

Anthropology in the Real World

A multi-year project showcasing student research

Panel 1 – Anthropology of Digital Things 24 April, 11 am at Corrigan 62

Digital Humanities and the Future of Student Research Behind Paywalls

Helen Jakubowicz, Anthropology and History double major

This presentation will give an overview of the *Hidden Voices* grant and its purpose, my involvement in grant blog, the two works focusing on social media's outreach after a disaster that I read and analyzed, and my reflections on the nature of research on social media data given the surprising challenges we faced. I participated in training to look for textual data online that is situated behind paywalls and the experience raises a new question: what does the future of research and digital humanities look like when many sources need to be paid for to be looked at? This presentation will summarize experiences with Twitter/X over the course of a year, reflect on what paywalls mean for the future of the digital humanities and the implications that it will pose for student research. To conclude, it will share some ways and remedies that others have used around these possibly unfair paywalls, focusing on methods students and educators have been using to get around them.

Investigative Aesthetics and Open-source Witnesses

Melissa Myrtaj, Diplomacy and International Relations major, Anthropology minor

This project explores the nature of post-conflict architecture through the lens of anthropology. In recent decades, the emergence of investigating cases of violence and violations of human rights has taken a new turn with the emergence of terms like “material witnesses” used alongside “investigative aesthetics.” These efforts seek to create a platform for anti-hegemonic investigation that provides support for those struggling for justice against those with established power. These investigations require aesthetics and imagination and are relatively a new concept and a new reaction to politics and truth-finding. I present how this newly emergent literature and approach to data collection responds to human rights concerns by focusing on the built environment as related to Israel-Palestine. I explore the works of open-source investigators using forensic architecture among others to provide perspective on the ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine and reflect on how this type of anti-hegemonic investigation may shape and potentially shift culture, knowledge, and power.

Exploring the Legacy of Herbert Kraft

Lejla Behric, Anthropology major, Criminal Justice and Archaeology double minor

This research project explores the influence or impact of archaeologist Herbert C. Kraft's work on the Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey through an examination of how Kraft's findings and studies are used in educational programs within schools, museums, and various institutions across the state on one hand, and in scholarly citations of key works on the other. Employing a dual-focused approach, this project looks at recent initiatives in two key domains: digital explorations of public education programs, and citation data on scholarly works spanning the past decade. In addition, findings based on Kraft's teaching materials in previously unpublished archives will be brought into consideration. In seeking to evaluate the impact and influence of Kraft's research, this study will also explore digital and scholarly initiatives in public anthropology over the past decade with emphasis on the utilization of alternative metrics to gauge scholarly impact.

Faculty discussant – Dr. Jessica Dimka

24 April 2024, Wednesday

Panel 1 CH 62 11-12:15 am | Panel 2 JH 211 3:30-4:45

Anthropology Meet and Greet follows 5 pm at JH 517

with refreshments! All are welcome!



Seton Hall University Anthropology Program

Dr. Jessica Dimka
Dr. Cherubim Quizon
Dr. Peter Savastano
Dr. Jacob Weger

This year's host classes:
Dr. Vovina's Intro to Cultural Anthropology and Dr. Quizon's Anthropology of Art

This year's discussants:
Drs. Dimka and Savastano

Find the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work at Jubilee Hall, 5th Floor, JH 570

See what Anthropology students are working on at [Research & Internships – SHU Anthropology](#)



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Panel 2 – Ethnography: Participating Observers 24 April JH 211 at 3:30 pm

Repurposing Trunk or Treat: Failed Speech and Code Switching at a Church Fete

Tiya Antony, Social Behavioral Sciences (OT) major and Anthropology minor

My ethnographic research focuses on linguistic patterns and traits found at a Trunk or Treat held for All-Saint's Day at my Syro Malabar Catholic Church, an Eastern Roman Catholic Church based in Kerala, India. Taking on the role of an anthropologist, I dove deeper into the meanings and implications of language and everyday speech acts within my emic community. This community, built by first generation immigrants, features bilingual speakers and a population of different first languages. Through participant observation and analysis from an anthropological viewpoint, I was able to note the presence of failed speech acts and code switching, among other patterns, that commonly occur in this environment. Linguistic normalcies vary between communities and display the complex linguistic patterns that we follow daily without intentional thought, which allow for effective communication and interactions. This research details the physical space, verbal interactions, connections to anthropological writers and researchers, and personal insights from my ethnographic study.

Code Switching as a Crucial Ingredient to Soup Kitchen Service

Leo Chu, Biology and Anthropology double major

Local soup kitchens serve members of the local underserved populations without expectation of service in return. As such, soup kitchens provide a unique environment where members of different socioeconomic classes interact socially with an expectation of mutual kindness and charity whilst overlooking individuals' economic status. Over the course of a month, I engaged in participant observation within a soup kitchen community with a focus on linguistic patterns in speech interactions between members of the community. During this period, collected ethnographic data made apparent a stable social organization composed of roles and statuses informed primarily by cultural factors rather than economic factors. I will present how code-switching between different registers and styles of speech according to the statuses of interacting roles in a soup kitchen is used to build relationships between individuals of ostensibly disconnected socioeconomic classes whilst enforcing a stable system of social organization.

Debriefing & slaying: An ethnography of informal speech in female Greek life

Emma Potts, Anthropology major

This study examines the dynamics of sorority chapter meetings, using both insider (emic) and outsider (etic) perspectives to speech interactions among college age women in an organization. Focusing on informal post-meeting "debriefs" as crucial moments of social influence, it will use insights from Charles Frake's classic work on Subanun "jar talk" to analyze how informal exchanges are patterned and serve as a social tool. In addition, research findings on slang, social media communication patterns, and self-reported influences on speech among peers within the organization will be presented. The potential implications challenge traditional ideas regarding linguistic practices used and developed primarily by young women, and instead highlight their crucial role in cementing social status and influencing group dynamics within organizational contexts.

Faculty discussant – Dr. Peter Savastano

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