

SJSU College of Social Sciences Graduate Student Colloquia

“Environmental Factors and their Impact on American Communities”

Wednesday April 27, 2016, 4pm – 6pm, ENG 287

Light refreshments will be served

Social Science scholarship explores complex topics impacting individuals, communities, and organizations on a daily basis. Presentations in this colloquia address various ways in which environmental factors impact urban American communities: the stigmatizing effects of inaccurate portrayals of mental illness, the circumstances surrounding trauma faced by urban youth, the impact of participation in an underground economy, the causes of traffic fatalities in large cities, and the influence of climate change on vulnerable populations.

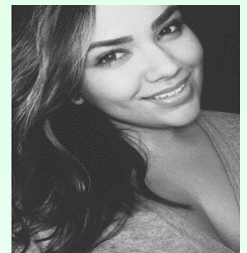


Title: Authenticity, Accuracy, Fact, or Fiction: Dimensions of Mental Illness Portrayals in Primetime Cable News

Matthew Gloria-Dalton, Communication Studies

Title: Recovering Pathways of Resiliency: Approaches to Trauma Intervention for Youth of Color

Christal West, Mexican American Studies



Title: Understanding Participation in the Underground Economy in Oakland

Ida Wilson, Anthropology

Title: Traffic Collision Fatalities for the 25 Largest California Cities

John Linford and Joseph Holman, Economics



Title: Characterizing Vulnerable Populations Living under Urban Heat Islands (UHI) in Santa Clara County

Ana Lucrecia Rivera, Geography and Global Studies

Questions? Contact ruma.chopra@sjsu.edu *This event is open to the campus community *

Matthew Gloria-Dalton, Authenticity, Accuracy, Fact, or Fiction: Dimensions of Mental Illness Portrayals in Primetime Cable News

Mass media content is the prime source of mental illness (MI) knowledge and perception formation among Americans (Diefenbach, 1997). Research in this area has examined portrayals of MI in newspapers and periodicals, television and radio broadcasts, and feature films, while considerably less attention has been given to cable news. Under the aegis of Cultivation, Agenda-setting, and Framing theories, the current research uses content analysis to examine portrayals and attributes of MI in 180 news programs across three prime time cable news (PTCN) shows airing on CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC (respectively “Anderson Cooper 360,” “The O’Reilly Factor,” and “All in with Chris Hayes”).

Christal West, Recovering Pathways of Resiliency: Approaches to Trauma Intervention for Youth of Color

A combination of factors related to racialized violence, socio-economic disparities and educational inequities cause urban youth of color to experience trauma at exceedingly high rates. Furthermore, urban youth experience chronic re-exposure to violence by witnessing, experiencing, or anticipating violation in social, educational, and political institutions. Through ethnographic fieldwork in an after-school program, this study considers the praxis of critical Ethnic Studies including community cultural wealth, creative expression, and mentorship as a framework for facilitating transformative spaces of healing. Preliminary findings reveal that critical Ethnic Studies can inform intervention practices for urban youth of color navigating institutional racism and violence.

Ida Wilson, Understanding Participation in the Underground Economy in Oakland

The underground economy refers to the untaxed and often unseen ways in which individuals earn an income. Due to the inconspicuous nature of jobs in the underground economy, little is known about the experience of those who work these jobs. This study investigates how individuals subsist by participating in the informal economy. Specifically it explores the lives of participants involved in three different sectors of informal economy in Oakland. Participants in the study include two sex workers, seven day laborers, and two individuals who sell narcotics. The purpose of this study is twofold: to humanize individuals who are involved in these forms of work who are otherwise viewed as criminals, and to understand the participants’ motivations for entering the underground economy.

John Linford and Joseph Holman, Traffic Collision Fatalities for the 25 Largest California Cities

This research studies automobile collisions in California from 2010 to 2014 to quantify the determinants of alcohol-related fatalities. It separately considers collisions between two automobiles, between an automobile and a bicyclist, and between an automobile and a pedestrian. It quantifies potential risk factors such as weather, road conditions, time of day, and gender of the victim. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), it also quantifies factors related to the location of the collision, such as its distance from a city center and the population density of the region.

Ana Lucrecia Rivera, Characterizing Vulnerable Populations Living under Urban Heat Islands (UHI) in Santa Clara County

As urban centers develop, heat emanated by anthropogenic activities and impervious surfaces causes a climatic condition known as urban heat island (UHI). UHIs have adverse effects on the residential population. Besides making cities less comfortable for living, deaths during heat waves occur more frequently among residents living in areas with few green spaces. By combining Remote Sensing Imagery and Geographic Information Systems, this study identifies the formation of urban heat islands and the characteristics of populations living under heat stress in Santa Clara County.