

Please join us at the 2023

Petersheim Academic Expo

for another showcase of Anthropology student work

Tuesday April 25 (AS 106) 2 pm - Panel 1: Environment

Wednesday April 26 (Jubilee 209) 3:30 pm - Panel 2: Four-field Anthropology

Check out what kinds of research fellow students are doing across two panels over two days!

Contact Prof Quizon quizonch@shu.edu for additional information Poster design based on original layout by D. Durant, Anthropology Class of 2007



Anthropology in the Real World – Panel 1 (Environment)

Tue Apr 25 2-3 pm AS 106

The Anthropology program partners with the Environmental Studies program to bring four student papers presenting on their research. Students share their findings on the profound ways by which humans interact, modify and are shaped by the environment. The geographical coverage of the papers range from the United States to West Africa and Southeast Asia, and are approached from a plurality of disciplines and methodological perspectives. Unique to this series is the way student presenters will benefit from dialogue with their peers, and moderated by a faculty discussant.

Subsidence and Levee Failure: Agriculture Shaping the Future of the San Joaquin Delta Nathalie Cuevas
Uneven Development in the Niger River Delta Cash Kinsey
Exploration of Rainforest Degradation in Plantation Building Clara Cusanelli
Insights into Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda through a pilot study of Twitter communities Frances Lofranco

Faculty discussant, Dr. Peter Savastano

Anthropology in the Real World – Panel 2 (Four-Fields)

Wed Apr 26 3:30-4:30 JH 209

The Anthropology program brings three student papers presenting on their uses of the four-field approach to original research. Students majoring in Anthropology, Sociology and Biochemistry share their findings using modes of inquiry developed in research work in biological, cultural and linguistic anthropology. The topical coverage of the papers range from the reportage on missing persons United States to speech and power in collegiate athletics to the use of photospectrometry to answer questions of anthropological import. Unique to this series is the way student presenters will benefit from dialogue with their peers, and moderated by a faculty discussant.

•A New Epidemic: Missing Black and Indigenous People and Their Portrayal in Media Camille Martin

Collegiate Swimming and Diving: A Sociolinguistic Analysis
 Savannah Kennedy
 Exploring Photospectrometry Techniques to Evaluate Natural Dyes in Banana Textiles
 Bitha Beji

Faculty discussant, Dr. Jacob Weger

The Anthropology in the Real World Series (ARW). Organized by the Anthropology Program of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice as part of the annual Seton Hall University Petersheim Academic Exposition, the series showcases original student research that relates to various modes of ethnographic practice and four-field anthropological research presented to an audience of peers, and with the formal participation of a faculty as discussant. The first ARW took place in 2003 - we are celebrating the 20 years of student research!



Students need not be Anthropology majors or minors but the papers themselves must actively incorporate anthropological methods or engage in research issues of anthropological import. If you have a paper that you wish to be considered for the series, or have questions about how to present your research in similar venues, please contact the series convener Prof. Cherubim Quizon (cherubim.quizonch@shu.edu).

ABSTRACTS | Anthropology in the Real World – Panel 1 (Environment) | Tue Apr 25 2-3 pm AS 106

<u>Subsidence and Levee Failure: Agriculture Shaping the Future of the San Joaquin Delta</u> – by Nathalie Cuevas Thanks to the adjacent San Joaquin Delta, Sacramento is the largest city for agricultural production in the United States, supplying fresh grains, vegetables, citrus, and tree fruits to all. However, the agriculture industry in the delta has driven large-scale human modification of the landscape, particularly through establishing levees to drain and clear the land for food production. As a result, ongoing subsidence due to groundwater overdraft for irrigation behind the levees in areas around Sacramento is leading to rapid levee deterioration. As the levees continue to weaken and the sea level rises, flooding threatens to damage agricultural lands and degrade water quality across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Socioeconomic status, ethnic differences, and overall perception of vulnerability are some of the factors that impede Sacramento's population from taking proactive measures to assess flood risk. Those who are most vulnerable to flooding are residents and workers in rural southern communities, which are majority Hispanic. Differences in language, culture, and education influence the way Hispanic communities prepare for and respond to risk. Disaster mitigation and planning under these circumstances require special attention to how to distribute appropriate resources that are accessible to all.

Uneven Development in the Niger River Delta - by Cash Kinsey

The Niger river delta is an area approximately 36,000 square kilometers in size. The region has a wealth of natural resources. The subject of this paper will be a discussion of the uneven development and distribution of wealth across the Niger delta resulting from the oil industry. Key factors for the analysis include the environmental impact of oil extraction, uneven distribution of wealth, and conflict against the oil industry. These factors combine to make an unstable situation for the residents of the area and for the markets Nigeria's oil serves. To answer the problem, I present a discussion of the different entities who bear responsibility for the crisis in the region, concluding that multi-national corporations, government, and consumers all bear some degree of responsibility.

Exploration of Rainforest Degradation in Plantation Building – by Clara Cusanelli

The Orang Rimba have lived in the forests of Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia for centuries. These ancestral lands are threatened by deforestation driven primarily by expanding palm oil plantation operations in the region. This causes displacement of Orang Rimba groups leading to land disputes, lifestyle changes, and environmental impacts. This project deepens the understanding of this land change by expanding on an existing research paper to map changes through ArcGIS StoryMaps. I will be expanding my research on plantation expansion, as well as looking at similar changes in other rainforested countries to visualize these impacts. Data is grounded in ethnographic accounts by Orang Rimba peoples and supported by recent research into the operations of major plantation builders, and provides suggestions for positive change. I also explore how this issue is rooted in colonialism and the legitimacy granted to palm oil companies by state governments after independence.

Insights into Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda through a pilot study of Twitter communities by Frances Lofranco

From November 3, 2013, to November 11, 2013, one of the most destructive and powerful typhoons hit multiple Southeast Asian countries, notably the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan. known locally as Yolanda, was one of the most devastating tropical cyclones with over 6,000 people killed. Twelve years after destruction, what are the underrepresented and untold stories? To fully include understudied voices in disaster research on one of the biggest tropical cyclones in history, this paper presents a snapshot of a method seeking both onsite as well as expatriate community perspectives. This paper presents a pilot text mining study using R that is part of the Hidden Voices of Disaster interdisciplinary grant. As one of two student researchers on the team, we aim to explore ways of building a scholarly platform for studying underrepresented voices and help better evaluate how the world responded to this natural disaster, specifically on the one of the most used social media platforms of that time, Twitter. I will briefly present preliminary findings using community hashtags and share insights on the process specifically focusing on #prayforthephilippines.

• Faculty discussant, Dr. Peter Savastano

ABSTRACTS | Anthropology in the Real World – Panel 2 (Four-Fields) | Wed Apr 26 3:30-4:30 JH 209

<u>A New Epidemic: Missing Black and Indigenous People and Their Portrayal in Media</u> By Camille Martin, BA Anthropology & Sociology Minor, Class of 2023

As of October 2022, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System reported 22,324 active missing person cases in the United States (NamUs, 2022). Amongst these cases, Black people account for 16%, but comprise 13% of the population. Similarly, Indigenous people make up 2.9% of missing person cases yet encompass 2% of the national population (NamUs, 2022). This ~1-3% disparity between population size and missing person cases is fueled by the media's ruinous coverage of Black and Indigenous persons in totality. Both the overwhelming stereotypical narratives of these populations and the underreporting of their missing person cases in tandem create a harmful media coverage that places Black and Indigenous peoples in high-risk populations, therefore, perpetrators are likely to exploit the situation leading to inevitable missing person cases; their families are left struggling for news coverage to capture not just the public's attention, but their empathy. In my paper, I present four case studies to highlight the primary factors exacerbating the underreporting of Black and Indigenous missing people and how media's portrayal of them shape public consciousness.

Collegiate Swimming and Diving: A Sociolinguistic Analysis

By Savannah Kennedy, BA Sociology & Anthropology, Class of 2023

My research examines the ways in which athletes on a collegiate co-ed swimming and diving team navigate their linguistic interactions in this social grouping and how this reflects the hierarchies present within the culture of the team. Through a semester-long participant observation of team interactions during bus travel and an analysis of the virtual exchanges of members via the platform of GroupMe, I was able to gather ethnographic data from which many interactional patterns became evident. These patterns include the use of powerless language in order to reinforce subordinate social positions, the use of space on the bus to create a framework for interlocutory opportunity, and the existence of multiple language domains based on hierarchical positioning. Through this research and analysis, parallels can be highlighted between the community of this swimming and diving team and a larger scale society and its related culture.

Exploring Photospectrometry Techniques to Evaluate Natural Dyes in Banana Textiles By Bitha Beji, BS Biochemistry, Minor in Anthropology, Class of 2024

Photospectrometry is an integral part of science regarding the analytical processes of various compounds. I will use this method to observe plant and soil dyes on abaca fiber textiles from Mindanao, the Philippines, within the visible wavelength of 350 nm – 810 nm. Banana (*Musa spp.*) plants have long been valued for their many usages. A specific species of the banana plant (*Musa textilis*) has been utilized in the Philippines, its native region, to produce strong and durable textiles. Abaca, as it is known in the area, is mainly woven on looms in the southern island of Mindanao (Assoune, 2021). The major components of abaca are cellulose and lignin, and can be waxed with beeswax (*Cera alba*). This fiber is also dyed using plants or soil, with characteristic red and black ikat motifs (Quizon and Magpayo-Bagajo, 2021). I will assess this method's merit for observing color (also known as chromatophores), natural vs commercial dyes, luster of waxed vs. unwaxed fiber (hydrocarbons), among others. The findings can be used to better understand these compounds chemically, and connect to the larger scholarly record examining textiles through photospectrometry and related methods.

• Faculty discussant, Dr. Jacob Weger