different from other types relationships citizens and non-citizens have with states? Drawing on participant observation with the e-Residency team and interviews with e-Residents, this paper will trace the ways in which e-residents are constructed as particular type of subject in relation to the Estonian state and nation. Further, through its exploration of the ways e-Residents subjectively understand themselves as connected not only to Estonia, but also to one another this paper will highlight how emergent information technologies may facilitate new forms of political community.
“Seat belt Usage in the Arid/Semi-Arid Lands: Resolving the Paradox”

The August, 2016 issue of Consumer Reports listed the best and worst states in seat belt usage. In June, 2016 The Washington Post newspaper ranked each state based on intelligence. Using our arid/semi-arid state classification and regression analysis, this paper investigates the apparent paradox of how smart states - Massachusetts and New Hampshire, for example - can rank poorly in seat belt usage.

Alejo Kraus-Polk, University of California Davis
Brett Milligan, University of California Davis

“Human Use of Restored and Naturalized Delta Landscapes”

Current legislation and plans for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta call for large-scale restoration of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, which will require significant changes in land uses and cultural patterns. These rewilded landscapes will be subject to a variety of new human uses, which has yet to be adequately considered in Delta planning and adaptive management literature. Failing to account for human uses leads to diminished performance and public support for Delta restoration efforts. Our one-year empirical study examined restored and naturalized Delta landscapes from an integrative human--environment perspective; adopting a landscape planning approach that seeks to reconcile multiple goals and land use agendas spanning ecological, social, economic and political domains. Initial findings have shown that human uses of the Delta’s restored landscapes are diverse and pervasive. They are subject to multiple and sometimes conflicting uses and values. Therefore, reconciling human uses with ecological restoration will require a more inclusive and multifunctional approach to designing and adaptively managing these landscapes. Case studies revealed that more participatory and proactive planning for human uses is a sound investment in the long term, as it helps to discourage undesirable activity while also building constituency and public support for these projects. The public has the potential to be an asset in restoration through citizen science and civic ecology programs, which are currently almost non-existent in the Delta. We propose that human uses of restored landscapes be integrated into adaptive management efforts and that more resources and research be dedicated to planning for human uses of these expanding lands.

Daniel D. Kuester, Kansas State University

“Implementing and Executing a Basic Student Price Index”

The students in the economics club at Kansas State University started collecting data for the Student Price Index (SPI) in 2002. The SPI was the first index of its type at a major university in the United States and we have effectively involved hundreds of economics club members with data collection and in helping write our annual press release. This paper is partially designed to explain the simple methodology used in determining the price index. The
compelling history of how the average Kansas State Student has been affected by inflation is also covered. The primary purpose of this paper is to demonstrate a low-cost way to generate student involvement in a project which is fairly simple to execute and demonstrate in the classroom. Instructors can use this data to explain the substitution and quality biases involved with many measures of inflation and explain base year analysis. I have served as a faculty advisor to the economics club since 2004 and this has been an enormously successful project. The SPI has been covered by USA Today, CNN and many local affiliates. Students appreciate having the opportunity to participate in a real application of a simple economic analysis.

Mark Melichar, Tennessee Tech University
Bebonchu Atems, Clarkson University

"The Effect of Oil Shocks on Other Commodity Prices"

The relationship between oil and other commodity prices is examined through vector autoregression (VAR) and impulse response functions (IRF). Using three different types of oil shocks, generated from changes in global supply and demand, the transmission of oil price shocks to other commodity prices is explained. Results reveal aggregate demand and oil-specific demand shocks lead to significantly higher energy commodity prices such as gasoline and diesel, and higher agricultural input prices such as fertilizer. These results indicate higher food prices following oil shocks.
Liang Yu Zhang-Moran, California State University, Long Beach
“The Lost Generation: Rusticated Youth My Experience during the Cultural Revolution”

The term “Mao’s mass culture” in other words, should be “Mao’s hegemony controlling people’s mind.” Mao’s mass culture reached its peak during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution that Mao Zedong created in 1966. Countless people have been criticized. Countless homes were ransacked. Countless people committed suicide. Countless people persecuted to death. I’m Chinese-American. I was born and grew up in Chengdu Sichuan China. In January 1969, Mao Ze Dong’s China government exiled millions, an entire generation of middle school students, who were called “Zhiqing, Knowledge Youth” from all parts of China to the countryside. I was one of them. This paper describes my experience during the Cultural Revolution.

Alfredo R. Rosete, Mt. Holyoke College
“Property, Possession, Incorporation: Agribusiness Venture Agreements in the Philippines”

Of late, incorporating small holder land, through partnerships with agribusiness firms that cultivate export crops has received some attention among scholars, policy-makers and non-government organizations (NGOs). Some see such partnerships as a means of raising smallholder incomes, and achieving rural development. However, several case studies have shown that such partnerships can result in low incomes, and effective dispossession of smallholders. This essay examines how this dynamic occurs by comparing the experiences of smallholders in the Davao Region of the Philippines. I argue that despite the smallholders’ observable and enforceable property rights, the costs and risks of cultivation, coupled with an unfavorable political environment generate conditions under which smallholders cede control over their holdings in a partnership. This results in both lower incomes, and exclusion from the use of their land.

Matthew Munday, University of Texas at Dallas
“Closing the Gap: Chinese Military Modernization and Taiwanese Air Defense Capabilities”

China has consistently and dramatically expanded the pace of its military modernization over the last two decades. Taiwan, a pillar of America’s regional security strategy, is uniquely threatened by these developments. Continuation of the cross-strait strategic balance relies upon a dynamic deterrence equation emphasizing the cost of Chinese intervention, the strength of Taiwan’s air defenses, and the commitment of American forces. Arms sales from the United States have contributed significantly towards this deterrence equation, providing Taiwan with a qualitative military edge over China. However, Chinese military modernization is quickly closing the gap. As Chinese defense spending continues to increase, Taiwanese defense spending and American arms sales to Taiwan are on the decline. This paper advances the argument that, given current trends, the deterrence equation will favor China over Taiwan soon. I test this claim by comparing the relative military expenditures of China and Taiwan since 1990. Special attention is given to the comparative might of cross-strait aerial capabilities. In addition to exploring the security dynamics between China and Taiwan, this research furthers the discussion of the United States’ role in the balance of power over the Taiwan Strait.
Omer Aijazi, University of British Columbia

“Title: Death is the best remembrance: Violence, repair and political becoming in Kashmir”

"What is the nature of violence as revealed by its lived and felt experiences? How do survivors respond to violence? What do these responses reveal about the always-emerging nature of the political? To understand these concerns, I study the biography of Amal: mother, midwife and resident of Neelum valley, Pakistan administered Kashmir. Amal successfully raised a family with her husband during the height of the Kashmiri liberation movement until his untimely death in 2014. Amal leaves for work every morning hoping that the spiritual rewards of her medical services will bless the soul of her deceased husband. In a volunteer capacity, Amal also advises pregnant women in their communities against a backdrop of lacking health services, difficult topography and other gendered features of life in the disputed region. By examining her everyday, I offer nuanced insights on processes of social repair, arguing that these delicate acts of self-creation and remaking of one’s lifeworld not only unfold in the crafting of moral spaces within existing socialities but also in the creation of new socialities all-together, which may transcend the limits of our world. I also offer the framework of moral presence in territory, to understand Amal’s life in Neelum as maintenance of place, integral to ongoing struggles for Kashmiri sovereignty.

Laurence Armand French, University of New Hampshire

“Sectarian conflicts in Southeast Asia and the War on Terrorism”

Southeast Asia is a complex region of Asia comprised of both mainland countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar [Burma], Thailand and Vietnam) as well the maritime islands of Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Today, the region maintains a geopolitical block known as ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The indigenous people are of Austroasiatic, Tai and Khmer descent but have been long influenced by India and China. It is estimated that the region’s population exceeds 500 million people. Contemporary religious violence in the region intensified following World War II as many of these nations attempted to gain independence from their colonial masters. With the world’s largest Muslim population residing in this region (some 240 million Sunni adherents) the current 21st century War on Terrorism focuses on the influence of radical Islamic groups, notably the Jemaah Islamiya (JI); the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Abu Sayyaf. Essentially Jemaah Islamiyah is a militant Islamic group seeking a pan-Islamic region within South East Asia while the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Abu Sayyaf are Islamic radicals in the southern Philippine Islands."

Ie May Freeman, Azusa Pacific University

“Differentiated Instruction and Its Impact on Asian-Americans”

Asian American students enter classrooms with many learning styles, language proficiencies and abilities. Currently, teachers in 47 out of 50 states in United States and the District of Columbia are mandated to teach Common Core State Standards except for Alaska, Texas, Nebraska and Virginia. Through differentiated instruction strategies, pre-service teachers and teacher educators can meet the needs of Asian American students who are living in these various states. In this article, the author provides practical ways for differentiating content and instruction for Asian Americans. On-going formative assessment, flexible grouping, learning centers, multilevel activities, accelerated learning, anchor activities, and independent study are also mentioned.
Phylis Lan Lin, University of Indianapolis

“Trends of Internationalization of Higher Education in China: Challenges and Opportunities”

With globalization and the development of the Internet of Things, internationalization of higher education has become an important national goal in China. The purpose of this presentation is threefold: (1) to describe a brief history of internationalization of higher education in China; (2) to conceptualize the dualism of internationalization of higher education, the role of the government, and China’s 13th Five Year Plan in China; and (3) to delineate the challenges and opportunities of international collaborations, especially in the dual-degree model under international partnership programs between China and the United States.
ASSOCIATION FOR BORDERLANDS STUDIES

Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Jessica Becker, University of Ottawa

“Speaking to the Wall: Examining the feasibility and relevance of Donald J. Trump's wall from the perspective of a realist and constructivist theoretical framework in international relations”

Donald J. Trump announced that he will build a 35–40-foot-high wall along the US-Mexico border. Building walls and fortifying boundaries is not a recent phenomenon. Since the end of the Cold War, countries around the world have responded to threats by building walls or fences. The persistent militarization of borderlands is especially evident in Nogales, Arizona. Although walls are erected to serve practical, symbolic, or even performative functions, walls such as these have been proven to be costly and problematic. Why, then, do governments around the world continue to build them? Realists in international relations have a ready answer: clearly, they argue, because in the face of threats to its sovereignty, a state must ensure its own survival. In this paper, I use social constructivism as an approach to determine if and how border walls can be reinterpreted. This theory puts emphasis on norms and ideas and postulates that these need to be included in analyzing the behaviour of states and non-state actors. Border walls are not simply a symptom of realism, but are imbued with meaning and, as such, border walls can be built up and destroyed around ideas.

Manuel Chavez, Michigan State University

“Perceptions and attitudes towards the US-Mexico border region through the news media”

This paper shows how media framing played an important role in strengthening negative perceptions and attitudes towards the US border with Mexico. The author shows the different approaches used in social media and by the traditional press to shape a pre-conceived notion of the border area. The research shows how frames used rather than to provide better and accurate information, created confusion, distrust, and negative cognitive perceptions.

Karissa John, York University

“Haudenosaunee Nation, restricted and confined, fight for justice: ‘Fight the Line’”

Combining my own auto-ethnography of experience, as a Haudenosaunee woman having lived on both sides of the borderline, with a review of literature and historical documents, this paper examines border-crossing issues for Haudenosaunee located in Southern Ontario and Western New York. Focusing on fundamental historical events that validate Haudenosaunee sovereignty, the claim that Canada maintains absolute authority over Haudenosaunee is negated. Rights to cross the border are inherent rights, not something that was or can be granted [or taken away] in treaties nor settler-colonial law. The history of treaty agreements and legal cases demonstrate the ongoing injustices Canada perpetuates upon the Haudenosaunee as nations and families are divided by settler state borders. From north to south, border crossing horror stories flood 'Indian Country.' This endemic issue provokes further analysis; thus, this paper is governed by the following questions: By what right does Canada claim the authority to deny Haudenosaunee, or any Indigenous person, from entering Canada? What historical events led to this circumstance where Canada claims this right? What are the historical and contemporary effects of settler borders upon Haudenosaunee? And lastly, in what ways have Haudenosaunee responded to settler-colonial imposition and what action must be taken towards resolution?
“Tensions between debordering and rebordering in a local space at the Mexico-US border”

One of the contemporary bordering dynamics is characterized by the simultaneity of two processes: debordering (or border crossing) and rebordering (or border reinforcement). As has been widely showed, the former is associated to geoeconomic dynamics, and the latter to geopolitical ones. Both have effects on space, but they differ depending on scale, localization, and social actors. Although those processes has often been thought as absolute ones and in opposition, bordering can also been analyzed as a relation or tension between those two extreme points within a continuum. In this latter sense, it has been analyzed that relational process on a local and cross-border space and its effects on place and local communities from both sides of the border. A qualitative methodology has been applied on one case study: the area around Anzaldúas dam on the Rio Grande / Bravo (Mexico-US border). Different social actors have developed some debordering and rebordering actions (such as cross-border cooperation on international bridges and urban planning, on one hand, and border fencing and enforcement on the US side, on the other hand), but, because they are placed in a tension, they incorporate elements from both processes (as clearly shows the protests against only the wall).

“Beyond the normative approach of cross-border integration: how do the populations in border regions live and perceive borders? The EUROBAROMETER 422 survey and its lessons for policymakers and border scholars”

Since 25 years, the EU policy paradigm concerning its internal borders has been to foster exchanges beyond borders, based on the postulate that economic flows are drivers of stability, prosperity and territorial unity. However, this postulate is today largely contradicted by growing Euroscepticism and re-bordering trends. Therefore, it appears necessary to go beyond these simplistic hypotheses and to understand how cross-border integration is lived and perceived in border regions. In this paper, the EUROBAROMETER 422 survey is used to produce statistical analyses and maps (more than 40000 peoples have been interviewed in all the different border regions in Europe about their cross-border practices and perceptions). This offers a new image of European cross-border integration and allows to draw the unexpected following conclusions that should be considered in cross-border strategies:

More cross-border flows do not always increase the level of confidence between neighbors in border regions.

There is an asymmetry within border regions concerning the perceptions of the neighbors. The perception of the neighbors is better in border regions with high levels of economic development on both sides whereas there is a lack of trust in the neighbor in border regions with low or unequal levels of economic development.

“From closed borders to transborder networks – past, presence and future of the cooperation in the borderlands of Poland”

The aim of the study was to analyze the change in the role of the state border and its impact on the shaping of transborder interaction within the borderlands on the example of Poland. The paper also attempts to analyze the network of connections in the framework of transborder cooperation programs. To this end Social Network Analysis was applied to examine over 1400 institutions that realized over 800 transborder projects in the years 2007-2013. Particular attention was paid to the specific case studies such as border twin towns and tourism areas.
Poland’s borders have experienced many changes in recent decades. After 2nd World War there was totally new delimitation, in the 1990s almost all neighboring countries had changed, accession to the European Union and joining the Schengen Zone affected the status of the borders. At the moment in Poland one can find external EU borders and internal ones, land borders and river borders, borderlands with ethnic minorities and with homogeneous structure, etc. Due to this diversity and unique conditions on each border Poland seems to be a good example for examining the shaping of transborder co-operation networks.

Berend Jansen, Nijmegen Centre for Border Research (NCBR)

“The CVP: A paradoxical policy(?)”

If we cross the Top 10 Refugee-producing Countries (UNHCR) and the Henley & Partner’s Visa Restriction Index, we see that the Top 10 Refugee-producing countries are featured at the bottom of the Visa Restriction Index. Why do we impose visas on people who are most likely to flee their country? To get insight to this answer, I have researched the discourse behind the Common Visa Policy (CVP) of the Schengen Area. Using semiotic discourse analysis, close reading and critical discourse analysis, I have tried to distill the European Union’s view of the world and how the EU determines which third countries are submitted to visa requirements and which are not from the policy documents underlining the CVP. It appears that the decision to submit third countries is mostly based on assumptions, imagery, and perceptions, while the decision to exempt third countries are mostly based on politics and interests. Furthermore, four paradoxes were found in the CVP and the practice of it: Confinement to Condemnation, Law acting against Law, Democracy acting against Democracy, and Mixed-up Priorities.

Machteld Venken, University of Vienna

“Borderland studies meets child studies. A European encounter”

Although the 20th century experienced many border changes in Europe and saw European nation-states substantially increasing their interest in children, Europe's borderland children remain under-researched. More than their parents, it was the children who were envisioned to play a crucial role in bringing about the peaceful Europe that representatives at international peace conferences had had in mind while changing the sovereignty of the borderlands these children inhabited. The paper shows the complexity of nationalisation within various, often previously undiscovered, spheres of borderland children’s lives and deepens our insights into the dichotomy between the nationalist policies executed towards borderland children and the manifest non-national practices of these children. Despite the different imaginations of East and West that had influenced the decisions of peace negotiators after both World Wars, moreover, borderland children throughout Europe came to invent practices that contributed to the creation of a more socially cohesive Europe. This seems to indicate that a definition of Europeanisation should be sensitive to the specificity of various historical agents, including children, instead of simply being based on the discourse of those who held the reigns of power at a given time in the past.

James Wesley Scott, University of Eastern Finland

“Politics of resentment and the re-bordering of Europe”

Two major potential explanations for the resurgence of populist movements and politics in Europe concern questions of socio-economic inequality and contestations of values and identities. Both processes, however, are interlinked and give evidence of a wider phenomenon – the deep sense of alienation that has challenged the European Union’s cosmopolitan understandings of citizenship and belonging. Put in more direct terms, I argue that market liberalisation without commensurate social development and increasing metropolisation has
undermined cohesion and trust in the European Social Model. An important source of support for nationalist and populist political forces are new member states in Central Europe and the EU's eastern border regions. Why is this? Europe's eastern borderlands represent in many ways the most vulnerable sectors of European society – the “losers of transformation”. At the same time, they have been areas of intense cross-border cooperation, much of which has been supported by EU funds. I argue that resentment against the “neo-liberal system”, but also as a reaction to the disenfranchising effects of post/1989 economic and social modernisation post-1989, have contributed to a re-bordering of the EU and Central Europe.

Carolina Silva, Washington State University

“We were here long before DACA’: Undocumented resistance post 2016 Election #LaLuchaSigue”

The youth-led nature of recent immigrant movements challenges dominant legal frameworks that restrict children and youth from accessing agency granted to adult citizens. Through their local legal victories, the agency of immigrant youth at state and federal levels creates a complicated dynamic in which youth both rely on and defy the state in their resistance to political borders and state sanctioned violence.

Jeremiah Cho Sataraka, Washington State University

“Pacific climate warriors fighting for indigenous oceanic lives”

Climate change threatens the lives of Indigenous Islanders, yet Trump denies this issue exists. This paper seeks to articulate the silent oppression Oceanic communities face, in a country soon to be led by one of the most oppressive Presidents in history.

Maria Isabel Morales, Gonzaga University

“Make America great for whom?: Narratives of dignity and resistance in higher education”

As a Queer immigrant woman of color working in predominantly white institution, I carry my own struggles; I dwell in my own borderlands. I live and practice my own forms of resistance to the microagressions I experience in my workplace. My own hurt makes me feel raw and vulnerable. But since November 8th, I must also hold a new level of energy and strength for hurt, angered, confused, and heart-broke students. This paper will illuminate the narratives of struggle and resistance of a professional and her students co-learning how break divisive borders and build bridges of understanding. It will argue that rebuilding community of critical engagement, solidarity, and dignity is a form of resistance to President-Elect Trump’s exclusionary “make America great again” stance.

Nancy E. Carvajal Medina, Washington State University

“My body will not be undermined and devalued! An examination of Chicana feminism as a tool for survival and resistance to oppressive media stereotypes”

Negative stereotypes and labels have shaped some of my classroom experiences and daily encounters as an international scholar from Latin America in a United States University. My background and experience as a university teacher and researcher for more than a decade have been undermined and devalued. I started to lose my voice and self-confidence. In this presentation, I critically analyze the pervasiveness of media discourses and how they continue to frame our bodies. I will describe how Chicana Feminists experiences have allowed me to hear my voice and place value to my unwanted body, invisible intellectual skills, and dismissed soul. “How can we this time not use our bodies to be thrown over a river of tormented history to bridge
the gap. A bridge gets walked over. Yes, over and over again.” (Moraga in Moraga & Anzaldúa, 2015, p. xxxvii)

Carolina Prado, University of California, Berkeley

“Community participation and border environmental governance at the US-Mexico border”

There has been a great amount of scholarly work done on the elements and mechanisms of border environmental governance throughout the years. My work contributes to this literature by including a short outline of border environmental governance institutions involved in decision-making around the issues of hazardous waste management, air pollution and watershed management at the border. My main purpose here is to address the levels of community participation in border environmental governance based on 2015 interviews with governance actors in the governmental, social movement and private realms. Through my findings on the effectiveness of community interventions in border environmental organizations such as the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission and Border 2020 program, I delineate a solid set of policy recommendations for how to improve citizen input into environmental decision-making on the border.

Kimberly Collins and Kenneth Knoblock, California State University, San Bernardino

“Evidence that a restored Colorado River Delta is critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act for the recovery of the Vaquita (Phocoena sinus) and its implications in water use policy of the Colorado River”

The Vaquita Marina (Phocena sinus) is the world’s most highly endangered marine mammal species. The Vaquita is a rare endemic with a very limited natural range and is found in the extreme northern portion of the Sea of Cortez. The species was probably never plentiful in its numbers and the latest surveys of the Vaquita numbers has estimated that the population may be as low as 100 individuals, which is a decline from almost 500 in a decade, an 80% loss of population. Efforts to help the Vaquita population’s recovery have been primarily focused on creating no fishing zones to reduce or hopefully eliminate, a serious bycatch mortality. The Mexican government has also established a “biosphere” that includes most of the northern portion of the Sea of Cortez as well as the Colorado River Delta through the United Nation’s Man and the Environment Program. Little attention, however, has been paid to environmental degradation of the Colorado River Delta estuary. This study looks at this issue in-depth through analysis of the indicators for the Delta and the Vaquita. There are real policy implications in the management of the Colorado River that need to be further understood, in order to ascertain if it is possible to save this species.

Stephen Mumme, Colorado State University
Jamie McEvoy, Montana State University
Nicolas Pineda, El Colegio de Sonora
Margaret Wilder, University of Arizona

“Shipping water across the US-Mexico border: International governance dimensions of desalination for export”

New public-private desalination projects along the Mexico-United States boundary have the potential to strengthen water security in this arid region. Yet international bulk water commerce in this region is unprecedented and constrained by existing international agreements and regulations. We examine this problem from a multi-level governance perspective, focusing on two desalination projects with near term export potential, projects at Rosarito, Baja California and Puerto Peñasco, Sonora. These projects add to the array of agencies and procedures in binational
water management but will not displace the International Boundary and Water Commission which is sure to be engaged to some extent in managing such projects.

Sergio Peña, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

“Crossborder environmental planning: Agents, processes and outcomes”

The objective of the paper is to assess what are the priorities and the main the issues that dominate the crossborder environmental planning agency. The main argument is that although the environment is a field that galvanized a variety of actors it is not a priority in the binational agenda. The main hypothesis to be tested is that crossborder environmental planning is still mainly focus on the allocation of natural resources (mainly water) and risk management (natural and anthropogenic hazards) rather than developing a framework of environmental sustainability. The paper will use a qualitative methodology known as content analysis. The methodology will employ Atlas.ti to codify two main sources of data that will be used: 1) the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) minutes since 1946. And 2) the certified projects by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC). The results will be presented in the form of co-occurrence matrix (similar to correlation analysis) between codes to see which codes appear in pairs more often; and also conceptual maps that presents how different themes (codes) are associated and related.

Ramya Swayamprakash, Michigan State University

“'Wet Blanket': Water pollution, the International Joint Commission and the US-Canada border along the Detroit River”

This paper will evaluate the debates of the International Joint Commission on water pollution along the Detroit River from the 1950s to 1970s. During that period, there was a great deal of correspondence, going back and forth between the office of the Attorney General’s office in Michigan, the International Joint Commission, and the Counsel of Ontario about pollution issues. Often these conversations meandered to issues of territoriality, jurisdiction and final culpability about pollution. Interestingly, some of the water pollution debates in Michigan/Ontario informed and responded to the federal legislation on water, that eventually became the Water Act of 1972. Another important trajectory was the changes in institutions dealing with water pollution/management issues from the early 20th century to the 1960s i.e. from the Michigan stream control commission to the Water Resources Commission, a change in nomenclature but also jurisdiction. This paper will evaluate the latent issues of territoriality and sovereignty that underlie the pollution debates between the US and Canada in the International Joint Commission. Despite the seeming abundance of transboundary policy instruments, civic engagement continues to be impeded by borders and is an aspect of bordering that will be of interest to this paper.

Beata Halicka, Europa Viadrina University

“Polish eastern borders as a topic of the politics of history in communistic and in contemporary Poland”

Borders in history of the Polish state have been changed for many times, because of this there is a special Polish word for the borderlands in the East. It is called Kresy and has taken an important place in politics of history in this country. There have been many different interpretations of the historical facts in last 70 years and different actors struggling to impose their point of view. At the time of the communistic regime, there were the government und member of the communistic party on the one side and Polish refugees and expellees settled in new (mostly western) territories and those, who went to exile on the second side. The last one were divided in conservatives, who were fighting for a revision of Polish borders and a group of
intellectuals who were looking for reconciliation with Ukrainian, Belarussian and Lithuanian neighbors. This group found many supporters in Polish opposition movement in the 1980s and helped to lay the groundwork for Poland’s successful eastern policy after the fall of communism. Poland as member of EU initiated the way of good relations with its eastern neighbors also according dealing with the difficult past. Unfortunately, is seems that the current politics of history in Poland takes a new development, in which not a dialogue of equal partners is the ground for cross border cooperation, but much more a defense of national interests. Presenting the changes in the politics of history, I want to show Polish contribution to European integration and ask for its possible development in the future.

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, University of Victoria

“Questioning EU migration and border policies”

In the face of the recent migration crisis, EU member states and the EU Commission have had to reconsider their common policies for internal and external borders, and migration. In particular, the Schengen and Dublin decisions that organize those matters. This paper looks at the last two years’ policy issues, proposals and changes as discussed by member states and the European Commission.

Birte Wassenberg, University of Strasbourg, IEP

“The ‘myth” of a Europe without borders and its consequences for European Integration and cross-border cooperation in the EU”

The European Integration process as launched with the Plan Schuman on 9th May 1950 which led to the creation of the European Union in 1992 was closely linked with the ideal of a “Europe without borders” where free movement and mobility would be guaranteed. However, this concept of a borderless Europe reflected a very restricted view of a border: it was mainly economic, highlighting the benefits of a free internal market thus neglecting the historical, political, cultural or psychological aspects of the border which in fact never disappeared. It thus created a “myth” of a Europe without borders which praised the suppression of borders as one main achievement of the EU but which were not achieved. This paper dismantles this myth by focusing on cross-border cooperation at European border regions: in these areas, the border has always been dealt with as a daily reality that one must live with. The persistence of the border as an obstacle to European Integration is therefore measurable in European border regions and the current terrorist and migration crisis illustrate how quickly borders can reappear within the EU.

Frédéric Durand, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)

“Towards more vulnerable cross-border regions in Europe? The ambivalent effects of cross-border integration and the rise of Euroscepticism”

Today the European construction is at a turning point. The opening of internal borders of the Schengen Area is called into question by different events (refugee crisis, terrorist attacks, aggressive nationalist discourses) which lead to the reintroduction of border controls. This situation points out the fragility of cross-border regions. This paper aims at investigating the cross-border integration process and its impacts on space and society. The common and dominant discourse, notably supported by the European institutions, has mostly emphasized the benefits of cross-border integration. However, the effects of this process are more complex, sometimes unexpected. The objective is therefore to highlight how some effects of cross-border integration can negatively impact the living conditions within cross-border areas. The underlying hypothesis to this reflection is that the increase of cross-border exchanges - resulting from the cross-border integration process - engenders an interdependence between the border areas, which is both a source of opportunity and a source of vulnerability. The findings put forward the
ambivalent effects of this process by highlighting new challenges (social tensions within borderlands, rise of Euroscepticism, threat of a persistent re-bordering) which make border regions more vulnerable in regard with their functioning and management.

Sonia Bass, Yamile Rangel Martinez, and Bacilio Guerrero Escamilla, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo

“Vulnerabilidad urbana y riesgo ambiental en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua”

En México no se ha incorporado los Atlas de Riesgo en la planificación de las ciudades lo que ha provocado efectos que no se ha tomado en cuenta en el crecimiento de las ciudades. Los fenómenos hidrometeorológicos han generado daños por la manera en que se presentan en frecuencia, magnitud, intensidad física en las zonas urbanas de las ciudades. En Ciudad Juárez a pesar de que existen estudios de riesgo ambiental para la ciudad, una constante ha estado presente en el crecimiento urbano de la ciudad, a pesar de que desde finales de la década de los cincuenta se han elaborado una serie de planes reguladores y de desarrollo urbano documentado la calidad del suelo, las características morfológicas, topográficas y orográficas. Sin embargo, se han construido colonias y fraccionamientos sin considerar los altos riesgos ambientales que un área desértica donde se asienta ésta ciudad genera y, con una vulnerabilidad urbana que ha impactado en distintos momentos a partir de actividades naturales como: precipitaciones pluviales, nevadas, plagas de insectos, entre otras. Lo que hace que sea relevante considerarlos por los efectos que tienen sobre la población, que a través del tiempo han causado daños considerables a la infraestructura urbana y a viviendas.

Rafael Mauricio Marrufo and Guadalupe Ortiz Esparza, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

“La automedicación como consecuencia de las fallas de los sistemas de salud en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua y El Paso, TX”

La automedicación es una práctica de administración de medicamentos por iniciativa propia, que no cuenta con intermediación del diagnóstico médico. En El Paso, las personas enfrentan problemas de adquisición de medicamentos y de consulta médica a precios asequibles, mientras que en Ciudad Juárez las instituciones oficiales, tienen dificultades para surtir a sus derechohabientes los medicamentos prescritos. Una actitud de solución ante esto es la automedicación. Desde la perspectiva farmacológica, la automedicación produce una demanda excesiva de algunos medicamentos sin considerar riesgos; en la perspectiva biomédica, la utilización de medicamentos sin control puede producir cambios en la resistencia de microorganismos y generar un cambio del perfil epidemiológico regional; finalmente, en la perspectiva de la sociología médica la automedicación se explica como una actitud motivada por factores económicos, sociales o culturales. Ante las menores posibilidades económicas de adquirir medicamentos de patente e ir con el médico, las personas son más propensas a adquirir medicamentos baratos o seguir recomendaciones no profesionales. Existe ya también una cultura de la “solución rápida”, consultando portales de Internet para conocer acerca de una enfermedad, el tratamiento y los medicamentos, omitiendo así el diagnóstico médico presencial con los consecuentes riesgos para la salud. En esta ponencia se mostrará un análisis del fenómeno de la automedicación como consecuencia de algunas fallas en los sistemas de salud en la región y desde las perspectivas farmacológica, biomédica y de la sociología de la salud.

María Teresa Vázquez Castillo, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

“Historic Preservation in the downtowns of El Paso del Norte Region”

Historic Preservation in the Paso del Norte Region poses intricate challenges for an area that used to be a unit and that is currently separated in what now is, on one side, Ciudad Juárez Chihuahua and, on the other side, El Paso Texas. Within this geographical context, what is the
urban history that needs to be preserved across borders? This paper delves into two case studies to explore the way historic preservation practices take place in both sister cities. The first case study is La Colonia Bellavista in Ciudad Juárez, which is considered the first urban settlement in the city. The second case study is the Chihuahuita barrio in El Paso Texas. Both neighborhoods face the Río Bravo or Río Grande, the river that naturally separates the two cities. Among the main historic preservation challenges these neighborhoods face are lack of funding, disinvestment, crime, discrimination of low income populations, lack of appreciation of vernacular architecture, and pressures over their land, as both neighborhoods are located within their corresponding downtowns.

César M. Fuentes, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

“Movilidad urbana insostenible y exclusión socio-espacial en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua (2010)”

La ponencia tiene como objetivo analizar los efectos de la forma urbana en el incremento de los tiempos de traslado en transporte público para los sectores de bajos ingresos en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. Los estudios sobre movilidad urbana recientemente incorporaron a sus políticas los objetivos de la sostenibilidad, la accesibilidad y la inclusión social (Estevan & Sanz, 1996; Miralles, 2002). En Ciudad Juárez, el patrón de crecimiento expansivo y la localización periférica de la población de bajos ingresos lo que indujo a un incremento de la movilidad urbana motorizada, con el consecuente aumento del número de vehículos particulares y la disminución del uso del transporte público. Lo anterior, producto de que los sectores de bajos ingresos al tener una baja capacidad económica fueron expulsados por el mercado del suelo hacia la periferia urbana en donde establecieron programas de vivienda económica y suelo urbano para autoconstrucción de vivienda. Lo cual, incrementa el uso de transporte motorizado por lo que su tiempo promedio de traslado en transporte público es mayor y la proporción de su ingreso destinado a transporte es más alto que otros grupos sociales (Fuentes, 2012). El soporte teórico del estudio lo proporciona la corriente neomarxista de la segregación residencial (Harvey, 1977). La información usada corresponde a la Encuesta Origen-Destino (Imip, 1998). El resto de las variables socioeconómicas corresponden al XII Censo de Población y Vivienda (2000), ambas a nivel de área geoesistática básica (AGEB). La metodología para medir los costos de accesibilidad al subsistema empleo-transporte-vivienda se construyó un modelo de regresión espacial. Los resultados muestran que la expulsión de los sectores de bajos ingresos a la periferia urbana a través del mercado del suelo conduce al incremento de modos de transporte no sustentables y al aumento de los costos de transporte para la población de bajos ingresos.

Franck Billé, University of California Berkeley

“Skinworlds”

Over the last decade, anthropologists have drawn attention to the disconnect between a political imagination that conceptualizes nation-states’ borders as unambiguous and linear, and the realities of borderlanders’ experience where cultural and social space is frequently folded and overlapping. Through their very focus on hybridity and crossborder linkages however, border ethnographies have unwittingly given even more weight to linear demarcations—all the while insisting that they are abstract and ideological. In mining the border-as-skin somatic metaphor, this paper foregrounds nonvisual bodily senses such as tactility in its analysis and suggests that the inclusion of proximate senses in ethnographies of border encounters offers significant analytical advantages. It moves away from the visuality that dominates political cartography, thus allowing for a more sensuous and synesthetic ethnographic work. Additionally, in heeding the recent research on topologies published by geographers and social theorists, the paper hopes to contribute to the emerging mathematical turn.
Paul Richardson, University of Birmingham

“Imagined Sovereignties”

This paper builds upon critiques of an embedded statism in international relations in order to suggest new approaches for capturing sovereignty and borders. It attempts to unravel some of the practices and performances of sovereignty and to demonstrate how we live in a world of sovereignties, which are multi-scalar, exist in multiple forms, and are bound together through competing constellations of power. This paper explores the idea of terrains of sovereignty in order to highlight the fragmented and undulating landscape of contemporary practices of sovereignty, and the role played by state and non-state actors in rendering political authority over space as ephemeral, dynamic, and contested. Yet, at the same time, these processes have occurred alongside a counter-narrative in populist politics of reasserting national sovereignty and state boundaries.

The paper briefly traces recent approaches towards conceptualising sovereignty in the 21st century. It then develops the idea of terrains of sovereignty as a way towards interpreting contemporary notions of political authority over space. Finally, the paper turns to case studies from Central Asia to draw out empirical examples of some of the contours and features of these sovereignty terrains, and their interconnections with the idea of the hyper-border.

Natalia Ryzhova, Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok

“Militarized island on the Russian-Chinese border: Desires and fears in the ruins”

Many islands along the Sino-Russian border were highly militarized during the Soviet period. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the military vacated many of these islands and numerous border garrisons were left disused and fallow. Apartment buildings, office blocks, canteens, and club-houses were deserted and it took some time before civilians could make use of the existing facilities. When they finally did, only residential buildings were occupied while other edifices and structures were left to rot. Thus, people found themselves living in partly uninhabited–and increasingly decaying–spaces. This has caused considerable anxiety for the residents who feel they have been left behind and abandoned by the state.

Using ethnographic material collected on the island of Bolshoy Ussuryiskiy, the paper will explore the affective resonance of uneven materialities on the life of residents. It will look at how recent Russian and Chinese projects become embedded, entangled, and occasionally mired, in an urban environment of modern edifices interspersed with ruins and discarded military constructions, and how this has a crucial and lasting bearing on the evolution of the Sino-Russian border.

Donna L. Lybecker, Idaho State University
Mark K. McBeth, Idaho State University

“The social construction of a border: The US-Canada border”

This study argues that boundaries represent socially and politically constructed policy realities and that media policy narratives play an important role in this construction. Traditionally borders are described, and their image is created or reified, via traditional media sources such as newspapers and television. In today’s world of increasing access to online media, this trend appears to be shifting. Thus, we ask, what is the image of the US-Canada border as presented through digital media such as YouTube? And, do these narratives describe the issues and people of the border in a deserving or undeserving light? This paper uses the Narrative Policy Framework and Social Construction of Policy Design to analyze how YouTube videos construct the US-Canada border. A total of 56 YouTube videos, posted between February 2009 and May 2015, were analyzed. Results show the most common issue within videos involved security on the
border. Most frequently viewed videos involved life on the border and security. Characters common in videos were villains and victims, rather than heroes. Overall, the analysis found 61% of videos presented a deserving construction of the border and 39% presented an undeserving construction.

Stephen Mumme, Colorado State University
Oscar Ibanez Hernandez, Colorado State University

“Extraordinary drought in the management of US-Mexico transboundary rivers”

The term “extraordinary drought” written into the 1906 and 1944 water treaties may well be the most enduringly ambiguous and controversial concept in US-Mexico water management. The paper looks at how this “term of art” in US-Mexico water management has been diplomatically constructed by each country in past disputes related to the Rio Grande and Colorado river and how these perspectives are evident in the most recent drought related disputes on both rivers. The paper departs from established convention in arguing that the ambiguity associated with the term has contributed to the resilience of the treaty architecture in facilitating cooperative solutions to very difficult problems that might otherwise (counterfactually) have morphed into more serious and corrosive disputes over management of the transboundary rivers.

Christopher Brown, New Mexico State University

“Exploring the use of human ecology mapping to advance resource management planning in Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National Monument”

On May 21, 2014, President Obama signed a proclamation entitled, Establishment of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument which noted approximately 496,330 acres in question (much of which lies within the US-Mexico border region) would be managed as a National Monument. The US Bureau of Land Management is charged with standing up a resource management plan (RMP) for the Monument. On 12 April 2016, the Las Cruces Office of BLM signed a memorandum of understanding establishing NMSU as the research institution to assist BLM in this work. Human ecology mapping (HEM) is a GIS-based mapping tool that supports the inventory of key resources, objects and values (ROV) existing in areas of concern, and the connections the users of these ROVs have to the landscape. This paper, outlines a research agenda by which HEM will be used to better understand the key ROVs on the Monument, how the public will utilize these ROVs, and how this understanding can inform the development of the RMP. I explore how HEM research can be linked to an ecosystem services framework that the US Forest Service and United Nations Environment Program have used to better understand coupled human-environment interactions in key landscapes of concern.

Fabio Santos, Freie Universität Berlin

“The wall in disguise: Bridging the Oyapock River”

The little-known French-Brazilian border – mainly formed by the Oyapock River – has witnessed increased geostrategic and scholarly interest in recent years. As the extremely delayed inauguration of the bridge between the border towns of Saint-Georges (France) and Oiapoque (Brazil) is expected to take place within the next months, politicians have high hopes for further regional cooperation. Residents, however, are more skeptical, worrying about unequal rights to border crossings (with Brazilians being disadvantaged) and the loss of jobs (particularly those related with fluvial transportation). Drawing on ethnographic insights from the region, this article briefly presents the history and present challenges of this literally fluid border. Focus will be placed on “other” bridges which predate the construction of the Oyapock River Bridge. “Other” bridges, I suggest, are based on everyday practices of exchange and conviviality that – paradoxically – seem to be in danger now that a material bridge is to be opened.
Ted Boyle, Kyushu University

“Japan’s borders”

Currently scholars who are part of the BiG research program are writing Country State-of-the-Border studies in the form of small books that will review the situation in border studies in a number of countries including in particular, Canada, China, Columbia, Denmark, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, the United States. These studies once completed will present the state of borders in those countries; our assumptions are that the territorial framework for understanding borders is fundamentally being challenged through new technologies of information and communication that are now regularly applied in the monitoring, surveillance and security of borders. Rather than territorial, new borders are potentially, a-territorial. They are for instance biometric and, also possibly everywhere. This process, however, is progressive and takes varied forms across the world; international boundaries, walled borders, and other bordering policies are still very much part of our world but new borders and bordering processes are also appearing and are not visible or even territorialized. The BIG research program is focusing on this transition – from territorial to a-territorial - with a specific focus on new borders and bordering processes around the world that are a-territorial. These two fundamental domains of research should be documented for each one of the six themes that guide our research program: history, culture, migration and trade flows, sustainability, security, and governance. We have collected several renowned scholars and a younger researcher to prepare those essays. This paper focuses on China’s borders. This paper focuses on Japan’s borders.

Hu Zhiding, Yunnan University

“China’s borders”

Currently scholars who are part of the BiG research program are writing Country State-of-the-Border studies in the form of small books that will review the situation in border studies in many countries including Canada, China, Columbia, Denmark, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, the United States. These studies once completed will present the state of borders in those countries; our assumptions are that the territorial framework for understanding borders is fundamentally being challenged through new technologies of information and communication that are now regularly applied in the monitoring, surveillance and security of borders. Rather than territorial, new borders are potentially, a-territorial. They are for instance biometric and, also possibly everywhere. This process, however, is progressive and takes varied forms across the world; international boundaries, walled borders, and other bordering policies are still very much part of our world but new borders and bordering processes are also appearing and are not visible or even territorialized. The BIG research program is focusing on this transition – from territorial to a-territorial - with a specific focus on new borders and bordering processes around the world that are a-territorial. These two fundamental domains of research should be documented for each one of the six themes that guide our research program: history, culture, migration and trade flows, sustainability, security, and governance. We have collected several renowned scholars and a younger researcher to prepare those essays. This paper focuses on China’s borders.

Tony Payan, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ) and Rice University

“Mexico’s borders”

Currently scholars who are part of the BiG research program are writing Country State-of-the-Border studies in the form of small books that will review the situation in border studies in several countries including Canada, China, Columbia, Denmark, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, the United States. These studies once completed will present the state of borders in those countries; our assumptions are that the territorial framework for
understanding borders is fundamentally being challenged through new technologies of information and communication that are now regularly applied in the monitoring, surveillance and security of borders. Rather than territorial, new borders are potentially, a-territorial. They are for instance biometric and, also possibly everywhere. This process, however, is progressive and takes varied forms across the world; international boundaries, walled borders, and other bordering policies are still very much part of our world but new borders and bordering processes are also appearing and are not visible or even territorialized. The BIG research program is focusing on this transition – from territorial to a-territorial - with a specific focus on new borders and bordering processes around the world that are a-territorial. These two fundamental domains of research should be documented for each one of the six themes that guide our research program: history, culture, migration and trade flows, sustainability, security, and governance. We have collected several renowned scholars and a younger researcher to prepare those essays. This paper focuses on Mexico’s borders.

Laurence Armand French, Western New Mexico University

“North American border politics: Race, ethics & conflicts”

The longstanding conflict along the United States/Mexico border, a current divisive issue, has its roots in the Texas Republic era. Internal conflicts, wars and revolutions, on both sides of the border, have exacerbated international border security. Race and culture need to be factored in relevant to any viable analysis given the rationale for police and military resources directed toward the nearly 2,000-mile US/Mexico border vis-à-vis the virtually open 5,000-plus-mile US/Canada border. This situation continues, especially following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, and the ensuing wars on drugs and terrorism. Despite the fact that Canada is the preferred route of entry for potential terrorists, the United States has instead increased its security along the Mexico border. This situation of race and security has played a significant role in the current 2016 US presidential elections with the Republican candidate(s) linking Hispanics of color (white Cubans get a pass) with Arab and African migrants with increased crime and economic unrest. Our paper address the historical antecedents to this geo-political phenomenon and how it is rooted in the Puritan white supremacy ideology of Manifest Destiny and the Monroe Doctrine –the major vehicle for implementing US-centric policies throughout the Americas.

Nuri Korkmaz (Nuri Ali Tahir), Bursa Technical University, Turkey

“Creation of the Turkish-Syrian border in the aftermath of the World War I and the strategic interests in the Middle East”

The conflict in Syria is causing Global reactions. On one side, borders are becoming relevant again while on the other they are being reconsidered in terms of their functions. However, it is important to know the historical background of the issue in order to be able to grasp the nature of contemporary changes and the shifting role of the actors in the region. As the winners of the World War I, Allies led by British Empire drew borders that were serving their strategic interests rather than reflecting the sociological realities. Turkish-Syrian border was one of the borders that was drawn during this period. Although it created huge problems between Britain and France, its economic projections were convincing both parts to cooperate in the process. This presentation will tackle the creation process of the border along with the future projects of trade and development in the area in 1920’s, which were seen by the British Empire as a potential pipeline zone. Minorities living on the border and the internal developments both in Turkey and Syria played an important role in shaping the border. Geographical position of places such as Alexandretta port will be examined.
Marla A. Ramirez, San Francisco State University

“The Mexican Repatriation Program: Lessons from the 1930s mass removals for the 2016 xenophobic political discourses”

This paper examines the mass removals under the Great Depression era’s Mexican Repatriation program, which accounted for approximately one million Mexicans, a startling 60 percent were US citizen children. The history of Mexican repatriation and its influence on the social construction of Mexican illegality are examined here to understand the current xenophobic political discourses that continue to target Mexican communities for mass removal. This paper utilizes archival research, legal analysis, and oral histories to investigate the anti-immigrant politics under President Herbert Hoover’s administration that resulted in the Mexican Repatriation Program. The paper then moves to examine current xenophobic political discourses used by President-elect Donald Trump against Mexican immigrants. To do so, this paper, analyzes Trump’s political speeches and immigration proposals, including his suggestion to build a wall across the US-Mexico border to be allegedly paid by the Mexican government. It is crucial to learn from these historical lessons to understand that political actions targeting a specific group for mass removal creates legal, social, and cultural ramifications for that group, their US children, and their subsequent generations. It is, thus, imperative that we now focus on building bridges, not walls, to prevent repeating our same historical mistakes.

Lawrence D. Taylor, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

“A wedge driven into the heart of Mexico’s territorial sovereignty: The question of US navigation rights in the Gulf of California and Colorado River”

The paper assesses the impact of Article VI of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo granting the US navigation rights in the Gulf of California and Colorado River and its potential threat to Mexican sovereignty over Baja California and northwestern Sonora in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Growth and development of US maritime traffic in the Mexican northwest was early stimulated by American military and mining activities along the Gila and lower Colorado rivers. In 1865 the Mexican government permitted the Colorado Steam Navigation Company to set up dock and storage facilities (Port Isabel) on the Sonoran side of the mouth of the Colorado River. American proposals for building railroads in Baja California, with rail and maritime links with Sinaloa, Sonora and Arizona, would, if successful, bind that region even more closely to the US economically and for settlement purposes. US investors were also interested in mining and agricultural possibilities in the Mexican Colorado River delta region. The author argues that these tendencies were eventually truncated by the early 1900’s due to a combination of technological and environmental developments, which shifted the focus of American economic interests to areas situated primarily north of the international border.

John Willis, Canadian Museum of History

“The Canadian-American border in the 1920s: patterns of transaction and interaction”

The border with the US represents a defining feature of Canadian history and geography. Negotiated in the east during the late 18th century and early 19th century the border was extended wes in a relatively straight line arriving on the Pacific coast by about 1850. Recent studies have examined the Can-Am borderland and its peoples in the west: in Montana-Southern Alberta and throughout the Great Plains. The 1920s saw an unprecedented rise of auto-mobility which made it easier for families and drivers to move around. A constant flow of migrants, tourists, visitors travelled back and forth turning border crossings into very busy places. In their wake, or rather their shadow, came the smugglers. Not surprisingly given the traffic and the growing contraband, border lines became dispositifs de contrôle. Our paper will focus on the patterns of interaction and transaction (licit and illicit) across the border mainly in
southern Québec and northern Vermont and New York State at a time when American Prohibition (1920-1933) created a Canadian business opportunity of unprecedented proportions. It will also examine how the responsible governmental authority, Canada Customs and Excise, could or in some instances could not handle the situation.

Matt Bakker, Marymount University

“Inclusionary local immigration policies in the age of Trump: Lessons from anti-Secure Communities activism”

From all indications, the administration of newly-elected US president Donald J. Trump threatens to extend and expand the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants using the biometric surveillance technologies. These technologies were first implemented during the Obama administration through the Secure Communities (S-Comm) program and its successor, the Priority Enforcement Program. These programs entangle police agencies in federal immigration enforcement, often in ways that contradict local communities’ own intentions to be welcoming and inclusive of immigrants irrespective of their formal immigration status. This paper draws on research conducted on inclusionary local immigration policy in California’s Bay Area in the years following implementation of S-Comm to explore the remaining possibilities for resisting the biometric-based immigration enforcement efforts that are likely to ramp up as the Trump administration begins acting on campaign promises to deport millions of undocumented immigrants.

Paul Fryer, University of Eastern Finland

“25 years of Welcome?: Continuity and change in forced migrant integration in a Russian region”

Because of the Ukrainian crisis, the Russian Federation has been forced to deal with the arrival of over 1 million refugees over its border, testing the limits of Russian hospitality at a time when the country’s economic situation has been declining. And yet, the current crisis is the latest in a long line of crises involving forced migrant flows to Russia since the collapse of the USSR in 1991. Beginning with the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the Tajik Civil War, instability in Central Asia, and conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia, Russia has – at times eagerly, at times reluctantly – accepted and integrated thousands of involuntarily displaced former Soviet citizens depending on the prevailing understandings of Russian territoriality and nationality. In this paper, I examine Russia’s approach to refugee reception and integration from a structuralist perspective within the context of the current crisis with refugees from eastern Ukraine. How much continuity with past practices exists? Have Russian attitudes changed greatly over the past 25 years with respect to refugees? These questions are addressed through a case study of the semi-autonomous Republic of Bashkortostan and is based on interviews.

Daniela Johannes, West Chester University

“Trash hunting and migrant hunting: performing the “cleanup” of the Sonoran Desert border”

Humanitarian activism has gained relevance in the past years in the US-Mexico Border, product of the militarization of border security in the post 9/11 era. In the Sonoran Desert—a common corridor for border crossing—several pro-migrant groups perform activism. One well-known practice consists of picking up discarded objects left behind by migrants throughout the Desert of Sonora, popularly known as “trash hunting.” This presentation offers a rhetorical analysis of the re-semantization of objects and otherness as “trash,” and the association of material waste with “leaky” bodies in the practice of crossing the border. Consequently, a highly racialized message runs across the discursive practice of humanitarism, which ironically dehumanizes the target group. In the collision of human matter with non-human matter, the disposability of
objects and people requires a reimagining of a biopolitical sovereignty, or the politics that governs vast aspects of life and death of its population. In this sense, the significance of migrants’ death is downgraded but becomes relevant only in relation to the materiality and presumed affect of objects on national bodies and lands.

Okunade Samuel Kehinde, University of KwaZulu-Natal. Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

“Ageless border porosity in Nigeria: The missing link”

The Nigeria Immigration Service as a state institution established to control the entry and exit of all persons in and out of Nigeria, and monitoring non-Nigerians in the country has been underperforming because of the porous nature of Nigeria’s borders which has paved way for the proliferation of illegal routes to promote illicit cross-border activities along the borders. The resultant effects of such activities pose security threats to the country and the sub-region at large.

This paper will critically look at the challenges the Service faces in security policing by exploring issues that make the elimination of illegal routes a daunting challenge. Data for this paper will be collected through a structured questionnaire and interviews of inhabitants and Border Guards in Saki/ Iseyin and Ilara/ Imeko border areas of Oyo and Ogun States respectively as well as reviewing existing literature on the subject matter.

The paper will conclude by re-emphasizing the importance of securing the borders by exploring best modern practices of border management, and the need to revisiting the integrated Border Management [IBM] approach under the African Border Union Program [AUBP] which performs a dual role of improved border management and facilitate regional integration.

Ozden Ocak, New York University

“Eurafrica today: Governing borders and mobility”

Since the ratification of Amsterdam Treaty in 1999, immigration is defined as a major threat to the security of the European Union that requires a common border policy developed by the member states as well as a joint immigration policy between the EU and the immigrant sending countries. Presented by Nicolas Sarkozy as the new Eurafrica and win-win globalization, a joint immigration policy between Europe and Africa was consolidated in the Global Approach to Migration (2005) and the ensuing Euro-African Conferences on Migration and Development. There is a growing literature that studies the implications of European border security and migration management policies with regards to the constitution of the ‘irregular immigrant’ subjectivity at the emerging sites including detention centers and refugee camps. Drawing largely on Foucauldian analysis of power and biopolitics, these works treat the immigrant populations as European immigration politics’ main object of government. Challenging this reading of Foucault by excavating an understanding of global governmentality in his oeuvre, I first suggest that the object of European global governmentality is primarily a Eurocentric world order. After this theoretical discussion, I ask how the problematization of immigration and the mechanisms deployed to ‘solve’ it enables Europe to organize itself and its external relations to reproduce the long-established hierarchical colonial relations between Europe and Africa. I suggest ultimately that the discourses and mechanisms in and through which immigration is problematized and managed serves Europe to enact a neoliberal global governmental rationality with serious implications for the member states as well as the former colonies came to be categorized as immigrant sending countries.
Silvia Núñez and Elizabeth Gutierrez, Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN), UNAM

“The role of human rights in the new US-Mexico relations framework”

This paper shows the different angles and conditions of human rights on the US-Mexico relationship under the Trump Presidency. The author examines the potential consequences for families, minors and women under the Trump Presidency. Also, the paper shows scenarios for collaboration between the governments of the United States and Mexico.

Mónica Verea, Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN), UNAM

“Immigration and reform under the new Trump presidency”

This paper examines the potential scenarios for immigration reform in the United States and its implications for Mexico. The scenarios will explore how the new Administration of Donald J. Trump may decide to deal with undocumented populations and its consequences in the US and in Mexico.

Scott Whiteford, University of Arizona

“Natural resources Conflict or Cooperation: the US-Mexico Border at a Crossroads”

The author presents the critical conditions that the US-Mexico border may experience on issues related to natural resources. Especial attention is given to water flows and sharing derived from the Colorado and Rio Grande rivers that are shared by the two countries. Scarcity and flow diversion may be the sources for conflicts or cooperation under a new administration in Washington D.C. Implications to the eco-system of the border will be also discussed.

Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)


The arrival of a new President in the White House with promises of major reforms on the US-Mexico border may bring serious challenges to security cooperation. Since the war on drugs started in Mexico in 2006, both governments have instructed their security and law enforcement agencies to cooperate in a war that cannot be conducted by only one country. This paper will explore the likely conditions and traits of the new models of interaction between agencies in both countries, as it is unclear if the changes will bring cooperation or lack of it.

Manuel Chavez, Michigan State University

“The US-Mexico border as a target in the 2016 presidential election. Information and disinformation”

This paper looks at the reasons why the US border with Mexico become a political target for Donald J. Trump during the 2016 presidential election. The author examines national surveys and polls as to the “factual” information most Americans have on the conditions and importance of the border region. It also shows how disinformation played an important role to create an image of “uncontrolled” border that permeated social media and some traditional press outlets.
Maria Isabel Morales, Gonzaga University

“Critical discursive examination of borders in Trump times”

Gloria Anzaldúa (1999) states that borders “define the places that are safe and unsafe, to
 distinguish us from them” and borderlands as “vague and undetermined place” where the
 “prohibited and forbidden” live in. In the wake of a national election that witnessed the election
 of a president who campaigned on border building, many face profound anxiety and fear because
 of this exclusionary and divisive rhetoric. This presidency has exacerbated the borders between
 communities and has normalized fearing and holding the other as a perpetual threat. This paper
 will critically examine the (re)creation of border and border-building as a racist and misogynist
 response to national demographic changes in the United States. It will illustrate Trump's rhetoric
 as a reflection of white fragility (DiAngelo, 2001) and anxiety. It will also argue that borders, as
 are being framed, are a product of dominant masculinity and misogynist fear of losing power.

Amanda Friedman, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

“The validity of violence: Representing femicide in Backyard: El Traspatio”

Femicide is the main theme presented in Carlos Carreras’s film Backyard: El Traspatio (2009),
 which, in part, traces the life of a young woman who leaves her family to work in a maquiladora
 before being murdered. The film forces the viewers to confront the reality of femicide through its
 final graphic scenes, which exemplify the complete objectification and dehumanization of the
 victim. Many scholars have studied violence in media, but this work seeks to explore whether
 scenes of rape/violence have a constructive place within popular cinema beyond financial gains.
 Sara Ahmed’s idea of bodily orientation works to establish the context of the research within the
 border-space of Ciudad Juarez. Susan Sontag’s work on the violent image and Paul Dumcum’s
 research on reactions to violence in media will serve as conflicting arguments on how violence is
 perceived by its viewers depending on its severity. Backyard: El Traspatio employs the use of a
 graphic rape and violent murder scene to shock its viewers into understanding the severity of
 femicide. In conclusion, this project will look beyond the abundance of violence in film, and
 towards its possibility to raise awareness of social injustices.

Kristen Hill Maher, San Diego State University

“Images of border policing: The specter of the invisible migrant”

There is a growing body of scholarship internationally that examines the visual representation
 of migrants and refugees in news media. Such studies have focused only on images in which
 migrants are physically present. Instead, this paper evaluates photojournalistic images of border
 policing that only imply the presence of migrants and explores how the connotations of such
 images may shape how migrants are popularly imagined. The analysis centers on
 photojournalistic coverage of the US-Mexican border in the San Diego Union-Tribune between
 2000-2010 and finds that images that merely imply the presence of migrants are much more
 likely to represent them either as a threat or in a dehumanizing manner than those in which
 readers can see the people being policed.

Graciela Martinez-Zalce, Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN), UNAM

“Canadian cinema and its borders”

This paper focuses on filmic visions of the border between the US and Canada and on what
 happens along the border: the trafficking of illegal substances and people, a life in which cultures
 face off against each other whilst, at the same time, becoming intermingled, and in which they
 fuse and differentiate simultaneously; a place where some struggle to exit whilst others wish to
enter, and in which still others, without thinking about it —(since they were born, raised, or emigrated there) will simply stay put. To provide a general panorama of the ways in which regional border areas, literal or metaphoric, are represented, and of the characters who inhabit these areas, both fiction and documentary works have been chosen. I have also chosen both independent productions and films that have received institutional support; films which resort to humor and irony and others that correspond to more conventional visions of what borders may mean within a discourse of national visions.

Jesús Cañas, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

“The impact of the maquiladora industry on US border cities”

For decades, the maquiladora industry has been a major economic engine along the US-Mexico border. Since 1970s researchers have analyzed how the maquiladora industry affect cities along both sides of the border. Hanson produced the first comprehensive study on the impact of the maquiladoras on US border cities, considering the effect of in-bond plants on both employment and wages. Using Hanson’s framework, we estimate the maquiladora industry impact on the US border cities from 2006 to 2015.

Jorge Eduardo Mendoza, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

“Labor flexibility and unemployment in the northern border states of Mexico”

To corroborate the long-term effect of increasing temporary labor contracts on the employment rate of the northern border states, a spatial panel model was estimated. The estimation exhibited positive coefficient of the labor flexibility variable. It can be concluded that the evidence provided by the estimation of the model suggests that increasing labor flexibility rises the unemployment rate but temporary labor contracts have had negative effects on the rate.

Roberto Coronado, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

“Rising value of the dollar affects border retail sales”

Previous research has shown that a significant portion of retail sales in US border cities are attributed to Mexican shoppers. Because of this, retail trade along the US-Mexico border region is sensitive to fluctuations in the dollar-peso exchange rate. In this paper we look at metropolitan areas along the Texas-Mexico border and analyze how the recent appreciation of the dollar has impacted border retail trade activity. We also analyze the composition of these cross-border purchases and how the sustained strength in the dollar is likely to affect retail in these border cities differently in coming years.

James Gerber, San Diego State University

“Border shocks from Nixon to Trump: Economic impacts and responses along the US-Mexico border”

The hate speech directed towards Mexico and Mexican immigrants by Donald Trump and his supporters foreshadows a dark age of US-Mexico relations. Yet when seen in the context of US history, the scapegoating of Mexico by US politicians is a frequent pattern of populist rhetoric during times of economic stress. Political shocks such as these, and the diverse forms of economic shocks that have occurred over the last 50 years, such as currency crises, free trade agreements, and structural adjustment policies, often have a disproportionate impact on border communities that rely on collaborative and unobstructed cross-border relations for their economic prosperity. This paper attempts to categorize and assess the different types of political
and economic shocks that have affected the US-Mexico border region from 1965 to 2017. One of the main goals is to place the recent US presidential election in an historical context.

Marta Patricia Barraza de Anda, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

“50 años del modelo maquiladora en Ciudad Juárez: Evolución y desafíos”

En 1965 surgió el programa de maquiladora en Ciudad Juárez, con la intención de compensar el desempleo que se pronosticaba por la finalización del programa de braceros y la crisis generalizada en los países industrializados, particularmente en Estados Unidos de Norteamérica. Asimismo fue concebido por el gobierno mexicano como un programa que llevaría a la industrialización fronteriza. En esta participación, se hace un análisis de la evolución y desafíos que el modelo ha tenido a 50 años de creación. En éste se consideran y se hace un balance de las diferentes etapas por las que ha atravesado, tanto el grupo de empresas maquiladoras que se han instalado, los beneficios económicos que se han originado para la ciudad, las posibles consecuencias sociales que han surgido y el rol que el gobierno mexicano ha tenido a través de las enmiendas y nuevos programas que ha ido creando para lograr su permanencia.

Consuelo Pequeño Rodríguez, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

“Resistencia y organización laboral en la industria maquiladora juarense”

Se analizan los cambios en los perfiles de sus trabajadoras y la complejidad de las relaciones laborales que se han desarrollado dentro de la industria a lo largo de casi cincuenta años. Asimismo, se argumenta sobre la ausencia de apoyos por parte de las empresas y del gobierno mexicano en sus diferentes niveles para encauzar las demandas y el descontento frente a las condiciones de trabajo vigentes. Inconformidad que se ha manifestado en diversas formas de resistencia o en una incipiente organización. La finalidad es analizar la diversidad de experiencias que han conjuntado las trabajadoras para conciliar el descontento individual o colectivo frente a una industria que se ha distinguido por su laxitud en la promoción de derechos, por un persistente control y por el continuo atentado a su dignidad.

Héctor Padilla Delgado, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

“Notas para una historia de la violencia social en Ciudad Juárez, 1964-2016”

En esta ponencia se ofrece una visión panorámica de la manera en que ha evolucionado la violencia social en Ciudad Juárez y los factores sociales que han influido en su devenir. Particularmente, al tratarse del periodo que corresponde al inicio, desarrollo, consolidación y permanencia del modelo maquilador, se explora la relación de la violencia social (específicamente la comisión de homicidios dolosos) con tres variables: los ciclos de expansión y contracción del empleo asociado a la presencia de la industria maquiladora en la ciudad, las pautas de crecimiento demográfico, los cambios en la vida política local y la orientación general de la política nacional en torno al narcotráfico y crimen organizado. El propósito de esta ponencia es presentar una perspectiva histórica que permita comprender la crisis de violencia experimentada durante el periodo 2008-2012.

Oscar J. Martinez, University of Arizona

“Ciudad Juárez: From hell to purgatory—and still far from paradise”

This paper traces the conditions in Ciudad Juárez from the 1980s to the early 2000s that caused the extreme lawlessness that engulfed the city from 2008 to 2010, surveys the successful efforts of juarenses to substantially bring down the violence and make other improvements between
2010 and 2015, and points out the challenges that remain to transform Juárez into a permanently peaceful city.

Plenary panel II: Brexit and the Rebordering of Europe

The United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union demonstrates a severe crisis of the EU in face of increasing economic problems and geopolitical changes in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and a turn to either increasingly isolationist or increasingly aggressive authoritarian regimes in the Union’s neighborhood, as well as within it. Has the project of the EU failed, and do we witness a re-bordering of Europe? How did the narrow British decision influence discontent and a move to right-populist parties in other EU member states, and how will it affect borderwork within the EU and the Union’s core idea of the four freedoms?

have collected several renowned scholars and a younger researcher to illustrate these issues from different perspectives.

Moderator Name: Martin Klatt
Affiliation: University of Southern Denmark

Milene Brandão Pereira, Universidade Estadual do Oeste do Paraná

“La (re)producción familiar en el espacio rural en la frontera: Análisis comparativo del asentamiento en Brasil, Paraguay y Argentina”

Esta investigación tiene como objeto el proceso de (re) producción familiar en los asentamientos en las fronteras: Brasil – Asentamiento Companheiro Antônio Tavares – municipalidad de São Miguel do Iguaçu – Paraná; Paraguay – Asentamiento Santa Lucía – Localizado en el distrito de Itakyry, - Departamento Alto Paraná; y Argentina – Asentamiento Dos Mil Hecáteras – Municipalidad de Puerto Iguazú, - Provincia de Misiones. La idea es comparar el modelo de (re) producción familiar en los asentamientos localizados en las fronteras a partir de las categorías analíticas de campesino, agricultor familiar y agricultor pluriactivo. El objetivo de la investigación se basa en la comparación de los modelos de (re)producción familiar en los asentamientos ubicados en las fronteras a partir de las categorías analíticas de campesino, agricultor familiar y agricultor pluriactivo. Las técnicas de registro involucran el diario de campo, las grabaciones en audio, fotografías, fichas y ficheros. Uno de los aspectos semejantes es el desarrollo del agronegocio en la frontera que dificulta la adaptación y el desarrollo de estrategias que garantizan la (re)producción familiar. Otro es el modelo ideal de (re)producción familiar. El aspecto diferenciador está en las características de los modelos de funcionamiento del asentamiento en cada país.

Iana dos Santos Vasconcelos, Universidade Federal de São Carlos
Sandro Almeida Santos, Universidade Federal de Roraima

“Hay, pero no hay: crisis política y económica en Venezuela y el proceso de movilidad internacional en la frontera con Brasil, en la busca de alimento”

Boa Vista y Pacaraima, Brasil, y Santa Elena de Uairí©n, Venezuela, son rutas y puntos de referencia para distintos grupos que se mueven en los espacios de la frontera entre los dos paí_ses. La frontera í©s pensada como un espacio transnacional mediado por articulaciones poli_tico-administrativas, econí_micas, sociales y culturales, que provoca la reconfiguracií_n espacial y simbí_lica de los migrantes. En los í_ltimos tres aí±os, con la profundizacií_n de la crisis polí_tica y econí_mica en Venezuela se ha intensificado el flujo de venezolanos(as), no sí_lo habitantes de la regii_n fronteriza, pero de distintas regiones del paí_s para comprar alimentos y trabajar en el estado de Roraima. Entre irse en busca de alimentos y volver a sus familias y amigos con la comida, los(as) venezolanos(as) interactúan diariamente con la gente de la ciudad fronteriza de Pacaraima y de la capital Boa Vista, creando reacciones positivas y negativas de las poblaciones locales. En este sentido, la ponencia tiene como objetivo ofrecer una visií_n general,
actual, de la dinámica migratoria de venezolanos(as) a Roraima, presentando los cambios que afectan a las ciudades, pero sobre todo los que afectan las vidas de los(as) venezolanos(as) que viajaron al extranjero para trabajar y comprar alimentos.

Gianluca Simi, University of Nottingham

“What does it mean to live by the border? A semiotic topography of the everyday”

The border is primarily a polysemic sign, whose meanings are constantly (re)created in the everyday in accordance with the various intentions or needs that subjects might find convenient to enunciate. It does not, therefore, have a universally fixed meaning, especially to those whose lives are permeated by its wavering between a dominant presence and a permissive absence. My paper builds on my work in the borderlands between Brazil and Uruguay, where there is an intense friction between, on the one hand, the border as a strategy for division and control and, on the other, as an everyday landscape feature that is tactically experienced in terms of its openness and fluidity. Drawing on responses given by 426 residents, I attempt to sketch a topographic map of meanings and uses assigned to the border in the region with two questions in mind: ¿what does it mean to live by the border and how does that influence the ways in which individuals and groups overcome or resignify the ontological division imposed by the border as an entity that is institutionally reproduced as a marker of distance but equally lived as a sign of proximity?

Sandra Cristiana Kleinschmitt, Universidade Estadual do Oeste do Paraná

“Las políticas de control y los impactos para el desarrollo regional en un espacio internacional de frontera”

En Brasil, los municipios de la región fronteriza se convirtieron en las mayores áreas de intervención en los últimos años. Desde la creación de la Secretaría Nacional de Seguridad Pública (SENASP) en la década de 2000, y más recientemente con la creación de la Estrategia Nacional de Seguridad Pública Frontera (ENAFRON) en 2011, diversas políticas de control se llevaron a cabo. Se consideran políticas de control, todas aquellas acciones creadas por el gobierno para suprimir o inhibir ciertas prácticas que se consideren delito en un momento dado. Por lo tanto, el propósito de este artículo es presentar una serie de consecuencias de las políticas de control implementadas en el lado brasileño, relacionadas con el desarrollo regional en un espacio internacional. Más específicamente, se pretende exponer el efecto de las políticas de control impuestas por Brasil al “circuito sacoleiro” generado en el espacio regional de tres fronteras, integrado por Brasil, Paraguay y Argentina.

Ogunsusi Cecilia Enitan, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

“Authorization of cross border trade in artifacts in South West Nigeria”

Artefact is a man-made object, which reveals valuable information about the society that made or used it. It reminds people of their history, trends and changes over time. Artefacts are not just art; they are a living part of everyday life of Africans. One thing peculiar about an artefact is its association with the jurisdiction of its place of origin, an attempt to engage in cross border trade in artefacts, without authorization from the source country, becomes illicit and is punishable under the law. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 1970 and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) 1995, are universal conventions on the means of prohibiting the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property while CAP 242 is the law guiding the preservation of artefacts in Nigeria. It is in the light of this that the study seeks to explore possible ways of ensuring the safety of artefacts within its jurisdiction. The study will make use of a combination of historical, descriptive and
analytical methods to build up structures of its argument on the subject matter. It is on this premise that analysis and recommendations will be made and conclusion drawn.

Manuel Reyes, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)
Joana Chapa, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León

“Exploring the relationship between exports and employment on the border: The case of the state of Chihuahua”

In 1986, Mexico initiated a commercial liberalization process benefiting mainly the north region of the country as its proximity to the American market. Given that (1) Chihuahua is the leading exporter among Mexican states, and (2) the United States is the largest Mexican trade partner, commerce between them is intrinsically related to the employment generation in the border region. This study analyzes exports and its effect on the generation of employment in the state Chihuahua for the period 2007-2014 via an input-output analysis considering the productive linkages between 20 economic sectors. Employment is classified by occupation, listing: salary workers, self-employed workers, employers, and unpaid workers. Results may provide a detailed picture of the relationship between exports and employment, identifying winners and losers among economic sectors for the border state of Chihuahua.

Ivan Peshkov, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland

“Border capitalism” with post-socialist characteristics: Cultural sentiments and politics of difference at the Sino-Russian frontier”

The border system in Inner Asia was part of the Cold-War Sino-Soviet border management model in the area. When the border began to be opened after 1986, people attempted to re-describe the ‘bastion regions’ of the border in terms of openness, hybridity and connections. This new period of Chinese-Russian cooperation brought radical changes in the balance of power between the two countries. Despite the significant gains to be gotten from the demilitarization of the border Russian society was not ready for such a sharp overturning of roles. This goes some way to explaining the significant asymmetry in the emergence of “Chinese spaces” in Russia and “Russian spaces” in China. In Russia, these ‘Chinese spaces’ consist exclusively of market sectors and restaurants. Unlike in Russia, northeastern China was to play freely with the Russian past of the region, making use of it as an element in a new local identity and as an attraction for investment and international tourism. Cultural sentiments still influence the status of the borderline area as a “place of defense and impurity” or “place of friendly cooperation”. This paper aims at showing, that any developmental success in the next period will depend on a re-thinking of the current mythologemes of post-Soviet consciousness: the “spatial” (dependency on the centre), the “border as a bastion” and the economic (the impossibility of cooperation without making a loss).

Laurie Trautman, Border Policy Research Institute, Western Washington University


Over the last several decades, economic globalization has presented many ‘advanced’ economies with a dilemma between facilitating the flow of goods while simultaneously regulating the movement of people. In the United States, trade liberalization under NAFTA has coincided with a series of policies aimed at hardening the border. US political action and public opinion about borders has tended to be ideologically dichotomous, separating ‘economic’ borders (the flow of goods) from border ‘threats’ (terrorism, undocumented immigration); a dichotomy that has resulted in a heavily politicized border with Mexico, and a relatively benign one with Canada. However, recent political rhetoric and the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency mark a melding of these ideological, and perhaps geographical, distinctions into a singular mechanism
of protectionism. Actions like the Brexit vote further reflect the latest iteration of how borders, identities, and economies are bound up together. Using empirical data, this presentation illustrates the integrated supply chains, shaped by NAFTA, that have woven together Mexico, the US, and Canada and highlights the importance of conceptualizing America’s borders as vital points of contact within the North American economy; an issue of significance given the imminent possibility of a new North American trade relationship.

Martin van der Velde, Radboud University, Nijmegen

“Labour mobility at the China-Myanmar Border from a threshold-perspective”

This paper describes and discusses cross-border labour mobility in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan. Partly because of the rural-urban migration within China there is a considerably demand for labour in this province. This demand seems to be met by a sizeable inflow of labour migrants from Myanmar. This flow until now is hardly studied and therefore poorly understood. In this contribution, we first want to quantify and qualify this flow. The theoretical background of this presentation is given by the threshold approach that we have developed on borders, mobility and migration. Central in this approach is the mental process that individuals who move in space are involved in. During this process, they have to decide on three geographical thresholds. The first threshold concerns the idea to cross national borders (for many people not that obvious), the second the location of the destination and its borders and ‘bordering’, and the third concerns the mobility trajectories or routes.

Jasnea Sarma, National University of Singapore

“Mapping the ‘Ethnic Shatterzone’: Refugees and resource boom-towns on the China-Myanmar border”

While the world seemed to become suddenly aware of a ‘migration crisis’ as it washed over Europe in the summer of 2015, the far larger movement of people in the face of ongoing conflict and poverty has historically been occurring in the Asia-Pacific region. As in Europe, destination countries have sought the strengthening national borders to better manage cross-border migration flows and deter ‘undesirables’, resulting in increasingly punitive migration policies and the militarization of border security. Yet two decades of studying borders have clarified that the representation of borders as lines on the land provides a poor map to how borders function in practice. The contrast drawn between the static borderline and mobile migrant works to conceal mobile practices of border enforcement and the way they encounter the ‘surfeit of arrows’ that represent the movements of migrants. This panel seeks to question how we might better conceptualize and explain this interweaving of border enforcement and cross-border mobility in the Asia-Pacific. In considering how we represent both borders and migration on the same conceptual map, it hopes to contribute to a new cartography of the states of the Asia-Pacific and the region.

Victor Konrad, Carleton University
Hu Zhiding, Yunnan Normal University

“Trading Place and Switching Space at the China-Myanmar Border”

Early in the 2000s, China cracked down vigorously on the cross-border drug trade in the Golden Triangle region of Xishuangbanna bordering Myanmar and Laos. More recently, the Government of China has cracked down on gambling which emerged in the borderlands. This paper explores the changes in space and place that have resulted in the cross-border region of Duluo, China and Mongla, Myanmar. Based on extensive field work and informant interviews, the study traces how cross-border business prevails in an isolated region where the border sustains the trading place while it enables alternating, juxtaposed and transitional spaces to flourish. Border places
like Mongla and Daluo are at once exceptional and linked spaces, and unique and related places, all enabled by a border that is both defined and evident, yet porous and manipulated. This paper illustrates the rich dividends of border understanding to be gained from detailed examination of a border locality experiencing rapid change.

Josh Watkins, University of California, Davis

“Constructing spaces and subjects: Australia's targeting of ‘potential irregular migrants’”

While the world seemed to become suddenly aware of a ‘migration crisis’ as it washed over Europe in the summer of 2015, the far larger movement of people in the face of ongoing conflict and poverty has historically been occurring in the Asia-Pacific region. As in Europe, destination countries have sought the strengthening national borders to better manage cross-border migration flows and deter ‘undesirables’, resulting in increasingly punitive migration policies and the militarization of border security. Yet two decades of studying borders have clarified that the representation of borders as lines on the land provides a poor map to how borders function in practice. The contrast drawn between the static borderline and mobile migrant works to conceal mobile practices of border enforcement and the way they encounter the ‘surfeit of arrows’ that represent the movements of migrants. This panel seeks to question how we might better conceptualize and explain this interweaving of border enforcement and cross-border mobility in the Asia-Pacific. In considering how we represent both borders and migration on the same conceptual map, it hopes to contribute to a new cartography of the states of the Asia-Pacific and the region.

Edward Boyle, Kyushu University

“Island borderlines: Mapping points of enforcement in the Japanese Archipelago”

While the world seemed to become suddenly aware of a ‘migration crisis’ as it washed over Europe in the summer of 2015, the far larger movement of people in the face of ongoing conflict and poverty has historically been occurring in the Asia-Pacific region. As in Europe, destination countries have sought the strengthening national borders in order to better manage cross-border migration flows and deter ‘undesirables’, resulting in increasingly punitive migration policies and the militarization of border security. Yet two decades of studying borders have clarified that the representation of borders as lines on the land provides a poor map to how borders function in practice. The contrast drawn between the static borderline and mobile migrant works to conceal mobile practices of border enforcement and the way they come into contact with the ‘surfeit of arrows’ that represent the movements of migrants. This panel seeks to question how we might better conceptualize and explain this interweaving of border enforcement and cross-border mobility in the Asia-Pacific. In considering how we represent both borders and migration on the same conceptual map, it hopes to contribute to a new cartography of the states of the Asia-Pacific and the region as a whole.

Keping Wu, Sun Yat-sen University

“Bordering Tibet: Building roads and boundaries in Southwest China”

The Sino-Tibetan border has been a contested zone of both opening borders through road constructions and increasing conflicts due to boundary-building from both sides. In addition to the controversial 3,757-kilometer railroad that has connected Beijing and Lhasa since 2006, numerous other roads are being built at the Tibetan borders. This paper examines the impact of the recently completed 95-kilometer Degong Road between the Deqin Township in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Diqing and Gongshan Township of the Nu Autonomous County in Southwest China. This roughly 70-million USD investment was designed to “strengthen local economic development, increase tourism and safeguard border security.” However, long-term
ethnographic research among the multi-ethic villages on the Gongshan side shows that there is an increasing tendency of constructing a Tibetan identity against the neighboring groups of Nu and Lisu groups and Han tourists due to unequal development caused by the road construction in addition to environmental damages. Instead of improved communication and more hybridized identities one witnesses in such “convergence zones” (Jinba 2016), this study argues that opening borders in the forms of road construction often leads to heightened sense of selective identities and more closed boundaries among neighboring groups.

Yasunori Hanamatsu, Kyushu University

“Border tourism and its impact on a changing borderland society: Cross-border tourism between Tsushima, Japan and Busan, Korea”

Borders usually affect the mobility of people crossing borders and the political, economic situation in borderland society. In Japan, there have still a wide range of oceanic border area where maritime delimitation has not yet necessarily been settled. However, the maritime border area between Tsushima, Japan and Busan, Korea is the most stable in the sea areas surrounding Japan.

Owing to the fixed borderline, in recent years, many Korean tourists are travelling to Tsushima from Busan by jet-foil, over 210,000 people every year. There is also a trend in which Japanese tourists are traveling from Fukuoka to Busan via Tsushima. It indicates that Tsushima may become the first border area in Japan where “border tourism” is successfully put into practice.

This paper will introduce the changing situation of borderland society in Tsushima from the perspective of border tourism. While “de-bordering” process is working undoubtedly by getting a chance to communicate with each other, we can also see a moment of “re-bordering” or “building a mental border”. It will examine the contexts of the current situation, and show some ideas that will promote border tourism, local economies and the management of mental border with Korean factors.

Panel Title: “Author Meets Critics: Macias-Rojas, From Deportation to Prison: The Politics of Immigration Enforcement in Post-Civil Rights America”

Moderator Name: Patrisia Macias-Rojas
Affiliation: University of Illinois, Chicago

Presenters:
Patrisia Macias-Rojas, University of Illinois, Chicago
Tanya Golash-Boza, Discussant, University of California, Merced
Kevin Johnson, Discussant, University of California, Davis
Sang Hea Kil, Discussant, San Jose State University

Author Meets Critics: Macias-Rojas, From Deportation to Prison: The Politics of Immigration Enforcement in Post-Civil Rights America * From Deportation to Prison unpacks how the incarceration of over two million people in the United States gave impetus to a federal immigration initiative—The Criminal Alien Program (CAP)—designed to purge non-citizens from dangerously overcrowded jails and prisons. Drawing on over a decade of ethnographic and archival research, the findings in this book reveal how the Criminal Alien Program quietly set off a punitive turn in immigration enforcement that has fundamentally altered detention, deportation, and criminal prosecutions for immigration offenses. The author presents a “street-level” perspective on how this new regime has serious lived implications for the day-to-day actions of Border Patrol agents, local law enforcement, civil and human rights advocates, and for migrants and residents of predominantly Latina/o border communities. From Deportation to Prison presents a thorough and captivating exploration of how mass incarceration and law and
order policies of the past forty years have transformed immigration and border enforcement in unexpected and important ways.

Martin van der Velde, Radboud University, Nijmegen

“The Netherlands’ borders”

Currently scholars who are part of the BiG research program are writing Country State-of-the-Border studies in the form of small books that will review the situation in border studies in many countries including Canada, China, Columbia, Denmark, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, the United States. These studies once completed will present the state of borders in those countries; our assumptions are that the territorial framework for understanding borders is fundamentally being challenged through new technologies of information and communication that are now regularly applied in the monitoring, surveillance and security of borders. Rather than territorial, new borders are potentially, a-territorial. They are for instance biometric and, also possibly everywhere. This process, however, is progressive and takes varied forms across the world; international boundaries, walled borders, and other bordering policies are still very much part of our world but new borders and bordering processes are also appearing and are not visible or even territorialized. The BIG research program is focusing on this transition – from territorial to a-territorial - with a specific focus on new borders and bordering processes around the world that are a-territorial. These two fundamental domains of research should be documented for each one of the six themes that guide our research program: history, culture, migration and trade flows, sustainability, security, and governance. We have collected several renowned scholars and a younger researcher to prepare those essays. This paper focuses on The Netherlands’s borders.

Martin Klatt, University of Southern Denmark

“Denmark’s borders”

Currently scholars who are part of the BiG research program are writing Country State-of-the-Border studies in the form of small books that will review the situation in border studies in many countries including Canada, China, Columbia, Denmark, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands, Mexico, the United States. These studies once completed will present the state of borders in those countries; our assumptions are that the territorial framework for understanding borders is fundamentally being challenged through new technologies of information and communication that are now regularly applied in the monitoring, surveillance and security of borders. Rather than territorial, new borders are potentially, a-territorial. They are for instance biometric and, also possibly everywhere. This process, however, is progressive and takes varied forms across the world; international boundaries, walled borders, and other bordering policies are still very much part of our world but new borders and bordering processes are also appearing and are not visible or even territorialized. The BIG research program is focusing on this transition – from territorial to a-territorial - with a specific focus on new borders and bordering processes around the world that are a-territorial. These two fundamental domains of research should be documented for each one of the six themes that guide our research program: history, culture, migration and trade flows, sustainability, security, and governance. We have collected several renowned scholars and a younger researcher to prepare those essays. This paper focuses on Denmark’s borders.

Special panel: Dangerous Refugee Journeys: Through the Lens of Global Films

Moderator Name: Kathleen Staudt
Affiliation: University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

Presenters:
War, poverty and insecurity have driven refugee crises world-wide. NGOs and media call attention to the exodus and the many millions of displaced children, women, and men, though all too many people become immune to the ‘numerical approach’ in narratives, particularly with “others,” that is, people of color moving from South to North. On the other hand, filmmakers offer evocative and compelling images and stories. Are their representations accurate? Do such films foster understanding, empathy and action to support broader asylum and resettlement policies? Do the films reach mainstream audiences? The panel chair selected three films from which to show clips. She will moderate conversations with panelists and audience participants before and after approximate 10-15 minute segments about land and sea border crossings from the following films: 14 Kilómetros (Spain, 2008); Terreferma (Italy, 2011); 7 Soles, (Mexico, 2008).

Hector Barajas and Jaime Garcia, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

“Bienestar en C. Juárez – El Paso, aproximación espacial comparativa”

El rápido crecimiento poblacional y económico de las fronteras en el norte de México ha superado la capacidad de planeación urbana, así como la dotación de infraestructuras y servicios públicos por parte de los gobiernos. Creando ciudades ineficientes, dispersas y desiguales agravando de forma directa la pobreza y la marginación.

La segregación y la dispersión han creado islas urbanas y es necesario ubicar y caracterizar a éstas lo más detalladamente posible para reorganizar la dotación de bienes y servicios públicos de tal forma que se puedan disminuir las desigualdades.

Dado que no existen datos de ingresos, la presente investigación no puede medir la pobreza sino aproximarlal mediante el bienestar, entendido este como el conjunto de factores que participan en la calidad de vida, que está agregado por componentes que afectan directamente al bienestar como lo son; el poblacional, el de características escolares, el de empleo, el de seguridad social, entre otros.

Para lo anterior se construyen indicadores sintéticos mediante técnicas de análisis multivariante con base a variables oficiales y se aplican al análisis exploratorio de datos espaciales, los cuales son georreferenciados para representar espacialmente los indicadores de población en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua y El Paso, Texas.

José Francisco Lara Padilla, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia-MUREF
Ana Hilda Vera, Juárez-El Paso Group of Organizational Research (JEPGOR)

“Interaction and Rarámuri organization in urban border areas. Analysis of the Colonia Tarahumara settlement in Ciudad Juárez”

The Rarámuri (indigenous natives of Chihuahua) migration to urban areas in Ciudad Juarez (northern borderland Mexico-US) represents an asymmetric scheme of coexistence with the rest of the border society. However, their ethnicity, their worldview and its institutions represent challenges for its internal conformation to interact with private and public institutions and to gain services or resources for their community. Rarámuri people have to implement strategies of intercultural interaction with local organizations.
The main objective of this research project is to identify and analyze the organizational strategies implemented by Rarámuri settlement Colonia Tarahumara of Ciudad Juarez to interact in border urban areas and their institutions.

David Molina, University of North Texas

“Where is the border end? A look at how border and non-border counties in border states impacts occupational achievement and socio-economic status of immigrants”

A proxy for understating the geographic socioeconomic impact on individuals in a Border State with Mexico on a Border State is to focus on whether the native language (i.e. English speaking ability) and age at arrival in the US of immigrants differs in occupational achievement and social economic status in Border vs. Non-Border counties. Previous study by Aysar (2016) found that English proficiency and early migration increases occupational achievement in two border counties though at different magnitudes. This study increases the number of border counties being looked at and includes Non-Border counties in Border States to determine if the State in which the counties are located is also a determining factor. In addition, it includes socioeconomic indexes such as the Duncan (1961) and the Houser and Warren (1997) indices. The study is based on the American Consumer Survey (ACS) for the years 2001-2014. The comparison is done based on a yearly fixed effect multinomial model. We also account for the possible impacts of the great recession and other factors.

T. Mark Montoya, Northern Arizona University

“The politics of taco trucks, bad hombres, and Great Walls: When the United States became Arizona”

The United States finds itself at a critical crossroad; one that Arizona has been experiencing for decades. At issue is racist and anti-immigrant sentiments incessantly constructing Mexican American identities. For example, Arizona’s Senate Bill 1070 created a slippery slope of linking “illegal” immigration to perceived Mexican identities. Even so, being undocumented was already racialized, while discriminatory conditions against Mexican Americans continued to persist despite citizenship status. Arizona politics has often contradicted classic principles of US democratic theory—requiring ending discriminatory barriers. When applying these principles to the struggle for Mexican American equality, Mexican Americans have not been granted “full” citizenship. The relationship between Mexican Americans and citizenship thus raises important questions. Most important, is that citizenship is not a neutral concept. We often overlook the ways citizenship is constructed and more importantly, we often overlook who gets to construct citizenship. Linking power to citizenship, we also see that identity formations—including race, class, and gender—all factor into the construction of citizenship. Informed by borderlands pedagogy, this paper will identify the legal, institutional, and discursive realities of the citizenship regime in the US-Mexico borderlands to help us answer the question, “What happened on Election Day?”

Bara Safarova, Texas A&M University

“Urban form and residential segregation on the US - Mexico border: Case study of Brownsville-Matamoros”

Even though cities on the US - Mexico border evolved in the north-south direction (Herzog, 1990), built form patterns on either side of the border bear characteristics of the culture, politics and economy of separate nation states. Cities on the Mexican side are compact, on the US side are sprawling and low density. In Latin American cities, social mobility frequently occurs in situ (Maloutas, 2004; Rodriguez and Arriagada, 2004). Residential mobility in the US is often viewed

This study investigates the relationship between residential urban patterns pertaining to compactness of the built form - namely density, lot sizes and setbacks - and socio-economic segregation. The study asks whether lot sizes and setbacks explain residential segregation on either side of the border and to what extent.

The study uses a case study of Brownsville - Matamoros twin cities. Parcel and city block level data will be analyzed using spatial statistical analyses. Preliminary results show a greater scale of socio-economic segregation in Brownsville and different geographic patterns of segregation within each city.

Koji Furukawa, Chukyo University

“Evaluating Japan’s defense policy and border control in the borderlands”

Japan consists of numerous islands. As such, its defense policy and border control in the borderlands have unique features. Then, where does the Japanese case fit in the broader Border Studies contexts? My presentation addresses this critical yet under-explored question. It argues that the Japanese case points to the limitation of Oscar J. Martinez’s influential model that is implicitly based on the cases of land-based borderlands. More specifically, the case of Japan indicates a category of borderland policy and activities that has been overlooked in the Martinez’s model. My presentation first reviews how the borderlands are treated in Japan’s defense and border-control policies. It will then articulate how the Japanese case sheds new light on the hitherto ignored dimension in Martinez’s model of borderlands.

Anna Lazzarini, IULM University of Milan

“Intermediate spaces: from the edges to the centre”

The re-bordering process in Europe is occurring in the centre of the single nation-states and not only on the edge of them, particularly within the European cities. On a global level, borders do not disappear: they are reshaped and reallocated between countries but also within the cities themselves.

According to a critical border studies approach, this paper aims to conceptualize the importance of borders and bordering practices for re-imagining the social and the political in the era of globalization.

The transformation of European urban borders consists of a gradual multiplying process involving forms, functions, representations and practices, dislocations and consequent relocations, determined by political, economic, historical, socio-cultural changes. In their spatial, empirical and theoretical complexity, urban borders and bordering are becoming mobile, fluid and relational spaces, crossed by bodies, practices, discourses, narratives, images. Such crossings and transpositions are continually redefining identity and otherness, dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, citizenship and participation forms.

These border experiences can be considered as new possibilities of articulating narrations and interpretations on differences, cultures, citizenship, individual and collective identities and forms of communities: they can be potential elements of social and political innovation.

Giancarlo Panagia, Westminster College
Elhom Gosink, Westminster College
Debbie Samaniego, Westminster College

“Who counts as human? An analysis of the dehumanization of the refugee and migrant crisis”

This article provides a historical overview of the nation state’s role in crafting artificial borders and exclusionary identities that have become hegemonic and normalized. The hegemonic economic system emerged from the exclusionary identities of citizen and noncitizen crafted by the state to privilege a select few, while exploiting and dominating the others. We critique the hegemonic systems of capitalism and the nation state examining the treatment and discourse surrounding migrants and refugees. By analyzing media and popular discourse on the migration and refugee crisis we identify the otherization and dehumanization inherent in mainstream US and European media by focusing on migrants and refugees from Mesoamerica and the Middle East. Taking a qualitative approach, we developed grounded theory to analyze mainstream media articles around 6 events that have shaped the dominant Western crisis discourse. Our research applies triangulation with grounded theory, critical race theory, and decolonial critique to emphasize the themes that emerged from our discourse analysis. Our findings show the public acceptance of dehumanization when applied to migrants and refugees. This acceptance has led to further militarization of borders, fostered support for anti-immigrant laws and culture, bolstered fascist politicians, and reinforced stereotypes and unfounded public fears.

Dhananjay Tripathi, South Asian University

“Globalisation; But what about political borders and social boundaries?”

The Berlin Wall symbolized a political, social and economic divide in the world and its collapse generated an expectation that the new world order will positively change the life of people. True to these expectations, the process of globalisation initially opened ample of opportunities for international community, but soon this hope dissipated. With time, finance capitalism becomes synonymous for globalisation, ignoring the need to bridge the age-old social and political divides in the world. Consequently, capital enjoyed fewer restrictions, but political borders and social boundaries remained largely intact. In this 9/11 terrorist attacks added another dimension, by giving sufficient pretext to state actors for securitizing borders, ultimately reversing the little socio-political gains that people attained from globalisation. Thus, we are living in a world where economic divides are broadened, borders are securitized and new social boundaries are erected. In other words, political borders still curtail our prospect of free movement and social boundaries are still confining us, but capital moves freely. In the view of these principal contradictions related to globalisation, this paper would critically engage with the concept of globalisation, investigating the authenticity of celebrated claim of a borderless world’. Special focus will be on South Asia.

Claire J Pershan, Pangea Legal Services
Dalia Nava, Pangea Legal Services and University of California, Berkeley

“Grassroots against the Wall: Mapping the larger conversation around open borders and free migration”

This paper will focus on contemporary movements that share a belief, not only in safety, freedom, and citizenship, but in the ideas of open borders and free migration. We will investigate organizations, demonstrations, legal advocacy, student groups, individuals, and coalitions that relate themselves to the larger vision of freer movement around the US—Mexican border. Pangea Legal Services holds as its guiding principle “the right to move”, and in addition to deportation defense, engages in grassroots public campaigns and community empowerment around this goal. The National Immigrant Youth Alliance, the leader of the Bring Them Home border crossing campaigns beginning in 2011, is a network of youth-led grassroots organizers and in activists that engage awareness around the injustices of US-Mexican border policies. The California
Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance is another youth-led organization that strategically lifts up immigrant stories through public campaigns and creative movement building efforts. Meanwhile, in the academic sphere, many top economists are arguing for open borders in discussions of free trade and economic growth. The open borders movement crosses disciplinary boundaries as well as geographic ones, and this paper will connect the dots. Through studies and interviews with different leaders and organizations, we will chart the shared principles of different groups, as well as their obstacles, tools and strategies, their vocabulary and means of expression. Our objective is to highlight open borders ideas and actions happening around us, to educate legislators and empower individuals to reach beyond the right to stay—to embrace the fundamental human right to move.

Maria Luisa Picard-Amí, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

“Transborder regions as collaborative relational spaces: a case of open borders”

The U.S Mexico borderlands were particularly hard-hit by twentieth century globalization and free trade agreements. In response nonprofits, small business, multinationals, universities, and public agencies formed transborder networks, inspired by different ideological values, to design contrasting strategies for regaining regional sustainability. However, little is known about the structure and internal dynamics of the underlying informal social networks that explain the forces at work in the projects they design and implement. What is apparent is that the networks transcend geopolitical limits and define the region based on transborder collaborative relational phenomena. What are the dynamics of transborder collaborations and how do they impact economic sustainability and social justice? Using a systems approach, this mixed-methods study utilized data from semi-structured interviews and social network analysis to shed light on the relational aspects of transborder development models in the Paso del Norte (PdN) Region. PdN, is a binational, tristate region on the border between Mexico, and Texas and New Mexico. Given its tradition of forming multisectorial transnational collaborative networks, the region is better defined from a relational perspective than by its geopolitics. As such, these transborder networks help argue for open borders able to bridge social and economic aspects of borderland societies.

Keywords: transborder regions; transborder networks; collaborative networks; US Mexico Border; social network analysis

Luca Scholz, Stanford University

“Open borders? What the twenty-first century can learn from the old regime”

The nineteenth-century model of the territorially bounded nation-state seems increasingly unsuitable for understanding contemporary patterns of migration, free trade and financial globalization. If the nation-state is losing significance as reality, if not as an aspiration, there are lessons to be learned from the time preceding the nineteenth century. What effect do open borders have on the geography of statehood? What role do street-level bureaucrats play in the negotiation of mobility? How do conceptual frameworks affect the preference for or against open borders? Confronted with a world in which flows of people, goods and capital increasingly escape the grasp of the state, we are called to reflect on the border through the eyes of a past that did without it.

Bruno Dupeyron, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

“Disabled people not welcome: Border and immigration Eugenics in Canada”

This paper presents an analysis of the border and immigration public policy for disabled people, focusing on Canada. It shows the eugenic roots of this policy, with present tragic ramifications for individuals and families. Discrimination of disabled people (minors and adults), willing to come to Canada or to stay in the country, is carefully implemented by the federal government. It is based on two flawed criteria in the Immigration Act, relying on medical and economic pseudo-
justifications. This policy is officially aimed at preserving the Canadian social and health systems, which provide very meagre services for Canadian disabled people. In this context, analyzing how this border and immigration eugenic policy of surveillance and control has been forged and is at work, to deter disabled people from coming to Canada and to exclude those who are residing in the country, offers a critical view of the lack of social change in this policy area.

Pedro Paulo Orraca Romano, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California

“Transborder education of Mexico residents in the US”

This article examines the students that live-in Mexico but go to school in the US and the factors related with their decision to study abroad. Based on Mexico’s 2015 Intercensal Survey, transborder students are described in terms of their quantity, location, educational level and socioeconomic characteristics. Subsequently, probit models are estimated to analyze the factors associated with studying in the United States. Transborder students are mainly US-born pupils, concentrated in Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez. Being a transborder student is positively related with age, household income and having a household member that was born in the US or is a cross-border worker. Transborder students come from high-income households with strong ties to the United States. The decision to study in the US is likely taken due to the country’s higher quality education system and to facilitate an eventual transition into the American labor market.

German Pallares, University of Pennsylvania School of Design

“Architectures of culturalization in the US-Mexico border: The National Border Program (ProNaF)”

In 1961, the Mexican President Adolfo López Mateos launched a program that attempted to revitalize and develop the northern borderland region of Mexico. El Programa Nacional Fronterizo (The National Border Program called PRONAF) was a federal government that sought: To promote the constant raising of the cultural standards of the population, paying special attention to technical training, in order to properly develop the people's inborn ability, that will make students take root in their respective communities. And to stress the values of history, folklore, language, culture and arts, in order to attract students from abroad interested in these subjects. While the project sought to represent through architecture and infrastructure, the national identity of Mexico, as both modern and yet strongly linked to its indigenous past. These programs, established a regional planning proposal to potentiate the economic advantages of being neighbors with the country with the highest purchasing power, seeking the development of tourism, and the increase in Mexican exports. ProNaF buildings ended up being cultural and commercial centers that served as reminders of the Mexican traditions to the inhabitants of the borderlands, a representation of the national culture, folklore for the American visitors that imported the American economic model and lifestyle.

Luis Fernando Baron Porras, Icesi University, Cali, Colombia
Ricardo Gomez and Sara Vannini, University of Washington

“The power of stories: Information practices of migrants in and toward the US”

Information practices, whether mediated by technologies or not, have critical roles on the experience leading up to and resulting from migration. We analyze the relationships between information practices (information seeking, use, and sharing (Savolainen, 2008)) and Latino migration in and towards the US. Our work is based on findings from two convergent studies of Latin American migrants in the US. The two studies, Fotohistorias by Gomez & Vannini, and Historias de Migracion by Baron, are based on the qualitative collection of stories by undocumented Latino migrants in different contexts. Based on our findings, we contend that migration is not a process that follows a linear progression of stages, as some scholars indicate, and that information practices can not only help expand migrants’ perceptions of their place of
origin and of destination, but they also help them reaffirm their notions of wellbeing, or what a good life means to them. In addition, we show that information and communication technologies (ICT) are affording migrant lives a stronger sense of ‘in-betweenness’, generating new experiences of nationhood, sense of belonging and citizenship, as well as forming new national-transnational identities. Methodologically, our convergent studies evidence the power of using stories as a research method to gain deeper understanding of the intricate dynamics and experiences of migration, a central phenomenon of our time.

Ricardo Gomez and Angie Tamayo, University of Washington

“Stories of Mi-Gra-Tion: An experience with non-traditional media based on a participatory photography research project with Latino migrants in USA”

The experience of migration has key common themes for most participants: a place of origin, a transition, a place of destination. These experiences are not necessarily lineal, and they are multifaceted. Through our work with participatory photography with migrants in the US, at the US-Mexico border, and in Colombia, we uncovered stories of rich human experience and profound expressions of values, expectations, hopes, dreams. As a way to represent the interchangeability and universality of the human experience of migration we created a flip-flap book, modeled after children’s books, in which the top, middle and bottom sections can be flipped independently from each other. The book offers stories of origin (top), transition (middle) and destination (bottom), combined with illustrations drawn from the portraits taken by migrants during our research. The result is a powerful (and playful) rendition of the human experience of migration, and the common elements that tie them all together. By participating in this year’s ABS conference, we want to share the results of this non-traditional medium, a flip-flap book, on the experience of migration.

Luann Good Gingrich, York University

“Social inclusion across borders: Reconciling the divides of market logic”

The flow of migrants from south to north and east to west carries with it growing concerns about the economic integration, political incorporation, and social inclusion of newcomers. This paper offers an account of the workings of social exclusion and inclusion as they function for migrant individuals and groups who resist conformity to dominant cultural values and practices. At the centre of this examination are the 60,000 ethno-religious Mennonite migrants from colonies in Latin America who seek to preserve their traditional and anti-capitalist way of life through seasonal agricultural work in rural regions of Canada. This qualitative research examines the official procedures and everyday practices that produce categories of “us” and “them” and thus reinforce social, economic, and subjective divides. My analysis is focused on the logic of the market – or market fundamentalism, as the exaggerated and irrational blind faith in markets has come to be identified – as it is played out in human services, laws and policies. Market logic necessarily functions to reinforce the self-perpetuating dynamics of social exclusion. I propose a model of social inclusion that aims to move us toward one another, to reconcile divides in increasingly diverse and often fractured societies.

Alyssa M. Holan, Gonzaga University

“Breaking barriers, building bridges: Gitano identity in 21st century Spain”

Recently, as more European countries have found themselves hosting an influx of Roma emigrants, the European Commission has recognized Spain as a model of the successful integration of said traditionally nomadic people. Notwithstanding, while only a small minority of Spanish Gypsies lives in shantytowns, and the majority has access to healthcare and some sort of steady income, the Gypsy community continues to face widespread racism. Cultural, social,
and economic barriers remain in tact, which impede gitanos from successfully completing their secondary education, and accessing employment opportunities -- among many other things. Today, the reluctance of some Spanish gypsies to abandon their traditional code of ethics or leyes gitanas can arguably be associated with centuries of oppression. Regardless, and despite enduring double discrimination, many Spanish gypsy women have played a pivotal role in the social and economic advancement of the pueblo gitano of the 21st century. Utilizing cultural studies and gender studies as tools of analysis, this essay shall examine Spanish gypsy women’s renegotiation of female Gypsyhood for the betterment of the pueblo gitano in relation cultural understandings of education, marriage, and maternity.

Naomi Chi, Hokkaido University

“What is at the end of the rainbow?: Prospects and challenges for sexual Minorities in Japan”

2015 marked a cornerstone for sexual minorities in Japan, as Setagaya and Shibuya wards of the city of Tokyo introduced a certificate system to recognize same sex partnership as equivalent to marriage since November 2015. While such endeavours have increased awareness and recognition of sexual minorities in Japan as well as paved the road for unprecedented discussion on equality, it does not address the more prolonging and serious issues such as equality in the job place, equal rights, and human rights issue.

This presentation will examine and explore the legal status of sexual minorities in Japan, more specifically the court cases and legal debates concerning sexual minorities, the framework of the new same-sex partnership certificate system, and the positions of the main political parties in Japan toward the rights of sexual minorities.

Chiara Brambilla, University of Bergamo

“Young Tunisian migrants and alternative political agencies at and across the Italian/Tunisian border”

This presentation explores the critical potential of what I term the borderscaping approach to investigate the complexity of the border-migration nexus in the Mediterranean. Borderscaping fosters a productive understanding of Mediterranean border-migration imaginaries by raising three aspects that the bordering perspective now in wide use neglects: the politics-aesthetics nexus, the ‘time-print’ of borders, and borderscaping as a political method.

The presentation provides examples from my multi-sited ethnographical research in the Italian/Tunisian borderland as a relevant case study that serves to inquire into the critical potential of the borderscaping approach. Working with young Tunisian migrants, who are born or live in Mazara del Vallo (Sicily), has been particularly interesting to highlight the urgency to advance a perspective that gives voice to a multiplicity of individual and group stances on the Mediterranean neighbourhood lying in the realms of identities, perceptions, beliefs, and emotions, while also looking into people’s practices and experiences of dealing with the Euro/Mediterranean interactions, both political and territorial, as well as symbolic and cultural. This could help move towards alternative imaginaries of the Mediterranean borderscape(s) ‘beyond the line’, opening up new possibilities for rethinking (state) territoriality, political space, and identity beyond modern geopolitical thinking and enlightening alternative political agencies.

Alejandro Mercado, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM)

“Transborder music networks. The case of San Diego-Tijuana region”

The central question that guides this research is if in the Tijuana-San Diego region there is one system of venues that sustains a transborder ecology of local bands (a transborder music scene),

60
or two systems of venues exist in each side of the border (two local music scenes). To answer this question, we detected the extent of local bands interchange across the border and the main structural features of the local network of venues. The data backup the idea of two separated music scenes in Tijuana and San Diego. Both scenes are clearly rooted in their own system of local venues and their respective regional and national markets. However, the relatively important movement of bands from Tijuana toward San Diego, indicate the existence of a substantial relationship between the two scenes. These findings are relevant on theoretical grounds. The case study suggests that although conditions for a common local scene (proximity and interaction) are present, this music scene functions more similarly but not entirely as a translocal scene. Therefore, an intermediate category is needed to described the differentiation of spatially contiguous and aesthetically similar music scenes in border cities.

Neil Brooks, Huron University College

“The Other in the mirror: Canadian and American novelists on the border of identity”

My paper examines how the Canada/US border has been used by novelists as a symbol for a psychological border between the self and the Other.

In Richard’s Ford Canada, the American narrator Dell tries to make sense of a fragmented and chaotic past through constructing a narrative. Canada becomes a signifier of a “comfortable Otherness” which allows for individualization while not threatening the seemingly essential American self. The Canadian border serves Dell and other American protagonists as an artificial barrier which can be utilized in order to establish identity.

The traditional ease of physical border crossings (even when characters are lying to border officials) reflects this sense of “Canada” as fertile and accessible ground for self-examination. Conversely, in many Canadian novels, characters find crossing the Southern Border to suggest a threat to individuality. Canadian characters find themselves having to work hard to keep the Border of “not American” as firm and impassable. Finally, First Nations writer Thomas King in Truth and Bright Water reveals the irrelevance of this artificial boundary to First Nation’s identity. My paper concludes with an assessment of how this imaginative value for artists might be altered as the physical border becomes more starkly regulated.

Maria Montenegro, The University of Arizona

“Oil nationalization and privatization: Gasolinazos and oil Defense in the US-Mexico border”

The Energy Bill (2014) to further privatize oil has dominated the social and political landscape in Mexico, reviving feelings of contempt towards oil, but simultaneously sentiments of “resource nationalism,” both rooted in late 1920’s petro-fictions—literary, filmic, musical, and artistic texts that use oil as their organizing rubric. Today, this ambiguity is especially tangible in the US-Mexico border, which is both a site of protest against Petróleos Mexicanos’ (PEMEX) gasolinazos—monthly increments in gas prices—and a place of defense of Mexican oil sovereignty (e.g. Frente en Defensa del Petróleo Mexicali).

In this essay, I use Francisco Monterde’s foundational petro-fiction novel Oro Negro (1927) as a lens to examine oil’s affective power and transcendence. Oro Negro explores the feelings of attraction and aversion of a Mexican family towards petroleum, after discovering an oil field on their land. I contend that contemporary leftism in Latin America is grounded in anti-imperialist discourses shaped in the petro-fictions of the early twentieth century, which cultivated an anti-petroleum and anti-capitalist rhetoric. However, these anti-oil discourses were transformed into “resource nationalism” ideologies by future leftist discourses to make petroleum the center of their national platform.

In 2011, US Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said US-Mexico border security “is better now than it has ever been.” Within months, Texas Governor Rick Perry stated “on any given day, the Mexican border region is now beset with vicious murders, tortures, kidnappings and armed confrontations.”

Years later, conflicting messages about the safety, integrity and general nature of the border and border-related policies continue to create confusion and anxiety. Although the total number of unauthorized immigrants in the US has declined since its peak in 2007, politicians continue to describe “floods” of immigrants crossing an “unsecured” border. Presidential candidate Donald Trump’s tough immigration proposals, including construction of a US-Mexico border wall, gained popularity among a broad section of the electorate.

Glaring contradictions such as these make it difficult to separate fact from fiction. This study addresses some of the most prevalent assertions, myths and misperceptions about the US-Mexico border, particularly those perpetuated during the 2016 election cycle, through analysis of empirical, statistically-based evidence. By evaluating primary data from think tanks and non-partisan research centers, this paper offers objective evidence and a factual foundation from which well-informed opinions about border issues can be shaped.

Terence M. Garrett, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)

“Border security and immigration policy management in South Texas by the numbers: Perception, stories and the knowledge analytic”

We analyze federal, state and local agencies through the lens of the knowledge analytic (KA) that we have developed in earlier work Stories told by managers and others are important for understanding the modern organizational pyramid and the differences between knowledges regarding border security operatives and their attitudes towards migration policy and other issues in south Texas. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and subordinate agencies are perennially ranked at or near the bottom of the federal government in terms of the Federal Employees Viewpoint Surveys – showing that many of the strains in the organization are between executives, management, and workers. Stories from the US-Mexico border involving front-line workers and managers dealing with border security issues in the larger context of the DHS and other agencies – including state and local law enforcement entities working with the feds in an intergovernmental context. We will analyze as well perceptions of others working between agencies through narratives. With these stories, we will illustrate the differences in knowledges – worker, manager, and executive – and how the KA allows us to understand modern organizations for a better understanding of public service – placed into a meaningful context by comparing stories with data from agency surveys.

Alexandre Couture Gagnon, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)

“Spanish-speaking institutions and language assimilation in the Rio Grande Valley”

The Rio Grande Valley in Texas, situated on the US-Mexico border, has a population of more than one million, of which more than 90% is of Latino descent. However, no public institutions formally function in Spanish, thus inhibiting institutional completeness and challenging long-term preservation of the language. Why does this population of Latino descent not demand Spanish-language service? Contrary to traditional research on institutional completeness, we consider institutions as the dependent variable and argue that the absence of institutions reflects
the perception, within the population, of inferior status ascribed to Spanish when compared to English.

Julie Madrigal, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)

“Children left at the border: A refugee crisis or a smuggling business?

In 2014, an influx of unaccompanied Central American minors along the Southern Texas border with Tamaulipas, Mexico led to the questioning of what motives drove these children to migrate from their countries of origin and how they could make such a long journey to the Texas-Mexico border. The question is why do most unaccompanied minors from Central America migrate to the United States and what mechanisms contribute to them successfully reaching the border. The key hypothesis of this work is that most unaccompanied minors from Central America migrate to the United States to reunify with their families and in doing so, the majority must pay human smugglers to ensure that they reach their planned destination. Secondary data will be requested from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project and from for-profit/non-profit organizations such as Catholic Charities, BCFS, that provide shelter, essential services, and legal counseling/aid to undocumented minors in the state of Texas. The findings will be critical to examine the implications that will arise from further militarizing the United States-Mexico border and how this will contribute to the prevalence of transnational networks dedicated to human smuggling.

Jussi Laine, University of Eastern Finland

“Shifting borders: Unpredictability and strategic distrust at the Finnish–Russian border”

Borders are multidimensional entities that have different symbolic and material forms, functions, and locations. They are dynamic in character—both in space and in time, transversally to different socio-cultural, political, aesthetical, economic, legal, and historical settings, they are criss-crossed by negotiations between different actors, and not only by the state. The presentation sheds light on borders from the Finnish perspective and demonstrates how the recent geopolitical situation surrounding Russia and Ukraine has had a clear impact also on other countries neighbouring with Russia. It is argued that the border between Finland and the Russian Federation provides an illuminating laboratory in which to study border change—or the lack thereof. With the end of the Cold War, what was a stable border concept in the past, was transformed into something broader and more complex. In the Finnish case, the change was beefed up by the fact that the neighbour Finns had learned to know, in both good and bad, suddenly disappeared. As a neighbour, the Soviet Union had not been the easiest to get along with, but at least the risks associated with living next to a sleeping giant could be assessed and managed, and the dangers could be judged. With its successor, the Russian Federation, the rules of the game changed fundamentally. The probabilities became harder to estimate, because there was no longer a clear basis to make such a judgement. The recent events in Ukraine have only fostered this unpredictability which, in turn, has also changed the perception of the Finnish–Russian border.

Katarzyna Stoklosa, University of Southern Denmark

“Ukraine and Russia in crisis: A Polish view”

As a neighboring country, Ukraine has always been significantly important for Poland. Where there are common borders, there is also a common history and shared myths. In the history of Polish–Ukrainian relations, there have always been conflicts as well as intensive collaboration and peaceful neighboring relations. I will first present the history of the Polish–Ukrainian relations during the Soviet time and, after 1989, between Poland and the independent Ukrainian state. Thereafter, I will analyze Polish perceptions of the Ukrainian–Russian war and Polish
attitudes towards Ukrainians under the influence of this conflict. After the annexation of Crimea by Russia, many the Polish population, as well as the Polish government, expressed their unreserved support for their Ukrainian neighbor — partly from solidarity and partly because of their ever-present fears regarding Russia. Because of the Ukrainian crisis, the myth has re-established itself in Poland that Poland is supposed to be the West’s barrier wall and provides protection against the wild east.

Steen Bo Frandsen, University of Southern Denmark

“The pacified border. Experiences from the asymmetric relation between Germany and Denmark”

The border conflict between the two emerging nation states of Germany and Denmark in the middle of the 19th century was one of the first violent clashes over a national border in Europe. Prussian annexed the whole of the contested border region in 1864. In 1920 the region was divided in two after plebiscites demanded by the Treaty of Versailles. The border has never been changed again, but irredentist movements on both sides failed to recognize the border for decades. Only in 1955 a solution solving also the minority issues was established by mutual consent. Since then tensions are no longer disturbing the atmosphere in this region and a cooperative spirit prevails.

The development of the border and the relations between these two highly asymmetric neighbours is often presented as a model for “how to change conflict into peaceful cooperation”. One should however be very cautious in drawing such conclusions and even more in creating models for others to follow. This presentation will underscore the importance of a wider context - a spatial and a historic - in order to understand the dynamics.

Not least the coming of a multilateral dimension in the foreign politics of the Western European states after the Second World War preconditioned the transformation of the border between the neighbours. On a political level both sides lost their interest in conserving the old antagonism as cooperation became ever more important. On a cultural level both sides of the border experienced the fading of nationalist arguments as a consequence of internationalisation.

The analysis will demonstrate how the asymmetry between the big and the small neighbour still exists. Nowadays the smaller neighbour draws considerable advantages from this asymmetry as it is no longer under a political-military pressure. The modern multidimensional border must be seen within the setting of a Western European peace system based on cooperation more than in the tradition of a nationalised border conflict.

A part of the heritage of national narratives is to reduce border conflicts to an antagonism between two parties, two different nations. This view however does not only ignores the mentioned spatial and historic context and its dynamic character. It also perpetuates the national narrative by disregarding the regional character of border conflicts and the often many faceted character of the reality on both sides of the border.

Ioanna Tsoni, Malmö University

“The Writing on the Wall: Marking Spaces, Making Places in the Aegean Borderscape”

The spaces of migrant and refugee transit or containment along the risky and protracted cross-border pathways of irregular mobility are rife with inscriptions made by a variety of actors: the border crossers themselves or other groups that stand in solidarity with - or against - them. Through the examination of approximately 400 inscriptions collected over a period of four years (2012-2016) in three different locations on the border-island of Lesvos in Greece this paper is vividly illustrating the ways in which borders are actively encountered, experienced and contested through a discursive negotiation on the very walls that are erected to set them in place. Material was collected from two spaces of interception and confinement: the detention center of Pagani and the EU “hot spot” registration center of Moria, as well as its adjacent olive groves where inadmissible asylum seekers camped. Inscriptions were also collected from the walls the
town of Mytilene. The analysis of inscriptions reveals how migrant communities as well as large segments of the host society show great solidarity, agency and resilience in dealing with the day to day border-induced feelings and experiences.

Randy William Widdis, University of Regina

“A critical appraisal of the idea of a “greater” Great Plains Cultural Region as expressed in Literature

At last year’s ABS meeting, I presented a paper that addressed the question of whether economic and social interaction and comparable cultures, geographies and histories resulted in the development of what has been termed a “Greater New England”. In this paper, I want to do much the same thing for another borderland, the international region of the Great Plains. Only this time, I will focus more on culture and address the question of whether a “Greater Plains” sensibility is expressed in a body of literature that transcends the 49th parallel.

Helga Hallgrimsdottir and Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, University of Victoria

“Anxieties and exclusion in the British Garden of Eden: Examining narratives of belonging, work, and temporary foreign Labour in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia”

The Okanagan valley is an arid region in the British Columbia interior, famous for its climate, agriculture, and tourist destinations. It is a region with a long history of employing racialized labour throughout its economy. Historically that labour has come from Indigenous, Chinese or Japanese populations, but in recent years the region has made heavy use of workers drawn from states throughout the Global South to augment the region’s domestic labour pool. This most recent round of foreign labour migration into the Okanagan has renewed regional anxieties about the presence of racialized bodies in a region of British Columbia known for its disproportionately white population, and illustrated an historical tension between the national borders that enclose the Okanagan, and the cultural borders maintained by its residents. Through archival analysis and key informant interviews, this study illustrates the ways that contemporary anxieties about the presence of foreign labour exists as part of a larger historical pattern of exclusion and xenophobia, and the ways in which the Temporary Foreign Worker program highlights tensions between state and cultural borders.

Laetitia Rouviere, Avignon, France
Victor Konrad, Carleton University

“Akwesasne: Between aboriginal sovereignty and national security”

This paper offers an analysis of the links between the affirmation of cultural specificities and the implementation of security policies in the Mohawk territory of Akwesasne located on the Canada-US border where Ontario, Quebec and New York State intersect. The focus of the analysis extends beyond political conflicts over border issues to encompass the path to aboriginal sovereignty affirmation within the processes of negotiation and cooperation in the matters of identity verification, border agents’ cultural sensitivity and law enforcement. The study shows that border security enhancement, paradoxically, may be a political opportunity for local leaders to reaffirm indigenous sovereignty. This reaffirmation is achieved through cooperation which simultaneously becomes a key factor in the implementation of border security policies.

Randy William Widdis, University of Regina

“The “sweet seas” of culture: a consideration of the role that the Great Lakes has played in the creation of a cultural borderland”
The great French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, created the metaphor of “mers douces” (sweet seas) to describe the Great Lakes. In both the pre-contact and colonial eras, the interlocking lakes and rivers of the Great Lakes region constituted the major conduits and passageways for cross cultural interactions, settlement, and exchange. This continued to be the case after the establishment of the international border, only to be tempered when land transportation mediums, most notably the railroad, directed cross-border flows and networks away from traditional marine spaces. Among many topics addressed in my soon to be completed book, I examine whether cultural exchange in the Great Lakes borderland produced a common culture and therefore a cultural region that is unique to this part of North America. In this paper, I address the role that the Great Lakes has played in the development of a distinctive cultural region.

Hugo Gaggiotti, University of the West of England at Bristol
Ana Hilda Vera, Juárez-El Paso Group of Organizational Research (JEPGOR)

“Women on the line. Female leadership in a maquiladora in Ciudad Juárez”

Since the maquiladora industry was established in Ciudad Juarez the labor presence of women has been of great importance for the industry, however after fifty years women leaders are not common in production floors. Companies point out that there are equal numbers of men than women, without specifying that leadership positions are mostly filled by men.

From the narrative of young leader women working at the maquila, the objective of this research project is to define and analyze how do they perceive and experience their leadership activities and challenges in the organization of the maquila company.

Agnieszka Górnicz Mulcahy, University of Wrocław

“Labor in flux at the cross-roads of central Europe: Labor and social Implications of economic migration between Poland, the EU, and Ukraine”

Poland is the largest has the most dynamic economy of the former Warsaw pact countries that joined the European Union in 2004. The Polish economy has grown by an average of 3.92% since 2004, the highest average rate of GDP growth in Europe.

It has also experienced a unique change in the profile of its workforce, with over two million Polish people migrating to western European countries in search of better work opportunities; meanwhile, as the Polish economy has grown, and with geopolitical turmoil in Ukraine, approximately one million Ukrainians have migrated to Poland for much the same reasons.

This talk explores the change in work conditions experienced by both sets of workers, how their labor rights and opportunities have evolved, and the social implications for both sets of workers in this period of significant change in Central Europe.

Francois Sprumont, University of Luxembourg

“Discussion on cross-border integration using non-dominant mobility flows”

On the edge of two different countries, cross-border regions exhibit very peculiar features. While borders are an interface or a barrier, analyze the interactions between two sovereign spatial entities is extremely important for political reasons, economical development, land use management, etc. Because of data availability issues, spatial cross-border integration is mostly characterized using cross-border workers commuting flow information, or more rarely, by using activities performed by cross-border workers in the country they work.
Despite its small size (2586 km2), the Grand-duchy of Luxembourg is a strong economic locomotive. Among the 380 000 available jobs in the country, 42% are occupied by cross border workers from France, Belgium and Germany. While the commuting behavior and the activity chains of the cross-border workers have been largely studied, this is not the case for the population living in Luxembourg.

This study, using two weeks of travel diary data of 35 staff members of the University of Luxembourg living in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, aims at analyzing the relationship that the respondents have with borders. Our hypothesis is that cross-border integration characterization would gain in robustness if non-dominant centripetal flows were considered as well.

Anna Casaglia, University of Eastern Finland

“Discourses on the ‘crisis’ and the politicisation of migration”

Discourses on migration and border management have become more and more popular in the public discourse throughout the last years, while with both long-term migration pressures and the more recent refugee “crisis”, threat scenarios have proliferated. The emergence of strong nationalism in Europe and examples of radicalization all over the globe are just the tip of the iceberg of an increasingly instrumentalised use of “crisis” for political purposes. One of the most remarkable aspects of these threat discourses is their basis in socio-spatial imaginaries and identitary bordering rather than in more rational assessments of risk and social burdens.

This paper will explore and give reasons for different political framings of migration as threat based on an analysis of West European contexts. This will, among others, be done by investigating the ways in which migration is depicted as: 1) a challenge to everyday ontological security – i.e. the identity of the self, and 2) as a social and economic burden that threatens stability within the EU. Specific attention will be devoted to the case of Italy and the growth of populist political movements.

Koji Furukawa, Chukyo University

“Evaluating Japan’s defense policy and border control in the borderlands”

Japan consists of numerous islands. As such, its defense policy and border control in the borderlands have unique features. Then, where does the Japanese case fit in the broader Border Studies contexts? My presentation addresses this critical yet under-explored question. It argues that the Japanese case points to the limitation of Oscar J. Martinez’s influential model that is implicitly based on the cases of land-based borderlands. More specifically, the case of Japan indicates a category of borderland policy and activities that has been overlooked in the Martinez’s model. My presentation first reviews how the borderlands are treated in Japan’s defense and border-control policies. It will then articulate how the Japanese case sheds new light on the hitherto ignored dimension in Martinez’s model of borderlands.

Sarita Palmer, Howard University

“The crisis in Central America: Current trends in Central American refugee migration to the United States”

The crisis in Central America continues to impact the lives of refugees in several countries in Central America, which has also impacted their migration to the United States. According to the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., Central American immigrants first began to migrate to the United States due to both political upheaval and economic instability in the late 1970’s, with a steady increase of Central American immigrants and refugees in the 1980’s. This
was greatly influenced by the Civil Wars that begin to break out in the following Central American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. At present, more and more unaccompanied children from Central America are migrating to the United States at record numbers, escaping from poverty, violence and communities that have been taken over by gangs. In addition, research continues to show that Central American refugees are at risk of exposure to significant trauma both in their country of origin and throughout their journey that puts their lives at risk. The fear of deportation is also a concern for Central American refugees that have entered the United States illegally. Providing psychological services will become even more crucial to assist with Central American migration.

Hilda García-Pérez, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte
Francisco Lara, Arizona State University

“Shrinking walking spaces: Women’s perceptions of neighborhood hazards related to the use of public spaces in Northern Mexico”

Aggression and criminal violence against women is a pervasive problem in Mexican cities, particularly in the region bordering the United States. Globally, cities like Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana had become emblematic of the high prevalence of femicides and gender-based violence plaguing Mexico. This ethnographic study explores women’s perceptions of neighborhood social and physical hazards related to the use of public spaces. Particularly, we explore how these hazards reduce women's opportunity to walk and exercise freely in their neighborhoods. A series of semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with 18 women aged 24 to 65 years in two Mexican cities. Three critical themes emerged from the analysis: normalized violence, fearless/helpless attitudes, and shrinking walking spaces. These themes describe how women’s perception of neighborhood hazards experience and cope with urban violence and shed light on the role of age, socioeconomic status, and community characteristics in the level of women’s resilience and vulnerability. Study findings are discussed within a socio-cultural framework that describes subpopulation at risk of being victimized, agents of violence, and prevention strategies to reduce the risk of being victimized.

Kelly A. Lynch, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

“Un conflicto ético: Un análisis de los niños hispanos indocumentados sin asegurar desde la perspectiva de los médicos estadounidenses”

 Parece que sea un derecho humano y dispuesto a todos, pero el acceso al seguro médico es un privilegio denegado a muchos, incluso los inocentes niños. Los dilemas éticos, que los médicos experimentan cuando sirven a los niños indocumentados, indican un conflicto central en los estados unidos que prohíbe este derecho humano a la salud que cada niño se merece. La mayoría de los niños extranjeros desautorizados son latinos y los beneficios del bienestar social dependen de su estatus legal; no de su situación sanitaria. Además, muchas leyes han prohibido el acceso a esos beneficios y han provocado un deseo a reformarlos. En este momento, la única opción del seguro médico para la gente indocumentada, incluso menores, es la asistencia médica de emergencia, la que es temporal y la elegibilidad es estricta. Los médicos y los enfermeros han experimentado un conflicto ético entre obedecer las restricciones de la ley, que requieren una negación del derecho humano a la salud. Para demostrar la necesidad de proveer el seguro médico para los niños indocumentados, esta investigación evaluará casos prácticos específicos y las políticas médicas que muestran el conflicto ético que existe entre los médicos estadounidenses y los niños indocumentados que ellos sirven.

Ilkka Liikanen, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland

“Bringing the West back in? Re-mapping of European neighbourhood in the political reactions to Ukraine crises”
In studies on post-Cold War international order, the EU is often presented as a prime example of “a new kind of international actor” that builds its policies on normative soft power instead of securitized notions of territorial integrity. EU policies of cross-border cooperation promote arguably new spatial imageries of common European neighbourhood that go beyond Cold War East-West divide. The Ukraine crises has launched critical discussion on the key-notions of neighbourhood policies within both EU administration and the member states. At the same time, the concept of the West has powerfully re-emerged in political discussion in Europe. My paper asks how are concepts of West and neighbourhood accommodated in the remapping European security environment after the Ukraine crises. Special attention is paid to the adaptation and changing significances given to the concept of West in policy statements of the EU and Finland (as a member state case study). The aim of the study is to identify changes in sovereignty conceptualisations of the EU. By examining the coexistence and clash of diverse sovereignty concepts and spatial imaginaries on different layers of EU policies, the paper strives to comment on the broader discussion on EU as an international actor.

Sergey Golunov, Kyushu University

“Russian cross-border cooperation: In search of an efficient model”

Russia is the country that has the longest border in the word. Its borderlands are distinguished by particularly diverse economic, political, and other conditions which complicates elaborating some uniform and coherent cross-border cooperation policy.

The proposed paper to be focused on Russian efforts to elaborate nation-wide cross-border cooperation policy in the period after the disintegration of the USSR. Russia tried both to adopt some elements of foreign (especially the EU’s and Chinese) experiences and to introduce some original solutions. Yet the results don’t look much impressive so far. I argue that the efficiency of Russian cross-border cooperation policy is reduced by several factors, such as Moscow’s reluctance to grant Russian regions more autonomy, pervasive corruption, and conflicts with some neighbor countries.

Katarzyna Stoklosa, University of Southern Denmark
Gerhard Besier, Sigmund Neumann Institute

“Alternatives to border walls”

Borders exist since the beginning of nation states and so walls and fences too. The Berlin Wall, the Iron Curtain between eastern and western Europe and new border fences that have been constructed in line with the refugee crises today show that the attempt of abolition of problems through separation from the “problematic” neighbours has been always present on the political agenda. Nevertheless, from time to time the opposite takes place. For example, 1989 Hungary opened its border with Austria to support Eastern German refugees on their escape into Western Germany.

Human beings are mobile if they should be – very often because of hunger and war. An alternative to border walls and fences would be a development of a common European integration policy. This is a very difficult goal because the (religious) convictions, life styles, values and norms but also the habits between the native majority and the foreign newcomers often are very different. Living together in separate subcultures might not be a problem, if the minimal preconditions are accepted by all – separation of church and state and the rule of secular law. That means recognition of the profane culture in the public sphere, obeying the constitution, particularly human rights and equality of men and women.
In our contribution, we would like to demonstrate how an integration process on this low level might be successful and an alternative to border walls and fences. How to harmonize the differences, the fears and expectations on both sides to avoid disappointments and clashes? There are many attempts to install full integration programs to establish an integrated and peaceful togetherness. Instead, we are going to create a social education program that aims at a mutual understanding process between different subcultures.

Joni Virkkunen, University of Eastern Finland

“EU, Russia and the changing neighborhood”

The growing confrontation in international politics and, recently, the hasty bordering exercises resulting in the ‘uncontrolled’ cross-border flows of asylum seekers in Europe have revolutionized the European geopolitical map. The post-cold war rhetoric of confidence, cooperation, neighbourhood and borderless Europe have been replaced by different images of military and non-military threat. The paper looks at the evolving character of the European Union in the changing geopolitics of Europe. To uncover the idea of normative power of both EU and the Russian Federation, and the changing actorness of the two evolving great powers in their near-by areas, the paper discusses the different notions and levels of neighbourhood. As both Russia and the European Union tend to move toward more exclusive geopolitics, there is a clear interest for multifaceted long-term cooperation some sectors of society, e.g. in science and business. Those are said to benefit both.

Carsten Yndigegn, Syddansk Universitet

“Border regions – hollyhock idyll or contested battle zones”

The paper will address the diversity of contemporary border regions from a discourse critical perspective.

Since the founding of the EEC, border regions have played a significant role in building the picture of an integrated Europe. Through the idea of open borders and cross-border cooperation, the narrative has been constructed that European integration, not least in border regions, helps overcoming past enmities of the nations, thereby developing European identity based on preservation of the rich variety of the national cultures.

Far from being hollyhock idyll, border regions reflect the diversity of European integration. They somewhere show examples of smooth integration derived from elitist endeavours and pragmatic necessities, while elsewhere still being containers holding the memory-related remnants of past nationalist conflicts to be revealed when digging the surface of popular memory.

Parallel with the intensification of the EU crisis, border regions have turned into crisis zones. Border regions have redeveloped into contested battle zones of both old and new kinds. Geopolitical threats have created security issues in border regions, whereby minority issues have developed from being of only museological interest to becoming security political importance. Moreover, global mass migration has turn border regions with protected borders into contested battle zones.

Rahul Bjørn Parson, CU Boulder

“Making Public Enemies: Chānd’s Mārwārī Ank and the National Feindbild”

The advent of modern nationalism intensified attitudes toward entrepreneurial minorities such as Marwari banias (merchant-traders of Rajasthan), who despite being numerically small, played a substantial role in the modernization of the Indian economy, but hitherto remained largely
unn noticed in the complex patchwork of colonial India. This paper discusses the infamous Mārwārī Ank (November 1929), a special issue of the leading nationalist Hindi journal Chānd. The Mārwārī Ank was a four-hundred page, vividly illustrated and carefully crafted documentation of the socio-political, historical, literary, and ethnographic particularities of Marwar and its peoples; it was the first of its kind to offer such extensive scrutiny of one community. Chānd truly politicized the Marwari question by consolidating the image of the Marwari as an internal national enemy, thus constructing a Feindbild (enemy-image, bogeyman), against which patriots of all hues could rally. The purpose of this paper is to examine the rhetorical strategy of the Mārwārī Ank and the broader significance of such a work in the discursive production of communal image, standing, and credibility vis-a-vis the requirements of citizenship and patriotism in late-colonial India. This study speaks to a broader discussion of media demonization of minorities, satire, and the limits of political discourse.

Dr Rachel Sharples, Western Sydney University

“Movements across space: Conceptualising the Thai-Burma borderlands”

This paper argues for a new way of looking at the Thai-Burma borderlands as a political space, a spatial re-imagining that establishes the borderlands as a social construct characterised by contested socio-political relations. This concept of a “borderlands” maps the interchange that occurs across a broader space that is informed by the Thai-Burma border, rather than seeing the border as purely delineating two distinct autonomous spaces. I argue that the Thai-Burma borderlands is a distinct space framed by a tension between a modern territorial domain, characterised by the modern demarcation of the Thai-Burma border and the consolidation of state control over it, and the intersection of a particular form of social relations, characterised by a fluidity of movement (of information, resources, ideas, culture, identity) that intensifies the possibilities available to displaced and refugee populations, particularly in terms of political agency and mobilisation. Drawing out the various components of this tension gives definition to the practices of those who have been displaced to the borderlands, but more broadly it provides insight into how displaced populations politically engage with the state in ambiguous cultural-political spaces providing clearer definition to the political nature and possibilities of the borderlands space.

Meghna Sabharwal, University of Texas at Dallas

“Challenges in International Collaboration between Developed and Developing Nations: Experiences of Return Migrants in India”

Scholars have pointed out challenges in international scientific collaborations between developed and developing countries due to dissimilarities of scientific practice and professionalization of collaborators. Such challenges are likely to be insignificant if collaborators in developed and developing countries are professionally socialized in the same scientific culture. We present findings from a National Science Foundation funded study with 80 faculty in science and engineering (S&E) who returned to India after study and work in the U.S. These faculty were socialized in the scientific culture of U.S. academia where they learned how to conduct experiments, interpret results, judge their own work, publish papers, and collaborate with their peers. When they returned to India to take a faculty position, they knew collaborators in the U.S. with desired skills and vice versa. Yet, return Indian immigrants face numerous challenges in establishing successful collaborations with their American peers. Interestingly, this is not the case for them to collaborate with researchers in Europe with whom they have little historical connection. We employ the core-periphery theory, which outlines power relationships between the developed core and developing periphery. Findings show various inequities that exist with researchers in the U.S. that pertain to resources, authorship and attitude towards collaboration.
Francisco Lara, Arizona State University

“Regional drivers of cross-border networks for innovative policy action in the US-Mexico borderlands”

Linked by shared ecologies and transborder metropolises, natural and built environment unbalances along the 2000-mile long political boundary, have the potential to affect the sustainability and livelihoods of communities of both sides of the border. Addressing and solving these regional environmental problems has required continuous coordination and cooperation, which materialize in all kind of cross-border networks. Cross-border networks define issues, identify problems, and influence policy-making. Despite their importance for the region, little attention has been paid to the regional drivers of cross-border networks and how proposed solutions relate to the needs of communities that lie on both sides of the border. In this paper, I examine cross-border networks as sources of regional governance in the environmental and urban arenas and discuss some examples of networks in the US-Mexico border. Rather than a formal comparison, I use these cases to illustrate the role of regional drivers in the formation of cross-border networks and in the origination of innovative policies action.

Kimberly Collins and Rudy Morales, California State University, San Bernardino

“Network governance in the California-Baja California border region”

The future of governance is based in networks and connections between government, business, and the non-profit sectors. These networks have developed with the changing role of each sector in society as tax dollars diminish; levels of distrust of the government by citizen’s rise; and the principals of new public management, seeking greater efficiency and effectiveness, are applied. In binational areas, it is even more important to understand how these networks work across international lines. There are many issues shared by the governments, businesses, and people living and working in the region. They need to be resolved through shared action and working together. Therefore, understanding the current networks in the region and how they are functioning will help in the analysis of binational governance. This paper reviews the primary social network theories and provides a preliminary analysis of networks within the California-Baja California border region.

Tony Payan, Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy and Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez
Pamela L. Cruz, Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy

“Visualizing the extent of the US-Mexico border region”

Border residents of the United States and Mexico share much more than a physical borderline. They share a culture and a common history, along with social, economic ties and environmental, security, and health concerns. Having said that, however, defining what the border has been elusive. What exactly determines the territorial extent of the borderlanders? What is the depth of the US-Mexico border region? Border scholars often avoid the question by writing about “the border,” without ever defining its spatial dimensions. There is in fact a varying consensus on its scope and numerous spatial scales, depending on the issue at hand. This paper explores the complexity of defining the border region by examining the history of different definitions the US-Mexico border across two federal entities, agreements, academic operationalization, and administrative divisions. Understanding what defines the border region should not be overlooked since it impacts the communities who live in the region and the policies that are developed and implemented. This paper is part of a project entitled “Binational Institutional Development on the US-Mexico Border,” that aims to enhance the understanding of cross-border governance and governability needs of the border.
Christophe Sohn, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)

“The co-mingling of bordering dynamics in the San Diego-Tijuana cross-border metropolis”

The focus of this paper is on the processes of ‘debordering’ and ‘rebordering’ and more specifically on what occurs when both forces collide and confront their contrasting goals. The hypothesis developed argues that the two bordering dynamics don’t merely contest each other, they also interact and co-mingle. A tripartite analytical framework is proposed based on the functional, constructionist and symbolic dimensions of bordering dynamics. The purpose is to generate hypotheses about co-mingling of the two forces that can be tested empirically. The case of San Diego-Tijuana offers a US-Mexico cross-border metropolis as a work in progress, an urbanized region that is constantly changing and reinventing itself through the convergence of debordering and rebordering, and, ultimately, the nesting of one category inside the other.

Alibay Mammadov, Hokkaido University, Japan


The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is a territorial dispute between the Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan. 22 years after the ceasefire that marked the end of large-scale military confrontation, heavy clashes began along the Nagorno-Karabakh line of contact on 1st April 2016. More than a hundred soldiers and civilians of both sides were killed during four days of fighting, marked by the deployment of artillery, tanks and heavy weapons. The clashes ended as suddenly as they had begun. Both sides accused each other of launching the military action. Baku claimed that the attack was in response to Armenia’s shelling of civilian districts in Azerbaijan. Many observers concluded that the conflict represented an attempt by Azerbaijan to test Armenian defenses, rather than retake the disputed territories. My research aims to clarify the following issues from an Azerbaijani perspective: Why the conflict heated up? Was it unexpected and how will it affect peace negotiations? What was the outcome of these clashes? Which country did it benefit? It will also consider international reactions to the clashes, and particularly focus on the Russian factor. Can Russia play a positive role in territorial disputes?

John Thomas, Quinnipiac University School of Law

“Psychiatric, cognitive, legal, and public health challenges facing refugee children”

This paper/presentation addresses issues regarding understanding and treating the needs of refugee children. The presentation utilizes recordings of interviews of immigrants, would-be immigrants, and deportees to provide context to an examination of the legal hurdles and public health challenges facing refugee children. This section of the paper also presents an international comparison of immigration laws, with a focus on how laws affect refugee children.

Next, the paper focuses on the cognitive impact of forced immigration. It reviews brain development research that has demonstrated that trauma in childhood changes children’s hormonal function and brain development, resulting in an increased risk of developing psychological disorders. The paper then examines recent developments in the study of epigenetics. These studies have revealed, for example, that the psychological trauma that holocaust survivors experienced has resulted in inheritable traits that have manifest in children and grandchildren of survivors.

The paper concludes by examining possible clinical interventions to assist and treat refugee children and families. It urges engagement through an understanding of beliefs and values and joint goalsetting to form an effective and culturally relevant basis for therapeutic interventions.
“(Mis)understanding of social organization: Dynamics of field research in border regions of Mexico and the Northern Triangle”

We survey field anthropologists to gauge their perceptions on social organization in the borderlands of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Our results indicate that anthropologists view organized crime as widespread and affecting both local populations and anthropologists themselves. Anthropologists also see violent acts perpetrated by crime syndicates as pervasive. We conclude with discussion on how the withdrawal of anthropologists from the borderlands complicates our efforts to track changes in local social organization.

Eliseo Díaz, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

“Migración y comercio México-EUA”

En este artículo se estudia el efecto que tiene la migración en el comercio entre México y los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica.

Jorge Ibarra Salazar, Tecnológico de Monterrey

“El efecto frontero norte en la recaudación de impuesto predial”

El efecto frontero norte en la recaudación de predial ha sido documentado en estudios previos. En este artículo usamos datos de los estados fronterizos para estimar y comparar el efecto fronterizo en la recaudación de predial para todos los municipios de la región frontera norte.

Edgardo Ayala, Tecnológico de Monterrey

“Impacto del TLC en el noreste de México: cambio estructural y mecanismos de transmisión”

A veinte años de la entrada en operación del TLC todavía no se han evaluado los principales efectos a nivel regional. El presente trabajo contribuye en este sentido, combinando el uso de métodos econométricos de series de tiempo para identificar la presencia de los cambios estructurales, fecharlos y medir el desplazamiento de las medias en exportaciones, IED, entre otras variables, con un modelo de equilibrio general aplicado para la región noreste. Esto permitió indagar los mecanismos de transmisión de los shocks en estas variables y cuantificar el impacto en los niveles de actividad de la región.
Debra D. Andrist, Sam Houston State University

“The History of Sociedades Guadalupanas & Other Hispanic Organizations in Houston, Texas”

Guadalupanismo among U.S. Hispanics came to be ubiquitous, culminating to some degree in the early 20th Century Sociedades Guadalupanas. According to the Texas State Historical Association website, these organizations are religious associations organized by Mexican-American Catholic women to provide leadership in social concerns and perform works of charity. The organization’s name derives from Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. Sociedades Guadalupanas have helped to foster female development and leadership. Houston, Texas was one of the most active sites for not only the Guadalupanas but also for other religious, political and social organizations associated with Hispanic populations, women, men and mixed groups, which fostered cultural pride, among other benefits and advantages of organized activities. This paper highlights the development of several of said organizations during the first two-thirds of the 20th Century.

Laurence Armand French, University of New Hampshire; Western New Mexico University
Magdaleno Manzanarez, Western New Mexico University

“Race, Language & America’s Perception of Acceptability: Dynamics of Exclusions”

Relative status (caste & class) within the Americas is often determined primarily be skin color and, to a lesser extent, language (patois). This is evident in both intra- and inter-group relations and is most evident in United States emigration policies. This phenomenon is perhaps best exemplified by the Hawaiian saying: “if you white” you all right; if you brown-stick around; if you black “stay way back.” Accent and language usage also reflects strong linguistic biases even with the same society, often denoting class stratification. The major Latin-American non-native languages are Spanish (Mexico, and most of central & South America sans Brazil); Portuguese (Brazil); and French (Haiti, French Canada). United States favoritism toward white Cubans versus Afro-Cubans and Haitians best illustrates this systemic “inacceptable bias” The strongest internal biases often are directed toward non-whites who are either related to indigenous peoples or black slaves such as Brazil, the American nation with the highest proportion of black slave heritage (and the last to outlaw slavery), and Mexico, the largest American nation with the greatest percentage of indigenous heritage. Our paper explores the “lightness acceptability” phenomenon.

Lyon Rathbun, University of Texas/ Rio Grande Valley

“Crossing Borders North and South: Américo Paredes and his Divergent Audiences”

While scholars recognize that Américo Paredes addresses various audiences as a story teller, journalist, and scholar, they have not systematically discussed the communities of readers that Paredes consistently addressed as a public figure. Throughout his career, Paredes reached out to geographically opposite and culturally different audiences situated to the south and to the north of what he called Greater Mexico. He reached out to these divergent secondary audiences
as an extension of his central ambition to restore historical memory and political agency to his own Mexican-American community. My presentation will show that while Paredes became a beloved cultural spokesperson for his own Mexican-American community, he acted as a cultural intermediary in addressing his secondary Mexican and Anglo audiences.

Alis López, Sam Houston State University
Enrique Mallén, mentor, Sam Houston State University

“Conflation of Identities in the Multifaceted Pablo Picasso”

Pablo Picasso was an artist with an astonishing range of styles, arguably prompted by the eclectic mixture of languages and cultures he was exposed to throughout his life. Picasso was immersed in at least five different linguistics environments: Andalusian, Galician, Catalan, French and Russian. This presentation examines the multiple transformations of the Spanish artist as the consequence of what psychologists call projection. The visible outcome of projection in Picasso is a characteristic conflation of characters. Conflation occurs when the identities of two or more individuals, concepts, or places, sharing some characteristics of one another, become confused until there seems to be only a single identity. Sigmund Freud explains projection as a mechanism whereby humans come to terms with their own qualities by releasing them onto others. The extraneous element encountered by an individual in a foreign environment is first absorbed, and then split off and filtered through another. Picasso did many portraits of multiple individuals. Nevertheless, statistically speaking, however, Picasso's portraits, often, include his own features. In other words, when analyzed in detail, these representations turn out to be self-portraits in disguise, even if the sitter is a female.

Stephen Miller, Texas A&M University

“Socio-cultural Changes and Adaptations in Hinojosa’s Rendition of Rivera’s ‘... and the Earth Did Not Devour Him’”

The formal differences between Rivera’s ... and the Earth Did Not Devour Him and the Hinojosan rendition of the novel, This Migrant Earth, are obvious and indisputable, and have been studied by me elsewhere. More difficult to identify and explain are the micro and macro socio-cultural changes and adaptations Hinojosa introduces into his version of Rivera. The purpose of this paper is to identify key representative changes and adaptations; and, then to explain their import in the context of Hinojosa's 15-volume and awarding-winning series, The Klail City Death Trip. Implicit in this study is to explain the bearing of these changes and adaptations on reading Rivera's sometimes autobiographical novel on its own terms.

Vialla Hartfield-Méndez, Emory University

“Pre-Texts for Border Crossings: The México-US frontera and its Stories”

Teaching any course about the US-Mexican border is itself an exercise in crossing boundaries and negotiating contested terrain, from the texts one chooses to which language is dominant. In my undergraduate senior seminar about the border and its stories, a central concern is how to engage students in their own experiences of border spaces (whether at the geographic site of the border or well beyond) while challenging them to expand their ideas about these spaces by fully engaging with other’s conceptualizations. I incorporate historical documents, inviting students to read these and other constructed borderlands narratives critically. In 2015, I incorporated a different pedagogical approach, hoping to engage the students in the many constructed narratives we were encountering in such a way that they could more profoundly integrate these into their own experiences. Pre-Texts is a pedagogical approach that distills theoretical approaches to literature and community-based engagement strategies into a protocol that fosters close reading of texts, creativity, and civic agency, using literature (broadly...
defined) as a point of departure, inviting participants to interact with a text through multiple art forms and reflect. This presentation will demonstrate through active audience participation how this pedagogy facilitates students’ critical readings of border narratives.

Ramon Vargas, West Chester University

“Los jóvenes soñadores, el Dream Act y la educación en California”

En este ensayo investigaré como los jóvenes soñadores luchan por la educación universitaria en California. Algunas de las preguntas que investigaré me ayudarán a aclarar ciertas dudas respecto las decisiones que el gobierno está cogiendo para ayudar a que los jóvenes indocumentados se conviertan en ciudadanos respetables y miembros de la sociedad. Las preguntas son las siguientes; ¿Cómo el Dream Act afecta a los jóvenes indocumentados? ¿Cuáles recursos están disponibles para los jóvenes indocumentados bajo el Bill 540 (AB540) en California? El Dream Act es una forma de ayudar para los jóvenes indocumentados que llegaron pequeños y que quieren obtener recursos para poder asistir a las universidades. Según Gonzales, Terriquez y Ruszczyk, el Dream Act es el camino para obtener la ciudadanía; The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM) Act was first introduced in Congress in 2001 to provide a pathway to citizenship to certain undocumented immigrants who migrated as children (Gonzales, Terriquez y Ruszczyk, 1853). Esta idea muestra que las leyes de California y las del gobierno están tratando de ayudar a los jóvenes soñadores para que se conviertan en ciudadanos respetables.

Colleen Murray, J. Guillermo Villalobos, Lindsay Pérez, and Karen L. Camelo, University of Nevada, Reno

“Workplace and Educational Experiences of Individuals from Mixed-Document Status Immigrant Families”

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Technology reported that immigration has an overall positive impact on economic growth. Immigrants have a very small impact on wages or employment levels of native workers. In addition, educational opportunities correlate with improved employment and well-being of immigrants and their families. However, data from these large studies do not provide insight into the experiences of individuals, including those from Mexican and Central American (MCA), the largest percentage of undocumented immigrants and families with mixed documentation status in the United States. This study examined the experiences of MCA immigrants in the workplace and educational institutions. The multi-method study included interviews with 44 adults from mixed-status immigrant families either seeking free legal assistance at immigration clinics or through a campus Latino Center. Participants reported being treated differently from non-immigrant co-workers, but also differently from documented immigrant co-workers. There were concerns about vulnerabilities (unemployment, impact on family, separation of families, etc.) if they tried to remedy discriminatory workplace treatment. Also, there were differences between high school experiences and opportunities for higher education. This research highlights the range of experiences and that DACA alone does not remove discrimination and concerns for vulnerabilities.

Savonna Greer, California State University, Fresno

“Ill-informed Intentions: Neocolonialism in Fresno, California during the 1920s”

Fresno, California has been divided since its inception. East and West was initially divided by the railroad tracks, in a very literal sense. These tracks separated established whites from minorities and ethnic whites. The two groups had separate grocery stores, social circles, and schools, but the schools would be what maintained the separation. During the 1920s, Fresno’s
school system was growing tremendously. However, schools on either side of the tracks did not impart the same education. Schools on the west side were more concentrated on Americanization, than upholding education standards. Additionally, groups on the west side were categorized by race, and it was believed that their race determined their potential to achieve success. Out of the many ethnic groups that made up west Fresno (Armenians, Chinese, Italians, Portuguese, Russian-Germans, Mexicans, and so on) Mexicans were viewed as the least likely to succeed. The ethnic whites eventually integrated into the class society of established whites, but the Mexican population had a more difficult experience. My research explores how class initially affected residents of the west side, but how ideas on race overpowered those sentiments. This exploration takes place considering the current uneven ethnic distribution in Fresno schools.

Ligia Gámez, Arizona State University

“Put the books away! Now it is time to work: Literacy environments in Chilean Preschools”

Book-reading is a common practice among teachers in developed countries (Dickinson & Smith, 1994); however, evidence suggests that in the Chilean context things may be different. Strasser and Lissi (2009) found that literacy activities such as reading only averaged 3 minutes across observations, showing that other activities take prevalence in the preschool context in Latin American countries. A study conducted by Duke (2000) in the United States demonstrated that children in low-income classrooms tended to have less rich classroom environments, which in turn provided fewer opportunities for a variety of literacy-related experiences. The availability of books in the classroom and the types of books the teachers choose to use in their daily practice are associated with the vocabulary development of the children who are exposed to printed materials such as books (Hiebert, 2009). This paper will analyze the kinds of books (i.e. fiction versus non-fiction) available to the children in Chilean preschool classrooms, as well as discuss how teachers use the available books in the classroom. This information provides a strong basis for understanding the potential variation in printed materials available in the preschool classroom and how that variation may influence reading practices among teachers.

Salvador C. Fernández, Occidental College

“Departures, Journeys and Arrivals in Sin nombre”

This paper examines the literary tropes of departures, journeys, and arrivals associated with migratory postcolonial subjectivities as represented in the film Sin nombre. The film reconstructs the migratory journey from Central America to the United States, highlighting the role that the transnational gang La Mara Salvatrucha (or MS 13) plays along this migrant route. The railroads and the trains in which these (im)migrants travel not only remind the viewer of the fail economic practices between the North and the South trade paradigm, but they also highlight a new type of commerce, the transport of cheap human labor, whose arrival to the U.S. economically, socially, and culturally alters the hegemonic paradigm in the geographical locations where they arrive. Directly and indirectly the film presents two types of migrations, one from Central America to the United States and the other from the United States to Central America, with the members of the Mala Salvatrucha representing an exile culture from the United States. Thus, Sin nombre represents the returned of the economic colonized subjects to the empire that dominates their autochthonous communities.

Ignacia Morales Reyes, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma De Puebla

“Migración infantil en México, retorno al país de origen”
La presente ponencia busca contribuir, desde una perspectiva multidisciplinaria, al estudio de la migración infantil entre México y Estados Unidos, para la búsqueda de políticas públicas, que coadyuven y sensibilicen a los tres niveles de gobierno, para implementar leyes de protección a los niños migrantes que cruzan el territorio y tienen como destino Estados Unidos. Niños provenientes principalmente de países centroamericanos.

Se describen los rasgos más sobresalientes del proceso migratorio infantil, que empezó a ser un fenómeno acuciante desde mediados del siglo xx. Se muestran lugares de procedencia de estos niños que cruzan el país. En tanto se mencionan los avances que en días recientes se discuten en la cámara de senadores para armonizar las leyes en cuanto al tránsito de niños migrantes.
"Screening of Hispanic Families and Newborns: The Kempe Parenting Inventory"

This paper describes the screening of Hispanic Families and newborns in the Desert Regional and John F. Kennedy Hospitals in California. The Kempe appraises ten different longitudinal elements. It examines frequently cited factors with high risk families and newborns including social factors, child maltreatment, and low income among others. Subsequently, home visiting services were offered and several outcomes are illustrated.

"Power, Violence, and the Global HIV Epidemic"

Despite major advances in HIV prevention and treatment, there are currently about 37 million infected individuals worldwide. There is an increasing amount of data supporting the hypothesis that gender-based violence (GBV) is both a cause and an outcome of HIV infection. However, services developed to address GBV in both developing and industrialized societies are limited and often ineffective. This presentation will review studies from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States that show that women who are HIV-positive are at greater risk for violence (largely because of stigma) than women who are HIV negative. Further, initiatives to combine a response to GVB with existing HIV prevention and treatment programs will be discussed.
Ti’Ana Marshall, Arkansas State University

"Forget Me Not: A Focus on Prostate Cancer and Health Communication Among Men"

There are numerous resources and outlets available for women diagnosed with cancer. These outlets allow these individuals to not only learn more about their illness, but to also find support from others they can identify with and confide in. The social support given to women diagnosed with cancer is overwhelming; however, the same cannot be said for men who face the same obstacle. Despite prostate cancer being the second most common cause of death for American men and primarily African American men, there is an astonishing absence of social support for these men. Little is known about the communication practices and needs of men diagnosed with the disease. This research will examine how the lack of social support impacts African American men’s experiences of prostate cancer and their quality of life. Using interviews, and focus groups, this study seeks to provide a space for African American prostate cancer survivors to narrate their experiences to enhance knowledge about the disease and help inform cancer support services.

Kwaghdoo Atsor Bossuah, Tennessee State University

"Symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease Dementia: Treatment Update"

It is estimated that at least 10% of patients diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease will develop dementia. Approximately 75% of PD patients who survive over 10 years will develop dementia. The risk of developing dementia depends on the duration that a person has Parkinson’s disease. From onset of PD to diagnosis of dementia, the mean duration is estimated at 10 years. While some patients develop dementia prior to 10 years from onset of PD, others develop dementia over 20 years later. Several factors are associated with time from PD diagnosis to PD dementia diagnosis. The goal of this presentation is to define Parkinson's disease dementia and provide an overview of cognitive changes of PD dementia along with assessment and diagnosis. Risk factors associated with Parkinson’s disease related cognitive changes will be presented. The clinical features, stages and time course of Parkinson’s disease cognitive changes as well as current treatment guidelines will be discussed along with implication for clinical practice.

Pervell Dunbar, University of North Georgia

"End-of-Life Caring and the Caregivers"

Caring for patients at end-of-life can be quite daunting to the caregiver. Patients’ psycho-social and spiritual needs are sometimes neglected in the healthcare setting. Transitioning patients from healthcare facilities to home with care being given by informal caregivers (family caregivers), can be overwhelming. It requires a comprehensive and prioritized array of relevant and coordinated community resources. A review of researched documents established that informal caregivers who provide care and assistance do so with few supportive services. The purpose of this paper is to create an environment of caring that gives solace to those who are in various stages of grieving, while educating the community through supportive care provided to informal caregivers. The social change proposed here is to bring awareness to society that informal caregivers are irreplaceable; it goes beyond family love, there is simply not enough money or workers that can replace that bond of caring. The model that is used for this presentation is Jean Watson’s Caring Model.

Richard K. Scotch, University of Texas at Dallas
Charles McConnel, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

"Disability and the Future of Work"
Scholars, policy makers, advocates, and pundits have anticipated that the future for workers with disabilities is bright. In addition to the Americans with Disabilities Act, which addresses discriminatory barriers to employment, advances in assistive technology may enable broader workforce participation as many jobs in the postindustrial, digitally-driven, information-based economy may require far less physical strength and stamina. Further, telecommuting and other telecommunications advances may make many jobs more easily accessible to disabled workers. However, significant work disparities related to disabilities persist and may be increasing. In this paper, we examine the employment prospects for people with disabilities in the United States considering the changing nature of the American economy as workplaces incorporate uncertainties introduced by information, communication and robotic technologies. We begin with some general observations on the alignment of work and impairments, and continue by considering several trends that are likely to influence workforce participation for people with disabilities including those likely to enhance access to the workplace by disabled workers and others that may further constrain access. We conclude with comments on the future workforce and how individuals with disabilities are likely to fare in the decades to come.

Barbara M. Altman, Disability Studies Consultant

"Disability Measurement and its Relationship to Common Human Activities"

There have been several ways of conceptualizing and measuring disability in Census and Survey over the years. Some define disability in terms of physical functioning, others define disability in terms of participation and inclusion in basic activities commonly pursued in the world. Still others define disability in terms of self-care and independence in activities like toileting and feeding. Measures of physical and mental functioning creates the largest population by defining functional limitations as risk factors in relationship to human activity, while the self care/independence definitions and measures captures the smallest population based on a short set of self care limitations. The use of a participation definition of disability confounds the risk of being excluded with the choice or cost of activities on the part of the individual, which can also contribute to exclusion. This paper will examine the different definitions/measurements of disability to elaborate the best measures for the inclusion priority of the Social Model.

Jorge Chuaqui, University of Valparaiso, Chile

"The Role of the Family in Defining and Managing Disability of Persons With Schizophrenia in Chile"

In the current conceptualization of disability, the social context plays a fundamental role. Traditionally, the family has been the principal source of support for persons with schizophrenia. It has also been the most reliable support of psycho-social therapies for schizophrenia. Recent research in Chile on the role of the family in defining and managing disability among persons with schizophrenia suggests that in many cases it may play a dysfunctional role. Interviews with care giving families in Santiago Chile show that the parents and siblings of persons with schizophrenia often manifest and enforce traditional prejudices and attitudes about this mental illness making it difficult for them to lead inclusive, independent lives. Inclusion in society for persons with mental illness and/or incapacity requires that they have well paying full-time employment and that they could form their own family with a beloved partner. Information obtained from 100 caregivers of persons with schizophrenia in Santiago, Chile (and the results of other recent qualitative studies in the same country) contradict these current concepts of inclusion for persons with mental illness and or incapacity.
Sharon Barnartt, Gallaudet University

"Changes in Deafness Protests Since 1970"

This paper analyzes deafness related protests since 1970. The paper uses event-history data to produce quantitative analyses of more than 200 protests over time. It also compares these analyses to patterns seen in the approximately 1700 other American disability protests and the approximately 100 non-US deafness related protests that occurred during that time. It shows how the patterns have changed over time in numbers, issues, targets, and tactics, among other variables. It shows the upsurge before and around the Deaf President now Protest, the comparative downturn compared to other types of disability-related protests in the 1990's, and the recent upsurge in protests attributable to the formation of new protesting groups. It shows that, despite predictions to the contrary, deaf community protest mobilization was not as strong as was mobilization in the larger disability community post DPN and after the passage of the ADA. There was dispersion of deafness protests to other countries, although the issues were frequently not the same. Finally, new protesting groups have emerged onto the deafness scene in the past two years which have widened the split between deafness-related protests and protests in the larger disability community.

Jared Embree, Kyle Grove, Kathryn Taylor, and Josephine Wilson
Boonshoft School of Medicine - Wright State University

"Lessons Learned Using Latent Semantic Analysis to Reduce Researcher Bias in Back Translation of Instruments in American Sign Language"

Specialized instruments in American Sign Language (ASL) are scarce and validated versions of ASL instruments are most rare. These two factors contribute to an increased likelihood of errors in screening and costs time and money for providers. Due to language and cultural barriers that exist, Deaf consumers are historically underserved, which leads to disfranchisement with pursuing treatment. During a study that adapted eight commonly used assessments into ASL, instruments were translated into ASL gloss by a team of Culturally Deaf experts. Thirty Bi-lingual Deaf and adult Children of Deaf Adults participated in back translation. Cognitive interviews (n = 20) and field-testing (n = 450+) were conducted with culturally Deaf people across the United States. Translations were compared to original text and ASL gloss using a semantic textual similarity (STS) analysis combining distributional similarity and latent similarity analysis. Results suggest that these scores accurately predict similarity (p < .05) between ASL gloss and final back translations, as well as agreement among back translators. The provided scores offer an objective way of comparing large samples of content and reducing subjectivity among researchers during the process of choosing the most linguistically appropriate items.

Gabriela Marte, Second University of Naples, Italy
Carla Di Stefano, Tor Vergata University, Italy

"Toxic Wastes Dumping in Campania (Italy) and Potential Effects on Human Health"

Environmental epidemiological studies of communities surrounding toxic waste sites suffer from a range of limitations, some of which may predispose to missing an important effect, while others may predispose to the finding of spurious results. The Campania Region in Italy (known as "The Italian triangle of death) has been subjected to extensive illegal dumping operations of toxic and radioactive wastes since the 1980s. The dumping operations that have taken place both along the coast and the hinterland have extremely adverse effects on health, livelihoods and the future prospect of sustainable development of the local population. Recent studies have pointed out that cancer mortality (overall and site specific) and congenital malformation rates appear to be significantly increased in the northern part of the Naples Province and in the
southern part of the Caserta Province, compared to both national and regional average values. To reverse the above described tragic trend, it will be necessary an in-depth and extensive field research to study the nature of the pollutants, full scale of the toxic wastes dumping in Campania and the impact thereof on health, and the natural environment; identification, isolation and reclamation of the polluted sites; and full assessment of the hazards of these toxicants.

"Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (Reach) Dietary Survey in North Nashville, TN"
Cynthia D. Jackson, Meharry Medical College and Walden University
Linda McClellan and Margaret K. Hargreaves, Meharry Medical College

"Surveys developed with community-based participatory research partner organizations are being used to explore predictors of dietary choices, including foods associated with reducing cancer risk. The survey assessed prevalence of health conditions including hypertension and diabetes in low-income African American communities in North Nashville, Tennessee. This information was used to select evidence-based interventions to promote healthy food choices. To achieve this goal, members of the research team, including members of the Nashville Health Disparities Coalition, conducted four focus groups and 12 key informant interviews. Participants from the focus groups and key informant interviews included leaders of non-profit organizations and faith communities, and healthcare professionals. Because of the focus group and information group interview, a survey was developed to use with the targeted community. Churches in North Nashville was also instrumental in recruiting from neighborhood congregations by verbal invitation from their church leaders. Eligible participants, 18-65 years of age, completed a 20-multiple choice, Likert scale, and short answer survey. Survey items elicited information about respondents’ demographics, current and inherited health, access to health care services and grocery stores. The project goal was to obtain 174 completed surveys in North Nashville. Data analysis used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Survey results were used to engage the community in the selection and implementation of interventions that helped to identify dietary choices, address prominent health concerns, and barriers to accessing healthy foods with the intent to provide mobile markets in the community to address these needs."

Cynthia D. Jackson, Walden University and Meharry Medical College
Ginika Anamege, Jianguo Liu, and Margaret K. Hargreaves
Meharry Medical College

"Community Practices for Identifying a Population at Risk for Diabetes"

The purpose of this study was to use data collection methods to identify a population at risk for diabetes and disseminate results from this information to the participants. By doing so, we intend to better serve the health needs of the community. One of those needs is to quickly identify those people in need of medical evaluation for pre-diabetes or diabetes while also educating the population on symptoms of diabetes. African Americans from a faith-based community in the southern region completed a diabetes knowledge survey to evaluate their experience with diabetes. [The survey identified the presence of diabetic symptoms such as polyuria, polydipsia, family history of diabetes, etc. In addition, demographic information was obtained for purposes of this study.] Of the 114 participants that took the diabetes screening test, 22 participants opted to also have blood drawn to complete a Hemoglobin A1c test. The test measures levels of glycosylated hemoglobin, which represents baseline blood sugar levels over roughly 3 months. The results of this test showed that there were participants who completed the survey who were also at risk for diabetes.
Currently, a profound debate is occurring regarding the nature of addiction: whether addiction is a disease. Within the last decade, addiction research and publications have flooded the market, which challenge the disease model for understanding addiction, and many suggest that addiction is a learned behavior. Concurrently, there is discussion within academia as to what is presently occurring in literary and critical theory. Researchers now observe a shift in literary aesthetic, critical, and cultural dynamics. Scholars of this new movement assign the term “metamodernism” to this shift because the prefix “meta” signifies the fluidity of the movement: it is between and beyond (post)modernism. With these two shifts in mind, I examine how contemporary fiction depart from preceding paradigms. I draw parallels between predoiminate characteristics of postmodern literary styles/theories and the discomfort that most addicts experience. I analyze how metamodern authors and their novels continue postmodernity’s experimentation with form while moving away from postmodernism’s detachment to again explore modernism’s themes such as authenticity and sincerity. These attributes ultimately enable the addict to cognitively and behaviorally reframe their engagement with their addiction, and I argue that these very qualities also push the literary community out of the postmodern refrain.

Kristina Spink, Deepajayan Nair, Patricia Finnegan, and Christina Chin-Newman
California State University, East Bay
Sara Smith California State University, East Bay and University of Denver

All college students need to learn how to study and manage their time; however, these universal challenges can be especially daunting for students with learning disabilities, attention disorders, or other developmental disabilities. This study examined the educational experiences of 21 university students with developmental disabilities. Participants identified with having one or more developmental disabilities, a category which includes learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia or dyscalculia) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). They were interviewed privately, or as part of a focus group. Many participants found utilizing accommodations offered by Accessibility Services to be effective in addressing the challenges of their studies; in addition, they successfully employed multiple coping strategies that were adaptive problem-solving strategies. Many went above and beyond to make sure they fully understood material being presented by professors. Participants discussed rereading material several times, taking rigorous notes while reading, and listening to text on MP3. To level the playing field between students with developmental disabilities and their peers, institutions can provide additional resources, such as offering support groups, presenting specialized training for faculty and staff working with this population, and providing more study areas that are accessible for students with attention disorders.

Jorge Chuaqui, Emanuel Arredondo, Carina Barra, and Paul Araneda, University of Valparaiso, Chile

Severe mental illness, including schizophrenia, is associated with stigma, loss of employment, family breakdown, and extreme social exclusion. Many traditional psychosocial treatments focus on “normalization” of interpersonal relations so that the individual with mental illness passively adapts to the community norms. Recent therapeutic approaches using art and music
therapy support spontaneous development of the individual and self-determination. Both are personal characteristics, which are essential for the achievement of a more self-fulfilling inclusion in society. This analysis contributes to the discussion of the therapeutic effects of art and music therapy through a systematic bibliographic review of the literature. The results show that the duration of the art and music interventions (i.e., the number of sessions) is associated with improved mental health in psychiatric patients.

Adi Finkelstein, Hadassah-Hebrew University, Israel

"Redefining Independence: Phenomenology of Life in a Paralyzed Body"

This research is based on fieldwork conducted in an independent living neighborhood in a rehabilitation center for children and adolescents. The residents are adults, 18 years old or older, who were diagnosed with neuro-muscular disorders such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). The study is based on in-depth open interviews with Eytan (aged 44), who at the time of research had been living there for 27 years. Eytan has been diagnosed with Duchenne. He is ventilator-dependent and uses a motorized electric chair for mobility. Drawing on a tradition within disability studies that values interdependence over independence, we situate Eytan's experiences within a relational framework. Our research shows that Eytan could be an autonomous and opinionated individual and lead an active life guided by his choices and preferences despite his total dependence on technological and human assistance. Thus, we argue that autonomy and care should be seen from a relational as opposed to an individualistic perspective. At the same time, Eytan's narrative reflects the complexity of dependence on caregivers and the resulting interdependent relationship. We use reflexive writing and descriptions of bodily experience to capture the complexity of Eytan's experience.

Art Blaser, Chapman University

"Driverless Cars and Disability: Alternative Worlds in Media Presentation"

This paper contrasts images and realities of driverless cars. It is part of a larger project on the nexus between Disability Studies and Peace Studies. I develop my analysis in four sections. In the first section I examine prominent media themes. Although I use examples from a variety of media, I particularly look at news articles on the Lexis search engine between 2014 and the present, using search terms such as "driverless (autonomous, robotic) cars." In the second section I examine themes from visuals of driverless cars. This section will admittedly be based on selective information and detailed examination of four to six visuals. I will look at where the images come from (developers, news media, entertainment media) and specifically ask: "How is disability represented?" In the third section, I will examine similarities and differences in a parallel to autonomous weapons. In both cases, there are major implications for the disability community. In the fourth section, I focus on prescription and ask "How should driverless cars be presented?" I identify examples where disability and other themes are given a nuanced analysis or not.

Dana Lee Baker, Laurie Drapela, and Whitney Littlefield
Washington State University

"Autism on Trial: Rights-Based Disability Policy and Juvenile Justice Practices in Canada and the U.S."

Disability engages all aspects of human existence. As recent disability scholars and activists have demonstrated, many elements of disability experiences are positive. However, the experiences of people with disabilities and the capacity of our social infrastructures to maximize the potential of all people remains underdeveloped. Interactions between the juvenile justice system and young people with autism (and autistics) have been complicated by the
underexplored dynamics of how to balance the rights and responsibilities of all involved. As much as freedom is the outcome of accountability, democratic accountability is the outcome of actualized diversity. One place where freedom, accountability, and diversity manifest most poignantly is juvenile justice systems. Understanding how to practice disability policy as diversity depends on an ability to protect rights in the more unfortunate or extreme situations experienced in a democracy. Criminal proceedings involving individuals yet to attain the age of majority constitute some of the more extreme circumstances of societies committed to both civil liberties and continual social improvement. In this paper, we examine how rights-based disability policy in Canada and the United States manifests in juvenile court proceedings. We discuss how Canada and the United States rectify the less than fully realized therapeutic ethos of the juvenile court with the due process focus of an adversarial justice system.

Emily Nusbaum and Maya Steinborn
University of San Francisco

"Disability Studies and Human Rights Education: Developing DS Curriculum in K-12 Schools"

In this presentation, the authors identify social justice as an entry point to the nascent field for educators unfamiliar with disability studies, highlighting the connections between movements for disability rights and justice with movements for racial and LGBTQIA+ rights and justice, which are similarly celebrated in the FAIR Education Act. They invite a dialogue about segregation in American schools, drawing out the historical connection between ableism and racism through the disproportionately high incidence of students of color being labeled with disabilities, and how curriculum that is ableist by omission perpetuates segregationist attitudes. The authors also hope to identify action steps educators can take in their classrooms, suggesting participatory action research (PAR) as a tool for documenting students' experiences with disability studies and creating student-generated curricula based on areas of interest.

Holly Pearson, Chapman University

"Moving Towards Institutional Intersectionality in Higher Education"

Institutional diversity is not a new construct in higher education as institutions move towards addressing diversity issues. In the diversity dialogue, race, class, gender, sexuality, and religion are often addressed, while disability is sidelined, added on at the last minute, or ignored. Disability is often engaged in isolation, which further reinforces the hegemony that disability has no place in the diversity dialogue. In response, there have been numerous accounts by individuals with disabilities conveying the intersectional complexity within their identities. In the lived experiences of 16 students who identified as racial and ethnic minorities with disabilities, their socio-spatial narratives illustrate the diversity within disability and disability as diversity. As the students negotiate their identities across the landscape of campus, they reveal how identities (e.g., Hispanic, Asian, heterosexual, homosexual, veteran, former foster youth, mom, boyfriend, etc.) and places on campus construct and influence one another. As a result, on a personal and institutional level, the students revealed how campus places influence the saliency of certain identities, how the physical, social, and symbolic spaces disclose insights about the institution's ideologies about institutional diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, and why institutional diversity is not sufficient; thus, higher education needs to move towards institutional intersectionality.

Emily Nusbaum, University of San Francisco
Heather Albanesi, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

"Exploring Institutional Barriers to Positioning Disability Within Diversity Efforts in Higher Education"
In this paper, we use as a case study, an investigation of the process and extent to which disability was incorporated into spaces dedicated to a range of diversity efforts on one college campus. Our analysis utilizes a perspective informed by disability studies, which allows us to challenge the individual, deficit-based framing of disability that locates disability within the individual student (and thus best responded to by the disability services office), as well as articulate the places and moments in time when, instead, disability could have been taken up within broader diversity efforts on the campus.

Holly Pearson, Chapman University

"Spatializing in/Accessibility in Higher Education"

Restricting the conceptualization of in/accessibility as a static form of legal, physical, technical, or political issue limits our understanding of in/accessibility and its implications. Using a sociospatial lens illustrates how in/accessibility is a form of social construction that is continuously co-constructed in the dynamics of social interaction and the environment. The socio-spatial lens asserts that built, social, or symbolic spaces are not neutral, but instead, they influence how we perceive and interact with the environment, and in turn, how we construct the meaning of the space through our engagement. This lens enables us to understand the significance and implications of conceptualizing in/accessibility as a socio-spatial construct. In an arts-based visual methodological study, 16 students reflected on how in/accessibility occurs temporally, physically, symbolically, and socially across campus; thus, in/accessibility cannot be contained to specific places (e.g., classroom or disability services). Spatializing in/accessibility demonstrates the need for multi-dimensional solutions when considering equity, inclusion, and accessibility for all students, not just students with disabilities.

Rebecca Bone and Janice Harris
Tennessee State University
Debra R. Wilson, Tennessee State University and Walden University

PANEL: "Medical Marijuana Use: Anxiety, Cancer, Addictions, and Seizures"

There is a general agreement in the literature that there aren’t enough reliable clinical studies on marijuana to allow doctors to determine dosages, interactions, etc. Marijuana is thought to be effective in lessening anxiety in the short term, but long-term use may lead to more anxiety. Current evidence will be presented with a call for more research.

Kwaghdoor Bossuah, Tennessee State University

"Medical Marijuana: Cancer and Its Consequences"

The area of research on marijuana is relatively sparse, and quality and dosage issues are still unclear making it difficult for oncologists to make informed decisions on recommendations. Studies do show some efficacy with palliative care in general, especially for mitigating chronic pain and nausea. There is a need for more research.

Janice Harris, Tennessee State University

"Medical Marijuana: Recovering from Addictions"

Use of marijuana is showing promise in recovery from addiction. There is a need for more research. This presentation will discuss the role, action, and future of medical marijuana for treating addictions.
Debra Rose Wilson, Tennessee State University and Walden University

"Medical Marijuana: Seizures and Palsy"

Marijuana is an approach to treating seizure activity that has few side effects, as do current treatment approaches. Case studies report some success with treating epilepsy with marijuana, though some reviews criticize existing research as weak overall. Reliable success has been reported with reducing tremors in MS and Parkinson’s patients.

Eric Kupers, California State, East Bay

"The Beauty of Uncertainty: Teaching Inclusive, Interdisciplinary Performance"

Eric Kupers will share the work of the CSU East Bay Inclusive Interdisciplinary Ensemble (IIE.) IIE is a collaborative performance ensemble directed by Kupers that brings together students, alumni, community members, and professional artists with and without disabilities to create together. IIE was founded in 2008 and has since created eight original, full-length performance works, and many shorter pieces, as well as video, public installations and protest street performances. Kupers will give an overview of the approaches used to bring together vastly different points of view, artistic aesthetics, disabilities/abilities, and experience levels. IIE is radically inclusive and fundamentally experimental, so our creative processes evolve constantly based on who is participating each season. This year we are working on a performance responding to the results of the national election that includes dance, drumming, singing and poetry. We are also working on a short documentary film entitled, ‘If You’ve Met One Person with Autism, You’ve Met One Person with Autism.’ We will share excerpts of both.

Raquel Silva-Barretto, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

“Stigma and Violence in Psychiatric Beds in General Hospitals in Brazil: Review and Analysis"

This research aimed to understand how the stigma associated with violence in psychiatric hospitalizations in general hospitals. Between the years of 2014 and 2015 were conducted searches and analyzes of periodicals in three virtual bases global scientific, using for this purpose, four descriptors. In addition, interviews were conducted with professionals working in brazilian psychiatry. Of the 883 articles found in the search, on a basis of Brazilian and international dishes, only 31 were directly associated with the theme. The results pointed to a gap in the studies on stigma in psychiatric units of hospitalization. Studies conducted in Canada, United States and European countries showed that the media plays the prejudice and stigma when describing people with mental disorders in a way wrong. Articles Brazilians and Latin Americans demonstrated that society also excludes people with mental disorders but, successful experiences have been reported. The Brazilian professionals interviewed demonstrated difficulty in defining the term “stigma”, as set by classical authors from Europe and North America. However, spoke of the existence of violence in the treatment of patients admitted and acknowledged that the stigma and prejudice are constructed in social relations. For the interviewees, there are acts of violence that health professionals practice

Jared Embree, Josephine Wilson, and Valerie Knapp, Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine

“Utilizing Online Portals to Deliver Vocational Rehabilitation Services”

In recent years, tools have emerged for remotely screening and training vocational rehabilitation (VR) consumers, as well as providing treatment and support through technology. This study showcases online tools and resources that are being piloted in several midwestern states. These tools have promise to improve the quality and accessibility of VR services for
those who struggle to succeed in traditional settings and to reduce costs for agencies already struggling to deliver services to swelling caseloads. This technology-enhanced program is based on a communication portal system with secure personal web pages that permit access to a personal online videoconferencing with staff and access to online educational resources. Initial feedback from counselors indicates some reluctance to take on unfamiliar tasks in an already busy schedule. In response, training graduate students in VR counseling is also being piloted to train future counselors with the tools that they will encounter in the workplace. As with any tool, technology can have both positive and negative aspects. The drawbacks, limitations, and ethical considerations attendant with these new technologies also will be addressed, and the results of this study can assist administrators and counselors in addressing the needs of their consumers.

James R. Tewksbury and Sheryl Tewksbury
Global Campuses Foundation
Steven E. Brown
Institute on Disability Culture

"The Global Campus Experience: A Paradigm Shift in Postsecondary Education"

James and Sheryl Tewksbury, former college faculty with extensive experience, advanced training, and leadership in psychology, special education, and innovative service to adults with differing abilities, founded Global Campuses Foundation (GCF). Since establishing its 501(c)(3) status in 2001, GCF has evolved into a successful social profit organization, serving over a thousand individuals who experience disability as well as those directly associated with the culture of disability, and community members in general. Simply stated, the GCF mission is to foster campuses of advanced learning for adults with differing abilities worldwide who actively create and direct their educational experiences while serving as faculty, students and administrators. In its 16th year, there are nine campuses in New England and seven in Thailand. The founders will share their expertise in sustaining a successful cross-cultural NGO from grassroots beginnings to a sustainable nonprofit with strategic planning, capacity building, and thoughtful leadership transition. They will also provide an inside look at GCF’s innovative academic model, methodologies for successful peer teaching and learning. Finally, with long-time informal collaborator, Steven E. Brown, the panel will discuss opportunities and challenges as founders move to emeritus positions and creators become mentors to future generations.

Lindsey Anderson, Ala Costa Adult Transition

"Unlearning Education: Neurodivergent Queer Femme Experiences in Education"

Lindsey Anderson is a neurodivergent educator and activist exploring spatial, physical, and temporal concepts of neurodivergent and queer femme identity through the scope of education and learning. Disability provider systems are largely neurotypical cis male hetero dominated and does neither acknowledge nor center neurodivergent queer femme perspectives. Drawing from field work as a neurodivergent educator along with neurodivergent histories and personal narratives, this paper discusses the political and social significance of neurodivergent queer femme perspectives in trauma informed education for both educators and students. Lindsey argues that neurodivergent queer femme perspectives add significant value in changing both the rate of sexual abuse disabled femmes experience and the quality of education all disabled people receive.
Tiffany Stone
Metropolitan State University of Denver

"I is for Igloo is Not Enough: The Need for Culturally Sustaining Curriculum for Indigenous Students Receiving Special Education Services"

This literature review explores the role and impact of cultural heritage in curriculum design for American Indian students in special education by examining whether and how schools incorporate relevant culturally-inclusive materials. This paper evaluates and discusses the available pertinent literature pertaining to the demographics of Indigenous (American Indian used also as it is used extensively in the literature) students in special education, the value of culturally responsive instruction generally, and evidence that American Indian students in special education are receiving respectful and culturally responsive instruction. Recognizing the import of sense of self relative to culture for a student's emotional well-being, this paper aims to explore whether schools and school districts are working to develop an inclusive school community for American Indian students, effectively minimizing the disparity between their cultural understandings at home and at school. This issue is explored for students identified as having mild/ moderate disabilities and the same questions are applied to students with significant disabilities. Findings indicate small tips and tricks for working with indigenous populations in special education and a paucity of literature examining this topic from a culturally relevant and sustaining perspective.

Tanya Coffield, Ala Costa Adult Transition

"Magical Processing: The Emergence of Neurodivergent Femme Leadership"

Tanya Coffield identifies as a queer autistic woman who experiences ADHD and serves as Program Supervisor for an adult program which serves intellectually and developmentally disabled adults and employs Neurodivergent educators. This paper highlights the beauty and necessity of emotional support labor to create a space that is validating and supportive along with being safe and accessible for the teaching staff, students, director, and families. Her findings discuss the challenges of creating (and the continuous discovery of) boundaries, self-care, and sustainable methods of creating stratified systems of support and care for educators, students, and community. Introducing concepts of Neurowitching, Tanya's research draws from personal narrative and eleven years of field work in a Neurodivergent led and designed community program.

Meredith Baker-Rush, Walden University & Rosalind Franklin University- Chicago Medical School

"Self-Efficacy, Perceived Skills, and Real Knowledge of Speech-Language Pathologists"

Although speech language pathologists' (SLPs) knowledge of communication and swallowing has been undisputed, their knowledge and skills related to tracheostomy and mechanical ventilation (MV) seem varied. The consequences associated with the presence of tracheostomy or MV demonstrate the necessity of training. Guided by Bandura's social cognitive theory, this study was designed to determine if SLPs' training influenced self-efficacy and real knowledge, and to evaluate trends associated with SLPs' pursuit of specialized training. A total of 236 SLPs practicing in the United States responded to a researcher-developed knowledge and confidence test for tracheostomy and mechanical ventilation (KCT-TMV). Data were analyzed via test, one-way ANOVA with post hocs, regressions, and correlations. Knowledge scores of SLPs were low as identified by responses on the KCT-TMV. SLPs reported confidence and high self-efficacy, yet those ratings did not correlate with high levels of knowledge. Therefore, some SLPs may not recognize they lack knowledge/competency. A lack of competency in continued practice is a violation of the Rules and Code of Ethics of the American Speech Language Hearing Association
as well as non-maleficence. Trends related to the pursuit of training were focal to a lack of resources from employers and inconsistencies in healthcare practice.
Kholoud Sheba, Arkansas State University

“Promoting Health Behaviors: The Power of Health-Themed Programs within Science Festivals”

This paper aims to stimulate a discussion on the potential role of science festivals in community health education. In doing so, the author is seeking to promote the inclusion of health-themed activities in science festivals as a health education strategy. The author also is acknowledging the significance and appropriateness of creative forms of expression in health education. Specifically, this paper examines the experience and lessons learned of a graduate student at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR (A-State) who developed and presented a health-themed activity at the 2016 Arkansas Science Festival. Through the student’s canvass of national and worldwide science festivals and a review of many festivals websites as a part of the activity preparation, it was argued that the majority of science festivals programming have typically been dominated by a broad range of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines such as technology, and natural sciences like biology, physics, and chemistry, with little attention paid to health sciences; ultimately the day to day health behaviors. The paper concludes with an argument for the substantial need for health science to be included in such events which draw on cultural congruency, community needs mapping, and community development with universities suggested as good.

Linda Alexander, West Los Angeles College

“What TV Shows Like the Big Bang Theory Can Teach Us About Teaching”

How are members of the teaching profession portrayed? How can these representations be used to promote instructors’ self-reflection? Instructors use TV shows and films to enhance learning in the classroom. Clearly, we see their value as pedagogical tools. Why not use them to improve our own teaching? On our syllabus: Dead Poet’s Society, The Blackboard Jungle, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off. Perceptions of teachers will be our starting pint. We will also consider how we view our students. Implicit bias, a hot topic on campuses today, will be part of the discussion.

Viet M. Nguyen, Arkansas State University

“The Perception And Preferences Of Students Toward Professor Feedback According To Cultural Orientations And Their Impacts On Students Communicative Motives In Classroom”

This study was designed to examine the effects of students’ perception and preferences to professor feedback on their motives to communicate in the classroom according to cultural orientations. This study surveyed 200 A-State students to investigate the impact of cultural orientation on how students perceive feedback as a helpful factor for their learning and their communicative motives in their classrooms. The results found that cultural orientation is not the key factor that influences students’ communicative motives but it does have a considerable impact on what aspects of feedback students consider as the most important to them. Besides, the findings demonstrated that students who value different types of feedback have different communicative motives in their classes regardless of their cultural orientations. At the same time, sixteen in-depth interviews were conducted by the researcher to explore students’ preferences to professor feedback according to their level of collectivism and individualism. The study has successfully identified some typical types of feedback that, from the students’ perspective, are effective. Moreover, the findings show that feedback that includes
suggestions for students’ future work contribute to creating a turning point for their career goals.

Linda Alexander, West Los Angeles College

“Death of the Emoji: How Will We Survive Without the Smiley-Face :) ?”

Emojis are used a lot in today’s communications. Our current program used for online instruction has several emojis/emoticons that are available within the system, and many online instructors use them. They help to humanize online classes. Surprisingly, it is being replaced by a program that does not provide emojis. Now what :( 

Luis Fernando Sánchez Murillo, Universidad de Guadalajara

“Do all the candidates propose the same thing? Electoral television advertising in local elections to governor in Mexico during 2009-2015”

From a procedural perspective of the quality of democracy, the research analyzes the television election advertising of gubernatorial candidates it is interested in identifying how much political proposals are disseminated in these advertising messages. The research is based on the concept of responsiveness to articulate an information quality analysis model. As a methodological strategy, a content analysis adjusted to the verbal component is used. The sample is delimited to the electoral spots produced and signed by the candidates for governor of the PAN, PRI and PRD parties in the local elections to governor of the States of the Mexican Republic in the period 2009-2015.

Karina Skauge, Portland State University

“Climate Change as an Enemy or an Object”

This paper examines the relationship between Conceptual Metaphors (CM) and Grammatical Metaphors (GM) in climate change speeches. It will look deeper into the use of GM by political leaders and scientists when speaking about climate change to an audience. CM and GM will be defined and discussed individually as well as other concepts that play roles within metaphor theories. In addition, this paper will examine how each speaker uses metaphors that are both conceptual and grammatical, specifically ones that transform the vehicle of a metaphor from a verb to a noun or vice versa.

Ken Corbit and Jade Brasher, University of Alabama

“NBC’s The Office: Diversity Day and Microaggression-A Pentadic Analysis”

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity”. - Martin Luther King, Jr. While academia has embraced Dr. King’s call for inclusion and diversity, the current state of division within our nation would argue that the entirety of society is still lagging in its full adaption. This research utilized NBC’s The Office, specifically the “Diversity Day” episode as an artifact to understand microaggression and racism in today’s workforce. Our methodology applied a pentadic criticism as outlined by Kenneth Burke. Satirical comedy often target issues such as diversity to expose the foolishness and corruption in society in a humorous way. The use of the pentadic method allowed for an analysis of rhetoric using drama: act, agent, agency, scene, and purpose. Burke’s use of analysis of human motivation, “Dramatism”, allowed for effective identification of the terms within the artifact and discovering the most influential critical elements. This research argues that microaggression exists in the work force, and that its consequences have negative societal implications.
Xiaowei Chen, Eastern Oregon University


The Chinese are used to summing up its 3,000 years of nation-building ordeal as “long spells of separation and long intervals of unification supersede each other,” while the US has “E pluribus unum” (out of many, one) as its national motto. The momentum of world affairs is always hinged on two pairs of choice: divide vs. unification and continuation vs. transformation. Henceforward, to instill a deep understanding rather than merely technical mastery of intercultural communication in a post-9-11 multicultural society as U.S., the instruction should gravitate to these two critical dialectical pairs integration v. diversity and continuation v. transformation to help students better understand the historicism of controversies in global communication. This reflective pedagogical essay argues that course content and assignments should be framed around these two dialectical pairs. Curriculum design, specific in-class discussion questions, and essays assignments will be introduced to peer instructors in intercultural communication for further cooperative inquiry.

Joel Pedraza, Anthropology Research Center

“Immediacy, Simultaneity and Nostalgia by Communicative Practices in Migratory Environments”

Immediacy and simultaneity given by ICT’s bring new configurations in different social relationships. In a migratory environment, the visual and audiovisual information refers to different meanings that feed nostalgia and increase the curiosity of the migrants about what is happening at their places of origin. This work shows how the immediacy and simultaneity differs in concept and in communicative practices. The tension between immediacy and simultaneity generates a butterfly effect in nostalgia. By ethnographical research, netnography info and in-depth interviews I show some of the main contents in transnational communication that increases nostalgia but also those who solve it. This paradoxical relation maintains the sense of belongingness of migrants to stay current, nevertheless, it also means less visits to the place of origin. There is also a nostalgic market and industry (Hirai, 2009) who creates audiovisual products and play with these feelings in capitalist structures. Nostalgia was the result of the attempt of non-forget something but nowadays it has been changing to “trying to stay connected” and getting informed of what is happening in the place of origin.

Rosário Durão, New Mexico Tech
Yvonne Eriksson, Mälardalen University, Sweden
Ricardo López-León, Universidad Autonoma de Aguascalientes, Mexico
Kyle Mattson, University of Central Arkansas
Anastasia Parianou, Ionian University, Greece

“Making sense of it all: Visualization and visual communication in cross-national engineering workplaces”

"Expert knowledge and skillsets are high demand areas for practicing STEM professionals and scholars. Although these emphases are certainly part and parcel of professionals’ daily activities, and researched and taught in higher education STEM programs in countries like the US, communication too often plays a secondary role to disciplinary knowledge and expertise. Despite practitioners communicating in writing, orally, visually, electronically, and nonverbally, little attention is given to how they think visually and communicate through visuals. This situation is not very different in research and education, where the greatest emphasis is on actual writing skills. Yet, since the 1980s, influenced especially by actor-network theory, awareness of the connection between visuals and visualization and STEM workplaces has
increased. Alongside increased interest in this topic, the world became a more interconnected place and work increasingly inter- and cross-national. Even so, only a handful of studies has explicitly analyzed the visualization and visual communication practices of STEM professionals from and working in different parts of the world (Qiuye 2000, Wang & Wang 2009, Yamazaki & Taki 2010, Durí£o, Pinto, Henneke, & Balch 2014). The VISTAC -Science and Technology Visuals in Action research project was developed to address this void. In 2015-16, we developed and conducted a pilot study with engineers in Greece, Mexico, Portugal, Sweden, and the US to understand the commonalities and differences in the participants’ visualization and visual communication practices. The study consisted of an individual survey followed by a two-day onsite ethnographic observation, and a closing reflective interview. In this presentation, we will share our findings. We will describe how participants mentally conceptualized and visualized objects and information, and we will identify their visual communication practices (i.e., how they related to contexts, tools and people; other factors that impacted their visual communication, both positively or negatively; and the main characteristics of the visual artifacts they produced independently and in collaboration). Finally, we will discuss the networked nature of the participants’ visualization and visual communication practices, concluding by noting the primary role visualization and visual communication play in bridging gaps in conceptualization and understanding between people at work, and in reaching shared understandings.”

Justin Leverett, Portland State University

“Redefining "Identity": Implementing Social and Collective Factors in Methods of Operationalizing 'Identity’”

"This paper critiques the existing individual-centered approach to the construct “Identity” and suggests that associated methodologies can be improved by use of measures that consider the interplay of social identity and effects of collective identity-making. The paper argues that research methodology, like the "Identity-Status" Model functioning on the individual dimension alone is not sufficient to unpack “identity” in the context of other intervening factors. After a review of existing theory and literature on the subject, the author advances the following working definition of the concept: "Identity" is both a personal and relational construct of selfhood and being that remains subject to crisis, transformation, and development over time, functions both on the level of the individual and the level of social interactions and relationships to a wider group, and is informed by membership in a collective. The author argues that phenomenological research can provide the necessary multidimensionality and contextuality that the “Identity Status” model lacks. By gently and sensitively encouraging divulgence of intercultural, contextual realities, and gathering data on unique variables such as social relationships and pressures of the collective, these techniques can complement the appropriate empirical tests to illuminate aspects of “identity” that previous research methodology has been unable to.”

Moira Smith and Caitlin Rethwish, Portland State University

“Unexpected Violations of the Gender Binary”

"With the changing landscape of gender identity, there are groups of people being overlooked. Researchers typically study gender identity through the lens of gender as a binary, which fails to include those who do not identify exclusively as male or female. This study aims to fill some of the gaps within the research on gender. An online survey asked participants to identify their political ideology and level of familiarity with non-binary gender terms such as agender, gender fluid, and transgender. They were also provided with scenarios of gender violations and their expectations were measured. The results indicated that political ideology is related both to awareness of non-binary gender terms and gender violation expectancies. Liberals have more familiarity with the terms, and they expect gender violations more than moderates do on
average. The results also suggested a positive relationship between familiarity with non-binary gender terms and expectations of gender violations, which could signify that increasing familiarity with terms may lead to increased acceptance. By determining that we may be able to predict gender expectancy violation reactions based on political ideology or knowledge of non-binary terms, we can move the conversation forward on where to focus our efforts effectively to increase awareness.

Baker A. Weilert, Arkansas State University

“Missing Persons: A Literature Review of Sexual Double Standard and Gender Identity in Experiencing Guilt”

This review of literature investigates journals published on gender identity, sexual double standard, and sexual guilt to illustrate a necessity for interpersonal communication to expand research beyond the use of biological sex for evaluating guilt experienced in sexual intimate relations. Gender identity was used to expand and indite the use of biological sex for evaluating behavioral aspects in academic research. Sexual double standard was then considered to illustrate the societal nature of peer group acceptance in relation to assumed biological sex traits. Sexual guilt was related similarly to sexual double standards, establishing that guilt is perpetuated and constructed through society. Research needs to begin to move towards the inclusion of all expressions of gender, not solely the assumed traits associated with biological sex, by researching gender’s role in relation to guilt and sexual double standard.

Jessica Rainwater, Arkansas State University

“The Paternal Parent’s Experiences of Raising a Child with Autism”

"Autism is becoming a worldwide crisis with 1 in 68 children (1 in 42 boys) being diagnosed each year. This is a 30 percent increase from numbers reported in 2013 (Celia, 2016). With no cure in sight, professionals have been considering the effects of the disorder on the family members of children with autism spectrum disorder. Multiple studies have examined the experiences of mothers because of a belief the disorder affect them as they give birth and are the natural caregivers. However, the full responsibility of taking care of children with autism falls on the entire family and not just the mother (Cridland, 2016). Little research has focused on the experiences of fathers with autistic children (Foody, et al. 2014). It is this gap in research my study hopes to fill. The proposed study will explore how fathers communicatively manage their relational roles when raising a child with autism. I will answer the question, “what does it mean to be a father of an autistic child?” The proposed method of research will be a qualitative approach involving interviewing both individually and within focus groups. I chose these two methods in hopes that the fathers will open in different manners.”

“Social Support on Instagram: A Content Analysis of @coping_with_ptsd”

Catherine E. Bahn and Myleea Hill, Arkansas State University

The purpose of the study was to conduct a content analysis of the types of social support and the use of tagging as supportive communication on the @coping_with_ptsd Instagram account. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze an exhaustive sample of 212 posts collected from the beginning of the account on November 21, 2014, until August 29, 2016. Emotional support was included in 135 (63%) posts, while informational support was in 74 (35%), belonging was in 54 (25%), and tangible was in 17 (8%). All four types of social support relied primarily on text, with informational using text at the highest rate (68/74, 92%). Informational also used illustrations at the highest percentage (37/74, 50%). Tangible (9/17, 53%) used photographs proportionally more than other types. Tagging others occurred in 123 (58%) of the total posts.
(212), with emotional support posts having the highest percentage of tagging in 86 of 135 (64%) posts. The information-richness of Instagram allowed users with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to communicate interpersonally fostering social support. Researchers concluded that Instagram should be further studied by health communication scholars as a tool for individuals with isolating illnesses to engage in social support activities.

Adebukola Afolabi, Arkansas State University

“Adapting Speech Pattern in Accommodating Patients’ Communication Disability Related to Stroke-Induced Aphasia”

Stroke is a leading cause of death in the United States, and a major cause of serious, long-term disability in adults. One of the consequences of stroke is an impairment of language function known as aphasia. Approximately one million Americans currently live with some form of aphasia (Fedorov, 2001). Patients suffering from aphasia experience difficulties in producing and understanding linguistic forms such as: speaking, listening, reading and writing. This disability can cause a patient to feel overwhelmed by failed attempts at speech but given the right atmosphere for communication, patients can regain much of their language abilities. Previous studies have explored support and treatment for persons with aphasia; however, few studies have examined how individuals manage their relationships with aphasic patients by adjusting their speech style to accommodate this linguistic difficulty. This study aims to fill the gap in literature by examining the extent to which communication partners of persons with aphasia manage their experience by adapting their speech style to the patient’s communication needs. The study will answer the research question: What communication strategies by non-disabled communication partners are helpful in supporting aphasic patients?

Nicholas Boehm, Colorado State University

“Responding to an Infectious Disease Outbreak in an Acute Care Hospital: Developing a Framework for Success”

Recent infectious disease outbreaks, such as the H1N1 outbreak, showcase how infectious disease outbreaks impact acute care hospitals. When an outbreak infects an acute care facility, time is limited, uncertainty is high, reputation is at stake, and severity is at a crucial level. The mental noise model, negative dominance model, trust determination model and risk perception model offer a strategic communication framework that can be used to develop appropriate communication aimed at maximizing message intent, reducing perceived risk, building stakeholder trust, and changing health behavior. Using these key models, this paper addresses how the “RACE” (research, action planning, communication, and evaluation) communication approach should be used to address key stakeholders during an infectious disease outbreak in an acute care hospital. Findings indicate that these models can create a framework used to aid acute care facilities in providing valuable information during an infectious disease outbreak resulting in increased message reception and reduced risk perceptions. Additionally, when the RACE approach is combined with the framework, communication encourages appropriate behavior aimed at reducing the impact of the crisis.

Thomas Gallegos, Colorado State University

“Muted and Forgotten Feelings: A Concept Explication on Desensitization”

Desensitization is broken down into two categories: the process and the effects. First, the process of desensitization will be addressed including how media interactions with the body and brain along with the normalizing and modeling of violent content. From the intake of violent media, to the internalization, the brain and body must become accustomed before any behavioral effects are touched on. The second part of the paper is the effects and how they are
then explained. Aggression and victimization are heightened while empathy and sympathy are
dulled, which leads to people seeing less severe violence and a lessened need to help others.
Last, there is discussion about the limitations of the literature and future research
possibilities.

Paige Odegard, Colorado State University

“Refining the Operationalization of Physical and Invisible Closeness: A Concept Explication of
’Proximity’”

This explication examines the epistemology of “proximity” from individual to global levels of
analysis. Through a synthesis of communication research involving “proximity” (such as
interpersonal communication, data visualization, news framing, computer-mediated
communication, virtual identities/avatars, etc.) this study defines the dimensions of the
concept including: spatial, temporal, cultural/social, geographical, and virtual proximity. In
contemporary research, ‘proximity’ has been examined through a more conceptual lens of
invisible closeness, specifically in regards to cultural and virtual proximity, as our
methods and accessibility of communication have been shaped by our technological society. Through this
literature review, this study seeks the development from substantial communication research
on geographical proximity to virtual and invisible proximity. If this dichotomy of closeness is
integrated with the embedded visual rhetoric of cartosemiotics, an amalgamation can be made
between physical and invisible proximity to enhance the usability of spatial communication
technologies such as online mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Laura Dick, Colorado State University

“Self-Actualization: A Concept Explication”

Maslow (1965) defines self-actualization as, “working to do well the thing that you want to do,”
(pg. 113). Using this definition, how can the idea of self-actualization be brought to bear on the
field of computer-mediated communications? Extensive research has been conducted on the
concept of identity in communications, yet self-actualization is never mentioned in conjunction
or connection to identity. This explication seeks to provide various primitive and preliminary
definitions of identity and self-actualization, followed by a literature review and empirical
descriptions of each concept. A new operational definition for self-actualization in computer-
mediated communications will then be offered, based on Maslow’s original outline of the
concept, and updated to accommodate advancements in communication technology, with an
emphasis on socially-mediated environments.
James Dickerson, University of Southern Indiana and
Jodi Uebelhack, Vanderburgh County Community Corrections

“A shift in paradigm for community correction programming”

The Vanderburgh County Work Release (VCWR) has been primarily used as a housing unit for offenders. There have been no internal services for educational improvement, life skill enhancement, or counseling for addiction or substance abuse disorders. Several programmatic issues have been attributed to negative participant interactions that were caused by boredom and lack of activities, unaddressed addiction or substance use, unaccountable time, and/or a general air of discontent regarding the lack of offered services. Although VCWR participants had the availability to utilize outside service providers for employment training, and mental or behavioral health agencies, they have been limited by a lack of finances and access to transportation. However, there was a shift in the paradigm of the program administrators on community correction programming that focused on rehabilitation, instead of sanctions and deterrence. Additionally, there was an increased emphasis on assessment and intervention strategies that served to identify and address offender risk and protective factors. The therapeutic model is centered on increasing participant accountability, while decreasing risk level for re-offending. This is an exploratory study of introducing a therapeutic model of service delivery into the VCWR and the ability of the Indiana Risk Assessment Survey to predict offender success.

Perry Young, Mount Royal University

“Tunnel Vision and Overzealous Prosecution in Canada: A Comprehensive Study of Wrongful Corrections.”

“This study examines wrongful convictions due to tunnel vision and overzealous action in the areas of policing and prosecution in Canada. Nothing contradicts an individual’s rights and freedoms more than being incarcerated for a crime that one did not commit, as this study explores in looking at the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This study examines eight purposefully selected inquiries of wrongful conviction cases where tunnel vision and overzealous investigative techniques played a part in the wrongful conviction of innocent individuals. The examination is based on in-depth analysis of the inquiries to distinguish common threads throughout and how the factors being studied led to the wrongful conviction. This was done by building parameters of what constitutes “tunnel vision” and overzealous police work through a literature review of related documents like the Kaufman Report, and psychological and sociological literature.

Unique Shaw-Smith, Kayla Granados and Victoria Otero, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

“Inmate Reflections on the Impact of Incarceration for Offenders, Children and Families”

Much of the literature on the effects of incarceration comes from the perspective of children and families. There has been less attention paid to understanding the perspective of incarcerated men and women. This study seeks to understand how incarcerated individuals make sense of and cope with their confinement and how they understand the effects on the relationships with their families. This study used questionnaires and face-to-face interviews to
collect demographic information and data regarding family histories, life events, personal experiences, and quality of relationships from 28 men and women incarcerated at the San Luis Obispo County Jail. Preliminary results suggest that some respondents think that incarceration temporarily improves the relationship with their families because, while they may not agree with their lifestyle, families are at ease when the respondent is incarcerated since they know where they are and that they are safe and sober. Overall, this study argues that it is important to include the narratives of those behind bars when depicting the impact of incarceration because their perspectives and experiences may shape the perspectives of their families.

Madeline Stenger and Michael Costelloe, Northern Arizona University


This study examines whether an offender’s legal residency status and country of origin significantly predict the severity of punishment administered by undergraduate students in a hypothetical criminal case. Participants were randomly assigned to one of nine survey frames containing a scenario in which an offender is found guilty of driving while intoxicated. Individual frames varied the offender’s residency status (U.S. citizen or unauthorized migrant) and country of origin (Mexico, Iraq, Canada). Participants were then asked to assign to the offender an appropriate punishment and to rate the level of criminality they associated with the offender. Preliminary results are presented.

Laura Woods Fidelie, Criminal Justice and Criminology

“The Campus Carry: One Year Later”

In August, 2016 the Texas Campus Carry Law went into effect. This law allows licensed individuals to carry concealed handguns on Texas University campuses. This law also allows universities to designate certain areas as gun-free. The implementation of this law was conducted by a Campus Carry Task Force. This paper examines the status of campus carry on one Texas university campus nearly one year after its implementation. This paper explores the effect on students, what was most effective in the task force’s initial recommendations, as well as revisions that may be needed in the future to most safely allow for concealed carry on university campuses.

Jennafer Vondal, North Dakota State University

“Chasing the U.S. Opioid Epidemic: A Social Construction Perspective”

The increasing rate of opioid use, overdoses, and deaths is becoming a large concern for the American public. Many claims making groups state there is an opioid epidemic occurring in the United States which fosters public perception. Utilizing a social constructionist perspective, this paper identifies the numerous claims making groups along with qualitatively analyzing the rhetoric and symbols used to legitimatize their claim about the opioid epidemic. The policy implications developed from the emergence of the rhetoric and claims warrants further evaluation.

Kevin Thompson and Carol Huynh, North Dakota State University

“Alone and At Risk: A Statistical Profile of Alcohol-Related College Student Deaths”

"This study profiles college students who died an alcohol-related death. Estimates of the scope of these mortality rates have received publicity but we know little about the nature of who,
when, where, and how they perished. Using data derived from a website and accompanying news stories and obituaries, we constructed details about roughly 500 of these deaths. Being white, male, Greek, and enrolled in a four year, public institution increased the mortality odds for students. A large majority of these deaths occurred while students were alone following a drinking bout. Most students perished while falling, drowning, being hit by a vehicle, or experiencing alcohol poisoning. Criminal charges were levied in one-third of these cases and families filed lawsuits in fourteen percent of these cases. Details surrounding these deaths suggest that intervention strategies center on ways in which schools and communities can partner to develop a system so that college drinkers are buddied up and can receive help when they need it.

Nicolette Ford, Abilene Christian University

“Exploration of the Journey: Factors that Contribute to Women’s Substance Abuse Recoveries”

Substance abuse recovery research has historically been primarily directed towards males. The female research that does exist has consistently shown women have distinctive alcohol disorder recovery needs. After IRB approval and shadowing a 2009 study that incorporated different steps but the same end goal, it was found that women’s recoveries were impacted both negatively and positively by factors such as peer support, self-empowerment, responsibilities of motherhood, and the stigmatization felt when compared to their male counterparts. Results stress that this population lacks safety, accessibility, self-empowerment, and more attentive research. The overall study sheds light on gender inequity within alcohol use disorders and gave women a voice in their own recovery journeys in hopes to influence change. To explore and better explain these factors further, this study applied a phenomenological qualitative methodology to help contribute to what little is known about female substance abuse recovery. Focus groups were utilized with women who were participating in Alcoholics Anonymous and were self-described as in recovery. Through the phenomenological methodology authentic, valid, and lived experiential data was collected. The current findings lend support to previous female recovery research. A full review of this study’s findings in relation to the existing literature will be discussed.

Tiffany Tran, Northern Arizona University

“Why would I risk my life when everybody hates me?” Effects of negative media portrayals on police

This pilot study considers whether the media’s influences are negatively affecting law enforcement officers personal and work environments. In recent years, law enforcement officers have been portrayed negatively by the media on “use of excessive forces,” “police officers murdering black civilians,” and “high level of police brutality.” Previous research has looked at how media affects citizen’s views of police performance. However, studies examining how negative media portrayals affect officer’s burnout, community relations, and personal lives are few to none. This study employs a mixed method convergent parallel design to examine the effects of negative media portrayals and explore other potential influences for use in a follow-up study. Quantitative analysis examines police responses to questions related to negative media portrayals and the Maslach Burnout Inventory scale. Guided interviews were conducted for the qualitative portion of the study (N=15). Content analyses of the interview responses reveal interesting viewpoints, while bivariate analysis examined the relationship of media exposure to police burnout scores. Both results will be discussed.
Law Enforcement’s Use of Force

This paper discusses recent highly publicized cases concerning the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers relative to generally accepted police procedures, policies, practices and training. Of importance to this issue is the 1989 Graham v. Connor ruling, in which the Supreme Court expanded its definition to include “objective reasonableness” standard in which the issues must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer at the scene.


"Considering recent conflicts between law enforcement and community members, President Obama ordered the 21st Century Policing Task Force to identify strategies for promoting crime control while simultaneously building trust between police officers and the public they are entrusted to protect. Based on its findings, the Task Force outlined six pillars to foster positive police and community relations. While these pillars collectively lead to the advancement of 21st Century Policing, evidence suggests that pillars one through four, which promote community engagement, must be developed first; otherwise, police departments cannot successfully implement this policing plan. The development of community engagement rests upon the trust and legitimacy a police department establishes with its community. As such, effective departments must pay attention to community perceptions; community members must believe their officers are honorably serving all members of the community. One of the most effective ways to help police departments build community engagement is to look at strategies employed by departments experiencing positive police-community relations. The Phoenix Police Department (PPD), which serves a large, diverse community and faces the same explosive issues afflicting other urban police departments, has experienced such success. Thus, this White Paper details the PPD’s noteworthy community engagement strategies."

Racial Disproportionality and Police Contact and Outcomes

This study uses data about contacts with civilians that were initiated by police officers in a northwestern city of approximately 200,000 people over an 18-month period. These data included 28,206 contacts, which resulted in 2,130 searches, 2,651 arrests, and 64 incidents that involved a use of force. Bivariate analyses revealed that African American and Native American civilians were disproportionately more likely to experience a contact, be searched or arrested, and have force used against them, and this disproportionality was significant after controlling for familywise type I error rates. Bivariate analyses at the neighborhood level revealed some differences in patterns of disproportionality of contacts and outcomes, and are useful for fine tuning policing practices. Multivariate models that accounted for neighborhood demographic and crime characteristics, reasons for and characteristics of the contact, and gender, revealed that, in comparison to other races, African American and Native American civilians were between 70% and 90% more likely to be searched, and 50% and 80% more likely to be arrested, respectively. Civilians who were Pacific Islanders were 135% more likely to be arrested, and Native Americans were 215% more likely to have force used against them. Ample time will be afforded to discussing these findings.
Elsy Claudia Chan Gamboa, University of Guadalajara
Jose Ignacio Ruiz Perez, National University of Columbia
Luz Anyela Morales Quintero, Benemerita Universidad Autonoma De Puebla

“Criminal Victimization and Sociodemographic Factors Associated in University Students of Three Cities in Mexico”

Objective. Know the prevalence of criminal victimization experiences with undergraduate students that live in three mexican cities: Chihuahua, Guadalajara and Puebla. Method. In a non-random sample participated students of different degrees through a descriptive and correlational study. It was applied battery Survey Democracy, Human Security and Social Fabric (Ruiz, 2015), by electronically, that considers 16 forms of victimization, the people should indicate whether they each event had occurred in the previous six months. Results. It was found differences between cities victimization. There were gender differences prevalence in 8 forms of victimization, but not in all cities. Women with lower socioeconomic status had more sexual victimization, harassment and persecution. Men with higher socioeconomic status had less experienced relatives of suicide or disappearances, injures in road accidents and pay for public procedures. Conclusion. Increased criminal victimization is associated with less willingness to remain in the current city of residence. Socioeconomic status appears as a protective factor (high level) or risk (lower class) in relation to victimization.

Jenna Fejervary and Christine Arazan, Northern Arizona University

“The Role of Measurement: A Proposed Update to a Rape Myth Acceptance Scale”

“Sexual assault on college campuses has been a pervasive topic in American media, legislation, culture, and politics for some time. Recent legislative initiatives have increased the requirements of college campuses to investigate reported instances of sexual violence, educate communities about risk factors, and provide services to victims. The prevalence of sexual violence on college campuses is attributed to a multitude of factors. Among these, the acceptance of rape myths has been correlated with an increased propensity for males to offend and increase in self-blame among victims (Powers et al., 2015). Rape myths are culturally held beliefs that create a climate that normalizes sexual violence, specifically, violence by men against women. This research examines how wording changes to one rape myth acceptance measure, the Updated Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (McMahon & Farmer, 2011), affects student responses to the rape myth acceptance measures. We argue that updating the language is necessary to ensure that participants relate to statements and thereby accurately report their beliefs. It is hypothesized that a theoretically rooted update to the measurement tool that uses gender neutral language and replaces the word “rape” with “sexual assault” will result in an increased acceptance of rape myths.

Manish Madan, Stockton University

“Attitudes Toward Spousal Abuse: A Cross-National Study Using Population-Based Data from Ukraine, Albania, and Moldova”

Violence against women is a serious problem world-wide. In this study, the focus is on understanding the attitude toward spousal abuse cross-nationally using a nationally representative dataset from Albania, Ukraine, and Moldova. Intra-personal, also referred to as micro-level understanding explain spousal abuse from the individual levels, including biological and psychological perspectives whereas extra-personal, or macro level perspective expand the
explanation from individual to social and cultural levels, namely, socio-cultural, feminist, and cultural perspectives. This research is based on integrative the two perspectives and examine the demographic and socio-cultural factors that explain justification for spousal abuse. The focus is particularly on understanding the gender differences in each country toward the acceptance for spousal abuse, and examine these differences cross-nationally using exploratory and comparative framework. Findings and implications will be discussed.

Armando J. Abney, St. Mary’s University

“Seasonal Variation of sexual assaults in Texas: An analysis of reported crime from 1995 to 2014”

The purpose of this study is to examine the correlation between seasons of the year and rape in Texas over a 19-year period. We analyze data from the Index Crime Report Analysis, a database that compiles monthly reports from police agencies in Texas. These reports make up the Texas Uniform Crime Report. This study demonstrates that a relationship exists between seasons of the year and the incidence of rape. Additionally, the results of this study support the theory that rape, a violent crime, occurs more frequently in the summer.

Jovanjeet Gill, Mount Royal University

“Business as Usual? Corporate Giant SNC-Lavalin after Canada’s Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act: A Case Study of State-Corporate Crime”

To curb global corruption, signatories to the UN Convention against Corruption committed to passing domestic legislation, which Canada did in 1999 by creating The Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act (CFPOA). This paper is informed by Matthews & Kauzlarich’s (2000) pioneering work on state-corporate crime and consists of two major components: First, an examination of state responses to corporate wrongdoing by Canadian engineering and construction firm SNC-Lavalin in their business dealings abroad to assess the effectiveness of the CFPOA. Second, a discussion of SNC-Lavalin’s actions in the context of state-corporate crime as, among other things, inadequate enforcement of the Act at the very least continues to facilitate the corporation’s illegal business practices. In addition to a review of the literature on state-corporate crime and related legislation in Canada, this paper also explores policy alternatives.

Zohra Faize, University of Ottawa

“Immigration Detention in Canada: A deterrence policy?”

Globalization has shrunk the globe and expanded the mobility privileges of certain populations; while simultaneously, the movements of other populations, such as those in the Global South, have been restricted. Global South communities, who are predominantly racialized and economically disadvantaged, are subject to strict border control policies resulting in their marginalization and criminalization when trying to cross international borders. Using Canada as a case study, this research explored migration experiences of asylum seeking youth and children to Canada and their immigration detention experience in Canada. Participants were asked about the effectiveness of immigration detention as a deterrence policy and their perspective on alternatives to detention.

Joice Chang and Meredith Conover-Williams, Humboldt State University

“Crime and the Queer Life Course”
Prior research has found lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) individuals more likely to participate in some offending behavior than their heterosexual peers. Much of the difference can be explained with differential experiences in social institutions, such as school, work, religion, family, and political engagement (Conover-Williams 2014; Conover-Williams and Chang 2016). While quantitatively explored, there has yet to be a qualitative examination of queer pathways into or away from crime. There is also a lack of research on the offending of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. We analyze the life trajectories of 20 LGBTQ individuals through qualitative interviews, exploring the pushes and pulls into and away from criminal behavior over their life course. We examine the respondents’ relationships with social institutions, to look for sites of intervention in the queer life course. While most research on social institutions includes a narrow definition of family, we explore the role of the “chosen family” in LGBTQ lives, as a possible protective factor from offending. We also contribute an exploration of political engagement as a protective factor, especially for sexual and gender minority communities. This research contributes to the growing research on sexuality and crime, and is among the first explorations of transgender offending.
Jean Arment, University of Utah

“An Investigation in to Possible Drivers of Increasing Food Dependency in Sub-Saharan Africa”

This paper begins an investigation into possible institutional causalities of current levels of food dependency in Sub-Saharan Africa. A panel of 47 countries over 51 years is used to test an empirical model based on a classical “unlimited supplies of labor” Lewisian development process in which either the key role of increasing agricultural productivity (the closed model) or the importation of global market foodstuffs (the open model) must enable a nascent process of capital accumulation to continue based on low food prices and wages. Empirical results fail to support a positive correlation between five decades of increasing food dependency and any measurable level of economic modernization with sufficient forward momentum to spur or justify such dependency. Results do, however, confirm a positive correlation between increasing dependency and subsequent policy regimes. Other questions then arise. Through what mechanism might subsequent policy or international trade regimes have served as drivers of increasing dependency? Independent of a search for drivers, results call for a re-evaluation of Lewis’ original development model focus on the crucial role played by a supported food subsistence sector in creating economic possibilities for development.

Zhuo Fu Chen, University of Missouri Kansas City

“Institutional Adjustments in Venezuela under Hugo Chavez: An Alternative Model for Socio-Economic Transformation in Developing Countries?”

The electing of Venezuela’s president, Hugo Chavez, in 1992 begun a wave of success for anti-neoliberalism. During the height of neoliberalism in the Latin American region between 1980 and 1999, Venezuela experienced lower GDP growth and high levels of inequalities compared to the previous twenty years of the so-called Keynesian period. Neoliberalism and socialism both seem to have run their unsuccessful courses in Latin America. However, with Venezuelan voters giving the leftist, Hugo Chavez, another opportunity to lead the county, Venezuela might be heading towards an economic and political system that we might call twenty-first century socialism. This paper will focus on how and why twenty-first century socialism came to be in Venezuela. First, the paper will describe the historical economic trajectory of Venezuela from 1935-1998. Then it will examine the public policies and institutional adjustments in the oil industry that were implemented by Hugo Chavez from 1998-2013 and how it provided an alternative to neoliberalism for the country’s development. Finally, a brief evaluation of the policies of the Chavez administration will be examined by assessing the effectiveness of the county’s social programs in establishing a democracy that might provide inclusion, equality, and sustainable economic prosperity for its people.

Tamer Cetin, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul

“Do Institutions Matter for Economic Performance? Evidence from Turkey”

This paper studies the institutions-economic performance nexus. For this aim, we first construct a simple, but new framework showing how to examine the interaction between institutions and economic performance. Then, using this framework, we introduce an
innovative estimation approach including cutting-edge econometric techniques so-called Johansen et al. (2000) co-integration methodology with structural breaks to empirically investigate the interaction between institutions and economic performance in Turkey. Co-integration analysis finds a long-run relationship between institutions and economic performance in the presence of structural breaks. Also, the estimate of structural breaks reveals the effect of noteworthy changes in institutional structure on investments and economic growth. The findings confirm that institutions matter for economic performance in Turkey, even though the institutional quality of the country is not satisfactory.

Kalpana Khanal, Nichols College

“Nepal-India International Relations from an Institutional Perspective”

The purpose of this paper is twofold. First, to explain the unequal footing between Nepal-India relationships based on Veblen’s notion of “Vested Interest”. Second, to offer pragmatic solutions to bring institutional change consistent with instrumental values within Nepal to improve the diplomatic ties.

Joe Ballegeer, University of Missouri at Kansas City

“Middle Class Virtues: An Economic History Review of the Perverse Distributional Outcomes of State Sponsored Lending”

Institutional economics gains validity from its recognition of the evolutionary processes over time. The best pursuit of evolutionary economics is using economic history. This paper is a review of recent monographs and synthetic works covering federal programs that pursued welfare objectives by facilitating increased access to lending for low income earners. The two most prominently employed methods were Mortgage Insurance and Student Lending. After the Great Depression, the Housing Act authorized the Federal Housing Authority to create the Federal National Mortgage Association, which eventually spawned GNMA and FHMLC, that effectively guaranteed all home lending. Student Loans are direct federal lending with the objective of increasing the standard of living for recipients. The objectives of both types of programs, sometimes explicit and sometimes implicit, is to aid the poor in achieving middle income. Special attention is given to the discourse surrounding what it meant to middle class as described by the literature. The programs designed to increase access to credit pursued partnerships with private institutions were founded on a belief in aided self-help ideology driven by free market mythology. The outcomes of the programs are far from the ones desired, and can in fact be argued to be counterproductive.

Stephen Pascall, Lovett Bookman Harmon Marks LLP; and Glen Atkinson, University of Nevada, Reno; Eric Hake, Catawba University

“Evolution of the Corporation in the United States: Stabilized Scarcity and Vested Interests”

The widening of markets beginning in the late nineteenth century in the United States involved changes in the financial and legal institutions supporting production for large-scale markets. The evolution of the corporation under these circumstances reflects the role of the legal system in formulation of formal rules which favor vested interests. As Thorstein Veblen said, “A constitutional government is a business government.”

This paper examines the co-evolution of the legal system and the economic system as they relate to the merger movement at the turn of the twentieth century, the increased use of the corporate form and the emphasis on pecuniary values over production to secure stabilized scarcity during cutthroat competition and deflation. The resultant financialization of the
economy which continues today was reinforced by such legal rules as the Fourteenth Amendment’s protection of property, including intangible property, and the Rule of Reason accommodating some instances of monopolization. These stabilization policies have secured the rentiers’ return at the cost of the long-term health of the national economy. John R. Commons’ observations on artificial selection and the use of law to make capitalism better offer a solution through laws regulating the detrimental aspects of financialization.

Thomas Lambert, University of Louisville

“US Worker Co-Operatives and their Span of Management, Decision Making, and Involvement in Community: An Exploratory Analysis”

Much has been written over the years about worker co-operatives as an alternative to traditional forms of business organization and ownership. The literature has mostly covered the issues of whether worker co-ops are more productive, more profitable and/or have a longer existence than traditional firms. This paper fills some gaps in the literature by covering topics rarely if ever mentioned in writings on worker co-ops by exploring their spans of management, their decision making regarding investment and hiring, and their involvement in local communities. The results from a recent survey are interesting from an institutionalist perspective in that worker co-ops show themselves generally to be different from most of their capitalist, free market counterparts.

Aqdas Afzal, University of Missouri Kansas City

“The Glorious Revolution, Economic Institutions, and the Developing World”

“This paper evaluates the merits of New Institutional Economics (NIE, hereafter) versus the critical institutionalist combination of critical realism and original institutional economics method of institutional analysis. The paper sketches how the Glorious Revolution, a seminal event in British economic and political history, has been analyzed by NIE. Using sources from economics, history and political science, this paper argues that NIE analysis, in general, and that of the Glorious Revolution shows philosophical, theoretical and empirical weaknesses. Instead, the paper forwards the critical institutionalist method to present a comprehensive institutional analysis of the Glorious Revolution analytical framework based on resource distribution, culture and agency. In so doing, the paper underscores the changing nature of resource distribution and culture in Britain as key variables. The paper also highlights the role of the “Whigs” as key agents in bringing about the events associated with the Glorious Revolution.

Jon Wisman, American University

“Adam Smith and Thorstein Veblen on the Need for Others’ Recognition”

Adam Smith and Thorstein Veblen, divided culturally and by over a century of capitalisms’ differing degrees of maturation, analyzed the basic institutions of capitalism in radically different manners and came to contrary views as to capitalism’s serviceability to human welfare. Yet despite their differences, and that Veblen appears not to have read Smith’s principal treatise on human behavior, The Theory of Moral Sentiments, they shared remarkably similar views as to why humans behave as they do. Both saw humans as driven by a need for social certification by others. It is through the approbation or esteem of others that self-respect is achieved. Indeed, beyond the basic requisites for physical survival, for both this need for approval or recognition constitutes the most powerful of human drives. However, they differed as to the social consequences of this commanding drive, Smith viewing it as stimulating economic dynamism, Veblen as generating waste and impairing human welfare. After exploring
the similarities and differences in Smith and Veblen’s theories of human behavior and the social implications both drew from their theories, this article examines the extensive support for their validity. It then assesses their unrealized potential to provide powerful behavioral foundations for social science.

Mu- Jeong Kho, University College London

“The relationship between Veblen and Marxist theories has been explored, but an issue, which has been left unaddressed in that context, is: is financial capitalism self-organising? If it is true, it is possible to make a matrix with two variables: market or non-market institutional mechanisms on the one hand; and on the other, pro-capital versus anti-capital. This article, which defines the term “self-organisation” as “order out of disorder,” aims to answer to this research question particularly based in Veblen’s writings and facilitate a detailed understanding of his position through the current U.S. financial capitalism. It is also argued in this paper that a dialogue with Veblen is a precondition for deepening Marxist political economy.

Daniel Pereira da Silva, Universidade Estadual de Campinas

“The Individual Is an Institution, We Are Not: New Frontiers for Social Responsibilities”

"The origins of Institutional Thought (IT) contain a critical view of individuality. From Veblen’s seminal works to recent thinkers, like Hodgson and Davis, the notion of the individual is questioned, notably in terms of classical and neoclassical assumptions of disengagement, autonomy, “historicity” self-interest and rationality. This paper advances in this critical direction. I propose IT replace the the idea of “individual” for “subject” when it represents the notion of person. A subject can be understood as a non-bordered entity, which combines personal and institutional characters to form a social and historical singularity. The subject notion can provide important effects, especially regarding to the responsibility issues. To justify my propositions, I follow the institutional works which oppose individualism, pointing out that the notion of person such as a “individual” is, itself, an institution. This means that the individual is a shared norm which people use to think about others and themselves. Moreover, I claim that the IT notion of person is different from this “institutionalized individual.” In turn, as I intend to show, the subject as understood by way of Klein’s Bottle topology can provide substantial advances for the institutional interpretation of economy, history and society.”

Manuel Ramon Souza Luz, and Ramon Garcia Fernandez, UFABC

“Epistomology, Methodology, and Ontology in Original Institutional Economics: Some Key Principles and the Consequences to Economic Inquiry”

This paper aims to highlight some fundamental theoretical elements of the school that was born of the works Thorstein Veblen and John Commons seeking to clarify the epistemological, ontological and methodological complexity of the OIE foundations. From a historical presentation about the birth of the OIE and its development, this paper will emphasize what we perceive as the fundamental theoretical principles of this school of thought, which entangles the OIE position on (i) defining the scope of economic phenomena; (ii) the role of abstraction and history; (iii) the conception of evolutionary processes and its epistemological model; (iv) the relationship between value structure and economic inquiry; (v) the structure-agent relation and the formation of habits and institutions; (vi) the possibility of formalization and its limits; (vii) the building blocks of institutional change and its social consequences. Finally, we emphasize
that these principles conform a consistent theoretical structure and each could hardly be
isolated in favor of a integration with other forms of institutionalism as NIE without affecting
the theoretical construct as a whole.

Reynold Nesiba, Augustana University

“Paydayfreelandia Expands: South Dakota Voters Impose 36% Interest Rate Cap”

In the fall of 2015 South Dakotans for Responsible Lending turned in almost 20,000 signatures
to propose a 36% rate cap on payday, car title, and installment loans. The payday lending
industry, primarily Rod Aycox of North American Title Loans, responded with intimidation,
bullying, and harassment as well as a Constitutional Amendment U of his own. Amendment U
would prohibit interest rate caps, while at the same time masquerading as an 18% interest rate
cap. In this paper the author provides a behind-the-scenes, thick description of the initiated
measure process, legal fight, political campaign, and policy implications for South Dakota. He
explains why despite being outspent $3 million to $70,000, 75% of South Dakota voted in
support of the rate cap and against the Constitutional Amendment. The paper concludes with
lessons for those who would like their home state to join paydayfreelandia.

Winston Griffith, Bucknell University

“Why Does the Level of Intra-Caricom Trade RemainLow?”

The principal feature of an economic integration movement is the removal of barriers to trade
among participating nations. The removal of trade barriers, economic integration theory says,
results in a higher level of trade among participating nations and brings them dynamic benefits
such as higher levels of employment, economic growth, investment and incomes. In addition,
competition will increase and prices will fall. The theory was developed in and for the more
developed nations and, even if it holds true for them, it does not necessarily hold true for the
less developed nations of Caricom (Caribbean Community); indeed, a feature of Caricom is
that, despite almost forty years of economic integration, the level on intra-regional trade has
remained very low. This article contends that failure of the Caricom integration movement to
significantly increase the level of intra-Caricom trade is due in large measure to the social and
economic structures nations of the region inherited from colonial times and that the
transformation of these structures is a prerequisite to increasing intra-Caricom trade.

Yavuz Yasar, University of Denver and Gamze Cavdar, Colorado State University

“Social Protection under the AKP in Turkey”

Global neoliberalism has undermined the already weak and unequal provision of right-based
social protection in the Middle East. Turkey is not an exception. As the universalist and right-
based protection policies have declined, the debates about the potential and actual role that
the Islamic social welfare provides have emerged. This study examines the faith-based social
protection practices under the era of the AKP (the Justice and Development Party). The study
uses both quantitative and qualitative data collected during the fieldwork in Turkey in the
summers of 2013, 2014 & 2016. Much of the quantitative data is based on the Household
Budget Survey of TUIK, 2003-2013. The objective of the study is to identify the main
beneficiaries of the social protection according to their social class and gender. Our
quantitative data suggests that the target populations of the welfare transfers have been the
non-agricultural workers and housewives. Our data also demonstrates that the welfare
transfers seemed to have a positive impact on income but failed to reduce poverty. The study
also discusses the political implications of these policies because these transfers have
significantly increased dependency on both public and private welfare transfers and blurred the line between the state and civil society, among others.

Alfredo Rosete, Mount Holyoke College, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

“Expropriation and the Location of Farmland Investment: A Theoretical Investigation into the New Global Land Rush”

A sharp rise in land acquisitions in developing countries during the last decade has drawn the attention of scholars and think tanks. Recent empirical analyses of this global land rush find that investors tend to target countries that have little regard for local land rights. This is a puzzle, given the economic literature on investment location. By locating in such countries, investors may be foregoing other advantages that generate more revenue. What does such a result say about both the nature of the investment projects, and the productive characteristics of the target countries? In this paper, I attempt to answer this question using a game-theoretic model in which investors can use expropriation as a credible threat vis a vis smallholders, consistent with case studies and empirical data from actual land deals. I show that the credible threat of expropriation lowers the investor’s cost of locating to a country by reducing the necessary remuneration to smallholders for access to land, resulting in adverse incorporation. Investors will locate in countries with weak land governance whenever they anticipate similar levels of revenue or investor protection.

Matthew Marcantonio, Nicole Ross, and Nicholas DeAngelis, Nichols College

“The Federal Student Loan Program’s Involvement in the Financialization of Higher Education and its Role in the Impending Crisis”

The issues that have arisen from the United States Federal Student Loan System have not received the proper attention that is required. The United States, as of September 30, 2015, holds approximately $1.2 trillion in net receivables with $880.6 billion derived from the student loan program, which accounts for 72.4% of the governments total net receivables. These figures are astonishing, showing how heavily invested the Federal Government is within the loan system. With the current student loan deficit growing at an unprecedented pace and no indications of slowing, the United States may experience economic uncertainty in the future. This will be assessed through Minksy in his theory that stability is destabilizing. The question of what is perpetuating this deficit increase will be examined throughout this paper, as well as proposed solutions. The cost of higher education has seen steady increases over the past decades along with the total amounts of student debt. An attempt to prove a correlation between these variables will illustrate the financialization of the higher education system creating a perpetuation of the impending crisis.

David Plante and T. Christine Jespersen, Western State Colorado University

“Neoliberalism, Narrative Construction, and Financialization”

Karl Polanyi in The Great Transformation examined the role played by the idea of the self-regulating market in holding market society together, even though “the fount and matrix” of nineteenth-century civilization “implied a stark utopia.” In much the same way, with its focus on “individual property rights, the rule of law, and the institutions of freely functioning markets and free trade,” as David Harvey notes in A Brief History of Neoliberalism, the modern theoretical neoliberal state is minimalist. The actual state, however, has become increasingly activist, particularly in the financial sphere as guarantor of stability and profitability. Only the resurgent Big Government/Big Bank interventions averted systemic disaster. At the same time, there is little attempt to recreate the kind of regulatory framework and labor reforms of
the New Deal regime. This paper investigates the increasing gap between idealized neoliberal theory and the existing activist neoliberal institutions and how the narrative of market automaticity nonetheless has been revived. We examine these contradictions to understand how a market-driven narrative was recreated and advanced in the face of massive state support for financialization and its maintenance.

Ivan Velasquez, University of Missouri Kansas City

“Two Harvard Economists on Monetary Economy: Lauchlin Currie and Hyman Minsky on Financial Crises”

In November of 1987, Hyman Minsky visited Bogota, Colombia, after being invited by a group of professors who were interested, at that time, in post-Keynesian economics. There, Minsky delivered some lectures, and in one of those lectures he met Lauchlin Currie at the National University of Colombia. Although Currie is not well known in the American academy, as Minsky, both are outstanding figures in the development of non-orthodox monetary economics approaches. Thus, both alumni from the Economics Ph.D. program at Harvard had a debate in Bogota. Unfortunately, there are no formal records about this. Here, a question is made: what could be their positions in that debate? Therefore, the aim of this paper is to discuss Currie’s and Minsky’s perspectives on monetary economy.

Janice Peterson, California State University - Fresno


The increasing precariousness of employment is a stark example of the complex economic and social issues facing the US economy. In the US context, growing precariousness in employment is measured by the increasing importance nonstandard and contingent employment, irregular work schedules, and both under- and over-employment. It reflects changing relationships between employers and workers, including the increasingly complex “arms-length” relationships of “fissured workplaces.” This increasing precariousness of employment is intertwined with the increasing precariousness of life more generally in particularly where stagnant incomes, irregular work schedules, and/or inflexible or excessive work-hours disrupt family life. With the presence of a full-time caregiver no longer the norm in US families, increasing numbers of workers struggle with serious work-life conflicts as they attempt to combine employment and care-giving responsibilities. Existing policies to protect and assist workers and their families typically continue to assume a traditional employment relationship and workers who are full-time breadwinners without family responsibilities, contributing to serious gaps in worker protections and work-life supports. This paper draws on insights from institutionalist and feminist economics to analyze the growing precariousness of employment and family life in the United States and suggest a framework for fostering progressive institutional change.

Kirstin Munro, Portland State University

“The Artisan Economy and the New Spirit of Capitalism”

Against the backdrop of deindustrialization and the rise of the service economy, small artisanal food and craft businesses have been promoted as a democratic and liberatory alternative to large-scale enterprise and mass production. This paper extends the analysis of 1990s management textbooks by Boltanski and Chiapello (2005) to investigate advice books for would-be artisanal business owners. These books are not merely technical instruction manuals, but are also “manuals of moral instruction” self-help books that offer the reader the
promise of a more fulfilling and ethical life. An analysis of moral themes in these advice manuals reveals that these texts and the artisanal economy they promote represent a further cooption by capitalism of the artistic critique initially described by Botanski and Chiapello. While Boltanski and Chiapello’s analysis is centered how the ideas of autonomy, creativity, authenticity, and liberation were used in the transformation of large capitalist firms, we highlight for analysis how these same themes have likewise been taken up by small businesses in the artisanal economy. We show how the extension of this “set of beliefs associated with the capitalist order that helps to justify this order and, by legitimating them, to sustain the forms of action and predispositions compatible with it” applies to supposedly new and liberatory forms of production and employment.

Daphne T. Greenwood, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

“The Decline and Fall of the US Worker: How Key Institutions Must Change to Open a Path for Recovery”

"In the face of environmental, technological and social change, many current institutions affecting the preparation, hiring, performance, safety or compensation of workers are ill matched to today’s challenges. Where institutions have evolved, it has often been in ways that limit opportunity rather than expanding it. For example, (1) the financialization of the economy has created pressures to shed permanent workers at in favor of contracting, (2) the decline of internal labor markets has reduced on-the-job training, both shifting more costs and risks away from larger institutions and on to individual workers. This has led to less employment stability, more inequality in wages and benefits, and declining upward mobility in the US. After identifying key changes in US labor market institutions that contributed to declines in labor’s share and increasing inequality, this paper addresses specific changes in policy than can begin to remedy each. These changes will affect tax policy, educational systems, the finance-business nexus, workplace relationships, and informal institutions such as the family, which provide the earliest education and human capital formation. It also looks at how some informal institutions (habits and values) are blocking the kinds of changes in policy needed to restore opportunity in the workplace."

Thomas Lambert, University of Louisville

“Monopoly Capital and Capitalist Management: Too Many Managers?”

The mainstream or neoclassical economics view that labor is rewarded according to its productivity has been extended to managers and management teams as justification for the levels of compensation that they receive. Additionally, the management concept of “span of management” has been used to explain the total number of and per employee number of managers in any organization along with the economics assumption that the appropriate span of management is where the marginal productivity of the last manager employed equals his/her marginal cost, or wage. On the other hand, Marxists and institutionalists hold different views of the roles and purposes of managers within organizations and attempt to explain these through either the view of managers exploiting workers on behalf of owners or the view of managers exploiting both workers and owners to advance their own agenda. This research note examines managerial compensation and intensity from both traditional/mainstream and alternative views by focusing on measures of managerial salaries, employee productivity, return on owners’ equity, return on assets, and rates of worker’s exploitation.

Stephen Banister, University of Utah

“Economic Growth and Institutions—a Longer and Wider Historical View”
"As I have presented in prior AFIT sessions, John Nef and Paul Mantoux have richly described institutional formation resulting from the Industrial Revolution, especially industrial capitalism surrounding the English Industrial Revolutions (EIR). I propose in this year’s paper to widen the historical cases beyond England to at least the Asian Tigers and possibly some Latin American examples. And I will add a longer historical perspective using the work of Fredrick List."

Richard Twumasi, University of Missouri Kansas City

“Colonial Origins of Civil Conflicts in The Congo"

"Other reasons have been cited but the key cause of ethnic conflicts and political turmoil in The Congo can evidently be traced back to the colonial system experienced by the Congolese people under the Belgians. The Belgian colonial legacy only generated burdens of bitterness and distrust among a people who had lived together for centuries without any apparent friction or differentiation. The Congo has remained in a complex cycle of civil wars and political crisis since 1960 when the Belgians formerly granted them independence. The Belgians, after milking the resource-rich Congo, left the colony horribly segregated with no proper system of governance, even after strangling the existing political and social institutions that the Congolese people had built over centuries. The dent created by colonialism in the economic and institutional structures of the Congo looks irreversible. The Congolese people may need to rewrite their history, accept their differences, and work together, hopefully, to halt the war cycle."

Arturo Hermann, Istat

“The Institutional Foundation of the Market and Its Relevance for Policy Making”

"As is known, market is a complex structure that lies at the juncture of significant aspects of economic systems: public and private action and the related concepts of capitalism, socialism, social justice, participation and democracy. For this reason, the market cannot realistically be appraised as an “exogenous and optimizing mechanism” but as an institution created and maintained by a well defined legal and institutional framework. However, failure to acknowledge these aspects has affected the capacity of policy action to address the destabilizing effects of several micro and macro market imperfections. To enquire into these complex relations, we employ, in collaboration with other “heterodox” oriented economic theories, several contributions from “original institutional economics”. These theories can help attain a better understanding of following intertwined aspects, also considered in their historical evolution: (1) the links between market imperfections, and the features and contradictions of socio-economic relations; (2) the links between market structure, forms of competition, structure of ownership and social structure; (3) the links between market structure and psychological and cultural orientations of any given context; (4) the links between market structure, social valuation, legal and institutional structure, and policy action.

Jonathan Ramse, University of Missouri Kansas City

“The Transformation of Community Capitals: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis”

This paper works from the starting point of capital transformation as a useful tool in implementing and understanding the process of community economic development, then presents a qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) evaluating the effectiveness of this capital transformation framework using data from various community development initiatives in the United States. The relationship between capitals within a community is hypothesised to be one characterized by transformation in the sense of a capital being used in the creation and
expansion of a different form of capital. Standard econometric studies have been conducted by Kenneth Pigg and others (2013) to examine the relationship between capitals in the process of community economic development, but none have examined the explicit transformative relationship between capitals. In addition to examining the “net effects” of transformative relationships through standard econometric analysis, the QCA provides a set-theoretic examination in which capitals are conceptualized as “ingredients” in the creation of new and expanded capital. The purpose of this paper is to continue the discussion of capital transformation in the process of community economic development as well as present and apply an alternative rigorous and systematic tool to standard econometric analysis.

Hans Despain, Nichols College

“An Institutional Interpretation of Marxian Political Economy”

This paper explains the historical emergence of monopoly-finance capital theory as an important development in institutional and Marxian political economy. Monopoly-finance capital theory is a type synthesis of Marxian political economy, theories of imperfect competition, Keynesian macroeconomic theory, and institutionalist political economy. Paul Baran and Paul Sweezy accomplish this synthesis in their seminal book Monopoly Capital. The implications of theory have been developed into international economics and imperialism, environmental theory, labor economics, marketing, finance, sociology and in many other areas of social being.

Raphael Sassower, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

“What’s New in Institutional Analysis in the 21st Century?”

One of the latest critique of mainstream economics is undertaken by Robert Chernomas and Ian Hudson in their Economics in the Twenty-First Century (2016). It follows Joseph Stiglitz’s Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy (2016). As self-avowed Institutional economists, all three authors share a basic concern with the presuppositions still employed by mainstream and neoliberal economists, and therefore are quick to point out policy inadequacies. In this presentation, I plan to outline the basic frames of reference still in use and the potential for replacing them with more Institutionally-appropriate ones. The question that underlies this critical analysis is not simply if we have moved the needle far enough from the days of Thorstein Veblen, John Commons, Clarence Ayers, and Robert Heilbroner, but more importantly, who is listening? Recent student revolts in European universities may inform our ability to answer this question.

Svetlana Kirdina, Russian Academy of Sciences

“Institutional Matrix as an Historical Answer to Geographic Challenges”

The paper considers the geography-hypothesis which assumes development of institutions and economic growth are determined by geographical characteristics. In the early 2000s the discussion about the role of institutional and geographical factors for economic development was renewed in mainstream economics. The two opposing positions were presented in publications entitled “Institutions Rule: The Primacy of Institutions over Geography and Integration in Economic Development” (Rodrik et al., 2002) and “Institutions Don’t Rule: Direct Effects of Geography on Per Capita Income” (Sachs, 2003). What can analysis of Institutional Heterodox Economics contribute to the discussion? We based our research on the institutional matrices theory (???????, 2001; Kirdina, 2012; 2016) and used the mixed method of combining qualitative and quantitative analysis to investigate the role of geographical environments on institutional development in different countries. In countries with relatively soft climate
characteristics (optimal air temperatures and precipitation) as well as lower natural risks, the results showed that so called Y-matrix institutions historically prevail. In countries where air temperatures are relatively hot or cold, levels of precipitation are relatively high or low, and natural risks are quite high, the results showed that so called X-matrix institutions historically predominate. Both conclusions were logically justified and statistically confirmed.

Rojhat Avsar, Columbia College

“Comfort Zone: How Market-Friendly Are the Sapiens?”

This paper treats the “market” as an “adaptive” institutional innovation existing alongside many other institutions. The term “market” refers to, in our framework, one arrangement in which individuals cooperate to obtain their subsistence. Human societies have adopted various social organizations to deal with the survival challenges. Markets should be evaluated in this vein and this is one of our primary aims in this paper. In markets individuals interact with one another (virtual strangers in most cases) in a way that's seemingly incompatible with human nature because of our tribal past. Humans are, in fact, capable of generating institutions that are conducive to establishing and maintaining such relationships that are key to their survival. What Adam Smith called “propensity to barter” wouldn’t have come about unless Homo Sapiens had a set of neural networks specialized in social exchange enabling them to engage in effective reciprocal relationships which characterized their foraging past. We draw on Evolutionary Psychology to articulate the pro-social tendencies that make the existence of markets possible in the first place. Evolutionary Psychology provides a comprehensive view of the, so called, psychological adaptations which renders it extremely useful tool for investigating compatibility of markets with human nature.

Tyler Saxon, Colorado State University

“Effects of Government R&D Spending on Women’s Participation in R&D in the OECD”

Despite substantial increases in past decades, nearly all OECD countries still report disproportionately low percentages of women as a percentage of total researchers. This study focuses on the role of different types of government research and development (R&D) spending in influencing female participation in R&D, based on existing research that shows significant differences in the preferred job values of men and women. Because of the resulting occupational segregation based on gender, the types of R&D (defense, environmental, health, education, etc.) the government chooses to fund could exhibit a gender bias, depending on which R&D fields receive the most government support. Panel data from the OECD’s Main Science and Technology Indicators is used to compare patterns of government spending with the patterns of female participation in R&D across countries and across time. Results indicate that increasing government R&D spending on health and environment increase female participation in R&D, while increasing government R&D spending on space exploration decreases female participation in R&D.

Roaa Alrazyeg, University of Missouri at Kansas City

“The Socio-Economic Challenges to Female Labor Market Participation in Saudi Arabia”

Since 1970s Saudi Arabia has attempted to improve socio-economic development. The government has opened the opportunity for women to access education and consequently employment and political participation. In 2013, the World Bank reported that most Saudi women are attending schools while they only form 15.2% of the total labor force participation. Although they have increased to 17.3 in 2015, it is still considered a low and slow growth, which is odd in conjunction with the fact that Saudi women have high educational rates!
Because the participation in the labor market generally considered one of the main elements in the success and development of the country, female labor market participation in Saudi Arabia will be demonstrated in term of the socio-economic barriers that are facing Saudi women to the labor market.

Jacqueline Strenio, University of Utah

“The Effects of Dating Violence during Adolescence on Educational Attainment and Labor Market Outcomes”

Over one in five female and one in ten male high school students in the United States reported physical and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner in the last year. Dating violence (DV) is a form of intimate partner violence (IPV) that consists of physical, sexual, psychological, and/or emotional violence occurring in adolescent and young adult dating relationships. Research has documented a range of adverse mental, physical, and sexual/reproductive health outcomes of DV. A more insidious concern is that DV victimization can also adversely alter life trajectories by affecting educational attainment and labor market outcomes. Women experiencing IPV have more trouble paying attention in school, withdraw from work and while at work, and have reduced productivity. This indicates that DV results in both private costs born by victims and societal costs affecting educational institutions, businesses, and economic growth. This study investigates the long-run effects of experiencing DV during adolescence on educational attainment and labor market outcomes using the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health. It fills a gap in the literature on the costs of DV and its spillover effects on an individual's ability to attain economic security and the larger ramifications for economic development.

Richard Wagner, Rockhurst University

“Understanding John Dewey’s Democracy”

"Democracy is a term that is used for many purposes, ranging from a justification for war to a political tool for the choosing of a nation’s leaders. In the United States, generation after generation are force-fed that democracy is simply what we have, something which we should continue to fight for even if it means violence and authoritative war regimes. No more was this an issue than in the early 20th century. It is particularly in this time that social thinkers across the board sought to discuss democracy’s relevancy, revitalization, or complete abolishment. One such thinker was John Dewey “well known to institutional economists” although from his point of view, democracy is something which has yet to be realized. This paper seeks to reveal and synthesize John Dewey’s notion of democracy. In short, Dewey recognizes democracy as an evolutionary and participatory institutional process. Because of this, Dewey’s democracy may be able to help with the notion that institutions are the cause of, and solution to all of our economic and social problems.”

John Dennis Chasse, SUNY Brockport

“Three Lessons for the Twenty-First Century from John R. Commons”

This paper applies to the current state of the world, three positions that John R. Commons advocated almost a hundred years ago. First, he argued that social scientists should “take the side of the workers” that neutrality was impossible, and that proclamations of neutrality masked defenses of the dominant classes. Second, he held that the privilege of limited liability had ushered in an era of collective action in which the economic power of the corporation was equal to the political power of the state. Third, his seemingly pedestrian definition of a reasonable value one based on consideration of all the evidence from all relevant points of view
constituted both a defense of representative democracy in the abstract and a sharp criticism of existing political institutions.

Matthew Rice, University of Missouri at Kansas City

“The Evolution of Digital Currency”

This paper examines the possibility of a digital currency; how the adoption of a cashless form of currency, exclusively on the ledgers of institutions, and transmitted through evolving technologies, changes the way in which we conduct business and personal transactions. Additionally, it addresses how this change might improve the social institutions that oversee the composition of society. I will examine the historical process, already underway, that is fostering the transition to a cashless society. Further, I will highlight the benefits and drawbacks to such a conversion. The paper will focus primarily on US institutions, and their necessary adjustments if such a transition is to occur. This will include the possible institutional advantages, and obstacles, legal and cultural, to the adoption of a digital currency. Finally, I will compare how this process may be like the institutional change that took place when the US adopted a fiat currency in lieu of the gold standard that preceded it.”

Barbara Hopkins, Wright State University

“Institutional Thought and Alternatives to Capitalism”

"In this paper, I explore the potential for an evolutionary transformation beyond capitalism. First, I consider the limitations of the current range of capitalist systems and consider alternative capitalisms. Second, I consider the problems with models of comprehensive planning from an institutionalist perspective. Third, I consider the important place that democratic institutions would have in a desirable post-capitalist model. Fourth, I consider what institutional changes would lay the groundwork for an alternative post-capitalism.

Jacob Powel, University of Missouri Kansas City

“Inquiry and ‘-isms’: A Pragmatic Approach”

“Isms”, due to their teleological and ideological nature, often arrest inquiry. This is an argument developed by the work of J. Fagg Foster and advanced by Marc Tool. This paper seeks to delve deeper into this argument, with the perspective that our inquiries, as economists, are often informed by an Ism (e.g. Marxism, Institutionalism, etc.). The question then becomes how can warranted knowledge be produced given the starting point of an Ism? Utilizing a pragmatic philosophy, I argue that we need both Isms and inquiry to produced warranted knowledge. It is the obligation of the researcher to employ their Isms instrumentally in the pursuit of inquiry, rather than ideologically. When this is achieved, I argue that it helps breakdown the ideological barriers within heterodoxy and can allow for a more instrumental development of the joint stock of knowledge.

Daniel Urban, University of Missouri, Kansas City

“The Construction of Production”

This paper seeks to illuminate the concept of the production boundary while demonstrating the incommensurability of conventional and classical political economy based national accounting aggregates. The first section defines the production boundary and highlights the significance thereof in the calculation of national income and product. Next, we consider the history both theoretical and applied of locating this boundary. This section suggests that conventional and CPE aggregates are incommensurate, and using conventional data provides a distorted picture
of national product. The final section quantifies the issue by comparing conventional and CPE aggregates. In doing so, we find that relocating the production boundary has not only theoretical importance but also empirical significance. A brief conclusion follows.
“Aging and the secular decline of entrepreneurship in the United States”

Mounting evidence suggests that a secular decline in startup activity, beginning in the early 1980s, has resulted in a subsequent decline in business dynamism in the United States. I propose a novel explanation for this phenomenon, that an aging workforce has led to a decline in the rate at which individuals undertake entrepreneurial projects. This approach is motivated by the empirically observed ‘hump shape’ of individuals engaging in new startup activity over their life cycle. To understand the way in which individuals may respond differently to risk as they age, I construct a life cycle model of entrepreneurial choice. Bringing this model to data suggests that a life cycle channel may account for a large portion of the decline in business dynamism over the last thirty-five years. Using demographic forecasts, I then project that entrepreneurship will continue decline in the coming decades as the pool of potential entrepreneurs continues to age.

“Can Google Trends actually improve housing market forecasts?”

We augment two theoretical models of the housing market with google trends data to assess whether crowd-sourced search query data can improve the forecasting ability of the models. We compare the root mean squared deviation (RMSD) of the theoretical models’ out-of-sample, one-step ahead, static forecasts against the forecasts provided by linear regressions used in the literature. We discuss two main findings: (1) the theoretical models vastly outperform the linear regressions in out-of-sample forecasting; (2) augmenting the models to take advantage of the availability of Google trend data does not improve the forecasting performance of the models.

“Economic Forecasting”

What does a business owner or a manager in the world need to know about the economy and the future trend of his or her business to make wise decisions today for the future? In addition to all the usual metrics associated with his or her own business, the entrepreneur is one who should understand the forecasting techniques used by economists to predict the ups and downs in the economy as well as for his or her business.
Kristina N. Piorkowski and Alok K. Bohara, University of New Mexico

“A Supplement Away from Better Health? Micronutrient Status in the United States”

Our health is, in part, determined by what nutrients we get not only from our food but also from dietary supplements. These supplements can be taken to complement or to substitute for healthy eating patterns. But multivitamin usage is not necessarily an ideal input to a health production function. Too much of a given vitamin beyond the recommended daily allowance can have a negligible impact on health and if vitamins are taken in extreme amounts it can lead to detrimental health outcomes. We use data from the NHANES 2001-02 to 2011-12, which contains minutely detailed nutrient intake information from both food and supplement usage. We estimate a recursive model, influenced by the food demand literature, to determine the impact that socio-economic status has on both food and multivitamin demand for specific micronutrients and then investigate their joint ensuing impact on micronutrient intake measured with biochemical markers. Based upon our results we will identify the extent to which multivitamins mitigate or aggravate micronutrient deficiencies or excessive intake, respectively, by groups so that we can recommend which specific nutrients should be consumed and how diet can be modified to achieve these recommendations.

Kristina N. Piorkowski and Alok K. Bohara, University of New Mexico

“Estimating the Willingness to Pay for a Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax: A Case Study of New Mexico”

Using primary data representative of New Mexico’s adult population, with 1,505 observations, we examine the willingness to pay (WTP) for a sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) tax in New Mexico, a state marked by high rates of obesity and a history of failed SSBs taxes. Respondents were presented one of two versions of the WTP question: the first includes basic information about the tax and the second also includes health information about excessive SSBs consumption. Respondents who don’t believe obesity is a problem in New Mexico, haven’t heard of other SSBs taxes, or who are conservative expressed a strong disagreement for expanding SSBs taxes. To overcome the endogeneity between supporting expansion of SSBs taxes and WTP, we estimate these two equations using a conditional mixed process model after recoding responses based upon level of certainty. Results indicate larger WTP values for the WTP question that included health information than just basic tax information question. Preliminary results find the WTP to be slightly to moderately higher than the taxes currently being passed in other localities. The study’s findings can be used to inform the public and policy makers on strategies to pass SSBs taxes both in and out of New Mexico.

Soumi Roy Chowdhury, University of New Mexico

“Willingness to pay for Cancer Screening Program: Primary Evidences from Nepal”

Willingness to pay for Cancer Screening Program: Primary Evidences from Nepal the unavailability of National Cancer Registry system in Nepal makes it difficult to analyze the incidences of cancer in the country. Thus, relative measures towards cancer prevention and control are also not adopted. In our paper, we provide cancer estimates through a primary survey conducted in 2016 on five different cancer hospitals of Nepal. We observed that patients
are unaware of cancer screening tests leading to a low uptake rate of the same. Hospitals need to come forward to recommend and ensure a timely screening of the patients. Thus, our paper aims to measure the willingness to pay (WTP) in having a comprehensive cancer screening program through a double bounded contingent evaluation study. Through the application of ordered probit models and ordered selection models, we found that factors that govern the attitudes and belief regarding the effectiveness of screening do play an important role in determining the likelihood of a positive WTP. Whereas, patient's risk perception, education, and other socio demographic factors impact their decisions on the amount to be paid for the good. Our selection model also complements the fact that economic decision making process for Zero WTP is different from that of a positive WTP for screening program.

Amanda J Felkey, Lake Forest College and Kristina M. Lybecker, Colorado College

“Do Restrictions Beget Responsibility? The Case of U.S. Abortion Legislation”

Over the past decade more than 25 U.S. states enacted legislation surrounding abortions, and the environment in which women can seek this option is becoming increasingly hostile. By analyzing state abortion legislation and proxying how the cost of obtaining an abortion varies across states, we assess the implications of legislative changes on women’s contraceptive choices. We consider the entire spectrum of contraceptives to determine whether women are switching among types of birth control and potentially using more effective methods. Examining women by race, income, age and religious affiliation, we find that women respond to increased restrictions on abortion availability and cost differently. This study demonstrates that legislation restricting women’s access to abortions fails to generally promote greater use of more effective contraceptive methods, increasing the likelihood of unwanted births and illegal abortion procedures.

Chenghao Hu, University of California-Davis

“Institutional Similarity and Export Diversification”

This paper adds to a large strand of previous literature on export diversification by empirically exploring a new determinant institutional similarity. Using country-industry import and export data at 4 digit SITC level from 2001 to 2011, we show institutional similarity can play a significant role in explaining export diversification. We study three different types of institutional similarity: contract enforcement, financial development and labor market flexibility. Our main findings are: 1) greater institutional difference in degree of contract enforcement and financial development will lead to less export diversification; 2) interestingly, the effect of labor market institutional similarity on export diversification is non-linear. A positive relationship between labor market institutional similarity and export diversification exists only when the institutional differences between a country pair is small. In contrast, when labor market institutional dissimilarity is large, the relationship between institutional similarity and export diversification tend to be reversed. As an extension, we also investigate the impact of institutional similarity on both intensive margin and extensive margin of export. Our findings are robust to a series of robustness checks and our work contributes to a better understanding of export diversification from the perspective of macroeconomics.

Tingting Xiong, Syracuse University

“Investment Liberalization and International Trade: The Effect of BITs on the Extensive and Intensive Margins of Exports”

“One of the paradoxes in the literature about the interaction between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and international trade is the incompatibility between the inferred substitutive
relationship in the theoretic models and the justified complementary relationship in numerous empirical studies. This paper investigates the effect of FDI on the extensive and intensive product margins of exports while considering bilateral investment treaties (BITs) as an investment liberalization policy to address and reduce the endogeneity concern between exports and FDI in the literature. The model in this paper theoretically demonstrates that investment liberalization increases the extensive product margin through lowering the variable cost of selling abroad and it decreases the intensive margin through lowering both the fixed investment cost and the variable cost of selling abroad. By a detailed dataset of 190 countries from 1988 to 2006, this paper provides empirical evidence that BITs promote the exports from both developed and developing countries significantly. BITs enforced by developed countries increase on average about 64.21 percent extensive margin of exports and decrease on average 20.55 percent intensive margin of exports. However, BITs enforced by developing countries raise both the extensive and intensive margins of exports significantly.

Chenghao Hu, University of California-Davis


Using cross-sectional country-industry level trade data this paper provides robust empirical evidence showing that: (i) greater international financial remoteness (more geographically distant from a major international financial center) can lead to higher export volatility; (ii) the effect of financial remoteness on export volatility is especially stronger in more financially vulnerable sectors (sectors that are more dependent on external finance during production process); (iii) interestingly, the effects found in i) and ii) will be weakened if a country has a better developed banking sector, more mature domestic stock market, higher quality of information sharing mechanism and closer ties with outside world in terms of foreign activity in the banking sector; (iv) in contrast, if a country is exposed to a larger net external debt, the effect of financial remoteness on export volatility tend to be strengthened; (v) lastly, the impact of financial remoteness on export volatility is found to be decreasing over time since the 1960s, which coincides with the surge of cross border gross capital flow following globalization in the past 50 years. Our work contributes to a better understanding of export volatility at aggregate country-sector level.

Luca Macedoni, University of California, Davis

“Has the Euro Shrunk the Band? Trade Costs in a Currency Union”

Deviations from the Law of One Price are starkly smaller within a currency union (Cavallo et al. 2014, 2015). Can a reduction in trade costs within a currency union explain this fact? To answer this question, I use monthly disaggregated price indices from 32 European countries from 1999:01 to 2016:04. I apply Heckscher's insight that transaction costs create bands of inaction in which price differences are not arbitraged away. Only when price differences exceed a certain threshold arbitrage becomes profitable and prices begin to converge. A simple model of international arbitrage predicts that bands of inaction between two countries increase with trade costs and decline with the countries' sizes. I estimate the bands of inaction for the relative prices of 43 tradable commodities, using a Threshold Autoregressive Model. The findings of this paper support the view that currency unions reduce trade costs: the bands of inaction between countries that are in the European Monetary Union are 17% lower than the average band.
Vladimir Tyazhelnikov, University of California, Davis

“Production Clustering and Offshoring”

I propose a simple and computationally feasible algorithm to solve a firms’ problem for a large class of sequential production models of offshoring. These models allow for production chain of any length, any number of sourcing countries and arbitrary structure of production and trade costs. I show that in this class of models, allocation decisions are interdependent and this interdependence generates a new channel of proximity-concentration trade-off. The presence of trade costs makes firm cluster its production in certain countries, while trade liberalization allows firms to fragment their production more and exploit productivity differences between countries more efficiently. Then I present a general equilibrium heterogeneous firms model in which every firm solves the allocation problem described above. In this model the distribution of firms’ productivities is endogenous with respect to trade costs: trade liberalization leads to a distribution that stochastically dominates the old one, thus leading to increase in welfare. I use the model to decompose the welfare gains from trade liberalization by two channels: cheaper intermediate inputs and more efficient production structure. I apply the model to the data and study the case of China joining WTO. I use simulated maximum likelihood technique to calibrate the model and find.

Roberto Coronado, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

“Rising value of the dollar affects border retail sales”

Previous research has shown that a significant portion of retail sales in U.S. border cities are attributed to Mexican shoppers. Because of this, retail trade along the U.S.-Mexico border region is sensitive to fluctuations in the dollar-peso exchange rate. In this paper, we look at metropolitan areas along the Texas-Mexico border and analyze how the recent appreciation of the dollar has impacted border retail trade activity. We also analyze the composition of these cross-border purchases and how the sustained strength in the dollar is likely to affect retail in these border cities differently in coming years.

James Gerber, San Diego State University

“Border shocks from Nixon to Trump: Economic impacts and responses along the US-Mexico border”

The hate speech directed towards Mexico and Mexican immigrants by Donald Trump and his supporters foreshadows a dark age of US-Mexico relations. Yet when seen in the context of US history, the scapegoating of Mexico by US politicians is a frequent pattern of populist rhetoric during times of economic stress. Political shocks such as these, and the diverse forms of economic shocks that have occurred over the last 50 years, such as currency crises, free trade agreements, and structural adjustment policies, often have a disproportionate impact on border communities that rely on collaborative and unobstructed cross-border relations for their economic prosperity. This paper attempts to categorize and assess the different types of political and economic shocks that have affected the US-Mexico border region from 1965 to 2017. One of the main goals is to place the recent US presidential election in an historical context.

Helen Guan, University of London

“Social capital and the economics of corporate social performance from social and ethical perspectives: evidence from Chinese listed companies”
Based on social capital theory, this study analyzes the relationship between the three dimensions of social capital (structural, relational and cognitive dimensions) of senior managers participating in social networks and the economics of corporate social performance by using the survey data of a sample of 300 Chinese listed companies. The results will show whether the structural dimension (the tie strength), the relational dimension (such as trust), and cognitive dimension (shared norms and collective goals) are positively associated with corporate social performance in terms of organizational social and ethical responsibility towards a sustainable economy. This study makes several theoretical contributions. First, it contributes to our understanding of how senior managers participate in social networks providing three dimensions of social capital influence the economics of corporate social performance. Second, it is the first to examine the influence of the three dimensions of social capital on the economics of corporate social performance. In this, it differs from previous studies, which examined the effect of stakeholders on corporate social performance. Third, it contributes to the examination of whether and how the three dimensions of social capital play the role of coordination and cooperation, leading to positive effects on the economics of corporate social performance.

Helen Guan, University of London

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Joseph Earley, Loyola Marymount University

Archie J. Calise, City University of New York

Eduardo Santillan, California State University at Dominguez Hill

Sara Santillan-Earley, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

“Seat belt Usage in the Arid/Semi-Arid Lands: Resolving the Paradox”

The August, 2016 issue of Consumer Reports listed the best and worst states in seat belt usage. In June, 2016 The Washington Post newspaper ranked each state based on intelligence. Using our arid/semi-arid state classification and regression analysis, this paper investigates the apparent paradox of how smart states - Massachusetts and New Hampshire, for example-can rank poorly in seat belt usage.
Alejo Kraus-Polk and Brett Milligan, University of California Davis

“Human Use of Restored and Naturalized Delta Landscapes”

Current legislation and plans for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta call for large-scale restoration of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, which will require significant changes in land uses and cultural patterns. These rewilded landscapes will be subject to a variety of new human uses, which has yet to be adequately considered in Delta planning and adaptive management literature. Failing to account for human uses leads to diminished performance and public support for Delta restoration efforts. Our one year empirical study examined restored and naturalized Delta landscapes from an integrative human--environment perspective; adopting a landscape planning approach that seeks to reconcile multiple goals and land use agendas spanning ecological, social, economic and political domains. Initial findings have shown that human uses of the Delta’s restored landscapes are diverse and pervasive. They are subject to multiple and sometimes conflicting uses and values. Therefore, reconciling human uses with ecological restoration will require a more inclusive and multifunctional approach to designing and adaptively managing these landscapes. Case studies revealed that more participatory and proactive planning for human uses is a sound investment in the long term, as it helps to discourage undesirable activity while also building constituency and public support for these projects. The public has the potential to be an asset in restoration through citizen science and civic ecology programs, which are currently almost non-existent in the Delta. We propose that human uses of restored landscapes be integrated into adaptive management efforts and that more resources and research be dedicated to planning for human uses of these expanding lands.

Daniel D. Kuester, Kansas State University

“Implementing and Executing a Basic Student Price Index”

"The students in the economics club at Kansas State University started collecting data for the Student Price Index (SPI) in 2002. The SPI was the first index of its type at a major university in the United States and we have effectively involved hundreds of economics club members with data collection and in helping write our annual press release. This paper is partially designed to explain the simple methodology used in determining the price index. The compelling history of how the average Kansas State Student has been affected by inflation is also covered. The primary purpose of this paper is to demonstrate a low-cost way to generate student involvement in a project which is simple to execute and demonstrate in the classroom. Instructors can use this data to explain the substitution and quality biases involved with many measures of inflation and explain base year analysis. I have served as a faculty advisor to the economics club since 2004 and this has been an enormously successful project. The SPI has been covered by USA Today, CNN and many local affiliates. Students appreciate having the opportunity to participate in a real application of a simple economic analysis"

Mark Melichar, Tennessee Tech University and Bebonchu Atems, Clarkson University

“The Effect of Oil Shocks on Other Commodity Prices”

The relationship between oil and other commodity prices is examined through vector autoregression (VAR) and impulse response functions (IRF). Using three different types of oil shocks, generated from changes in global supply and demand, the transmission of oil price shocks to other commodity prices is explained. Results reveal aggregate demand and oil-specific demand shocks lead to significantly higher energy commodity prices such as gasoline and diesel, and higher agricultural input prices such as fertilizer. These results indicate higher food prices following oil shocks.
Manuel Reyes, University of Texas at El Paso

“The Economic Impacts of Exports on Employment in Mexico: The Case of the State of Chihuahua”

In 1986 Mexico initiated a commercial liberalization process, benefiting mainly the north region of the country due to its closeness to the huge American market. The northern state of Chihuahua is the leading exporter of products to the world among Mexican states. In this paper, the input-output methodology is applied for calculating the direct and indirect employment related to Chihuahua’s exports for the period 2007-2014. Input-output tables for Mexico and Chihuahua are built for the same period, considering the productive linkages between 20 economic sectors. The employment is classified by occupation, listing: salary workers, self-employed workers, employers, and unpaid workers. The main goal of this research is to rate the contribution Chihuahua’s exports to the state’s employment generation. The first findings show that 592,369 salary workers (for the year 2012) are associated, direct and indirectly, to Chihuahua’s exporting sector, accounting for 60% of the total salary workers of this Mexican state.

Francisco Pallares, New Mexico State University

“Analysis of Peso to Dollar Exchange Rates in the Paso Del Norte Border Region”

This paper intends to explore whether the exchange rates faced by consumers in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua are influenced by retail trade employment and other local economic conditions in El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Exchange rates have usually been studied under a macroeconomic context either by short-run interactions of the international foreign exchange market or by long-run interactions of price levels on countries. Regional analysis of exchange rate interactions has remained relatively unexplored. In countries like the United States and Mexico having a single exchange rate for the whole nation might not always be granted. Presumably, Mexican consumers in the border seek dollars to carry some of their transactions in the United States it can be expected that diverse regional compositions could lead to different exchange rates in a border area.

Jose R. Bucheli, University of New Mexico

“Social Capital and Resilience: Evidence from the 2010 Chilean Earthquake and Tsunami”

A major concern for natural disaster victims is mitigating the impact on their livelihoods by adapting and recovering as quickly as possible, particularly given the long-term consequences that these events can have on individuals and communities. The often insufficient and delayed response of governments and institutions to natural disasters in the developing world makes social capital crucial to household and community resilience. Studies in economics have tended to evaluate the effects of social capital endowments on individual, household, and community outcomes in post-disaster situations, and have regularly found evidence of its lifesaving effects. We build upon this approach by endogenizing social capital in a simultaneous model to account for the possibility of social capital and cooperation being a consequence of adversity. By using individual and household-level panel data collected before and after the 2010 earthquake and tsunami in Chile, we aim to address two questions. First, do natural disasters generate social capital by motivating households to work together? And second, do different uses of social capital affect household resilience? Answers to these questions have important implications in the design of preparedness policies and recovery operations in disaster-prone regions throughout the world.
Vasil Yasenov, UC Davis and IZA

“Bounding the Labor Market Impacts of Immigrants on Natives”

With refugee crises and political campaigns underway, immigration is at the forefront on policy-maker’s agendas worldwide. To identify the labor market impacts of immigrants on natives, prior empirical studies have relied on strict econometric assumptions. Additionally, the literature lacks a consensus on the sign and magnitude of this effects. I take an entirely different approach by weakening routinely made assumptions and provide the first non-parametric estimates. I apply conservative empirical and theoretical bounding strategies. The estimated bounds on the effects on native’s wages under minimal assumptions rule out elasticities smaller than -0.37 or larger than 0.38. To tighten this interval, I explore mild instrumental variable and monotonicity assumptions motivated by economic theory which narrow the lower bound to -0.11. After summarizing the estimates from 63 papers on the topic, I show this effect is much smaller in magnitude than some previous studies claim it to be. Moreover, the data reject the lower bound prediction of an extreme version of the canonical labor demand and supply model.

Leila J. Pratt, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

“Career Paths of a Random Sample of Economist Who Received Their PhD in 2000”

This paper examines the job path of a random sample of male and female economist who received their PhD in 2000 from a US or Canadian university and whose first job was a teaching position at a university. Differences between males and females, the quality of the degree granting institution and the field of study are examined.

Don Mar, San Francisco State University

“Parental Economic Status, Social Networks, Language, and the Earnings of the Sons and Daughters of US Immigrants”

Economic studies generally find that the second generation not only do better economically then their immigrant parents, but better than their third-generation sons and daughters. The reasons for why the second-generation fare better economically has not been fully explored. Borjas (2006) has argued that the economic advantage or disadvantage of the immigrant parents largely explains second generation earnings. However, reasons other than the economic status of their immigrant parents have been advanced in explaining why second generation immigrants do better. Borjas (1995) and others have suggested that social networks may be an important part of the intergenerational transmission mechanism. The social network literature theorizes that ethnic enclave economies and other informal ethnic networks impact the economic capital of the immigrant generation and will then influence the second generation. Chen (2013) has argued that the future orientation of language structure plays an important role in decision making across time. This paper uses a cohort based methodology like Borjas to construct variables to measure past parental economic advantage, social capital, and language effects on the earnings of the sons and daughters of immigrants.

Randall Kesselring, Arkansas State University and Dale Bremmer, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

“The Real Minimum Wage and Unemployment by Educational Attainment, Age, Ethnicity and Race”

“There have been many studies attempting to quantify the effect of a minimum wage on employment. Earlier studies tended to emphasize the correlation of teenage employment with
the minimum wage using various types of time series or panel data. The conclusions of these studies while far from uniform tend to indicate that the elasticity of teenage employment relative to the minimum wage is somewhere in the -0.1 to -0.3 range. Several investigations have chosen to use a case study approach where a specific, low-wage industry is examined before and after a change in the minimum wage. Card and Krueger's paper on the fast food industry in the adjoining states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania is one the best-known studies of this type. It is notable in that they found a positive relationship between a rising minimum wage and employment. This research uses modern time series analysis to examine the effects of the minimum wage on several subcategories of the population. A VAR framework consisting of three variables--the real national minimum wage, labor force participation and unemployment--is constructed. Each series is tested for stationarity and the system is tested for cointegrating vectors. Finally, impulse response functions are used to simulate the effect of an increase in the minimum wage on unemployment and labor force participation. Monthly data from the Current Population survey is used to create these series for several categories of workers depending on age, education, race and ethnicity. This approach allows the model to predict the effect of the minimum wage on each of these different categories of workers."

Ram N Acharya, New Mexico State University

“Impact of Globalization on U.S. Chile Production”

For centuries, chile has been an integral part of southwestern living. Its production is also highly concentrated in the Southwest primarily in the states of New Mexico and California. Chile is an important crop for the region as it carries both socio-cultural as well as economic value. It is New Mexico’s state vegetable and the harvesting season is celebrated with fanfare. Moreover, the rising demand for fresh and processed chile products has boosted the domestic industry. For instance, during the 1980s and early 1990s the New Mexican chile industry grew steadily by about 10 percent per annum. The total farm value during its peak year (1992) reached more than $67 million. Furthermore, the overall impact of the industry on New Mexican economy was more than $250 million. However, factors such as rising labor cost, increasing global competition, and limited investment in research and development activities have drastically changed the shape of the industry. In this light, the primary objective of this research is to identify the major factors responsible for causing a recent slowdown in national chile production and derive plausible solutions for revitalizing the industry.

Carlos G. Silva, New Mexico State University

“The impact of Dam Removal on Construction and on the Leisure and Hospitality Sectors in the United States”

In most recent years, the dam removal movement, which is concerned with dam safety, the desire to repopulate native aquatic animals and improving overall habitat conservation, has gone mainstream. Most studies in the topic focus on ecological impacts of a specific dam removal and/or region. While there are, many studies focused on illustrating ecological benefits and costs, there is a limited number of research related to employment impact in the regions. Furthermore, most of those studies are based on a single region and do not give a complete perspective of the impact of dam's removal. This study focuses on conducting a macro level analysis to better understand the impact of the removal of dams on the Construction and in the Leisure and Hospitality sectors.
Michael Roberts, Colorado State University

“Grandparent Childcare and the 2008 Recession”

Many studies have found grandparent provided childcare (GPCC) is of higher quality on average than center-based care, is being used more often by parents, and that the availability of childcare itself increases the fertility and labor force participation rates of women. This has led to this investigation into the availability of GPCC and the role the 2008 recession played in these arrangements. Using restricted data from the Health and Retirement Survey, this investigation focuses on income, household wealth, age, health factors, family size, states and time periods to understand how the 2008 recession and recovery are different. Preliminary results suggest that there is a large difference between the recession and recovery periods. Income not related to current-period labor supply decisions (e.g. pension income) was a significant predictor of positive GPCC. During the recession, there was a negative relationship between non-work income and GPCC. Thus, stock market declines, and its effect on pension income, seems to have helped move grandparents into care provision during the Great Recession. Exploiting the geolocation data to its fullest, the study also measures grandparent decisions to move with results suggesting moving closer was not a significant predictor. Policy implications are then discussed.

Robert Tokle, Idaho State University

“Credit Union Net Worth Change Following the Financial Crisis: High versus Low Unemployment States”

Tokle and Peterson in a 2016 working paper examined explanatory variables of credit union net-worth change during the depth of the 2008-09 Financial Crisis. Except for the three indicator variables, all explanatory variables had their hypothesized signs and were significant at the 1 percent level. In this paper, we examined how these ten explanatory variables might have behaved differently in states that were most affected by the financial crisis and resulting downturn (high unemployment states) versus the low unemployment states.

Mike Hand, Kawika Pierson and Fred Thompson, Willamette University

“Measuring Diversity”

Social scientists employ various measures of diversity in their research, in part because there are a lot measures from which to choose and in part because diversity is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. In this article, we identify the subset of diversity measures that dominate all others on each of the relevant dimensions. We also suggest some useful rules of thumb to help researchers choose from this subset of diversity measures the best alternative given the question at hand.

Siobhan K. Yilmaz, Alok K. Bohara, and Soumi Roy Chowdhury, University of New Mexico Swati Thapa, PNMHI

“A Light in the Dark for Nepalese Teen Girls”

A growing focus within WASH research is that of menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Much anecdotal evidence exists from surveys and interviews that girls throughout the developing world face many hardships with menstruation due to lack of proper school/home facilities and knowledge of proper hygiene practices. Most of the research, up to this point, has consisted of purely qualitative analysis or at best, correlational evidence of linkages between girls’ background and their likelihood to practice good hygiene. This work attempts to bring a more quantitative analysis to this field of study, with focus on the impacts of both cultural and
school support systems in determining school girl’s psychological wellbeing surrounding menstruation. Using primary survey data from two schools in south-central Nepal, we performed logit regressions, and provide robust results across multiple specifications. Our analysis shows that strong taboos during menstruation increase the probability of girls self-reporting as feeling lonely, while presence of hygiene supporting infrastructure at schools reduces this outcome. Such evidence provides greater motivation for increasing government policies to provide stronger hygiene infrastructure in schools to alleviate psychological stress among young women, allowing them to function more successfully and create for themselves better futures.

Matthew Crockett, and Geoffrey Schultz, University of New Mexico

“Food Insecurity as a Precursor to Gender Discriminatory Behavior and Child Health Outcomes”

Climate change is widely regarded as the biggest threat to global health in the 21st century, yet little research has been conducted on the impact of climate change on specific health outcomes in localized areas. Further, the World Health Organization has warned that climate change will disproportionately affect vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and the poor. The purpose of this paper is to examine a specific behavioral pattern that will become more prevalent and lead to negative child health outcomes as the effects of climate change intensify. Using data from the 2011 WHO Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, we model the likelihood that a mother will breastfeed her child as a function of the child’s gender and the mother’s perceived level of food insecurity, among other factors, under the assumption that food insecurity will be exacerbated by climate change in the coming decades. Our results indicate that Nepalese mothers in rural areas exhibit gender biased breastfeeding habits by choosing to breastfeed male children at a higher proportion than female children as their perceived level of food insecurity rises. The results have direct implications to the ways in which we quantify the effects of climate change.

Patrick Krause, UC Berkeley - Center for Effective Global Action

“The Roots of Modern Sex Ratios”

While most measures of female empowerment have improved with development, sex ratios in many countries have become increasingly male. We exploit countries’ prior history of plough-based agriculture to identify cultural variation in patriarchal norms following Boserup (1970) and Alesina, Giuliano, and Nunn (2013). Using detailed birth records from 76 countries between 1970 and 2010, we show that the cultural legacy of plough use explains a large portion of variation in modern sex ratios, and present evidence that plough countries’ male-skewed sex ratios are achieved through a mix of in-utero sex-selection, son-based stopping rules, and increased mortality suggestive of neglect or infanticide. This cultural bias intensifies with lower fertility, even when controlling for a suite of economic and historical controls, a pattern that is not found in non-plough countries.

Comfort Ricketts, New Mexico State University

“Post-Traumatic Stress, Labor Force Participation and Possible Gender Differences”

The effect of trauma on labor force participation and unemployment has been widely investigated; however, most of the previous studies are centered on post-traumatic stress resulting from military service. Very little has been done to examine how traumatic events affect the average individual especially in the context of labor force participation. This study seeks to fill in the gap by investigating the effect of traumatic experiences on labor market
outcomes and what possible gender differences may exist. Traumatic events in this study is described as any specific experience that causes an individual to be deeply distressed and/or emotionally disturbed. Preliminary analysis show that there are significant gender differences in the effect of trauma on labor market outcomes. Specifically, preliminary results suggest that females tend to exhibit characteristics that are more favorable for labor market outcomes except in the case of unemployment where a higher percent of males’ exhibit characteristics that may improve labor market outcomes.

“Inequality and Growth: Evidence from State Level Data”

Luyen Nguyen, and Christopher A. Erickson, New Mexico State University

We employ state level data to investigate the relationship between income inequality and economic growth. Theoretical models predict that causality between income and inequality can flow either direction. For example, inequality can provide incentives for high productivity workers to contribute to economic activity. Alternatively, excessive inequality can impose liquidity constraints on low income workers that make financing education difficult. By cutting off low income families from educational opportunities, productivity is reduced. reduce work incentives for low income workers. Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) is used to test the presence of long-run equilibrium between income inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, and income growth, as measured by per capita state GDP. We find one-way causality flowing from income inequality to income growth, meaning that increased income inequality slows economic growth. Policies aimed at reducing income inequality may promote economic growth. We also present results concerning the direction of causality among the Gini coefficient, growth, poverty, and unemployment.

Unro Lee, University of the Pacific


It is well documented that inflation rate has remained at a relative low level in the United States and other countries since the mid-1990s. Such subdued level of inflation rate across most industrialized countries in recent years can be attributed to several factors technological changes, especially in electronics and computing, globalization, and secular stagnation (negligible or no growth in real GDP due to persistent shortfall in aggregate demand and lackluster growth in aggregate supply induced by drop in private and public investments, excess debt, and significant decline in the growth rate of labor productivity). Given the relative stability of inflation rate, this study purports to investigate whether inflation forecasts generated by time-series (ARIMA) model are more accurate than forecasts from alternative models (Phillips curve model and naïve model) for both inflation-targeting (Australia, Canada, Chile, Israel, New Zealand, South Korea, Sweden, and United Kingdom) and non-inflation-targeting countries (France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, and United States).

Zaki Eusufzai, Loyola Marymount University

“What Drives the Networked Readiness Index (NRI)?”

"The NRI is a widely-used measure for determining the digital potential of a country. It is one of several indices used to determine how well a country is making use of the “digital revolution” to achieve economic progress. It is especially relevant for determining future growth strategies for developing countries. The NRI takes into consideration the environment for ICT, readiness of the community’s key stakeholders (individual, business, and government) to use ICT, and the actual use of ICT among these stakeholders. It is created by aggregating 53 indicators, both
quantitative and qualitative, and requires extensive surveys in the countries concerned. I show that despite the use of all these components, a simple non-linear transformation of the real GDP per capita can explain almost all the variations in the NRI. This suggests that the data requirements for creating this index can be streamlined without affecting the quality of the index. Such streamlining is also expected to help make the NRI available for a much larger set of countries, especially developing ones.”

Stefano Carattini, Yale University

“Social contagion in the adoption of solar photovoltaic technology: Evidence from Switzerland”

The transition towards a greener economy requires countries to switch from fossil to renewable sources of energy. Recent evidence has suggested the existence of social contagion in the adoption of renewable energy. Our paper extends the existing literature by assessing the patterns of social contagion in Switzerland and providing further evidence on the microeconomic mechanisms behind peer effects. While the literature has so far focused on residential solar PV adoption only, we also examine the behavior of firms and farms. In addition, we investigate in detail the impact of PV characteristics (size, type and ownership) on the magnitude of social spillovers. We find that decisions to adopt the PV technology in Switzerland are dependent on spatially close, pre-existing PV systems. Our results show that firms and farms react to neighboring PV panels, although in a lesser extent than households. A closer analysis reveals that social contagion is primarily due to similar ownership, i.e. firms (farms) are mainly influenced by the nearby firm-owned (farm-owned) installations.

Wataru Miyamoto, Bank of Canada

“News Shocks and Business Cycles: Evidence from Forecast Data”

"This paper proposes to exploit data on expectations to identify news shocks in business cycles. News shocks work through changes in expectations, so data on expectations contain important information for identification. Estimating a DSGE model augmented with news shocks, we find that data on expectations are helpful to identify news. News shocks contribute to a fourth of output fluctuations and play a modest role in past U.S. business cycles. The precision of the estimated news shocks also greatly improves when data on expectations are used. These results arise because data on expectations are smooth and do not resemble actual output.”

Va Nee L. Van Vleck, PhD, CSU-Fresno

“Exploring the Impact of California’s DUI Penalties”

California employs a diverse portfolio of sanctions to deter DUI offenders from repeating their violations; even so, multiple DUI convictions are not rare. There is little system-level empirical evidence as to what penalties do (and do not) work. This paper exploits a unique dataset to study the general deterrent effect of California’s array of DUI penalties. The disposition of DUI convictions (at state-level aggregation) for twenty-two years, using Zellner’s Seemingly-Unrelated-Regression (SUR) method, is used to identify those penalties that decrease the apparent persistence of each DUI-cohort into subsequent (escalated) cohorts. The dynamic panel data analysis obtains many (provisional) observations. First, probation is so uniformly assigned it does not function deterrently. Second, jail time and targeted, intensive offender programs provide some significant deterrence initially, but not among repeat offenders. Third, contrary to public safety propositions, ignition-interlock devices do not systemically prevent multiple-time offenders. Policy and resource considerations are suggested. The analytical methodology is to be extended to heterogeneous effects at the county-level.
Onur Dundar, and Aziz Dayanir, Istanbul University, Mustafa Islamoglu, BalKesir Üniversitesi

“Economic Impacts of Reforms and Policies in the Ottoman Empire During 19th Century”

The 19th century was the longest century of the Ottoman Empire. The Empire never had this much challenges before. This is the most painful period for the Empire. The reforms and policies implemented in the military, fiscal and judicial field by Selim III and Mahmut II during the 19th Century are very curicul and the main aim of the reforms and policies implemented in this period is to find solutions to the defeats in the battles. The first step in the reforms was initiated by Selim III. And then Mahmut II continued to implement reforms and policies. These reforms have had many positive effects on Ottoman Empire. Reforms and policies strengthened the central authority, increase the tax revenues, provide qualified and well-educated officer for the Empire and increase the production and productivity in the Empire. In this paper, I examine the economic impacts of the reforms and policies implemented during the 19th century in the Ottoman Empire.

Richard V. Adkisson, and Christopher J. Sroka, New Mexico State University

“Exploring Economic Development in Multiple Dimensions in Single County MSAs”

Most researchers appreciate that economic development is multidimensional. Still, in empirical work, simple proxies for economic development, often per-capita GDP, are used to represent development statistically. Similarly, the units of observation are typically counties, or metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) that are extremely heterogeneous in their geographic, demographic, social, data availability and economic circumstances. This paper explores the determinants of economic development at the MSA level after first developing a multidimensional measure of economic development and secondly by limiting observations to one-county MSAs to reduce the heterogeneity issue somewhat.

Mark Evans, and Margaret Malixi, California State University, Bakersfield

“A Blackboard-based Economics Advising Center”

Faculty-based academic advising has significant advantages to students. However, the faculty’s required time commitment for teaching and research is an obstacle to quality advising. This paper summarizes an initiative by the Economics Department at CSU Bakersfield to create a web-based advising center using Blackboard and integrate it into academic advising processes. While Blackboard is used, the processes are transferable to other learning management systems. The advising process is transferable to The goals of the project are: (1) to broaden faculty participation in advising, (2) to achieve efficiency gains (i.e., time savings) in faculty advising through the online advising center and group advising sessions, (3) to enable seamless integration of advising services by non-faculty professional academic advisors, (4) to create an effective communication channel between economics majors and faculty for purposes of communicating program learning goals, department policies, academic road maps, course scheduling, and other advising information, (5) to make advising resources more accessible to faculty, (6) to create incentives for students to take greater ownership of their academic plans, (7) to ensure privacy of individual student information, and (8) to make career education and planning resources more accessible to economics majors.

Daniel D Kuester, Kansas State University

“Analyzing College Football Television Ratings and Estimating TV Footprints”

In 2011, Nate Silver published an estimate for the TV footprint of all D1 football teams in a New York Times Article, “The Geography of College Football Fans and Realignment Chaos.” The
methodology behind this article was not published. This article has been heavily cited and the website TexAGS.com published a report at the end of the 2014 college football season that studied average TV ratings for all 66 “BCS” college football programs which has also been cited frequently. The methodology in the Texas study seems very straight forward, as they take the listed television ratings for each team and then take an average. The problem with this study is there is an inherent bias in that certain teams have several games which draw very few viewers from the sample omitted while other teams have very few games omitted. This paper is designed to correct that bias and find an average television rating for all games the 66 “BCS” teams have played over a three-year period (2014-2016 seasons). The findings in this paper are remarkably different from these earlier studies. This could be valuable information to help us comprehend the true “TV footprint” of schools.

Yu Feng Lee, New Mexico State University

“Rural Poverty Reduction in Ghana: Evidence from MiDA Intervention Zones”

As sustainable economic development and continual poverty reduction in African countries remain a global focus, the preliminary success of Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) in Ghana has set a policy-interventional model that improves rural living and agrarian welfare. By employing a propensity score-matching approach to examine the effect of MiDA intervention on rural household poverty reduction based on cross-sectional data from the Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS6), this study found that the MiDA intervention had a positive and significant welfare effect via increased real annual household consumption expenditure. It is believed that the administrative role of MiDA is instrumental in initiating and supervising developmental projects in Ghana; given its administrative outcome, it may also serve as a policy model for other public sectors.

Aziz Dayanir, Istanbul University

“Financing Innovation in Turkey, 1990 to Present”

"Technology is a very important topic in the economic development literature. The interaction of finance and technological innovation is also important. In this study, I examine the ways in which innovation is funded in Turkey from 1990 to present. I try to understand how the availability of funds influences technological advances in Turkey for 25 years. The study aims to make it clear that ways of funding innovation have important implications for the direction of technological change in Turkey."

Canan Özge Eri, and Ahmet Ancekara, Istanbul University

“An Attempt to Re-Define Economic Security: Case of Turkey”

Security is a complex, contradictive, deepening and broadening, multi-dimensional subject from ancient times to the present day in the literature. Occasionally when economic security analyzed, academicians observe the subject through microeconomic perspective and neglect macroeconomic area. This paper aims to establish a different theoretical and methodological basis on economic security. Economic security model will be presented in an international political economic context and macro-framework which is based on a multivariate approach to foreign economic policy analysis (FEP). In this analysis, we will use a schematic system of interactive functions that co-exist dynamically with wider context and by doing that we want to achieve to demonstrate its analytical workings. In current global era state policy makers lost the tightness of their policy making process. Because of that, FEP context becomes more important. As the control of state weakened, so the context factors strengthened. In this paper,
we try to give an integrated perspective on economic security which provides important orientation for FEP studies by macro-focused character in the example of Turkey.

Taha Egri, and Zekai Ozdemir, Istanbul University

“Political Economy of Arab Uprisings and Democratization Attempt in Egypt”

More than five years have passed since the popular uprisings so called the Arab Spring, Arab Uprisings or the Arab Revolutions. During this time, many Arab countries took their share from regime changes, relatively peaceful transitions or civil war. Egypt’s Hosni Mubarak’s 30-year-old single-man regime ended on January 25 with insurrection in many cities, especially in Tahrir Square. Over the past five years, Egypt has changed three presidents and three constitutions. Egypt, which for the first time experienced a democratically elected President and a military coup d’etat in a very short period, turned into an army-based old regime system. This study assesses the developments that have resulted in the overthrow of Mubarak in terms of institutional economics and the result of the coup while discussing the background of the events happening economically. In this context, it will be discussed how the people have failed to make a transition to a democratic system, the role of the military in the process of Mubarak’s resignation, and the impact of the economic interests of the military on these incidents. The post-2011 developments in Egypt, where the army is present as an economic institution, will also be assessed by the game theoretical approach.

Mingzhi Xu, UC Davis

“Hollowing Out the Middle Class: Trade Liberalization and Labor Market Polarization in China”

The declines of return to college, the risen labor market polarization and the more important role of business income among the top earners are the three of the most remarkable stylized facts of the post-WTO period in China. Motivated by these phenomena, we propose a general equilibrium model of trade featuring endogenous occupational change and firm productivity. Individuals choose to become low skilled workers, high-skilled workers, or entrepreneurs based on their innate ability. Entrepreneurs improve the efficiency of firms by investing in the managerial effort. In equilibrium, trade liberalization decreases the skill premium. When college education cost exhibits small difference across innate abilities, a reduction in per-unit trade costs leads to worsening the income distribution by generating labor-market polarization. Finally, combined using China Household Income Project (CHIP), China Health Nutrition Survey (CHNS) and China export data, the main predictions of the model are examined and validated.

Mustafa Islamoglu, BalKesir Üniversitesi and Onur Dundar, Istanbul University

“Ottoman Empire vs Mercantilism”

In general, Mercantilism is defined as an economic approach that prevailed in Western Europe between the middle ages and the industrial era. In other words, it is a transition period between feudalism and capitalism. The main goal of mercantilism is to ensure a positive balance of trade. The mercantilist approach was influent particularly in England and in Netherlands and at some degree in France The Ottoman Empire ruled for 624 years and this period covers the mercantilist age as well. However, it is not so difficult to realize that the Ottomans were not sensitive to the mercantilist principles. Selim I didn’t take advantage of the conquest of Egypt for creating a surplus in the balance trade by the means of advantageous sales of wheat in the Mediterranean basin. Ottoman high officials of the 19th century knew the Ottoman economy was unable to take off in the context of capitulations granted to European powers.”
“The Truth As We See It': A Re-examination of Elwood Mead’s Influence on Water Planning in Palestine (1923-1927)"

In arid climates, particularly Israel/Palestine, implementing water management policies that promote efficient use is encouraged and desired. Yet, these policies do not always yield positive results. Scholars, such as Aaron Wolf, not only note that “environmentally sound policies often prove costly in the short term”, but they can prove to be politically and fiscally unwise in the short term. My research traces this idea of “economic efficiency” in the early planning stages of Palestine under the British Mandate (1923-1927). The theoretical ambition of this paper is not only to destabilize the concept of “economic efficiency” (by illustrating its social construction as influenced by the Zionist Organization and agricultural planning experts), but also illustrates how these ideas contributed to Arab-Israeli separatism. In particular, I focus on Elwood Mead’s role as the Chairman of the Palestine Survey Commission, with special attention given to his two trips to Palestine (in the 1920’s). I argue that his role not only brings “Western” expertise (and subsequently a type of legitimacy) to the Zionist settlement project, but rather his participation directs and embeds certain ideological assumptions about water resources and agricultural potential in Palestine which become embedded in future Israeli water management planning.

“Cleaning up Stormwater: California’s Propositions 1 and 84"

Storm water runoff has been a continuous problem for policymakers. It is a significant nonpoint source of water pollution, which makes it difficult to address. The federal Clean Water Act called for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System to address water pollution. Under the Clean Water Act, states are required to address storm water pollution. The State of California has consistently worked to cleanup storm water and minimize runoff. Propositions 84 and 1 are large water policies, and each of these propositions provides funding for storm water clean up. Proposition 84 was passed in 2006 and provided $82 million for matching grants to local public agencies. The grant money had to be used for the reduction and prevention of storm water contamination of rivers, lakes, and streams. Proposition 1 was passed in 2014. Part of the proposition provides for $200 million in grant funds for multi-benefit storm water management projects. The presentation will address how the state of California has been working to address storm water pollution and cleanup. Specifically, it will address lessons learned between the implementation of storm water clean up project from Proposition 84 to the formulation of Proposition 1 and its pilot projects.

“Nutrient Trading Credits: Best Management Practices and Policy Hurdles for Non-Point Source Polluters in the Chesapeake Bay”

In the Chesapeake Bay, non-point source pollution (NPS), such as urban runoff and nutrient leaching from agricultural soils, are diffuse and incredibly difficult to quantify. This is particularly problematic with non-point source water pollution from the agricultural sector as it
accounts for an estimated 42% of N and 54% of P loads to the Bay; largely through excess
fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticide use; while wastewater treatment plants, which are
regulated through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), only account
for around 20% of effluence. There are policy tools in place to include NPS polluters into water
and air quality plans, but many are not successful at decreasing NPS pollution in practice.
Further, many environmental policies that do incorporate NPS polluters are often dependent on
volunteerism or substantial government subsidies. Our research findings suggest the use of
chicken litter biochar and other management practices could become tools to better
incorporate NPS polluters into market-based systems originally intended to curb point source
polluters.

Jennifer Le, and Aimee Franklin, University of Oklahoma

“Exploring the Potential to Develop Strategic Research Agendas by Aligning Funding and
Scientific Inquiry: A Case Analysis using Drought Related Research”

In the public policy literature, collaboration via the development of networks of actors can be
critical for addressing complex issues (Provan & Milward, 1995). The public management
literature carefully documents the causal relationship between strategic planning and
budgetary alignment in terms of enhanced performance outcomes (Long & Franklin, 2004). We
combine extant literature from the disciplines of public policy and public management to
explore the potential for better aligning the research topics currently being explored by
scientific researchers with funding opportunities. Using the case of drought related research
and funding in the United States, we created an inventory of funding announcements.
Simultaneously, we created an inventory of drought- researchers and documented their co-
authors, conference presentations, working papers, funding reports and academic
publications. Combining these two inventories allows for comparison of the research that is
being produced and funding opportunities over the past 15 years. In this paper, we investigate
the degree of correlation between funding and research. We also explore the presence of
temporal effects related to research breakthroughs that shift the research trajectory of this
community of scholars with longitudinal shifts in funding opportunities that appear to move a
strategic research agenda forward. Results from this analysis can provide information on the
gaps that exist between high-priority research and funding opportunities. The identification of
researchers active in and funded to conduct drought related research can also provide data for
social network analysis. This can open communication and collaboration pathways between
researchers to make drought related research more efficient and to produce results that can
directly inform public policy discussions. Development of a model of the relationship between
researchers and their research choices and funding opportunities can inform communities of
researchers in other environmental policy areas as well as the spectrum of public policy issue
arenas.

Vanessa Perry, Jenn Shepard, and Mae Daveport, University of Minnesota

“Insights from Urban Watersheds for Community Engaged Water Resource Management”

This study investigates perceptions of water resources and decision making in two watersheds
of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Minnesota. Managers expressed the desire to better
engage diverse community stakeholders, new immigrants and people of color, to better achieve
clean water goals. University of Minnesota researchers examined stakeholders’ values, beliefs,
and civic actions associated with water through 40 key informant interviews. Findings suggest
that some community members perceive limited power to influence water management
outcomes, and in turn have low motivation to participate in decision making. However,
participants identified community initiatives in other arenas (i.e., transit planning, new
immigrant support networks, culture and arts-based economic development) which could be
used as models for engagement in water protection. We apply an expectancy-value frame work
to better understand motivations for participation in behaviors consistent with the area’s clean water goals. A better understanding of drivers and constraints will help managers more effectively engage stakeholders who have been underrepresented in water resource issues.

Maria Luisa Garcia Batiz, and Beatriz Adriana Venegas Sahagun, Universidad de Guadalajara

“Municipal Environmental Research in Mexico”

This investigation analyzes the progress of the municipal studies on the environment in Mexico since the decentralization process of 1983 to date. The objective of this work is to recognize the linkage of municipal environmental research with the social, economic and political context of the country. To achieve this, a review of the accumulated literature on environment and municipality is made and the actions implemented by municipal governments to influence the environment are studied. The topics of pollution, solid waste, environmental management and sustainable development were considered.

Kristin Olofsson, University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs

“The Impact of Organizational Context on Participation in Contentious Policy Debates”

Participation in the policy process is crucial to political decision making in contentious policy debates. However, relatively little is known about political behavior – how individuals participate – and especially how organizational context, such as financial resources, may modify political behavior. Through the lens of the Advocacy Coalition Framework, this research explores participation in a contentious policy debate, specifically the use of hydraulic fracturing in shale oil and gas development. Through surveys in Colorado and Texas, individuals were asked their form and frequency of participation in the policy process. Factor analysis revealed distinct patterns in the form and frequency of participation, such as the Professional Advocate whose participation tends toward more resource-intensive activities and the Informer who tends to participate in less formal venues. Multinomial logistic regression was then used to uncover individual- and organizational-level characteristics associated with the patterns. Results indicate contextual variation in participation that can be explained by disparities in organizational capacity and strength of beliefs. This research contributes knowledge about who participates, in what ways, and to what extent and to the theoretical foundations of participation in the policy process.

Joice Chang, Humboldt State University

“The Role of Voluntary Agreements in a Hybrid Model of Environmental Law Enforcement”

Approaches to enforcement of environmental laws can be broken down into: deterrence-based and cooperation-based. These models rely on different assumptions about the motivations and behaviors of regulated entities and regulators. While there are signs that the cooperation-based approach is gaining traction, the overall environmental enforcement scheme remains largely deterrence-based. As a result, regulated entities and regulators operate, in reality, in a hybrid environment. An example of the trend towards a more cooperative approach is the increasing use of environmental voluntary agreements (VAs). A VA is the result of a bargaining process which includes the acquiescence of the regulated entity to take on certain obligations not otherwise required by existing law, and to certain extent, some compromise from the rigors of enforcement on the part of regulators. It is, therefore, a policy instrument that is based more on cooperation rather than deterrence. Drawing from and extending the existing social science and legal scholarships on compliance and enforcement, this paper proposes a framework for conceptualizing the role of VAs in the hybrid model of environmental law enforcement. Additionally, it considers how the presence of judicial actors—who are not quite like traditional regulators—complicate the role of VAs in such a scheme.
Land managers and citizens across the US are increasingly aware of the effects of climate change and of the necessity of developing adaptation strategies to protect ecosystems and human communities. We conducted a study to assist federal and state natural resource managers, NGOs, and citizens in developing adaptation strategies to protect key attributes (“adaptation targets”) in two landscapes in southwestern Colorado: The Gunnison Basin and the San Juan Basin. The project team included climate modelers, ecologists, and social scientists, who collaborated to develop a social-ecological model of the system. Throughout the three-year study, the team included key stakeholders to ensure that project outputs were relevant and implementable. The study produced many products, and the final objective was to work with stakeholders to develop adaptation strategies for the adaptation targets that were identified early in the process. This paper gives an overview of the project and focuses on institutional barriers identified by both on-the-ground managers, state-level managers, and managers at the federal level. We found that perceptions of barriers differ by level of the bureaucracy, and that even those at the Washington office level are uncertain about how to provide direction on climate change adaptation.

This investigation has as an objective, analyzing and promoting the separation of PET at the “Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Tala Jalisco” to minimize the environmental impact and to support the valorization of PET. The methodological design of this research consists of six stages; 1) the instrument design, which identifies the environmental perceptions and attitudes of members of the academic community. 2) A diagnosis that is made to collect and process the data. 3) A separation campaign which includes information and dissemination. 4) Action, an action plan is carried out to verify the location of containers suitable for solid waste separation. 5) The evaluation, a survey is designed to ensure the progress achieved in terms of environmental perceptions and attitudes. 6) Monitoring, consists of the application of the questionnaire and the monitoring of the destination of the PET collected. As a preliminary result, the academic community has little knowledge about the separation and valorization of the PET, but they are willing to initiate a separation system that has altruistic purposes and where the profit is donated to non-profit institutions.

This current investigation analyzes the consumption and culture of the population in two municipalities in Mexico as a part of the governance of the municipal solid waste (MSW). It presents the relation between the consumption and the disposition culture of the MSW, the last one includes the Environmental Education of the population of the two municipalities: Zapopan and San Pedro Tlaquepaque. This analysis is part of one of the categories to study the governance: citizen participation. The results were obtained through one year of fieldwork using ethnography, interviews, surveys and documentary information. It is important to point
out that the society is the main object of this part of the study and one of the most important aspects of governance, since it can make the change and the support in the construction and consolidation of the governance in the MSW.

Carlos Vladimir Muro Medina, and Ricardo Roberto Rodríguez Toscano, Universidad de Guadalajara

“Sustainable Alternatives in Low-Income Mexican Households”

We are now living on a fragile planet that is a product of the overexploitation of natural resources, rapid population growth and activities accompanied by a high rate of pollution. In addition, in recent decades, both in Mexico and in several countries in Latin America, there has been a considerable increase in population and housing. Much of this growth has been characterized by the lack of public policies aimed at the construction of decent and sustainable housing, which has generated economic, social and environmental problems that are aggravated when the social status of the families is low. The construction of sustainable energy-saving homes, using water treatment and solid waste, are just a few examples of strategies that have been implemented in other countries. Therefore, the objective of this research is to analyze the strategies that can be implemented by Mexican households, specifically low-income households, to improve the quality of life and take actions that reduce environmental impact and preserve life in the planet.

Chelsea Schelly, Kathleen E. Halvoersen and David Watkins, Michigan Technological University Rachael Shwom and Cara Cuite, Rutgers University Kristin Floress, USFS Datu Buyung Agusdinata, Arizona State University


Energy production and consumption systems are integrally connected to other forms of resource use and environmental impacts. Energy production systems can impact water quantity and quality as well as drive land use changes, ultimately impacting food production and provision that are also tied to energy sourcing and generation. Further, current systems of energy production and consumption create climate impacts through greenhouse gas emissions, impacts that are also integrally tied to changes in water and agricultural systems. At the household level, energy consumption can be differentiated by direct and indirect or embedded uses. Direct energy consumption impacts water and the availability of agricultural resources via production, while indirect energy consumption occurs through the consumption of water and food resources. Mapping out the complexity of these systems introduces the main argument of this paper: the future of energy involves connecting energy to its other impacts in terms of water, food, land, and climate across the production-consumption cycles.

Erin Upton, Portland State University

“A Toast...or Toasted? A Social-Ecological Exploration of Climate Change and the Wine Industry”

Wine producing regions experience a host of social-ecological challenges and opportunities. These range from natural resource management and land use policy, to labor issues and community identity. Once an area develops into a viable wine region there are long term impacts on the community, its landscape, and culture. At the same time, economic, political, social and environmental influences impact the wine industry. Climate change is a driver of transformation in these regions. There are issues around water, variability in growing season, industry growth, technological innovation, among others. These trends are anticipated to
accelerate. Social and ecological drivers contribute to each region’s ability or inability to adapt to the challenge of climate change. There is the opportunity to better understand these drivers. Increased knowledge can help communities make decisions for the future around landscape planning and resource management. The wine industry can also benefit from a better understanding of what contributes to continued industry viability, given each area’s unique combination of policies, natural resource availability, economic variability, and social issues. This research uses comparative case studies in four wine regions in Australia and the United States to present a new perspective on climate change adaptation within a social-ecological systems framework.

Wie Yusuf, Michelle Covi, Carol Considine, Burton St. John III, and J. Gail Nicula, Old Dominion University

“Whole-of Government and Whole-of-Community Institutional Arrangements for Regional Adaptation to Sea Level Rise: Lessons Learned from the Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Pilot Project”

Effective adaptation to sea-level rise (SLR) requires that local, state, and federal entities consider functional boundaries of ecosystems or watersheds, rather than political boundaries. Furthermore, government, businesses or residents alone cannot address SLR; they need to work collaboratively. However, institutions and governance structures rarely overlap with ecological systems, creating a mismatch of scales. Resolving this mismatch requires institutional arrangements or governance structures that enable a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach. Our research question is: What are important governance elements for ensuring successful whole-of-government and whole-of-community institutional arrangements for adaptation to SLR at the regional level? We answer this question using the case study of one institutional arrangement – the Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Pilot Project (the Pilot Project) – a two-year whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach involving municipal governments, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, businesses, civic organizations, and residents. The case study region of Hampton Roads in southeastern, coastal Virginia is second only to New Orleans as the largest population center at greatest risk to SLR, and is experiencing SLR at approximately twice the global rate. We analyze the Pilot Project to identify the critical elements that make it successful in enabling a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach to regional adaptation.

Joyita Roy Chowdhury, University of Utah

“Flood Impacts and Household Risk Management Strategies and Responses: A Case Study of rural Odisha, India”

The study investigates the actual responses of agricultural households to the risk of flooding. We use a cross-sectional household-level survey focusing on the private risk-coping mechanisms that farming communities have relied upon to protect themselves from the impacts of adverse weather shocks and the institutions that have evolved in response to this socio-ecological change. Survey data are collected during July and August 2015 from forty villages spread across five blocks in Bhadrak district of rural Odisha that were affected by the 2014 flood. A sample of 10 farmers (stratified by social group) is randomly selected from each village. We apply mixed methods to understand the impact of crisis on household welfare. Findings suggest that the main risk coping strategy adopted is temporary migration of the household members. Other informal mechanisms for managing risks are maintaining buffer stock of food, using past savings and social networking and reciprocal gift sharing. We find that the communities with greater social capital have shown better ability to cope and recover from covariate shocks. Access to institutional credit and loan waiver scheme has provided substantial social security to land owning farmers. Households mostly at risk during a flood are those without any land holding.
Patricia Snyder, Central Washington University

“Water demands, adaptive capacity, and drought: An Analysis of the Upper Klamath Basin, Oregon and California”

Water scarcity issues are of global concern, for the American West, as global climate models suggest precipitation regime changes and an increase in drought. This research conducts a case-study of the Upper Klamath Basin, a microcosm of the semi-arid American West that experienced an economically, socially, and ecologically impactful drought in the early 2000s. Through a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods it: identifies key stakeholders, their goals and key policies and ability to influence water policy; conducts an adaptive capacity assessment; and makes future recommendations for water policy and management within the basin. To achieve these objectives, content analysis of over 1,000 pages of management texts was utilized, 17 semi-structured interviews of individuals within key stakeholder groups (including Tribes, Federal agencies, state/local agencies, irrigators/ranchers, and conservation organizations) were conducted, and an event history calendar, establishing a temporal relationship between water manager’s strategies and occurrences of drought, was compiled. While water management in the basin has shifted towards more adaptation, the analysis of the event history calendar and semi-structured interviews have made clear that catalyst events on the social landscape, beyond the occurrences of drought, have influenced the strategies of water managers in the Upper Klamath Basin.

Jenn Shepard, Mae Davenport, Bree Duever, and Lexie Felix, University of Minnesota

“Community-centered adaptive management: Qualitative Inquiry of climate change narratives on Minnesota’s North Shore.”

Climate change threatens healthy functioning of ecological and human systems across the globe. While international efforts to meet climate change mitigation goals are ongoing, communities are already dealing with local impacts. The highly localized and context-specific problems that arise demand attention from residents and decision makers at a community scale. In response to climate change threats, many communities are taking an adaptation approach. Some communities are re-examining existing institutional arrangements, governance structures, and community capacities to overcome constraints associated with the varying physical and temporal distribution of localized climate impacts. The North Shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota, USA is a natural resource tourism dependent region with high exposure and sensitivity to climate change impacts. This study used qualitative inquiry to explore community climate narratives and perceptions of the effectiveness of existing institutional and governance arrangements. We conducted 25 semi-structured interviews with local government officials, natural resource managers and business owners in the region. Data were analyzed for themes associated with climate change beliefs, perceptions of local natural resource changes and community readiness. Based on analysis we developed recommendations for local leaders about next steps towards building a more adaptive approach to local governance and management of climate change impacts.

Michael Cook, Northern Arizona University

“Assessing Mountaintop Removal Mining: The Reproduction of the Coal Industry’s Domination of Central Appalachia”

Mountaintop removal mining (MTR) is a method of coal extraction practiced largely in southern West Virginia, whereby the ridges of mountains are blasted away to expose, for full extraction, the seams of coal located beneath. Despite the devastation wrought by the coal industry’s MTR mines, which is not without considerable empirical support, the specter of doubt persists; many West Virginians still find themselves questioning the legitimacy of the health and
environmental concerns of anti-MTR activists. Although mining industry employment and coal production have indeed declined, and environmental degradation abounds, Big Coal has continually—and, by many accounts, successfully—argued that it is integral to the economic wellbeing of the state. Mountaintop removal mining is still an important method of coal extraction. The primary purpose of this paper, based on four months of fieldwork, is threefold: 1) to synthesize the messaging of Big Coal in West Virginia; 2) to analyze, by using cultural hegemony as a theoretical lens, the contemporary ways in which Big Coal reinforces its dominance; and 3) to contemplate the future of coal extraction in the region.

Kyle Ferrar, FracTracker Alliance

“Contribution of air quality to cardiovascular events and other health outcomes in the East Bay refinery communities”

Communities living on the north coast of the East Bay area of California are exposed to air pollution from a disparate concentration of heavy industrial sources. Proposals in this region are to expand existing industrial operations and foster additional industrial development. Using novel techniques at the intersection of scientific research and community engagement FracTracker Alliance worked directly with East Bay refinery communities to conduct analyses and provide resources the community identified as most important to address their greatest environmental health concerns. At risk communities were identified using community engagement to define intersectional measures of environmental justice. Using this information, we measured the contribution of air quality to cardiovascular events and other health outcomes in the East Bay refinery communities. The study examined the relative burden of air pollution shouldered by the communities surrounding the East and North Bay petroleum refineries, as compared to the surrounding region. We conducted an analysis of the relationship between daily air pollution levels and incidence of cardiovascular events (CVE), such as heart attack and stroke. Findings of the analysis show a disproportionate impact from measured ambient air pollutants in the refinery corridor, as compared to other regions and the extensive body of existing literature.

Aparajita Banerjee, and Chelsea Schelly, Michigan Technological University

“Social and Political Inequality as Challenges in Technology Diffusion: Evidence from Government-Funded Improved Cookstove Program in Rural Mexico”

Biomass fuel are used in traditional cookstoves in global peripheral countries for a variety of reasons like culture, norms, habits, preferences, and affordability. Harmful emissions from such fuel use affect human health, local environment and in turn global climate systems. Thus, multiple government or aid funded programs have been implemented in these countries to promote use and diffusion of improved cookstove technologies. However, the results of these programs have been mixed. One basic theory of technology adoption suggests that adoption is based on household factors (like income, attitudes) and institutional factors (information dissemination, supply chain set up, subsidies). Based on our findings from 60 qualitative interviews with community members in Yucatan, Mexico, where one government-funded cookstove program was recently introduced, we argue that the success of such technology diffusion programs can also depend on local political power relations. We use Social Dominance Theory to provide theory-based insight based on our findings to contribute a new angle to understanding the gap between technological possibilities and actual technology adoption, for cookstoves in rural contexts across the developing world as well as other forms of household-based renewable energy technologies.
Amelie Simons, Northern Arizona University

“Where is the Justice? An Examination of the Failure of the U.S. EPA Office of Civil Rights to Protect Vulnerable Communities from Environmental Discrimination”

In 1993, the EPA Office of Civil Rights (OCR) was established as the foremost agency responsible for environmental justice in the United States. The agency is tasked with ensuring equal treatment in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental law, policy and regulation. However, while over 300 complaints of environmental harm in poor and minority communities have been brought to the OCR, the agency has yet to make a formal finding of discrimination. The lack of OCR recognition of environmental discrimination suggests not only agency ineffectiveness, but moreover the existence of a severe impediment to environmental justice in the United States. This paper will present cases of environmental crises in vulnerable communities’ order to establish a pattern of environmental racism. Next, the structure and management of the OCR will be examined as a means of determining whether the issue lies in an unreasonable burden of proof, or total agency failure. The project concludes by advocating for the elevation of environmental justice as an issue of primary importance to the EPA through a reform of the OCR.

John Freemuth, Boise State University

“Public Lands at the Dawn of the Trump Administration”

The future direction of the public lands and their management is high on the political agenda again. The Malheur occupation, the earlier Bundy affair and various calls for state management transfer, giving the lands “back” to the states; even privatization have resounded though the American West and elsewhere. Efforts in collaboration appear at times to push back against this radical change in direction. Outgoing President Obama has discovered the use of the Antiquities Act to protect areas Congress and would not and to broaden the scope of the American story. Federal land agencies struggle with issues in diversity and sexual harassment in ways that have become more visible than they have ever before. That struggle is seated in an era of demographic changes, retirements and budget shortfalls than affect land management in a myriad of ways. If that is not enough, others seek well intentioned though perhaps silver bullet polices of federal land management reform, some calling for a new Federal Land Law Review Commission, the first, since the late 1960s, perhaps influenced by the "process gridlock" facing the US. Forest Service as outlined by former chief Dale Bosworth. What do these issues tell about our federal public lands today?

MacKenzie Case, Boise State University

“New Songs Around the Campfire: Title: Evolving Frontier Narratives in the American West”

The “frontier myth” is often used to describe the idealized version of the American West and its lands. This narrative can also explain the still prevalent perception of the “real” American West beyond just literature, movies, and art. Additionally, in a policy analysis, this narrative can expound the direction of federal land management conflicts and resulting policies. However, the frontier myth narrative is not necessarily static or consistent, particularly on public lands that must be managed by the often nebulous “multiple use” concept. Rather, there may be new or emerging narratives that can frame contemporary public lands conflicts. Much of the public lands literature has focused on deconstructing these narratives. However, understanding the root causes of these narratives may further help scholars and policymakers analyze public lands conflicts and policies. This paper proposes new public land narratives that can clarify the nature of public lands conflicts in an evolving culture of the American West. A more comprehensive understanding of these narratives, their origins, and their underlying
assumptions can help inform policy decisions. This paper uses grazing conflicts on public lands and proposed policy solutions as a case study of some of these emerging narratives.

Phillip Brick, Whitman College

“Public Lands: Too Early to Tell for Sure”

Although it is too early to say for sure, it is reasonable to assume that the incoming Trump administration will have significantly different goals for public lands and the federal estate than its predecessor. We have seen such pendulum shifts before, as interior secretary Gayle Norton followed Bruce Babbitt in 2001, and perhaps more so, as James Watt succeeded Cecil Andrus in 1981. Neither shift produced tectonic movement in federal lands policy, but 2017 may be different. Privatization of public lands is now a possibility, and with Republicans in control of all three branches of the federal government, proposals to weaken key environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act may be considered. If this happens, the first casualty will likely be the progress made in collaborative management over the past 20 years, which has been based on settled expectations about the parameters of natural resource policymaking. With those parameters in flux, what incentives to collaborate will remain? How will collaborative groups navigate these changes?
GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Pete Martini

Heidelberg University

André Francisco Pilon, University of São Paulo

“An Ecosystemic Approach for Planning and Evaluation of Public Policies, Research and Teaching Programs”

"Development projects, technological solutions, fragmented by public policies, academic formats, mass-media headlines and market-place interests, usually replicate the unsustainable paradigms of development, growth, power, wealth, work and freedom embedded into the cultural, social, political and economical institutions. For the transition to an ecosystemic model, ethics, education, culture, natural and man-made environments, physical, social and mental well-being must be supported by societal structures and integrated into the overall project of quality of life (not treated as separate objects, different domains, or segmented programmes). An ecosystemic framework for planning and evaluation is posited, encompassing the combined effect of four dimensions of being in the world (intimate, interactive, social and biophysical) as they elicit the events, deal with consequences and contribute for change: intimate dimension (knowledge, values, feelings, beliefs, commitments); interactive dimension (allegiances, solidarity, partnerships, leadership); social dimension (public policies, citizenship, advocacy, mass-media); biophysical dimension (vital needs, natural and built environments, artefacts). Instead of taking current trends for granted and project them into the future (exploratory forecast), the definition of the desired goals and the exploration of new paths to reach them (normative forecast) is posited in view of new policies and structures, encompassing attributes, interactions and the systems in which people live."

Laura Fasick, Minnesota State University Moorhead

“From Admiration to Indifference: Student Attitudes toward Individual Virtue and Social Justice in Global Literature”

I teach in a university with a student body that is overwhelmingly white, rural, Protestant, and of Nordic ancestry. Often, classes in the university’s “Global Perspectives” category are these students’ first invitation to read and to write about life in other countries. In teaching “Global Perspectives” classes, I have been struck by student’s deep admiration for the courage with which characters in the books we read face enormous suffering. Such admiration at first can seem like a desirable sign of the empathy and understanding that English instructors hope that reading literature will develop. Yet I have become dismayed by one aspect of my student’s admiration. The respect they feel for such courage seems to negate any interest in struggles, whether fictional or real-life, against the preventable causes of the suffering. Issues of social justice fade away as students concentrate on how characters are ennobled by the fortitude with which they endure pain. As a result, admiration for individual, fictional characters seems to promote indifference toward the social causes of that pain and the social remedies that might ease it.

Joe Y. Cudjoe, Florida Gulf Coast University

“What Have All the Old Gadgets Gone? The Complex Inter-play of Education, Health and Global Security Concerns in E-Waste Dumping in Developing Countries”
"While the transforming nature of technology across the globe cannot be ignored, its proliferation, and the speed with which electronic products become functionally obsolescent, have raised concerns regarding their sustainable disposal. According to the UNEP, global e-waste generation is growing by about 40 million tons per year, with about 50 million cell phones replaced world-wide every month. The unsustainable e-waste dumping, particularly from the developed world to the developing world, not only poses health concerns, but also has global security implications. These global implications, however, are poorly understood and recognized. This study thus attempts to fill the void, by examining the impact of E-waste dumping sites on the health, and education of the youth at two dumping sites in Ghana. It draws attention to the myriad of problems that extend beyond the local level, including implications for global security.

A major question that the study seek to address is whether, in addition to possible health problems and other socio-economic problems at the sites, these sites pose threats to global security, and how these threats are engendered. It is hoped that this would draw attention and action to an all-important global problem."

Nicholas Alozie, Arizona State University


The economic hardship that has hit many Sub-Saharan African countries has created untold human misery. While the strain, like the effects of any other protracted economic cycle, must pass, the possibility that the dire material conditions are beginning to wreak havoc on the human psyche is raising anxiety. The speculation that the meritocracy ideology may be eroding and, thus, imperiling the social contract is raising anxiety. This research explores the status of the meritocracy ideology in Sub-Saharan Africa. It finds that, while the ideology is alive and well in the region, anti-meritocracy forces are, nevertheless, contending strongly with the ideology."

Joshua Kane, Arizona State University and Peris Mwaura, Kabarak University

“Devolution in Demise: The Institutional and Technological Prerequisites to Graft-Free Devolved Governance in Kenya”

Successful models of devolution originated in western nations where the institutional and technological innovations necessary to monitoring and preventing corruption developed prior to or in synchronicity with shifts to devolved governance. In 2010 Kenya adopted the devolution model, but in a context where the institutional and technological structures necessary to monitoring and preventing corruption had not developed sufficiently. Consequentially, what had been an attempt to increase the legitimacy, effectiveness, and ethicality of governance in Kenya via devolution is achieving the opposite on each dimension. This comparative-historical study will analyze the requisite institutional and technological foundations that have limited and constrained graft in western nations successfully utilizing a devolved structure of governance, along with the lack thereof in Kenya. Qualitative and quantitative measures of increased corruption in Kenya since devolution are linked to the lack of this requisite institutional and technological foundation. The case is made that absent development in the institutional and technological infrastructure necessary to monitoring for, preventing, and prosecuting instances of graft, corruption will continue to mount and multiply owing to devolution in Kenya, thereby increasingly calling into question the legitimacy of devolution and the Kenyan government itself.
Robert Niebuhr, Arizona State University

“From Military Socialism to Nationalist Revolution: Bolivian Transformation and the Chaco War”

Bolivia’s entry into and the prosecution of the Chaco War was naïve and misguided. At virtually each juncture the state’s governors made poor choices based on a perception of both taking advantage of public opinion and trying to manipulate the creation of a Bolivian nation. Service in the military by almost a quarter million men brought together all aspects of society and the debacle of the war brought a universal condemnation of the politicians. Post-Chaco Bolivia ushered in a new era of political transformation that sought to implement a top-down modernization campaign. These so-called military socialists thought that they could modernize Bolivia and unite a diverse and growing population. Colonel German Busch’s multifaceted campaign to reform Bolivia ended with his suicide in 1939, yet the changes he implemented had changed Bolivia forever. This presentation will examine how this top-down model sought to benefit from this large base of popular support and built upon earlier reform attempts.

Ivana Polic, University of California San Diego


The violent disintegration of Yugoslavia, which lasted for almost a decade, saw the emergence of the independent Croatian state with a strong nationalist leadership. While histories of ethnonationalist conflicts and postwar transitions focus on mainly adult actors, this project sheds light on the centrality of children to the transition from communism to capitalism and post-communist nation building in Croatia, which remains contentious to this day. The aim of this study is to examine the role of the two most popular children’s magazines in Croatia, Smib and Radost, in ingraining the new nationalist ideology into the minds of the youngest generations during the first decade of the state’s independence (1990-1999). My main argument links the indoctrination of children through the magazines’ discourse with the most important strategies of nation building in post-Yugoslav Croatia, such as the manipulation of national history, resurrection of the traditional Croatian nationhood symbols, and deliberate exclusion of other ethnic groups in the state, especially Serbs. Therefore, the research perspective I employ finds audience among scholars attempting to deconstruct the complex mechanism of nation building in Eastern and Central Europe after the collapse of communism, and the role of children as both agents and subjects in this process.

Semih Gokatalay, The University of California, San Diego

“De- or Re-Compradorization of Bourgeoisie in Turkey? The Case of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (1882-1935)”

The twentieth century witnessed dissolutions of empires of the past and rise of new nation
states. The Ottoman Empire was one of these empires and the Republic of Turkey, as one of the successor states of the Ottoman Empire, was established in 1923, as a nation state. The rise of the nation state was followed by emergence of a national economy as well as a national bourgeoisie, which replaced the so-called comprador bourgeoisie. This study examines the case of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ICOC), which was founded in 1882 and continued to operate after 1923. By focusing on relationships between the administration of the chamber and the political authorities as well as foreign actors during the state’s adoption of the ‘national economy’ policies, the following questions are answered: How did the position and power of the ICOC change during the transformation from empire to nation-states? How did the administrative body of the chamber interact with political authorities, other interest groups and actors outside the region? As argued by this study, definitions of both ‘national’ and ‘comprador’ bourgeoisies are ambiguous, and sectarian differences of the capitalist class are overemphasized by historians of Third World countries.

Joice Fernanda de Souza Oliveira, Rice University and University of Campinas (Brazil)

“From Trade to Freedom: An Enslaved Woman’s Experience during the Brazilian Domestic Slave Trade, 1850-1888”

In 1868 an enslaved woman named Ursulina was sold from the province of Paraná in Southern Brazil to a slave-owner in Sao Paulo. There, she was forced to adjust to the new work regime and integrate into the new community. After seven years, she accumulated peculium, and initiated a judicial plea for her manumission against her mistresses. Just like Ursulina, thousands of other women and men were thrown into the markets of the Brazilian domestic slave trade in the nineteenth century and because of this displacement were repeatedly forced to reconstruct their lives. Although, the historiography has increasingly contributed to the understanding of the dynamics of the human domestic market, revealing the lived experiences of people who were submitted to that violence remains a challenge for historians. Given this gap, this paper aims to study the impact of the forced migration on the lives, families, and communities of enslaved people, focusing especially on how bondswomen experienced the migration and assimilation process in the Brazilian domestic slave trade. For that purpose, I have adopted the biographical methodology of nominative record-linkage to follow people over time and between numerous sources, which places the anonymous subjects in the center of the historical narrative.

Heyley Bowman, University of Central Oklahoma

"Leave Your Jewels in the Bank and Buy a Revolver": Irish Women, the Rising, and Nationalism”

“Leave Your Jewels in the Bank and Buy a Revolver’: Irish Women, the Rising, and Nationalism,” discusses the involvement of Irish women during the Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin as well as the motivations of two specific women: Maire Nic Shuiblaigh and Countess Constance Markievicz. Nationalism and Post-Colonial Theory are themes discussed in this paper as well as Irish femininity and masculinity. The sources utilized are primary sources such as Dr. Brian Barton’s book From Behind a Closed Door: Secret Court Martial Records of the 1916 Easter Rising, which details the court-martial of Countess Markievicz as well as the other leaders of the Rising. Along with the court-martial records, memoirs and autobiographies were utilized. My secondary sources contain a biography of Constance Markievicz by Anne Haverty and an overview and introduction to these women from Sinead McCoole No Ordinary Women: Irish Female Activists in the Revolutionary Years 1900-1923.

Tara Konecne, Des Moines Area Community College

“Sally Ride, Science, and STEM"
After Sally Ride traveled to space in the 1983 space shuttle mission, she spent many hours ensuring that young people would have countless opportunities in STEM programs. In 2001 Sally Ride founded a nonprofit company, “Sally Ride Science”. This program was Sally’s biggest movement in ensuring the youth would be educated in STEM. The program focused on educating teachers and youth leaders in fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This program has given opportunities to youth all over America by focusing on upcoming career fields that will be most available to the upcoming working generations. The leaders of this program guarantee they are teaching the necessary information for younger generations to take advantage. “Sally Ride Science” uses the numerous programs that Ride has founded by intertwining as many programs as possible. “Cool Careers” and “Key Concepts in Science” are two of the most used and most effective. Both programs focus on integrating resources for better STEM education and teaching fewer STEM classes, with more in depth detail. These programs are only a few and only show the tip of the iceberg when looking at the difference Sally Ride has made in the world of STEM.

Tamra Banks Johnston, University of Central Oklahoma

“Cinnamon for Sale: The History of the Commodification of the Black Female Form”

The purpose of this research is to examine the historical relationship between the commodification of the African-American female body/image and the American public. The goal is to show that despite a contentious association, the American society has always been deeply interested in participating in the consumption and exploitation of black female body. Though often feigning disgust over the allegedly grotesque facial features, larger busts, and full buttocks, the African-American female form has been used repeatedly to sell consumer goods, provide comfort and succor, and even to benefit the medical field. Focusing on the years 1880-1970, the paper will dissect the use of the African-American female form in popular culture as well as the relationship between said images and the public’s consumption of them. The goal is to challenge the portrayal of images in media and generate discussion while inviting participants to correlate the visual messages with their subliminal meanings.

Taylor Paul Lanham, Independent Scholar

"Nazi Punks, %@#$ Off!" A Historical Analysis of Punk and Race”

From its onset, punk music has incorrectly been cast as a white form of music. The problem of representation in punk rock is inextricably linked with the problem of documentation and, by extent, the problem of privilege itself, as non-white member of the punk community has often been overlooked in accounts of the movements history. This exclusion mirrors, in many ways, the way the black experience was extricated from more general historical narratives on the country’s history. This historiographical analysis of punk rock and race looks at the ways in which the black experience has been removed from the story of punk, both in popular and academic accounts. It argues two main points – first, that accounts of punk rock largely avoid the topic of race when discussing how the subculture was formed during the 1970s and, second, that the few accounts that do approach the topic most often discuss it from the perspective of the nazi-punk skinhead movement. This is to say that even explicit discussions of race in punk rock have managed to exclude the black experience, ultimately whitewashing the entire subculture and reinforcing the false perception of punk rock as a white form of music.

Richard A. Voeltz, Cameron University

“Eat, Pray, Love--and War: Hollywood’s White Woman’s Search for Fulfillment in Whiskey Tango Foxtrot (2016) and Eat Pray Love (2010)”
While researching, a paper dealing with romantic comedies set in war torn Afghanistan I realized just how much the film Whiskey Tango Foxtrot resembled an earlier film Eat Pray Love (2010). The former is based upon journalist Kim Barker’s 2011 memoir The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan while the latter is based upon the best-selling memoir by writer and journalist Elizabeth Gilbert’s 2006 Eat, Pray, Love: One Women’s Search for Everything. According to David Denby it has become “a kind of bible for the dissatisfied educated women...it’s a much beloved book....” Both the books and the films derive from the well used literary and cinematic tropes of a white women in an alien, usually masculine, realm who undertakes a voyage of self-discovery. I will compare these two films (and to a lesser extent the books themselves) looking for similarities in narrative and trope, placing the films in the wider context of Hollywood romantic comedies and romances to show that gender, location, cultural and racial stereotypes, orientalism, and American exceptionalism permit Americans only to see their own reflection when looking at the foreign other in the cinema.

Carmen De Leon, Temple University

“The Transcendence of Physical Borders in Establish a “Fronterizo” Mentality”

The presidential elections focused on the complicated topic of borders, which opened controversies that will shape our discussions in our global communities in the upcoming years. I am invested in studying the way other border citizens have developed spaces and identities in other parts of the world and in other historical times. It is the purpose of my research to study borderline life and attitudes as reflected in specific works in medieval and pre-modern texts from the Iberian Peninsula and research how it is reflected in modern times by looking at the contemporary sub-genre of the Mexican American border literature. This paper is part of a more complete and larger study on the subject with the specific aim of identifying similarities in spatial and identity issues experienced by people who by manner of geography or birth right acquire dual culture, language and citizenship. My initial analysis will center on the sixteenth and seventeenth century anonymous tale of The Abencerrajes and romances fronterizos as compared to our contemporary literature which touches on this topic.

Kathryn Bailey, University of Central Oklahoma

“History of Route 66 through Rogers and Lincoln County Oklahoma”

This is a power point presentation of the history of Route 66 through Rogers and Lincoln counties in Oklahoma. This presentation provides the history of the road, landmarks along the route, and the importance of Route 66 to American pop culture. Route 66 is an important icon that draws many travelers to experience their own “kicks on Route 66.” Oklahoma marks the dividing line where east meets west along the Mother Road. Oklahoma provides the traveler the most drivable miles along Route 66 with many recognizable landmarks through these select counties. The “father” of Route 66, Cy Avery, was instrumental in the planning of the route and made sure that the route came through his hometown of Tulsa. The route served many purposes in the past and still has domestic and international appeal today. So, let’s take a trip down Route 66 through Rogers and Lincoln counties in Oklahoma together.

Douglas W. Dodd, California State University, Bakersfield


During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Emergency Conservation Work program (popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps) provided unprecedented levels of funding and manpower to federal conservation agencies like the National Park Service. In California,
NPS employed the CCC to develop and improve several recently established national monuments. CCC labor resulted in an improved administrative infrastructure, better access for visitors, and higher levels of protection for the resources the monuments were established to protect. At Death Valley, Lava Beds, Muir Woods, and Pinnacles, the CCC helped move these monuments from mere designations on a map—with little but warning signs to protect them—to fully integrated and developed units of the National Park System.

David Park, University of North Texas

“Creed of Convenience: Texans Relationship to the Federal Government: 1933-1945”

In terms of the latitude, extensiveness, and endurance, of changes that Texas has experienced, the years encompassing the Great Depression and Second World War are arguably the most transformative in the state’s history. Indeed, measured by overall industrialization and urbanization, Texans could not fully claim to have attained the “New South” moniker until this epoch, and it was due to—not despite—the unprecedented amount of Federal assistance the state received from 1933 to 1945. However, while World War II is often cited as the true turning point in this transition, the Depression Decade and New Deal were not merely harbingers of this impending growth, development, and progress; they were the necessary prerequisites, the catalysts, that produced the environment—of restless, unused manpower, newly-constructed, modern transportation, communication, and power networks, and an elaborate, multifaceted, innovative bureaucracy staffed by experienced personnel—to make such a transformation not just hospitable, but peculiarly responsive to be the foremost recipient and beneficiary of the unprecedented stimulus that accompanied the impending conflict. The enormous Federal expenditures, inconceivable in any context other than the Great Depression and World War II, ultimately transformed and propelled the Lone Star State from its Nineteenth-century past into modernity.

Marc Brown, Des Moines Area Community College

“Where North Meets South”

While combing through the historical archives at the Iowa State University I came across source documents related to the lives of two unique individuals, James Loraine Geddes and James Rush Lincoln. Both men were civil war veterans who lived very different and unusually interesting lives. What brings the tales of these two lives into the same sphere is that although they fought on different sides of the war, Geddes for the Union and Lincoln the Confederacy, they both eventually came to be employed as professors at Iowa State University. I have had some opportunity to research these two individuals and have come across pictures, documentation, and many of their stories before, during, and after the War of emancipation. It is my intention to further study these two men and present their parallel lives and the place where the lines of their destiny changed courses and intersected.

Katherine Scott Sturdevant, Pikes Peak Community College

“Fathers and Daughters: A Family Secret Informs the Sand Creek Massacre”

In the winter of 1860–1861, a 16-year-old bride of three months traveled west with her 31-year-old husband, from the Denver Gold Rush to one that failed in the mountains of far-southwestern Colorado. While there in Ute territory, she became pregnant by a Ute leader. Interpreting that exact paternity is a delicate mystery within the mystery. Returning home, she and her white husband raised both that resulting child and an adopted Navajo boy as their own. This young mother was the daughter of John Chivington, notorious for leading troops into the controversial Sand Creek Massacre of 1864, where he and his men killed and performed atrocities on Cheyenne and Arapaho women and children. Chivington descendants kept the
“half-breed” origins of the baby a secret, limited to their private oral tradition, until cooperating with this study. Experts on Sand Creek and Chivington had not known this story. The story has inherent historical value, but also has implications for future interpretations of Sand Creek and its perpetrator. This study yields from interdisciplinary research: applying traditional historical and local history primary research, oral history interviewing, genealogy and DNA, and socio-historical analysis in the contexts of regional, women’s, and Native American history among others.

Maya L. Martinez, University of Central Oklahoma

“The Suffrage Dilemma: Oklahoma, 1890-1918”

While Oklahoma was a territory and a few decades into its statehood, Oklahoman women sought political equality and representation. The first recorded campaign for women’s suffrage in Oklahoma was presented to the House of the first Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890. The question of women’s suffrage was voted down, however, partial suffrage for voting in school elections was granted. The year 1890 proved to be a pivotal moment for woman’s suffrage not just in Oklahoma, but for the movement itself. With the merge of the American Suffrage Association and the National Women Suffrage Association, Oklahoma suffragettes set out to continue their campaign for suffrage following their first loss in the House. Organization became the key factor in gaining support for introducing the issue of full suffrage in the House. Women's clubs, the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, press associations, and the Socialist Party all played key roles during the campaigns for full suffrage through their successful propaganda activity. These clubs and associations as well as hard work from the women in the Oklahoma, helped guarantee the ratification of State Question 97 in 1918, which extended suffrage to women. Two years later, with ratification of the nineteenth amendment, the fight for suffrage

Jennifer Bridges, Grayson College

“Prostitution, Progressives, and Peril: How the Amalgamation of Prostitution and Promiscuity During the Progressive Era Led to Nullification of Women’s Rights in Texas.”

During the decades leading up to World War I, many Texas cities had established flourishing red-light districts where prostitution was an accepted if not always legal endeavor. However, after the turn of the twentieth century, numerous cities began feeling pressures from progressives on the national stage that were calling for the dissolution of all tenderloin districts and an increase in legal strictures against prostitution and other forms of vice. Another significant aspect of this progressive change was an increase in the subversion of female sexuality through campaigns to protect soldiers from supposedly promiscuous women. Posters and other advertisements were released to warn men that women were predatory and often carriers of highly contagious venereal diseases. The spread of sexually transmitted disease was a problem during World War I, but the singular focus of women as the sole carriers was a change from former progressive attitudes of women as sexual victims. These fears attached to the moral tendencies of progressive reformers, led to the amalgamation of prostitution and promiscuity during the Progressive Era, which resulted in the denial of many women’s habeas corpus rights.

J.B. Thompson, California State Fullerton

"Best-in-Show: Jennie Crocker and the Conformation Dog Shows of California, 1907-1912”

This article--through contemporary newspaper reports--explores the life of Jennie Adeline Crocker (1887-1974) as pertains to California’s cultural and gender history during the early twentieth century. A granddaughter of railroad magnate Charles Crocker, Jennie Crocker
harnessed her talents as a breeder, purchaser and exhibitor of Boston Terriers and French Bulldogs to win numerous awards in the Golden State’s dog show circuit. Conventional and cutting edge, her lifestyle tested the boundaries of gender rules a century ago. Jennie Crocker’s life story deepens the knowledge of California’s social history. Participation in conformation competitions enabled Crocker and others higher-income people to strengthen upper-class group identity. Dog shows, moreover, gave upper- and middle-tier women socially sanctioned avenues to compete against each other and against men, thereby modestly shaping the public sphere. This piece examines Jennie Crocker as an integral figure in California’s cultural and environmental history. Her bench show wins took place during the gradual evolution of the state’s canine exhibitions, which culturally replicated English and East Coast contests. And by introducing Pomeranians, Pit Bulls and other dog breeds, Crocker and other women contributed to the state’s biodiversity.

J. Evan Renfrow Smiley, Portland State University

“A Blow to Bigotry: The History of Sodomy Laws and Decriminalized Homosexuality in Oregon”

Despite its current reputation for social and sexual liberalism, Oregon law has not always reflected such values. My research aims to explore the key events, movements, and legislation that led to Oregon’s decriminalization of homosexuality in 1972. I begin by examining the history of sodomy laws in Oregon, including discussions on the Vice Clique Scandal of 1912 and the state-wide implementation of sterilization that lasted over 65 years. This context and analysis serves as a foundation for my effort to place the decriminalization of homosexuality in Oregon within the larger narrative of the Gay Rights Movement in the United States.

Joseph A. Ledford, University of California, Berkeley

“The Risky Business of Rollback: The New Right, the Contra War, and the Reagan Doctrine”

Under the Reagan Doctrine, the Ronald Reagan administration facilitated an insurgency against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. The Iran-Contra affair exposed that a coalition of the New Right had assisted. To date, however, US foreign relations history has not adequately addressed their role the Reagan Doctrine’s application in Nicaragua. This paper thus focuses on members of the New Right who helped facilitate the Contra war through tax-exempt and mercenary organizations. I examine the National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty (NEPL), a tax-exempt organization that worked in coordination with the White House, and the Civilian Military Assistance (CMA), a mercenary group that operated beyond the administration’s control. I argue that New Right factions from the grassroots and in cooperation with the White House mobilized in a collaborative enterprise to facilitate the Reagan Doctrine’s application in Nicaragua. NEPL and CMA shared an unwavering belief in the Contra’s cause but functioned in different capacities. While NEPL donors contributed financially, CMA members offered military assistance on the ground in Central America. Viewing the Reagan Doctrine from the CMA and NEPL’s actions yields a richer perspective on not only its application but also the interplay between Reagan’s policymaking and the New Right.

Xiangyun Xu, Pennsylvania State University

“The Crucible of Empire: U.S. Debate over the China Relief Expedition of 1900”

In June 1900, the United States deployed around 3500 troops, mostly from the Philippines, alongside seven other countries’ forces (Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Italy) to intervene in the Boxer Uprising, an anti-foreign movement in Northern China targeting Western civilians and Chinese converts. This expedition sparked a new wave of debate over empire and imperialism in the United States. For imperialists seeking
to put the controversy over the Philippine acquisition and ongoing Philippine-American War to rest, troops and supplies from the Philippines highlighted this island’s significance for advancing American interest in China. Besides, American forces’ discipline during the occupation stage stood in strong contrast to European armies’ looting. Meanwhile, anti-imperialists excoriated the absence of a Congressional authorization of force, and claimed that the expedition heralded the McKinley administration’s territorial ambition in China. They also pinpointed the delay in sending troops from the Philippines to China during the expedition that necessitated mobilizing troops at home for China. This revelation served to question the rationale for acquiring the Philippines. In addition, war correspondents’ coverage of American misconduct in China debunked the myth of U.S. innocence, and connected the dots between American depredations in China and the Philippines.
A pesar de que en América Latina los indicadores sobre pobreza han marcado un ligero avance en el combate de esta, es en el caso de las mujeres, en donde los resultados no han sido del todo satisfactorios de acuerdo con el informe 2015 de la CEPAL, Panorama social de América Latina. En dicho informe se indica que la mayoría de los países de la región lograron mejoras en cuanto a su distribución del ingreso. Si bien se ve un descenso en la pobreza entre 2010 y 2014, cuando se plantea por género, tenemos otro panorama, pues el índice de feminidad de la pobreza se ha incrementado desde 2002 hasta 2014 al igual que la indigencia. El ritmo para bajar los indicadores de pobreza fue menor en el caso de las mujeres, y ello nos habla de una problemática que se tiene que explorar alrededor del ingreso de las mujeres quienes tienen que conciliar el tiempo del hogar con su incursión el mercado laboral. En el trabajo se explora también la participación de la mujer en la vida política además de la revisión de algunos indicadores específicos de género.

Celia Magaña-García
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“La Cuestión Social Latinoamericana: Temas Emergentes de una Agenda en Construcción”

Es innegable que en la región de AL la cuestión social es la desigualdad de ingreso y de la distribución de la riqueza. De hecho, después de África, es la región más desigual. Esto tiene un impacto pernicioso en el crecimiento sostenible y en la cohesión social. Y representa un riesgo para la estabilidad social de la región. “En 2014, el 10% más rico de la población de América Latina había amasado el 71% de la riqueza de la región” (CEPAL,2016). Esta desigualdad se traduce en datos contundentes, que muestran como el grado de desigualdad se presenta de manera más pronunciada en algunos grupos demográficos específicos, como los pueblos originarios y afrodescendientes, las mujeres, los jóvenes, la niñez y la vejez. Ante este panorama, resulta pertinente revisar y reflexionar sobre el proceso de reconfiguración de las agendas sociales en la región, es decir, en analizar cómo se “desempacan” o cómo se desglosa la cuestión social en diferentes temas y actores sociales “emergentes” que considero pueden ser fundamentales en nuestra región como lo son las categorías de raza y género. Es decir, se trata de hacer evidente que es necesaria una reflexión crítica sobre el hecho mismo de cómo están conformadas las agendas sociales en la región de América Latina. Se trata de una invitación a no dar por sentada una estructuración que prioriza unos temas, en detrimento de otros. Se parte del supuesto que una conceptualización muy formalista de los Estados-Nación (Segato, 2015), entre otros factores, continua a ser determinante para la conformación de dichas agendas.

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“La Reforma Educativa en Educación Básica en México, ¿Oportunidad de Transformación?”

Aunque comparando los datos con otros países de Latinoamérica incluidos en el informe México está por delante de Costa Rica, Colombia, Brasil y Perú en matemáticas, sobre una escala en la que la media es de 500 puntos, los alumnos mexicanos no han aprobado un solo examen: ni ciencias, lectura o matemáticas. En este panorama, esta ponencia trata de la reforma educativa planteada por el gobierno federal a fines de 2012 y promulgada en 2013, así como las movilizaciones de profesores en desacuerdo con algunos contenidos de la reforma en los últimos meses. Analiza los posicionamiento de diferentes personalidades, organizaciones, organismos e instituciones sobre la reforma, el Modelo Educativo 2016 y los planes de estudios, presentados a inicio de julio de este 2016 y que se abren para su análisis en foros. Aunque el gobierno establece que las conclusiones de los foros no serán vinculantes, a través del análisis de política pública se indagan las posibilidades de que los cambios posibles incidan en la mejora de los indicadores educativos del sistema.

Ángel Ernesto Jiménez-Bernardino
Ricardo Pérez-Mora
Óscar Felipe García
Universidad de Guadalajara

“Information and Communication Technologies as a factor of social innovation for the transfer of knowledge and learning”

The Social Innovation is a concept that increasingly takes more force and relevance in different scopes of the world-wide societies, which is sustained in some studies of case developed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, some carried out by actors in diverse world-wide contexts and the increasing interest by Universities and public and private actors; the Technologies of the Information and Communication (TIC’S) as well have impact in the daily processes of the society, between these processes is the transference of the tie knowledge to the learning and that promotes innovations in the transference of the culture, the productivity and the education, among other many fields. Thus trying to define the Social Innovation in agreement with Martinez (2011) like: “…a social processes and cooperative practices with marked character of public service that improve or make more efficient solutions to problems or previous social demands…”, are presented In particular, some of the experiences about ICTs have been established as a factor to facilitate processes of social innovation, particularly landed in Telework and its application to produce knowledge, spread the culture and improve productive practices, everything The above oriented towards social innovation. This paper shows the experience gained in various regions of Latin America (Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru and Mexico) where the mixture between ICTs and Social Innovation promotes profound changes in the daily life of people oriented to the solution of social problems to Which public policies and institutional mechanisms of governments do not always observe or solve immediately.

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“Políticas y programas institucionales para la equidad en las Instituciones de Educación Superior. El caso de dos Centros Universitarios de la Universidad de Guadalajara”

La situación de la educación superior en América Latina se refleja en las tasas de conclusión de esta etapa, que en el marco de restricciones presupuestales tienden a la baja, en especial en población que cuenta con ingresos bajos, zonas rurales y población indígena. En México, la Subsecretaría de Educación Superior se encarga de la transferencia de recursos a cada institución que, conforme al Programa para la Inclusión y la Equidad Educativa (PIEE), presente propuestas donde se haga precisión en las necesidades y requerimientos para la atención del estudiantado vulnerable. En esta ponencia se presenta una descripción del funcionamiento del Programa Institucional de Inclusión de la Universidad de Guadalajara, particularizando los casos de los Centro Universitarios de Ciencias Económico Administrativas (CUCiEA) y de la Ciénega (CUCi), a la luz del análisis de políticas públicas como estrategia de análisis de la pertinencia de la implementación. Los datos permiten dar cuenta de los diferenciados recursos institucionales de los dos CU’s que explican en parte el cumplimiento de las directrices estratégicas del Plan de Desarrollo Institucional de la Universidad de Guadalajara 2014-2030.

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“La reforma Educativa en México y sus Referentes en Estados Unidos y Chile”

La reforma de 2013 es un cambio político de alcances profundos porque lo que se propone es redistribuir el poder en la educación nacional en favor de los empresarios ávidos de lucrarse con los servicios educativos, cuyo proyecto coincide con el modelo que pretende internacionalizar la OCDE para que la formación de los estudiantes esté en función de las necesidades de la acumulación capitalista. Ese cambio político se da en detrimento de la participación del magisterio, los padres de familia y los alumnos, las organizaciones populares y los grupos institucionales de pedagogos que desde hace décadas abogan por una reestructuración a fondo del sistema educativo. En cambio, como se ha señalado por muchos analistas, la reforma estructural peñista es una reforma laboral y administrativa que cambia la relación contractual del Estado con los trabajadores de la educación e introduce formas de control punitivo para someter a los maestros organizados, principal obstáculo para el avance del proyecto privatizador de la derecha encabezados por el Consejo Coordinador Empresarial y la organización Mexicanos Primero.

Ignacio Medina-Núñez, Universidad de Guadalajara.

“Presidential Elections in Peru 2016”

This paper provides a general context of the electoral processes in Peru since, after the military governments in the 1980s, where there have been different political tendencies in the country presidency. It has happened alternation of political parties in the presidency although all aligned, even Ollanta Humala who had a progressive ideology, with the economic guidelines of the neoliberal model. I analyse the presidential election process in 2016, at the end of the government of Humala, where a first round of voting occurred on April 10, and, because no candidate won the 50% of the vote, there was a runoff election on June 5th, only between the two main candidates: Keiko Fujimori and Pedro Pablo Kuczynski. This last one has become the new president in Peru (2016-2021).

Héctor Herrera-Barragán
Lucy Victoria Domínguez-Rodriguez
Eduardo Domingo Ovando-Ramos
Kevin Estañol-Miranda
La multiculturalidad exige considerar la relevancia política de las diversas versiones de mundo. Contemporáneamente, la reflexión sobre el conflicto intercultural corre por la vía epistemológica, que subsume las concepciones sobre la realidad a la diversidad cultural; y más radicalmente, por la ontología, que implica la admisión de mundos diversos en tensa coexistencia, de modo que la legitimación de una ontología se sustentaría en relaciones de poder y no en el dominio de una perspectiva supuestamente más desarrollada. En una indagación cualitativa consistente en la conducción de entrevistas con chontales a vecinos en una zona originalmente pantanosa en el municipio de Nacajuca, Tabasco, México, en donde desde hace más de tres décadas se ha desarrollado actividades de extracción petrolera; se intentó dilucidar el efecto percibido por los chontales en el ambiente debido a la actividad petrolera. Independientemente de los recuentos particulares a las afectaciones a la propiedad y al medio natural, se pudo reconocer una imagen más orgánica, más integral de la naturaleza; para los chontales, el pantano y la selva, la pesca y la siembra han perdido su balance original porque la tierra ha perdido su integridad cuanto que se le ha extraído uno de sus elementos constitutivos, el petróleo.

Silvia G. Novelo y Urdanivia
Universidad de Guadalajara México.

“Migration, Transmigration and Development In Latin America In The 21st Century”

Among future challenges, those of the 21st century, like the dismantling of the TPP, the Brexit process and the Presidency of Donald Trump, one of the most arduous is the link between development with migration and transmigration. Thousands of people everyday move away from their original country, looking for asylum or a better life and, as incredible as it appears, the city of Tijuana in Baja California, México is, in the middle of this situation, being the most transited city in the planet by people of all over the world. What kind of inclusive aid measures could the system of international cooperation implement to help cope with this problematic? Would be set up new and urgent funding alternatives? What role could the International Organization for Migration have? Although in 2015 five members of the European Union increased their assistance to the refugees in developing countries through Development Aid mechanisms, globalization has generated interdependency among countries of the world in economic, political, cultural and social aspects, because of the advancement of communication systems and technologies. A world in which the development and prosperity of some lies on the subordination and impoverishment of others.

Héctor Herrera-Barragán
Lucy Victoria Domínguez-Rodríguez
Eduardo Domingo Ovando-Ramos
Kevin Estañol-Miranda
Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco

“Transformación de las condiciones migratorias y cambios en la familia”

Estudios demográficos en México y Latinoamérica indican cambios en lo relativo a la fecundidad y nupcialidad, esto supone modificaciones en la estructura familiar. Los actos e intenciones de los migrantes parecen sujetarse, entonces, no solo a los cambios en la política migratoria entre Estados Unidos y México, sino a las implicaciones mismas de las transformaciones familiares. Para reflexionar sobre la interacción entre las condiciones cambiantes de la experiencia migratoria y de la vida familiar, se consideran dos experiencias migratorias, temporal y culturalmente diferenciadas, hacia Estados Unidos desde Tabasco, México. El primer caso
corresponde a la experiencia de hace aproximadamente 40 años de un indígena chontal, quien aparentemente cobijado en el programa paisano se empleó temporalmente en la actividad agrícola, él siempre tuvo la intención de retorno, hizo previsiones para la manutención de una familia con cinco hijos durante el tiempo de ausencia y eventualmente se reincorporó a la comunidad. El segundo caso es de una mujer avvecindada cerca de la frontera con Guatemala, ingresó a los estados unidos con su pareja de quien se separó luego de procrear una hija, formó una nueva familia teniendo otros dos hijos separándose nuevamente, actualmente reside en su comunidad natal luego de ser recientemente deportada pero mantiene la esperanza de retornar.

Sandra Rivera-Martínez
Universidad de Guadalajara. México.

“Flujos Migratorios en América Latina. Entre el Conflicto y la Esperanza”

La migración ha sido un derecho humano fundamental, sin embargo, la movilización entre fronteras o dentro de un territorio por situaciones diversas, como los conflictos internos, la violencia, los desastres naturales, por situaciones económicas (ausencia de trabajo, pobreza); ha provocado la condición de inseguridad para las personas que se atreven a moverse de su lugar de origen. La Organización Internacional de las Migraciones define la migración como el “movimiento de población hacia el territorio de otro Estado o dentro del mismo, que abarca todo movimiento de personas sea cual fuere su tamaño, su composición o sus causas” (OIM, 2006). En 2015 hubo cerca de 63 millones de desplazados en el mundo, debido a conflictos y violencia (ACNUR, 2015). Durante décadas, los desplazamientos forzados en América Latina han ido en aumento, según cifras del Consejo Noruego para los Refugiados (CNR). Entre los países que más desplazados tienen, son México, Guatemala, Brasil, Colombia y Perú. En México, durante el año 2015, cerca de 170 mil migrantes provenientes de Honduras, El Salvador y Guatemala, fueron detenidos por las autoridades.

Renato Salas-Alfaro, Centro de Investigación en Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades,
Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México

“La Migración y el Empoderamiento de la Mujer en el Estado de México”

Este trabajo analiza como las esposas de migrantes adquieren poder cuando ellos emigran. Cuando ellas se quedan adquieren más responsabilidades pero también toman decisiones, ingresan al mercado laboral, aprenden a controlar los recursos del hogar. Al retorno del marido, pueden mantener ese poder, cederlo o afrontar fricciones, violencia doméstica, convivencia más equilibrada en el hogar dependiendo si ellos aceptan los nuevos roles de ellas. Para verificar lo que ocurre, se realizaron diez entrevistas con esposas de migrantes en la zona de Toluca, estado de México. Los resultados exhiben cuatro tipos de empoderamientos; mujeres que nunca se empoderan, mujeres que se empoderan sólo en ausencia del marido, mujeres que se empoderan en ausencia y lo mantienen al retorno, y mujeres que siempre han tenido poder al interior del hogar.

Susanne Willers
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“Experiences of Violence, Migration and Reproductive Strategies of Migrant Women from Central America in Transit through Mexico”

This paper focuses on the effects of different forms of violence on migration strategies and reproductive strategies of Central American migrant women -many of them single mothers- in transit to the United States. Each year there is an increasing number of women, leaving Central American countries like Honduras and El Salvador, strongly affected by social violence and economic crisis, to sustain their families. Some travel with their children and some travel on
their own. But, due to increasing migration control measures in Mexico and the US, and to the proliferation of organized crime, today’s transit migration through Mexico has become a dangerous, expensive, time-demanding and more and more circular process. The interplay of this aspects affects the reproductive strategies of migrant women and their families in the transnational social field and the possibilities of social networks to provide social capital and solidarity to its members. This paper is based on a field work-study in two Mexican border towns, Tijuana in the North and Tapachula on the Mexican South, spotlighting the migration processes and the experiences of violence of women from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Susanne Willers
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“Gender and Access to Refugee Protection: Central American Women in Mexico”

Since the end of 2010, increasing numbers of people from northern Central American countries—Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador—are fleeing organized crime in the context of “new forms of war” (Kaldor 2000) in Central America. This new refugee flows reached its peak level of attention with the so called “crisis of the children migrants” in 2014 in the USA. Another group fleeing from violence are women with their children. In last years, there is an increasing number of Central Americans looking for refugee protection in Mexico, since the ways up north to the USA is increasingly blocked due to migration enforcement policies and overall social violence in Mexico in the context of the War on Drugs. Yet in 2015 the UNHCR was talking about a “crisis in protection” (Manly 2015) in Mexico. In the paper, I discuss the implications of new social dynamics of conflict in Central America and Mexico and their impact on the migration and refugee system in Mexico. To do this, I draw attention to the situation of women migrants from Central America in Mexico and on how specific forms of persecution and experiences of violence during the migration process shape women’s awareness of rights.

Ángel Licona-Michel
José Ernesto Rangel-Delgado
Juan González-García
Universidad de Colima. México.

“Economía, Comercio, Migración y Remesas: Retos para la Alianza del Pacífico”

Chile, Colombia, México y Perú desde el año 2011 se integran en la Alianza del Pacífico (AP), buscando tener un mercado más grande y posibilitar el incremento de la economía. Los cuatro países tienen una población que supera los 200 millones de habitantes con un ingreso per cápita de aproximadamente $ 10,000 dólares. Chile, muestra en 26 años un crecimiento promedio del Producto Interno Bruto (PIB) de 4.8%; Colombia de 3.7%, México de 2.8% y Perú de 4.4%. De acuerdo con estos datos la población de las cuatro naciones busca mayores oportunidades por medio de la migración, así como enviando remesas a sus países de origen. Sin embargo los datos recopilados hasta el momento perfilan un flujo migratorio de relativa menor importancia entre los países miembros de la Alianza del Pacífico, lo cual parece confirmar la hipótesis de que las migraciones se mueven hacia énfasis tecnológicos que generan empleo, apareciendo un gran reto para la integración de las economías de la Alianza, ya que al parecer la movilidad se da por otras causas que no, por intereses laborales. Lo cual abre un área de oportunidad para los negocios, el empleo, las remesas y por ende la generación de riqueza.

Eliseo Diaz-González, El Colegio de La Frontera Norte. México.

“Migración y Comercio México-Estados Unidos”
En la actualidad se ha puesto en el centro del debate el tema de la relación de comercio y migración entre México y los Estados Unidos. El Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte proponía que el comercio traería progreso económico para los tres países y que esto reduciría la migración de mexicanos a Estados Unidos. Cada uno de esos temas ha sido estudiado mucho en México, pero en el balance se ha inclinado más hacia el tema migratorio que al de comercio, el saldo sin embargo ha sido disparejo entre ambos. En el tema de migración existe un amplio consenso acerca del beneficio que ha significado la migración, aunque algunos insisten en los costos económicos que ha representado para el país la pérdida de fuerza de trabajo. El estudio de las remesas ha sido un área del conocimiento que ha concentrado mucho esa atención. El objetivo de este trabajo es establecer cuáles son los beneficios y costos que han representado para los dos países ambos temas. Se concluye que los costos sociales en proceso han sido más importantes que los beneficios y costos económico.

Angélica Basulto-Castillo
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“La Nueva Forma de Operación de las Empresas Multinacionales de la Electrónica en el Entorno Global”

Abordar el examen de las empresas multinacionales resulta imperioso, pues en conjunto configuran uno de los bloques de poder económico más importantes en el ámbito global en la medida en que el volumen de actividad productiva, su capacidad de incidir sobre las economías nacionales, el nivel de expansión en el territorio mundial y la concentración relativa de su poder de decisión, hacen de ellas uno de los grupos de intervención más pujantes que podemos encontrar en la actualidad. La presente investigación tiene como objetivo explicar que las corporaciones multinacionales de la electrónica continúan evolucionando hacia un esquema de empresas globales, impulsadas por los exacerbados cambios tecnológicos. De igual forma, se pretende analizar cómo a partir de este proceso se ha redefinido la especialización de sus ubicaciones en países latinoamericanos. Partimos del supuesto de que la intensificación del proceso globalizador continúa transformando a las empresas multinacionales de la electrónica en corporaciones globalmente integradas, al mismo tiempo intensifica de forma crítica y estratégica las decisiones de externalizar procesos de mayor complejidad tecnológica. De tal suerte que las subsidiarias y proveedores se especializan en segmentos cada vez más específicos y a su vez los territorios donde éstos se sitúan.

Javier Medina-Ortega
Angélica Basulto-Castillo
Universidad de Guadalajara. México.

“Integración de Empresas Locales a Cadenas Globales de Valor de Firmas Multinacionales de la Industria Automotriz”

La presente investigación apunta a demostrar que la participación de empresas locales en cadenas globales de valor (CGV) puede considerarse como un factor positivo para el desarrollo de cualquier región o país. Esto obedece a que las cadenas son un canal para ganar participación en los mercados globales de manera rápida y estimulan la internacionalización de las empresas vinculadas a las firmas que participan directamente en CGV. Por tal motivo, el estudio tiene como finalidad analizar la dinámica de la industria automotriz en algunos países de América Latina. Más aún, se orienta al examen de la cadena de valor del sector y, en virtud de la coyuntura expansionista que experimenta en la actualidad, se profundiza en el estudio de empresas de origen nacional que han logrado vincularse a CGV de empresas multinacionales, con el propósito de identificar las características de este tipo de proveedores, así como el nivel del nexo contractual que han establecido con las firmas multinacionales.
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“Identificación de Clúster Productivos. El Caso de una Región Rural en el Occidente de México”

Las aglomeraciones productivas son un proceso espacial que tienen impactos en un ámbito económico y social. Algunos autores, como Becattini, han denominado estas aglomeraciones como distritos industriales; otros, como Porter los han llamado clúster. Para este trabajo nos enfocaremos a los últimos, considerando que en la región, donde se realizará la investigación, existen indicios para la conformación de este tipo aglomeración. La región Valles es parte del Estado de Jalisco, el cual se ubica en el occidente de México; se caracteriza por ser un territorio rural, con localidades urbanas de manos de cien mil habitantes, así también con una economía que se enfoca en un turismo rural, arqueológico y religioso; a la producción de caña y la elaboración de azúcar, y en la producción de agave y tequila. Es este último producto es al que se pretende analizar la conformación del clúster, el cual se ha desarrollado con empresas transnacionales, que están penetrando a mercados globales. El objetivo de este trabajo es analizar las condiciones del territorio para el desarrollo del clúster con el fin de identificar su nivel de desarrollo así como su capacidad de consolidación, verificando el comportamiento de los actores que intervienen.

Humberto De Luna-López
Marisol Cruz-Cruz
Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, México.

“Las Actividades Productivas de los Excluidos del Sistema en Categorías Formalizadas por el Sistema Económico”

Como en otras partes del mundo, la población en edad de trabajar de América Latina mantiene un crecimiento importante. Tan solo en México, en el 2006 la población en condiciones de trabajar ascendía a 44.9 millones, pero de estos, 13.5 millones estaban desocupados (7.6 millones de hombres y 5.9 millones de mujeres); en el 2009, los desempleados crecieron abrumadoramente, ubicándose en más de 80 millones, pero solo 45.4 millones estaba ocupado, esto es poco más de la mitad. Significa que 9.5 millones hombres y 25.1 millones de mujeres estaban desempleados. En 2015, la población en edad de trabajar se ubicó en 88.4 millones, de éstos, 50.6 millones estaban ocupados, pero los desocupados suman 37.8 millones de los cuales 10.6 millones son hombres y 27.1 millones mujeres. Bajo esas situaciones, es pertinente saber, ¿cómo se relacionan los excluidos de los puestos formales de trabajo con el funcionamiento del sistema económico? Este trabajo estudia las categorías turismo rural, empresario rural, emprendedurismo, cooperativas, entre otras que operan para generar empleos e ingresos a quienes participan en ellas, que por diversas causas no tienen una relación obrero patronal, también conocidos como autoempleo. Para ello se expone el origen de las categorías, surgidas en el marco del reparto agrario desde una perspectiva crítica con el método hipotético deductivo; luego las características de estas sociedades y las normas bajo las que operan, para lo cual se toman los países de México y Colombia; y en seguida se explican las implicaciones de las experiencias económicas de estos grupos de trabajo en un contexto de exclusión de hombres y mujeres en edad de trabajar de ambos países.

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“El Producto Final de la Campesina Latinoamericana: Entre El Trabajo Precario y el Plebeyo de Estado”
La mujer campesina, históricamente realiza de manera directa e indirecta actividades encaminadas a solventar la reproducción de los integrantes de la unidad familiar, cuya forma concreta es la producción de bienes y servicios entre los que se encuentra la mano de obra precaria. De igual forma el Estado mediante sus acciones de política pública, genera las condiciones necesarias para facilitar la disponibilidad de mano de obra en función de las necesidades del mercado. El objetivo de este trabajo es exponer la relación entre la producción de bienes y servicios y las acciones del Estado, que dan como resultado la disponibilidad de una mano de obra precaria, que se sintetiza en las categorías jornalero agrícola, pequeño productor, campesino, ama de casa, migrante o desplazado y en menor medida profesionales calificados como maestros y médicos. Para ello, primero se exponen los rasgos de la sociedad en el que se da la relación mujer campesina y Estado, tomando como estudios de caso México y Colombia, por sus particularidades en las relaciones económicas con Estados Unidos; en segundo lugar se explica teóricamente las características del trabajo precario en el que se suma la educación recibida por el Estado mexicano, (en este caso, la Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP) y el Ministerio de Educación para México y Colombia, respectivamente) que complementa la formación profesional de la población mexicana. Y en tercer lugar, las características del trabajo precario producto de las actividades y la relación de la mujer campesina y de las acciones del Estado en ambos países.

Dulce María Aparicio-Padilla
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“Comercio Informal y Reordenamiento del Centro Histórico de Guadalajara. Transición del Comercio Informal al Comercio Formal”

El presente estudio es motivado por la creciente problemática de la actividad del comercio informal presentado en la Zona Metropolitana de Guadalajara, especialmente en la Zona Centro Histórico, y su galopante incremento de uso de sueldo para esta actividad la cual encara hoy un detonante problema social económico y de medio ambiente, afectando de manera significativa la imagen de la ciudad y la economía de los diversos actores involucrados en la actividad productiva y de desarrollo de la ciudad. La magnitud de estos problemas rebasa el ámbito de acción de los gobiernos y la ciudadanía, por lo cual se justifica realizar un estudio que muestre propuestas y acciones encaminadas no solo aminorar el desorden que presenta la actividad comercial fuera de la legalidad y sus consecuencias, sino además proponer posibles vías de solución. Los organismos públicos y privados juegan un papel importante dentro de la sociedad, por lo que nuestro estudio pretende analizar y dar propuestas de apoyo al ordenamiento económico del comercio en vías publicas y contribuir a robustecer el comercio formal. En este sentido, de inicio en la primera parte del estudio, se han recopilado una serie de datos cuantitativos y cualitativos que permiten posicionar a los diversos rubros del comercio, como importantes motores de la economía local identificando los problemas y las acciones que sean necesarias para realizar propuestas viables de mejoramiento y dar apoyo al comercio formal establecido y al reordenamiento de la ciudad.

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Silvia G. León-Cortés
Mónica I. Contreras-Estrada
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“Quality of Work Life in Workers in the Informal Economy in a City of Mexico”
The Quality of Work Life (QWL) has been studied only in formal work, regardless of economic conditions and employment policies have led to a substantial increase in the informal economy in our country. The informal worker is anyone who is part of a system of independent self-employment. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), about 60% of workers in Mexico serve on informal employment (ILO, 2014). The aim of this research was to evaluate the QWL in the informal economy workers in the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara. Voluntarily participated 507 informal workers who were selected randomly, satisfaction with the CVL was measured with the CVT-GOHISALO instrument adapted to workers in the informal economy, the confiability for the adapted instrument with Alpha Cronbach is 0.92 with 50 items. As for the study population, 48% of workers were men and 52% women, age range 15-80 years, the highest percentage was between 15 and 59 years. The most common high school education was 43%, followed by secondary with 29%. 67% are between 1 and 15 years of working in the informal economy and 67% work between 6 and 10 hours a day. 55% of the population had a low level of satisfaction with their QWL, 39% a medium level and 6% a high level. This study found that in general terms the conditions of this sector workers despite not being poor with economic benefits obtained, evade paying taxes and have more flexibility with schedules; have a low level of satisfaction with their QWL; they do not have access to safety and occupational health, many work in unsanitary conditions and exposed to risks in the workplace.

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"Crecimiento Metropolitano en México: Un Problema Pendiente de la Administración Pública en el Valle de México"

En América Latina, el crecimiento urbano aparece en el primer tercio del siglo XX, como resultado del migración interna ante el estancamiento del campo, así mismo por una breve y limitada prosperidad industrial y comercial de algunas ciudades importantes de la región (Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Caracas, México D. F., Guadalajara...). Sin embargo, a diferencia de lo ocurrido en los países avanzados donde el desarrollo de modernas ciudades se dio a la par de grandes innovaciones en la construcción de inmuebles e infraestructura urbana, en América Latina este crecimiento ocurre sin una planeación eficaz, donde se dan aspectos de carencias extremas al lado de la limitada modernización urbana. Por otra parte, el crecimiento poblacional de las grandes ciudades mexicanas, especialmente de la ciudad de México, ocurre sin planeación efectiva de mediano y largo plazo, y menos aún sin integración a su zona conurbada del Estado de México. El saldo arroja calamidades importantes para sus habitantes, especialmente en los temas del transporte, la contaminación ambiental y la seguridad pública. Si bien, las experiencias de creación de gobiernos metropolitanos no han sido lo exitosas que se esperaba; en ciudades como París, Londres, Barcelona y otras, sí se ha logrado coherencia mediante servicios públicos metropolitanos impartidos por organismos de ese alcance. Valdría la pena buscar soluciones de ese tipo para la Ciudad de México y su zona conurbada, antes de que estos problemas sigan incrementando el malestar social de quienes padecen la vida metropolitana. Para ello, habría que enfocar los problemas metropolitanos por encima de las divisiones políticas entre la Ciudad de México, El Estado de México y sus municipios implicados; contemplando de una vez la necesidad de las reformas e innovaciones necesarias.

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"Las Redes Sociales Digitales como Factor de Proximidad entre la Sociedad y los Gobiernos, Una Oportunidad para el Gobierno Abierto"

En la actualidad a partir del uso de internet y de la web 2.0, las redes sociales on line se han convertido en un espacio para el intercambio de información puede realizarse de forma continua,
los grupos de personas que conforman una red pueden compartir intereses, opiniones, generar apoyo y ayuda, integrarse temáticamente, generar un sentido de pertenencia o sociabilizar. A partir de la innovación tecnológica, los gobiernos se modernizan y tienen ante sí la oportunidad de vincularse de manera más estrecha con los ciudadanos, este cambio evolutivo tiene mucho que ver la innovación tecnológica, pero también con nuevas formas de gobernar como el llamado gobierno abierto, con el que al parecer se deja atrás un modelo en el que los ciudadanos participaban en la toma de decisiones solo a través de sus representantes. Las redes sociales hoy en día pueden ser un instrumento fundamental para construir nuevas relaciones de cercanía y participación social en las actividades gubernamentales. Por ello, en este trabajo se propone explorar el uso de las redes sociales por parte de los gobiernos en países latinoamericanos y específicamente en el caso mexicano en los gobiernos de las entidades federativas y para qué son utilizadas.

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“El Plan Estratégico de Juárez: A Case of Social and Institutional Entrepreneurship in Juárez, México”

The Juárez Strategic Plan and the Juárez Strategic Plan Association—a non-profit organization based in Juárez, México represent examples of both social and institutional entrepreneurship. Beyond the entrepreneurial character of the organization itself, the Association’s two key projects represent specific examples of entrepreneurship. This paper elaborates on three entrepreneurial dimensions of the Juárez Strategic Plan Association and of the Juárez Strategic Plan (the two are intimately intertwined): (1) the origin, structure and mission of the organization; (2) the formulation, development, and completion of the organization’s central Project the Juárez Strategic Plan (Plan Juárez); and (3) the re-formulation of the organization’s mission, prompted by Plan Juárez outcomes, which led to the organization’s current key project on governance, originally known as Pacto por Juárez (El Pacto).

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“Las Limitaciones del Gobierno Electrónico desde la Perspectiva del Cambio Institucional. Caso del Gobierno Municipal de Toluca, Estado de México”

Incorporar nuevas herramientas de gestión y tecnología de información y comunicación en el quehacer de las actividades gubernamentales representa un cambio que involucra a diversos actores de la sociedad. Sin duda estas transformaciones muestran los efectos que se producen en la prestación de servicios públicos en el ámbito municipal. En este trabajo se presentan algunos datos de la experiencia que en el municipio de Toluca se han presentado a raíz de la incorporación de las Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación (TIC). En el gobierno municipal de Toluca se han realizado esfuerzos importantes por contar con nuevas alternativas que permitan a la gestión modernizarse y mejorar los servicios, sin embargo, coexisten las formas tradicionales (como el pago en ventanilla) y al mismo tiempo sólo en algunos casos como opción la forma electrónica. Por ello se considera que las innovaciones que se han llevado a cabo son limitadas. Y se busca identificar las principales limitaciones que enfrenta la implementación de las herramientas del gobierno electrónico.

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“Los Analistas Simbólicos como Profesionistas Emergentes de la Administración Pública en México. Comparación a través de los Resultados en las Reformas de la Educación Básica”

La Reforma Educativa de 2013, originó una creciente resistencia de los maestros del nivel básico a su aplicación y un fuerte cuestionamiento a su fundamentación educativa proveniente de diferentes grupos de académicos. A tres años de su decreto, las acciones de rechazo se sostienen y el conflicto entre maestros y el gobierno federal, no muestra señales de resolución. El propósito del presente artículo es analizar la capacidad del equipo de gestión del presidente Peña Nieto para llevar a cabo su reforma educativa. Para ello, se realizará una comparación de la gestión en las reformas educativas consumadas en 1993 y 2013. Se parte de la presencia moderna de los analistas simbólicos como profesionistas deseables que emplea el conocimiento para llevar a cabo las reformas y mantener el orden social que conllevan los cambios. En este propósito, se revisa el concepto de analista simbólico y su relación con las reformas, se reconstruyen las acciones de gobierno al implementar las reformas, su manejo de los brotes de rechazo y su perfil de atención. Los resultados obtenidos, revelan diferencias entre las 2 reformas en torno a la consulta con la sociedad y el gremio magisterial, en la negociación de los contenidos y en la articulación de la reforma en los instrumentos de política educativa.

Ricardo Pérez-Mora
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“Liderazgo, identidad y atribuciones de los integrantes de cuerpos académicos”

El papel del Estado ha sido cada vez más importante en la regulación de las prácticas universitarias y de producción de conocimiento. A través de políticas públicas de ciencia y tecnología y de profesionalización académica se ha impulsado la producción de conocimiento. En particular nos interesa en esta ponencia la producción de conocimiento colectivo a través de los llamados “cuerpos académicos CA”, regulados por el Programa de Desarrollo del Personal Docente PRODEP. Se presenta el análisis de un estudio cuantitativo de los modos colectivos de producción de conocimiento de los académicos, proyecto que se sustenta en 628 casos, los cuales se aplicaron a miembros y líderes de los cuerpos académicos de 60 universidades públicas estatales mexicanas. Se retoman teorías de la sociología, la psicología social y la administración. El análisis estadístico permite la comprensión de las características del líder como elemento clave para la toma de decisiones y el manejo de los CA, así como el conocimiento de la percepción de los rasgos del liderazgo, que se lleva a cabo en dichas entidades académicas. Se analizan algunas variables relacionadas con las distinciones –reconocimiento por el sistema nacional de investigadores, SNI y por el PRODEP- con que cuentan los líderes y no líderes, sus compromisos con la gestión y cargos directivos, nacionalidad, género, entre otras. Entre los hallazgos destacan la diferenciación de percepciones entre los líderes y los miembros, a manera de ejemplo citamos la forma en que los líderes manifiestan que la toma de decisiones es más participativa y los miembros la consideran que el líder tiene un peso importante en las decisiones, posturas que se interpretan como construcciones sociales de la realidad mediadas por los roles que juegan en los CA y que se recuperan a través de las atribuciones sociales en las que los entrevistados explican su rol.

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“Bolsa Familia: Brazil’s Conditional Cash Transfer Program and Intimate Partner Violence Against Women”

There is no emerging model as to how to adequately address intimate partner violence. Previous research has suggested that conditional cash transfer programs (CCTs) that give poor women
preferential access to a small government stipend either always exacerbate or mitigate violence against women. In this paper, I argue that the Brazilian CCT Bolsa Família reduces reported physical intimate partner violence on average, but that there are outliers. Individuals respond to the program in unique ways, with some experiencing more violence despite the majority experiencing less. This finding contrasts with the existing literature that sees the impacts of the CCT in binary terms—that these programs necessarily increase or decrease violence regardless of geographic and cultural context. I conclude that while CCTs are not a “one size fits all” solution, they demonstrate the potential of public policy to reduce intimate partner violence experienced by low-income women.

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“Creencias, opiniones y emociones femeninas ante la delincuencia”

Es conocido que la inseguridad enfrentada en las ciudades genera efectos negativos en la población, es de nuestro interés conocer las opiniones, creencias y las emociones que tienen las mujeres como consecuencias o efectos de la inseguridad en la vida cotidiana. En diferentes estudios sobre victimización y percepción del delito se asegura que la manera de percibir el problema es diferente para los hombres que para las mujeres; se ha comprobado que en los discursos de la población femenina se identifica el miedo a la delincuencia aunque ellas perciban con pocas posibilidades de ser víctimas de delitos. Presentaremos resultados de una investigación descriptiva transversal que parte de un paradigma interpretativo basado en el construccionalismo social. En la investigación se analizan los discursos de 16 mujeres cuyas edades oscilan entre los 14 y los 75 años de edad habitantes de la región Ciénega y de la Zona Metropolitana de Guadalajara. En los resultados se analizan los relatos de las mujeres expresadas a través de sus narraciones en entevistassemiestructuradas sobre las creencias e inquietudes de las mujeres con respecto a la inseguridad, en ellas se identifican aquellos aspectos que alimentan el miedo femenino a la delincuencia, su percepción de los delincuentes y sus explicaciones atribuidas a la comisión de delitos; también se identifican y analizan las estrategias de autoprotección desplegadas ante la sensación de vulnerabilidad y sus opiniones con relación a las situaciones y lugares que identifican como peligrosas.

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“Grupos de Ayuda Mutua para Mujeres: Una Alternativa para la Prevención de la Violencia de Género en Guadalajara, México”

Una gran cantidad de mujeres viven violencia de parte de sus parejas, diversos tipos de violencias, diferentes modalidades y en diferentes grados; en el presente estudio se hace un análisis del trabajo realizado con los Grupos de Ayuda Mutua para Mujeres en una instancia municipal, con el objetivo de revisar los alcances, limitaciones y beneficios que tiene este programa, el cual está enfocado a la prevención de la violencia de género. Se concluye que los Grupos de Ayuda Mutua son una alternativa para brindar información sobre prevención de violencia de género, así como para atender ciertos tipos de violencia cuando ésta se encuentra en un nivel en donde su vida no se encuentra en riesgo. Los grupos también favorecen el fortalecimiento de redes de apoyo entre mujeres y se fomentan conductas de auto cuidado.

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“Microempresas artesanales en Tehuacán y su región. Fortalecimiento de la economía, la cultura y la identidad”

Ante la situación socioeconómica de México es importante analizar diferentes procesos sociales y culturales que han sido impactados de manera directa. En este sentido, la pobreza en las comunidades indígenas y campesinas y la pérdida gradual de manifestaciones culturales son una constante que se presenta en los últimos años. Recuperar la producción artesanal de la región de Tehuacán, México, a través del fortalecimiento de las microempresas es una alternativa viable para mejorar las condiciones económicas de las familias y enfrentar los problemas de la pobreza, al mismo tiempo que se convierte en una oportunidad para mantener las tradiciones culturales, los lazos identitarios y las prácticas de la vida comunitaria. En la región de Tehuacán se cuenta con manifestaciones culturales de gran valor artístico, que se practican desde tiempos centenarios y que han logrado obtener el reconocimiento nacional e internacional. Estas prácticas han logrado mantenerse en estos tiempos de agudización de la competencia económica gracias a los lazos de comunidad que han logrado mantener, pero que poco a poco van debilitándose. En efecto, la producción artesanal carece de espacios de exhibición y comercialización. Por lo tanto, se propone revitalizar los procesos de producción de las artesanías de barro, carrizo, ónix y textiles, para posteriormente aperturar un sitio en el espacio público de Tehuacán para que la sociedad conozca y valore estas obras de la creatividad de niños, mujeres y hombres de las comunidades de la región.

Ismael Colín-Mar, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México.

“Defendiendo la Memoria: El Imaginario Comunitario en el Xita Corpus”

El presente documento es un acercamiento a través de la discursividades convertidas en narrativas y relatos comunitarios que entretienen el desarrollo de los actos festivos de una comunidad como el denominado Xita corpus, donde convergen una amplia manifestación de procesos simbólicos incrustados en la concepción imaginaria de la historia comunitaria y la reproducción de la memoria colectiva del lugar. Se coloca en cierto sentido a la defensa del tiempo sagrado y en la discontinuidad del tiempo profano, siempre paralelo y homogeneizante que atenta contra su identidad comunitaria. En esta aproximación, se intenta mostrar algunas configuraciones que están representadas a través de la memoria colectiva y se evidencia en los actos ritualizados de las actividades socioculturales que desarrolla la comunidad de la Magdalena Cruz Blanca en el municipio de Temascalcingo, estado de México. En este espacio, la relación de todos los actos humanos se entretiene en las dinámicas narrativas que se conjuntan en los relatos de quienes viven y comparten propósitos comunitarios y devenires históricos anidados en la memoria personal, que en un vaivén configura la memoria colectiva del lugar. Por ello compartir-se, a la vez es un acto de socialidad y comunidad.

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“Memoria Colectiva, Relatos Comunitarios e Imaginario Social: La Construcción de una Propuesta de Análisis Discursivo”

Este trabajo formula a través de la teorización de algunas conexiones conceptuales como la discursividad en su expresión de narrativa y relato, el imaginario social y la memoria colectiva; una ruta explicativa de los procesos culturales insertados en la práctica social de una abundante manifestación de tradiciones comunitarias que en buena parte del territorio mexicano se recrean. Por un lado, intenta establecer la composición de las propiedades discursivas de la narrativa, así desde esta perspectiva, el relato -que se desprende de la narrativa- aparece como el recurso vivo, dinámico y oralizado, que finca la naturaleza de los hechos y los anida en la memoria de la colectividad social. En su estructura, el relato se configura a partir de discursos que responden a una vigorosa tradición oral, donde se plasman los referentes identitarios de las comunidades.
En sentido estricto, este trabajo plantea una propuesta para el análisis de las narrativas y los relatos comunitarios que se han convertido en tradición a través de actos festivos, religiosos y cívicos. Con ello, el fenómeno sociocultural y la articulación de los procesos sociales que expresan una gama de redes de significación simbólica, son explicados e interpretados. Palabras clave: narrativa, relato, discursividad, memoria colectiva, imaginario

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“La Política de Gestión Educativa en México: Su Tendencia Privatizadora”

En México a partir de los noventa se han implementado reformas educativas mediante las cuales se atiende a recomendaciones generadas en un marco de organización política a nivel mundial que repercuten en la transformación del sistema educativo; y que a su vez, reconfiguran el papel de la escuela y los actores educativos que en ella intervienen. En este contexto, la intención de esta ponencia es analizar y discutir sobre la gestión educativa y su intención privatizadora. La gestión educativa se introduce en las escuelas de educación básica bajo la idea de mejorar los procesos y resultados educativos con nuevas formas de organización escolar en los que se considera a la escuela el centro de las acciones de política educativa, implantándose programas como Escuelas de Calidad; en los que cobran sentido las políticas neoliberales al operar bajo esquemas de cofinanciamiento y rendición de cuentas, corresponsabilidad y participación social; lo que nos lleva a dimensionar una tendencia privatizadora de la educación bajo la idea de transformar los procesos organizacionales y de gestión en las escuelas, reconfigurando el papel del Estado y la participación de los diferentes actores educativos.

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“Estrategias de Penetración Mercantil en las Universidades de América Latina Vinculadas con la Banca Comercial”

En el presente trabajo, se analizan las estrategias y principios que rigen la relación entre el Banco Santander y las universidades de América Latina. Se hace una revisión histórica de su proceso de vinculación a través de la red de universidades “Universia”, su crecimiento en la región y los beneficios que obtienen con la relación. En términos teóricos, se hace una reflexión sobre los procesos de mercantilización de la educación, la relación entre los organismos internacionales, las empresas y las universidades públicas. De manera específica, se busca analizar la relación de una trama financiera-negocios-educación-superior, como espacio en construcción (o ya consolidado) que da vida a un nuevo sentido sobre la educación superior y su impacto en la idea de la educación pública. Los resultados de la investigación arrojan un crecimiento importante del número de universidades que han sido incorporadas en la relación, con uso intensivo de datos de estudiantes y académicos que pueden utilizarse con fines comerciales, pero con una limitada influencia en los procesos de formulación de las políticas educativas de nivel superior.

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“Las Violencias. Diversas Miradas en América Latina”

Si bien es innegable el medio altamente violento que nos circunda en México, y en otros lugares del mundo, de lo cual tenemos noticia vivas a través de los medios de comunicación e investigaciones, también lo es el hecho de que desde hace años los proyectos sociales y pedagógicos de “Educación para la Paz y la convivencia” se han constituido en una prioridad
mundial. Es al interior de la sociedad y la escuela donde se tendrían que sentar las bases para comprender que mediante la agresión y la guerra se dañan y se pierden vidas, y que con la paz no sólo no ocurre lo anterior, sino que las sociedades obtienen mejores expectativas para un desarrollo humano con mayor calidad de vida. Al iniciar este trabajo de recopilación de temas relacionados con violencia, invitamos a expertos en el tema en países de América Latina, recuperando diversas miradas y paradigmas desde donde bordan y dan sentido a sus investigaciones, reflexiones y análisis. El nombre que escogimos para la conformación de este texto fue “Las violencias en los entornos escolares”. Quienes hemos emprendido este proyecto partimos de la premisa de que la violencia no es un absoluto, sino que esta se manifiesta con diferentes matices, rostros, tesituras, con diversas historias y contextos, tanto a nivel micro como macro.

Wanda Rivera
West Chester University, Pennsylvania. USA

“¿Es la raza un factor determinante para el exceso de violencia de la policía sobre las comunidades afroamericanas e hispanas de los Estados Unidos?”

La comunidad minoritaria de los Estados Unidos se ha convertido en uno de los temas más hablado en los últimos años debido al alto volumen de personas asesinadas en manos de la fuerza policiaca; entre los más afectados están la comunidades afroamericanas e hispanas. El abuso de poder de la policía ha causado miedo entre ambas comunidades. Mediante este trabajo estaremos analizando como la policía ejerce un abuso excesivo para las personas afroamericanas e hispanas en comparación con la raza anglosajona. Examinaremos diferentes tipos de conductas como el abuso verbal, físico, y emocional de los policías y como estos afectan a estas comunidades. Además, observaremos como se refleja la discriminación y el abuso de poder de aquellos que ejercen autoridad en nuestra sociedad. Profundizaremos en si es el abuso de poder policiaco es influenciado por ideologías políticas o por un sentido de la soberanía. Es necesario presentar como la raza es considerada un factor determinante en la decisión de las fuerzas policíacas a la hora de tomar la decisión de decidir que vida posee más valor. Para poder profundizar, presentamos diversos casos en donde las víctimas son asesinas por policías de los Estados Unidos.

Ma. Teresa Prieto-Quezada
José Claudio Carrillo-Navarro
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“Ayotzinapa: Una Herida Abierta en América Latina”

Uno de los ejemplos más emblemáticos y significativos de la violencia en México es indudablemente el caso del Estado de Guerrero específicamente Ayotzinapa, un ejemplo paradigmático de injusticia, desigualdad y represión política en América Latina. En Iguala Guerrero, México, la violencia de estado, la represión política, militar, la tortura y las desapariciones también son fenómenos ajenos que acompañan como contraparte, los movimientos armados y guerrillas en esa región. En el poblado de Iguala Guerrero, en el, 2014, desaparecieron en el mes de Septiembre más de cuatro decenas de jóvenes normalistas, en un contubernio entre el alcalde de dicha comunidad, su mujer: la alcaldesa, la policía municipal y grupos ultra violentos del crimen organizado. Versiones oficiales, revelan que fueron apresados por miembros de la policía de dos municipios, mientras marchaban a una manifestación en contra del destape político de la alcaldesa de la misma entidad. Los policías los entregaron a un grupo ultra violento del crimen organizado, fueron torturados, asesinados y presuntamente, sus cuerpos calcinados y echados a un río.
David Reyes-Farias
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“Geopolítica y Drogas: México chivo expiatorio del problema de drogas en Estados Unidos”

La retórica política actual de Los Estados Unidos acusa México como promotor de la polémica del narcotráfico en Estados Unidos. Pero esta crisis surge de aspectos mutuos entre los dos países. La situación sociopolítica inestable en México ha fermentado una estructura donde los narcotraficantes pudieron crecer extraordinariamente. Esta estructura sociopolítica sigue desarrollándose hoy en día mientras en Estados Unidos el abuso y la adicción de drogas solo suplementa este problema creando un enlace malévolo entre estos dos países. El narcotráfico entre estos dos países existe para satisfacer una demanda de vicios ilícitos sin fin que tiene Estados Unidos. En vez de solucionar el problema con estrategias domésticas, Estados Unidos ha elegido construir barreras físicas y políticas entre estos dos países que no eliminan la raíz del problema. Este estudio analiza la relación geopolítica entre Estados Unidos y México enfocándose en cómo esta relación fomenta el narcotráfico. Los narcotraficantes han sobrevivido por esta relación con los Estados Unidos. Por no apaciguar la demanda y la adicción a la droga en su propio país Los Estados Unidos ha promovido la evolución y la supervivencia del narcotráfico más que el ambiente sociopolítico violento y frágil en México.

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“La Participación de la Mujer en la Organización Universitaria y sus Principales Retos en las Ciencias Políticas Sociales”

En los últimos años se ha dado especial énfasis al estudio de temas relacionados con la participación de la mujer en los diferentes ámbitos laborales y profesionales. En este trabajo se tiene como finalidad analizar el incremento del interés de las mujeres por estudiar en el área de las ciencias políticas y sociales, conocer la expectativa de vida profesional, los retos y obstáculos que enfrentan para estudiar e ingresar al campo laboral, dadas las condiciones políticas y sociales de México. Sin ser un estudio propio de género, los resultados muestran la evolución de la matrícula escolar femenina en la organización universitaria y la detección de la existencia de factores culturales que han sido determinantes para limitar la participación de la mujer en algunas áreas específicas. El estudio se centra en el análisis de la opinión de los estudiantes de la Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales de la Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México.

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Universidad de Guadalajara

Uno de los elementos claves para la consolidación y permanencia de los regímenes democráticos es la participación en los distintos asuntos de la política por parte de los ciudadanos, así como los diversos aspectos de la cultura política que la sustentan. Estudiar este campo resulta relevante para un país como México, que en la actualidad se enfrenta a cambios sustanciales en la vida política. Con este estudio se pretende comprender distintos aspectos de la participación política de una parte de los jaliscienses: los jóvenes estudiantes universitarios. La investigación se realizó con estudiantes de la Universidad de Guadalajara (UdeG) de 6 Centros Universitarios de la Red Universitaria de la Universidad de Guadalajara y todos ellos están geográficamente ubicados en la Zona Metropolitana de Guadalajara. El tamaño de la muestra fue de 880 estudiantes. El trabajo empírico y la estrategia de observación se fundamentó en la aplicación de un cuaderno cuestionario a los estudiantes integrados en la muestra. Las variables de la
participación política que se estudian son el interés por la política y los asuntos del gobierno, activismo político, formas y valoración de las distintas maneras de participación política, valoración del ejercicio del voto y confianza ante los actores e instituciones públicas.

Luis Téllez-Arana
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María Luisa García-Bátiz
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“Hacia un Estado del Arte sobre el Estudio de la Participación Ciudadana en los Gobiernos Municipales Mexicanos”

La participación ciudadana como herramienta para democratizar las gestiones municipales en México vive actualmente un auge sin precedentes. Es cierto que la experiencia mexicana con la participación ciudadana municipal no ha sido suficiente tanto en términos cuantitativos como en términos cualitativos, pero también es cierto que su desarrollo ha suscitado importantes debates en el ámbito académico para conocer y entender las razones de su desafortunada experiencia en el país. En este ámbito de discusión académica, es posible ubicar una ausencia notable en cuanto a la experiencia en la investigación de este objeto de estudio; si bien, los estudios han sido abundantes y han tenido importantes contribuciones a la discusión teórica de la democracia participativa y de los gobiernos locales, sabemos muy poco sobre el recorrido que ha hecho la academia en este camino de aproximadamente veinte años de mostrar interés sobre el fenómeno. Por esta razón, es relevante detenerse a analizar cómo ha sido el estudio de la participación ciudadana municipal en México al momento, esta ponencia se plantea como objetivo hacer un primer acercamiento de manera sistemática a la producción académica identificando su evolución cuantitativa para definir sus principales tendencias y contribuciones al debate.

Manuel Sánchez-Cerón
Adriana García-Meza
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“Nuevas Identidades: El Caso de los Maestros en dos Países Latinoamericanos”

Los cambios recientes del modelo de acumulación de capital en América Latina han transformado profundamente las estructuras sociales de la región. Estos cambios se han reflejado en el trabajo docente de los maestros latinoamericanos por lo menos en tres niveles: uno, la imposición de políticas de competitividad y eficiencia derivadas de evaluaciones generalmente estandarizadas; dos, asociado al anterior fenómeno los salarios docentes se han vinculado a la evaluación y tres, la identidad de los docentes se está reconfigurando a raíz de estos dos fenómenos. En esta perspectiva; esta ponencia presenta un panorama general de los cambios que la identidad de los docentes está sufriendo como resultado de las políticas neoliberales. El trabajo se basa en una revisión indicativa de los estudios en particular empíricos que muestran estos cambios en la identidad de los docentes en los últimos veinte años en dos países latinoamericanos: Argentina y Chile. Se seleccionaron estos dos países porque en ambos se impulsaron tempranamente políticas neoliberales dirigidas a la educación en general y particularmente a los docentes de estos países. Metodológicamente se establecieron tres criterios para la revisión de la bibliografía que muestra estos cambios en la identidad de los docentes: primero, Argentina y Chile vivieron crucentas dictaduras para imponer las transformaciones a la docencia que exigen las políticas neoliberales; segundo, en estos países después de tres décadas ya se pueden observar los cambios en la identidad de los docentes y tercero en ambos países, la investigación ha documentado el fenómeno.
Martha Josefina Franco-García
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“Estudiantes Inmigrantes. Un Desafío para la Función Social de la Escuela en México” 016

A partir de la migración de niñas, niños y adolescentes que se desplazan de Estados Unidos a las comunidades de origen de sus padres en México, realizamos este estudio de corte etnográfico en una Secundaria Técnica de la comunidad de Nealtican en el estado de Puebla donde asisten 47 niños que han llegado de Estados Unidos. Efectuamos entrevistas a profundidad a seis de estos estudiantes, a una madre de familia y a una profesora; además realizamos cuatro observaciones de clase y registramos la cotidianidad, con el propósito de identificar desde la perspectiva del Derecho a la Educación, el proceso de inscripción de estos estudiantes a la escuela mexicana tomando en cuenta que sus referentes escolares tienen que ver con trayectorias académicas en escuelas estadounidenses, las cuales se diferencian de las mexicanas en su estructura y currículo, cuestión que impacta en el aprendizaje de estos estudiantes transmigrantes. Como resultado de esta investigación encontramos que el vínculo que estos estudiantes tienen que realizar con la institución educativa es procesual y tiende a ser complejo, contradictorio y estratégico. Advertimos que en el tránsito de un sistema escolar a otro, las y los estudiantes inmigrantes tienen como referentes sus experiencias escolarizadas previas y, al intentarlas poner a prueba, suelen confrontar a la escuela que los recibe, la cual, a toda costa intenta homogenizar las prácticas de los sujetos.

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“El Imaginario de los Maestros: Un Estudio Socio-Histórico”

En este trabajo revisamos los planteamientos educativos que destacan los aspectos históricos que han constituido el imaginario docente respecto de la educación. En el trabajo abordamos tres niveles que identifica Popkewitz (2010): conversión, razón, y homogeneización; las cuales son categorías instauradas y ritualizadas en el quehacer pedagógico; pero actualizadas en el discurso. Estos aspectos nos permiten situar al sujeto contemporáneo y, de manera singular, al docente que se apropia de estas ideas, las cuales mantienen y fortalecen el imaginario institucional. En el trabajo desarrollamos una genealogía de estos registros históricos e identificamos el contexto en el que surgen y son valorados como ideales universales.

Erika Patricia Cárdenas-Gómez
El Colegio de Jalisco. México
Kennedy Obombo-Magio
Instituto Tecnológico de Cancún. México.

“Turismo en los Principales Destinos Sol y Playa de Latinoamérica”

El estudio tiene como objetivo analizar los impactos socioeconómicos de la actividad turística en tres ciudades de América Latina: Cancún, México; Punta Cana, República Dominicana; y Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. Conocer el comportamiento de la actividad turística y contrastar entre los tres destinos permite identificar los retos comunes que aún quedan pendientes por resolver, e implementar acciones que fomenten la competitividad y sustentabilidad turística. Lo anterior obedece a que la actividad económica preponderante de los destinos recae en el turismo masivo de sol y playa. Para una mejor organización el trabajo se estructura en tres apartados. En el primero, se presenta un breve recuento de la actividad turística en América Latina a lo largo de los últimos 70 años. Ello con la finalidad de explicar el contexto político y socioeconómico en el cual nacen dichos centros turísticos. En el segundo se señalan los impactos socioeconómicos de la actividad turística en los destinos seleccionados. A partir del análisis de algunos indicadores tales como: Producto Interno Bruto, PIB; índices de marginación y de rezago social,
democratización de la productividad turística, nivel de bienestar (calidad de vida) de los habitantes, impacto social y productivo del turismo, encadenamiento productivo del sector turístico, número de empleos y su tasa de crecimiento. En el tercero se mencionan algunas diferencias y similitudes entre los casos de estudio.

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“Movilidad Laboral Hacia Destinos Turísticos. El caso del Pueblo Mágico de Sayulita, Jalisco”

El objetivo del presente documento consiste en indagar las características y motivos principales que presentan los trabajadores que diariamente se trasladan de las localidades asentadas alrededor a la población de Sayulita. La hipótesis a considerar es que todo mercado de trabajo está constituido territorialmente y los flujos de origen y destino no sólo responden a lógicas económicas. Para su entendimiento es necesario considerar el proceso histórico y social. Dentro de la literatura especializada se observa que tradicionalmente los flujos de migración laboral se daban del campo a la ciudad, en otros trabajos se observan indicios de que el flujo se dirige de una gran metrópoli hacia una ciudad pequeña y de localidades menores hacia otras que presentan una característica única. El trabajo se encuentra estructurado en tres partes: en la primera, se trata de identificar el concepto más adecuado para explicar el fenómeno estudiado. La segunda parte del trabajo muestra la transformación económica que ha experimentado la localidad de Sayulita a partir de ser reconocida como Pueblo Mágico y la última parte, se ocupa del análisis de las encuestas aplicadas.

Valerie Anai Rodríguez-Oseguera
Colegio de Gastronomía, Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, Ciudad de México.

“Culinaria en Zonas Turísticas Mexicanas”

La república mexicana ofrece una amplia diversidad de turismo entre los que se encuentran: ecológico, cultural, arqueológico, colonial, gastronómico, de sol y playa, de aventura, cinegético, deportivo y gay. Asimismo, la gastronomía mexicana regala una variada gama de platillos y recetas, la cual ha sido reconocida como patrimonio inmaterial de la humanidad por la UNESCO desde el 16 de noviembre del 2010. Conviene resaltar las características de las influencias de tradiciones gastronómicas indígenas y europeas, así como la variedad de ingredientes. Esta oferta puede carecer de aprovechamiento a nivel internacional. Se ha identificado que una característica del turismo extranjero es la susceptibilidad en la ingesta de alimentos y bebidas con deficiente higiene en su preparación. Es esta una de las razones por la cual desde 1990 se implementó en nuestro país, un programa Nacional de Manejo Higiénico de Alimentos, Distintivo H, el cual es un reconocimiento que otorgan la Secretaría de Turismo y la Secretaría de Salud, a aquellos establecimientos fijos de alimentos y bebidas: por cumplir con los estándares de higiene que marca la Norma Mexicana NMX-F605 NORMEX 2004. Por lo anterior se considera de suma importancia para el turismo nacional, así como lograr una proyección a nivel internacional de la cocina mexicana, difundir los altos estándares a los que se somete la preparación de alimentos en la República mexicana con el fin de fomentar el turismo internacional, lo cual se hace en esta ponencia basada en encuestas, investigación documental y análisis estadístico.

Julieta Guzmán Flores
Universidad de Guadalajara

“Gestión de destinos con turismo medico en Jalisco, México”

In the last decade, the importance of the management of tourist destinations of various types, leisure, health, education, studies, business, visits to friends or relatives, sports, among others,
has been emphasized. Nowadays, does not exist a single destination management model. Because its development depends on local, regional and national capacities and competencies background. In this paper, the theoretical approaches of health destination management proposed by Mainil, Dinnie, Botterill, Platenkamp, van Loon, & Meulemans (2013) are used to characterize the actions and conditions of destination management of two cities that belong to the state of Jalisco, which also offer medical tourism in Mexico.

Adriana Romero-Tscheschner
Ma. del Carmen Farfán-García
Enrique Navarrete-Sánchez
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“Empoderamiento en Mujeres con Trabajo Remunerado y No Remunerado”

Al hablar de empoderamiento se hace alusión de manera general al mecanismo mediante el cual las personas, las organizaciones y las comunidades ganan control, maestría o dominio sobre sus propios destinos (Mendoza Sierra, León Jariego, Orgambídez Ramos y Borrego Alés, 2009). Ha sido utilizado tanto en el ámbito de la psicología comunitaria para promover los derechos de los más desfavorecidos como en el contexto de las organizaciones, de esta manera al integrase la mujer al ámbito labor se sabe que el reconocimiento en el mismo se da de manera paulatina por lo cual la investigación analiza el significado psicológico que las mujeres con un trabajo remunerado y quienes tienen un trabajo no remunerado (amas de casa) otorgan al empoderamiento, con el objetivo de establecer las diferencias que se presentan en esta muestra. Se realizó un estudio descriptivo con 183 mujeres; 97 con un trabajo remunerado y 86 no remuneradas, utilizando la técnica de Redes Semánticas Naturales (Valdez, 2010). Las palabras del conjunto SAM de las mujeres remuneradas son: líder, cambio, independencia, igualdad. El conjunto SAM de las mujeres no remuneradas se asocia a jefe, mandar, padre. Con los análisis realizados se encontró que existen algunos elementos compartidos en las redes semánticas de mujeres con trabajo remunerado y no remuneradas, ya que se otorgó un significado psicológico a Empoderamiento de poder, lo que concuerda con Romano (2012) que define al empoderamiento relacionado con el poder, cambiando las relaciones de poder en favor de aquellos que con anterioridad tenían escasa autoridad sobre sus propias vidas.

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María Teresa Dávalos-Romo
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“Inserción Laboral de la Mujer y su Nivel de Satisfacción Laboral”

Ante la compleja situación económica, política y social que viven los países de América Latina, se dan una serie de cambios en las diferentes estructuras, es así que el ámbito laboral, ha sufrido algunas modificaciones, uno de esos cambios importantes es la integración de la mujer al campo laboral remunerado, cambio que repercute a nivel social, familiar y laboral ya que modifica la dinámica de estas estructuras, de tal manera que la mujer pasa de desempeñar actividades domésticas a trabajar fuera de casa en labores que generen ingresos económicos ante la necesidad creada por la pérdida del poder adquisitivo salarial. Siendo que el trabajo remunerado fue creado por el hombre y para el hombre, de la misma manera administrado por él mismo, ante estas condiciones la aceptación de la mujer en el trabajo no ha sido del todo adecuada, de tal manera que percibe salarios diferentes en la realización de actividades iguales que el hombre, su participación aunque se incrementó en los últimos años es limitada y fundamentalmente se centra en las áreas de servicios, independientemente de su formación, bajo este entorno se realiza la presente investigación en la cual el objetivo fue determinar el nivel de satisfacción laboral de las mujeres que tienen un trabajo remunerado, se aplicó a 75 trabajadoras la escala de satisfacción laboral para mujeres (ESLM) un instrumento construido y validado para tal
efecto. Los resultados indican que las mujeres se sienten regularmente satisfechas en su trabajo, considerando los seis factores que mide el instrumento que son: desempeño, políticas, retroalimentación, salario, reto del trabajo y trato igualitario. En el desarrollo de la presente investigación se realiza una disertación de la inserción laboral de la mujer y su nivel de satisfacción.

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“Expectativas y Realidad del Mercado Laboral de Universitarios de Los Altos de Jalisco 013

Los estudiantes del Centro Universitario de Los Altos de la Universidad de Guadalajara, cuando ingresan a la formación profesional se forman expectativas, mismas que cambian diametralmente una vez que han egresado y se enfrentan al mercado laboral. Los resultados que aquí se presentan corresponden a un estudio de caso en el que se hace una comparación entre el camino que siguen los estudiantes de dos carreras universitarias: una de corte administrativo y otra del área de las ciencias de la salud. Se expone información obtenida de primera mano tanto de los alumnos de primer ingreso como de los ya egresados, y se hace una comparación con los datos oficiales de empleo.

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“La Empleabilidad de Egresados: Indicador Crítico para las Instituciones de Educación Superior”

La ponencia presenta la exploración que se hace de modelos para evaluar la empleabilidad de Instituciones de Educación Superior (IES) pertinentes a la región latinoamericana. El marco de las Metas para el Desarrollo Sostenible (TheWorld Bank, 2016) así como la conceptualización crítica de la evaluación de las IES (Rangel, 2015)y del concepto de competencia desde la perspectiva de la antropología económica de Pierre Bourdieu (Boyer, 2015) son los ejes orientadores de la exploración. Se hace una descripción del lugar que tienen en el mercado de trabajo tres instituciones educativas: La Escuela Politécnica y el Centro Universitario de la Ciénega, ambos de la Universidad de Guadalajara, así como el Instituto Tecnológico de Morelia ello, en términos de la población escolar atendida (matrícula), las generaciones egresadas en los últimos 15 años y una estimación del porcentaje de egresados que están ejerciendo su carrera. Partiendo de la aplicación de “instituciones estructurantes de las dinámicas del empleo” (Pries, 2003; Ruiz 2005) se definen criterios para decidir el modelo de análisis de empleabilidad, considerando a la profesión, la organización, el clan, el mercado y la propia institución educativa.

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“Rezago Educativo y Abandono Escolar en Educación Superior. Un estudio de Caso”

Las maneras en que se ha estudiado el abandono escolar son variadas y han dado como resultado explicaciones también diversas (Tinto, 1989; Escudero, 2005; Covo, 1989). Una conclusión coincidente determina como multifactoriales las causas del abandono y aconseja estudiar cada caso por separado. En ese tenor, encontramos una perspectiva de estudio implementada ya hace tiempo en el país (Chain, R., 1995), propone buscar en el proceso escolar mismo, la trayectoria
educativa, explicaciones a la eficiencia terminal y su contraparte, el abandono escolar. La repetencia y la deserción, afirman, son fenómenos que en muchos casos están concatenados. La primera, cuando es reiterada, conduce a la segunda. El presente trabajo se ubica en esa vía de indagación y toma como caso el Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, de la Universidad de Guadalajara, México. La reglamentación de dicha Universidad establece la baja definitiva de un estudiante cuando ha reprobado en dos ocasiones una asignatura; sin embargo, otorga también la posibilidad de una nueva oportunidad para aprobarla y permanecer en las aulas (UdG, 2006). Cada semestre, un promedio de 150 estudiantes decide acogerse a este último resquicio. Los resultados que se presentan, son fruto del seguimiento de la trayectoria educativa, para dos calendarios escolares, de estudiantes en esta situación que representa un alto riesgo de abandono escolar.

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California State University, Sacramento. USA.

“A Study of How Two Bilingual Children Construct Success in School”

“Success,” and by default “failure,” are realities in every educational institution, with report cards being a cumulative summation a student’s performance. Yet, “success” or “failure” gets socially constructed and is differentially displayed in classrooms. In this study, I explore the nature and dynamics of classroom events and how school related success becomes differentially displayed. This exploration is based on the close observation of the lives of two kindergartners in a bilingual classroom, in East Oakland. Each child was selected by their teacher; one that she considered “successful” and she considered “not as successful.” This study is critical for understanding the complexity of classroom behavior that leads to a positive self-image. There are classroom practices that promote a sense of who is successful. These practices may not always be teacher initiated, yet they have the same net consequence of heightening those students that are considered successful and trouncing those considered less deserving. Yet it is my belief that children do indeed bring a complex multiplicity of strengths into the classroom that are all too often ignored or minimized in part due to our failure at understanding the nature of classroom events and how these connect to school-related success.

María Teresa Dávalos-Romo, Mónica Olmos-Esparza
Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas. México
Ma. del Carmen Farfán-García
Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México.

“Desarrollo y Validación de un Cuestionario de Violencia Psicológica en el Noviazgo”

La violencia psicológica en el noviazgo ha sido poco estudiada y clarificada. Dado a que es un fenómeno multicausal, México cuenta con estimaciones limitadas y poco actualizadas sobre el tema, de hecho, el instrumento más completo que se encuentra sobre este tema es el propuesto por el Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática y el Instituto Mexicano de la Juventud en el 2007, el cual se ve limitado porque únicamente explora aspectos sociodemográficos y todos los tipos de violencia de forma general. Dado lo anterior, este trabajo tiene como finalidad desarrollar y validar un cuestionario sobre violencia psicológica en el noviazgo, considerando los factores familiares y roles de género. Participaron tres expertos de la Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas y uno de la Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes. Posteriormente, 84 estudiantes (54 mujeres, 30 hombres) de la Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas “Francisco García Salinas”, Campus Jalpa, entre los 17 y 26 años de edad, estos últimos en una relación de noviazgo o que su última relación se haya dado en los últimos tres años anteriores al momento de aplicar el instrumento. Y finalmente, para llevar a cabo el análisis de componentes y Alfa de Cronbach, participaron un experto de la Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes y otro de la Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas “Francisco García Salinas”,
Ulises Osbaldo de la Cruz Guzmán
University of Guadalajara

“Working and psychosocial conditions of university students. The case of CUCEA, University of Guadalajara”

In Mexico, young university students face a double challenge in the demands of their professional training and working conditions. This research consisted in studying the labor situation of the student population of the University Center of Economic and Administrative Sciences (CUCEA) of the University of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. The objective was to analyze the characteristics of the paid jobs in which the students of the CUCEA developed, giving special attention to the psychosocial components of the environment and the working conditions. The methodology used was of quantitative nature, correlative scope and cross-section; A survey was applied to CUCEA undergraduate students during the second half of 2015 to a sample of 346 students, of whom 145 were working in the study. At first, the research identified the existence of job precariousness regarding salary perception, working time, lack of social benefits and work contract. Now we investigated the psychosocial dimension and the search to give a Latin American panorama of the subject in question.

Simonetta Bianca Torres-Argüello
Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina.

“Paradojas y antinomias de la persona al sujeto: hacia una aproximación de los derechos humanos en clave intercultural e impolítica”

Tal vez sea la declaración de los derechos humanos emergentes aprobada en 2007 en Monterrey, México, la expresión más acabada a nivel práctico de las preocupaciones que en nuestro mundo contemporáneo y latinoamericano se han gestado en torno a una cuestión tan primordial como la de los derechos humanos. El objetivo de este trabajo es dar cuenta de dos modalidades de pensamiento que, cuestionando ambas algunos supuestos del liberalismo individualista, se adentran en los fundamentos antropológicos, políticos y jurídicos de los derechos humanos para 1) hacer pensable su ampliación y completa efectivización, ya sea en comunidades locales con Villoro, ya sea en vidas que nunca han llegado a tener un rol subjetivo de primer plano, con Esposito y 2) para reconsiderar el rol estratégico de conceptos como sujeto y persona en la configuración de los ordenamientos políticos y socioculturales en el escenario contemporáneo.

Salvador González-Andrade
Edgar Arturo Oliva-Ayala
El Colegio de la Frontera Norte. México.

“Analysis of the Vulnerability and Economic Resilience of Entities of The Northern Border of Mexico to the International Financial Crisis”

This paper analyzes the economic vulnerability and economic resilience of Mexican northern border entities in the context of the 2007 international financial crisis. A methodological approach is proposed to develop vulnerability and resilience indexes and the economic performance of 2003 To 2014 is compared to that of other entities. The components of the indices are standardized by the minimax method, and economic performance is measured by
disaggregating GDP into its cyclical and non-cyclical (trend) components. It is concluded that in the face of external shocks the frontier exhibits heterogeneous levels of economic vulnerability but also presents a strong economic resilience.

Ricardo Roberto Rodríguez-Toscano
Universidad de Guadalajara. México

“Reestructuración Agro-Productiva en México: El Caso de los Productos de Alto Valor Agregado”

La idea según la cual el libre mercado y el régimen de propiedad privada conducen a mayor eficiencia de la economía en general, es una tesis clásica en la literatura desde finales del siglo XVII. Si bien esa postura permea gran parte de las políticas públicas implementadas en México, en la praxis la mayoría de esas políticas se han enfocado al fortalecimiento de los sectores secundario y terciario, especialmente en el ámbito urbano, dejando de lado el desarrollo del sector primario. Aunque el desarrollo de las actividades primarias no es exclusivo del ámbito rural, la mayoría tienen ocurrencia en las zonas rurales, mismas que durante los últimos años han modificado su identidad en consonancia con las reconfiguraciones económicas, sociales, ambientales y político-institucionales que las han trastocado. A raíz de las nuevas dinámicas económicas, algunas han tenido que reestructurarse agroproductivamente para responder a las tendencias globales. En específico, mientras que en algunos países de Latinoamérica y estados de México la actividad agropecuaria se ha reestructurado hacia productos agrícolas de mayor valor agregado, en otros han persistido condiciones marginales de cambio. El objetivo de esta investigación es analizar las recientes dinámicas agroproductivas, particularmente las caracterizadas por la adopción de nuevos productos y/o técnicas de mayor valor agregado y determinar si dichos cambios han tenido algún impacto en el desarrollo local. Los datos provienen de fuentes secundarias y para su análisis asumimos una visión multidimensional soportada en el cálculo de indices de especialización y productividad.

Luz Orieta Rodríguez-González
Víctor Manuel Castillo-Girón
Suhey Ayala-Ramírez
Ricardo Roberto Rodríguez-Toscano
Universidad de Guadalajara. México

“La Especialización de las Exportaciones Agrícolas Mexicanas y su Concentración Regional”

La liberalización económica ha generado una serie de dinámicas nuevas en el comercio internacional. La producción económica de los países se ha diferenciado y también ha tendido a especializarse respondiendo a condiciones económicas, geográficas, ambientales y políticas. En México se han visto concentraciones regionales de actividades productivas que han favorecido las condiciones económicas y sociales de las regiones. En el caso del sector rural, esta dinámica se ha presentado de diversas formas: con la llegada de empresas internacionales, el cambio a la producción de productos de alto valor agregado y la disminución de superficie de cultivos básicos o tradicionales. Por lo anterior, el objetivo de esta investigación es realizar un análisis de las exportaciones agrícolas mexicanas, específicamente de los productos de alto valor agregado con la finalidad de determinar las dinámicas regionales que han surgido y están asociadas a los nuevos procesos en el ámbito rural.

Raquel Silva Barretto.
Instituto de Psicología de la Universidad Federal de Rio de Janeiro - Brazil.

“Stigma and Violence in Psychiatric Beds in General Hospitals: Review and Analysis”

This research aimed to understand how the stigma associated with violence in psychiatric hospitalizations in general hospitals. Between the years of 2014 and 2015 were conducted
searches and analyzes of periodicals in three virtual bases, global scientific, using for this purpose, four descriptors. In addition, interviews were conducted with professionals working in brazilian psychiatry. The study that will be presented is the result of a macro research, which lasted 02 years and was developed for the master's degree thesis, at the National School of Public Health - Rio de Janeiro/Brazil. This study demonstrated unprecedented in world scenario and bring important contributions to other researchers, both in public health, and in issues related to the humanities and social sciences.

Arturo Benitez-Zavala, Universidad de Guadalajara.

“Rezago Educativo y Abandono Escolar en EducaciónSuperior. Un estudio de Caso”

Las maneras en que se ha estudiado el abandono escolar son variadas y han dado como resultado explicaciones tambièn diversas (Tinto, 1989; Escudero, 2005; Covo, 1989). Una conclusii_n coincidente determina como multifactoriales las causas del abandono y aconseja estudiar cada caso por separado. En ese tenor, encontramos una perspectiva de estudio implementada ya hace tiempo en el pai_s (Chain, R., 1995), propone buscar en el proceso escolar mismo, la trayectoria educativa, explicaciones a la eficiencia terminal y su contraparte, el abandono escolar. La repitencia y la desercii_n, afirman, son feni_menos que en muchos casos estï_on concatenados. La primera, cuando es reiterada, conduce a la segunda. El presente trabajo se ubica en esa vi_a de indagacií_n y toma como caso el Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, de la Universidad de Guadalajara, Mïaxedico. La reglamentacion de dicha Universidad establece la baja definitiva de un estudiante cuando ha reprobado en dos ocasiones una asignatura; sin embargo, otorga tambièn la posibilidad de una nueva oportunidad para aprobarla y permanecer en las aulas (UdG, 2006). Cada semestre, un promedio de 150 estudiantes decide acogerse a este i_ultimo resquicio. Los resultados que se presentan, son fruto del seguimiento de la trayectoria educativa, para dos calendarios escolares, de estudiantes en esta situacií_n que representa un alto riesgo de abandono escolar.

Antonio Jiménez-Diaz
Alfonso Martínez-Allegre
Erandini Donaxi Pinto-Pérez
Patricia Natali Valencia-Álvarez
Universidad de Guadalajara. México

“Alcances y Límites del Derecho a la Inviolabilidad de las Comunicaciones Privadas en el Marco de las Facultades del Estado sobre Investigación Criminal”

The Insecurity Crisis that some Latin American countries are living, demands strict and efficient measures to ensure the safety of their population. This situation has led to several legislation and state policies that seek the intervention of personal data and private communications, in cases of possible criminal responsibility, placing these countries in the dilemma of protecting citizens while guaranteeing respect for the human rights granted from internal and external sources; however, is necessary to define conditions and limits of its performance. Due to such circumstances, we will analyze the inviolability of private communications right and its relation to criminal investigation, to answer whether the governments of Latin American countries such as Mexico, Venezuela, Chile and Colombia have established the necessary limits to exercise their intervention without violating the human rights. In the same context, we will tell whether the reforms tend to emulate the performance of the government of an Anglo-Saxon country, the United States of America.

Hilda Irene Cota-Guzmán
Colegio de Gastronomía, Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, Ciudad de México

“Cocinas Nacionales en América Latina”
En esta ponencia se teoriza sobre la cocina nacional en Latinoamérica desde la perspectiva culinaria y gastronómica en el escenario latinoamericano, con un primer abordaje del "inicio de lo nacional" y algunos rasgos contemporáneos. Pensando la identidad colectiva como resultado histórico y de elecciones valorativas, se constituye en procesos de comunicación que hacen posible el funcionamiento de los imaginarios colectivos. El abordaje de fondo es la multiculturalidad, re-pensando que históricamente los grupos llegaron a auto-identificarse en virtud de que progresivamente fueron compartiendo lengua, religión, pautas de conducta. Esto es una identificación afirmativa: se es miembro porque se pertenece. En resumen, la identidad existe porque existe la alteridad. La identidad cultural se ha desarrollado en la modernidad, como tendencia general, en el entorno de un "ser nacional", que nos transmite un ethos colectivo dominante, pero no único a partir de los productos específicos es que se provocan y concretizan las relaciones intergrupales e interpersonales. De manera que las representaciones conforman y desarrollan las relaciones con los otros, los otros países, las otras regiones. La ponencia busca ofrecer explicaciones sobre procesos de identificación en América Latina, ello tras nuestras historias y discursos míticos que producen - provocan - refuerzan creencias y comportamientos.

Rebecca Mendoza-Gómez
Colegio de Gastronomía, Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, Ciudad de México

“Análisis comparativo entre el taco de carne asada en la ciudad de Tijuana y el Taco Bell de del sur de la ciudad de San Diego y en Chula Vista, bajo la perspectiva gastronómica y social”

Este trabajo busca establecer una comparación entre el público consumidor de ambos productos, esto para comprender los procesos culturales y gastronómicos que rodean a nuestra zona delimitada. Metodología: Investigación documental, entrevistas y observación. Se exponen y comparan las historias de la franquicia Taco Bell y del taco de carne asada bajacaliforniano, al igual que los componentes gastronómicos de ambos tacos. Se examina desde una perspectiva gastronómica el análisis y la comparación de ambos platos, con un enfoque social, mediante entrevistas y archivos en línea, al público consumidor de ambos negocios. El área de estudio delimitada a la ciudad de Tijuana, el sur de San Diego y Chula Vista. La migración de mexicanos a los Estados Unidos de América, específicamente al estado de California, será un tema que acompaña esta investigación, haciendo énfasis sobre factores económicos, de cultura alimentaria y de calidad de vida en la comunidad latina migrante.

Virginia Reyna Martínez-Hernández
María de los Ángeles Colín-Cruz
Judith Benítez-Cuevas
Facultad de Química, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México

“Eating Habits of University Students and Food Access. Autonomous University of Mexico State”

Eating disorders result in chronic noncommunicable diseases (CNCDs) such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease, among others. These ailments develop slowly during youth and become manifest in adult age. They can be prevented by adopting healthy eating habits. The present study aimed to identify the eating habits of university students, determine the influence of socioeconomic variables, and analyze food access on campus. A transversal study was carried out in the city of Toluca through a survey of 300 randomly selected UAEM students of either sex. Results show that the students interviewed were 17 to 23 years in age; 70% have a normal body mass index (BMI), 25% are overweight, 2% are underweight and 2% have class I obesity. Most (58%) attend classes both in the morning and afternoon, and therefore eat the food available on campus. Of their parents, 90% of the fathers and 56% of the mothers are employed, and are highly educated (undergraduate or graduate studies, 52% and 44% respectively). About CNCD antecedents, 63% of the students have a direct relative with diabetes and 45% have one with obesity, indicating a high predisposition to develop one or another of these ailments. The
following eating habits were declared by students: 51% eat three meals daily, 28% do not eat breakfast and 22% eat at home. The frequent consumption of healthy foods was as follows: fruit 62%, vegetables 53% and natural juice 35%; while that of unhealthy foods was: soft drinks 21.7%, processed juice 20.7% and fritters 23.3%. About food access, industrialized foods predominate in both cafeterias and vending machines, high-fat foods in street stands, and unbalanced meals in cafeterias.

Carlos Terán-Méndez
Colegio de Gastronomía, Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, Ciudad de México.

“Siembra del Grano Genéticamente Modificado y su Impacto en la Cultura del Maíz”

México es el centro de origen de uno de los cereales más importantes a nivel mundial: el maíz. Desde el comienzo de la agricultura en las poblaciones más antiguas del territorio mesoamericano se comenzó a domesticar el teocintle, que es el ancestro de las variedades que existen hoy en día y, a través de generaciones de agricultores crearon una biodiversidad importante no sólo para el país, sino para el mundo; desarrollaron además métodos de cocción como la nixtamalización que, a manera de ensayo y error, pudieron hacer un alimento más digerible, nutritivo y sávido. Actualmente, el uso de variedades genéticamente modificadas pueden ser factor para interferir en la riqueza biológica que se tiene dentro del ecosistema mexicano, además de interrumpir con las técnicas milenarias de siembra: la milpa y la chinampa; las cuales constituyen riqueza cultural, además de la cosmovisión, los rituales y las creencias que tienen todavía varias comunidades indígenas y pequeños productores. Como centro de origen México debe velar por el cuidado de la cultura alrededor de maíz dentro del país, así como de la biodiversidad que se haya a lo largo de todos los sembrados de los pequeños productores quienes de generación en generación transmiten su legado; y uno que ha llevado de la mano a la cocina mexicana a que sea Patrimonio Inmaterial de la Humanidad. La utilización de granos transgénicos orilla al empleamiento de monocultivos para poder facilitar el aumento de producción lo que podría causar el deterioro en la conservación de las técnicas tradicionales de cultivo.

Brando Loaeza-Cisneros
Colegio de Gastronomía, Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, Ciudad de México.

“México como Exportador en Materia de Alimentos”

El sector mexicano agroalimentario ha alcanzado una posición a nivel mundial en distintos sectores de producción por lo que se considera un gran productor en materia de alimentos como chile, brócoli, coliflor, cártamo entre otros más. La demanda de alimentos en México a nivel internacional hace que diversos países con elevados poderes adquisitivos reconozcan a México como un proveedor confiable gracias a la calidad de sus productos. Esta investigación se enfoca a las exportaciones agroalimentarias de sectores con gran potencial productivo, resaltando principalmente algunos productos en los cuales México compite con otros países latinoamericanos, en tanto comparamos la producción en algunos países latinoamericanos como Brasil, Argentina y Uruguay.
Emmanuel Omotayo Ogundijo
Arkansas State University

“Perceptions of Facebook Privacy Among Arkansas State University Students”

Online social networking offers a new, easy and inexpensive way to maintain already existing relationships and present oneself to others. However, the intensifying popularity and people’s enthusiasm and involvement towards social networking sites also gives rise to privacy concern and risks. In the case of new communication technologies, college students are usually the forerunners as they are free to make decisions on whatever they are sharing, but cannot control what others post about them. Even though Facebook privacy policy simply states that personal information can be disclosed for advertising, marketing purposes or used by third parties, college students still reveal vital personal information when they sign up. This study qualitatively examines college students’ perceptions towards the use of Facebook at Arkansas State University. Whether they perceive their information public or private and whether they read the Facebook’s privacy policy. A sample of six college students agreed to take part in semi-structured interviews which were then transcribed and analyzed. The results indicated five major themes; identity construction, lack of understanding, self-censorship and privacy invasion. Students are heavy users of Facebook and share private information with unauthorized people due to small reward like popularity.

Ivana Markova and Cristina Azocar
San Francisco State University

“News Media, Social Media and Entertainment Media and Culture. Do they work together or against each other to influence body image and body attitude?”

Using cultivation theory and social comparison theory this survey research seeks to answer broad research questions about the intersection between mass and social media use and body image: Does the type of social media a person uses have an interaction affect on body image confidence and body attitude? And, does that interact with whether respondents are heavy TV viewers or frequent magazine users? Does age, gender and/or race interact to affect body image confidence and body attitude? Recent research indicates that different types of social media platforms have found to have similar negative effects on body satisfaction as traditional media (Brown & Tiggemann, 2016). Moreover, heavy social media users tend to compare their bodies to others and feel more negatively about their bodies (Fardouly & Vartanian, 2015). Past research also indicates interactions/differences in ethnic background, thin ideal internalization and body image perceptions for mainly Asian and Caucasian women, but research is lacking in examining the effects media on other ethnic groups such as Native American and Middle Eastern women. Researchers surveyed 500 undergraduate students via online qualtrics survey method. Results and study implications are discussed.

Shayla Adelowo
Arkansas State University

“The Effects of Social Networking on Interpersonal Communication”
According to some scholars, interpersonal communication is defined as “the way humans create and negotiate meanings, identity, and relationships through social interaction, how we constitute selves and relationships” (Braithwaite and Schrodt, 2015). Although scholars agree there are several definitions of interpersonal communication, they all seem to agree that interpersonal communication is a process that involves creating and negotiating meanings both verbally and nonverbally between small groups of people. Interpersonal communication is important in relationships, whether personal or work related. Interpersonal communication plays a significant part in how we engage in communication with others. “As human beings, our only real method of connection is through authentic communication” (Arnold, 2012).

Current research shows that 7% of communication is written or verbal and 97% is nonverbal. However, today’s social networking has interrupted this process because it allows individuals to hide behind text, email, social media, etc. People can now be anyone they want to be. Therefore, creating an exceptional paradox. “With all the powerful social technologies at our fingertips, we are more connected – and potentially more disconnected – than ever before. Every relevant metric shows that we are interacting at breakneck speed and frequency through social media. But are we really communicating?” (Arnold, 2012).

Hessah Alqahtani
Arkansas State University

“The Impact of Social Media on Ways of Thinking: An Examination of Young Adults at Arkansas State University”

In the past two decades, the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education has had a great impact on the way people behave and think. Among the most widely known media of ICT are the Internet and social networks. Social media use has revolutionized the way people interact on a day-to-day basis. Different social media networks such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, among others, have grown in popularity over the past decade, and teachers have since taken the opportunity to establish the innovative ways to make the learning process even more interesting for their students. There has been a heated debate over whether the use of social media has an impact on the way people think. This study examines the impact of social media on ways of thinking. In doing so, the validity of this debate is examined by looking at how people perceive social media networks as a tool for learning and the way it affects their thinking ability. The findings of this discussion shed light on the extent to which the social media networks affect human thought and world perception. Most participants who were interviewed agree that social media influences their thinking.

Peggy Watt
Western Washington University

“Newspaper Endorsements: Influential or Ignored?”

“The media” is among the parties being blamed (or credited) for Donald Trump’s upset election this fall. This research examines one aspect of the media’s influence: endorsements, long a tradition of the op/ed pages. Hillary Clinton was overwhelming endorsed by newspapers throughout the country; even Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson received more endorsements than Trump. Is this an indication of newspapers’ lack of influence? This study compares the circulation areas of the endorsing organizations with the election results (and perhaps some historical results, for perspective) to assess the influence of the editorial endorsement today. At this point, it is a work in progress, but I expect to have some solid data and early conclusions to present.
Kris Kodrich
Colorado State University

“Shock, awe and bewilderment: How journalists at NBC, ABC and CBS reacted live on the air to the surprising presidential victory of Donald J. Trump”

This study closely examines Election Night coverage of three major U.S. broadcast networks to determine how journalists reacted to the surprising victory of Donald J. Trump to be the 45th president of the United States. Utilizing observational research as well as discourse analysis of 18 total hours of TV coverage, this study examines the spoken words, facial expressions, and body gestures of the journalists for manifestations of political bias and emotive leanings. The researcher systematically observed and coded 6 hours of simultaneous and continuous coverage from each network recorded on the evening of November 8, 2016, identifying content and body language that expressed emotions and bias. While professional journalists are supposed to keep their bias and emotions out of their news coverage, this study finds that journalists at NBC News, ABC News and CBS News reacted to the unfolding certainty of a Trump electoral victory with surprise and bewilderment. They also angrily acknowledged how wrong their months of analysis predicting a Hillary Clinton victory turned out to be. These findings support previous studies that indicate broadcast journalists do demonstrate media bias in their coverage of political campaigns through both the content of their reporting and their nonverbal expressions.

Kimberely A. Blackburn
Arkansas State University

“Evidence of the Glass Cliff? A Case Study into the Media's Coverage of the Political Careers of Sarah Palin and Kellyanne Conway”

In an article published October 20, 2015, Forbes magazine described the “glass cliff” as a phenomenon in which women are more likely to be appointed to leadership positions that are associated with an increased risk of criticism and failure. This study explores this phenomenon in two case studies on the careers of two women selected for positions of leadership by the Republican political party and how they were presented in the media. Both were selected in two separate times of crisis. Sarah Palin was chosen to be the running mate for Sen. John McCain during a time of low poll numbers during the 2008 presidential election. Kellyanne Conway was the first woman appointed to manage a Republican presidential campaign. She was appointed during Donald Trump’s 2012 bid for president and during a time of declining poll numbers. These case studies will focus on how the media portrayed Palin and Conway as leaders during these times of crisis or “glass cliffs.”

Andrew Hanson
University of Nebraska Kearney

“The brand behind the personality: How the media environment in sports journalism continues to evolve”

With the evolution of social media platforms and the ever-changing landscape that information is delivered in, the role of media personalities has grown and scope. Some individuals – such as Keith Olbermann have developed a brand that can carry across multiple organizations (i.e. ESPN to MSNBC). Others, such as Bill Simmons, have developed so-called media empires through subsidiary entities (i.e. Grantland and The Bill Simmons Podcast). In an industry that has changing audiences, delivery systems, and revenue sources, media personalities are increasingly needing to become brands unto themselves. This paper examines several examples in sports media in how they must larger or lesser degrees established themselves as independent brands.
Malcolm R. Miller  
Arkansas State University

“Athletic outspokenness and agenda setting: Athletes' increased social commentary, and the actions it ignites”

In response to social injustices taking place within the United States, such as police brutality against African-Americans, many professional athletes are stepping outside of the sporting realm to lend their voice to social issues. The athlete's stance on social issues, however, is not the majority opinion in society. Despite their stance not being in the majority opinion, athletes have partaken in protests, given speeches, and donated funds to support the cause they believe in. The increased social commentary of the athletes has lead to conversation about their protesting methods and more awareness about the social issues their protesting, within media outlets traditionally known for discussing only sports, thus, introducing an agenda-setting effect. Through a process of merging aspects of the spiral of silence and the agenda-setting theory, the researcher seeks to explore how athletes are breaking the spiral of silence to express their perspectives on social injustices. Additionally, the researcher discusses how the athletes' social commentary has changed the agenda in various mass media outlets, and the public's response to the changed agenda. Overall, this study explores how the agenda-setting theory can be used to address sports celebrities, who break the spiral of silence.

Abdullah Asmael  
Arkansas State University

“Entertainment Programming Agenda-Setting in Saudi Arabia”

Media in all platforms have a significant influence and impact on societies. Community and individuals can be highly influenced by media which entertainment shows are among its products, therefore, these types of programs can be used to impact public opinions or agendas. This paper concerns with Saudi entertainment shows that use YouTube as their broadcasting platform which has much freedom and less rules comparing with the Saudi legacy media. The purpose of this study is to develop a theoretical framework to better understand how comedy can be used as an agenda setter of social conversations in Saudi Arabia. It provides some implications such as 1) Creators of entertainment content have been studied in another nation. 2) They do not perceive themselves as agenda setters. 3) The public does not perceive entertainment shows or their creators as agenda setters. 4) Saudi entertainment programming in YouTube talk about issues that are not welcomed in the legacy media.

Ralph E. Hanson  
University of Nebraska at Kearney

“What We Talk About When We Talk About Fake News”

When the term “fake news” came into common contemporary use in the mid-2000s, it was being used to describe the satirical news stylings of popular television comics such as Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert, and the staff writers of The Onion. But as the 2016 presidential campaign heated up, the term increasing came to refer to false stories that were either being manufactured for financial or political reasons in addition to those that were satirical. This paper will look at how our understanding of fake news has transformed from the early years of print media through the age of cable television into the age of social media.
Maha Alshareef
Arkansas State University

“A survey of use Facebook as a news source among Saudis users”

Social media has could change the face of journalists from its traditional form to a more modernized form, and this is mainly the use of the social media platforms as almost the primary source of information. The purpose of the study is to gain a better understanding of how social media is being used by Saudi Arabians to gather news and information. The study has found out that Facebook is the prominent social media platform that is being used in Saudi Arabia. The news that is being released by the media houses is based on the approval of the government. The study indicates that due to the control of the media house in the country. There has been an increase in the growth and use of the social media and this is to ensure that Saudis users can get news from the international arena. The application of the gratification theory in the study has could show the use of media sources in Saudi Arabia in terms of the sources of media that are available. The increase of Saudis users is to share the breaking news with the rests of the world

Emmanuel Omotayo Ogundijo
Arkansas State University

“Qualitative Investigation on How Bipolar Disorder Patients receive Online Social Support”

With the development of new media technology, especially the internet, an increasing number of people now seek health related information, social support and as well as consulting with health professionals through different online mediums including; websites, listservs, message boards, chat rooms, blogs and emails. The internet has become a primary venue for social support groups to address their health concerns and reduce stress. Despite this broad interest in online health communities and rich assortment of research on social support and the internet, little is known about how these online communities help patients with bipolar disorder. Bipolar is a mental illness that has significant negative impact on quality of life. Although, prior research focuses on face-to-face social support but little is known about how bipolar disorder patients seek support online and the kind of social support they receive in an online forum. This study offers insight into the types of social support being sought, the types of support being provided and what is being communicated in an online bipolar disorder board.

Khairul Islam
Arkansas State University

“Online Health Information Seekig Behavior among College Students: What Makes a Source Credible?”

Online health information persuades individual’s health-related decision-making process like consultation with a physician, (Lebanova at al., 2014). Pew Research Center (2013) reported 38% of Americans check health resources online to determine what medical conditions they or somebody else might have. In extent, they utilize such resources for primary health diagnosis, what the report termed as “online diagnosers”. As the younger generation (age-ranged 17-34 years) ahead of other group, (US Census Report 2013) which denotes that the college students would be top among online health information consumers. However, concern is whether they are getting accurate information. Observational studies noted that health-related websites are mostly unregulated either run by nontechnical people or commercially managed by pharmaceutical companies. Sometimes, people couldn’t distinguish a health website from other general sites. As college students, advanced Internet users, they likely to be proactive scrutinizing online information. This study primarily will investigate how college students determine source credibility online. The study will develop an explanatory design using
heuristic approach. Data will be collected through in-depth interview among 20 undergraduate and graduate students of Arkansas State University. The study’s findings will educate college students about the effective use of online resources.

Myleea D. Hill, Marceline Hayes and Catherine E. Bahn Arkansas State University

“The Awareness Culture: A Textual and Visual Analysis of Websites of Health-Related Causes and Campaigns”

This study employed a textual and visual analysis of purposive selected websites to explore common characteristics and identify best practices in health-related campaigns and causes. The websites analyzed represented breast cancer (www.nationalbreastcancer.org), prostate cancer (www.pcf.org), childhood cancer (www.acco.org), ALS (www.alsa.org), and autism (www.autismspeaks.org.) The findings were analyzed considering Rogers’ (2003) Diffusion of Innovation and Grunig and Hunt’s (1984) Situational Theory of Publics. The analysis identified an emphasis on shopping, sponsors, upbeat images, observances/events, and finding cures rather than prevention or what Rogers termed “how-to knowledge.” There were not clear steps to move from what Grunig and Hunt described as aware publics to active publics. Additionally, the sites at times presented “life and death” issues in a “fun and games” light. For example, featuring celebrity athletes and framing fundraisers around contests or athletic events suggested Postman’s (1985) media critique of Amusing Ourselves to Death and led to the researchers’ conclusion that health-related causes are adversely affected by what they termed the awareness culture. Identifying best practices, the authors commended references to nutrition, prevention, lifestyle and healthy living tips, and community support, while also concluding that the websites provide a suitable repository for news and information.

Li-Jing Arthur Chang
Jackson State University

“Factors Affecting the Amount of Viewing of YouTube Videos: An Use and Gratification Approach”

The study is designed to explore different factors that might affect the amount of viewing for English-speaking YouTube videos. The factors under consideration include upload time, topic of the video, video length, video quality, color (black-and-white or color), trendiness, general nature of video, and other relevant factors. Use and gratification approach will provide some theoretical framework of the study.

The study is intended to collect data related to the factors for YouTube videos shown in sampled weeks. The raw data will be analyzed using both correlation and regression statistical procedures. The procedures are aimed at identifying significant predictors and correlates for viewing for YouTube videos. The findings of the study are expected to help enhance the understanding for the use and application theoretical approach in the context of a new media platform such as YouTube. The discoveries from the research may also bring some insight for the factors that might increase the popularity of YouTube videos.

Dr. Gil Fowler
Arkansas State University
Dr. Anas Al-Rasheed
Kuwait University
Dr. Khalaf Tahat
Yarmouk University in Jordan

“Measuring Student Self-Perceptions of Writing Skills in Mass Media Programs in the Middle East”
This study sought to explore student self-perceptions of writing skills in journalism and mass communication programs in two middle-eastern universities, Kuwait University and Yarmouk University in Jordan using a Media Writing Self-Perception Scale developed by Lingwall and Kuehn (2013). The scale, which addresses four areas of writing perception: writing apprehension, writing self-efficacy, writing approaches, and social media writing competence, can be used to craft new instructional approaches that can be used by faculty who wish to devise more effective writing instruction and to ultimately determine whether student writing corresponds with ones' major. Results can also be used to personalize student advising and for career advisement. More than 200 students at each university were surveyed as to whether they took a professional journalistic approach to their writing (they enjoyed writing, they feel confident about their writing skills, they provided more detail in their writings, and they enjoyed re-writing and editing their work, etc.) or not. Did their approach to writing match or influence their choice of major? Results and implications are discussed.

Douglas J. Swanson
California State University, Fullerton
Betsy A. Hays
Fresno State University

“Mentoring and Reverse Mentoring in Public Relations: What Should Educators Know, and How Should Students Be Prepared?”

The value of professional mentoring has been acknowledged in many disciplines, including mass communication. At the same time, few studies specifically address mentoring, reverse mentoring, and related issues within communication fields. Within public relations existing research suggests that PR practitioners acknowledge the positive outcomes that can result from mentoring, but have limited knowledge of mentoring and often apply it haphazardly. This work attempts to establish a foundation for greater understanding of mentoring in PR by first defining critical terms, and then organizing and explaining what is known of mentoring approaches used within PR practice. Since college students can expect to be involved in mentoring even in their entry-level position, the work ends with suggestions for educators to integrate mentoring and reverse mentoring concepts into undergraduate public relations curriculum. Also included are suggestions to guide future research inquiry on the topic.

Maha Alshareef
Arkansas State University

“Facebook Addiction Among Saudis Users”

The social media, specifically Facebook have become a uniting force that brings together many people around the world. However, too much use of Facebook, just like too much of anything, can be detrimental to one’s well-being and should be discouraged. Saudi Arabia has a large population of young people who spend a lot of their time on Facebook instead of spending time doing positive things. This paper was therefore commissioned to investigate the greatest problem with Facebook addiction is that young people often forget about important things like paying attention to their education and professional careers among Saudi Arabians between the ages of 18 and 35. The study also sought to explore studies about the level of Facebook addiction, the signs, and symptoms of Facebook addiction, and most importantly, how to deal with the challenge of Facebook addiction. Current trends and innovation such as effects of smartphones in this addiction were also scrutinized whereby it was established that they have increased and eased accessibility to social media. This study gave detailed statistics of Facebook addiction in Saudi Arabia, a conclusive report on the addiction as well as ways to which the addiction can be mitigated by way of recommendations.
Musaed Fahad ALshammari
Arkansas State University

“How Kuwait Media Preserves National Heritage”

In a world where people can be connected 24/7, is “heritage” still relevant? Given that Kuwait has changed drastically in the last fifty years, does it matter that many aspects of tradition, language, and architecture have disappeared? This paper examines a variety of research articles related to Kuwaiti heritage and the media’s involvement in preservation of national heritage. The literature review also discusses the “natural selection process” of heritage. Although certain aspects of history have been “lost,” this “loss” was not due to “lack of preservation,” but due to a more natural process of learning what benefits the economy and what detracts from it. The paper also looks at media patterns in Kuwait and the significant role social media has played. If one begins to embrace a broader definition of heritage—that of a “journey” related to identity rather than something related to aspects of antiquity that may or may not be supportive of a nation’s development—the process of preservation takes on an entirely different form. To preserve heritage in a way that benefits Kuwaiti society, it is important that media creators and government ministries identify what exactly needs to be saved and what role media should play in heritage preservation.

Peggy Watt
Western Washington University
Roundtable

“Covering Silicon Valley: Stories from the Center of Tech Journalism”

This panel features reporters and editors from trade and business publications as well as some general-circulation newspapers covering Silicon Valley. The topics of discussion include new challenges involving tech development and its coverage in a Trump administration, which appears to be business-friendly but not as supportive of global ventures, a key part of tech innovation; and other issues from the trenches. Another possible area of discussion is how technological tools can help journalists in newsgathering and reporting, notably security measures and social media. One prospective panelist is listed, and other participants are not set since this is not yet approved. However, I will draw participants from my numerous contacts among the Silicon Valley media, including colleagues at CNET, Wired, iDG, Ziff-Davis, the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Jose Mercury-News.

Khairul Islam
Arkansas State University

“Strategic Use of Facebook in Business: A way of Achieving Customer Trust”

Strategic use of Facebook in businesses could develop a “mutual trust” between the companies and their customers as the network facilitates both company and consumer- interact directly (Wu, 2015). The major businesses have understood that active participation in social media (SM) only helps branding of their products, but also help building a mutual relationship. Considering the changing trends in communication, the major companies across the world have been remodeling their outreach programs and the way of communication with their customers (Weinberg & Pehlivan, 2011). This study inquires how businesses use Facebook to develop a mutual trust between themselves and the public. A month-long (Feb. 15-Mar. 15, 2016) online conversations between Etihad Airways and SM users executed through the airliner’s Facebook page has been analyzed. The study adopts a grounded theory procedure to investigate the collected data. After analysis, the conversation, the researcher came up with four major themes: customer complements, customer complaints, tourism awareness and public engagement. The study reveals that the airliner mainly initiated online conversations
from the company’s marketing and promotional prospective, not for “trust building”. The study findings have potential implications for pubic-oriented businesses, particularly for the airline sector, having active participation on the Facebook.

Anna Hermes
SmartAct, Inc

“Interactivity in Online Advertising”

People spend more time online. In support of a direct feedback channel, the internet allows new types of advertisings. Thus, advertisers can make use of interactive online advertisings to engage their audiences. By conducting a survey among students at a Southern University, this study examined if participants are interested in interactive features in online ads. Some of the findings indicated that participants liked being interactive with brands and playing branded games, rather than passively watching a commercial. Further, respondents who reported to read or watch online ads were more interested in interactive online ads.

Manasar Alharethi
Arkansas State University

“A Survey of Trust and Purchasing Involvement Among Instagram Users in Saudi Arabia”

Instagram has become one of the most important destinations for shopping between individuals in Saudi society, especially among the younger generations, who use it daily. This study was designed to examine how Saudis employed Instagram as a marketing channel and why they preferred using Instagram for shopping over other social media platforms. The Uses and Gratification Theory was employed to gain an in-depth understanding of the reasons behind Saudis using Instagram to shop and the way this activity affected their lives. This study surveyed 2,117 Saudis who use Instagram to explore potential correlations with website credibility, materialism, self-esteem, and purchasing involvement. A survey was used to answer the proposed hypotheses and research questions. The results found strong correlations between certain variables, namely the amount of Instagram use, degree of materialism, and level of self-esteem.

Kyle A Rush
Portland State University

“A Critical Analysis of Disney Song Lyrics”

This paper dives into the concept of different gender theories as applied to Disney song lyrics. An understanding is established as to what ideologies are to to understand how Disney presents an ideology regarding gender unto audiences. Different theories regarding femininity, masculinity, and the makeover paradigm are addressed about four different movies as artifacts (Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Mulan, and Aladdin). An understanding as to how these four artifacts come together into a common ideology regarding gender within Disney movies is discussed. This is followed by an evaluation of how these song lyrics perform with their addressing of gender issues, and where Disney can go from here.
Ian Pool
University of Waikato

“Book Discussion: Colonization and Development in New Zealand between 1769 and 1900: The Seeds of Rangiatea, by Ian Pool (Springer, 2015)”

This book details the interactions between the Seeds of Rangiatea, New Zealand’s Maori people of Polynesian origin, and Europe from 1769 to 1900. It provides a case study of the way Imperial era contact and colonization negatively affected naturally evolving demographic/epidemiologic transitions and imposed economic conditions that thwarted development by precursor peoples, wherever European expansion occurred. In doing so, it questions the applicability of conventional models for analyses of colonial histories of population/health and of development.

The book focuses on, and synthesizes, the most critical parts of the story, the health and population trends, and the economic and social development of Maori. It adopts demographic methodologies, most typically used in developing countries, which allow the mapping of broad changes in Maori society, particularly their survival as a people.

The book raises general theoretical questions about how populations react to the introduction of diseases to which they have no natural immunity. Another more general theoretical issue is what happens when one society’s development processes are superseded by those of some more powerful force, whether an imperial power or a modern-day agency, which has ingrained ideas about objectives and strategies for development. Finally, it explores how health and development interact.

The Maori experience of contact and colonization, lasting from 1769 to circa 1900, narrated here, is an all too familiar story for many other territories and populations, Natives and former colonists. This book provides a case-study with wider ramifications for theory in colonial history, development studies, demography, anthropology and other fields.

Thomas D. Isern
North Dakota State University

“The Land Will Tell Its Own Story: Kevin F. O’Connor and the High Country of New Zealand”

Dr. Kevin F. O’Connor, a scholar of the New Zealand high country, passed away on the Second of Advent, 2016. This passing is occasion for examination of O’Connor’s contributions, during and after his academic career at Lincoln University, to the understanding of pastoralism and life in the high country. O’Connor arrived in the Lindis region of Central Otago by pushbike in 1948; his heart never left, and his intellectual career focused on the land and people of the high tussock grasslands. He conducted revisionist studies of the tussock grasslands with powerful implications for high country history; took part in the land development movement from the 1950s to 1980s; played a significant role in tenure review and land reform; and
reflected on the history and ramifications of grassland ecology in New Zealand. A soil scientist by academic training, O'Connor was fond of saying, “The land will tell its own story.” This paper is an intellectual biography of the man who listened to the land.

Suzzanne Kelley
North Dakota State University

“Pakeha Cob & Prairie Sod: An Examination of Earth Houses and Service Learning”

Construction of human habitations from earthen materials is a global phenomenon, as evidenced in New Zealand by the cob houses of Pakeha pioneers and likewise by pioneers on America’s northern plains. In North Dakota, university students learn about and experience this phenomenon as participants in the Prairie Earth, Prairie Homes Field School, where they study the history and heritage of historic earth construction techniques. They begin with stereotypical notions about rustic lifestyles in sod houses. They discover how and why indigenous peoples and European immigrants built earthen homes of vernacular styles. They take to the field with pencil, notepad, and a willingness to get dirty while service learning. The field school’s experiential core, whereby students restore and rebuild earth houses, alters student perceptions, which becomes apparent in their journal narratives. They mash dirt between their fingers; examine mixtures of sand, clay, and manure; taste the soil—accidentally as grit between their teeth and deliberately as a test for content; and they labor to preserve an earthen home. The field school is a model of heritage research and historic preservation. The result is a storied understanding, a cultivated landscape literacy for describing life in dirt houses.

Heather Steinmann
Western New Mexico University

“Re-coding Grounded Theory: using #hashtags to teach coding”

This paper uses a study done on students’ written responses to Keri Hulme’s novel The Bone People. Specifically, this paper looks at how this researcher coded narrative, and begins to look at how categories in Grounded Theory are much like the social media phenomenon of hashtags.

Most recently, social media hashtags like #NoDAPL and #notmypresident have served to group news articles, personal reflections, photos, and memes. This presentation will look at a classic use of Grounded Theory coding and then look at some of these recent uses in social media with a focus on how hashtags can be used to teach coding to students.
Ignacio Medina Núñez
Universidad de Guadalajara

“Presidential elections in Peru 2016”

This paper provides a general context of the electoral processes in Peru since, after the military governments in the 1980s, where there have been different political tendencies in the country presidency. It has happened alternation of political parties in the presidency although all aligned, even Ollanta Humala who had a progressive ideology, with the economic guidelines of the neoliberal model. I analyse the presidential election process in 2016, at the end of the government of Humala, where a first round of voting occurred on April 10, and, because no candidate won the 50% of the vote, there was a runoff election on June 5th, only between the two main candidates: Keiko Fujimori and Pedro Pablo Kuczynski. This last one has become the new president in Peru (2016-2021).

William E Carroll
Sam Houston State University

“Rocking the EU: Threats to Its Stability and Endurance”

This paper analyzes the impact on the EU of recent events and developments. These latter include the rise of parties opposed to the EU project, especially but not confined to the right, for example the National Front in France and the Freedom Party in Austria and UKIP in Britain. Brexit illustrates the success of the latter and talk of leaving the EU is heard in other countries, which would of course signal its demise. The anti-Euro Freedom Party became for a time the second largest party in the Netherlands. Another threat to the stability of the EU has been the Euro-crisis. The danger of Greece having to leave the Euro has not disappeared. The Euro’s viability has been questioned as Germany the European Central Bank search for resolutions to this crisis. The refugee crisis has only exacerbated the EU’s problems with sharp disagreements over Germany’s insistence that other EU countries accept more refugees, which is resisted by several other countries, including but not just Hungary. Finally, there is the question of the proper response to Russia. All these will be analyzed for their impact on the EU’s stability and endurance.

Andrés Zamudio
West Hills College

“Ejército: dispositivo disciplinario”

El ensayo realiza un acercamiento al Ejército por medio de unas herramientas conceptuales elaboradas por Michel Foucault. Estas herramientas, aunadas a unos presupuestos políticos e históricos, permiten ver al ejército como una institución disciplinaria mucho más arraigada en el Estado de lo que parece. En este sentido, el Ejército puede ser analizado ya no desde tratados sobre la guerra sino desde sí mismo. A lo largo del trabajo se le hace frente a una pregunta conductora: ¿qué es esta disciplina y en qué consiste? ¿Cuál es el papel de ciudadano frente a esta institución y, viceversa, cual es el papel de esta institución frente al ciudadano? Nuestro trabajo da cuenta de estas y otras cuestiones.
Pablo Pineda
Universidad de Guadalajara

“Planning and execution of the municipal Social policy in Mexico”

In a sample of large municipalities of Mexico, the paper makes a comprehensive review of the issues included in its planning of public policies, stopping in social policy and particularly in actions to combat poverty. Specifically, it analyzes the extent there is adequate coordination between the various stages of this policy, which will show how solid is the institutional development of their governments. The essay also analyzes how policies are implemented or not consistent with the social policy that implements the federal government and how, from this, one can say whether there is any coordination between the two levels of government.

Marcela Franzoni, PPGRI-STD (Unesp, Unicamp, PUC-SP).

“The Mexico’s foreign policy in Peña Nieto administration: domestic and internacional challenges”

Mexico’s foreign policy is motivated by impulses from the domestic and international context. Domestically, President Peña Nieto faces low popular support, fueled by economic and political instability. At the international level, the election in the United States of a candidate with a more nationalist purpose and apparently unresponsive to Mexican demands poses challenges for the bilateral relationship. Moreover, in Latin America, a possible counterbalance to Mexico’s dependence on the United States, multilateral institutions are little advanced, reflecting the domestic difficulties experienced by some of its main members, such as Mexico and Brazil. Therefore, given the current internal and external complexity, Mexican foreign policy reinforces its priority links with the great power. It is argued that, after a period in which the government tried to diversify the political and economic partnerships, under the administration of Felipe Calderon, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Pacific Alliance lose weight in national diplomacy. Given the crisis in Brazil and Venezuela, in addition to the uncertainties related to Chinese economic development, there is less openness for Mexico to invest in alternative political and economic partnerships, reinforcing its dependence on the US.

Mariana Trejo Sánchez
El Colegio de San Luis

“Conceptual implications of multilevel governance on the US-Mexico border”

The process of globalization is a complex phenomenon and has generated changes in relations between nation-states. This process has raised new forms of political organization at the borders understood as space through more effective forms of governance. In this way, multi-level governance becomes a conceptual tool that allows explaining how transborder spaces are changing their dynamics through a new configuration in which governments, the private sector and civil society interact in different processes for the purpose to achieve better forms of integration. The cases of multilevel governance in border areas have been mainly addressed in the case of the European Union. However, the United States - Mexico border poses conceptual challenges for analysis. In this way, the present work proposes to discuss the concepts of border space, multilevel governance and the cooperation of the actors as components of the governance, to contribute to a reflection for the analysis of the dynamics in the border Mexico and United States.
Stephen Wright
Northern Arizona University

“A New Trans-Atlantic Partnership in an Era of Trump, Brexit, and Populism: Making America and Britain Great Again?”

The trans-Atlantic relationship between the United States and Europe has been a core component of the international system for many decades, but has recently come under pressure from a variety of sources. The most obvious factors shaking this relationship in 2016 were the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency and his unorthodox views on foreign policy, the Brexit result to ease the United Kingdom out of the European Union (EU), and the rise of populist politics across Europe (and the US) which have put the EU under increasing strain. Additional factors in recent years have contributed to the undermining of trans-Atlantic relations, including the impact of the global recession, the Euro debt and immigration crises, the increasing influence of Russia, the uncertainty regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the inability to finalize the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP). This paper analyzes these political, economic, and social factors drawing upon various theoretical frameworks, and points to likely trends in USA-UK relations, as well as the broader developments surrounding USA-European relations. Do the difficulties in these relationships point to a dramatic shift (temporary or permanent) in trends within globalization and regionalization?

Jamie Surface
Portland State University

“European’s Immigration Pitfalls: Public Opinion and Governance”

Migrants and asylum seekers present a growing population in Europe; however, immigration and asylum policy consensus wavers across the European Union. The institutional governance framework of the European Union (EU) fails to incorporate a common policy to manage the economic, political, and social implications surrounding immigration. The research question seeks to answer why the European Union does not have a common immigration policy. The EU is based on solidarity and integration, without a common policy on immigration movement of people, acceptance of immigrants, and policy formation are threatened. Key factors of agenda setting, governing institutions, crises, and citizen perceptions will be addressed. The interrelational nature between supranational and intergovernmental institutions to the decision-making process and nature of the EU will also be addressed. Seeking to answer the question of why the EU does not have a common immigration policy, Kingdon’s Agenda setting model will be used as the basis for answering this question.

Klara Bilgin
Virginia International University

“Political attitudes and Civic Participation of Millennials: The case of International Students in the US”

The paper present the findings of a survey instituted at the Virginia International University (VIU) in the fall of 2016. VIU has a 98% international student body, with the most represented counties being India, Pakistan, Nepal, Mongolia and Saudi Arabia. The survey was designed to gauge and measure the students’ political attitudes, support for democracy and its alternatives, level of formal and informal political and civil participation (volunteering, service to community, consumer activism, and social media activism). More than 200 students completed the 40-question survey and the result proved rather intriguing. They showed significant variation based on the students’ country of origin, years spent in the US, and
area of graduate study. They also differed substantially from similar studies instituted among largely American students in similar education institutions. The paper discussed the findings and their implications for the way we look at the millennials engagement with politics, especially for those born outside of the US and the Western countries, but being educated in the US.

Kyle A Rush
Portland State University

“News Media Impacts on Political Knowledge”

This paper examines an understanding of political knowledge, and how different researchers over the year apply this concept differently within their research studies. A discussion as to the complimentary and contradictory research results between the three areas of newspaper media, television news media, and internet news media are discussed through analysis of the prior body of literature that exists. A further analysis into the specifics of how specific researchers conduct studies differently than is understood is discussed, followed by a recommendation for a meta-analysis to be conducted within this field of research to create a different understanding as to how these studies may work together as part of a larger body of research.

David C. Powell
California State University, Long Beach
Linda Marie Sundstrom
California Baptist University

“The California Voting Rights Act and Local Government Representation”

The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) became law in 2002. The purpose of the CVRA was to address racially polarized voting in elections and enhance the presence of members from underrepresented groups on local governing boards and councils throughout the state. The CVRA marked a departure from the totality of circumstances provisions of the Federal Voting Rights Act and introduced a streamlined burden of proof and a promise of “no cost” litigation for plaintiffs. As a result, many local governments have faced CVRA lawsuits over the past several years. When faced with a CVRA lawsuit, the primary safe harbor for local governments is to transition from an at-large election system to trustee area elections which many local governments have done. This research analyzes the impacts of the CVRA both in terms of monetary effects and local governing board representation. A sample of governments that transitioned from at-large to trustee area elections is examined to determine the possible fiscal and representative impacts of the CVRA. In addition, governments that recently transitioned from odd year to even year elections are analyzed as well to segment the impacts of type and timing of electoral systems.

John R. (Rob) Baker
Wittenberg University

“Gubernatorial Efforts to Minimize Regulatory Burdens: Ohio’s Common Sense Initiative”

In 2011, Ohio Governor John Kasich signed an Executive Order creating the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) which aims to minimize the economic burdens of agency rulemaking on small businesses by requiring agencies to conduct business impact analyses on proposed rules that then must be reviewed by the CSI office. This paper examines how this process works to coordinate and control agency rulemaking, including the nature of agency business impact analyses and how CSI responds to these analyses. Using data from the most recent calendar
year (2016) the paper utilizes a sample of filings from several agencies across the state bureaucracy to aid in the assessment of the CSI process
Xuan Nguyen, California State University of Bakersfield

“A Case Study of Best Practices for Preventative Program on Childhood Obesity”

The increase in childhood obesity has gained much attention from health care professionals, health policy experts, children's advocates, and parents. All are concerned that today’s overweight and obese children will turn into tomorrow's overweight and obese adults. Such individuals suffer chronic health issues and higher health care costs. Various policies have been created to target childhood obesity. This study focuses on local level policies in California’s San Joaquin Valley. This food growing Valley is also a place with widespread poverty and childhood obesity. I study policies and programs in the seven San Joaquin Valley counties to identify similarities, differences, and relative effectiveness. Specifically, I use the Narrative Policy Framework to analyze these seven cases. I am looking at how these programs frame the obesity problem (for example, as a “sin”, as a “disease”, etc.), how they identify victims and villains, and how they justify the type of interventions involved. I conclude by showing if some types of policies are more effective than others, and why.

Xianlin Jin, University of Kentucky

“Family Effect on Young Adult Smokers Intention to Quit Smoking: Extending the Framework of Theory of Planned Behavior”

This study is informed by the constructs of the theory of planned behavior (TPB) and aims to add social context into the model. This study explores whether family factors work as distal factors in the extended framework, and in which way distal factors and proximal factors (attitudes toward smoking and self-efficacy to reject smoking) work together to predict young adult smokers’ intention to quit smoking. This cross-sectional study uses random sampling and recruits young adult smokers at Fayette county, Kentucky by using random digit dialing method. A hierarchical regression will be conducted to test the extended TPB model by using the following predictors: family members smoking behaviors and significant others' attitudes toward smoking, smokers' self-efficacy to resist smoking and attitudes toward smoking. The findings of this study would help anti-smoking campaigns and health service organizations reduce young adult smoking epidemic.

Keywords: family effects, young adults smoking habits, the theory of planned behavior
Christina A. Medina, New Mexico State University

“Cultural Competency Pedagogy in Public Affairs Curriculum”

Promoting equity and social justice remains the core of the public affairs disciplines. As communities become increasingly diverse, public sector practitioners are faced with not only rectifying the effects of past social injustice and mitigating phenomenon such as systemic racism and sexism, but also addressing new needs to ensure citizens have high quality of life. Consequently, multiple stakeholders have advocated for public sector practitioners developing skill sets and awareness to manage and develop culturally competent organizations. A culturally competent skill set emphasizes, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, social intelligence, emotional intelligence, ethics, facilitation, deliberation, innovation and mindfulness all of which can contribute to more efficient and effective public organizations. Because of a culturally competent approach to public sector work, pluralistic communities receive public goods and services that acknowledge unique needs, norms and values. As such, culturally competence is critical for effective policy making and implementation. While scholars have acknowledged the importance of cultural competency, few researchers have taken steps to bridge public affairs higher education and culturally competent practices. As such, little scholarly work exists detailing useful cultural competency frameworks. The presented research aims to introduce culturally relevant pedagogy and evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches.

Ernita Joaquin, San Francisco State University

“Double Loop Learning: A Framework for Harvesting Pedagogical Lessons for Service Learning Courses in Public Administration – 1”

"We present a framework for harvesting lessons from Community Service Learning (CSL) courses in graduate Public Administration program. CSL courses aim for enhanced academic learning, relevant and meaningful service to the community, and intentional civic engagement. To this end, we conducted a course with local institutions nonprofit, academic, local government - as community partners. Teams of students worked with the partners in the field, with the course design involving layers of reflective evaluation. The literature is replete with pedagogical advice for CSL instructors on developing their courses, asks participants to expect adjustments, but more effort may be directed in developing action models for harvesting anew and adjusting to - the lessons that arise during CSL course planning, execution, and conclusion. From our case, we derive a framework focusing on the adaptation elements necessary for a high-intensity, high-uncertainty course. Besides recommending prospective design considerations, our framework may help instructors course-correct during their CSL implementation. It makes allowances for unanticipated feedback that arise at different stages of the course, identifies areas with the least and most difficulty in adjustment, and questions some of our assumptions in marrying the goals of (graduate) academic programs and service learning with community organizations.”

Brittany Hodge, San Francisco State University

"We present a framework for harvesting lessons from Community Service Learning (CSL) courses in graduate Public Administration program. CSL courses aim for enhanced academic learning, relevant and meaningful service to the community, and intentional civic engagement. To this end, we conducted a course with local institution's nonprofit, academic, local government - as community partners. Teams of students worked with the partners in the field, with the course design involving layers of reflective evaluation. The literature is replete with pedagogical advice for CSL instructors on developing their courses, asks participants to expect adjustments, but more effort may be directed in developing action models for harvesting - and adjusting to - the lessons that arise during CSL course planning, execution, and conclusion. From our case, we derive a framework focusing on the adaptation elements necessary for a high-intensity, high-uncertainty course. Besides recommending prospective design considerations, our framework may help instructors course-correct during their CSL implementation. It makes allowances for unanticipated feedback that arise at different stages of the course, identifies areas with the least and most difficulty in adjustment, and questions some of our assumptions in marrying the goals of (graduate) academic programs and service learning with community organizations."

Sarah Floyd, Abilene Christian University

“Measuring Organizational Climate at the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District”

Little research has been conducted on organizational climate in local public health districts in the United States, this study seeks to help fill that literature gap. Organizational climate refers to the collective perceptions of employees on their interactions with peers, management, and the organization. Understanding organizational climate is an innovative way to identify strong and/or weak characteristics of an organization. This study answers the question, according to the Competing Values Framework, what is the organizational climate of the Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District (ATCPHD)? This study surveyed 40 employees at the ATCPHD with the entire Organizational Climate Measure (OCM) developed by Patterson et al., (2005). Findings determined that the climate of the ATCPHD was primarily Human Relations with a secondary climate of Relational Goals, implying that the ATCPHD values the well-being of employees as well as efficiency, effectiveness, and goal setting. Climate research should continue to be conducted on other local public health districts to find climate trends in public health throughout the US for the purposes of improving services for staff and clients in the community. In this session, the researcher will discuss the use of the OCM and implications for practice in community health districts as a result.

Chandra Commuri, California State University, Bakersfield

“Post Facto Causal Stories - How Powerful Interest Groups Narrate Policy Losses”

There is a considerable body of public policy literature exploring the role of stories in the policy process (Roe, Stone, McBeth, Shanahan, Jones, among others). The literature predominantly focuses on the role of stories at the agenda setting (or earlier) stages of the policy process. My research however explores policy stories that appear at later stages. In this study, I explore how a powerful advocacy coalition makes sense, through stories, of an unexpected loss in a policy fight. The policy case revolves around a fight over water for farmers in California’s Central Valley. Data was collected through interviews with influential members of the policy
coalition advocating for water for farmers. Through the narratives given by these individuals, I seek to identify the types of stories told (Stone), and the various narrative elements within those stories (as posited by the Narrative Policy Framework).

Colin Jones, Doshisha Law School

“The Robot Koseki- A Proposal For "Borders" for Autonomous Robots”

The history of Japan’s koseki system of family registration presents a fascinating study in the use of creating internal borders through a registration system that also enables the rest of society to identify a nexus of responsibility within the family unit. Although the system is now archaic in many ways, the author proposes that it may provide a useful model for registering robots. This paper will suggest that a similar system could be used to register robots and allocate responsibility for the different elements of their being (design, programmer, owner-user, etc.). Adopted internationally, the system could facilitate the movement/transportation of robots across borders, a legal issue that will soon develop with the advent of mobile, autonomous machines.

Jarumy Rosas and Antonio Sanchez, University of Guadalajara, Mexico

“What Do We Know about Municipal Social Policy In Mexico?”

"The process of decentralization started in the 1980s in Mexico and gave new responsibilities to the municipal governments of this country. Later, the demands of the society and the public problems identified in the local environment influenced municipal governments to begin to implement actions that were not traditionally within their sphere of competence. This situation impulse changes in the institutional framework giving new responsibilities in social policy to the municipal government. The design, implementation and, in some cases, evaluation of the municipal social policy drew the attention of several researchers who from their academic fields addressed the study of this type of policies in recent years. This situation has meant the development of an important compendium of literature that has turned municipal social policy into its object of study; however, so far there have been few efforts to carry out an analysis of the knowledge and learning achieved up to this point. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to present an analysis of the literature on municipal social policy in Mexico to identify progress achieved in the study of these actions."

Heide Yang, Sungkyunkwan University
Sungho Park, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“Government Structure and Performance Management: Exploring the Links between Form of Government and the Use of Performance Information”

The proper use of performance information (PI) is a necessary condition for public organizational outcome. The effort to identify what motivate governments to use PI has thus been evident. It, however, remains an open question, particularly at the local level. This study aims to contribute to the existing body of performance management literature by exploring how form of government, as a key structural element of local government, affects the use of PI. We hypothesize that from the professional management perspective, council-manager form (as
opposed to mayor-council form) is likely to have a positive relationship with PI use; but, the association between the two variables may vary depending on the intended purpose of the use of PI (budget process, inform citizens, etc.) given mayors strong electoral interests. To test our hypotheses, we focus on 2009 and use multiple sources of data including ICMA Municipal Year Book and ICMA State of Profession Survey. Our preliminary analysis observed the dynamic links between form of government and PI use. The findings not only highlight form of government as one important but, surprisingly, under-researched factor that shapes local performance management practices, but also illuminate the implication of local government reform in terms of PI.

Viola Fuentes and Misaki Fuentes-Maruyama, Arizona State University

“Analyzing How the New American University Carries Out Stakeholder Management Analysis”

Strategic management, strategic planning and stakeholder analysis represent organizational management tools slowly being accepted and used in the public sector. This case study examines how one public university in Arizona undertakes strategic planning and strategic management. Bryson (1995) posits that strategic planning entails a “deliberative, disciplined approach to producing fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization (or other entity) is, what it does, can be a very beneficial process for an organization if implemented correctly (pp 7-8). Public universities who are implementing new programs or modifying existing programs can benefit from strategic planning and stakeholder analysis to better manage their organization’s relationship with key stakeholders particularly politicians and other public agencies.

Sungho Park, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Heide Yang, Sungkyunkwan University

“Organizational Performance Achievement and Government Resource Allocation: Rewards, Sanctions, or Else?”

Performance evaluation and the proper use of performance information in public organizational management have been expected to improve administrative behavior, managerial efficiency, and government accountability. However, there has also been skeptical criticism of the actual benefit or usefulness of performance information; this group of scholars argue that no sufficient room exist for rational assessment in management practices. We posit that the underlying reason of this ongoing debate is our lack of knowledge on the incentive mechanism of organizational performance achievement. To address this research gap, we aim to understand whether varying levels of organizational performances (e.g., over-, right-, or under-performances) lead to managerial rewards, sanctions, or else by exploring the link between agency performance information and fiscal resource allocation. We focus on over 400 programs implemented by Washington state agencies from FY2002 to 2012 as our unit of analysis. Fixed-effects panel regression analysis is performed using the program performance and budget data which come from the Performance Progress Reports annually published by the Washington Office of Financial Management and state budget documents. This study is expected to contribute to the existing body of performance management literature by elaborating our understanding of the effects of performance assessment and performance information use.
Daniel Schugurensky, Arizona State University

“Youth Civic Engagement and Local Democracy”

In many countries around the world, youth have lower voter turnout rates than other generations and are often underrepresented in local democracy. This paper describes one initiative implemented at the local level to increase youth civic and political engagement (participatory budgeting), paying attention to three different strategies to give voice to youth (general participatory budgeting, youth participatory budgeting, and school participatory budgeting).

Misaki Fuentes-Maruyama, Justin Anderson, and Virnel Demby, Arizona State University

“Pokémon Hunters do not Bowl Alone”

In this digital age, the Pokemon game played on smartphones or ipads took the nation and world by storm. Putnam (1993 lamented that “more Americans are bowling today than ever before, but bowling in organized leagues has plummeted in the last decade or so. Between 1980 and 1993 the total number of bowlers in America increased by 10 percent, while league bowling decreased by 40 percent” (p. 5). This case study focuses on Pokemon hunters in a local public park and argues that the Pokemon Go phenoman has increased neighborliness and analyzes the game’s effect on one public park visitors in Gilbert, AZ. Although the game is played in a virtual world, the analysis found that Pokemon Go hunters in case study hunted with more than one person and were more neighborly than those park visitors who were not playing the game.

M. Ernita Joaquin and Sheldon Gen, San Francisco State University


"A Collective Impact model of service delivery is being employed in a San Francisco youth violence prevention program called Roadmap to Peace (RTP). RTP aims to remove barriers to youth development by connecting them to a continuum of services to promote health, safety, and economic outcomes. RTP’s Collective Impact model assumes that the success of the eight partner organizations is contingent on five conditions: a common agenda, shared measurement of results, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support to coordinate the network. However, the model largely lacks theoretical or empirical grounding. We examine how Collective Impact’s assumptions of change maps onto network theory’s structural elements of successful collaboration, including attributes of the organizational actors and their interactions within the network. In addition, RTP yields data for exploring the less heralded, but critical side of networks: the sharing of risks, adaptation of goals, fluidity of membership, and dependence on bureaucratic processes to carry out network activities. A careful depiction of these structural and fluid elements of RTP’s network allows us to determine to what extent it presents a network. Our findings contribute to a theoretical understanding of Collective Impact service delivery, and it refines the applicable scope of network theory."
Viola Fuentes and Misaki Fuentes-Maruyama, Arizona State University

“Missing Oversight of Student Government Budgeting”

In the public sector, public administrators labor under public scrutiny. According to Kettl (2008) public oversight covers “both internal and external operations. This “goldfish-bowl effect” is in stark contrast with the much more limited public scrutiny that private organizations receive (p. 32). This case study posits that some student government budgeting and funding activities face limited public oversight or scrutiny. The budgeting process represents one of many functions related to internal operations that most public sector organizations undertake. This case study compares two student government organization’s use of and allocation of funding. The funding represents university allocations to the student government and funding from student fee collection. In both cases, the students are hired by university student government given a budget with which to program and to fund programming. The case study highlights the missing oversight and public scrutiny of the funding process and expenditures. Budgeting takes on a different meaning in this context. What level of public scrutiny does this type of student government budgeting activities face?

Patsy Kraeger, Georgia Southern University

“Nonprofit Sustainability Issues: Capital, Equity and Growth”

Nonprofit organizations have expanded needs for “investment capital” to finance the facilities, technology, and innovations in program delivery related to scaling and capacity building required to remain viable in an increasingly competitive environment. Leaders of nonprofit organizations need to adopt an investment mindset to deliver services and move beyond the charitable giving or government funded mindset. Traditionally, nonprofit leaders have little understanding of capital resources and how to access them. This paper looks at the financial capital needs of organizations and the ability for NPOS to access financial capital outside of grants and contracts through foundation program related investment, traditional loans given the lack of collateral for most NPOs. The paper presents a case of how one nonprofit organization has managed to access financial capital and grow from a small organization to a nationwide organization.

Umar Ghuman, California State University Stanislaus

“Reconciling Marketization and Values Perspectives to Propose a Model of Remissioning In Nonprofit Organizations”

"Past scholars have noted that nonprofits increasingly suffer from a marketization perspective; that values traditionally incongruent with a service advocacy alignment are becoming normative and standard for the sector (Eikenberry & Kluver; 2006). Scholarly literature has demonstrated that, in the past, nonprofits had a greater role than just organizations that provided care and advocacy; they were also progenitors of cultural values and norms, and were instrumental in society appreciating which norms and values were most salient and applicable. However, current trends of rapidly increasing competition and environmental change in the nonprofit sector have created a marketization perspective; that in order to survive, the nonprofit has had to focus on values that were more aligned with the private, for profit sector,
i.e. competition for scarce resources, a “customer centric” responsiveness, market
capitalization, and a stream-lined and lean efficiency perspective. Such trends demonstrate
that nonprofits seeking to maintain viability are adapting to new realities in which increasing
competition for market share and resources is now the accepted reality; as well as continual
adaptation to shifting external environments that require faster reconceptualization (Van der
Waal et al. 2008; Kooney, 2006). This new landscape implies that nonprofits must continually
re-examine their strategy, their environments, and their organizational structure such that
they are congruent with the evolving needs and expectations of their stakeholders. As a result,
remissioning has become a critical need for nonprofits. Nonprofits should be able to critically
examine their mission, vision and value statements, as well as other critical competencies and
align them with current and anticipated needs. Yet there exists a need in the literature to
encapsulate the issue in terms of a viable model, provide a more definite understanding of the
process, and determine if a marketization perspective, or conversely a values-laden perspective
is the best way forward. This paper proposes a reconciled model of the remissioning process
for nonprofits organizations. It examines past critical literature on remissioning, and evaluates
the works of past scholars who have dissected the process from both a marketization, and a
values laden perspective. It recommends a matrix-type model allowing organizations to
critically assess both sides of the proverbial coin. Thus this paper explores the examination of
marketization issues such as the relevance of current MVVs (Mission/vision/values), core
competencies, and efficiencies; and yet also recognize value and social advocacy factors that
need to be synchronously studied during the missioning process. The paper acknowledges the
inherent structural tension within current nonprofit organizations; as to whether to become
entities of marketization and examine issues of reinvention, strategic adaptation and
remissioning on a continual basis (Durst and Newell 2001; Akingbola 2006; Rugh 1997); or
maintain their traditional and lauded role of being “value guardians”, generators of social
capital, and proponents of service and advocacy (Eikenberry, 2009; 2004; Eikenberry et al
2006). The author posits that by examining both such conceptualizations, organizations can
exploit this inherent tension for their own benefit in formulating a remissioning model, and an
ensuing strategy that allows for the absorption of the key elements of both approaches.”
Many studies have examined the relationship between fiscal institutions such as tax and expenditure limitations, debt limits, and balanced budget rules and various outcomes of borrowing. However, one area has thus far escaped the attention of academic researchers, namely the relationship between the strength of bond referendum requirements. States have varying requirements for municipalities holding bond referenda. For example, in California a supermajority is required to issue debt while in most states a simple majority is required for passage. In Alabama, the purposes of the debt are required to be included in the referendum language whereas in Texas and other states they are not. With such variation, it is a natural question to ask whether those differences create systematically different behaviors among jurisdictions. For this study, we will ask one question: Do states with stricter municipal bond referenda requirements have less municipal general obligation debt outstanding?

Cities throughout the world are deeply involved in the provision of crucial public goods and services. Providing them with adequate alternatives to finance their development while maintaining macro-economic stability and financial discipline remains a key concern of fiscal governance. Capital markets remain a feasible tool to access financial resources but not all governments have met the conditions to do so effectively and efficiently. Notwithstanding the need for institutional maturity along market, political, legal, and financial management capacity dimensions, this paper argues that successful access to capital markets is closely correlated with the presence of robust information capacity institutions and legal environments. The study empirically tests the impacts of information capacity, legal environment, and fiscal capacity on city access to capital finance (debt structure) with a sample of 150 cities drawn from 50 countries.

“Budgetary Slack, Transparency, and Municipal Securities Market”
Slack is an important concept in many fields of disciplines. Researchers find that in the private sector, it is managers' best interests as rational individuals to create slack (Cyert and March 1963). In the public sector, researchers find similar propensity that public officials build slack in their budgets intentionally through “conservative forecasting bias,” that is, to underestimate revenues and overestimate expenditures (Rose and Smith 2008). At the end of the fiscal year, the excess of actual revenues over actual expenditures becomes budgetary slack. Such slack is less visible to stakeholders until the GASB Statement No. 34 requires that governments should disclose the original budgets and report the budget-to-actual variances in their CAFRs. Such variances indicate the volatility nature of a government’s budget structure and its financial management quality. This study examines how financial market perceives the value of such information; particularly, does financial market information intermediary—credit rating agencies—incorporate the budget-to-variances into their assessment of governments’ creditworthiness. I analyze a panel dataset of 50 states from FY2002 to FY2015. Preliminary results show that favorable variances are associated with higher bond ratings, suggesting the budget-to-actual variances are useful information, and greater transparency facilitates market decision-making.

Craig Maher, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Evgenia Gorina, University of Texas at Dallas

“Modeling Determinants of Municipal Reserves in the US”

Though the use of unreserved fund balances is a nearly universal strategy for smoothing unfavorable effects of revenue and expenditure oscillations at the local level, relatively few quantitative studies have been published on the topic. Our recent work finds that for local governments in three states, declines in fund balances were strongly associated with fiscal distress. Yet, ‘[A] tremendous gap in our understanding of reasons why local governments accumulate slack and its role in alleviating fiscal stress’ (Hendrick 2006, 43) has been hard to fill in part because data on fiscal slack have not been readily available. After carefully reviewing existing literature on the determinants and role of unreserved fund balances, this research largely proceeds as an exploratory study. It uses a national dataset of financial records from audited local CAFRs to identify determinants of the unreserved general fund balance and to test some of the theoretical propositions about the counter-cyclical function of fiscal slack that were put forth by earlier studies (Marlowe 2005, Hendrick 2006, Stewart 2009, Wang and Hou 2012) as well as the role of institutional constraints on fiscal decisions (see Maher et al., 2016). Unlike previous works based on city or county data in a single state, this work is based on a national sample of cities that electronically published their CAFRs between 2007 and 2012.

Gerald J Miller, Arizona State University

“Net Benefits of Government Budgets”

The “who gets what” question in budget incidence research has attracted much attention lately. The result is an analytical patchwork. One study is federal only, one federal and state only, one state and local taxation only. The Tax Foundation (TF) study is the only comprehensive one, finding that when combined, federal, state and local net benefit distributions were pro-poor. TF studied only nominal tax burdens and spending benefits. Filling this gap, the Tax Policy Center’s 2016 research estimated the distribution of federal personal income tax expenditures. The combined TF and TC estimates suggest a reversal of the pro-poor net distribution to a pro-rich one. This paper makes sense of the patchwork. The critique of the TF estimates before and after the combination with the TC estimates comes next. Then the paper probes for assumptions that led estimates to be pro-poor and then pro-rich. Next, the paper speculates about the distribution of fiscal
equivalents: other tax expenditures, government provided loans, loan guarantees, insurance, regulation and mandates. Finally, the paper looks at the prospect of dynamic analysis of burdens and benefits and ways to estimate budget incidence’s impact on social mobility.

Gang Chen, University at Albany, SUNY
Yi Lu, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

“Impacts of late budgets on New York state and local governments”

A government’s budget is used as a tool for control, management, and planning (Schick 1966). A budget is a legal document that gives government officials the authority to spend. A budget allocates financial resources among departments and programs, sets priorities for public policies, and lays out agendas, strategies, and long-term goals. Despite the importance of a budget, many governments have difficulties in passing the budget on time, and must go into a fiscal year without a budget. Over the past 43 years from 1970 to 2012, New York State passed its budget on time only for a total of 16 years (37%) and is on average 27 days late (Lu and Chen, 2015). A late budget could affect both the outcome of the budget negotiation and the financial conditions of governments. A late budget could create pressure for politicians in the budget negotiation process to make compromise and reach agreements, which could result in the change of policies for certain interests or considerations. A late budget could also create liquidity issue or fiscal stress for local governments that heavily rely on state appropriations to fund public services. In this research, we empirically test the impacts of late budgets on the outcomes of budget negotiations and on the financial conditions of local governments. We gathered data from New York State Division of Budget, Office of State Comptroller, and the State Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways and Means Committee. We constructed a panel dataset consisting of 43 years, 155 appropriation bills, and 812 local governments (61 cities, 57 counties, and 694 school districts). We also interview several key participants in the budgeting process, including budget directors, legislative fiscal committee members, and local officials. In this research, we focus on the fiscal stress indicators that are used by the state Comptroller’s office to evaluate the impact of a late state budget on local government’s financial conditions. Preliminary results show that late budgets create uncertainty for local governments and increase their short-term borrowing to cover expenses.

Sungho Park, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“Game-theoretic Thinking of State-imposed Tax and Expenditure Limitations (TELs): Rule Design, Institutional Diversity, and Municipal Fiscal Outcomes”

The effects of TELs on municipal fiscal outcomes have received significant attention. They, however, remain an open empirical question. Despite scholars having attempted to address this issue, at least two limitations are evident. First, existing literature has not fully captured the institutional heterogeneity of TELs although their specific structure varies across entities and over time. Second, few studies explore how the impact of TELs is mediated by other factors. To fill the research gap, this study investigates how differently-designed TELs generate varying municipal fiscal outcomes. Drawing from game theory, I hypothesize that the strategic behavior of key actors during the budget process may vary depending on the design of TELs and the interplay between TELs and other institutional settings (e.g., balanced-budget rules). Municipal fiscal structures shaped by the collective decision of budget actors thus may be differentiated. A set of dummies is employed in analysis to sort municipalities into different combinations of institutional arrangements; several fiscal outcome indicators are used as the left-hand-side variables. This study is expected to make theoretical contributions due to its
invitation of a game-theoretic thinking of TELs and their fiscal impacts. The findings can also provide guidance for policy makers who need to (re)design TELs.

David Matkin, Gang Chen, and Hao Sun, University at Albany, SUNY

“The Public Pension Simulation Dataset and R Package”

One of the most difficult changes to understanding the management of public pension systems is the difficulty in controlling for the effects of the diverse conditions that can affect pension plans. Pension plans’ contribution costs and liabilities are, for example, highly sensitive to benefit provisions, demographic and salary characteristics of plan participants, asset levels, and actuarial assumptions are used as inputs for the simulation. To further the study of public pensions and control for diverse salient conditions, this paper presents (i) a new R package that allows users to calculate pension plan costs and liabilities along a range of potential actuarial inputs and demographic conditions, and (ii) a dataset that was built from that R package that simulates the effects of important assumptions and conditions, based on the range of those conditions in actual pension systems, on pension costs and liabilities. This data provides researchers and practitioners with unique opportunities to answer pressing questions about the management of public pension systems. The purpose of this paper is to present and describe the R package and simulated dataset and discusses three applications of the simulation results.

First, the simulation makes it possible to examine the effect of one or more policy changes on pension costs and liabilities. For example, practitioners or researchers will be able to see how a one-percentage point change in discount rate affects the funding ratio for a younger plan, a plan with underfunding problem, or a plan that uses a cost method. Because the simulation includes all possible combinations of changes, researchers would be able isolate any marginal or interactive effect. Second, the simulation can be used to examine the influence of policy changes on a single employee at different time in his/her life. The simulation can show pension costs and liabilities for a single employee from entry age (starting from 25) to post retirement age (ending at 85). We illustrate how a policy change has different impacts on younger employees and older employees. In this way, the intergenerational impacts of a pension policy change can be studied. Third, the simulation improves our ability to standardize the calculation of financial conditions for comparison across public pensions systems. It is well known that public pension systems used a wide range of actuarial assumptions to report their liabilities, which makes it difficult to compare their financial conditions. A plan that is reportedly fully funded with an 8 percent discount rate could be substantially underfunded if a lower discount rate is used. Based on this simulation, researchers can show the costs and liabilities of a pension system when a certain combination of actuarial inputs is used, which is a way to standardize the calculation and make comparison possible.

Hao Sun, and David S.T. Matkin, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY – SUNY


The management of public pensions is an increasingly important concern in U.S. State governments. Pension account for 7.9% of government budgets, and, in some cases, the fiscal sustainability of state governments is dependent on reducing unfunded pension obligations. The role of unionization is hence especially significant in understanding public pension systems from a managerial perspective because, in part, of the low regulatory environment in which government-sponsored pension systems operate, unlike in private sector. Unfortunately, most previous research did not go beyond the measure of union density and conventional political economy model, which lead to conflicting
conclusions. This study applies one of the most common survival analysis techniques, the Cox proportional hazards model featuring non-linear and competing hazard ratio, to examine the factors influencing changes to the pension institutions. The central hypothesis is whether unionized or right-to-work states are quicker to adopt changes that lead to more sustainable pensions system. The four variables of interests include the decrease of discount rate and the increase of employee contribution rate, asset smoothing period and amortization period. Though examining 163 state-sponsored pension plans from 2001 to 2015, preliminary analysis result indicates that unionized states concern more about pension system sustainability especially during fiscal stress.

Elizabeth A.M. Searing, University at Albany, SUNY
Thad D. Calabrese, New York University

“Repossessing the Cadillac Plan: The Role of Institutional Isomorphism in Nonprofit Retirement Benefits”

Which institutional logic governs the dynamics of providing public goods by nonprofits? Studies involving resource dependency and institutional isomorphism appear in the nonprofit literature; however, they are often concerned with either continuing the resource stream (Ashley & Van Slyke, 2012; Lu, 2015; Suarez, 2011) or legitimacy (Guo, 2007; Ramanath, 2009). Few address the impact that such isomorphism has on the financial relationship between the organization and its workforce. Here, we argue that the public institutional logic governs the nonprofit’s internal management decisions regarding their own human capital, specifically in the context of retirement benefits. Further, using the approach of Marwell and Calabrese (2015), we find that the struggle caused by the conflicting private and public sector logics within nonprofits is visible within the retirement benefit context.

Jinping Sun, California State University, Bakersfield

“Exploring the Public Pension Crisis in California”

Since the Great Recession, many state and local governments have been struggling to balance their budgets, and funding public employee pension benefits has been one of the biggest fiscal burdens. Research shows that traditional public pensions are becoming unsustainable and are threatening to crowd out government spending in education, health, and other programs. This paper explores the public pension crisis through the lens of the California case. In 2016, California state employee pensions will cost taxpayers $5.4 billion (California Department of Finance, 2016), which is more than 30 times the state pension contributions in 2000. Cities, counties, and other local governments throughout California are in the same dire situation, and unfunded pension obligations will amount to $241 billion for all California government agencies (California State Comptroller). This paper explores the public pension crisis in California. The paper will discuss the political, fiscal, and legal backdrop for the pension crisis in California, review public pension reforms in California at the state and local levels, and examine the current court cases whose ruling will have significant implications for the future of public pensions in California and other states across the nation.

Kenneth A. Kriz, Professor. Wichita State University.
C. Brendan Clark, Assistant Professor. Wichita State University

"Does Affect Have an Effect? Willingness to Pay and Psychophysical Numbing"

Much academic literature has assessed various influences on citizens' willingness to pay for public services. This is not surprising – citizen support for public programs is
essential to maintain services in a democratic society. Most of the models employed in earlier research either explicitly or implicitly assume that citizen preferences are fixed based on some exogenous set of characteristics or are driven by predictable influences. However, the behavioral economics and cognitive science literatures suggest that this assumption may be tenuous. We examine the effect of the “affect heuristic” (Zajonc, 1980) on citizen preferences. This heuristic emphasizes the simultaneity of emotions (affect) and cognitive processes, as opposed to the traditional model of decision making where cognition precedes emotion. We employ an experimental methodology to assess how willingness to pay for public services is influenced by numbers alone (“low affect” prompts) versus numbers and pictures (higher affect prompts). The results of our research will be relevant both from an academic research perspective but also to practicing public finance and election officials. The lessons that can be gleaned from our results should help design public information programs that can elicit the true willingness to pay for public services.

Salvador Espinosa, Associate Professor. San Diego State University.


Countries seeking to enhance their competitiveness and development opportunities understand that infrastructure development is a priority, but that traditional funding mechanisms are insufficient and rapidly declining. A properly structured bond market can be a feasible alternative, though this calls for the existence of regulatory frameworks that foster confidence among investors. This article argues that adding a behavioral component to the design of bond market regulations can shed light on the connection among alternative rule settings, investors' perceptions and judgment, and their consequent effect on trading choices. This research study uses carefully constructed hypothetical scenarios (vignettes) to analyze how selected features of securities regulations impact risk perceptions and possible decisions regarding the purchase of government bonds. The (expected) findings show that willingness of investors to purchase bonds issued by a foreign jurisdiction increases when rules in the issuing country are like those in their home countries. The article study seeks to contribute to ongoing discussions on international financial regulation by introducing a behavioral lens to regulatory impact analysis.

Wie Yusuf, Associate Professor. Old Dominion University.
Lenahan O'Connell, Research Associate. University of Kentucky
Meagan M. Jordan, Associate Professor. Old Dominion University.
David Chapman, Senior Lecturer. Old Dominion University.

“Toll Avoidance: A Mediation Analysis Linking Travel and Driver Characteristics to Willingness to Pay Tolls and Responding to Tolls”

There has been growing reliance on tolls as a source of revenue and for managing congestion. However, there is limited research on how drivers change their behavior in response to tolls. Yet, such behavior has implications for revenue generating capabilities of tolls and the effectiveness of tolls as a traffic management tool. This research applies a social psychology perspective to study behavioral impacts of public finance decisions such as those related to taxes and tolls. We utilize the Theory of Planned Behavior to examine drivers' responses to tolls. We connect attitudes towards tolls, perceptions of toll benefits, and ability to pay tolls to support for tolls and subsequently behavioral response to tolls. We focus on behavioral responses such as changing home or work locations to avoid tolls; changing commute to avoid tolls; avoiding travel to destinations that require tolls; and telecommuting or working from home. We use data from a survey
of 629 drivers in Hampton Roads, Virginia conducted in 2014. This study has implications for research on willingness to pay, and how such fees may affect behavior. Furthermore, disparate responses according to different socioeconomic status may point to social and environmental justice impacts of tolls.

Bruce McDonald, North Carolina State University
Vincent Reitano, North Carolina State University
Robert Eger, Naval Postgraduate School

“Taxation and Citizen Choice: The Effect of a County Charter on Property Taxes”

It is agreed upon that citizens prefer to pay fewer taxes compared to more taxes. But do citizens act to reduce their tax burden if they are given the opportunity? Most counties in the United States are restricted by the state in their ability to adopt new taxes or change the existing tax rates. The counties in many states have the option of adopting a charter, which frees the county from state control and enables citizens to voice their preferences through the government decision-making process. Since citizens prefer lower taxes, and consistently view the property tax as the most inequitable of all major taxes, the financial autonomy granted through a charter provides an ideal study understanding citizen action on tax rates. Using a panel of Florida counties from 1980 to 2012, the issue of citizen’s preference on property taxes is explained.

Olha Krupa, Seattle University
Sarah Larson, University of Central Florida

“Property Tax Levies, Public Referenda and the Municipal Fiscal Health in Washington State”.

Tiebout (1956) suggestion that people “vote with their feet” through an identification of a property within a community that provides them with the optimal bundle of public goods and services in exchange for taxes. Numerous tests have been done on the concept of household sorting, broadly falling into two categories: indirect or implicit tests (Oates 1969, Brueckner 1982, Oates 2005) and direct tests of movement based on a bundle of goods and services (Graves and Waldman 1991, Kahn 2000, Banzhaf and Wash 2008, Banzhaf and Walsh 2013). Results of the direct tests of household migration provide mixed support for Tiebout’s hypothesis, potentially due to external factors such as socioeconomic differences. This study applies Tiebout’s sorting test to the state of Washington’s property tax system. Administered by counties, Washington’s property tax revenues are generated through the two systems of local levies: the regular and the supplemental levies. Whereas regular levies, the main revenue source for the local governments, are limited in their revenue-generating capacity due to local property tax limitations, many jurisdictions supplement them with special property tax levies that are subject to voter approval. This study conjectures that the considerable heterogeneity in citizen preferences is directly demonstrated by referenda results, and can be observed through variation in revenue generating capacity of Washington counties. These voter preferences are conditioned upon the relative wealth of the jurisdiction including its total assessed values, property tax rates, and socioeconomic characteristics. By examining a panel of Washington counties over 2000-2015, this study seeks to determine how voter preferences shape revenue and expenditure profiles of the local governments, and how they affect the municipal fiscal health.

Nisa Yazici Aydemir, University of Illinois at Chicago
“Exploring Executive Success in Municipal Fiscal Policy Making: A comparative case study of local fiscal policies”

Policymaking is a complicated process due to multiple actors involved. Policy makers have their own agenda supporting their personal and political goals and the disparity between goals and priorities of the policy actors become more evident between executive and legislative actors. Since their goals are usually conflicting and incompatible they compete to control the decision agenda. This conflict between policy preferences of these actors creates winners and losers of the policy process. Since executive policy makers at all levels are the heads of government and are held responsible for policy outcomes this research is interested in understanding the factors increasing executive success in fiscal policy making. It analyzes the executive success by investigating the extent to which executive policy preferences are represented in the legislative policy appropriations.

Comparative case analyses of local fiscal policies of large mayor-council U.S. cities explore factors increasing executive success in legislative arena. A total of ten case studies will be conducted selecting approved and rejected mayoral policies for five different policy types (property tax increase, other tax increase, fee increase, personnel cut and service cut). The findings of this research will inform modeling of future quantitative analysis on the subject.

Deborah A. Carroll, University of Central Florida

“The Competitive Advantage of Property Tax Exemptions”

Tiebout (1956) theorized that individual consumer-voters are mobile and sort themselves into communities with tax/spending levels that best match their preferences. So, local governments best reflect citizens’ desirable tax burdens. As such, local government property taxes should best reflect citizens’ preferred distribution of tax burden. However, incorporated public charities (501c3s) often benefit from tax exemptions. Such exemptions result in changes to the distribution of property taxation, all else equal. But, many 501c3s provide goods and services characteristically equivalent to those provided by government and the private sector that does not benefit from tax exemptions. This paper examines the extent to which there may be systematic differences between the taxable value of properties and what the taxable value of properties would be if they were not exempt. This question is addressed through difference of means testing of individual parcels of property, by each type of property class, in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin using data dating back to 1975. In addition, this paper seeks to address the question of whether property tax exemptions influence the quality of property tax assessments. This question will be addressed using the same data, but using empirical methods for panel data analysis.

Michelle Lofton, Syracuse University


This paper analyzes the financial management strategies associated with prudent working capital management during a period of financial uncertainty. A self-designed and administered survey to chief financial officers in the State of New York’s general purpose governments (counties, cities, towns and villages) is evaluated to empirically document associations between preference rankings of working capital management strategies used to reduce the financial uncertainty of a cash flow deficit. Specifically, I test if internal choices of reducing unrestricted cash and delay payments or external choices of attempting to speed up collections of receivables or issuing short-term debt
are preferred. Furthermore, I evaluate if the past financial condition, perceptions of
state regulations on discretion, the professional background of managers, and
demographic characteristics of the jurisdiction influence a financial manager’s
preference of strategy. I hypothesize the use of unrestricted cash to be preferred than
the use of short-term debt when a cash flow deficit occurs. Financial management policy
areas for concern are a lack of formal policy documenting the use of unrestricted cash
and short-term debt, under-staffing or under-skilled employees in finance departments,
and an aging of the chief financial officer workforce which my lead to inconsistent
application of financial management practices over-time.

Craig Maher, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Ji Hyung Park, James Madison University
Sungho Park, University of Nebraska at Omaha

“The Evolution of TIF from Tool for Redevelopment to Development: The Case of
Fremont, NE”

Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), adopted first in California in 1950s, is one of the more
commonly used economic development tools afforded to local governments and is also
one of the least understood. TIF provides a means of encouraging private investment in
“blighted areas” of cities by allowing local governments to use the future increase in
property tax revenues to finance the current infrastructure costs. Recent studies warn,
however, that developers abuse TIF to save their costs. This concern stimulates the
evolution of TIF, and Nebraska TIF fits into this argument. Current Nebraska law limits
the use of TIF to blighted areas; the law was passed to provide an incentive for the
construction of housing, industries and businesses in low-income, substandard areas of
cities. Yet, several studies are calling into question Nebraska’s TIF. This case study
examines TIF by focusing a recently approved TIF project (the Project Rawhide) in
Fremont, NE. The proposal to build a chicken processing plant on pristine farmland
challenges not only Nebraska’s law but highlights the general evolution of TIF from a tool
of redevelopment to an instrument of development. Understanding this project will bring
into focus the intent and evolution of TIF in the US.

Dr. Natalia Ermasova, Governors State University
Amanda George, Governors State University

“The unintended consequences of Tax Incremental Financing (TIFs): Case of the Village
of Elwood”

This research investigates the adoption, the effects and the possible unintended
consequences of tax increment financing. This study provides the case of TIF in the
Village of Elwood. covers the significant strengths and the advantages of a TIFs district.
This study provides examples of TIFs in Illinois, Cook county, Will county and Chicago
and a case of TIF in the Village of Elwood. Data for this study were gathered from
multiple sources. First, primary sources of information were used. Elwood’s former
Village Administrator Nick Narducci was interviewed for this study in August 2015.
Secondary sources of information were mobilized, including data from court decisions,
Budgets of Elwood, Will county and CenterPoint web-sites, Reports, and newspapers
articles. The example of TIF in the Village of Elwood shows the unintended consequences
of TIFs. The residential property tax rates have decreased in the Village of Elwood, as
opposed to increasing with the promised development of Deer Run Industrial Park.
CenterPoint’s development had generated $7.7 million instead of proposed $40 million,
which was not even enough to pay back the annual interest on the bonds. This study
features key recommendations to city managers, budget analytics, and debt managers in
local governments.
Dmitry Shishkin, Georgia Gwinnett College

“The Incentives Effects of the Tax Base Sharing Program on Local Tax Policies and Property Values in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area”

In this work, we propose a theoretical framework and provide an empirical analysis to show how the incentive effects of the tax base sharing program affect local tax rates and market values of real and personal property in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Our theoretical model is based on the comparative statics analysis that shows how the redistribution mechanism of the program can change the relative prices of goods that are consumed by residents and that are associated with the size of per capita market values of real and personal property in the localities, thus, creating incentives to raise local taxes to suppress those property values. Our empirical strategy exploits the fact that these incentives vary among different localities inside the metropolitan area depending on the size of their per capita real and personal property market values, as well as the fact that localities outside of the area are not affected by these incentives.

Ji Hyung Park, James Madison University
Craig Maher, University of Nebraska Omaha
Bit An, University of Nebraska Omaha

“Determinants of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT): The Case of Wisconsin Municipalities”

Fiscal decision making depends heavily on institutions, fiscal and political environments (Hendrick, 2011). Studies on budget decision-making show that fiscal stress, political conflict and institutional constraints affect revenue structures, particularly in relation to property tax reliance. Within this context, this study focuses on the role of payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) as another local revenue source. The unique structure of PILOTs, which tax-exempt entities “voluntarily” agree to make payments to governments for local public services, separates them from locally-collected financial resources. Although there has been recent work on PILOTs for municipalities, we contend that there is much to learn in terms of the effects on PILOTs on municipal revenue structures. This study offers an empirical model of PILOTs by examining variation in payments to Wisconsin municipalities using a balanced panel of fiscal, institutional, economic and demographic data from 1997 to 2011. Wisconsin currently has 1,352 non-government exemptions which is a greater number than suggested by current research. Further, Wisconsin has two different types of PILOTs – traditional tax-exempt organizations and utilities – which are examined separately. We are particularly interested in understanding the extent to which PILOTs payments change with the introduction of strict revenue limits and changes in the economy.

Athena Grossman, University of Oklahoma
Aimee L. Franklin, University of Oklahoma

“Research Agendas and Funding Opportunities- Identifying the Chicken and the Egg: A Case Analysis using Drought Related Research”

In a recent Public Budgeting & Finance article, Hildreth and Woodrum (2009) document the amount of space devoted to different topics at ABFM conferences. By examining the relative distribution over time, they could identify changes in the trajectory and relative importance of topics. They could also speculate on what would be the “hot topics” in the future, what would be the enduring topics, and what topics seem to have gone “out of vogue.” This kind of analysis allowed our community of scholars to reflect on how well
we were doing in fostering research that could information public policy dialogues and public budget and finance practices. The same type of analytical framing could allow exploration of the potential for better aligning the research topics currently being explored by researchers with funding opportunities. Using the case of drought related research and funding in the United States, we created an inventory of funding announcements. Simultaneously, we created an inventory of drought-researchers and documented their co-authors, conference presentations, working papers, funding reports and academic publications. Integrating these two inventories allows for comparison of the research that is being produced and the funding opportunities over the past 15 years. In this paper, we investigate the degree of correlation between funding and research. We also explore the presence of temporal effects related to research breakthroughs that may contribute to longitudinal shifts in funding opportunities strategically designed to move a research agenda forward. Development of a model of the relationship between researchers and their research choices and the use of funding opportunities as incentives can inform public budgeting and finance as well as the spectrum of public policy issue arenas.

Justin Marlowe and Alex Schoemann, University of Washington

“Anchoring and the Cost of Municipal Capital”

Traditional finance theory holds that an asset’s price reflects the present value of its future cash flows, and nothing more. In other words, past prices don’t matter. And yet, recent findings in the corporate finance literature suggest precisely the opposite. Current prices of key financial assets like corporate bonds and real estate are often tethered to their trading histories. Behavioral economists attribute this pattern to a psychological bias known as “anchoring,” or the tendency for decision-makers to overweight the value of past information on current conditions. Sometimes that bias is so strong that investors largely ignore newer, more price-relevant information. Anchoring appears to be a powerful but largely unknown influence on investor decision-making. In this paper, we test for evidence of anchoring in the municipal bond market. In concept, the municipal bond market is ripe for anchoring. It’s an over-the-counter market, and more than 50,000 unique entities have bonds in the market. In such a large and fragmented market, investors struggle to acquire price-relevant information, especially since financial disclosures for many governments are unregulated and arrive an average of 10 months after fiscal year close. In this market investors have a strong incentive, and often no other choice but, to rely on past prices for current transactions. To test for anchoring in the municipal bond market we examine data on more than 20,000 unlimited general obligation bond issues from “repeat issuers.” In this case repeat issuer means an issuer sold similar bonds at least one year apart. We estimate a model, borrowed from recent work on corporate bonds that identifies how much current prices ought to deviate from past prices given market conditions, and how much they deviate. The results suggest that when market interest rates fall, municipal bonds remain tethered to their past prices, so interest rates on municipal bonds do not fall as much as expected. The net effect is that many municipal bond issuers pay much higher cost of capital than what market conditions imply. We attempt to quantify these effects.

Marc D Joffe, Public Sector Credit Solutions

“Costs of the Municipal Bond Rating System”

I estimate that the contemporary system of municipal bond ratings costs issuers over $2 billion annually. Fees paid to rating agencies directly account for about $500 million of this total. The greater burden on issuers arises from the relatively harsh ratings that agencies assign municipal bonds viz.-a-viz. other instruments. These costs take the form
of additional interest paid to investors and purchases of municipal bond insurance intended to reduce this interest burden. Since defaults by rated municipal bond issuers are so rare, and since defaulting issuers can usually be identified ahead of time by accounting ratios and economic indicators, I conclude that significant cost savings are possible by replacing the current rating system with model-based assessments that yield higher ratings overall while still differentiating at-risk issuers.

Zihe Guo, University of Kentucky

“Does Conduit Financing Reduce Borrowing Costs of Local Governments?”

As an alternative way to issue bonds, conduit financing (CF) has been widely used by local governments and nonprofit organizations. CF allows one entity to issue debt on behalf of single or multiple borrowers. In California, a local agency is allowed to issue municipal bonds in compliance with law, but can also borrow through a joint power agency (JPA). One important reason for the emergence and existence of CF is informational asymmetry in the municipal bond market. Plenty of small issuers are less known by municipal bond investors. Although bond pooling provided by conduits is supposed to lower borrowing costs, most bonds issued by JPAs finance a single local agency. Therefore, it is important to investigate the incentives for these local agencies to use conduits instead of arm’s-length investors, and whether interest and issuance costs are significantly reduced. A two-stage selection model will be used to avoid endogeneity problems. To my knowledge, there are very few studies that consider the influence of CF on local government borrowing costs. My research, which draws chiefly on data from the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC), seeks to bridge this gap.

Kenneth Kriz, Wichita State University
Tima Moldogzaiev, University of Georgia

“The Interest Costs Effect of Capital Appreciation Bond Use”

Capital appreciation bonds (CABs), which are a form of zero-coupon bonds sold at a deep discount to par value, have increasingly been used by state and local governments to finance infrastructure investment and other programs. During the period 1982-1989, less than 1,000 bond issues contained CABs. By the 2000-2009 period, nearly 4,000 issues with CABs were brought to market. As of the end of 2014, there was an estimated $591 billion in CABs outstanding, which generated a total of $26.8 billion in cash at issuance for state and local governments (Estes and Sheil, 2015). Concerns have been raised about the deep discount at issuance on CAB debt, with “payback ratios” (the ratio of the principal repayments to the cash received at issuance) of over 20 on average, and about the long term to maturity of several CAB issues (40-50 years). However, to our knowledge, there has not been a peer-reviewed academic study that has assessed the interest cost implications of including CABs in the maturity structure of debt issues. To answer this question, we will build a bond pricing model including variables commonly used in studies of interest cost and estimate it on a sample of debt issued within the last decade. Results of the study will help issuers assess the level of CAB reliance that should be considered within the capital structure of municipal governments.

Andrew J. Grandage, University of Georgia
Jekyung Lee, University of Georgia

“Determinants of Municipal Bond Structure: Coupons and Calls”

Municipal governments face complex decisions when structuring bonds. Two choices these governments must make are whether to a) structure the debt at premium, par or
discount pricing and b) to arrange for the option to call the debt prior to maturity. Advisors act as agents for the issuer in securing an attractive interest rate and debt service schedule. In doing so, they consider current market observables, expectations of future interest rates and issue specific characteristics. Underwriters observe these same conditions but must be concerned with marketability and structure the bonds in way that is attractive to investors. Emphasizing the separate effects of market covariates and issue specific characteristics on issuer and investor preferences, we develop models to predict the coupon and call structure of negotiated municipal bond sales. Issue specific characteristics are anticipated to be a stronger predictor of calls than market covariates, particularly as maturities increase. Both market covariates and issue specific characteristics are expected to be significant in predicting coupon structure, especially for premium bonds. Our predictions are tested using panel data on negotiated bond sales in the state of Texas. This research approach offers insight into role underwriter’s play as choice architects in municipal bond networks.

Yulianti Abbas, Indiana University

“The Association between Continuing Disclosure Quality and Municipal Bond Yield”

Despite numerous efforts from market regulators to improve disclosure quality in the municipal market, recent evidence regarding the roles of disclosure in the municipal market is still limited. Unlike corporate issuers, municipal issuers are not subject to the SEC disclosure requirements that are stated in the federal securities act. Disclosure practices vary substantially across municipalities, and a lack of quality disclosure are commonly found in the municipal capital market (Crain & Bean, 1998; GASB, 2011; Jones, Scott, Kimbro, & Ingram, 1985; Schmitt, 2008, 2011). As the lack of information prevents investors from assessing the credit quality of municipal issuers on a continuing basis, investors will demand higher risk premium from municipal issuers with higher information risk. In this paper, I analyze whether prior continuing disclosure quality is used to signal municipal issuer’s information risk in the municipal market. Controlling for bond characteristics, market characteristics, issuer fixed effect, and time fixed effect, I analyze whether bond issuers with higher continuing disclosure quality are perceived to have lower information risk and thus, are rewarded with a lower yield when they issue new bonds in the municipal market. This paper makes several key contributions. This study is one of the first to document a relationship between continuing disclosure quality and municipal bond yield. This study also contributes to the stream of research examining the role of information in the capital market by focusing on an opaque market in which the source of information is limited and market has greater dependency on bond issuers’ disclosure.

Craig L. Johnson and Ruth Winecoff, Indiana University

“Disclosure and the Private Placement of Municipal Debt: Does California’s New Disclosure Law Work?”

On July 23, 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 2274 (AB 2274), effective January 1, 2015. AB 2274 expands the reporting requirements on municipal debt sold in California to include municipal direct loans, wherein a municipal government enters a loan agreement or other financing arrangement directly with a bank. California debt sold by competitive bid or negotiated offering has long been subject to disclosure requirements under California Government Code Section 8855. Municipal bank debt loans, also called private placements, were not expressly included in California disclosure requirements prior AB 2274. This paper provides an analysis of the implementation of AB 2274. Specifically, we analyze: 1. whether AB 2274 has significantly improved the disclosure of private placement debt; and 2. whether such
disclosure is now commensurate with disclosure on competitive and negotiated debt sales; and 3. does the level of disclosure provide the market with clear and available information on the risks associated with private placement debt.

Tatyana Guzman, Cleveland State University
Benjamin Clark, University of Oregon

“Crime and Credit: the Empirical Study of Large US Cities”

The importance of credit ratings for the state and municipal government issuers and private investors has been consistently emphasized in finance literature (see for example, Moldogaziev and Guzman, 2015; White, 2010; Johnson and Kriz, 2005; Capeci 1991). Previous work has shown the impact of economic, fiscal, demographic, political and managerial factors on credit quality of the states and municipalities (Krueger and Walker 2008; Marlowe 2007; Johnson and Kriz 2002, 2005). In the proposed paper we study a possibility that other external factors, such as crime rate and expenditures for public safety, may be correlated with the perception of credit worthiness. Crime rate may be an important determinant of credit ratings because it may indicate additional demand for spending on public safety and incarcerations (Bird, 2014; Schmitt, et al., 2012), higher investment risk, and may negatively impact economic development (Schmitt et al. 2012). We are proposing to fill a gap in the literature by providing an understanding of the connection between crime and municipal credit ratings. There are currently no studies we know of linking corporate or municipal credit ratings—though there have been some investigation about how crime affects individual credit ratings (Hummel 2014).

For our paper, we use fiscal data on 150 large US cities from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (FiSC). We additionally include FBI Uniform Crime statistics, as well as Standard & Poor and Moody’s credit ratings. The initial findings of the study show a negative relationship between the level of violent crimes and credit ratings. We additionally find a positive relationship between property crime rates and credit ratings.

Carol Ebdon, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Ji Hyung Park, James Madison University
Aimee Franklin, University of Oklahoma

“Institutional Arrangements for Public Library Funding and Spending”

Wide variation in institutional structure and funding patterns in public libraries makes this government function useful for exploring the effect of these differences on expenditures. Based on willingness to pay and fiscal illusion literature, we hypothesize that libraries with taxing authority and more revenues from non-local sources will have higher levels of spending. Using data from an annual public library survey and U.S. Census data for libraries serving populations of over 100,000, we will conduct regression analyses to examine these relationships. We will also conduct interviews of officials in 15-20 library systems with differing structures to better understand how these arrangements affect budgetary decision making. Little research has been done in this vital service area prominent in most localities. Studying the effects of institutional arrangements can begin to address this gap in our knowledge. It can also inform theory related to the politics of the budgetary process.

Andy Crosby, Pace University
“State Financial Monitoring and Intervention in School Districts: Does it make the Grade?”

Chicago Public Schools are on the verge of bankruptcy. The City of Flint, Michigan is facing a public health emergency. The City of Detroit, Michigan is recovering from the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. The futures of these local governments, as well as hundreds of thousands of residents who depend on them, are charted in large part by state interventions in local government fiscal affairs. How should state governments monitor local government fiscal affairs? When should state governments intervene in local government fiscal affairs? What are the effects of these interventions? This paper investigates both the conceptual reasons for state monitoring and intervention in local government fiscal affairs as well as the empirical effects of such interventions using data about Illinois school districts. I assemble a panel data set of financial indicators covering over 800 school districts in Illinois for thirteen years (2002-2014). This paper adds to scholarship in financial management and offers practical implications for state and local policymakers. It also lays the foundation for future policy-relevant research regarding a topic that will only grow in importance and impact in the coming years.

Wen Wang, Rutgers University-Newark
Yonghong Wu, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Why Are We Lagging Behind? An Empirical Analysis of Capital Spending in U.S. Cities”

The investment in infrastructure in the United States has lagged other major economies in recent decades. The assessments conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation and others come to the consensus that governments-federal, state and local alike-are not spending sufficiently on infrastructure improvements. As state and local governments provide the bulk of the total public sector investment in infrastructure construction, it is imperative to improve evidence-based decision-making regarding state and local government capital investment. Like the lagged investment in infrastructure, the academic research on capital investment is also surprisingly limited with relatively little academic inquiry on this topic in recent decades. We intend to fill a niche in this literature by examining the determinants of capital spending by large cities in the United States. The data come from a newly completed dataset from the Fiscal Policy Space project, which includes many variables about 100 large U.S. cities, and the dataset compiled based on the U.S. Census Bureau's Census of Government for over a 20-year period. We anticipate that the empirical results of such a study will shed light on how to reverse the lag of critical investment in infrastructure in the United States.

Can Chen, Florida International University
Howard Frank, Florida International University
Yanbing Han, Florida International University

“What Drives Urban Infrastructure Investment in American Cities? A Long Panel Data Analysis”

This research is an attempt to contribute to our understanding of why some cities devote more resources to investment in physical capital than others. Drawing from urban public finance theories (the median voter model and interest group model), we first construct a theoretical model to understand the political economy of public infrastructure investment. Then, we empirically investigate the economic, political, and institutional factors underlying the decisions for urban infrastructure investment. The research sample size consists of 150 of the nation's largest central cities. The period of panel data analysis is from 1995 to 2012. Data is collected from Lincoln Institute of
Land Policy’s Fiscally Standardized Cities Database, US Census Bureau Local Government Finance, US Bureau of Economic Analysis, and ICMA Municipal Yearbook. The empirical analysis identifies substantial intercity variations in infrastructure spending both across and within the regions of US. Further panel regression analysis finds that city infrastructure investment is explained by the macroeconomic environment, urban population growth and density, fiscal capacity, and form of government. This research improves our understanding of what determines infrastructure spending in American cities and offers valuable insights into the current challenges that American city governments face in financing urban infrastructure.

Samuel Moore and Aimee Franklin, University of Oklahoma

“Stabilizing Volatility through Risk Pooling Exploring the Potential for Oil and Gas Revenues”

The construct of risk pooling has its genesis in the insurance industry. The central tenet is that performance variability is reduced if risks, and resources to address those risks, are aggregated across different entities. If risk pooling is successful, the impact of uncontrollable environmental volatility is reduced. In addition, entities in the pool experience should experience increased performance based on the stabilization benefits that accrue from pool membership. There are seven major oil and natural gas producing states in the United States. Over the course of time, each has experienced the revenue boom and bust cycle associated with a natural commodity traded in an open market. This paper investigates this puzzle: What is the potential for creation of an Energy Revenue Risk Pool for the U.S. energy producing states? Extant literature on domestic and international commodity forecasting finds that political decision-making focused on the short-term often results in not collecting enough revenues during the boom periods and not having enough financial reserves during the bust periods. This historical pattern suggests that, when it comes to making hard choices for long-term fiscal sustainability, elected officials may be like Scarlett O’Hara – they want to think about sustainability “tomorrow.” Academic and professional experts offer few solutions to this thorny issue of making decisions to have enough money when necessary. However, a common recommendation is the inclusion of independent financial expertise in decision making. Combining this recommendation with the construct of risk pooling, we examine the potential for structuring a risk pool with features that produce these results: 1) investment returns from pool member deposits provide a “financial hedge” against commodity price shifts and 2) enhanced revenues are available to pool members when state-level revenue shortfalls occur.

Can Chen, Florida International University

“The Hidden Costs of Driving: The Political Economy of State Motor-Fuel Taxation”

In the US, state gasoline exercise taxes represent the most important revenue source for highway funding. It is interesting to note that state gas tax rate varies widely. In 2016, it ranges from the lowest rate 12.25 cents per gallon (Alaska) to the highest rate of 50.4 cents per gallon (Pennsylvania). Given the important role of fuel taxes in financing highways, understanding the driving factors affecting the decisions of state fuel taxation is valuable. Current tax policy literature on the determinants of fuel taxation is scarce. To fill the gap, the study empirically investigates the political and economic underpinnings of state gasoline tax policy. The author first develops a theoretical model of tax system, and then empirically tests the political and economic predictions on the determinants of state exercise rates on motor fuels (gasoline and diesel). A panel data consists of 50 states from 1995 to 2012. The panel fixed-effects regression method is
utilized. This research contributes to the fields of tax policy and transportation finance: to expand our understanding of the policy decisions on state fuel taxation, to explore how political and economic factors matter, and offer policy suggestions for reforming state gas taxes.

Yu (Kelly) Shi, University of North Texas  
Nisa Yazici Aydemir, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Yonghong Wu, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Testing the Links between the Consideration and Adoption of Fiscal Policy Actions to the Attributes in “Fiscal Policy Space” of Cities”

This research is intended to analyze the consideration and adoption of fiscal policy actions that can be linked to the five attributes in the fiscal policy space (FPS) of cities. The FPS is characterized by cities’ economic base, state and local fiscal structure, political culture, service demands, institutional and legal context that constitute the decision-making constraints on municipal governments, and limit, shape, or provide opportunities for policy choices to be made by municipal policy makers. The characteristics of these attributes determine how much space has already been used and how much is still available for future policy actions. This research estimates the empirical models for 100 large American cities using data from 1992 to 2009. The findings will contribute to the literature on policy actions at the city level within a comprehensive and systematic FPS framework. The research not only presents and applies different attributes of municipal FPS in a comprehensive manner, but also identifies patterns of city policy actions with severely restricted FPS as opposed to those that are less constrained. The results of the analysis help researchers and practitioners better understand the policy actions decision-makers adopt to address various issues within the constrained FPS of cities

Mikhail Ivonchyk, SPIA, University of Georgia

“The Effect of Multiple Dimensions of Local Autonomy on Fiscal Outcomes: Evidence from US Cities”

States possess full authority over their local units. State regulations and common practices define the extent of local autonomy. Extant research has predominantly focused on the financial aspect of local government autonomy. Whereas important, fiscal discretion is insufficient for autonomous local decision-making. Other dimensions of local autonomy identified in the literature, such as local discretion to make policy choices independently of state authorities and capacity to fulfill the objectives, should also affect local government behavior and outcomes. Thus, the main goal of this paper is to test empirically the impact of multiple aspects of local autonomy on the level of per capita spending, taxation, outstanding debt and public employment in 600 largest US cities (at least 2 cities from each state). The data sources are the US Census of Local Government Finance and the American Fact Finder. The main independent variables are three different measures of interstate variation of local autonomy. Controlling for intergovernmental aid, social and demographic factors, my preliminary findings suggest that empowered municipalities rely less on property taxes, spend more and hire more personnel per resident, with the level of debt unaffected by degree of autonomy. Autonomy measures noticeably improve explanatory power of the models.

Michelle Lofton, Syracuse University

“The Use of Short-Term Debt by General Purpose Governments”
This paper analyzes the behavioral motivations for using short-term debt as a cash flow management tool for local general purpose governments. This research contributes to the working capital management literature by investigating the management of a specific type of short-term liability, short-term debt. We hypothesize that reductions in sources of cash inflows and the strategic use of short-term debt to time the long-term debt market will increase the predicted probability of short-term debt use as well as increase the expected probability of issuing larger amounts of short-term debt. The hypotheses are tested using data from a heterogeneous sample of local governments in the State of New York from 1996 to 2013. The results confirm declining prior year surplus, increasing amounts of non-cash assets, reduction in own-source revenues, and the timing of the long-term debt market increase the predicted probability and the expected probability of issuing greater amounts of short-term debt.

Youngsung Kim and David S. T. Matkin, State University of New York – Albany

“Fiscal Stress and Financial Accountability in U.S. Local Governments”

When local governments go through periods of severe fiscal stress, they typically experience significant administrative and political challenges. To date, the cutback management literature has focused on managerial responses to fiscal stress, but little is known about other salient effects from fiscal stress on management policies and practices. This research examines whether fiscal stress decreases the quality of governments’ audit findings by increasing the likelihood of internal control deficiencies (i.e., financial accountability). Our preliminary results show that fiscal stress is positively associated with the likelihood of internal control deficiencies in U.S. local governments. These results are produced by examining three data sources: (i) New York State’s local government financial data, (ii) audit finding data published by the Federal Single Audit Clearinghouse, and (iii) demographic and socioeconomic data from the U.S. Census. Our research methods are: (i) to operationalize and measure fiscal stress (i.e., general fund balance per capita) and financial accountability (i.e. incidences of reportable conditions and material weaknesses), and (ii) to examine a relationship between fiscal stress and financial accountability using the logit model with both local government and year fixed effects. Since there is a possible simultaneity issue between fiscal stress and financial accountability, we use instrumental variables.

Xiaoheng Wang and Nisa Yazici Aydemir, University of Illinois at Chicago

“Municipal Fiscal Stress and Local Service Provision”

Previous literature found fiscal stress played an important role in explaining the level of public service provision, however, few research examined whether the expenditure cut in public service provision varies in different public service areas, such as education, public health, public works, culture and recreation, etc. This research aims to understand the impact of fiscal stress experienced by municipal governments on the provision of different public services. Also, it seeks to identify whether some services are more likely to be cut first while others will be cut only if the municipal fiscal condition gets worse. In order to answer these questions, this research will conduct descriptive analysis using the data of a sample of 100 large US cities from 2000 to 2010. The finding of this research has important theoretical and practical implications. Our research findings will assist development of a comprehensive theory of fiscal stress and public service provision. From a practical perspective, the findings will help municipal officials to identify public service areas that are more vulnerable to the changing fiscal conditions, and induce development of strategies to protect these service areas from receiving deep cuts.
Among the Maya, maize used for subsistence farming has also held great spiritual, cultural, and social significance for centuries. Alternatively, since the mid-20th Century, Guatemalan coffee has signified a complex history of debt servitude and racism towards indigenous Maya leading to extreme poverty, loss of life through a 36-year civil war, and great loss of land. In the last several decades, the coffee industry in Guatemalan highlands has transitioned to high quality, environmentally friendly shade-grown coffee that is now produced by Mayans for export. In combination with rapid development of tourism in recent years, the landscape has shifted from primarily subsistence farming of maize to production of shade-grown coffee and efforts towards new sources of income in the community of San Juan la Laguna, Lake Atitlan,
Guatemala. In this study, a mixed methods approach using photo elicitation and in-depth interviews was used to assess how developmental and landscape changes have influenced place attachment among the Tz'utujil Maya in San Juan la Laguna. Findings revealed place dependence to working landscapes for economic and non-economic reasons and place identity for sociocultural reasons. Participants were also most attached to landscapes that they perceived to be managed using environmentally sustainable practices.

Janine Fitzgerald and Keri Brandt, Fort Lewis College

“Denial of Death and the Triumph of Industrial Agriculture: Critical Animal Studies and Humane Slaughter Houses.”

The pursuit of truth (with a big T) presents potential allies from addressing social issues that are of common interest. In this paper, we will explore what we call “relief narratives” that emerge from differing groups regarding the animal experience in industrial agriculture. Animal rights groups attack those who eat meat as killers. While animal welfare groups argue, through the practice of humane slaughter, there is a way to take the pain and suffering out of death. It is a fear of death, we argue, that encourages groups to attack each other with their own truth claims rather than focusing on larger social issues related to industrial agriculture. These arguments often take on divisive class undertones and are narrow in focus. We will argue that killing and death is a reality that all animals including humans cannot escape to eat. Yet it is deeper philosophical underpinnings of “Truth” in our western societies that prevent us from engaging in complex debates and cultural practices that encourage respectful practices towards the food we eat and the planet on which we live.

Lisa Payne Ossian, Des Moines Area Community College


In March 1946 President Truman appointed former president Hoover, whose diligent expertise had saved millions of European lives following the Great War, to chair the Famine Emergency Commission, and Hoover eagerly met the challenge as half a billion-people faced starvation worldwide. Only the United States, Canada, Australia, and Argentina had excess agricultural products. On March 17th, Hoover climbed aboard a C-54 transport for a six-week “food study” through twenty-five countries, traveling 35,000 miles to examine conditions, assess damages, and coordinate resources. Hoover now witnessed “the children of the children” he had saved thirty years ago in Poland and Belgium, but the death and destruction had dramatically escalated, which Hoover could only describe as “the grimmest spectre.” Later Hoover wrote in his poem “Hunger,” this famine will “kill more than all of the guns.” Americans needed persuasion of the extraordinary need for food worldwide, and these illustrations of global famine appeared in various publications: the sentimental Absent Dinner Guest, the gruesome Father Death, the inspirational Lady Justice, the scared Orphan Child, the troublesome Selfish Consumer, the obese Spoiled Citizen, and the profiting Farmer. This “perhaps propaganda” campaign worked as this public awareness led to UNICEF and the Marshall Plan.

Kali Ramirez, Des Moines Area Community College

“The Unlikely Iowans”

With the Missouri Compromise ordering the territory of Iowa to be free of slavery, came the settling of some of the few free African Americans. The arable and underpopulated land seemed promising. Then Iowa was admitted into the Union as the 29th state in 1846. African Americans could earn a living and own land in Iowa, but with the “Black Codes” and the Exclusion Law of 1851, they were oppressed and eventually denied citizenship. Years later
during the Civil War, even after the War Department General Order No. 143, the proposal to create “colored troops” for the G.A.R., Iowa delayed in recruiting African American soldiers for months.

Once the 60th Colored Regiment of Iowa was formed in 1863, African Americans from Iowa and Missouri quickly joined and left behind their families. Both the African American soldiers and their families experienced discrimination and were offered less opportunities than the white soldiers and their families. African American families typically resided in their own communities and provided services to one another. The unlikely African American individuals in Iowa were challenged to live a segregated and secondary lifestyle.

Samantha Worden, Valley City State University

“Barbed Wire Playground: Remembering Childhood Inside Heart Mountain”

Following the 1944 suspension of Executive Order 9066, hundreds of former Japanese-American internees sat down to record their memories of the hardships and turmoil associated with Japanese Internment. These memory sources reveal stories of forced evacuations, barbed-wired barracks, and death of loved ones. Nevertheless, many former internees also possess happy childhood memories during their imprisonment. They remember playing games and organized sports, as well as partaking in children organizations, like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Former internees from Heart Mountain, Wyoming, 56 to be exact, reveal this struggle between the established, collective narrative of hardship and the deep, individual memories of pastimes. Recognition of deep memories reveals the simplicity of collective memory, complicating the history of Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

Savannah McCauley, Western Wyoming Community College

“The Mustangs’ Coming of Age: A History of Western Wyoming’s Two-Year College”

An editorial from June 12th 1957 in the Rock Springs Daily Rocket started an initiative to charter a regional college in Western Wyoming, and within two years Sweetwater County was home to Western Wyoming Junior College. As the school developed, it established new programs, becoming more honed to the needs of both the community and the state. It soon branched out, building a new and larger campus in Rock Springs and even adding several outreach centers throughout Southwest Wyoming. This growth allowed it to expand its programs to reach a larger audience, and soon it provided educational opportunities not only to graduating seniors, but concurrent high-school students and adult non-traditional students as well. Throughout this growth, Western endeavored to emphasize change and adaptability, while still adhering to its mission of providing quality education at an affordable cost. In nearly six decades, the school has changed its location, mascot, and name, yet still maintained its identity as the community’s center of cultural enrichment.

Anthony J. Amato
Southwest Minnesota State University

“Election 2016: Rurality, Knowledge, and Reality”

A winner and a loser emerged from the 2016 election. The loser was the vaunted Big Data, which seized discussions in the early teens of the third millennium but failed in its predictions. The surprise winner was rural studies, which had been discarded by many as antiquated and needless in the new millennium. While Big Data failed to predict voting results, rural studies clarified who voted how and why. Observers, who have made many references to rural America, have offered little actual explanation of the election. To date, only partial explanations of the rural-driven results of the election have emerged, and many of these partial explanations are partial to a viewpoint and rely on trite tropes. By examining the multiple definitions of rural
and the varieties of actual rural space across the USA, inquirers can understand how gender, race, and antinomian and obscurantist Christianism came to conspire in places and situations created by the global economy and fragmented experiences. Inquirers can also see how rural ideologies have come to form narratives to counter the genealogies of diversity and progressivism. Rural studies, far from being a Foucauldian archaeology, offers indispensable knowledge for understanding US politics.

Jessica Clark, Western Wyoming Community College
Lisa Payne Ossian, Des Moines Area Community College
Anthony Amato, Southern Minnesota State University
Samantha Worden, Valley City State University

In this recently published work, historian Leisl Carr Childers provides a regional look at how twentieth century multiple use land management policies are at the root of public land conflicts in the Great Basin. According to the publisher, “Leisl Carr Childers shows how different constituencies worked to fill the presumed ‘empty space’ of the Great Basin with a variety of land-use regimes that overlapped, conflicted, and ultimately harmed the environment and the people who depended on the region for their livelihoods. She looks at the conflicts that arose from the intersection of an ever-increasing number of activities, such as nuclear testing and wild horse preservation, and how Great Basin residents have navigated these conflicts” (http://www.oup.com). This work adds to the growing number of publications focused on public land policies and environmental studies in the American West.
Andrej Milivojevic, European University Institute

“From 1940s ‘Quislings’ to 1970s ‘Job Creators’: Explaining (the Absence of Yugoslavia’s Migration Regime.”

After World War 2, Yugoslavia’s socialist regimes branded emigres as “quislings”, yet by the mid-1970s emigres could invest their foreign earnings in some socially-owned firms. Apart from revealing how a revolutionary regime became more pragmatic, as some scholars posit, the story of how the regime treated emigres reveals Yugoslavia’s stunning inability to manage the movement of its population. In a multiethnic state with memories of internecine violence, elites realized quickly after establishing control over the country that emigration could be a valuable source of scarce foreign currency and goods, and that emigres represented a potent source of opposition to the new regime. Yet by the mid-1950s, republics could devise their own approach to emigres and, after an amnesty law passed in 1962, republics vied with each other to send workers to booming Western Europe. With the liberalization of the passport regime, nearly a million-people left by 1971; this continued through the 1980s with practically no federal oversight. What explains this republic-driven migration regime? Partisan-era elites who founded the country believed that republics would have a substantive role in policy-making, and although innovative this commitment to “decentralization” helps explain the (absence of a) Yugoslav migration regime.

James M. Robertson, Woodbury University

“Pre-empting non-alignment: intellectuals, world culture, and Yugoslavia’s independent path to socialism 1948-56.”

"In the years following the Tito-Stalin split of 1948, Yugoslav intellectuals set out to craft an independent, Yugoslav path to socialism. At the level of culture this required a new aesthetic model that would break with Soviet socialist realism and articulate Yugoslavia’s distinct place between the two Cold War blocs. Developing indigenous traditions of Balkan socialism, drawing from the language of anti-colonialism then emanating from newly independent states in Asia and Africa, and building on an inclusive and composite model of ‘world culture’ then promoted by UNESCO, Yugoslav intellectuals during the 1950s sought to reimagine their small, federative state as part of an emerging Third World. This paper explores the efforts of Yugoslav intellectuals such as Miroslav Krleza, Marko Ristic and Bogdan Bogdanovic, to develop an alternative model of socialist culture following the break with the Soviet Union. In doing so it highlights the role of international institutions in facilitating the transmission of political-aesthetic ideas across the three worlds of the early Cold War and traces the origins of a Yugoslav discourse of Third Worldism that would come to dominate the state’s turn towards Non-Alignment in the second half of the 1950s."
Robert Niebuhr, Arizona State University

“Unlikely Partners: Yugoslavia’s Turn to Asia, 1945-55”

It would seem far-fetched to imagine that Josip Broz Tito had a plan for global influence prior to the Tito-Stalin Split in 1948, or perhaps even prior to the 1961 Belgrade Conference of the Non-aligned. Yet, some interesting questions emerge when examining the mood of Communists around the world following the end of World War II and the uncanny way that the tiny Yugoslav party made worldwide connections. With an interest in China’s revolution gaining regular newspaper coverage by 1947, the Yugoslavs public perceptions grew as behind-the-scenes interactions concurrently expanded. In addition to hosting Chinese delegates in Belgrade, Tito welcomed several Indian Communist Party members in the late 1940s and served a surprisingly influential role in Indian politics, with Indians heaping praise on important Yugoslav thinkers such as Edvard Kardelj. Overall, the early connections between the Yugoslavs and various Asian Communists helps us to rethink the earliest years of the Cold War struggle as something more diverse and grassroots than otherwise imagined.

Jeff Koerber, Chapman University

“Hidden Identities: Young Soviet Jews who Posed as Slavs during the Holocaust.”

Fivel Markelis, a Jewish adolescent from Vitebsk in the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, survived the Holocaust immersed in a false identity of his own creation. His feat was remarkable, accomplished while imprisoned in a series of prisoner-of-war and concentration camps. He was not alone among his contemporaries to deceive the Germans with a Russian, Belorussian, or Tatar identity. Several others from the western borderlands employed similar tactics to escape the Nazi genocide of their co-religionists. The proposed paper examines how young Jews acquired multifaceted ethnic knowledge (languages, social skills, and cultural traits) in the western Soviet borderlands under Stalinism. Some grew up side-by-side with Slavic neighbors and played with their neighbor’s children. Others were the product of “mixed” marriages. Their social education extended beyond mere proximity. During the purges, young Jews witnessed the suppression of Soviet Yiddish culture. Belorussian- and Russian-language education replaced their Yiddish schools. And some acculturated in unique ways. Fivel Markelis, for example, participated in a Belorussian folk dancing ensemble with other Jewish children. Based on sources in Belarus, Poland, Israel, and the United States, the paper is drawn from a book project examining how young Jews raised in the Polish-Soviet borderlands responded to the Holocaust.

Susan Costanzo, Western Washington University

“Soviet Amateurs Confront the Cold War.”

My paper looks at the impact of the Cold War on amateur theaters in the Soviet Union at one of the tensest moments of the Soviet- American confrontation. In 1983-84 at the height of then President Ronald Reagan’s incendiary remarks regarding the "evil empire," Soviet leaders responded to this verbal aggression by clamping down on the arts as the Soviet Union began the painful process of economic reform. My paper shows the impact of central measures on amateur theaters which had been expanding the bounds of tolerated themes and styles since the 1970s. I argue that despite central efforts to limit expression during a Cold War panic, long-standing relationships at the local level undermined those goals. This limited success suggests that the totalitarian model is not suitable for the late Soviet era because low-level officials had reasons to support heterodoxy even despite central priorities. I look at amateur troupes across the Russian Republic, though mostly troupes in Moscow and Leningrad were affected by this attempted clampdown on the arts.
Patrick Hyder Patterson, University of California San Diego

“From Supermarket USA to Supermarket YU: Global Models and Local Problems in Socialist Yugoslavia’s Adoption of Mass-Scale Grocery Retailing.”

The paper addresses key problems of internationalization and localization in the spread of the supermarket model in Yugoslavia, a country that managed to go further than most of its socialist counterparts toward the implementation of the supermarket method. In the absence of the foreign capital initiatives that helped transfer the supermarket form to a number of Western European societies (e.g., Scarpellini 2004, de Grazia 2006), Yugoslav retail specialists found themselves with significant problems of development and implementation, but by the same token they enjoyed considerable freedom to depart when desired from straightforward Americanization/Westernization and instead localize the supermarket form in response to the specific conditions of Yugoslav socialism. Covering the period from the late 1950s until 1991, the project represents a detailed analysis of domestic conditions that is meant to offer a useful complement to the most significant prior research, which has focused on American efforts to export a model supermarket for the “Supermarket USA” exhibition in Zagreb in 1957 (Hamilton 2009), on the early development of the supermarket form (Rusinow 1969), and on Yugoslav grocery retailing in its broader socialist context (Patterson 2009). Emphasis will be placed on retailing problems during “the crisis” from 1978-1991.

Josef Djordjevski, University of California San Diego

“Keeping the Croatian Coast Clean: The Development of Tourism on the Yugoslav Adriatic 1967-1972.”

This paper examines the massive scale development of tourist infrastructure along the Adriatic coast under state socialism and its relationship with the coastal environment, specifically during the “Adriatic Projects” from 1967 to 1972. Whereas histories of tourism under socialism have often overlooked the environment, environmental histories of socialist East Europe have left out tourism and coasts, instead focusing on forests, industry and agriculture. This paper asks to what extent communist and international developers of tourism facilities took the environment into account. Did they believe they could construct new tourist facilities without “spoiling” the environment that attracted tourists? How successful were they in their endeavor to create a new, modern coast friendly to tourism, socialism, and the environment? The paper demonstrates that these developers were confident that they could make new tourist towns that would be economically, socially, and environmentally equitable and sustainable, though on many levels, their visions and projects failed with long lasting effects that continue to affect the Adriatic coastal communities today.

Christopher Monty, California State University, Dominguez Hills

“Reassessing the Stalin Faction 1922-28.”

My paper will be entitled “Reassessing the Stalin faction, 1922-1928.” Most scholars argue that, unlike other leadership factions in the 1920s, Stalin and his supporters were not motivated by ideological or programmatic commitments but were concerned only with the personal politics of the succession struggle. Recently published biographies of Stalin by Fitzpatrick, Kotkin, and Khlevniuk reinforce this view. My research suggests that this characterization of Stalin and his supporters - especially those working in the Central Committee Secretariat - is not wholly accurate. I examine the day-to-day activities of the personnel officials and instructional staff of the Organization-Assignment Department within the Central Committee Secretariat, which was at the hub of Stalin’s evolving efforts to regularize party administration and to facilitate the implementation of congress, conference
and Central Committee resolutions by local party organizations. A close study of this department's internal operations and how these informed decisions made by the TsK Secretariat and Organization Bureau (Orgburo) suggests that Stalin and the key members of his evolving "team" (e.g., Molotov, Kaganovich, Kosior) were very committed to building socialism within the framework of NEP even while engaged in the struggle for power.

Alexander Izotov, University of Eastern Finland

“Local Ethno-Cultural Discursive Contexts in Post-Soviet Sortavalat”

In this paper the discourse theory and narrative analysis are employed. The research analyses mechanism of constructing identity in political discourse. The paper utilizes local newspaper material and archive documents. I argue that a process of identity construction in Sortavala differs in many respects compared to other administrative districts in Russian Karelia. The community of migrants from other parts of the former Soviet Union had nothing to do with the Finno-Ugric traditional culture and language. It leads to perfunctory and formal perception of the officially practiced ways of socialization of residents with regard of Karelian cultural heritage. The narratives examined in the planned paper demonstrate how a diverse community of migrants has produced locality and created a sense of place. Initial feelings of unfamiliarity and alienation gave way to a certain local patriotism, as Sortavala slowly changed from a Finnish town into a recognisable Soviet place. The cultural life in Sortavala in the post-Soviet period experienced dramatic changes. However, the most visible impact on the local cultural development was cross-border interaction. Therefore, external cultural realities were important factor for the sphere of culture in the town and ethno-cultural identifications of Sortavalans in the 1990s and 2000s.

Walter N. Sistow, D'Youville College

“Near Death Experiences and Father Sergius Bulgakov.”

Recent scholarship has revealed that the phenomenon of the Near-Death Experience (NDE) has affected between four and nine percent of the population of the United States. Near-Death Experiences are not wishful thinking. Scientific studies of cardiac arrest patients provide evidence that the NDE is an authentic experience related to the dying process. Nevertheless, the study of the NDE from the perspective of religious studies, and the role these experiences have on religions and religious leaders or theologians, has received little or no discussion. My paper proposes to examine the role of the NDE within the theological writings of Sergius N. Bulgakov. Using recent scholarship on Near-Death Experience, including the Greyson Scale, I will determine if his dying experiences meet the criteria of a Near-Death Experience. Afterward, I will examine how this experience influences his later theological work. I will argue that not only did Bulgakov have a Near-Death Experience, but that Near-Death Experience has a lasting influence on his theological thought. My study will help demonstrate that NDEs are an integral part of the religious experience and an important source of theological inspiration for Sergius Bulgakov's sophiological system.

Kateryna Malaia, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

“Constructing a Space of One's Own: The History of Remont”

Among the scholars of the Soviet and post-Soviet fields there exists a common understanding that the late Soviet and post-Soviet term "remont" referring to domestic remodeling has a meaning quite different from its analogies elsewhere. Yet, there are only a few investigations into the nature of "remont," mostly in the form of sociological or ethnographic studies. These studies predominantly analyze the large-scale outcomes and attitudes, but do not follow the
development of "remont" over time, or the reasons for it to take such a peculiar form. This paper, which is a part of a larger dissertation project on the late Soviet and post-Soviet domestic spaces, analyzes the birth of the contemporary understanding of "remont" through popular sources and legal documents in the years of Perestroika reforms, and its transformation due to the opening of the construction materials markets in the 1990s. By doing so, this paper introduces a view of "remont" other than a symbolic breakaway from the Soviet past, and speaks to the continuity of domestic transformations from the Soviet to post-Soviet era in the context of a society that, echoing Alexei Yurchak, was not expecting the USSR to collapse, but was inherently prepared for it to happen.

Lynn Lubamersky, Boise State University

“The Uses of the Memory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.”

"The memory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) might appear irrelevant in the year 2017 since how could there be a point fighting over the memory of a state that ceased to exist 200 years ago? The conflict in Ukraine drew attention to the memory wars there. Putin’s Russia prepared the groundwork for the annexation by engaging in memory warfare, by re-writing the history of the past to include claims on the lands of the former (GDL). In the 2010 œUnified History the GDL is an evil from the West. Communist historiography underscored that Kyivan Rus was the precursor to Russia, and many Russians still accept the idea that Russia is descendant of Kyivan Rus, so how could the GDL equally trace its origins to the land? Since 1991, no common consensus has emerged on the collective memory of the GDL supporting a positive view of the GDL in Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. While Polish scholars embraced the memory of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, there is public indifference and reluctance to embrace the legacy of the GDL in Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. But if the people of Lithuania and Belarus have no universal mass memory of the legacy of the GDL, this is certainly no accident. The erasure of the memory the GDL and the cultivation of mass amnesia was the policy first of the empire that partitioned the state, then the nationalists who forged 19th century linguistically-based identities, and later by the Soviets. This paper explores the memory of the GDL today."

C. Brandon Hone, Weber State University

"Truth will Prevail: Linking Czech Nationalism beyond Communism.”

"Truth will prevail, pravda vitezí, were the final words of Jan Hus before being burned at the stake. Five hundred years later, these words became the national motto of Czechoslovakia. While on the surface, these words appear as an appeal to truth by someone who died for their beliefs, by the Nineteenth Century, Czech nationalists adopted these words as a rallying cry to harken back to their constructed vision of the past. This past, according to the nationalists, was a struggle for freedom from foreign oppression. At the time of independence under Tomas Masaryk, pravda vitezí became the national motto, which lasted until the communist era. With the Velvet Revolution, Vaclav Havel brought the motto back. This served to tie Havel’s government to the near past of Masaryk to lend more legitimacy to the new system. While on the outside, the message that truth will prevail is a lofty ideal that someone like Havel would seek, Czechs certainly understood the connection with the past of Hus and Masaryk. Havel chose this motto not only to show a counterpoint to the former communist government, but also as a continuation of the democratic and independent past.”
Mark Cichock, University of Texas at Arlington

“Reimagining Identity in Russia and Eastern Europe.”

The political and cultural imperatives which have altered the landscape of Eastern Europe and Russia over the course of the last quarter century have never fully run their courses and are now being reoriented once again. From Russia, to Ukraine, the Baltic states, and all Eastern Europe there is a new channeling of ideas, particularly regarding nationalism, regionalism, and supra-naturalism. As states’ populations shift with the ever-changing tides of national identity new and sometimes disassociative tendencies emerge with the break-up of the nation-state as a potential result. This paper provides a categorization scheme of national, regional, and supra-national identity as to how these features are having impacts on state cohesion. It seeks to provide answers to the questions of whether higher tiers of identity, or those of transnational orientations, have engendered greater influence amongst and upon populations within individual states. In particular, it posits that the structure of national identity in the post-communist realm has been weaker than was initially considered necessary to sustain that identity as a foundation of the nation-state system.”

Nina Bogdan, University of Arizona

“Diasporic Collective Memory, Group Identity, Cohesion and Performance: Two Russian Communities Negotiate Public Space in San Francisco’s 1937 Yarmarka.”

"In the years following the 1917 Russian Revolution, the Russian immigrant population in San Francisco increased significantly due to a large influx of what were commonly referred to as “White Russian” refugees. Predominantly Russian Orthodox, their arrival complimented an existing Russian Molokan community. The two groups engaged in little interaction given cultural, religious, and political differences. Their collective memories of the Russian homeland they had left were intrinsically distinct, informing their paths to Americanization along equally distinctive routes, particularly in terms of class and labor. In 1937, the city of San Francisco held a week-long event titled the “Golden Gate Bridge Fiesta” to celebrate the completion and opening of the bridge. The event included a Russian Fair (Yarmarka), held in San Francisco’s Sigmund Stern Grove. Fair organizers put out a call to all Russians in California to participate and members of both groups took part, asserting unified cultural autonomy in urban public space. Holding a Russian-themed fair in the post-nativist and post Red Scare atmosphere, which, throughout the 1920s, had engendered a politically hostile environment and dominant culture intimidation, reinforced diasporic Russian cultural identity, simultaneously emphasizing the stamp of Russian culture on public spaces throughout the city.”

Sergey Golunov, Kyushu University

“Russian cross-border cooperation: In search of an efficient model”

"Russia is the country that has the longest border in the word. Its borderlands are distinguished by particularly diverse economic, political, and other conditions which complicates elaborating some uniform and coherent cross-border cooperation policy. The proposed paper to be focused on Russian efforts to elaborate nationwide cross-border cooperation policy in the period after the disintegration of the USSR. Russia tried both to adopt some elements of foreign (especially the EU’s and Chinese) experiences and to introduce some original solutions. Yet the results don’t look much impressive so far. I argue that the efficiency of Russian cross-border cooperation policy is reduced by several factors, such as Moscow’s reluctance to grant Russian regions more autonomy, pervasive corruption, and conflicts with some neighbor countries.”
Katarzyna Stoklosa, University of Southern Denmark

Gerhard Besier, Sigmund Neumann Institute

“Alternatives to border walls”

"Borders exist since the beginning of nation states and so walls and fences too. The Berlin Wall, the Iron Curtain between eastern and western Europe and new border fences that have been constructed in line with the refugee crises today show that the attempt of abolition of problems through separation from the “problematic” neighbours has been always present on the political agenda. Nevertheless, from time to time the opposite takes place. For example, 1989 Hungary opened its border with Austria to support Eastern German refugees on their escape into Western Germany. Human beings are mobile if they must be often because of hunger and war. An alternative to border walls and fences would be a development of a common European integration policy. This is a very difficult goal because the (religious) convictions, life styles, values and norms but also the habits between the native majority and the foreign newcomers often are very different. Living together in separate subcultures might not be a problem, if the minimal preconditions are accepted by all separation of church and state and the rule of secular law. That means recognition of the profane culture in the public sphere, obeying the constitution, particularly human rights and equality of men and women. In our contribution, we would like to demonstrate how an integration process on this low level might be successful and an alternative to border walls and fences. How to harmonize the differences, the fears and expectations on both sides to avoid disappointments and clashes? There are many attempts to install full integration programs to establish an integrated and peaceful togetherness. Instead, we are going to create a social education program that aims at a mutual understanding process between different subcultures."

Joni Virkkunen, University of Eastern Finland

“EU, Russia and the changing neighborhood”

The growing confrontation in international politics and, recently, the hasty bordering exercises resulting in the ‘uncontrolled’ cross-border flows of asylum seekers in Europe have revolutionized the European geopolitical map. The post-cold war rhetoric of confidence, cooperation, neighbourhood and borderless Europe have been replaced by different images of military and non-military threat. The paper looks at the evolving character of the European Union in the changing geopolitics of Europe. To uncover the idea of normative power of both EU and the Russian Federation, and the changing actorness of the two evolving great powers in their near-by areas, the paper discusses the different notions and levels of neighbourhood. As both Russia and the European Union tend to move toward more exclusive geopolitics, there is a clear interest for multifaceted long-term cooperation some sectors of society, e.g. in science and business. Those are said to benefit both.

Carsten Yndigegn, Syddansk Universitet

“Border regions – hollyhock idyll or contested battle zones”

"The paper will address the diversity of contemporary border regions from a discourse critical perspective. Since the founding of the EEC, border regions have played a significant role in building the picture of an integrated Europe. Through the idea of open borders and cross-border cooperation, the narrative has been constructed that European integration, not least in border regions, helps overcoming past enmities of the nations, thereby developing European identity based on preservation of the rich variety of the national cultures. Far from being hollyhock idyll, border regions reflect the diversity of European integration. They somewhere
show examples of smooth integration derived from elitist endeavours and pragmatic necessities, while elsewhere still being containers holding the memory-related remnants of past nationalist conflicts to be revealed when digging the surface of popular memory. Parallel with the intensification of the EU crisis, border regions have turned into crisis zones. Border regions have redeveloped into contested battle zones of both old and new kinds. Geopolitical threats have created security issues in border regions, whereby minority issues have developed from being of only museological interest to becoming security political importance. Moreover, global mass migration has turned border regions with protected borders into contested battle zones."
Ana Gabriela Gonzalez Anaya, Universidad de Guadalajara

“Social representations of Psychology and how they change through time”

"The work of the psychologist has long been questioned, stigmatized and stereotyped. The society attributes to the work of subjects graduated from that profession characteristics that may or may not be related to the work that a psychologist does. Through prejudices such as "psychologists are crazy" and questions such as "Are you psychoanalyzing me?", The work that psychologists do find barriers and difficulties. For this study, I work with subjects from Los Altos de Jalisco, a semi-rural region located in Mexico, characterized by being highly traditionalist and attached to the Catholic religion. These subjects are Psychology students whose social representations about their career are presented and analyze in this study. Both undergraduate and graduate students of Psychology present difficulties in carrying out activities of the profession, or at least it is what their social representations show. Our study subjects, students of Psychology that come from the region already mentioned answered a survey to show how their social representations change and how it is related to the subjects they are studying and their own experiences as well."

Courtney Arbogast, Heidelberg University

“Examining the Well-Being and Connectedness of Social Groups in College Students”

This study aims to measure the relationship between social group membership, well-being, and social connectedness. Identifying with social groups has been shown to have a positive effect on well-being, whereas gaining a new social identity promotes positive mental health (Greenway, Cruwys, Haslam, & Jetten, 2016). Well-being is also affected by social connectedness; as social connections increase, so does well-being (Haslam, Cruwys, Haslam, Dingle, & Chang, 2016). It is hypothesized that higher social involvement will have a positive association with social connectedness when controlling for well-being. Results from a sample of 151 students from a private liberal arts university in the Rust Belt has shown identification as a student athlete is associated with significantly higher social connectedness, compared to students who identify as part of Greek life, or students who identify and neither Greek nor athlete. Involvement in both Greek life and athletics is not associated with a significant increase in social connectedness beyond the association with athletics. When adding self-esteem as a predictor, the average increase in social connectedness for athlete’s decreases. In other words, group identity matters in the formation of social connectedness, but the effect of identity is separate from the influence of self-esteem.

Allison Gales, Heidelberg University

“Self Efficacy, Sexual Behavior, and Sexual Regret Among College Students”

The current study was designed to assess whether the number of sexual behavior, “hook ups”, is affected by the type of behavior: oral, anal, or vaginal. Furthermore, this study aims to determine if lower self efficacy leads to lower contraception usage leading to an increase in sexual regret among college students. Myers (2012) indicates the commonality of hook up culture among college students and the assumption that hook ups refer to individuals that engage in sexual encounters. Eshbaugh & Gute (2008) suggested that women are prone to
feeling regret after hooking up with individuals after a one night stand as well as after only knowing them for twenty-four hours. This research, however, found women to show less regret for non-vaginal hook ups. It is lacking a comparison among men college students and their level of regret. Self-efficacy is analyzed using the General Self-Efficacy Scale created by Schwarzer and Jerusalem (1995). The current study uses the following as the operational definition of a “hook up”: a single account of a sexual interaction with another person and incorporates men into the sample. It is expected that higher self efficacy leads to more hookups, less use of contraception, and increase in sexual regret.

Ann E. Jones, Jonathan Wilson, Colleen Murray, Markus Kemmelmeier, Anthony Papa; University of Nevada, Reno

“Perceived Societal Impacts of UAVs: Attitudes towards Drones”

The current research investigates the public’s perception of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones. Drones are now being used by emergency responders and law enforcement, are also becoming increasingly popular among private citizens. As with any new technology, the public has concerns with the use of drones. Little research has focused on public attitudes towards the civilian use of drones, despite evidence the perception of such attitudes are key to developing public policy and shaping how drones should be used by civilians, as well as federal and state agencies. Two nationwide samples (total n = 1531) recruited through Amazon’s Mechanical Turk provided context dependent attitudes (i.e., security, privacy, etc.) towards the use of drones. These attitudes were analyzed to provide substantive socio-demographic differences (i.e., age, gender, education, etc.) in support of drone use. Greater security and privacy concerns were greater among the better educated and those more in the technology field. Surprisingly, gender emerged as a dominant predictor of the anticipated societal consequences of drone technology. This research provides insight on how drones are viewed by the public, with varying factors of who is using them and how they are being used.

Jonathan Wilson, Ann E. Jones, Colleen Murray, Markus Kemmelmeier, Anthony Papa; University of Nevada, Reno

“Attitudes Toward Drones: The Influence of Drone Appearance”

The growing civilian use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones offers many applications to governmental institutions, commercial organizations, and hobbyists alike. As illustrated by past research on human-robot interactions, the physical appearance of such technologies shapes perceptions of trust, effectiveness, and helpfulness. Such factors may facilitate engagement with drones. Additionally, positive perceptions of drones will likely lead to compliance in circumstances in which law enforcement or emergency first-responders are operating drones. The present study explored how individuals perceive images of drones of varying mechanical designs, colors, and first-responders logos (e.g. police, fire department, search and rescue, etc.). Participants (N = 793) were recruited through Amazon’s Mechanical Turk and completed an online survey assessing various attitudes towards drones. Analyses of 23 drones across the dimensions of effectiveness, helpfulness, usefulness, safety, reliability, trustworthiness, and attractiveness revealed small effects for color that reflected preference for drones of white color. Participants evaluated drones with a search and rescue logo more favorably than drones with law enforcement logos. This illustrates how the physical appearance of drones’ shapes attitudes and consequently interactions with drones. Such results may inform decisions regarding what types of drones are used by businesses and institutions.
Laverne DaCosta, Arizona State University

“Digital Technologies and its Discontents: Tradition, Philosophy, and Resistance in American Schools”

The digital revolution, of which youths are native users, has escalated the issue of discipline in public schools across the United States. The reports on smartphone use by students asserted it to be an epidemic that is stifling the intellect of young people who should be developing critical thinking skills during their formative years. Text messaging mode of communication is viewed as counter-productive because it weakens writing skills. In other studies, it is argued that digital technologies have led to profound moral decay of society. While many schools are resisting educational technologies in general and smartphone use on school grounds, specifically, students continue to use them. At the same time, the National Education Technology Plan (NETP) for implementing a “digital-age learning culture” has devised a five-point plan that encourages schools to find new ways of delivering education through technology. This study explores the traditional and philosophical forces that underpin current pedagogical practices that give way to resistance to technologies in schools.

Victoria A. Springer and Samuel C. Lindsey, Adobe Systems, Inc.

“Pathways of Creative Engagement: Exploring the Importance of skill-building, confidence, and identity for hands-on participation in creative activities”

"The purpose of this research was to deepen our understanding of experiential and attitudinal mechanisms that promote hands-on engagement with creative activities. Our guiding research questions were: 1) What happens when people increase their skills in their favorite creative activity? 2) Does increased skill, confidence, or feeling that creativity is important make people feel that they are more creative? 3) Does an increase in skill, confidence, thoughts on importance of creativity, or feeling personally creative lead people to take a more hands-on approach to their creative projects? Conducted with an online crowdsourced sample of over 500 respondents in the United States, this study revealed that our thoughts about our own creativity play a critical role in our creative engagement. Our mediation results indicate respondents with more skill also had higher self-ratings of mastery (drive to increase competence), creative self-efficacy (confidence in ability to achieve creative goals), and creative role identity (belief that creativity is an important part of who they area). These factors, in turn, were associated with feeling more personally creative. However, the only factor that had a meaningful impact on taking a more hands-on approach to creative projects was feeling more personally creative."
“Fear and Anxiety: An analysis of Latino Migration to the U.S. Enhancing Social Work Sensibilities”

Although most people today associate anxiety about Latino/Hispanic immigration in the U.S. exclusively with Mexico and Latin America, the fact is that even during the period of the Spanish explorers that fear was brewing deeply in the Anglo psyche. While the Spanish were settling in Mexico and other parts of North America, the British, the Dutch and the French were also trying to compete for lands in the continent. The Black Legend about the Spanish as a sanguinary and sadistic group of abusers was being propagated and taking root (Fuentes, 1992, p. 132). De Leon (1987) suggests that Anglos fueled attitudes about Mexicans different from those about other immigrants arriving in the U.S. He that Angolo reaction to Mexicans was contemptuous, many thinking them fearing sexuality, vice, nature, and people of color (de Leon, 1987, p.1). Today, the anxiety and fear of Mexicans persists after many waves of migrants from the South. This paper will examine some past and contemporary reasons that might explain the enormous antipathy to the Mexican/Latino population today, as captured by today’s populist thinking.

“Supporting LGBTQ Students: Evaluating CSUB’s Campus Resources”

Public universities have and are working to create a more inclusive atmosphere on campus. However, having limited resources is not enough to create a culture of inclusivity. The experience of inclusivity needs to be studied from the perspective of those for whom it is intended. This Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis explored twenty-four public university students’ experiences of LGBTQ SafeZone resources through in-depth interviews. The major overarching finding was one of invisibility. Students reported feelings of loneliness and isolation, and they described a sense of being an outsider. This theme was broken into subthemes of visibility, education, and the SafeZone project. Based on these themes I recommend promoting visibility, facilitating campus education, and creating safe spaces. This study has implications for public administration because it draws lessons on developing inclusive administrative cultures in complex and large public organizations.

“Ethical Issues when Working with Older Adults who hoard”

Basic information about hording and insight into the appropriate time to intervene precedes the focus of ethical concerns when working with older adults who hoard. Potential ethical dilemmas between older adults who hoard, their families, and the social work practitioner are
discussed using the NASW Code of Ethics. Two ethical decision making models, specifically designed for hoarding, are presented. The attendees process interactive examples.

James Dickerson and Bonnie Rinks
University of Southern Indiana

“How Do I Identify as A Social Worker in Six Words of Fewer”

Students enrolled in professional programs, develop attitudes about the professions in which they are about to become members. These attitudes are based on several factors that include their own personal life experiences, interactions with social work faculty and alumni, the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, the Council on Social Work Education, as well as the field experiences required for social work students. A strong sense of professional identity will aid in their work with clients and communities. In addition, a strong professional identity will help students become the torch barriers for the next generation of social workers. The How do I Identify as a Social Worker in Six Words or fewer project, assists students, faculty, alumni and community partners in the journey of professional identity development. During an off-campus event, participants were asked to respond to the question and record their answer on a poster board. In addition, participant responses and images were captured for digital display within the department and on social media. Qualitative analysis indicates that Social Work values were represented in the common threads of the participant’s professional identity. The most common threads included advocacy, social justice, and dignity and worth of an individual.

Doris Dodson, Mary Baldwin University

Educat ing the Next Generation of Social Workers: The Importance of Self-Care, Developing Resilience and Lessons Learned”

Social work is a long-standing profession dedicated to serving and advocating on the behalf of underrepresented diverse populations. As society, has changed and become more complex, education of the next generation of social workers has had to keep pace. While there can be many rewards to the social work profession, there are also significant challenges, mental, emotional and/or physical. Preparing social work students early is our best chance to nurture a new generation of resilient, compassionate social work professionals. Is it any wonder that, without adequate preparation, social workers are at great risk of burnout? Awareness of compassion fatigue, secondary or vicarious trauma, regarding social workers, is relatively new development. Former ways of managing traumatic experiences through tightly controlled emotions and reactions may have proven detrimental when not combined with adequate, effective self-care. What are the potential emotional and/or health risks? What will our next generation of social workers require as they attempt to blaze new trails in the profession? What are the lessons learned?

Moises Diaz and Rebecca Montoya
Utah State University

“Guiding Philosophy and Pedagogical Strategies for Teaching Distance Courses”

Online and blended classroom contexts are becoming more and more prevalent (Chen, 2007, Pg. 72; Czerkawski, 2014, Pg. 29). Utah State University (USU) is a land-grant institution promoting educational access in isolated counties spread across the State. Starting in 2007, the USU Social Work Program began offering an online cultural competence course to reach students in outlying areas. Developing a fundamental level of efficacy in cross cultural relations is a required competency for social work students. Social workers should be “aware of their
(own) cultural background and values... They respect differences, and appreciate multicultural identities in clients" (CSWE, 2015, NASW, 2007, 2008).

USU now teaches several online and blended courses to support educational access. Just as with traditional face-to-face courses, alternative classes call for a safe context for students to successfully engage one another across their own diverse world views. In this presentation, lessons from ten years of distance education strategies (including the incorporation of MSW student teaching assistants) will be shared. The faculty member will share years of pedagogical strategies and the current course teaching assistant will convey experiences supporting three sections of course delivery of “Intervention with Diverse Clients” during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Aloha VanCamp, University of Detroit Mercy

“Incivility in Higher Education: Implications for social work education in an era of Insults, Disrespect, and Hate”

By many reports, there is an increase of incivility in higher education. Some research suggests that a decline in civility in American society is the reason for the surge of disrespectful behavior on campus. Incivility is generally described as students who come to class late, sleep during class, carry on conversations with other students, or use electronic devices for texting or searching the Internet. Faculty behaviors include coming to class late, disinterest and disconnectedness with students, and classroom monologues that do not include discussions. This exploratory study examines the rising incidence of disrespectful behaviors both by students and faculty and the implications for social work, particularly as it impacts the core professional value of respect for the dignity of the person. Finally, the results of the study will be discussed in terms of policy issues for social work higher education.

Wendy Turner-Frey and Jay Dickerson
University of Southern Indiana
Danesha Shelton
University of San Francisco

“Understanding the Difficulty Discussing Race”

Racial tensions are increasing in the United States, and college campuses are not immune to this division. However, students are often reluctant to engage in discussions on race. This paper explores this reluctance and attempts to understand why students avoid discussing issues of race. As part of a campus Stand Against Racism event, the university's Center for Social Justice Education (CSJE) posed the question, “Why is it hard to talk about race?” Members of the university community were asked to write their responses anonymously and post them on a display at the rally. Following this event, the CSJE employed qualitative data analysis techniques to code the data from the 158 written responses and identify themes. The two most predominant themes were “Avoiding Conflict” and “Apathy.” This paper discusses those themes and offers suggestions for how to increase civil racial dialogue on campuses.

L Ruth Whisler, Alex Galvan, Grace Ricablanca, Karen Alcaraz, and Eduardo Medina
Northern Arizona University – Yuma

“Kids in Crisis – Social Work In Schools – Year 2”

The first phase of the implementation of a three-year project to put social workers back in AZ K-12 educational system will be presented. Students are in place and collecting data about their work and the outcomes while making great change in the lives of their young clients, families and colleagues in this rural Arizona poverty-ridden District. The results of this
experimental project will be presented to AZ legislature to prove the worth and value of social workers to our educational systems.

Aloha VanCamp, Melanie Mayberry, and Elizabeth Rodmes
University of Detroit Mercy
Cathy Liesman and Eric Burris
Developmental Centers

“Integrated Health Care: Creating Change through a Dental, Community Behavioral Health Care and Social Work Collaboration”

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality defines healthcare integration as a practice team of primary care and behavioral health clinicians working together with patients and families using a systematic and cost effective approach to provide patient centered care. According to the U.S. Census (2014) the City of Detroit is the poorest big city in the United States with nearly 39.3% of its population living in poverty. In response to this issue and the need to provide better preparation for future professionals serving in the city, an urban university located in the City of Detroit – its dental school and social work program – embarked on collaboration with a large non-profit behavior health center in the City of Detroit. The collaboration began providing its first integrated care services and dental care to persons with behavioral and emotional impairments in fall 2016. The services included providing dental care to some residents who have never received dental services their entire lives. This panel presentation (a team that includes dentistry, social work, and psychology) will offer insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with these types of collaboration and will discuss integrated health care issues considering a changing political climate.

Emalee Buttery, Amy McLean, and Anderson Starling
The University of Tennessee at Martin

“Service Learning Efficacy at a Southern Regional State University”

As service learning is becoming an integral part of university curriculum and practice there is little research on the efficacy of student learning. This research hypothesizes a relationship between service learning and student retention at universities, and seeks to measure the impact that service learning has on student feeling of connection to their university and the local community. By encouraging service learning, universities seek to engage students outside of the classroom setting and increase their community ties and involvement, thus increasing the university retention of students. Yet there is not sufficient empirical evidence that service learning increases a sense of community on and off campus for students consequently encouraging them to remain at their university. By implementing an online two wave survey in courses that cross into multiple disciplines at a southern regional state university, the researchers will collect self-reported data from students focusing on their participation in service learning and their resulting understanding of their place in their major, the local community, and their university. This research will give empirical support to the currently assumed relationship between service learning and student satisfaction as well as allow universities and faculty to better understand the role of service learning and how it connects to university retention rates.

Marissa O’Neill, Humboldt State University and Philip Mancus, College of the Redwoods

“Community College Students Experiencing Food Insecurity: An Overlooked Population”

Food and housing security among college students is emerging as a state and national issue. In 2016, 656 students at a California community college completed an online survey. Food security was measured using the USDA short form (USDA, 2012). While 42% were categorized
as food secure, over one in four students (26%) ranked low in food security, and nearly one in three (32%) could be classified as very low. In addition, 49 participants (7%) currently were homeless and 107 (16%) reported that since attending college they had been homeless. A multivariate regression analysis was performed to assess factors associated with food security. Not surprisingly, the strongest predictor was money to buy food ($=0.376\ast\ast\ast$), food security status of the person's home of origin prior to attending college ($=0.239\ast\ast\ast$), participants who reported difficulty paying rent ($=0.149\ast\ast\ast$), sharing meals ($=0.134\ast\ast\ast$), and mental health problems ($=0.112\ast\ast\ast$) also contribute to food security (Adjusted $R^2=0.516$). Results from this study illustrate the need for a greater understanding of the challenges students face outside of the classroom. Social workers frequently provide referrals to the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program, and provide resources and advocate for low-income families. College students are an overlooked population in need of intervention.

Madyson Pennington and Bobbie-Jean West
Abilene Christian University

“Impact of Sex-Education Programs on Sexual Behaviors, Beliefs, and Activity”

Sex education is a topic that has been addressed through many different avenues. While there are several standardized methods of teaching sex education, many organizations rely upon other methods of instruction, ranging from abstinence/religious based to simple health and anatomy education. This exploratory study examined the relationship between methods of sex education in schools, challenges that prevent sex education from being successful, factors that contribute to effective sex education, and their relationship to sexual activity later in life. Sample (N=115) was surveyed about types and methods of sex education, sexual beliefs, knowledge, activity, and behaviors. Initial results support the growing literature that abstinence-only education does not decrease risky sexual behaviors. Results indicate no significant difference between students who had abstinence only education and those with no education at all in certain sexual behaviors such as the age in which they first had sex ($p=0.759$) and number of times they engage in sexual activity in the last 6 months ($p=0.727$). Additionally, students who received sex education including appropriate use of contraceptives reported a significantly higher amount of contraceptive use when engaging in sexual behaviors than those receiving abstinence-based education only. Study limitations and implications are also addressed and presented.

Jillian Graves and Christina Marsack, Eastern Michigan University

“Warmth, stigma and family role changes: factors influencing the quality of future caregiving among siblings”

"Siblings of people with severe psychiatric illnesses and developmental disorders are often called upon to become caregivers for their siblings, especially after their parents' death. Despite its prevalence, the unique aspects of these relationships have rarely been studied. Our paper seeks to address this lack of focus in the research. We are examining what qualities may influence the decisions of young adult siblings of people with mental illnesses or developmental disabilities regarding caregiving. In this conceptual paper, ideas around relational warmth, stigma (including courtesy stigma) and family structure help form a theoretical lens. This lens allows us to look at the two populations of young adult siblings who may become caregivers in the future, siblings of people with schizophrenia and siblings of people with autism. By examining these two sibling populations, we can begin to better understand why siblings may seek out or avoid caretaking and what types of social work interventions are needed."
This study examined the impact of prenatal care utilization on neonatal mortality in West African countries. We developed a scale for measuring the adequacy of prenatal care utilization from three items taken from recent rounds of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). Our measure departs somewhat from the conventional ones used in developed countries because of data limitations. We estimated by event history methods the hazard of neonatal mortality given this measure of adequate prenatal care while controlling for a set of biodemographic variables and two social factors. Our main finding was that given all our control variables, poor or no prenatal care carries significant risks for the health of neonates in West Africa. These risks are in addition to the usual ones brought about by maternal age, birth interval, multiple births, and birth order.

Susanne Willers, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

“Gender and Access to Refugee Protection: Central American Women in Mexico”

Since the end of 2010, increasing numbers of people from northern Central American countries - Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador - are fleeing organized crime in the context of “new forms of war” (Kaldor 2000) in Central America. This new refugee flows reached its peak level of attention with the so called “crisis of the children migrants” in 2014 in the USA. Another group fleeing from violence are women with their children. In last years, there is an increasing number of Central Americans looking for refugee protection in Mexico, since the ways up north to the USA is increasingly blocked due to migration enforcement policies and overall social violence in Mexico in the context of the War on Drugs. Yet in 2015 the UNHCR was talking about a “crisis in protection” (Manly 2015) in Mexico. In the paper, I discuss the implications of new social dynamics of conflict in Central America and Mexico and their impact on the migration and refugee system in Mexico. To do this, I draw attention to the situation of women migrants from Central America in Mexico and on how specific forms of persecution and experiences of violence during the migration process shape women’s awareness of rights.

KuoRay Mao, Colorado State University

Yiliang Zhu, University of South Florida

Yaojiang Shi, Shaanxi Normal University

Benzhong Zhang, Lanzhou University

“Seeking Justice: How may the empowerment of women promote shared environmental governance in rural Northwestern China.”

Environmental pollution caused by hazardous and agricultural wastes has increased dramatically in rural northwestern China as the region began to experience rapid economic growth in the last decade. The root causes of the mismanagement of waste include the absence
of infrastructure, lack of public services as well as changes in the rural lifestyle. Because of the feminization of agriculture, women, children and elderly have shouldered a disproportionate share of environmental risks in the hinterland as men have migrated to cities for work. The authoritarian and patriarchal nature of rural governance in the region has limited viable channels for local communities to address the environmental and social harm caused by the careless dumping of waste. The perceived helplessness has generated high degrees of apathy and reduced the legitimacy of top-down environmental conservation programs. To explore how shared governance may promote environmental justice in an illiberal context, we pilot-tested a community-based program in waste management in a village of more than 400 households in Gansu China. Using a participatory learning and action model, we focused the intervention program on three key elements: environmental education, women’s group mobilization, and grassroots adaptation of technologies for the local treatment of waste. The baseline and post-intervention evaluations reveal significant improvements in knowledge, attitudes, and action toward waste management, resource conservation, and environmental health. This paper will present the results as well as the lessons we have learned in implementing a participatory-learning-and-action model to promote shared governance and environmental justice within the political and social context of rural northwestern China.

Giancarlo Panagia and Felix Mantz Westminster College

“The Effects of Intersectionality of Global Capitalism and The Racialized Nation State System on Forced Displacement”

Considering the so-called European refugee crisis, we can witness a dramatic increase in xenophobic and racist discourses spreading across Europe. These discourses do not only scapegoat already marginalized migrant communities, but also veil structural dynamics of a global dimension, which allow for the mass displacement of populations and their subsequent subalternation. Two historically connected and systemically interacting dynamics are global capitalism and the racialized nation-state order. This relationship is one where the former’s development is facilitated by the establishment of the latter, which is able to exercise structural force on the population within its borders. Coinciding with its establishment, the racialization of the nation-state system naturalized the idea of the national citizen. The racialized hierarchy and monopolized power of the nation-state thus enables the capitalist exploitation of subalterned populations such as cross-border migrants. In so doing, it creates a reserve army of migrant labor, which is protected by the nation-states ability to control this migrant class, and through various discourses of otherization. Exemplified by the migration of displaced populations from Eritrea to Germany, this analysis suggests that the nation-state is not undermined by global capitalism, but rather that it is part of a global superstructure to capitalist expansion.

Maria Petmesidou, Democritus University Greece
Maria Gonzalez-Menendez, University of Oviedo Spain

“Policy Transfer and Innovation for Building Resilient Bridges to Labor Market”

"The Great Recession has significantly aggravated the youth employment crisis that, in certain parts of Europe, has been around for some decades. The need to develop effective measures for sustained school-to-work (STW) transitions has become paramount, rising to the top of the EU agenda. It has prompted EU initiatives for a common focus among member states on comprehensive and integrated policies for youths at risk and has accelerated mutual learning, policy transfer and experimentation with new practices to build resilient bridges to labor market. By drawing upon the policy learning and transfer literature, we test the hypothesis of
a distinction between countries with policy machineries facilitating learning and experimentation with new, proactive youth employment measures and those exhibiting path dependence and inertia. Our analysis covers eight EU member states (France, Belgium, Netherlands, UK, Denmark, Greece, Spain and Slovakia), and one accession state (Turkey). They represent a range of STW transition regimes and of broader welfare regimes, and exhibit different levels of national performance relating to youth (un)employment and its gender dimension. The primary research consists of interviews conducted in the above countries with policy experts, academics and researchers. It is complemented by an analysis of available secondary data.

Michele Companion, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

“The Politics of Signification: The Role of Frames in the Battle over Disaster Tourism”

Disaster tourism is increasing across the globe and is a multimillion dollar industry. Members of the public seek personal experiences by inserting themselves into the post-disaster zone. Companies offer tours of Post-Katrina and Superstorm Sandy damage. They have been deeply criticized for profiting from tragedy without consulting or engaging with the impacted communities and not contributing any of the profits back to those areas. This study examines strategies used on both sides to justify or combat profit-making in disaster aftermaths. A frame analysis was conducted of news coverage to illuminate strategies designed to impact legal outcomes and public perception.

Thomas E. Drabek, University of Denver

“Enriching Student Understanding of the Sociology of Disaster through Fiction”

While professors in other sub-fields of sociology occasionally have incorporated fictional works into their courses, rarely, if at all, has this been attempted in disaster and hazard studies. This paper is a summary of one such effort including both the rationale and approach. Following discussion of context, a case example of an original fictional story is described including its origins and method of analysis. The story is rooted in an actual disaster and based on data obtained shortly afterwards. This approach provides both links to the humanities and greater depth of student understanding of core concepts like multiorganizational coordination which is used in this case example.

KuoRay Mao, Colorado State University


Recent debates on environmental governance have proposed that authoritarian regimes can promote green transitions to counter the detrimental effects of environmental degradation as they are equipped to swiftly respond to the intersections of social and political disjuncture caused by environmental degradation. However, questions remain about whether the authoritarian states can ensure procedural and distributive justice in the implementation of conservation programs. Based on 110 in-depth interviews with farmers and grassroots cadres in northwestern China, this paper examines the formulation and implementation of the Restoration Plan for the Shiyang River Basin, a widely-praised anti-desertification model in China. The study states that though the central state used its administrative orders to enforce the Restoration Plan, the lack of public involvement has hindered the institutionalization of environmental interests at the local level. The findings suggest that without sustained public involvement to ensure procedural justice in policy implementation, the conservation program only induced widespread, neo-patrimonial control of water resources in the oasis.
Restoration program has become a mean for the local government to promote land enclosure
and primitive accumulation. This paper, therefore, encourages a more nuanced understanding
of the importance of procedure justice in environmental governance in an illiberal context.

Michael Briscoe University of Colorado Colorado Springs

“Cute Animals: Sex, Identity, and Recognition in an Online Community”

9gag is an online community for user-generated content dedicated to comedy. Members of this
online community, or “9gaggers” as they call themselves, upvote (give points) posts and
comments that they enjoy. A content analysis was conducted of the “Cute Animals” section of
9gag, looking at posts and their top four comments, as well as the first responses to those top
comments. Analysis found that 9gag comments are dominated by criticism of other members of
the community and comments about sex, even in a section dedicated to animals. However,
there is also a strong sense of community as users’ compliment each other and make
comments in hopes of getting points. Symbolic interactionism helps understand the way 9gag
is viewed as a symbol to 9gaggers and how they create and refine new identities online.

William E. Wagner, III, California State University Channel Islands

Vincent Torres, California State University Northridge

“Gay Social Media: App Spaces and Networks”

This study addresses the changing way that gay men connect and interact, given the new
technology and resources that have emerged and continue to develop. The social landscape is
shaped by the technology and how social customs, among other things, are developed by the
users of these technologies. The social landscape, this new realm, is described and analyzed to
unravel the actual mechanisms enforcing social structure. Health (physical & mental) of the
participants in the social landscape is addressed and the impact of the environment (electronic
& otherwise) is included in this analysis and discussion. We collect original data to address
our inquiry.

Alexander Murray-Watters, Carnegie Mellon University

Colleen Murray, University of Nevada, Reno

“Technology, Risks and Protections of Vulnerable Research Participants”

"Vulnerable research participants risk deportation, imprisonment, exploitation, or
assassination if they are identified by governments, agencies or enemies. Social science
researchers try to protect the identity of vulnerable participants through techniques such as
de-identification, voice changing software, and use of aliases on payment receipts. However,
considering technological advances these techniques are no longer sufficient for protecting our
participants. This presentation will discuss unrecognized limitations from the employment of
commonly used techniques. We provide examples where these techniques fail, such as when
outside parties have access to a second database (the existence or content of which is unknown
to the researcher) that, when combined, allows for identification and location of individuals and
their families. A mixed-document status immigrant family study is also used for illustration.
We then provide examples of how to improve protections through changes in data collection
and storage. These methods of protection are well-known in fields of computer science or
among hacker communities but have not been effectively integrated into social science
research."

251
Ana Araceli Navarro Becerra, University of Guadalajara

“The call of Young Researchers of the National Council of Science and Technology and its implications in the research work”

“...This study focuses on the young researchers of the call for Chairs for Young Researchers of the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT). The employer of young people is CONACYT and their place of work is a Higher Education Institution (HEI). Young researchers must fulfill the tasks imposed by CONACYT and adhere to the rules of the HEI to which they were assigned, that derives in respecting times, spaces and activities of both institutions. The document develops the following thesis: the fulfillment of activities that CONACYT imposes with normative attachment to the IES of assignment provokes a dynamic where the young researchers carry out their tasks in more than one institution, they resort to the support of their trainers, extend their working days and perform extra activities that allow them to fulfill the obligatory tasks. The document is part of an ongoing research that seeks to investigate the practices of young researchers in the process of insertion into HEIs. This is a qualitative study. The analysis is inductive from a socio-institutional perspective. The data presented correspond to 19 semi structured interviews with young researchers.”

Justin Martin, University of Tennessee at Martin

“Can Students Gain Racial Empathy in the University Classroom?: An Application of the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire”

With the increasing publicizing of racial unrest in both the traditional and social media, many colleges and universities are emphasizing (or even requiring) courses in race and ethnic relations. This is being done in the hope that students will learn the racial realities of both the past and the present, but the true goal of this emphasis for many universities is to create a level of empathy within students towards members of other races and ethnic groups. By adapting the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire to incorporate specific race and ethnic based questions, as well as ensuring the survey is administered before and after the race and ethnic relations course, the researchers are testing if the process of in-class learning can improve the levels of empathy in students regarding those of a different racial and/or ethnic category than themselves. This type of inquiry is important as many colleges and universities are incorporating and requiring these courses without evidence of effectiveness towards the true end goal- reducing racial and ethnic conflict and misunderstandings with understanding and empathy. Preliminary findings indicate that the instrument is a valid measure of empathy differences resulting from in-class learning.

Shayla Adelowo, Arkansas State University

“Music, Movement, and Learning Connections”

The effectiveness of using music and movement to guide instruction will be investigated in this study. The current trend for state and national standards to ensure accountability of achievement for students is holding more schools accountable for student achievement. As the bar for academic excellence continues to rise in upper grades, the pressure to teach more in lower grades has escalated. What can teachers do to increase student achievement? How can teachers get students engaged? Integrate music and movement into instruction! By integrating music and movement, elementary teachers can greatly enhance student achievement. All children are inherently musical and eager to engage in musical play. Music and movement are also inseparable and they are inescapable. Children, by nature, are social and active beings.
Music education has been found to have many benefits for cognitive development. According to the American Music Conference (Foley, 2006), researchers have linked active music making with increased language discrimination and development, improved math ability, improved school grades, better adjusted social behavior, and improvements in spatial temporal reasoning. Music plays a part in our everyday life. We hear music in cars, on the television, in movies, at the grocery store, and even on our cell phones.

Thomas Halverson, University of Washington

“The Challenge of Sustaining Equity-Focused Education Reforms within Systems of Public Education: A longitudinal look at differential resource allocation as a mechanism for achieving and maintaining equity in schools.”

There is a dynamic, flexible threshold of acceptance and/or support on the part of those who have historically held a “competitive advantage” within a society to allow those who have not held the same advantage to temporarily receive an unequal distribution of access/resources to “catch up”. This acceptance and support usually lasts up until a point at which the historically advantaged (the haves) perceive their ability to maintain and perpetuate a margin of increased access to, and control of, information/resources (their “advantage”) is threatened. In other words, equity, or the “unequal” distribution of information/resources is supported by “the haves”, until that differential distribution starts to result in the “have nots” gaining “equal” access to information, resources, and/or opportunities. In this paper, I take a second, longitudinal look at one district’s attempt to achieve and maintain district, as well as community support for the differential resourcing of under-performing schools within a public-school district. How have these equity-focused reforms performed within the district and to what degree has the “margin of perceived competitive advantage” phenomenon, persisted or changed over the last decade? Findings from this study can inform district and community leadership decisions around designing and implementing equity-focused education reform.

Justin A Martin and Aaron T. Rowland, University of Tennessee at Martin

“Are Traditional Teaching Techniques Effective in the Distance Learning Classroom Setting?”

Previous research has concluded that distance learning classrooms are just as effective as traditional, face-to-face learning environments. During the spring semester of 2016, the researcher set out to test this conclusion in his introductory level social problems courses, which consisted of four sections of traditional, face-to-face instruction and one section of distance learning classes. The distance learning course was facilitated through a live lecture transmitted via closed-circuit television to four satellite campuses. Having found in a previous semester that test scores in the distance classes were on average four percent lower than test scores in the traditional classes, the researcher set out to investigate previous findings and test whether learning gains varied by a similar extent. Using a pre-test/post-test design, the findings indicate no significant differences in learning gains over the course of the semester between the two instructional settings; however, there was a large and significant effect of the course on these learning gains. The researcher will discuss the variation in the exam scores considering the lack of significant differences in overall learning gains. This study is being replicated with sections of introductory sociology taught by another professor.

Fenyx, Sacramento City College

“Equity in Higher Education: A Call Center for Student Connection and Engagement”

In California, community college serves over 2 million students- approximately 75 percent of the state’s public undergraduate college enrollment. While well known for its diversity, the
system struggles with enrollment management as it fluctuates on a yearly basis. In the effort to retain and engage its diverse population, “the 2015-16 [state] budget [intended to] provided $85 million in new funding to be used to provide increased support for underrepresented students based on districts student equity plans” in California Community Colleges (CCCO.edu). The focus on retention among disproportionally impacted students may increase overall enrollment and student success, i.e. new Latino, Black, and Native students. Focusing on such interventions within the California Community Colleges, this paper describes Sacramento City College’s attempt to increase enrollment and retention of new students. The findings identify the institutional challenges of enrollment management and the benefits of a call center on campus.

Keri Brandt and Janine Fitzgerald, Fort Lewis College

“Social Theories: Beyond Good and Evil”

Teaching social theories regularly include a dizzying array of theorists divided by categories such as classical, contemporary, and post-modern. In this paper, we problematize the too often Eurocentric approach to theories, and instead offer a framework that is organized around interpreting modern society through theoristsâ€™ understandings of dualism. This approach divides theories into three categories including colonization and trauma, the architecture of dualism, and integration. We locate the social and historical roots of dualism in colonization with Franz Fanon’s ideas in Wretched of the Earth, where he describes new species being formed through colonization, Settler and Native, who represent composite sides of the coin. The second section of the course is based on the dualistic structure of major institutions in the modern world as described by Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Michele Foucault. The final section looks at how we might integrate based on the ideas of radical pedagogy by Paulo Friere, the double consciousness by W.E.B. DuBois, and what we learn from animals by Barry Lopez. We argue for discovering approaches to teaching theories that give students enduring conceptual tools long after they have forgotten individual theorists.

Stephanie Hamm, Kristina Davis, and Taylor Crumpton, Abilene Christian University

“Black and Hispanic Community Collaboration: A Qualitative Assessment”

"In a West Texas community with a population of 121,000, the breakdown in racial/ethnic populations are 62% non-Hispanic White, 25% Hispanic, and 10% Black. In the Hispanic and Black communities are many people who live below the poverty line and struggle with issues such as unemployment and inadequate health care. Leaders from the Hispanic and Black communities work for the same types of outcomes for their communities, however the two groups have yet to make sustainable moves for collaboration. To that end, researchers conducted focus groups to gather data that will give voice to the two communities. Researchers recorded insights from Hispanic leaders, and Black leaders; and then conducted a focus group of representatives of both groups. Data was then analyzed with a content analysis approach seeking emergent and priori themes. Findings suggested the two groups have interest in collaborating, however differences in negotiation styles becomes as barrier. Additionally, groups identified relationship with the dominant power as being salient. Implications include finding ways of overcoming barriers to collaboration within a community, which may include relationship building and joint projects.”

Ingrid Waldron, Ph.D., Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University

“From the Enlightenment to Black Lives Matter: Structural Competency Approaches for Addressing the Racialization of Schizophrenia in Psychiatry”
"Psychiatry has been resistant to examine its role in affirming ideological representations of racialized individuals and in perpetuating race. Psychiatry provided the “scientific” rationale for colonization because it developed during colonialism and slavery when myths about race were being integrated into European culture. Therefore, the over-representation and mistreatment of Black people in secure psychiatric facilities in North America can be attributed to racist ideology that is inherent to the “heritage of psychiatry”. Using theories by Fanon, Memmi, and Foucault, this paper examines psychiatry as an imperial and colonizing force by exploring how “scientific” and normative medical knowledge and discourse are constituted within historically specific regimes of power. Using the racial and gendered transformation of schizophrenia as a “Black disease” that is disproportionately applied to Black men as its starting point, this paper will explore psychiatry’s “scientific” and “objective” process for attributing diagnoses, its role in the intersectional social construction of race, gender, class, and madness, the “racialization of psychiatric diagnoses”, the misdiagnosis of Black people and, consequently, the non-delivery of appropriate treatments and delays in help-seeking among Black people. The paper concludes with an examination of how structural competency approaches can address mental illness in racialized communities."

Susan Schmid, Western Wyoming College

“Fear Culture and Identity: Rural Wyoming and Islamophobia”

"The divisive rhetoric today precludes a deeper understanding of issues that many groups agree with, but believe themselves to be divided. Understanding the role Fear Culture plays in this division is key to creating solutions through a cross cultural dialogue. Fear culture as explained by Barry Glassner demonstrates how and why Americans are engrossed with sensationalized fear and explains how the media exposes people to a manipulated perspective of certain situations. Fear culture is being used as a framing device for the growth of Islamophobia in the United States to explain the unique scapegoating situation Muslims currently endure. The purpose of this research is to interrogate various demographics, within a rural community, concerning the existing perception surrounding those who identify as Muslim. Primary data collection was through a survey asking about what group[s] the subject identifies with, be it a veteran, community youth worker, adamant church attendee, or an intersection. Questions also establish various identities, and their specific sentiments toward people who either are Muslim, or are assumed to be due to regional association. Analysis of data will help establish whether certain demographics hold certain negative or positive perceptions of Muslims."
Jerome Malinowski, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

“In Combat With Japan’s 20th Century Zaibatsu-To Change A Design Paradigm”

A snapshot from the 60’s of employment as an industrial designer for Matsushita Electric (Panasonic) in Tokyo Japan, reveals the competitive nature with the Zaibatsu in the Corporate world and my attempts to change the design paradigm within the corporation. Becoming an expert on the many facets of Japanese culture, including both urban Tokyo in contrast to Japanese rural society with visits to its folk arts sites and industrial centers. Furthermore, study with Zen Master Cramicist and National Treasure, Kaneshige Toyo would act as a segue into a greater comprehension of the history and mysterious nature of Japan.

Nadya Kozinets, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

“Urbanity and Domesticity of Soviet Union in Cold War Era: Overview”

The most legacy of the 70 years of the USSR’s experience was the country’s transformation from a rural to an urban one. During Post-Stalin era of Khrushchev tenure, the Soviet urbanity changed as countless rows of low-quality apartment blocks expressed uniform Socialist culture that had a profound and adverse effect on the psychology and domestic life of Soviet citizens. This paper attempts to analyze the changes in the Soviet urbanity from late 1950s to 1980s along with an overview of Soviet architectural practice during these decades. The main objective of the paper is to understand how USSR’s housing and urban typologies reflected on socio-cultural and ideological fabric of the society.

Doug Graf, Knowlton School of Architecture

“Building As Cities: Urban Design Strategies Employed in the Design of Buildings”

Alberti compared the city to a large house and, likewise, a house to a small city. But is it possible to look at the configurational possibilities of the building as though it were an urban design problem? This paper will look at a series of projects and attempt to interpret them as exemplars of urban design strategies with elements commensurate to those employed in larger scale applications - streets, plazas, bridges, gateways, etc., with a focus on buildings which can themselves be viewed as a collection of buildings.

Thomas Sammons, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

“Master Plan for Camp Beauregard–Louisiana National Guard”

"The Community Design Workshop (CDW), an institute of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette School of Architecture and Design has been working on urban design and planning projects for the past 20 years. These projects have included small towns in Louisiana, cities damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, large infrastructure projects such as interstates and major arterials, and campus design. This past year the CDW added a new typology when the studio was asked to work on the Master Plan for Camp Beauregard, a Louisiana National Guard base in Pineville, Louisiana. The urban design for this project is driven by the following issues: the areas topography, the bases infrastructure, the bases random development spanning the last 100 years, the new stand-off restrictions for forced protection, and the military’s inclusion of smart
growth tactics being incorporated into their urban design guidelines. The paper will discuss the urban design process, context, regulations and the final proposal for Camp Beauregard.

M. Jean Edwards, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

“Public ‘Living Rooms’: A Dialog Between Interior Design and Urban Design”

"In his Preface to ‘Cities for People’, the author Jan Gehl states “it is now generally accepted that city life and regard for people in city space must have a key role in the planning of cities and built-up areas. Caring for people in the city is an important key for achieving more lively, safe, sustainable and healthy cities, all goals of crucial importance in the 21st century.” (Gehl, J., Preface). For much of the latter half of the 20th century urban planning professionals focused primarily establishing zoning patterns that require the separation of functions and managing the resulting traffic conditions for the benefit of the automobile (our cultural symbol of “freedom”) with little regard to the actual environment created and its impact on the human beings who live in it. Interior design, as a discipline, focuses on what is called “the near environment” - that with which people have direct contact, what they sit on, what they touch, see and smell every day - what is essentially the immediate sensory environment. By examining what makes a good interior living room, we may be able to suggest some guidelines for public urban spaces that provide good “living space” for people. Gehl, J. 2010. Cities for people. Washington, DC: Island Press. Kindle Edition (2013-03-05)."

Lynn Craig, Clemson University

“Urban Sketching”

The session begins with an architect illustrating freehand drawing tools, techniques and methods of his profession to create images which can be drawn in a limited time frame as broad strokes, or finer detailed drawings when more time is available. No digital software, no mouse is involved. It’s all about freehand urban sketching. Hand drawing is still the most effective tool for quickly expressing and developing ideas about architectural design and urban design. This presentation explores the belief that freehand sketching is not an obsolete skill, but a skill that can be developed by all levels of ability and a skill which can be rekindled in the seasoned practitioner. Freehand drawing allows us, as architects, planners and designers, the ability to visually engage the world around us.

Galen Minah, University of Washington

“Walking Through Canvas”

This paper investigates the relationship between the illusory depiction of space on a two-dimensional surface, as in a painting or on a screen, and the perceptual experience of being in a real three-dimensional space. Visually each achieves their effect using elements that determine how we see and comprehend space; i.e. light, shade, shadow, perspective, the spatial effect of color, color contrasts, atmospheric perspective, our perception of edges and boundaries, etc. It is possible to alter this experience using the same techniques that painters use to create the illusion of space on a flat surface. I will use examples of paintings where the artist is conscious of and experiments with the illusion of space on the canvas and compare these to the work of artists, designers, and architects who are using similar techniques to push the boundaries of what can be experienced by manipulating these visual elements in real three-dimensional space. This work demonstrates that there is territory in the realm of spatial design that is somewhat unexplored.
Felicia Asbury, San Francisco State University

“Deconstructing Neoliberalism Through Affect and Legibility: An Examination of Black Lives Matter and the Neoliberal Spectacle”

Black Lives Matter was born in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in 2013, and the murder of black teenager Mike Brown in 2014, and has become the centerpiece for a larger national discussion of police brutality and systemic racism. Both the movement and slogan, #blacklivesmatter, function to broaden the conversation around state violence and institutionalized forms of racism that serve to render certain bodies as powerless to the hands of the state and other intersecting structural articulations of power. I will be investigating the Black Lives Matter Movement as a site that explores the ways in which subjects of color have been shaped by neoliberal projects, and in turn how the efforts of Black Lives Matter serve as an example of both disavowal and hope for alternative possibilities of life both within and beyond the neoliberal paradigm. By exploring the ways that these power formations operate both within and through the project of neoliberalism, I will be highlighting how the existence of Black Lives Matter within this moment of history is not exceptional, but rather the manifestation of how neoliberal projects require the simultaneous legibility and erasure of subjects of color.

Donna Arkee, San Francisco State University

“Qajar Babes on Sheepskins and Gold Plated Farvahar Necklaces: The Aesthetics of Race Formation, Nationalism, and the Possible Impossibilities of the Iranian Diaspora”

How does the deployment of the term “diaspora” by immigrant populations originating from Iran, and, the prevalence of Qajar Era and Zoroastrian imagery in these communities virtual and physical spaces contribute to the creation of a monolithic and homogeneous “Iranian diaspora?” Why is this nostalgia aesthetic being evoked in the first place, and, when and where do Qajar Era aesthetics intentionally/unintentionally evoke queerness? Through a queer of color and transnational feminist framework, I trace the use of nostalgic and melancholic affect and it’s interweavings with the politics of national belonging and citizenship. I believe that these aesthetics and discourses are rooted in legacies of Western imperialism and scientific racism in Iran, the anxieties of Iranian modernity, legal whiteness and immigration, and, the racialization of gender and sexuality and the sexualization and gendering of race. Through a queer reading of Lily Amirpour’s film, A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night, and, Shirin Fathi’s photography series, Heart Throbs, and Harem Babes, Me, and the Lover Boy, I will investigate how Qajar and pre-Islamic symbols and aesthetics are used to navigate both the racialized queering of immigrant Iranian bodies and Orientalist discourses about “Muslim” sexualities.

Jessica Tjiu, San Francisco State University

“Societal Investment and Attachment to Child Sex Trafficking: Childhood, Happiness, and Family as a Justification for Carceral Violence”

Passed in 2012, the Californians Against Slavery and Exploitation (CASE) Act was passed in November 2012 to increase prison terms, financial penalties, and law enforcement. The
The research's objective is an analysis of the CASE Act to critically examine child sex trafficking in California, specifically in the San Francisco Bay Area, through the intersections of race, gender, and class. I explore the societal investment on child sex trafficking to argue that there is a societal anxiety over reproductive futurity, childhood happiness, and hetero-normative family structure. Using affect theory to uncover our investment in protecting children, I analyze a political advertisement for supporting the CASE Act and a participant observation of an anti-human trafficking training session. I contend that the rhetoric of child exploitation is utilized to exacerbate other forms of violence towards black/brown bodies through the affective response of wanting to save and help children from potential abuse and trauma. Therefore, the carceral framework of social justice justifies systematic and racialized violence in the sake of protecting children, without considering the socio-economic and political systems that perpetuate exploitation, institutional racism, and marginalization.

Monica James, Independent Television Service

“Of Queer World Making, Gods and Small Things: Examining Women’s Petitions to Goludev as a Practice of Hope in the Present”

Within anti-social queer theory, “hope” is purportedly rejected because it is seen as an affirmation of the social. Seen as inextricably tied to the perpetually deferred false promises of happiness offered by heteronormativity, nationalism and neoliberalism, hope is perceived to be something that distracts us from the shambles of the world we live in. Hope in anti-social queer theory seems to be beached at the shores of a queer politics that refuses to rescue it even though it might be central to how queers live meaningful lives today. My project interrogates anti-social queer theory's certitude about hope, by proposing that the question of hope in queer theory be “left productively open” to other imaginations of it. I will draw on women’s letters to Goludev, a Kumaoni god of justice, to claim that the letters are ephemeral documents of daily resistance as well as evidence of a queer act - a “doing” of hope. I will argue that the ephemerality of the letters underpins their relationship to “queerness” and hope for the present. Finally, I will propose that engaging with hope in the now is as much a project of queer world making as imagining queer utopias.

Nicholas Alozie, Ph.D., Arizona State University

“Gender and Political Participation in Developing Areas: Sub-Saharan Africa, South America and Asia”

The literature of political science suggests that men participate more in politics than women. This gender difference in participation has been explained largely by the differential socioeconomic status between men and women. Some other research has suggested that women’s other domestic commitments may retard their participation. Moreover, much of that research has been done in industrialized societies leaving some doubt as to whether these findings apply to developing areas. In this research, we ask whether such gender participation difference exists between men and women in three developing regions, Sub-Sahara Africa, South America and Asia. If it does, whether what people think is important, as opposed to socioeconomic status will explain that difference. Overall, the research adds to the very important literature on political participation and may shed some light as to why women are absent in government and decision-making institutions in the developing world.
Amy Casselman, Laney College

“Injustice in Indian Country: Jurisdiction, American Law, and Sexual Violence Against Native Women”

Today, due to a complicated system of criminal jurisdiction, non-Native Americans can commit crimes against American Indians with virtual impunity in much of Indian country (the legal term for American Indian reservations and land held in trust for Native people). This climate of impunity disproportionately affects Native women who are routinely targeted by non-Native men for sexual violence. A problem over 500 years in the making, this research highlights race and gender in federal law to challenge the argument that violence against Native women in Indian country is simply collateral damage from a complex but necessary legal structure. Instead, it demonstrates that what’s happening in Indian country is part of a violent colonial legacy - one that has always relied on legal and sexual violence to disempower Native communities as a whole. This research employs a textual analysis of primary sources of American law and policy from the 15th century to present, culminating with a discursive analysis of contemporary American politics. In doing so, I argue that modern federal Indian policy engages a rape culture paradigm to justify the exploitation of Native resources generally, and the exploitation of Native women’s bodies specifically.

Bill Simonsen, Lauren Donais, and Nicole Simonsen, University of Connecticut

“Violence Against Women Prevention Workshops: An Experimental Evaluation of Efficacy”

Violence against women on college campuses is an increasingly visible and salient issue. In 2015, the University of Connecticut’s Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) implemented workshops in the first-year experience (FYE) classes to increase student knowledge about violence against women issues. We implemented a randomized experimental design to test whether student knowledge and understanding improved because of the workshops. We find that in almost all instances the workshops substantially and statistically significantly improved student understanding of violence against women issues.

Charisse South, New Mexico Highlands University

“The Taboo of Public Breastfeeding”

In recent decades, there has developed a strong movement of women fighting for reproductive justice around the world. In a world that is increasingly lenient on modesty women are finding themselves being judged for choosing to breastfeed. Despite health professional’s advocacy for women to breastfeed, there remains the issue of social support for the women. The practice of breastfeeding is not a new phenomenon, which means there is a point in time that can be explored when societal views shifted from being supportive to being critical of this action. According to Acker (2009) “many women do not breastfeed because of perceived social sanctions.” The aim of this study is to add to the body of knowledge about how views of breastfeeding affect a woman’s decision making process and other variables that may influence their decision.

Kristina Spink, and Christina Chin-Newman, California State University, East Bay

Stacy Shaw, University of California, Los Angeles

“Experiencing Motherhood as a College Student: Challenges and Social Support”

This study examined 5 female undergraduates, each with one or more dependent children, who participated in a larger qualitative study of junior-level transfer students from community
college. In the first quarter after transferring, participants took part in a focus group identifying obstacles to their studies and how social support can help. During their second quarter, they participated in individual interviews following up on the supportive roles of friends, family, and campus employees. These discussions revealed that the struggles experienced by student-mothers can be categorized as emotional or logistical. Emotional dilemmas included feeling inadequate, overwhelmed, or lonely, and the reactions to those feelings. Logistical struggles were concerns like time constraints due to insufficient childcare, and its financial burdens on top of school expenses. Interviews revealed that to reduce attrition rates of student-mothers, university campuses could work toward creating an environment that is more family-friendly. Student-parent networks can assist with domestic obligations, providing such supports as childcare shares, carpool rotations, meal preparations, or youth tutoring. The goal of such organizations would be to allow student-mothers more control over their time, to reduce stress, and help student-mothers have more meaningful relationships with their children and succeed in their studies.

Nikkie S. Hodgson, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“Speech Act Theory in a Motion Picture: Mother-Daughter Relationships and Communication Styles Across Generations”

Austin and Searles’ Speech Acts Theory (Searle, Kiefer, Bierwisch, 2012) contends that all speech is coercive, whether it is constantive (stating a fact) or performative (requesting an action). There is evidence that mothers use language to influence their daughters’ behaviors and cognitions; however, the degree of control exerted by the mother is sensitive to age. As daughters move into the young adult stage and increase their need for independence, the mothers’ speech acts are less directive (Morgan, 2000). The presentation includes an overview of Speech Act Theory as it applies to interactions between mothers and daughters, with an analysis of the direct strategy communication patterns in a motion picture titled “Evening” that is rich in mother-daughter communication vignettes (Koltai, L. (Director), Sharp, J. (Producer), & Minot, S., & Cunningham, M. (Writers), (2007). The concept of the “indirecta” or clandestine message offered as a constative but intended as a performative will be explored.

Keywords: Speech Act Theory, mother-daughter communication, mother-daughter relationships, women gender studies, family communication.

Basanta Prasad Adhikari, The University of Eastern Finland

“The Impacts of the Female Migration to the Left Behind Children in Nepal”

Recent increases in the female labour migration to European and Arabic countries have invited an upwelling of interest in how the absence of the mother and wife for long periods of time affects the left-behind family members, particularly children in Nepal, India, China, and other countries. The empirical studies on migration reveal that the extended family, especially the female relatives, is often called on for support in childcare during the mother’s absence. With 1,600 individuals leaving for foreign employment every day in Nepal so that foreign labour migration has become an intrinsic part of the lives of Nepalese people. It is not yet clear that how childcare arrangements are made in the Asia context including Nepal (Sijapati et al, 2015). More significantly, an illegal female migration has been on the rise since labour-migration culture began in Nepal and the issue still increases today. In so doing it will draw attention to the enduring influence of social norms on the organization of family life due to the increasing volume of female migration in international markets (Yamanaka, 2010). Additionally, the increasing issue of the illegal migration has created numerous social problems that have threatened the safety of the migrants in the receiving.
Ashley Litwin, UC Berkeley

“Bolsa Familia: Brazil’s Conditional Cash Transfer Program and Intimate Partner Violence Against Women”

There is no emerging model as to how to adequately address intimate partner violence. Previous research has suggested that conditional cash transfer programs (CCTs) that give poor women preferential access to a small government stipend either always exacerbate or mitigate violence against women. In this paper, I argue that the Brazilian CCT Bolsa Familia reduces reported physical intimate partner violence on average, but that there are outliers. Individuals respond to the program in unique ways, with some experiencing more violence despite the majority experiencing less. This finding contrasts with the existing literature that sees the impacts of the CCT in binary terms—that these programs necessarily increase or decrease violence regardless of geographic and cultural context. I conclude that while CCTs are not a “one size fits all” solution, they demonstrate the potential of public policy to reduce intimate partner violence experienced by low-income women.

Katelyn Troastle, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

“The Impact of Intersectionality and Queer Representation in Steven Universe”

Steven Universe is a fictional animated children’s show following the adventures of half-human/half-gem Steven and the Crystal Gems. The Crystal Gems, three magical humanoid aliens, are focused on protecting Earth and it’s all its living organisms from corrupted gems and the Great Diamond Authority. The Great Diamond Authority regulates the creation and purpose of each gem; every gem is created for a specific purpose and to rebel against that purpose is the ultimate form of deviant behavior with the punishment being death. Steven is the first and only known half-breed in existence, this unique quality makes him a target for the Diamond Authority. Throughout four seasons (and counting) the show discusses love, war, relationships, and the importance of being true to yourself among other topics. Steven Universe is the first animated series to be solely created by a woman, Rebecca Sugar, who also openly identifies as queer. The show is groundbreaking for its depiction of normal and realistic LGBTQ relationships, non-stereotypical representation of POC, and for breaking gender norms. This paper analyzes the impact of intersectionality and female representation along with the numerous barriers broken in the show.

Jesse Grace, Colorado State University

“How Are We Supposed to Look? A Concept Explication on Self-Objectification”

Self-objectification affects almost all women in western societies. Self-objectification is both a concept and a process, and this process starts as early as pre-school for young girls. Six-year-old girls have been found to have body dissatisfaction issues, which can lead to a myriad of negative effects on a women’s psychological and physical health. The media plays an important role in the early stages of the self-objectification process. The recent research promises not only a more in-depth understanding of both the concept and process of self-objectification, but also new ways to negate its negative effects.

Linh T. Do, Comfort Ricketts, and Carlos G. Silva, New Mexico State University

“Life Satisfaction of Males and Females: Urban and Rural Comparisons”

Life satisfaction is an important component of human well-being. People experience varying degrees of life satisfaction. This study aims to investigate the differences that may exist between American males and females in the context of life satisfaction, with an emphasis on
specific distinctions between rural and urban areas. The data is collected from the World Value Survey (1994 to 2014), and profit model is employed. Preliminary results suggest that rural females are more likely to be satisfied compared to urban males/females and rural males. In another probity model for happiness, preliminary results show that rural and urban females are happier than urban males. Socio-economic factors including age, income and health status are also found to have statistically significant and positive associations with the probability of having a higher level of life satisfaction.