

Presentation Abstracts
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Abstracts are listed alphabetically by last name of author. Where there are multiple authors, only the email address of the student who sent in the paper is listed.

Lesly Aispuro (pyret01@gmail.com)

Cal State Los Angeles

Incantation and Magic: The Forgotten Medicine of Mexico

Medicine in Mexico has never seemed to be a political cause. During the Mexican revolutionary period, 1910-1920, the population tended to place land reform and education above the health of the common people. Today, the medical system in Mexico is heavily dependent on ancient cures and healers. Recent awareness of the importance of some of the old medicines has led to university level interest as well as health organizations to study and document some of the ancient herbal remedies that are still practiced by the indigenous people of Mexico today. Urban folk medicine may offer the most convenient, affordable medical care. Curanderos and folk remedies are generally cheaper than physicians and prescription drugs. Patients also often refuse modern medical care because of procedures and styles that are too invasive. Sometimes patients are unable to communicate with physicians, this is not to say that physicians communicate less efficiently with patients, or that urban folk healers are necessarily more personal than physicians. People seek out folk healers given their place of residence in neighborhoods with substandard or insufficient modern health facilities, low incomes, and lack of days off, people tend to find curanderos fee-service more acceptable and their locations and consulting hours more convenient than those of clinics and private doctors. My research will take the theoretical construct of popular nosologies of Mexican folk illness and ethnographically describe, across time, the interrelated links among social events, physical symptoms, and narratives of Mexican folk illness and popular nosologies, as it is unique to the topography of Tepoztlán, Mexico. I will examine the role of traditional medicine and shamanism in Tepoztlán and explore how indigenous and mestizo groups diagnose and treat folk illness and western-defined diseases. Also understanding how traditional medicine is marginalized and what is being done to validate this.

Suraj Alva (surajalva@gmail.com), California State University, Long Beach

Asian Indians in Los Angeles, 1965-2009

With a number slightly over 2.5 million, Indians in the United States have scored a considerable number of political and economic successes. Their achievements in

California itself are astonishing. Their political success is inclusive of former congressman Dalip Singh Saund from Riverside, former mayor of El Centro, David Dhillon to Harry Sindhu, an Anaheim City Councilman since 2004. Economically, they are the highest income group in the United States with a median family income of \$70,708. This economic and political success held true especially in California. The economic achievements of Indians in California left a lasting mark on former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who stated that he would like to see in India a broad middle class as it is in the U.S. However, his plan to bring about this end was through his entrenched belief in socialism whereas the economic as well as the political climate in the United States were the exact opposite of which was implemented and continued in India till 1991. This paper will, through the examples of the Indian community in Southern California as well as the Indian business community in Artesia, L.A. County, argue that the reason for the success of East Indians in the United States is inherently the political and economic environment of this country, which is that of an upper level democracy with an immigrant base and a free market economy.

Matthew E. Barrett (Matthew.Barrett.73@my.csun.edu), California State University, Northridge

You Are What You Drink: Object Priming, Motivation, and Self-rated Personality

The presence of everyday objects can influence cognition and behavior. The current study examines the impact of exposure to different kinds of drinks on motivation and self-rated personality. Participants ($n=38$) evaluated the aesthetic qualities of a bottle of either Gatorade or beer, beverages associated with industry and sloth respectively. Participants then completed a brief personality measure. Last, they attempted to complete a spatial problem that was (unbeknownst to them) impossible. Preliminary data indicate that participants who viewed beer spent less time on the task before giving up ($t = 1.865$, $df = 36$, $p = .07$, Cohen's $d = .60$) than did participants who viewed Gatorade. Participants who viewed beer also rated themselves as more agreeable ($t = -2.349$, $df = 36$, $p = .024$, Cohen's $d = .76$), and less neurotic ($t = -1.811$, $df = 36$, $p = .078$, Cohen's $d = .58$). Although these data are based on a partial initial sample, the effect sizes suggest that the beverages viewed have a small to moderate effect on participants' motivation and perceptions of their own personality.

Noah Barringer (barringer.noah@gmail.com) and Carla Hyche, CSU San Marcos.

Psychophysiological Effects of Different Breathing Styles

On the arrival of "designer" jeans which constricted the abdomen, Shaffer, Mayhew, Bergman, Dougherty, and Irwin documented the effects of jean tightness on normal, continuous breathing (respiration). The healthful effects of deep, diaphragmatic breathing occur because CO₂ is being removed. This removal or ventilation is a function of respiratory rate (RR) multiplied by tidal volume (V_t). With the abdomen constricted, it would be expected to reveal reduced tidal volume with effects consistent with hyperventilation (increased sympathetic activity). However, in

Shaffer et al's project, jean tightness did not affect tidal volume. Instead, with increased jean tightness, there were minute volume increases of 11% and oxygen uptake per kg of body weight increased 6%. These results suggested that the participants were overcompensating for the abdominal constriction. This project examined the effects of current styles of jeans, including the newer hip-hugger style jeans, to examine whether the style of jeans affects breathing efficiency.

Andria Black (black.andria99@gmail.com), California State University, Long Beach
Composing a Nation: A Multidisciplinary Approach to French Nationalism

For many scholars, France exists as a paradigmatic case of how a nation is forged. A basic tenet is that nationalism was born with the French Revolution and has been primarily determined by historical and institutional (mostly linguistic, religious, and state-building bureaucratic) forces. Some scholars (eg. Keitner, Weber, Rosen, and Hagan) have noted that French appreciation of the arts has heavily influenced their conception of the national identity, and that the construction of the French nation heavily influenced what was seen as art worthy of appreciation. Yet even scholarship that mentions culture as an important factor does not intensively investigate precisely how culture influences and is influenced by nationalism. More importantly, existing scholarship does not look at culture through the art – especially music – which unites the masses through the construction of the identity of the nation. I investigate how a multidisciplinary approach to nationalism can fill these gaps. To do this I examine how the composers and premier educational institutions influenced, and were influenced by, the nation-building process and the formation and maintenance of a French national identity. The paper demonstrates that the construction of culture plays a more significant role in the development of a nationalist identity than has been previously understood. At the same time, culture is influenced by state building, and also influences how the state constructs important institutions and symbols of nationalism, such as education, celebrations, and holidays or less

Norma Castillo (ncastillo25@toromail.csudh.edu) and Andrea Edwards, California State University, Dominguez Hills

"The Avatar Blues": Media Induced Emotional and Cognitive Effects on the Consumer

Entertainment, regardless of the form or the medium through which it is presented will induce physiological, emotional, and cognitive responses from the viewer. We have proposed a study in which the purpose is to examine how people responded emotionally and cognitively after seeing the movie Avatar for the first time. We question could there be a correlation between the “Avatar” depression phenomenon reported by CNN and the film’s technological presentation format (2D, 3D and/or 3D IMAX)? We also aim to explore how technology affects immersion, involvement, and presence and how it plays a role in producing cognitive effects on the viewer. Participants were acquired by using the cluster sampling technique from California State University Dominguez Hills.

However, some participants were acquired from various “ Avatar” online forum and blog sites. Participants filled out an anonymous questionnaire packet either paper and pencil or online survey following consent of participation. Participants filled out a 15- to- 20- minute anonymous self-report questionnaire on their subjective entertainment experience. All reported information is strictly confidential. The study will benefit individuals and institutions willing to inform media viewers of any potentially negative media induced emotional and cognitive states that may result following viewing.

Jaden Choi (jiwoochoi@csupomona.edu), Christopher Roble, Jason Jorgensen, and Andrew Davis, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Grizzly Bear Reintroduction into California

The goal of this project was to explore the possible sites for a reintroduction of a grizzly bear population into the state of California. The grizzly bear used to be prominent in the state, so much so that it is represented on the state flag, but it was hunted to extinction in the state in the 1920’s. Our project aims to evaluate various sites across California that could sustain a grizzly bear population. This project relies heavily on data acquisition on various requirements and predilections of grizzly bear ecology. Basic data of bears such as food preferences and landscape preferences were explored as well as information on the requirements for reintroduction. From the research and data acquisition, it was determined that a grizzly bear population could be sustained virtually anywhere in California except for arid, desert regions. The ability to live almost anywhere in the state was then followed up by areas where a grizzly bear population would be plausible. California is an incredibly well developed state with many factors that could inhibit a successful reintroduction. To better understand where a grizzly bear population could thrive, we consulted vegetation maps, California road maps, and other map layers such as those outlining federal lands and land that is privately owned. This helped to locate areas where a grizzly bear sites would be plausible and legal. By combining these maps and using different Geo-processing tools such as buffering roads and ranking vegetation sites, we were able to thin down possible locations for reintroduction and evaluate the sites that met the standard criteria to support a grizzly bear population.

Daisy Cisneros (daisycisneros@hotmail.com), California State University, Long Beach
Academic Success of English Language Learners and The Factors That Contributes to Their Learning Such as Parental Involvement

My research is about the academic success of English Language Learners and the Factors that contribute to their academic success or failure such as parents’ academic background, socioeconomic background, parents understanding of the English language, immigration status of both parents and children, and parental involvement in school activities and academics. My research is centered around a program

improvement middle school in Long Beach were the population is 70 % Latino and are 99% low income Spanish speaking families. I have been doing observations between four students that have parents who are involved with school activities and two students who show no interest in school activities and whose parents are not involved in their academics or school activities such as meeting, parent workshops or field trips.

Crescenciana Cruz(ccruz7@calastatela.edu), Cal State Los Angeles
Construction of Racism and Sexism Among Students in Los Angeles

Barry Troyna in *Racism and Education*, ChorSwang Ng in *Racism and Racialized Discourse on Asian Youth in Orange County*, Beverly Daniel Tatum in *Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*, and Jackson Katz in the film *Tough Guise* have documented the problems of racism and sexism in school settings. Troyna focused his work in the United Kingdom, Ng focused her work in Orange County and Katz spoke about the problem as a pervasive one in American society. How do we understand racism and sexism? What is the nature of racism and sexism? All these authors suggest a constructionist point of view to pinpoint the source of racism and sexism.

In this paper, I will document the incidents happening within one school district in Los Angeles during a three month period of 2010. The data is gathered by documenting the incidents by observations that took place at two schools, Weemes Elementary School and Foshay Learning Center as well as in sports events, daily activities in the life a single Hispanic family.

Preliminary data shows the prevalence of racism and sexism in the everyday activities of the children and adults who reside in the school district mentioned above. My data will also try to demonstrate how the sexism and racism experienced by the children are also socially constructed and the fact that most of the time the adults are not always able to respond adequately

Vera Danho (vera.danho@gmail.com), California State University, Los Angeles
The Colburn School: Setting a Precedent for Medical Marijuana

The Compassionate Use Act was a voter initiative, passed in 1996 that made California the first state to legalize marijuana for medical use.

In December 2009, prior to The Colburn School's Winter break, Stuart Huggins, began his routine check through the hallways of the on campus residential housing. During the Winter break, residential housing was locked up and students went home for a much needed vacation. Upon entering the room of Joe Michaels, Huggins did not notice anything unusual or out of place until he checked the desk drawer. In the drawer, Huggins found a bag of Marijuana. This was shocking for Mr. Huggins since upon admission into the program, students signed a form agreeing to the school's no

tolerance Drug and Alcohol Policy. The school later learned that Joe suffered from Tendonitis and had a very hard time sleeping at nights due to chronic pain. For his Tendonitis and Sleep Deprivation, Joe was prescribed Medical Marijuana. Having tried other solutions, Joe felt that Medical Marijuana was his only option. Joe was a bass player and needed the use of his fingers in learning and playing his instrument.

This case study focused on the legal issues for The Colburn School to consider in having a student in a clear violation of their policy. The two federal laws discussed were: The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

Heather Fickas (fickash@csusb.edu), California State University, San Bernardino
Outcome Evaluation of HIV/AIDS Outreach Project at Malmesbury Prison in South Africa

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has struck the prison system with exceptional voracity. While some prisons have attempted to address the problem with educational programming and case management, Malmesbury prison in South Africa has incorporated a restorative justice component to add to the offender's sense of efficacy and leadership skills once released back into the community. This project sought to examine the effectiveness of this particular approach to HIV/AIDS outreach in prisons using an outcome evaluation approach. Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered to assess the participant's and community member's perceptions of the effectiveness of this outreach approach. Findings of the study reveal an increase in offender knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS as well as an increase in their sense of self efficacy to become productive citizens once released from prison.

Esbeyde Garcia (beyde06@yahoo.com), California State University, Dominguez Hills
Emotional Involvement Across Communication Technologies

Research suggests that communication via computer-based technologies may alter an individual's reaction to a message. The purpose of this study was to investigate people's experiences communicating identical messages in a variety of technological and nontechnological modalities. An anonymous online questionnaire asked participants to recall their emotional experiences the last time they received each of four different messages including two positive-being told "I love you" and being told of a promotion-and two negative messages-being told of a death in the family and being insulted. Four different communication channels were represented using four otherwise identical versions of the questionnaire, two asking about participants' experiences with technology-based equipment (e-mail and- video chat) and two asking about their experiences with non-technology based communication channels (handwritten letters,- and face to face conversations). Participants were asked to rate each message on emotional valence, emotional intensity, and the specific emotions that were experienced. Result for emotional responses to each message showed that there was an

interaction between the specific message, the technology with which it was delivered, and the background characteristics of the participant. These results are discussed in terms of the degree to which computer-based communication technologies simulate the psychological experiences involved in non-technology based communication.

Christopher Gonzales (simplemantonight@yahoo.com), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Competitive or Uncompetitive: The California Congressional, Assembly, and Senate's 2000 Redistricting Round (2000 – 2008)

Using election and registration data from the California Secretary of State's office (2000 - 2008), this research tries to address the question of whether California's congressional, assembly, and senate's 2000 redistricting plans produced competitive districts.

Alfredo Gutierrez (argutierrez1@csupomona.edu) and Alexi Martin
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

How to Map Wi-Fi Strength Using GIS Software

In this presentation we will demonstrate how GIS students can effectively map out the wifi strength of any network in any location. We are going to go over the hardware and software used to collect and map out the data. It will be followed by an explanation of the process and work done on the California State Polytechnic University Pomona campus. This includes the collection for the two main networks (Guess & CPP) and how the strengths varied based on terrain. We will use examples of our field research to give an idea on how the landscape diffuses the network.

Mariela Gutierrez (mgutier4@yahoo.com) and Michael Viramontes, California State University, Long Beach

Latin@ Student Participation in the Classroom

Literature suggests that Latin@ students in an authentic caring, problem-posing pedagogy, with a socially relevant curriculum, are more likely to participate in the classroom. By observing a Chicano Latino Studies undergraduate college course that seeks to create these conditions, with students whom all identify as Latin@, and a Chicano professor, we have sought to understand Latin@ students' patterns of participation. Given these ideal conditions, to what extent do Latin@ students participate in class? Does this participation differ between the male and female students? Our preliminary observations suggest disproportionate levels of participation and the persistence of structured silence along gendered lines.

Gareth Howell (ghowell@calstatela.edu), California State University, Los Angeles
Changes in Downtown Los Angeles and the Fifth Migration

In 2005, Robert Fishman wrote a widely received article which proclaimed the coming of a migration of people back to downtowns and inner cities, ushering in a new era in urban planning. He dubbed this the 'fifth migration' following on from the late Lewis Mumford, who had successfully predicted suburbanization and called it the fourth migration. For Fishman, the process depends upon four re-urbanizing trends he identifies as downtown reurbanism, immigrant reurbanism, black reurbanism and white middle-class reurbanism. Briefly, these 'counter-trends' rely upon the loyalty of a downtown elite, the in-migration and sustained economic entrepreneurship of newly arriving immigrants in inner city and downtown neighborhoods, the revitalization of black neighborhoods, and the 'rediscovery' of the advantages of the city by the white middle-class, respectively. This research critically analyzes these concepts within the context of demographic changes in downtown Los Angeles. The researcher finds the fifth migration thesis to be an inappropriate explanation for the changes that are occurring within this geographical context. The changes in population by race, age and immigrant status suggest that the fifth migration is far too simplistic. The findings point to an underappreciated Hispanic reurbanism, a multidimensional immigrant reurbanism and very little evidence for either white middle class reurbanism or black reurbanism in downtown Los Angeles. At the same time, changes in household composition and the number of housing units reflect a housing policy that is insufficient for housing needs within Los Angeles and ultimately reduces the likelihood of a fifth migration any time soon.

Aron Jacobson (aronjacobson@gmail.com), California State University, Northridge
Apathy Related to Neurocognitive Performance in HIV-infected Individuals

Apathy and executive dysfunction are commonly observed among individuals infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Previous studies have been unable to find a consistent relationship between apathy and executive functioning among HIV+ individuals. The aim of the current study was to clarify the relationship between apathy and executive functioning. A sample of 458 HIV+ individuals completed a neurocognitive battery, Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), and Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) as part of a standard clinical evaluation. BDI and MMPI items suggesting apathy were associated with executive functioning, where higher scores of apathy result in poorer executive performance. These findings suggest that apathy indicates involvement of the central nervous system (CNS) among HIV+ individuals, specifically, the disruption of fronto-striatal circuits.

Christopher Jensen (jensen_christopher@yahoo.com), California State University, Long Beach
A New Era: Contemporary Latin America In Context

Despite the misreporting and stigma concerning the new leftist governments in Latin America, since the nineteen nineties the continent has entered into a new era. This era has led to a change in the political, economic, and social structure that had previously endured decades prior. It cannot be classified as a return to the nineteen sixties Marxist revolutionary era, such a perception would be naive and ill-informed. Nor can it be classified as continuation of the authoritarian era of the nineteen seventies. Truly it is an ambiguous era; not easily defined using cold-war style framework. And it is certainly an era that is constantly evolving.

Hoching Jiang (hjiang5@calstatela.edu), California State University, Los Angeles
Out of Norm: An Ethnography at the GAMEBoi Event

This paper is an ethnography to examine how social boundaries and categories are maintained and challenged among gay men by examining the regular nightclub event “GAMEBoi” to explore the norming process within gay communities. Usually, this idea of normal and abnormal is used to draw a boundary between the gay community and the mainstream community, but I am exploring norming processes within the gay community itself. Following Mary Douglas’s argument about the ordering and classification system, my work indicates the marginalization of the gay men at the GAMEBoi event from the greater gay community because they are out of the norm of gay men in West Hollywood. I also argue that participants of gay Asian night have deeply questioned the social boundaries, including race, sex, and gender, and challenged the middle class, Anglo-dominated gay community. Finally, my research shows the Asian night event to be an alternative space for gay men who feel marginalized from the dominant gay scene.

Kai Kaululaau (kaikaululaau@yahoo.com), California State University, Los Angeles
Mihi – to be Sorry, to Repent, to Confess

While current U.S based policies are written concerning the indigenous state of Native Hawaiians - such policies, though pragmatic in nature, become gravely overshadowed and undermined by mainstream economic interests. This writing is a portrayal of Kanaka Maoli’s struggle in safeguarding 1.2 million acres of ceded lands held in trust by the U.S Government and the State of Hawaii; as such ceded lands are under threat to be sold to private investors by our current state governor. The goal of this essay is to stringently yet constructively assess the attempts made to answer for past wrongs incurred on the Native Hawaiian people and how such attempts are being applied to the present situation. This writing will be 1) A recovered preliminary of The Apology Bill of 1993 and the case: State of Hawaii v. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (No. 07-1372); 2) An examination of Ronald Dworkin’s “Law’s Empire, Chapter Two: Interpretive Concepts” asserting that

fidelity to the intention for which certain laws are written should crucially be maintained and upheld.

Daniel Krystosek (djk49@saclink.csus.edu), California State University, Sacramento
The Church Influences the State: Religion and Marijuana Laws

Guided by the social control theory this article uses the 2008 General Social Survey to investigate the relationship between a person's religiosity and their opinion on the issue of marijuana legalization. The first prediction was that as the more religious an individual is the more likely they will oppose the legalization of marijuana. The second hypothesis that as an individual's religiosity goes up the more they will oppose the legalization of marijuana, controlling for age, gender, race, SES, and religious preference. Strengthening previous research the results of my analysis support the first hypothesis that the more religious an individual is the more likely they are to oppose the legalization of marijuana. My second hypothesis, that the relationship between religiosity and support for marijuana legalization will stay the same, even while controlling for age, gender, race, and religious preference was also supported by my findings.

Ammar Lamichhane (lamichhane.a@gmail.com), Cal State Los Angeles
Cultural Changes in Ritual Practices in Blood among Nepalese Immigrants

This paper discusses the changing pattern of ritual practices of menstruation and child birth blood among Nepalese immigrants in the U.S. In Nepalese mainstream society, menstruation blood and child birth blood are considered as taboos. Women in so-called high caste (mainstream society) society are considered unclean during the period and they are not allowed into the kitchen and they must sleep apart, sometimes in a separate pavilion and sometimes on the ground. The clothes they wear during the period are considered impure for offering prayers in the temples. In certain parts of rural Nepal, a menstruating woman is housed in a separate shed like cattles, as menstruation blood is considered a curse in the society. A menstruating girl may often keep away from her classes.

However, taboos surrounding menstruation in Nepalese women is changing in the United States. Due to the changing social practices those who practiced menstruation rituals back home no longer do so here. Assimilation and adaptation process have changed their traditional beliefs and they have changed with time and space.

Jennifer Leung (jennifyl@gmail.com), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Pesticide Productivity

This study investigates pesticide productivity in agriculture. It compares the magnitude of the estimated agricultural output of two functional forms in the Cobb-Douglas

production function: the simple pesticide input and the abatement function . The results support previous empirical findings, which suggest that the two functional forms yield similar estimates in agricultural output and pesticides are an important input in farm production. This study also discusses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and its benefits, which the farm producers may gain in practice.

Keywords: Cobb-Douglas, functional forms, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), pesticide productivity

Sofia Lopez (flawedifnotfree@gmail.com), California State University, Los Angeles
The Evolution of the American Family: December 2008

The American family and structure is no longer as rigid as commonly thought. The family composite of man, wife and their children is slowly disintegrating. This image evolved very little after the founding of this nation over two centuries ago but through the last 40 years, we've seen a deviation from earlier kinship structures. Said nuclear structure is slowly being overcome by marginalized groups and patriarchy is weakened. Does the modern family still fit this mold? These changes are examined and the different scopes of American families and their societal depictions of these emerging families via trends, current events and media portrayals are analyzed. Through this, I explore where the American family is headed and the various family structures that American families embody today.

Joey Mangini (Joseph.Mangini.266@My.Csun.Edu), California State University, Northridge
Individual Differences in the Ability to Notice Error and Change

Human Factors psychologists often evaluate products and make recommendations for their improvement, but doing so requires that they correctly notice product deficiencies. In this experiment, we attempted to better understand individual differences in people's ability to notice important information, and their ability to find product errors. Undergraduate students from California State University, Northridge (n=89) viewed computer-generated images where subtle objects appeared or disappeared, and the experimenters timed when participants spotted the change. Next, participants interacted with a computerized playing-card game created by the experimenters that contained intentional flaws, and the number of errors detected was recorded. The hypothesis in question was whether participants who had originally noticed changes in the computer images would also find more problems in the computer game, but the results indicated a floor effect and no significant correlations were detected between noticing changes and noticing errors. Implications for experimental and applied psychology will be discussed.

Isabel Martinez (imartinezemail@gmail.com), California State University, Los Angeles
Approaches to Mexican Adolescent Sexuality: An Analysis of Recent Studies

The scope of Mexican adolescent sexuality has changed dramatically over the past decade as new policy reforms has allowed for the inclusion of sexual health education to be included in the classroom curriculum. This change brought about many studies analyzing the beliefs and behaviors of Mexican adolescents, as well as those of their communities, to represent Mexican beliefs as a whole. While the focus being placed on Mexican adolescent sexuality is vital to developing approaches and understanding towards this area, there are serious repercussions to the manner in which these adolescents are being portrayed. Furthermore, the specific assessments being utilized in recent studies have caused negative attitudes and false portrayals of these societies. These notions have consequently been adopted as legitimate characteristics of Mexican society and adolescents. These studies have failed to understand Mexican adolescent sexuality and have placed emphasis in areas not particularly representative of sexuality or behaviors. As such, this paper seeks to identify these discrepancies and areas that could benefit from improvement in studies of Mexican adolescent sexuality. Four major themes will be identified in perspectives, as they relate to understanding sexuality as a whole. With weaknesses identified in each study, this data may be utilized to develop new studies which might successfully approach Mexican adolescent sexuality while encompassing all its characteristics.

Karin Miller (knoelmiller@gmail.com), California State University, Sacramento
Quality is Quantity: Marital Quality and Higher Self-rated Health

For years, politicians have developed programs to promote marriage for health benefits. The goal of this paper is to better understand the relationships between different marital statuses, marital qualities, and self-rated health. I hypothesized that people who are happily married will have better health ratings than those who are less happily married, formerly married, or have never been married. This study employs the 2008 General Social Survey. The results of my analysis suggest that marital quality matters more than marital status in predicting self-rated health. Happily married individuals and never married individuals exhibit very similar health ratings that are significantly higher, in most cases, than the health ratings of those who are less happily married or formerly married. These findings are important because they force public officials to rethink the development of public policies that promote marriage for health benefits.

Bin "Owen" Mo (owenbinmo@gmail.com), California State University, Los Angeles
GIS Network Analysis for Finding the Potential Metro Rail Ridership by Access Modes in Los Angeles County

An access mode is the way in which riders travel to and from departing buses or trains. Mode choice analysis has considerable significance for Metro station access and for establishing urban transportation policies. Walking, bus riding and driving are expected to have an important role in transportation planning for areas that depend heavily on these mode choices for station access. Access to a Metro Rail system presents the

opportunity for system used by population. By using the Geographic Information System (GIS), this paper presents spatial analysis as to how the location of Metro Rail stations serves the population and impacts potential ridership based on the time taken to reach a specific station by access mode choices.

Michael Neu (mikejne@gmail.com), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Correlates of Democracy

This analysis is focused on what constitutes a democratic nation and tests "democracy" as a dependent variable against selected independent variables in order to determine whether or not the relationships are significant or not. Statistical/empirical data is used and examined in determining the relationship between "democracy" and three independent variables, education, economic wealth, and middle class.

Mark Ocegueda (oceguedm@csusb.edu), California State University, San Bernardino
Lopez v. Seccombe: The City of San Bernardino's Mexican American Defense Committee and Its Role in Regional and National Desegregation

This research examines one of the earliest successful desegregation cases known as *Lopez v. Seccombe*. The legal challenge was decided in 1944 in the City of San Bernardino, California and successfully desegregated city parks and recreational facilities. The decision of this case set precedent for other local desegregation challenges, including the well known Mendez v. Westminster decision in 1947, and eventually had influence in the landmark Supreme Court decision of Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. This study will focus on the Mexican American barrio in San Bernardino's westside, the City's Mexican American Defense Committee, and the City's socioeconomic and political segregation policies against Mexican Americans that led to the eventual legal challenge.

This research contributes to historians' understanding of segregation and the eventual legal victories in desegregation by examining the social aspects that surrounded *Lopez v. Seccombe*. More attention should be paid not only to the cases that led to a landmark case like Brown v. Board but also to the context in which these cases developed. Major Supreme Court decisions rarely come to pass suddenly; they usually arise through a long journey of precedents and legal challenges that force an evolution in legal philosophy. Mexican American communities played a unique role in their local and regional areas and contributed toward the national process of desegregation through legislative and judicial means.

Cristina Saca (cristinasaca@yahoo.com), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Is Political Science a Science?

In today's day and age, there is an ongoing debate whether or not political science should be classified as a science. This lingering problem is emerging due to the fact that political science is progressing and advancing, which therefore calls for the use of different methodical procedures, which are employed in the "hard" sciences, needed in order to reach conclusions in the field of political science. Many people will not accept that political science is indeed a science because they do not see any correlation between the "hard" sciences (i.e., the phenomena that is not created by humans) and the methods used to study the "soft" sciences, such as the rational choice theory. The rational choice theory explains the role of enlightened self-interest in individual decision-making. Hence, there are many political scientists who do believe political science is a science solely because they believe that the way political scientists come to conclusions about political phenomenon employs the scientific method.

Cecilia Salvi (cecisemail@yahoo.com), Cal State Los Angeles
Transnational Identities in Cuban/American Novels

My research analyzes national and ethnic identities revealed through writing in two contemporary Cuban/American novels, specifically in the context of transculturation, as elaborated by Fernando Ortiz, and intertextuality. In both Daína Chaviano's *El hombre, la hembra, y el hambre* and Cristina García's *El cazador de monos*, the authors use the art of writing as a means to explore the disjuncture between the official, state-sanctioned truth and popular truth, which in turn leads to an investigation of the complex, multi-layered nature of ethnicity and nationalism. I argue that both Chaviano and García, through their nuanced explorations of ethnic and transnational identities, rework received categories of identity. Their elaboration of transnationalism serves as a counterpoint to a united nationalist identity fostered since the Cuban Revolution, and subverts the fixed notion of identity. For these reasons, in both *El hombre* and *El cazador*, those characters that have a strong connection to subversive writing are more easily able to negotiate between multiple worlds, and come to a greater understanding of hidden truths. By using intertexts, particularly subversive and popular writings, the authors question the validity of and argue against a fixed notion of self and for multiple subjectivities.

Sierra Seevers (sdseevers@csupomona.edu), California State Polytechnic
University Pomona
H.R. 2- Children's Health Insurance

Health is one of the most important liberties, which is ironic as many Americans are uninsured and do not have access to routine medical care. The largest group of uninsured Americans are children; this is the group for which healthcare is most important. Since its inception in 1997, the State Children's Health Insurance Program has positively affected many low income children in the United States. H.R. 2, the

Children's Health Insurance Re-Authorization Act of 2009, was legislation that was approved in the 111th Congress on January 4, 2009. H.R. 2 sought to expand the reaches of the SCHIP program to over four million children and pregnant women. Though historically the SCHIP program had been largely bipartisan, H.R. 2 was highly controversial with many conservatives due to the expansion of services to legal immigrants who had not been citizens for the five year waiting period and the federal tax increase on tobacco products to fund the program. This paper is an analysis of the historical and political aspects in addition to legislative processes that contributed to the final passage of this bill. It covers arguments in favor and opposed to the legislation, key supporters such as legislators and outside actors, important votes and the effects of the legislation. Healthcare is crucial to every American, especially children and pregnant women. H.R. 2 and the recently passed health care legislation will continue to be important topics within the political arena.

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Physician Documentation and Reimbursement for Clinic XYZ

Clinic XYZ was established in 2002 as a non-profit community based outpatient clinic. It served the uninsured and vulnerable population who were of a low-income economic status. Patients who were eligible to receive care at no cost under a Public Private Partnership funding grant included those with an income level below the federal poverty line.

Clinic XYZ received reimbursement for primary services via a biller completing claim forms, which included the ICD-9-CM coding system, which identified the primary diagnosis for the visit. The biller at Clinic XYZ completed the claim form and submitted it to American Insurance Administrator (AIA). This person expressed that on the progress note, which was completed by the physician and included the ICD-9-CM code, the physician's writing was not legible. As a result, the biller was picking and choosing the code for final submission.

During the annual audit, Clinic XYZ received denial of visits and was faced with the issue of reimbursement monies being returned to Department of Health Services (Los Angeles County). This financially impacted Clinic XYZ, since not only would the visit be denied and monies must be returned to Department of Health Services, but the clinic would also incur associated fees. Clinic XYZ is a small clinic providing services to a vulnerable population and does not have the financial resources to continue to return monies to Department of Health Services as well as pay additional fees. They rely on Public Private Partnership funding and must abide by the strict claim process in order to retain Public Private Partnership funding. What changes can be made to Clinic XYZ's billing and coding process in order to reduce and eventually eliminate the errors that lead to the denial of claims?

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The Effects of Incubation Periods on Fixation and Creativity

Artists, designers, and engineers are often interested in the factors that influence their creativity. Past research has demonstrated that design fixation, prior information that blocks creative output, is one such influence. In this study, undergraduate participants (n = 66) from California State University, Northridge completed a creativity task designed to introduce design fixation, but one group also received interruptions during the brainstorming session, and we hypothesized that participants who were interrupted would fixate more, thereby reducing that condition's creative output. Results indicated that, contrary to expectation, the group who received interruptions fixated less than the control group. The data suggests that brief interruptions during design tasks may actually be helpful because they lead to less fixation and increased creative output.

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Policy Analysis Report: Obesity in South Los Angeles

The rise in obesity during the last 20 years is a multifaceted policy and public health issue, because obesity is more than just an issue of a few extra pounds. If obesity were that straightforward, policy-makers could simply enact educational reforms that would provide citizens with proper guidelines to what constitutes a healthy diet and proper guidelines for physical activity. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) makes available guidelines for healthy food choices and exercise to the public but capacity building tools have not been enough. The primary reason that capacity building has not been enough is that obesity is not just a matter of individual choice but rather a combination of personal choices and behavior that are influenced by external conditions such as built environment, corporate advertising, physical activity, school funding, and socio-economic status. In other words, obesity is a symptom of many wide-ranging domestic policies. That is why obesity cannot be just defined as just an issue personal responsibility but also an integrated public policy matter. There are direct morbidity and mortality costs associated with overweight and obese individuals that include preventive, diagnostic and treatment services. Morbidity is the value of lost income due to lost workers productivity such as bed days and restricted activity. Mortality cost is the value of future income lost to premature death defined as those individuals who die before the age of 75 (Chenoweth, 2005). This policy analysis will examine the rise in obesity from a national, state and municipal perspective. Specifically, this analysis will center on the prevalence of obesity in the South Los Angeles community and provide policy recommendations that local Community Based Organizations (CBO), elected officials and other stakeholders can work to implement

David Chenoweth examines the economic impact of obesity in, "The Economic Costs of Physical Inactivity, Obesity, and Overweight in California Adults: Health Care, Worker's Compensation, and Los Productivity." Chenoweth (2005) focuses exclusively on the State of California, it can serve as a useful barometer for national trends because it was noted earlier that obesity has risen by over 15% or higher since 1991 in all but the state

of Colorado and some states have seen a rise of 20% or higher (see Appendix A). In fact, California has experienced one of the fastest growing rates of obesity in the last decade. As a result of the economic and health impact, President Barack Obama has made obesity prevention and control a public health priority. The Obama Administration is proposing a new *Healthy Food Financing Initiative* to increase the availability of affordable, healthy food in underserved communities. This program will be modeled after the *Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative*. Additionally, First Lady Michelle Obama is also leading a national public awareness campaign to encourage the public, non-profit, private and elected officials as well as parents and youth at the local level to increase physical activity and increase awareness of healthy food choices with the *Let's Move* campaign. Obesity is defined as an abnormal amount of excess body fat. The Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), The National Institutes of Health, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the North American Association for the Study of Obesity as well as most state, county, and municipal public health agencies utilize the BMI measurement as the agreed upon criteria for the identification and evaluation of determining obesity in children and adults. Currently, 66% of American adults and children are either overweight or obese. An adult is defined as any individual 18 years or older. A child is defined as those less than 18 years and this includes the sub-category of teenagers. According to CDC, there is a strong correlation between chronic conditions such hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, sleep apnea, heart disease and asthma and obesity. In the next year it is estimated that 300,000-580,000 Americans die each year due to obesity related issues and many of these deaths will be premature in nature. The deaths caused by obesity are five times more than those caused by guns, drugs, and AIDS combined. Adult minority women are the most overweight and African-American women are more overweight or obese than other minorities as well as whites. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, in 2002 the rates of overweight or obese African-American, non-Hispanic women were 78.0% with 51% being considered obese (Xavier,1998).

Obesity and physical activity trends in Los Angeles County are consistent with national trends, especially in terms of overweight or obesity among minorities. Overall, 35.9% of adults in Los Angeles County have a BMI of greater than 25 but less than 30 and considered overweight. Furthermore, 22.2% of adults are obese with a BMI greater than 30. There is a higher incidence of obesity among Latinos and African-Americans as well as the chronic diseases associated with obesity that result in death and sometime premature death such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, and heart disease . The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health divides Los Angeles into 8 geographical areas known as Service Planning Areas (SPA). The majority of Latinos and African-Americans who reside in Los Angeles County live in SPA 6. In SPA 6, 63% of the residents are Latino and 32% are African-American. This geographic area is known as South Los Angeles and is the most economically depressed community in Los Angeles County with 28% of the residents with incomes less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines as opposed to 16% for the entire county (Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, 2009). According to the *South Los Angeles Health Equity Scorecard*, the five leading causes of death for adults in Los Angeles County are Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), stroke, homicide, and

diabetes and lung cancer. Moreover, CHD, diabetes and stroke are three of the five leading causes of premature death for individuals.

In December 2000 a report from the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sport stated, there is little reason to suspect changes in genetics over this short time frame, the most common explanation for recent trends in obesity is that a variety of environmental and behavioral influences have combined to make it harder for individuals to maintain weight balance. The modern built environment does not support being physically active and in more urban areas safety is an issue, which further impact the obesity rates among the nation's poor (Welk & Blair, 2000). In order to address obesity policymakers need to continue with efforts to regulate the food and restaurant industry through laws, regulations, and taxation. Second, policymakers will need to collaborate with federal, state, county and municipal governments and agencies in addressing the "grocery gap." As stated previously, there are more liquor stores and fast food restaurants in South Los Angeles per square mile than any other SPA in Los Angeles County (Park, Watson, & Galloway-Gilliam, 2008). Third, since there is some evidence that the external environment can influence policies should be put into place that will create the type of built environment that will encourage physical activity. In 2006, City Controller Laura Chick conducted an audit of the City Department of Recreation and Parks and concluded that there are inequalities in the manner which the department allocated resources such as staffing and the development of programs in less affluent communities (Park, Watson, & Galloway-Gilliam, 2008).

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Forecasting Financial Stocks using Data Mining

This study presents a Business Intelligence (BI) approach to forecast daily changes in seven financial stocks' prices from September 1, 1998 to April 30, 2008 with 267 independent variables. The purpose of our paper is to compare the performance of Ordinary Least Squares model and Neural Network model to see which model better predicts the changes in the stock prices and to identify critical predictors to forecast stock prices to increase forecasting accuracy for the professionals in the market.

We used SPSS to perform stepwise regression to create a unique regression model for each company. Then, we ran the neural network with Alyuda NeuroIntelligence to create a NN model by performing data analysis, data preprocessing, network design with hyperbolic tangent method, training with batch back propagation, testing, and query. We did data manipulation by using the first derivative and adding 0.1 to the absolute value of the minimum value in each variable to avoid minus sign. Finally, we tested the model with the paired t-test in 152 randomly selected data points.

Our result showed that the neural network model (batch back propagation algorithm) outperformed OLS model. The %error for NN and OLS mean ranges from 2.13%-3.27%

and 4%-32% and standard deviation ranges from 1.78%-3.39% and 2.46%-8%.

The OLS model is easy to use, validate, and works fast with lower forecasting accuracy because it is a linear model. NN has a better forecasting accuracy with no explanation of the relationship between interacting variables with dynamic results due to the learning setup.

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From the Ashes of Merovingian Dynasty...

The history of the transition between the falling Merovingian and rising Carolingian dynasties is well recorded. Unfortunately, the current studies available are divided across a clear line with some historians constructing the history of the Merovingian dynasty and others centered on Carolingian. One group of historians maintains focus on the role of Merovingian's in controlling and shaping the great European kingdom, whereas the second group focuses on the very same accomplished by that of Carolingians. With both groups of historians presenting the history of their respected dynasties, unfortunately the question of why the transition between the Merovingian and Carolingians took place remains unanswered.

When looking on the manner in which the question of how Merovingian dynasty was supplanted by that of Carolingian was answered by the current studies, it becomes evident that further research is necessary. It is necessary so as to fill in the blanks left by both groups of historians whether focusing on either Merovingian or Carolingian dynasties. The neglect demonstrated by the Merovingian historians in addressing how the transition could have taken place alone would require such a research. But, when it is coupled with almost complete disregard demonstrated by the Carolingian historians, the question becomes of significantly more importance. The importance becomes in identifying the nature of the primary sources utilized by both groups of historians.

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Extralegislative Multipartyism: Applying Research on Voting Heuristics to Facilitate Multiparty Direct Democracy

Research reveals that many voters who would otherwise lack sufficient information rely on cognitive shortcuts to cast an informed vote. This suggests that if voters were given the opportunity to make even more decisions, they could rely on these same heuristics to competently handle the task. I believe this research could be applied toward facilitating multipartyism in California without obstructing its legislative process. This proposed system would essentially incorporate the principles of proportional representation elections into the initiative process. In lieu of the current signature gathering requirements, each political party would receive ballot access for a number of

statutory initiatives proportional to its support among voters. Although this would significantly increase the number of initiatives on the ballot, it would also simplify voters' decisions by providing party labels as heuristic cues. I believe it also has the potential to reform California's initiative process.