



STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

Student Research Conference

Roundtable Abstracts

Thursday, February 17, 2022

- Graduate Roundtable
- Undergraduate Roundtable

Graduate Roundtable

Eli Sarceno , Graduate Student

Ethnographic Roundtable Discussion

Faculty Mentor: Katy Pinto, Sociology

The research project will be based on ethnographic research from a Latino Evangelical Christian Church, with a focus on the charismatic leader. I conducted a pilot study in my ethnography class, Fall 2021; this will be my thesis proposal for graduate school. I will do the roundtable discussion in order to receive feedback, suggestions, and critiques. Max Weber defines a charismatic leader as a character, seen by a group of people, believed to have “exceptional powers or qualities...[from a] divine origin...” (1914:260). The social significance of this project is to showcase how the church is essential to the community; and how the vision executed by the charismatic leader affects the members and society. To reiterate, the following research observes one particular religious organization located in South Los Angeles; meaning that there has never been a scientific study published regarding this specific organization: CCDFR:MDZ. Weber stated that Christianity does not focus on empirical validity, rather it is considered value-judgment: faith driven ideology (1904:215). The purpose of this paper is to discuss certain characteristics of an organization: structural organization; personality of leader; membership criteria; protocols or rules; ideology; political implications; challenges; and continuity.

FIELDWORK APPROACH

Before the interview, I gathered the following: Consent form, 15 interview questions, and an Incentive. In the brainstorming process, I began freewriting and came up with 38 questions; then I highlighted the questions by dividing them into two categories: Organizational questions and self-questions. The latter focuses on the organizational structure of the religious institution, whereas the self-questions pertain to the charismatic leader. After reviewing the questions, I condensed it to about 15 direct questions: 10 regarding the organization and 5 concerning the charismatic leader; in retrospect, 15 interview questions may seem like much, but if the individual is concise then it is doable.

After constructing the questionnaire, I developed a consent form. This consent form was derived from a previous ethnographic research course, and I asked the professor for permission. The consent form provides my personal information on the center top of the page: name, graduate student, course title, semester, university, student email, and student phone number. It is then divided by six subheadings that read: what is this study about; what is required of me; what if I change my mind; is this anonymous; what if I have questions later; and what are my rights as a participant of this study. Underneath follows the signature of the research participant, as well as the pseudonym they would like to be referred as. In short, the consent form is to educate the participant about the purpose of the study, if they are willing to be recorded, and also the assurance of retracting any personal information presented.

Tanya Jimenez, Graduate Student

Homelessness Among People Incarcerated as Youth

Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, Public Administration

Following release, formerly incarcerated individuals are more likely to experience homelessness than the general population, particularly those incarcerated before age 25. Approximately 26% of justice involved youth and young adults will experience homelessness at some point (Cox et. al, 2020). Though the risk is highest soon after release, the risk persists long after (Remster, 2019). Cox et. al (2020) explicate the link between the timing and duration of incarceration and the experience of being unhoused. One area of prior research focuses on the linkage between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) – abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction – and later involvement in the justice system. Padgett et al. (2012) and others identify a “chain of risk”, wherein initial exposure to a traumatic event predisposes individuals to additional adverse experiences (Cox et. al, 2020). Other research focuses on a youth’s experience post-release, examining one’s transition back into free society given the stunted development of legal human capital, such as educational attainment, and social capital, including strong healthy social bonds. A correlated adversity model will be utilized, focusing on the cumulative effect of various forms of disadvantage, including social support, housing insecurity, job instability, and mental and physical health on age at first experience of homelessness post-release. As such, three policy alternatives will be discussed: trauma-informed correctional care, emphasizing trauma and how it can affect people; reentry preparation while incarcerated and support post-release, such as permanent supportive housing; and educational in-prison programs that expand human capital and one’s ability to earn a living. Analyses will focus on the State of California, given its high rate of homelessness and policies aimed specifically at furthering the rehabilitation of youth offenders, particularly the “Youthful Offender Program” (YOP). Established in 2014, the YOP expands access to rehabilitative programming for youth incarcerated before age 25, including vocational and general education programs.

Undergraduate Roundtable

Brianna Marquez, Undergraduate Student

Composting comparative analysis

Faculty Mentor: Jenney Hall, Interdisciplinary Studies

For my research project, I conducted a comparative study in order to analyze the differences and quality of the compost produced using three different types of composting technologies. This included a standard Miracle Gro tumbler, Earth Cube and Aerobin. My prediction was that the Aerobin would promote the most growth because it had the least amount of human intervention. All the food waste decomposed naturally and all it required was me simply tossing in the food. I conducted my experiment by picking up food waste from our school's dining hall every Monday and then on Wednesdays I went to the garden again to observe and fix any issues that arose. My principal findings with this experiment was that I needed to maintain a balance between the browns and greens, always cover the food waste with browns and that it's extremely important to stay consistent and follow your set schedule. To conclude, it is still an ongoing project, and I am still collecting data and writing down my observations. I intend to continue this project until my senior year. Which is where the second part of my study comes into play. I will be testing out my theory on which compost will promote the most growth by growing the same type of vegetable using the raised garden beds on the urban farm under the same conditions.

Aysa Collins, Undergraduate Student

Understanding the Experience of Black Women During Prenatal Care in Underrepresented Communities

Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

In recent years, the United States has seen an overall increase in the rates of maternal morbidity and mortality notably in underrepresented populations. Non-Hispanic Black women are at highest risk for maternal morbidity and mortality outcomes compared to other races and ethnicities. In 2019, the maternal mortality rate for non-Hispanic black women was 44.0 deaths per 100,000 live births. This was 3.5 times higher than the rate for Hispanic women, and 2.5 times higher the rate for non-Hispanic white women.

The most recent research on maternal morbidity and mortality focuses on establishing associations with prenatal care. Studies have shown that early and adequate prenatal care can considerably reduce the risk of preterm birth, and maternal morbidity. Nonetheless, when examining factors that contribute to poor maternal outcomes among non-Hispanic black women, education and income alone do not correlate with the increases in maternal morbidity and mortality. Investigations have found that prenatal care alone does not account for the poor maternal morbidity and mortality outcomes reported among non-Hispanic black women.

Culturally competent communication in prenatal care and assessment has been found to improve pregnancy outcomes by providing satisfactory care that ultimately decreases maternal morbidity and mortality rates among underrepresented populations.

My research will work to understand how culturally competent communication is associated with prenatal care and maternal outcomes among non-Hispanic Black women. These outcomes include early evaluation of mothers for medical risk and the need for psychosocial treatment, cultural barriers, and educational resources.

India Sanders, Undergraduate Student
Covid-19 and Mental Health
Faculty Mentor: Ashley Membere, Psychology

A growing concern has been observed in the psychological impact of Covid-19 on college students. Due to Covid-19, many students have been subjected to remote learning and isolation from friends and family. Both added complications of academic and work responsibilities have also furthered the anxiety of college students.

For this study, I will focus on minority college students attending Cal State Dominguez Hills to assess the effects of Covid-19 within their academic and personal lives. Secondly, to identify what additional resources need to be added or improve current resources to help existing minority students continue higher education to upward mobility.

Past studies suggest that the effects of Covid-19 greatly impacted the mental health of college students. A study was conducted with 733 college students who reported their recent stressful experiences. The hypothesis for this study showed that students without pre-existing mental health challenges showed severe signs of psychological distress during the pandemic. Another study that assessed the behavioral and emotional functioning during the pandemic also showed adverse effects on students' behavioral and emotional health during Covid-19.

A survey will need to be created detailing experiences and behaviors attributed to the pandemic assessing how students adapted to the new learning or work environments, and the impact on Covid-19 in their personal lives.

In conclusion, it is essential to consider how minority college students are affected by the pandemic and what resources are available for students dealing with the effects from Covid-19. Additionally, data will need to be collected from Cal State Dominguez Hills minority students regarding how Covid-19 has affected their college experiences, mental health, and personal lives. Additional resources and improving existing resources can be developed in conducting such research.

Jasmine Abag, Undergraduate Student
Perception Is Everything: Deconstructing Perceptions Around Mexican American Immigrant Women
Faculty Mentor: Tahereh Aghdasifar, Women's Studies

During the early 20th century, California experienced an influx of Mexican immigration. The political and economic realities in México under President Porfirio Díaz favored foreign investment and the Mexican elite's interests. This condition left ordinary Mexicans without land and no opportunities to sustain their livelihoods, forcing a continuous movement of rural people to cities searching for employment. Many settled in Los Angeles, where farming expanded on a larger scale. The Los Angeles white farm-owning elite supported and protected the flow of cheap labor from México because it was prosperous. They also thought that Mexicans would return to their country after the growing season. However, immigrants began to find permanent settlement in the city, igniting fears and angst over wellness and overpopulation amongst the Anglo-Nativists. To preserve a white Los Angeles, the first line of defense was to segregate public institutions such as public health. California soon adopted Eugenics ideology and used forced sterilizations as the acceptable way to manage the Mexican population growth. This project, utilizing Feminist theoretical frameworks, explores how and why brown bodies are viewed with discriminatory perceptions based on race, gender, class, and country of origin.

Lucero Velazco Undergraduate Student

Native Americans Resource Awareness: A Qualitative Report on How Resource Awareness Can Improve Native American's Quality of Life

Faculty Mentor: Helen Oesterheld, Education

As a data analyst intern for the development in student career readiness, I find that much due diligence is needed to develop a successful platform for a student to face the world in their chosen field competently. A particular area that interests me is Native Americans and the awareness of their resources to equip themselves to be ready for the workforce. Unfortunately, Native Americans' historical trauma and the loss of Native American Culture and Identity make for a lack of available Native Americans as candidates for the valuable resources. Nevertheless, even with the strong presence of these educational entities, the employment of Native Americans has not improved. (AL-Asfour A. 2018) This study investigates the achieved possibilities with education resources awareness to Native Americans. Resource awareness to Native Americans can have the option of healing individuals and communities since education is one source that contributes to stability and purpose, advocating opportunities for a better quality of life to the Native American Community.

Aliza Potter, Diana Aguirre, Ronald Jackson, Dwasha, Ezequiel Minero, Alexa Vasquez, Karl Lopez, Diana Robinson, Theresa, Anahi Gomez, Undergraduate Student

Making the Invisible Visible; Resilience through Awareness of Microaggressions on CSUDH students

Faculty Mentor: Monique Turner and Erin Barrett, Psychology

Although movements such as the Civil Rights Movement had a significant impact on racism, racism remains powerful and ubiquitous in the United States (Sue et al., 2007). Racism is a struggle in which people of color continue to contend. Racism is prominent in the U.S. with a Macro effect (institutional level) and a Micro effect (individual level; Solórzano & Yosso, 2007). This roundtable discussion will focus on the Racial Battle Fatigue framework (RBF), which is described as a social-psychological stress response to the cumulative experiences of racism (Dorazio et al., 2019). According to Snelling (2011), 63% of students witness microaggressions, leading to changes in their social-emotional health. The literature shows a recurring theme of how experiencing racial microaggressions in college contributes to students' mental health erosion through the racial battle fatigue theory lens. Moreover, there is a correlation between people of color's frequent experiences of microaggressions and undergoing a higher risk of depression (Torres & Taknint, 2015).

The purpose of the current study is to create awareness of situations one may have experienced in relation to systemic racism, in which microaggressions are a manifestation. Furthermore, this study aims to recognize the effects of microaggressions on students within an academic setting. The current methodology proposes utilizing anecdotal stories curated into vignettes to explore whether students can identify microaggressions. The research design focuses on the consequences of microaggressions in an academic context. Self-esteem and self-efficacy will be used as characteristics that may further influence one's self-perception and social interactions in the classroom, specifically with faculty. Students' academic performance will be one of the indicators of resilience. Researchers are interested in identifying coping mechanisms that foster the development of resilience amongst individuals who have previously experienced microaggressions. We plan to provide students with the knowledge and tools to confront and handle microaggressions effectively.