

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences



presents

*Symposium of Student
Research
and
Scholarly Work*

5:30 p.m.

April 28, 2021

Welcome to the 19th Annual

Student Research Symposium

On behalf of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, it is a pleasure to welcome you to our college-wide Student Research Symposium for 2021.

The Symposium is an annual event that highlights student research and scholarship in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Now nineteen years in the running, it is our keynote spring event. Both undergraduate and graduate students are involved in the Symposium, presenting on course-related research topics, independent studies projects, honors and thesis projects, and projects completed in collaboration with one or more BSS faculty.

This year we are holding the event virtually given the ongoing constraints involved with mounting an in-person event. The Symposium this year will not include poster presentations or original short student films, but instead will focus on live oral presentations. I invite you to review the program and find talks that you are particularly interested in seeing. Zoom links are provided for each separate session.

The student presenters have put considerable time into their research and in preparation for their talk. We are fiercely proud of our student presenters and the outstanding scholarship that characterizes their work. I am confident that you will find their presentations compelling and interesting. Thank you for joining us for the Symposium. Your attendance is sincerely appreciated.

Dr. Eddie Vela, Dean

College of Behavioral & Social Sciences

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Session One

Moderator: Dr. Patrick Johnson

Jessica Alvarado—An analysis of predictors of use of 'smart pills' in a collegiate sample

Andrew Fanfassian—A Look Into American Security

Sterling Gonzalez—The Effects of Traditional and Online News Consumption on Polarization and Partisan Attitudes

Miranda Hatch—The Power of Descriptive Representation

Nestor Vasquez—Variables That Influence an Individual's Attitude towards Controversial Social Issues

McKenna Woodward - Social Media's Effect on Political Polarization

Session Two

Moderator: Dr. Danielle Hidalgo

Michael Canela, Breanna Dawson, and Will Youngstrom - Camp Fire Housing

Lacey Lorenzen - The Impact Public Opinion on Immigration Detention

Rebecca Lujan—Gender-Responsive Peer Support: Evaluating Facilitated Female Support Groups in a Virtual Format

Jacob McClellan - Does Support for Gun Control Increase after Mass Shootings?

Joel Moret - Racial Diversity of Low Income Political Contributors

Emily C. Wood - Parenting in a Pandemic: Mothers' Perception of Family Sense of Coherence, Parenting Stress, and Perceptions of the Parent-Child Relationship

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Session Three

Moderator: Dr. Diana Dwyre

Jamie Carey—District Wealth and Electoral Fundraising

Jeremy Coiner - The influence of the media on political polarization

Michael Curry - An analysis of polling in a post Trump Presidency

Jason Dell’Orto—Electoral College Alternatives

Logan Ford—Partisan Affect and Age: Are Young People Becoming More Polarized?

Kyle Schachter—Demographics of Support for Universal Healthcare

Session Four

Moderator: Dr. Amy Magnus

Daniel Correa - Americans on Obamacare

Cameron Haggstrom- The Polarization of the American Public

Michael Johnson—Avoiding Civil War 2.0: Examining political ideology in rural, urban, and suburban areas of the United States, in comparison to various local, regional, national, and online information sources

Tricia McLain - Warming in the Coastal Regions of the Continental United States

Madison Middleton—Marijuana and Crime

Danielle Tejada- Immigration Laws and American Public Opinion

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Session Five

Moderator: Dr. Christine Leistner

Samia Basravi and Rob Murphy - Effects of Covid-19 on Homeless Population

Ayanna Boben, Shelby Cole, and Ricky Raffaini - College Student Substance Use, Risky Sexual Behavior, & STIs/HIV

Katherine Dahl- Gendered Support for Environmental Legislation in Congress

Natalie Lawlor - The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Sexual Lives of Undergraduate College Students

Jonathan Rivera Cruz - Electing LGBTQ+ Candidates into Office

Paul Shafer - Race, Income and the Prevalence of Food Insecurity in the United States

Session Six

Moderator: Professor Ryan Miller

Derek Goheen, Stella Villett, and Brionna Warren - 311 service in Sacramento

Adriana Bernal, Emily Ferguson, and Amanda Vieira - Education Level and Post-Disaster Recovery

Paul Frederici - The Senate and the People: Does the U.S. Senate Represent the People?

Nathan Gooby- The Economy and its Affect on Voter Outcomes

Kathleen Lewis, Kaitlin McFarland, and Lauren Smolich- Rate of COVID-19 infections in the Greater Sacramento Region from March 2020 to December 2020

Ian Siegert - Does a Voter's Income Determine How They Vote?

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Session Seven

Moderator: Dr. Stephanie Machado

Meagan Fischer - The Curiosity to Listen: Podcasting to Explore Nuanced Political Dialogue

Sania Kuriakos, Eric Laase, and Suzanna Smit - 311 Call Data in Anaheim, California

Olivia Le Bel - Asthma Prevalence in California Counties

Daisy Linsangan and Magaly Quinteros - COVID-19 and Structural Violence in America: The Case of Blue Collar Latinx Workers in the Meat-Packing Industry

Andrew Loyd Smith - Anthrozoology Interests: An Ethnographic Study on California's Whale Watching Industry

Paloma Rodriguez Castro - Climate Change in the United States

Session Eight

Moderator: Dr. Doris Schartmueller

Michaela Benko - The Electoral College and Representation in National Elections

Eva Kortizija - Sex Offender Surveillance in California

Brian Maciel - Prison Labor

Nicholas Morales - Political Polarization

Priscilla Robles - Immigration and Crime

Evet Yohana - The Impact of Race and Ethnicity on People's View of Single-Payer Health Care

SESSION ONE

Moderator: Dr. Patrick Johnson

AN ANALYSIS OF PREDICTORS OF USE OF 'SMART PILLS' IN A COLLEGIATE SAMPLE

Jessica Alvarado

Representing the Department of Psychology

The prevalence rate for nonmedical use of prescription stimulants (NMUPS) is a problem and it is important to understand what encourages this behavior. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to further the understanding on why college students engage in NMUPS. Students were recruited from and completed an online survey that included items that assessed peer influence, simultaneous polydrug use, and perceived academic benefits all being possible predictors for NMUPS. It is clear that there is a relationship between the hypotheses. Overall, there are various predictors to NMUPS amongst college students.

A LOOK INTO AMERICAN SECURITY

Andrew Fanfassian

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

I examine whether or not America's attempts at curbing terrorism have been effective. The idea being that enacting certain laws make the country safer. However, I believe that despite the efforts of four different administrations there has been no real effect on terrorism. I will examine data from academic journals and the United States' own government sources to determine the impact of terrorism and whether or not the country has been effective in safeguarding its interests.

THE EFFECTS OF TRADITIONAL AND ONLINE NEWS CONSUMPTION ON POLARIZATION AND PARTISAN ATTITUDES

Sterling Gonzalez

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

In this paper I examine how the consumption of traditional media (newspaper, cable news, radio) and online news, including social media, can affect people's attitudes on certain issues and create polarization. I hypothesize that people who consume more news from online sources will be more politically polarized because the internet and social media can create echo chambers of people with similar partisan attitudes and be more ideologically extreme on certain issues. The Cooperative Congressional Election Study 2018 will be used to examine respondents consumption of news from different sources and their positions on certain issues and levels of partisanship.

SESSION ONE

Moderator: Dr. Patrick Johnson

THE POWER OF DESCRIPTIVE REPRESENTATION

Miranda Hatch

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

As the perception of LGBT+ people in this country has shifted positively since the early 2000s, we have also seen an increase in descriptive representation. Descriptive representation is when minority groups elect officials that reflect themselves in some way or another, be it their experiences or their skin color or their sexuality. But does this descriptive representation increase the likelihood of voter turnout for groups that these legislators represent? Specifically looking at LGBT+ voters, I want to know whether an increase in LGBT+ candidates, or an increase in descriptive representation, leads to an increase in LGBT+ voter turnout.

VARIABLES THAT INFLUENCE AN INDIVIDUAL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONTROVERSIAL SOCIAL ISSUES

Nestor Vasquez

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Does age impact an individual's attitude towards controversial social issues? Research on this question suggests that controversial social issues are many and each have their own unique set of variables that influence an individual's attitude. I argue that each individual's opinion is influenced by a person's unique point of view, their individual experience and personal beliefs/morals. I will be using data from the General Social Survey, American National Election Studies, and the Cooperative Congressional Election Study to show how people's attitudes toward different controversial social issues are influenced by different variables (depending on the issue).

SOCIAL MEDIA'S EFFECT ON POLITICAL POLARIZATION

McKenna Woodward

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

I analyze the effects of social media on political polarization in the United States. It includes several studies, all of which conducted different experiments to determine the answer to this research question or something closely related. They found that while social media contributes to polarization, it only does so in combination with other factors including level of confidence in one's political views, one's education level, and one's age. Moreover, the broad consensus was that while social media is polarized, it is not the main cause of the level of political polarization we see in our country today.

SESSION TWO

Moderator: Dr. Danielle Hidalgo

CAMP FIRE HOUSING

Michael Canela, Breanna Dawson, and Will Youngstrom

Representing the Department of Social Science

The Camp fire has caused one of the largest exoduses of people in a single county in U.S. history. What motivated people to leave their county of residence after the Camp fire? Our group uses the 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey data to assess how Paradise is changing in the wake of the Camp Fire. The assessment of housing losses has been well documented due to the scale of the fire. What is not understood is how the residential composition has changed. This data sheds more light much has changed over a short period of time.

THE IMPACT PUBLIC OPINION ON IMMIGRATION DETENTION

Lacey Lorenzen

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Does public opinion on immigration affect the number of immigrants in detention? My hypothesis is that when public opinion is more positive towards immigration, or the public is more satisfied with current immigration policy, levels of immigrants go down in detention centers. This will be tested using data collected in public opinion polls by the Gallup Organization and Pew Research Center compared with Syracuse University's TRAC data on detainers issued and immigrants in detention in a given fiscal year.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE PEER SUPPORT: EVALUATING FACILITATED FEMALE SUPPORT GROUPS IN A VIRTUAL FORMAT

Rebecca Lujan

Representing the Department of Child Development

This study evaluated the effectiveness of female peer support groups that were delivered over the internet so as to adapt to COVID-19 outbreak guidelines. Online facilitated circles were conducted weekly for two groups in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021: Chico Junior High School students (grades 6th through 8th) and California State University, Chico college students. Qualitative measures were utilized to assess students' experiences and evaluate best practices. Online Women's Circles were more effective than online Girl's Circles as illustrated by attrition rates, direct testimonies from students, and facilitator experiences. This research has potential implications for school counseling and telehealth practices.

SESSION TWO

Moderator: Dr. Danielle Hidalgo

DOES SUPPORT FOR GUN CONTROL INCREASE AFTER MASS SHOOTINGS?

Jacob McClellan

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Media and political attention turn to guns and gun control after mass shootings in the U.S. Does public support for gun control increase after mass shootings? I hypothesize that mass shootings do impact public opinion by increasing support for stricter gun laws. I use Gallup public opinion polls on various gun-related issues to determine if there are shifts in public opinion after mass shootings.

RACIAL DIVERSITY OF LOW INCOME POLITICAL CONTRIBUTORS

Joel Moret

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Past studies have revealed that political contributions are generally dominated by affluent white people, however, less is known about the racial diversity of political contributors across lower income ranges specifically. The purpose of this research paper is to determine whether the dominance of white people in political contributions persists at lower income levels, which may be partially responsible for unrepresentative policy decisions. I hypothesize that the racial identification of political contributors is more diverse across lower income ranges, as opposed to higher income ranges, in which political contributors are mostly white. The data for my study is sourced from the 2016 and 2018 Cooperative Congressional Election Surveys, which are accessed via the Berkeley Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA) archive. These surveys are a series of questions asked to Americans with the intention of better understanding how their opinions and behavior changes depending on political geography and social context.

PARENTING IN A PANDEMIC: MOTHERS' PERCEPTION OF FAMILY SENSE OF COHERENCE, PARENTING STRESS, AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

Emily C. Wood

Representing the Department of Psychology

The purpose of this project is to identify ways that mothers' perceived family sense of coherence and parenting stress relates to how they perceive their interactions with their child/ren during the COVID-19 pandemic. This aims to identify potential protective/risk factors for families during these difficult times. Participants provided

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Moderator: Dr. Danielle Hidalgo

demographic information, completed questionnaires (e.g., family sense of coherence, parenting stress) using a Likert-type scale, and answered an open ended question about how interactions with their children have changed since the pandemic.

SESSION THREE

Moderator: Dr. Diana Dwyre

DISTRICT WEALTH AND ELECTORAL FUNDRAISING

Jamie Carey

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

This research examines the question, do candidates running for public office in wealthier districts raise more money for their elections than those in poorer districts. Examining how much money was raised in grassroots donations and by Super PACs makes clear that candidates received a significant amount of out-of-district help. However, though money is being spent outside of districts, evidence suggests that this has more to do with the personal interests of the donors than the financial need of the district in which they are spending money.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE MEDIA ON POLITICAL POLARIZATION

Jeremy Coiner

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

An examination of the media and how they have influenced the rise of political polarization in the United States. In this study, I will look at how media got so biased and the impact that bias has on the American people.

AN ANALYSIS OF POLLING IN A POST TRUMP PRESIDENCY

Michael Curry

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

During the 2016 election nearly every poll showed Hillary Clinton leading over then candidate Donald Trump. What errors or oversights were made by the pollsters during this election cycle? If the polls were so inaccurate did they adjust their methods?

SESSION THREE

Moderator: Dr. Diana Dwyre

ELECTORAL COLLEGE ALTERNATIVES

Jason Dell'Orto

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

The Electoral College is an imperfect system from a proportional representation point of view. Aspects such as the distribution of electors to states through their respective congressional seats and the winner-take-all systems common among states create variants in the proportionality of representation throughout the states. Are there realistic and legal replacements for the Electoral College that would provide more equal representation to all voters? Alternatives to the Electoral College such as the Maine-Nebraska System and the Proportional System would decrease variations in representation whilst being constitutionally viable. To measure the accuracy of each alternative system, they will be implemented in past elections and compared to a simulated direct election in each scenario to determine the accuracy with which they operate.

PARTISAN AFFECT AND AGE: ARE YOUNG PEOPLE BECOMING MORE POLARIZED?

Logan Ford

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Scholarly research and public opinion alike indicate a strong trend toward political polarization among American citizens over the past fifty years. While this trend has been attributed to and associated with a variety of factors ranging from party fit to media exposure, in this paper, I seek to draw a connection between age and party affect. I expect to find that younger partisans are more likely to experience negative emotions towards out-members than are older partisans. For my research, I plan on using survey data from the Survey Documentation and Analysis database, managed by the Institute for Scientific Analysis. The data for my study is sourced from the 2016 and 2018 Cooperative Congressional Election Surveys, which are accessed via the Berkeley Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA) archive. These surveys are a series of questions asked to Americans with the intention of better understanding how their opinions and behavior changes depending on political geography and social context.

SESSION THREE

Moderator: Dr. Diana Dwyre

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

Kyle Schachter

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Does age and political party affiliation effect an individual's support for Medicare for All? I hypothesize that politically (party) left leaning young adults (18-35) are more likely to support Medicare for all, because both groups (the political left and young adults) are more likely to be in favor of government spending on social welfare. I analyze age and party affiliation over a variety of sources to determine the reasons behind voter trends.

SESSION FOUR

Moderator: Dr. Amy Magnus

AMERICANS ON OBAMACARE

Daniel Correa

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

How do the levels of knowledge among American citizens alter the effectiveness and strength of policies such as the Affordable Care Act. Demographics, individual predispositions, and message factors are responsible for influencing the volatility of different perspectives on the ACA which causes an influx of conflicting goals among the mass public. I test my hypothesis by analyzing surveys regarding individual opinions on Obamacare, comparing the financial impact of Obamacare on different people with different financial status, and seeing the correlation of emotion such as anger and happiness with Obamacare.

THE POLARIZATION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

Cameron Haggstrom

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

The political division of the general populace of the United States has seemingly been on the rise in recent years with violence and widespread demonstrations on both sides of the spectrum. In this paper, I will analyze whether polarization is truly on the rise or merely perceived to be. Furthermore, if trends do indeed indicate a rise then I will seek to answer the reasons behind this rise. Finally, I will discuss the consequences of heightened polarization and the solutions, if any, that are achievable.

SESSION FOUR

Moderator: Dr. Amy Magnus

AVOIDING CIVIL WAR 2.0: EXAMINING POLITICAL IDEOLOGY IN RURAL, URBAN, AND SUBURBAN AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES, IN COMPARISON TO VARIOUS LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL, AND ONLINE INFORMATION SOURCES

Michael Johnson

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

I will first evaluate political ideology on a liberal-to-conservative basis in rural, urban, and suburban areas of four major regions of the United States. Then, I will compare those findings with the various major information sources in general usage in those areas—including traditional media such as local/regional/national print, radio, and television, coupled with online sources and social media. The question to be answered: In the United States, is there a correlation between certain socioeconomic and geographic factors, available information sources, and political ideology?

WARMING IN THE COASTAL REGIONS OF THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Tricia McLain

Representing the Department of Geography and Planning

This study investigates how temperatures in the coastal regions of the U.S. are changing. Regional-based, land and ocean surface temperature records were observed to focus on minimum winter temperatures and maximum summer temperatures over 124 years in the United States' Gulf Coast, Northeast Coast, and West Coast. Long-term warming trends were discovered despite geographical variations in the three areas of study proving that not even coastal communities are an exception to global warming. The ocean's abilities as a climate moderator will decline as hotter temperatures overwhelm the system, endangering coastal communities and the living organisms that inhabit them.

MARIJUANA AND CRIME

Madison Middleton

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Legalization of marijuana will lead to reduced crime rates for reasons other scholars have pointed to, such as, marijuana being a replacement for violent activating substances (alcohol, meth, cocaine, etc.), police shifting their involvement into other spheres, and the participation of criminals in the marijuana field. Different states that have a variation of marijuana laws have differing levels of crime rates congruent with the legalization of marijuana within their counties. I use UCR data in

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Moderator: Dr. Amy Magnus

analysis with time-points before and after the enactment of legalization laws for both state and county level to test whether marijuana legalization will lead to crime reduction.

IMMIGRATION LAWS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION

Danielle Tejada

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

I examine Immigration laws and how they have impacted and are impacted by American public opinion. I take a look at how others view this subject and the ways it has been interpreted before. I draw my data from surveys that ask about public policy before and after immigration laws are decided. I then analyze the changes and why they may occur, as well as what factors go into these shifts.

SESSION FIVE

Moderator: Dr. Christine Leistner

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON HOMELESS POPULATION

Samia Basravi and Rob Murphy

Representing the Department of Social Science

In what ways has the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the many issues faced by homeless and at-risk individuals? This project explores this question by researching the impacts of inadequate housing on transmission rates, increases in rates of mental health issues, the negative consequences of the closure of schools and other critical services, and some proposed solutions for these problems. Research methods include a review of literature and databases relevant to these topics in order to catalog and present their findings on both the consequences and solutions to some of the issues faced by homeless populations throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

SESSION FIVE

Moderator: Dr. Christine Leistner

COLLEGE STUDENT SUBSTANCE USE, RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, & STIS/HIV

Ayanna Boben, Shelby Cole, and Ricky Raffaini

Representing the Department of Social Science

Our group raises the question, “Does substance use increase chances of risky sexual behaviors and STI/HIV contraction?” Using data that comes from a Sexual Activity Survey completed from 2000 to 2002 by 778 students enrolled in an undergraduate, elective Introduction to University Life course at Chico State University, we first look at the number of people within the data set who have an STI and/or HIV. Those numbers are then compared to those who use drugs and/or alcohol during their last sexual encounter. Finally, we compare those numbers to the number of people who partake in risky sexual behaviors.

GENDERED SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS

Katherine Dahl

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

I will analyze if American Congresswomen support and vote for environmental legislation more than their male counterparts, and, if so, why. I hypothesize that American Congresswomen support pro-environmental legislation more than their male counterparts. Therefore, I expect to find that there is a positive relationship between the percentage of women in Congress and the amount of environmental legislation that is introduced. Moreover, I expect to find that female lawmakers, on average, introduce more environmental legislation than male lawmakers.

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE SEXUAL LIVES OF UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Natalie Lawlor

Representing the Department of Public Health and Health Administration

As a consequence of COVID-19, people's sexuality and sexual health have been impacted (Lehmiller et al., 2020). However, the impact on sexuality has primarily overlooked college students. This qualitative study investigated the impact of the pandemic on the sexual lives of 52 college students (82% female, 12% male) enrolled in a Public Health undergraduate course. Participants were asked two open ended survey questions regarding their sexual health and lives as influenced by the pandemic. The responses varied by relationship status and indicated that the pandemic has made being sexually active, meeting sexual partners, and accessing sexual health services more difficult.

SESSION FIVE

Moderator: Dr. Christine Leistner

ELECTING LGBTQ+ CANDIDATES INTO OFFICE

Jonathan Rivera Cruz

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Are voters less inclined to elect a candidate who identifies with the LGBTQ+ community, or have all voters come to terms with the idea of electing individuals who will diversify our government? I hypothesize that American voters have become more inclined to support LGBTQ+ candidates as LGBTQ+ people have become more accepted in other parts of our society such as entertainment, sports, media, etc. I test my hypothesis using data to understand whether voters are electing candidates who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. The data allow one to see whether voters have accepted the community.

RACE, INCOME AND THE PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Paul Shafer

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

What impact do race and income have on the prevalence of food insecurity among American households? I hypothesize that the poorest Black Americans will be the ones with the greatest prevalence of food insecurity. In this research project I will utilize the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's data from their annual National Health Interview Survey. The results of this survey could have application in creating responsive policy to issues relating to the symptoms of poverty, such as food insecurity.

SESSION SIX

Moderator: Professor Ryan Miller

311 SERVICE IN SACRAMENTO

Derek Goheen, Stella Villett, and Brionna Warren

Representing the Department of Social Science

This paper attempts to find patterns in Sacramento's 311 non-emergency reporting service according to a neighborhood's social and economic status. Analyzing the dataset from Sacramento County's 311 services in the search for overlays in the

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Moderator: Professor Ryan Miller

frequency and content of reporting over neighborhood census data to see if we can find any correlations between what social characteristics lead individuals to be more likely to utilize the service. The findings from this research may help identify areas of under-utilization in Sacramento County and provide possible insight into how the 311 services can be improved to appeal to all Sacramento members, despite socioeconomic background.

EDUCATION LEVEL AND POST-DISASTER RECOVERY

Adriana Bernal, Emily Ferguson, and Amanda Vieira

Representing the Department of Social Science

Using a data set from a UC Davis Environmental Health Sciences Center structured survey given to residents in the Camp Fire region, we investigate the possible link between education level and access to resources after a disaster. Education is known as the great equalizer, but could a lack of education be a great barrier when rebuilding after a disaster? With the increasing likelihood of disasters like the Camp Fire due to climate change, answering this question is vital for better preparing individuals in the future. Does education level impact one's access to post-disaster resources such as electricity, water, shelter, internet, and phone?

THE SENATE AND THE PEOPLE: DOES THE U.S. SENATE REPRESENT THE PEOPLE?

Paul Frederici

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

I ask if the United States senators truly represents the people and public opinion with their votes on the issues. I hypothesize that because constituents may not know what is in the best interest of their state or the country, and the influence of wealth, U.S. senators do not follow public opinion. I use the Cooperative Congressional survey to test my hypothesis on a few important issues on which the Senate has voted, and compare public opinion to each senator's vote to test if the votes are the same as their constituents' views on the issues.

THE ECONOMY AND ITS AFFECT ON VOTER OUTCOMES

Nathan Gooby

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Does a struggling economy or economic growth increase voter outcomes amongst Republicans, Democrats and Independents in general elections. I hypothesize that

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Moderator: Professor Ryan Miller

during times of economic deflation and low GDP growth, all voting populations will be incentivized to vote in general elections. To test this, I will compare voting outcomes in elections to times when the economy was booming to times when the economy was in stagflation or decline and determine whether the economy has any affect on voter outcomes.

RATE OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN THE GREATER SACRAMENTO REGION FROM MARCH 2020 TO DECEMBER 2020

Kathleen Lewis, Kaitlin McFarland, and Lauren Smolich

Representing the Department of Social Science

Our project focuses on the rate of COVID-19 infections in the Greater Sacramento Region from March 2020 to December 2020. Other studies have shown how the pandemic has had an unequal impact on selected populations. We examine the spread and growth of COVID-19 rates by race and socioeconomic status to assess how the pandemic affected various demographic groups in our region using data provided by the California Department of Public Health and the U.S. Census Bureau.

DOES A VOTER'S INCOME DETERMINE HOW THEY VOTE?

Ian Siegert

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Why do people lack interest in voting? Individuals do not feel properly invested in politics as most candidates do not represent their ideals, whether they are on the left or right, or in most cases in the middle. Most choose the lesser of two evils. I test this hypothesis using data on voter turnout for certain groups of individuals by age, income and location where they reside to determine if there are any correlations between these variables and why individuals choose not to vote.



SESSION SEVEN

Moderator: Dr. Stephanie Machado

THE CURIOSITY TO LISTEN: PODCASTING TO EXPLORE NUANCED POLITICAL DIALOGUE

Meagan Fischer

Representing the Department of Social Science

Building on pilot research conducted in Fall of 2019, I created a podcast with the goal of promoting deeper dialogue across political divides within the Chico community. The podcast, titled Dialogue Dilemmas, incorporates a science communication approach, presenting evidence-based information about the various biopsychosocial factors that affect how conflict plays out within our community. I created accompanying social media accounts intended to engage the Chico community online and collect data about public response to the podcast. This project is still in progress. I will report on what has been accomplished so far, current status, challenges and limitations, and next steps.

311 CALL DATA IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Sania Kuriakos, Eric Laase, and Suzanna Smit

Representing the Department of Social Science

Our project looks at 311 request calls within the Anaheim city limits to assess demographic change and relationships to data within various neighborhoods. Data found from OpenData is organized by ZIP code within Anaheim, California. We look at neighborhoods by their ZIP code and analyze how the grouping and number of 311 calls and their geographical locations change over time. This project specifically looks at how this data has changed between the years 2010 and 2019 within the city of Anaheim.

ASTHMA PREVALENCE IN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

Olivia Le Bel

Representing the Department of Social Science

Is asthma prevalence greater in inland California counties than in coastal counties? Analyzing an existing data set of asthma prevalence in California counties, as well as various peer reviewed articles, this research project explores correlations between asthma and outdoor air pollution, including traffic emissions and wildfire smoke, while considering the weather conditions of inland and coastal areas.

SESSION SEVEN

Moderator: Dr. Stephanie Machado

COVID-19 AND STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: THE CASE OF BLUE COLLAR LATINX WORKERS IN THE MEAT-PACKING INDUSTRY

Daisy Linsangan and Magaly Quinteros

Representing the Department of Anthropology

Thousands of meat packing workers across the country have been exposed to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Under the Executive Order of President Donald Trump, the meat industry has remained open, placing many of its workers at risk. The majority of workers in the cattle processing and slaughtering industries are disproportionately Latinx. Our research focuses on a meatpacking plant located in the San Joaquin Valley, California. We utilized archival research and ethnographic methods to identify the systemic forces that amplify the structural vulnerability of Latinx essential workers and the health disparities they face during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANTHROZOOLOGY INTERESTS: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY ON CALIFORNIA'S WHALE WATCHING INDUSTRY

Andrew Loyd Smith

Representing the Department of Anthropology

My research is focused on the anthrozoological relationships of the whale watching industry here in California. Since my training is in Anthropology, I have been using ethnographic research methods such as interviewing, online surveys, and participant observation to uncover the story at play. My research is concerned with what drives people to go out on whale watching tours to view these animals and to observe how the public can be directly involved with the processes of active scientific research. Whale watching is an activity that represents a combination of conservation, recreation, education, and preservation in and of the natural world.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES

Paloma Rodriguez Castro

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Earth's climate is constantly changing and the consequences of global warming are likely to be catastrophic if we do not act now. Likewise, the extent of the problem cannot be solved by our government alone, it requires collaboration across regional governments. However, the lack of concern from the American public toward this issue has made it very difficult for Congress to reach a consensus on policies aiming

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Moderator: Dr. Stephanie Machado

to address climate change. I investigate what factors explain why certain individuals are more or less concerned about climate change in the United States. I hypothesize that younger individuals between ages 18 to 24 are more concerned about climate change than those who are older. I further hypothesize that individuals who have a higher education and greater science knowledge are more concerned about climate change. Finally, I expect that political ideology is the strongest predictor of one's level of concern about climate change, whereby extreme conservatives are expected to care less about climate change than moderates and liberals.

SESSION EIGHT

Moderator: Dr. Doris Schartmueller

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND REPRESENTATION IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Michaela Benko

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

The electoral college as a system depresses voter turnout, which in turn leads to less representative elections. This is aided by a number of factors like geographic disparities that also dampen voter turnout, and this creates an even less representative active voter base. Because our voting system includes the electoral college, we can produce wildly different presidential election outcomes purely based on the above mentioned circumstances of some citizens in a very small number of states.

SEX OFFENDER SURVEILLANCE IN CALIFORNIA

Eva Kortizija

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

My research question is: Should paroled sex offenders in California be monitored and surveilled for the rest of their lives? Megan's Law, Jessica's Law, the Adam Walsh Act, the Jacob Wetterling Act are all actions that have been done so far in terms of sex offender registration. I will be including an examination of Foucauldian constructions in relation to my research question. One of the major conclusions is that society should cease current surveillance legislation as it did nothing to protect society from sexual predators as society creates sex offenders in the first place.

SESSION EIGHT

Moderator: Dr. Doris Schartmueller

PRISON LABOR

Brian Maciel

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

A massive issue in the United States that is not being addressed is the exploitation of prison labor and the effects they have on incarcerated individuals. Prison labor is a broad aspect in prisons that consists of Fire Camps, Factories inside prisons and etc. These labor opportunities provided by the criminal justice system date back to the late 1800's. Our present criminal justice and state structure of forced labor in the United States goes back to the latest historical events in our deep roots and legacy of slavery and the repercussions of the Civil War. History itself documents the pivotal policies and events after the war that affected this country's thinking and dealings with terrorism, prisons and labor. Slavery was abolished when the 13th amendment was established.

POLITICAL POLARIZATION

Nicholas Morales

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

I aim to uncover whether and how social media influences public opinion and behavior. I hypothesize that there is a party difference in people's behavior when they were shown an online post. Their reactions to the post based on political ideology significantly influences whether they would share the information. Through the past decade we can see a gap only widening on party differences, with social media contributing significantly to this growing partisan gap.

IMMIGRATION AND CRIME

Priscilla Robles

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

My research presents data to answer the question: Is there any relationship between increased immigration and crime? I hypothesize that there is no association between increased immigration and crime rates. I test this hypothesis with data from the US Census, the Uniform Crime Report, etc. So far, I have found no evidence that immigration could be a cause of crime, however some data have suggested that increased immigration may actually help decrease crime.

SESSION EIGHT

Moderator: Dr. Doris Schartmueller

**THE IMPACT OF RACE AND ETHNICITY ON PEOPLE'S VIEW OF SINGLE- PAYER
HEALTH CARE**

Evet Yohana

Representing the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice

Does race or ethnicity impact one's view of single-payer health care? My hypothesis is that non-whites are more likely to support single-payer health care because of the low-quality health care and lack of access to care non-whites currently have. I will be doing a survey to ask people about their experience with health care to collect the data to test the hypothesis.



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