

# Anthropology in the Real World

A multi-year project showcasing student research

## 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**

***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](#)**

