

Undergraduate Research Conference

Spring 2020

College of Liberal Arts

MARY CATHERINE ELLIS

Anthropology

Mandrakes and Mischief: An Ethnobotanical Analysis of Renaissance Witch Prints

Abstract:

In the early sixteenth century, several artists created prints and drawings of witches, also called Hexenbilder. Artists were hoping to educate their audiences about the dangers of witches and how to identify witches. Two prints by artists German artists Albrecht Dürer and Hans Baldung Grien depict the horrors and grotesqueness of witches. While this analysis of this phenomenon has taken up a large portion of the scholarly literature concerning Hexenbilder, this poster focuses on the ways that these two artists used plants, specifically those in the Solanaceae family, to identify these women as witches and threats to society in these prints. Through an ethnobotanical examination of these prints using the lens of Michel Foucault's biopolitics, scholars can understand why plants played a major role in the portrayal of witches in the Renaissance.

WESLEY MOORE

History

The Funnies of August: American Newspaper Comics in the Opening Months of the Spanish Civil War

Abstract:

This thesis studies American political cartoons depicting the Spanish Civil War of 1936. The other goal of this thesis is to create an exhibit display case in the Taylor-Murphy building showing select comics from the research for casual audiences. I chose comics specifically because the opinions of newspaper political cartoons appeal or market to a wide portion of the public, making them a compelling source to study the popular opinion and media of the time. The comics came from the pages of the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, and Washington Post and primarily from the months of July, August, and September. Those months have been chosen as newspaper commentary on the conflict was most prodigious then at its outbreak. Few studies have been completed on the American cartoons that grappled with the Spanish Civil War, so this project is helping to fill that need. My project collected and investigated the comics from these major publications to better understand common themes in the war's presentation to Americans. Some of the main trends noticeable in these months were a set of common visual clichés, simplification of the conflict, rejection of both sides of the Civil War, and an association of the political violence in Spain with American politics of the time. Major papers often agreed the war was a disaster brought on by extremist ideologies of fascism and communism and held little sympathy for either cause, lamenting instead the destruction of Spain and the Spanish people. This study revealed not just the media espoused opinions on the war and how it was portrayed, but also how it was utilized by cartoonists to make statements regarding contemporary politics in America.

MACEY FIELDS

Honors College

How Copyright Laws Have Affected Black Musicians and Their Economic Reward

Abstract:

Despite the attention and strict policy of the American copyright law, little scholarly research has been done to distinguish the history of the content of the law today and how civil rights for African American musicians shaped it. Two journal articles discuss the injustice towards blacks not receiving appropriate equality to the copyright law; however, no research discusses the affect this had towards the economic reward of the black musicians. This poster will further investigate why African American musicians did not receive equal opportunity regarding the copyright law as well as specific artist who experienced this injustice and how it affected their economic compensation. Prior to the 1976 copyright law that we see today, African Americans had yet to acknowledge that the music they were producing was often taken advantage of and stolen for whites to gain earnings. African American music had a history of making music pieces that were oral and had no written form, which led them to be stolen and used by others. This oppression is what led to black musicians finally gaining the rights they deserved and their profits. These injustices expanded equal protection under the law for other races and ethnicities. To fully understand the experiences, this poster will analyze the copyright changes and effects as well as investigate specific artists who were first handedly exposed to this mistreatment. This poster will provide information through bullet points, summaries, and statistics of these findings.

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ELEKTRA JORDAN

Philosophy

Condemned to Exist: A Theory on Modernity & Our Inescapable Immortality

Abstract:

Americans are frequently advised to be mindful of what they post online because it never truly disappears – an electronic record of the post will always exist somewhere. However, our online interactions aren't the only records being stored indefinitely. Americans themselves are now entangled in a similar type of unique identification system that guarantees permanent existence. In the debut of my original philosophical theory, "Condemned to Exist," I argue that through the rise of modernity, each and every American has become accounted for through a variety of social and

governmental programs. On my research poster, I summarize the theoretical methodology used to arrive at this central thesis as well as depict the sequential steps taken to narrow and identify the starting point of American ‘modernity’ as specified by the year 1936 for my research purposes. Analyzing everything from the surprising evolution of FDR’s Social Security program to the rise of the internet and expansion of social media within the last decade, I provide evidence and information to assist readers in contextualizing my theory of existence within this timeframe. This philosophical theory is both an enlightening and alarming realization, and I have consequently featured the pros, cons, and potential problems of the theory in the Summary portion of the poster. In the Conclusion portion, I considered how this fundamental shift in modern existence will influence our understanding of the human condition, impact the American ideals centered on legacy and immortality, and alter the long-standing philosophical debate on existence, choice, and free will.

MARISSA MARIN

Political Science

The Kanye Effect

Abstract:

In 2019, Kanye West publicly supported President Donald Trump, sparking controversy in minority communities across America. My poster, with the intent of targeting political scientists and people of the business world, will display evidence that Kanye West did influence African Americans to change their opinion about Donald Trump. My poster will also show that although there was an initial relationship, recently African American and other minorities support has started to decline. My poster will include citations from several articles and polls to prove Kanye’s influence. My poster will also display some of Kanye’s lyrics from “Blood on the leaves” in order to support the controversy seen surrounding this topic. Researchers have coined Kanye’s influence on African American support as the “Kanye Effect” (insidesources.com). Articles like this and polls that were taken in 2019 show a direct correlation. My goal has been to gain an understanding of both Donald Trump and Kanye West’s intentions of publicizing their relationship, and with my poster I hope to help others understand as well.

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ALYSSA GARCIA, ROXANA PEREZ, JENEÉ C DUNCAN, & NORMA PEREZ-BRENA

Psychology

Intimate Personal Violence and Child Maltreatment: a Study of Adolescent Parents

Abstract:

Maltreatment of children, a public health issue containing physical abuse, emotional abuse, and failure to provide basic needs (Tarantola et al., 2018), negatively impacts child development (Hagele et al., 2005). Children born into adolescent homes are at an increased risk of experiencing maltreatment and ineffective discipline (de Paúl et al., 2000). Therefore, it is important to understand what predicts maltreatment in these households.

Studies show adolescent parents report higher than average rates of intimate partner violence (IPV; e.g., sexual, emotional, and physical abuse) and less positive conflict management behaviors (Herrman et al., 2018). Further, research with adult couples suggests the presence of IPV within the home is linked to an increased risk of child maltreatment (Zolotor et al., 2007). Despite the extensive research linking IPV to child maltreatment in adult couple, this association has been disregarded in adolescent parents; therefore, we aim to assess these relations in an adolescent sample.

Our study included pregnant and parenting adolescent mothers and fathers (N= 221; 62.4% Female; 85.1% Latinx, Mage = 17.38, SD= 2.13) who completed an online survey. Participants reflected how often they engaged in IPV (e.g., emotional, physical, and threatening behaviors) and positive conflict behaviors with their romantic partners (Wolfe et al., 2000). Next, we used the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics scale (Strauss et al., 1998) to assess participants' positive discipline and child maltreatment behaviors. Correlational analyses were used and results showed a positive association between romantic relationship conflict management and positive child discipline, but no associations for IPV and child maltreatment.

ALYSSA GARCIA, ROXANA PEREZ, JENEE DUNCAN, & NORMA BRENA-PEREZ

Psychology

Adolescent IPV and Child Maltreatment

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HOPE HERNANDEZ, CAROLINA DE JONGH, JENEE'DUNCAN, & NORMA PEREZ-BRENA

Psychology

Exploring the Correlation Between Conflict, Familism, and Hope in Adolescent Relationships

Abstract:

Adolescent pregnancy is a recurring event within society and a lifestyle once the parents in question are committed. Getting pregnant earlier in life has the ability of either aiding the parent to emigrate into a healthier lifestyle or stunting progressive behavior that will hurt their personal relationships. Conflict in romantic relationships can be quite destructive and can result in relationship instability. However, when dealt with correctly, relationship hope can be fostered to enhance the nature of the relationship. Another concept that may be associated with conflict is familism, which may enhance interconnectedness and increase perceived support from romantic partners. Though these associations have been examined among adults, very little literature about how this affects adolescent parents exists.

This study examines the association between relationship conflict, relationship hope, and familism among adolescent parents. The adolescents who took part in this study (Mage = 17.14, SD = 1.83; 65.8% female; 86.8% Latinx) were part of an intervention program targeting adolescent parents. To assess the constructs, we used the following scales: relationship conflict - Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory (Wolfe et al., 2001), relationship hope - the Relationship Hope Scale (Hawkins et al., 2017), and familism - Mexican American Cultural Values Scale (Knight et al., 2009). Our results showed the relationship conflict was negatively correlated with relationship hope. Further, familism was negatively correlated with relationship conflict. The future research and programmatic implications of these results will be discussed.

REBECCA LOWERY

Psychology

A Systematic Review of the Risk Factors Associated with Juvenile False Confessions: Police Interrogation Techniques and Adolescent Development

Abstract:

Police have one goal in mind when they begin an interrogation: producing a confession (Spierer, 2017). Often, this goal is met through use of the Reid Technique, a guilt-presumptive and manipulative procedure, that elicits confessions through use of coercion, misclassification, and contamination (Brudey, 2018). These techniques have been shown to lead to false confessions in adults, but adolescents are even more susceptible to making false confessions due to being in a particularly vulnerable stage of development (Haney-Caron, E., Goldstein, N. E., & Mesiarik, C., 2018). Adolescents, specifically children between the ages of 12 and 15, are more likely than any other group to falsely confess to a crime (Sobie, 2019). Although reviews exist examining interrogation techniques for juveniles, a review is needed to understand what factors related to

adolescent development put juveniles most at risk for making false confessions. The proposed project is a systematic review of research that examines factors related to adolescent development (i.e., neurological, cognitive, and psychosocial development) and police interrogation techniques (e.g., the Reid Technique) and how they impact the probability of juvenile (age 12-15) false confessions. The following databases will be searched for peer-reviewed papers from 2005 to May 2020: Google Scholar, PSYCINFO, Science Direct, and Texas State University Library, using the terms juvenile, false confessions, police interrogation, coercion, Reid Technique, and adolescent development. Review findings will shed light on the unique interactions between adolescent development and police interrogation techniques for juvenile false confessions. Implications of the findings will be discussed.

TAYLOR MULE'

Psychology

Impact of Parental Marital Status and Conflict on Preschoolers Emotional and Behavioral Engagement

Abstract:

A child's observation of parental marital behaviors (i.e. marital status and conflict) can heavily influence school engagement (i.e., emotional and behavioral; Rodriguez and Temis-LeMonda, 2011; Heatly and Votruba-Drzal, 2017). Emotional engagement is related to children's liking or disliking of school and behavioral engagement is related to children's cooperative participation and self-directedness. Establishing school engagement patterns early on is essential to future academic achievement, resilience, and success (Skinner and Kinderman, 2009; Heatly and Votruba-Drzal, 2017). In addition, previous research has found that parental marital behaviors such as families with married parents, have higher quality home environments which positively contribute to behavioral engagement in children (Bradley et al., 2011; Rosenkrantz Aronson & Huston, 2004). We hypothesized that parental marital status (i.e., married or not) and parental conflict would be related not only to children's behavioral engagement but also their emotional engagement. The current study utilized a sample of predominantly Mexican/Mexican American children (N =287; 47.4% girls, M Age = 52.4 months) from Head Start preschools. The current findings support previous research and suggest that parental marital status (0=not married, 1= married) was significantly associated with behavioral engagement in preschoolers ($p < .05$). Despite the slight disadvantage for children of unmarried families, children in these families were no different than married families on emotional engagement. Furthermore, there were no significant relations found between parental conflict and engagement. The implications of these findings for promoting behavioral engagement will be discussed.

SARAH NASREDDINE, ANASOL LOPEZ, & EDNA GARCIA

Psychology

Impacts of Chronic Poverty for Children's Selective Attention During Early Childhood

Abstract:

Families living in chronic poverty often lack resources to properly promote cognitive development for their children (NICHD ECCRN, 2005). Selective attention, the ability to focus on relevant stimulus in the presence of distracting and competing information, is a critical cognitive skill that is foundational for children's academic success (Bell, 2017). Research investigating duration of poverty (i.e., episodic versus chronic) suggests that chronic poverty is particularly detrimental to children's

cognitive development (NICHD ECCRN, 2005). The current study extends this research by examining the effects of episodic versus chronic poverty during early childhood and the impact of those experiences on selective attention prior to kindergarten (i.e., 54 months). Data were analyzed from 962 primarily White children (83.6%). Early childhood poverty status was measured as either never poor, poor sometimes (i.e., one or two times), or chronically poor (i.e., three or more times) from birth to 54 months. Selective attention was measured through the Continuous Performance Task, a computerized direct assessment of children's attention to digital stimuli. Results of an ANOVA indicated significant effects between poverty status and selective attention ($F(2,855) = 10.20, p < .01$). Children that were chronically poor during early childhood scored lower on selective attention compared to those who only experienced some periods of poverty and no poverty. Results support previous research suggesting that the experience of chronic poverty impacts children's cognitive development. The current findings suggest a need for interventions and additional support for individuals who experience poverty during early childhood to support their cognitive attention.

TREY GRUBER

World Languages and Literatures

Made From Clay: Noname's Activism in her Music

Abstract:

My research examines the music of Chicago-based rapper Noname and how she uses her music to promote social activism and raise awareness about social and political injustices in the United States. Noname is a very outspoken poet, lyricist, and activist. The lyrics she writes often reflect her feelings about current and ongoing political issues – with an emphasis on racism, the destruction of black bodies, and law enforcement.

Research on this topic is scarce. With Noname being neither a big-time artist or activist, interest in her doings is typically only seen with her fans or people who are interested in some of her other activities – such as activism, reading, etc.

My research brings together some of these ideas about Noname's lyrics and ties them into a specific aspect of Noname's life: her experiences. My research explores not only how Noname raps about social issues and racism in the United States, but also how she uses her personal experiences and feelings to get these ideas across. Additionally, my research closes the gap between the two strains of research available: Noname's Music and Noname's book club. My research examines Noname's music and how her lyrics have paved the way for her book club and its purposes.

My poster will display a summary of my research findings, the album covers for Noname's two albums, pictures of the artist, her book club, and snippets of song lyrics and short analyses.

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