

**SSRIC**

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH  
& INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

California State University  
Social Science Research & Instructional Council

**35th Annual  
Student Research Conference**

San José State University  
Student Union

April 29, 2011



California  
State University

# **The Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC)**

**[www.ssrlic.org](http://www.ssrlic.org)**

The SSRIC, founded in 1972, is the oldest of the disciplinary councils in the California State University system. With representatives from the various CSU campuses, the Council is dedicated to assisting students and faculty in their learning, teaching, and research by:

- encouraging the use of quantitative methods in the teaching of social sciences to undergraduate and graduate students,
- facilitating social science research,
- supporting the development of quantitative literacy of students and faculty, and
- supporting and implementing the collection and distribution of social science data and computer-aided instruction.

## Schedule Summary

- 8:00 – 8:45 Registration  
*Ohlone Room*
- 8:45 – 9:10 Opening Session  
*Ohlone Room*
- 9:15 – 10:30 Panel Sessions 1 (see page 2)  
*Guadalupe, Almaden, and Costanoan Rooms*
- 10:45 – 12:00 Panel Sessions 2 (see page 3)  
*Guadalupe, Almaden, and Costanoan Rooms*
- 12:15 – 2:00 Lunch / Keynote Address / Awards  
*Ohlone Room*

### Opening Session (*Ohlone Room*)

Introduction: Dr. Richard Taketa, San Jose State University, SSRIC Representative

Welcome: Dr. Gregory Bohr, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, SSRIC Representative and Chair, SSRIC

### Lunch (*Ohlone Room*)

### Keynote Address:

Introduction: Dr. Richard Taketa, San Jose State University

Speaker: Dr. Myra Strober, Emeritus Professor of Education, Stanford University

### Awards:

Introduction: Dr. Gregory Bohr, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, SSRIC Representative and Chair, SSRIC

**9:15 – 10:30: Panel Sessions 1**

**Panel 1-A:** Places Big and Small (*Almaden Room*)

Chair: Dr. Kathryn Davis, Geography, San Jose State University

Cynthia Oliphant, Political Science (International Relations),  
California State University, Fresno

*A Human Right to Land*

Marissa Llanes, Anthropology, California State University, Los  
Angeles

*Museum Design*

Sharon Ordeman, Geography, San Jose State University

*Analysis of Three Types of Sources to Determine the  
Existence of Native Bees in Historical San Francisco East  
Bay Area*

**Panel 2-B:** What Are People Thinking? (*Costanoan Room*)

Chair: Dr. Edward Nelson, California State University, Fresno

Euijeung Kim, Sociology, California State University,  
Sacramento

*Americans' Attitude on Gun Control*

Scott Bell, Psychology, California State University, Monterey  
Bay

*Influences of Demographic Variables on Substance Use in a  
College Age Population*

Cody Rosasco, Developmental Psychology, California State  
University, Monterey Bay

*Adult Sleep Patterns may not be Predicted by Parental  
Perceptions of or use of a Sleep Method*

**Panel 1-C: Experiencing the World (*Guadalupe Room*)**

Chair: Dr. Kathryn Davis, Geography, San Jose State University

Juan Pablo Mercado, Mexican American Studies, San Jose State University

*Re-envisioning the Mexican American Experience in World War II*

Ammar Lamichhane, Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles

*Border crossing: Making Their Ways to the American Dream*

Cecilia Maria Salvi, Anthropology, Los Angeles

*She Said, She Said: Human Trafficking as a Women's Rights Issue*

**10:45 – 12:00: Panel Sessions 2**

**Panel 2-A: Looking into the Past (*Almaden Room*)**

Chair: Dr. Edward Nelson, California State University, Fresno

Lynn Ferris, Anthropology, San Jose State University

*California Fox Theater Burial Recovery: A Reanalysis and Temporal Placement through AMS Dating*

Wendy Dorenbush, Anthropology (Mesoamerican Archaeology), California State University, Los Angeles

*Iconography of Natural and Artificial Caves in Mapa de Cuauhtinchan No. 2*

**Panel 1-B: People and Perceptions (*Costanoan Room*)**

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Dyer-Seymour, California State University, Monterey Bay

Samantha Paine, Anthropology, San Jose State University

*An Ethnography of Water Birth and Its Representations on YouTube.com*

Natalie Rangel, Psychology, California State University,  
Monterey Bay

*Detecting Sarcasm in Popular Movies and Its Relationship  
to Family's Use of Sarcasm*

Elizabeth Ruhl, Psychology, California State University,  
Monterey Bay

*Memory and Eyewitness Testimony*

**Panel 2-C: Myth and Symbols (Guadalupe Room)**

Chair: Dr. Gregory Bohr, California State Polytechnic Univer-  
sity, San Luis Obispo

Valentina Licitra, Anthropology, California State University,  
Los Angeles

*Flower Gods of Pleasure: Xochipilli, Macuilxochitl, and  
Xochiquetzal in Aztec Society*

Paulo Horacio Medina, Anthropology, California State  
University, Los Angeles

*Symbol of Power Among the Powerless: A Classic Period  
Maya Burial in El Mirador, Peten Guatemala*

## Abstracts

Scott Bell

Psychology, California State University, Monterey Bay

### *Influences of Demographic Variables on Substance Use in a College Age Population*

This study examined the influence of demographic variables on substance use among students at a Central Californian University. Using online survey administration, data were collected regarding participants' demographics and substance use history. Results revealed that males were more likely to use Hashish and Psilosybin while females were more likely to use diet pills. Contrary to the literature, substance use by Caucasians was not greater than that of minorities. In addition to providing valuable information about substance use on college campuses, this study can also be utilized by health care professionals to address race and gender differences in substance use.

Wendy Dorenbush, Anthropology (Mesoamerican Archaeology), California State University, Los Angeles

### *Iconography of Natural and Artificial Caves in Mapa de Cuauhtinchan No. 2*

The Mapa de Cuauhtinchan No. 2 depicts multiple iconographic representations of natural and artificial landscapes of the Valley of Puebla. In this paper, I will discuss the examples of natural and artificial caves within this cultural area and demonstrate the significance of caves in historic Mesoamerican culture. Through the examination of iconographic representations of caves in Mapa de Cuauhtinchan No. 2, one can gain insight to their significance.

Lynn Ferris

Anthropology, San Jose State University

*California Fox Theater Burial Recovery: A Reanalysis and Temporal Placement through AMS Dating*

This paper focuses on the discovery of an ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Indian burial in 2002, located at the California Fox Theater on S. Market St. in Downtown San Jose. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe was contacted regarding the discovery and they conducted the excavation and recovery. This paper presents information on the field work, the results of the skeletal analysis, and the AMS Dating of the individual.

Euijeung Kim

Sociology, California State University, Sacramento

*Americans' Attitude on Gun Control*

The purpose of this study was to test if social class determines whether the individual favors or opposes gun control policy. To examine the research question, existing data from the General Social Survey (GSS) 2010 were used. Logistic regression was used to test the hypotheses and the result indicated that as family income level went up, respondents favored a law that requires a person to obtain a police permit before purchasing a gun. However, the other two independent variables: subjective identification of social class and highest educational degree achieved show no significant relationship.

Ammar Lamichhane

Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles

*Border crossing: Making Their Ways to the American Dream*

This paper discusses the process of multiple borders crossing to get into the American dream by undocumented Nepalese migrant. Migrants rely on the Dalal, the human smuggler, who



guides them to cross borders in illegal channel, which is very dangerous. It costs 20000 to 35000 USD and takes up to a year to reach the destination. Despite the dangers of life, financial loss and time waste, many people follow the way. Although crossing multiple borders is like, "walking on the edge of a knife," the craze for migrating without documents to the U.S. is establishing as a social process.

Valentina Licitra

Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles

*Flower Gods of Pleasure: Xochipilli, Macuilxochitl, and Xochiquetzal in Aztec Society*

Pleasure is marked by a delicate balance between moderation and excess. What is life, then, without pleasure? Ethnohistoric accounts indicate the existence of cautionary tales as methods of regulating behavior in central Mexico. The flower gods of pleasure, Xochipilli, Macuilxochitl, and Xochiquetzal, played a crucial role in Aztec society as manifestations of Mesoamerican concepts reflecting this delicate balance. Through myth, these deities served as role models that demonstrated the benefits associated with pleasure but also the consequences of indulgence. As cautionary tales, these mythical adventures represent a method of communication for acceptable social behavior.

Marissa Llanes

Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles

*Museum Design*

By studying exhibits from the Museum of Jurassic Technology (MJT) and the Natural History Museum (NHM), I argue that museum exhibits are constructed to appeal to visitors in ways that visitors find familiar. Further, I look at how science is represented at the MJT and at the NHM through a study of exhibit design and by examining how in each venue science is made

relevant to museum visitors. Each museum is different in what it reveals about science as a cultural product. As museums create a sense of trust in their audiences, they establish themselves as institutions of learning and as authorities on their subjects.

Paulo Horacio Medina

Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles

*Symbol of Power Among the Powerless: A Classic Period Maya Burial in El Mirador, Peten Guatemala*

El Mirador, located in the Maya jungles of Peten, Guatemala, is considered the largest site in the lowlands. Reaching its pinnacle during the Middle Preclassic (1000 BC-400 BC), the site exhibits all of the characteristics of social complexity. Abandoned at around 150 AD, the site core is re-occupied during the Classic Period (250 AD-900 AD) by “squatters.”

My excavation in the summer of 2010 revealed a Late Classic burial at the Danta Complex containing a stela fragment. The stela fragment offers an interesting interpretation related to the social stratification of the inhabitants during the later occupation phase of the site.

Juan Pablo Mercado

Mexican American Studies, San Jose State University

*Re-envisioning the Mexican American Experience in World War II*

Traditional U.S. historical scholars, as a matter of practice, carelessly push the history of the Mexican American community to the fringes of the collective historical consciousness of this country by selecting the common stories that students of all races learn. This project develops a fundamental framework by which to examine the problems of insufficient and inadequate historical scholarship pertaining to Mexican Americans. Moreover, this work provides a challenge to the legacy of historical exclusion by documenting the contributions and experiences of

the Mexican American World War II generation and provides an alternative historical perspective to the World War II narrative.

Cynthia Oliphant

Political Science (International Relations), California State University, Fresno

*A Human Right to Land*

This research considers the impact of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Declaration) on land rights for indigenous peoples. Article 17 (Article) of this Declaration promotes property rights as a human right, defined for this study as the right to access and use land. Specifically, this query looks at whether the Article has resulted in land re-acquisition for populations considered to have ethnic and cultural ties to the land who were displaced due to colonialism. Laws adopted after the Declaration, and subsequent legal cases, are analyzed to examine evidence of a causal relationship. The Aborigine of Australia, the Maori of New Zealand, and individuals who identify themselves as native to sub-equatorial African countries have all witnessed uphill political battles in this regard. Studies and research published by advocacy groups and the academic community attest to these efforts and will be reviewed. Additionally, information available from nongovernment organizations (NGOs) who have provided guidance and support in this regard are considered. Statistics and case studies round out this assessment to indicate its impact on the human condition. The objective of this study is to determine how a human right as a concept can translate into the development and establishment of a legal right through the first decade of the Twenty-first century. This work also seeks to unify existing academic work under a central theme. The hypothesis here posits that Article 17 has provided a basis for efforts to establish post-colonial legal rights to land.

Sharon Ordeman  
Geography, San Jose State University

*Analysis of Three Types of Sources to Determine the Existence of Native Bees in Historical San Francisco East Bay Area*

The possibility exists that European and American newcomers enlarged native bee ranges when imported pollen and nectar-producing flora were planted on converted wetlands in the San Francisco East Bay Area. Pre-Gold Rush journals and diaries, native bee and plant specimens, and ethnographies of Ohlone Native Americans were analyzed and produced no conclusive evidence that native bees were present before the arrival of the missionaries. The lack of historical evidence suggests that Euro-American settlers expanded native bee ranges as wetlands were transformed into farmlands.

Samantha Paine  
Anthropology, San Jose State University

*An Ethnography of Water Birth and Its Representations on YouTube.com*

The purpose of this qualitative research study is to report semi-structured interview narratives from sixteen mothers who have given birth immersed in water and posted their live birth videos on YouTube.com. Due to wide geographical disbursement of interviewees, semi-structured interviews with sixteen mothers were conducted via audio recorded Skype telephone calls. The mothers that participated in this research demonstrated the authoritative value they put into the voices of other mothers. As the influences they discover from other mothers in their social networks explain childbirth in ways they view as more favorable, or making more sense to them experientially, they may devalue the authoritative knowledge within dominant paradigms of birth.

Natalie Rangel

Psychology, California State University, Monterey Bay

*Detecting Sarcasm in Popular Movies and Its Relationship to Family's Use of Sarcasm*

Families use sarcasm more or less often perhaps due to personality, cultural traditions or regional propensities. Does family communication style predict whether one interprets sarcasm in movies? Participants watched sarcastic and literal movie clips and then described the speakers' meaning and listeners' interpretation. Interviews regarding their family's communication style followed. Results revealed that people who reported little or no sarcasm at home were more likely to detect the sarcasm than those who used sarcasm in their home. Findings suggest cultural practices, rather than ethnicity or gender, framed people's sensitivity to sarcasm.

Cody Rosasco

Developmental Psychology, California State University, Monterey Bay

*Adult Sleep Patterns may not be Predicted by Parental Perceptions of or use of a Sleep Method*

The present study explored the topic of sleep patterns and the effect of infant sleep-training methods. College students reported sleep patterns during childhood and early adulthood, and their caregivers reported on infant sleep and training. Results showed sleep patterns of children who were "good" sleepers and "bad" sleepers during infancy were not significantly different across their lifetime and contrary to public opinion, sleep-training methods did not predict childhood or adulthood sleep behavior. Descriptive data also speaks of a sleep pattern common to all participants across lifetime, regardless of infant sleep habits.

Elizabeth Ruhl

Psychology, California State University, Monterey Bay

*Memory and Eyewitness Testimony*

Memory and eyewitness testimony is a within subject design that focused on the influence that suggestions can have on a memory of an event. This was done by having the participants and a confederate watch two (2) clips of a male (1) and a female (1) committing a crime. Afterwards the participants were asked to pick the person that they thought committed the crime (with knowledge that the person in the clip may not be in the lineup). Before the first photo choices are made, however, the confederate would say a pre-determined suggestion.

Cecilia Maria Salvi

Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles

*She Said, She Said: Human Trafficking as a Women's Rights Issue*

My research contextualizes the historical development of the anti-trafficking movement(s) in the United States over the last 15 years within the field of violence against women. I examine the fundamental role that the "unlikely alliance" between neo-abolitionists and sex positive feminists has played in framing trafficking as a gendered issue, which in turn has successfully generated public interest on human trafficking. These actors, along with anti-trafficking NGOs, constantly renegotiate definitions of sex trafficking, and I argue that this results in multiple and often contradictory definitions of sex trafficking in both law and practice.

**Notes:**

