

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

#16 Undergraduate Roundtable I

February 22 — LSU 322

Evening Session: 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.

Vincent Temesvary

Identify genes involved in skin development in Zebrafish

Research Mentor: Fang Wang (Biology)

Our lab uses Zebrafish to study the development of skin cells and their interactions with other types of cells, such as somatosensory neurons. When there are genetic defects in the skin cells and/or somatosensory neurons this can lead to a long list of ailments and damage later in life, including peripheral neuropathies. One of the main reasons for using Zebrafish in our research is that they allow for easy imaging due to their semi-transparent bodies, as well as the ability for peripheral axons to innervate the skin within only a couple days post-fertilization. I just started my research in Fall 2022. I aim to identify genes involved in skin development. This semester I will provide and learn about basic Zebrafish care, perform live Zebrafish microscopy and help analyze embryos with specific gene expression inhibition created by senior undergraduate researchers in the lab. I will also learn basic molecular biology, which will be used in my research.

Precious Jones

The Positive Effects of Social Media on Well-being

Research Mentor: Ashley Membere (Psychology)

We often hear about the dangers, or negative impacts, on individual well-being associated with social media. By now it is common knowledge that an individual's internet experience is the direct effect of what an algorithm gathers from previous user interaction, so it is possible those who interact with videos that are positive in nature (affirmational and accepting) are likely to have a more positive outlook on life than those whose feed is full of dread and sadness. The proposed research is an experimental study exploring the positive effects of social media in young adults (ages 18-27). An initial survey using the Likert scale will function as a screening to assess participant self-esteem, social media usage, world viewpoints, and personal well-being. Participants who score lower (self-image, mental well-being, and with a negatively leaning outlook on life) will scroll through their choice of three social media apps: Instagram, TikTok, or Twitter, which will be pre-generated with positive content. Ideal topics will include body positivity, mental well-being, good news around the world, and others. Candidates will scroll through this content, for an hour each day for 14 days (participants will receive compensation for their time). Each day after they have dedicated their time to these positive affirmations, they will complete a survey like the screening survey. This study aims to dissolve the fearmongering that persists regarding technology's impact on well-being. There is little literature on the general positive effects of social media and well-being. This experiment will add to the discussion about how we can use social media as an uplifting tool, and not one that only perpetuates hate and negative self-image.

Aysa-Monae Collins

The Role of Prenatal Care for Preterm Birth Outcomes for Non-Hispanic Black Women

Research Mentor: Enrique Ortega (Health Science)

The United States has been working to properly address the increased rates of preterm birth, specifically in non-Hispanic Black women, by encouraging patients and clinical providers to provide adequate prenatal care. For the first time in several years, the overall preterm birth rate in the United States declined in 2020. However, the rate for Black women did not change significantly; instead, the preterm birth rate for Non-Hispanic Black women was 50% higher than women of all other races and ethnicities. Therefore, Black women are more likely to give birth prematurely. Previous research studies have indicated that adequate prenatal care can considerably reduce the risk of preterm birth. In contrast, other studies have shown that Black mothers are twice as likely as white mothers to receive late or no prenatal care. The current study fills a gap in the literature because researchers have identified that racism and inadequate prenatal care is the cause of preterm birth in Non-Hispanic Black women. The study aims to investigate the experiences low-income women between ages 22-38 years who are receiving prenatal care. We will investigate the women's perceptions of the cultural competency of the care they are receiving and its possible association to treatment satisfaction and birthing outcomes. We also plan a quantitative study that will involve a sample of women, who experienced live birth in the last three years who will answer questions regarding their prenatal experience and birthing outcomes. The targeted participants for this survey received prenatal care from clinics in the Carson and Compton area only. The data collected through this survey will be analyzed for statistical Multivariable regression. This study hypothesizes that there is a negative correlation between prenatal care reducing racial disparities in pre-term birth among low-income women because the issue of preterm birth for Black women is multifactorial.

Tamiah Lacey

American Depression Glassware

Research Mentor: Sarah Taylor (Anthropology)

Depression Glass is a clear translucent glass that was produced during the great depression from 1929 - 1939. Depression Glassware was sold to families in America at the time for a very low price, and even sometimes was given out for free. It was made to be affordable to families due to the financial state of America. The glass comes in many colors such as green, pink, yellow, and auburn. The most sought-after color of the glass is green depression glass. Many collectors today solely look for green depression glass because it was on the market for a shorter length of time than any of the other colors. True Green Depression glass contains Uranium Oxide, which makes the glass shine a fluorescent glow under a black light. It was produced for such a short amount of time because it made the factory workers that were making the glass very sick, some died and others were left with long-term illnesses. During my summer research, I visited many vintage stores, antique shops, markets, and even thrift stores, searching for depression glass or anyone who knew anything about the market of depression glass. I traveled from my hometown in the Bay Area to Los Angeles and Long Beach visiting all the stores and markets that I could. Next, I hope to speak with any collectors of depression glass and ask them what they look for in their pieces and what motivates and encourages them to purchase depression glass.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

#29 Graduate Roundtable

February 23 — LSU 322

Evening Session: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Karla Torres

Language ideologies and its impact on the practice of Chicana English in higher education

Research Mentor: Lara Mantenuto (English)

Within education, many instructors carry raciolinguistic and monolingual English ideologies that affect students' practices of their native languages and language varieties (Flores, 2020). The goal of this presentation demonstrates how English instructors carry different linguistic attitudes towards the use of Chicana English (CE) that keeps Chicana students from practicing CE in higher education. Raciolinguistic (Rosa & Flores, 2015) and monolingual English ideologies (Zentella, 2014) are the consequences of colonization, standardization, and monolingualism (Rosa, 2016). The impact of these ideologies causes monolingual English educators to believe that students of Mexican-origin descent are experiencing academic failure due to their inability to achieve "academic language" (Flores, 2020). CE has many myths associated with it, such as it is the language of ESL learners and gang members (Fought, 2003), which in turn, creates stereotypes that individuals who practice this variety are "ghetto" and "uneducated" (Valera, 2022). For this study, I interviewed six English instructors and three Chicana students from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Half of the instructors were People of Color and expressed their own experiences on linguistic ideologies as students in higher education. Chicana students also had a variation of experiences CE, including how they often feel self-conscious, "ghetto", and "uneducated" for practicing their native language variety in higher education. The results from my preliminary data demonstrate how English instructors had a variation of linguistic attitudes towards the use of CE, ranging from students needing to adhere to academic language standards to inviting students to practice CE in higher education. The data also presents variation amongst the students' linguistic and educational experiences in higher education.

Jorge Roque

Historically Disadvantaged Communities and Mental Health Practitioners evaluation of Mental Health Services: Moving Towards Health Equity

Research Mentor: Ashley Membere (Psychology)

The American Psychological Association (APA) has had a long history of undeserving and causing harm to historically disadvantaged communities (HDC). While in recent years it has attempted to dismantle these harm inducing practices and repair the damage they have done, the highly influential organization and the mental health field have a long road ahead of themselves to mend the damage done. It is important for that the mental health care system works to make services suitable to meet the lives and needs of

sexual, racial, and gendered minorities. While the APA field has developed guidelines to better support the mental health field in developing the cultural competency to support these communities, there is little research exploring the perceptions these communities have on their ability to support them and their needs. With these communities utilizing mental health resources at a disproportionately rate, it peeks at the question of whether or not services are equitable and accessible. Utilizing methods often associated with participatory action research can allow researchers to evaluate how effective mental health services actually are for these communities. With the mental health field attempting to shift its focus and resources towards addressing health disparities that disproportionately affect HDC, our goal for this study is to evaluate the field in the following areas: availability, accessibility, and quality. With the use of Participatory Action Research model we hope to provide an evaluation from the perspective and lens of HDC such as minoritized races, genders, and sexual orientations that end up using these resources. As communities continue to struggle with the effects of Covid-19 and other social, economic and political issues their mental health will continue to decline. Our study hopes to explore what services HDC are currently utilizing to manage their mental health from local, state, or federal programs.

John W. Horton III

African American English from Three Historically African American Catholic Communities in Los Angeles

Research Mentor: Iara Mantenuto (English)

In this study I investigate African American English through the clergy of three Catholic Churches that have served historically African American communities in Los Angeles. The aim of my research is to document the features of Los Angeles AAE and if the different communities, each associated with a clergy, presents distinct unique features. My goal is to look at the relationship between migration patterns and language. Los Angeles was a major destination during a series African American migration out of the south, middle and midwestern section of the United States (Bucholtz et al. 2007). With each group of African American migrations came regional dialects but also remnants of the African cultural diaspora and African American language variations, carried down from each generation to the next. Although, AAE is one of the most studied forms of American English, crucial parts of it, such as the various linguistic aspects of its development and spread, are lacking theorization (Farrington et al. 2020). Very little research exists that examines AAE in Los Angeles. Lexicographical research documented a South-Central AAV in various communities (Folb 1972); however, this study did not investigate some linguistic features. I'm interviewing 12 African American clergy members in each of the three historical African American Catholic churches, using sociolinguistics interviewing methods. This demographic will range in age from 18 to 75. I will create a series of questions, with the intention of eliciting and recording a 1-hour conversation to sample the speech patterns of the participants. I will transcribe the interviews and analyze them, focusing on their phonetic, phonological, morphological and syntactic features. I expect to find specific linguistics features that are unique to Los Angeles and that might register different phonological variations depending on the specific congregations.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

#33 Undergraduate Roundtable II

February 24 — LSU 322

Morning Session: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Maria G. Prince

Impact of Anti-Mexican Policies and Attitudes on Blaxicans' Spanish Use

Research Mentor: Iara Mantenuto (English)

My research focuses on the role that language plays into the cultural identity and expression of Blaxicans, individuals of Black/African American and Mexican/Mexican American heritage. Research on Blaxicans has highlighted the sociological aspects of the mixed-heritage experience and identity formation (Romo 2011, 2017; Thompson-Hernandez, 2015). Studies on Afro-Latino identities and language(s) has concentrated on co-naturalization of language and race and accent ideology (Moreno Clemons, 2021). However, not much attention has been paid to whether the choice to use Spanish as a part of cultural expression was influenced by public policy or political climate. I created a one hour, in person, semi-structured interview, made up of 27 questions, covering topics of racial/ethnic identity, images of Mexican people in media and in politics, language(s) spoken at home and with friends or family, demographics of community, and experiences in school. The participants are ten Blaxican participants, between the ages of eighteen and sixty, and from the Los Angeles area. The goal of the study is to analyze the role that English only school policies, such as Prop 227, and anti-immigrant political messaging may have had on whether Blaxicans choose to learn and speak Spanish. I am interested in investigating whether anti-Mexican policies and political messaging led to the perception of Spanish, among Blaxicans, as deficient and in need of remediation (Rosa and Flores, 2021). My preliminary findings have shown that participants are aware of the policies that make identifying as a Spanish speaker or having Mexican heritage mean being labeled as English Language Learners (ELL), even when they were fluent English speakers. However, having positive social interactions with Mexican friends or family may positively impact the way Blaxicans perceive the use of Spanish and they may use it to express their cultural group membership.

Shirin Jorayeva and Kunal Parnami

Addressing the Need of Government Workforce: From a Job Aggregator Tool to a Public Sector Alliance

Research Mentors: Rui Sun (Public Administration) and Krystal Rawls (Workforce Integration Network)

Between an aging workforce and a shortage of applications from talented young people, governments are struggling to recruit qualified personnel. Using university and industry-generated business data, this study seeks to answer the following research questions: (1) What do students see meanings in work? (2) What is the best medium for getting students to consider public sector jobs? (3) What additional tools, training, or information are needed to further develop a pipeline between diverse student bodies and public sector jobs? The study contributes to the public administration literature on recruitment and has implications for public managers on alliance building.

Aliza Potter

Ughh of Course She's Pregnant, you know those People!: Pregnant Black women experiences in healthcare and in the workplace

Research Mentor: Ashley Membere (Psychology)

This study aims to investigate the negative experiences faced by pregnant Black women and recently pregnant (within the past four months) Black women in healthcare and the work environment. Black women's experiences in healthcare and the workplace environment can affect their mental health, organizational commitment, and well-being. Another goal is to determine what sources of support Black women can draw on to reduce these negative experiences.

Isabelle Hutchins

Sociolinguistic Attitudes of Tagalog Heritage Speakers

Research Mentor: Iara Mantenuto (English)

The purpose of this research is to investigate the sociolinguistic attitudes of Tagalog heritage speakers located in Southern California to better understand how they have acquired the language. Benmamoun (2013) explains that heritage language speaker refers to the children of immigrants that live in a household where they are exposed to the heritage language at a young age. Tagalog heritage speakers are children of first- and second-generation immigrants that are raised in multilingual households, where Tagalog is their primary language of communication but the dominant language outside is English. Umbal & Nagy (2016) state that the Tagalog households will place an emphasis on learning English because of the historical and influential relationship of United States and the Philippines. Since the American colonization of the Philippines between the years of 1898 to 1946, English became the official language of the country and was introduced through schools (Umbal & Nagy, 2016). We would then expect that the proficiency of the HL speakers would be higher and that their attitude would be positive; however, very little has been reported on this matter. In this study I plan on surveying 50 participants through a structured online questionnaire with 55 questions in total. The first half of questions are about the background of the participant such as age, place of birth, what languages they know, how often they use the language with their friends and family, etc. The second half of the questionnaire are multiple choice questions about the language itself. I expect that the results will prove that Tagalog HL speakers have limited knowledge of the language because of the low emphasis and importance of learning Tagalog in their households.