

ANTH x SOCI 2912 Project Blurbs (Fall 2014)

E-book usage Project Principal Investigator/Client: Dr Lisa Rose Wiles

How do students actually make use of e-books? In what contexts, in what kinds of spaces, and for what purposes? Building on previously collected quantitative usage data from 2013-2014, this project seeks the assistance of a student-led research team to come up with a research strategy and identify appropriate methods that can build on or test hypotheses that arise from prior data in order to enhance the SHU Library's sensitivity and relevance to how students actually engage in research.

Textual analysis project Principal investigator/Client: Dr Lisa Rose Wiles

Every year, freshmen entering the university are asked to write about their familiarity with and prior experience with libraries and library research. The ways by which students reflect on and describe their experiences and frame their responses to libraries in general and research in particular vary widely within and across freshmen cohorts. Using previously collected qualitative data from 2013-2014 or earlier, this project seeks the assistance of a student-led research team to come up with a research strategy and identify appropriate methods to manage and utilize existing textual data in ways that can enhance the library's ability respond to student needs. Project question/goal is open ended.

Young people's strategies for managing online privacy Principal Investigator/Client: Dr Michael Taylor

College-age men and women are among the most extensive users of social media in its many forms, modes and contexts. How is online privacy perceived, understood, talked about, conceptualized by these users? What are the conditions, contexts, experiences, life events that trigger or inhibit awareness of online privacy as an issue? How do college students conceptualize a digital or virtual self as expressed or delineated by their online behaviors, strategies, narratives, management of risk, etc. vis a vis their awareness of privacy issues? This preliminary study seeks the assistance of a student-led research team to conceptualize a research strategy and identify appropriate methods that may be used in multiple settings/college campuses. Some initial survey data has been collected but expansion of project question/goal through additional exploratory research is desired.

Female participation in fraternity parties Principal Investigator: Mary Donnelly, SHU Class of '15

Why do non-Greek women participate in fraternity parties? Preliminary findings based on participant observation in two college campuses indicate that the parties place women in a disadvantaged and sometimes dangerous situation. At the same time, a review of literature shows that fraternity parties have yet to be studied from the perspective of this population (college women not associated with Greek culture). This study seeks the assistance of a student research team who will help identify, recruit and conduct semi-structured interviews with subjects in order to better understand their motivations, perceptions, experiences, and behaviors. Assistance in developing sampling methods especially desired along with input on existing interview questions and formats.

Perceptions of Rally Project Principal Investigator/Client: Dr. Leslie Bunnage

In 2010, a "Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear" took place at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. led by the hosts of the cable TV comedy shows "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report"; it was conceived as a parody of a prior conservative political event at the same venue. To study the uniqueness of an entertainment show engaging in events more closely associated with social movements, surveys were collected from over 100 participants inquiring about motivations for attendance, perceptions of the event, political effectiveness of hosts Stewart and Colbert, as well as prior political experiences. This study seeks a student-led research team to develop a research strategy and appropriate methods to process, code and analyze the qualitative data portion of the survey that queried respondent's perceptions of the rally as a political or non-political event. Additional qualitative research needs or opportunities indicated by the current data and/or its analysis is also welcome.