



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY



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COLLEGE

## 42<sup>nd</sup> SouthEastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium

# *Individuals, Interaction, and Inequality*

March 1-2, 2024

Sponsored by:

Emory University Department of Sociology and  
Morehouse College Department of Sociology

Co-organizers: Karen Hegtvedt, Ju Hyun Park, Arlo Pittman

Paper evaluation committee: Roberto Franziso, Sonal Nalkur, Ju Hyun Park

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR #SEUSS2024

**Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

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- 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**      **Check-in**  
Convocation Hall, 210 Community Room
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.**      **Banquet**  
Convocation Hall, 210 Community Room
- Welcoming** by Dr. Ju Hyun Park 2024 SEUSS Co-chair  
Department of Sociology, Emory University
- 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**      **Opening Remarks** by Dr. Karen Hegtvedt, 2024 SEUSS Co-Chair Professor, Department of Sociology, Emory University
- Keynote Speaker Introduction** by Dr. Irene Browne, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Emory University
- Keynote Address** by Dr. Karen Christopher, Professor, University of Louisville

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

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- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**      **Check-in and Morning Reception** with coffee and light breakfast  
North Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor PAIS Building
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**      **Early Morning Sessions**  
Rooms 220, 235, 250 PAIS Building
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**      **Late Morning Sessions**  
Rooms 220, 235, 250 PAIS Building
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**      **Lunch**  
North Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor PAIS Building
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**      **Early Afternoon Sessions**  
Rooms 220, 250 PAIS Building
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**      **Departure Reception and Awards Ceremony** with desserts  
North Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor PAIS Building

## Early Morning Sessions

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

### **PANEL 1: CULTURE, GENDER, AND RACE**

**Room 220, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*What's the Rap with Race? Exploring the Dynamics of Rap Music Perception and Influence: A Sociocultural Perspective*

Marcelle Brooks, Agnes Scott College

*Casting Spells on Writing: Analyzing the Harry Potter Books with Natural Language Processing (NLP) Tools*

Max Cao & Charles Chen, Emory University

*White Women "Outraged" by a Lynched Black Man (Georgia 1875-1935)*

Zheng Lian & Mirielle Ma, Emory University

### **PANEL 2: DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE (I)**

**Room 235, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*Prevalence of Preeclampsia, Gestational Hypertension, Postpartum Hemorrhage, Conditions Associated with Maternal Mortality in All Of Us Data Browser*

Nejere' Onomakpome, Emory University

*From Crisis to Care: Identifying Disparities in Black Maternal Health*

Doreen Okeh, Emory University

*Changing Racial Inequalities in Breast and Ovarian Cancer Prevalence for Women in the Southeast United States*

Sarah Haas, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

### **PANEL 3: GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY**

**Room 250, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*Do Descriptive Representatives Substantively Represent Latinas in California?*

Jahnavi Chamarthi, Emory University

*Descriptive and Substantive Representation of Women in Ohio's State Legislature*

Sophie Schocket, Emory University

*The 'Educated Educator': An Analysis of Ethnographical Accounts by Black Women Childcare Workers Pursuing Advanced Academia Through a Womanist Perspective*

Rue Randall, Agnes Scott College

*Exploring the Compatibility of Womanist Christian Theology and Lesbian Feminism*

Kennedi Malone, Agnes Scott College

## Late Morning Sessions

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

### **PANEL 4: CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND EDUCATION**

**Room 220, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*College Major and Social Media Posting Patterns: How College Students' Major Relates to Their Pressure to Post Popular Contents*

Mohan Wang, Emory University

*Class-Specific Forms of Cultural Capital as Fuel for Enduring Academic Challenges*

Olivia McClellan, Emory University

*The Shift of Importance of Education in Minority Communities*

Sophie Vasquez, Emory University

*"Georgia Tech is not your adversary. Stop treating it this way." Alumni Discourse and its Effects on the r/gatech Subreddit*

Beau Martin, Georgia Institute of Technology

### **PANEL 5: DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE (II)**

**Room 235, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*The Resilience of Community-Based Healthcare: A Study on the Inter-Organizational Dynamics and Competition in Community Services*

Kayla Ramos, University of Florida

*Examining Healthcare Disparities as a Form of Structural Violence*

Kathryn Wise, Agnes Scott College

*Navigating Healthcare and Language: Unraveling the Complex Experiences of Hispanic Americans' in Sickness and in Health*

Lillian Martin, Emory University

### **PANEL 6: RACIAL DYNAMICS IN THE PAST AND PRESENT**

**Room 250, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*How is Gentle Parenting Perceived in the Black Community? A Meta-analysis of Various Perceived Child-Rearing Styles Amongst American Black Families*

Cameron Glasscho & Rue Randall, Agnes Scott College

*Racial Violence in Georgia: The Case of Ed White*

Tanvi Kulkarni, Emory University

*Forcible Social Displacement*

Marq Riggins, Morehouse College

## Early Afternoon Sessions

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

### **PANEL 7: HISTORY, POWER, AND INDIVIDUALS**

**Room 220, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*From Population Control to Population Monitoring? Analyze the Dynamic Between Individuals And the PRC State Along the History of Birth Registration*

Keya Zhou, Davidson College

*Decoding Chinese Government Work Report through Natural Language Processing (NLP)*

Simon Bian (Co-authored with Dr. Roberto Franzosi), Emory University

*The Rigged Game of Natural Disaster: The Winners and Losers of Hurricane Katrina*

Claire Hagan, University of Georgia

*Phytoremediation as an avenue of reparations for Indigenous communities*

Matowacipi Horse, Emory University

### **PANEL 8: STIGMATIZATION AND MENTAL HEALTH**

**Room 250, PAIS**

Session Presider: TBD

*Do Overweight and Obese Individuals Have a Greater Fear of Medical Help?: The Effect of Fatphobia on Patients*

Cecilia Kim, Emory University

*When Loneliness Becomes Extremism: Exploring Incel Violence*

Britney Schreiber, University of Georgia

*Introverted minorities: The effect of racial identity on social anxiety in the US*

Hillary Chu, Emory University

*Anxiety: Raising awareness and promoting change to reduce anxiety in African American College Students*

Evonne Downing, Fisk University

## Reception and Awards Ceremony

1:45 – 2:15 p.m.  
North Lobby, PAIS

## **PANEL 1: CULTURE, GENDER, AND RACE**

### ***What's the Rap with Race? Exploring the Dynamics of Rap Music Perception and Influence: A Sociocultural Perspective***

Marcelle Brooks, Agnes Scott College

Rap music, originating in the Bronx in the late 1970s, has evolved into a cultural phenomenon deeply intertwined with African American and youth culture. Despite its roots in marginalized identities, rap's influence has gradually permeated mainstream society. This presentation examines the multifaceted impact of rap music on individuals, particularly young adults, focusing on attitudes, group identity, music exposure, self-esteem, and behavior. Drawing on a range of literature, including studies employing the Rap-Music Attitude and Perception Scale, this presentation explores how rap music is perceived both positively and negatively, serving as a form of self-expression for some and criticized for explicit content by others. Additionally, the research investigates the role of group identity, finding that rap music can enhance collective identity among marginalized groups while also perpetuating negative stereotypes. Music exposure emerges as a significant factor, with research indicating that rap music serves as a coping mechanism and tool for emotional regulation, particularly among adolescents. Moreover, rap music consumption is linked to self-esteem, with individuals finding empowerment and connection through the genre. Behaviorally, rap music's influence is nuanced, with studies highlighting both positive outcomes such as increased community involvement, and potential risks including the acceptance of misogynistic ideologies. Theoretical frameworks of Stuart Hall's Cultural Identity Analysis and Bourdieu's Habitus theory provide insight into the fluid nature of cultural identity and the influence of social structures on taste and behavior. This review of the literature underscores the need for updated studies to reflect current attitudes and behaviors regarding rap music, with attention to diverse samples and modern research methodologies. Ultimately, understanding the complexities of rap music perception and influence contributes to broader discussions on culture, identity, and societal dynamics.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Douglas Falen)

### ***Casting Spells on Writing: Analyzing the Harry Potter Books with Natural Language Processing (NLP) Tools***

Max Cao & Charles Chen, Emory University

The paper explores the writing style of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series using advanced computational methods of textual analysis (Natural Language Processing or NLP). Using state-of-the-art packages like Stanford CoreNLP, Stanza, and BERT the paper computes text readability, sentence complexity, and vocabulary richness; using Stanford CoreNLP as parser, it extracts nouns, verbs, modality and function words. Stanford CoreNLP pronominal coreference resolution and special annotators – gender, dialogue, and normalized time – show that the series is male focused with a great deal of dialogue and social interaction. Character analysis using the SVO extractor (Subject-Verb-Objects) draws clear characters' profiles and how characters change over time (e.g., Hermione behaves less and less "girly" and engages in battles alongside Harry). Sentiment analysis shows a recurring pattern, starting positively but ending on a more negative note at both chapter and book levels. We also use various techniques like clustering and matrix factorization to examine the story's structure. Topic modeling via MALLET identifies three main themes: Harry's adventures, pupils' lives at Hogwarts during the academic year, different characters, and dark forces.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Roberto Franzosi)

***White Women “Outraged” by a Lynched Black Man (Georgia 1875-1935)***

Zheng Lian & Mirielle Ma, Emory University

Some 492 black men were lynched in Georgia between 1875 and 1935. Attempted assault, rape, or murder of white women was the second most common reason for all lynching events in Georgia accounting for 227 cases. Miscegenation laws (1750-1972) prohibited and criminalized mixed-race marriage and sexual relations between white and black people. This project tracks the lives of white women allegedly assaulted by black men lynched for the crimes. What happened to the lives of these women after the event in light of the racial and gender norms of the time? How were the black men and the white women depicted in the newspaper articles that provide the only available data sources since very few lynching cases made it to trial to leave institutional, court records behind? Of the 227 lynching events involving violations of gender norms, 162 cases contained identifying information (e.g., the name of the woman, father's, husband's). We tracked these women using backward and forward census linking, i.e. collecting census records before and after the event, to see whether such stigmatizing events affected their lives. At the current state of the research, 24 women could not be linked. After the events, 18 women moved out of state and 40 women moved out of the county within ten years. Of the 68 women that were single at the time of the alleged assault, 6 were murdered, 15 remained single, and 43 got married after the event. The analysis of the newspaper texts shows that lynched black men were described using derogatory and dehumanizing language (e.g., fiend, beast, brute). White women were typically described as blameless and innocent, with their families associated with language of power and status (e.g., prominent, well-to-do). This study furthers our understanding of gender and race dynamics in the historical context of Jim Crow South.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Roberto Franzosi)

## **PANEL 2: DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE (I)**

### ***Prevalence of Preeclampsia, Gestational Hypertension, Postpartum Hemorrhage, Conditions Associated with Maternal Mortality in All Of Us Data Browser***

Nejere' Onomakpome, Emory University

In 2021, Olympian Tori Bowie was in the news, not for breaking a new record, but for commemorating her life. Bowie passed due to maternal mortality (MM). MM is the death of a woman from the day she gives birth to a year<sup>1</sup>. African American women are three times more likely to die of MM than white women and women of Hispanic origin<sup>2</sup>. The CDC reports that 80% of deaths from MM were preventable<sup>3</sup>. MM conditions are pre-eclampsia, cesarean deliveries, post-partum hemorrhage, cardiac conditions, and more. I hypothesized, “What is the prevalence of preeclampsia, cesarean deliveries, gestational hypertension, and post-partum hemorrhage in the All of Us (AOU) Data Browser that are associated with maternal mortality and mobility rates with females assigned at birth childbearing age”. Using AOU Public Data Browser I searched conditions associated with MM and viewed the age and sex of each condition. There, the majority of women who experienced conditions associated with MM were 18-29 and 30-39 y.o who experienced cesarean delivery, postpartum hemorrhage, and complications during pregnancy (Figures 1 and 2). Similarly, the CDC found women 40 years and older had an MM rate of 138.5 to 100,000 live births<sup>3</sup>. The second highest being 25-39 women. In addition, the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System by the CDC states, “Most of these deaths are related to facility, clinician, and system factors, including missed or delayed diagnosis...poor communication...inadequate training...”<sup>4</sup>. Due to interest in time, I was limited to using the AOU Data Browser instead of an extensive research platform. In addition, the Data Browser does not include death statistics instead individuals with the condition. Lastly, the Data Browser does not include demographics. Acknowledging MM, researching connections and conditions, and equipping healthcare professionals with adequate training will begin the journey to decrease MM.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Rachel Everhart)

### ***From Crisis to Care: Identifying Disparities in Black Maternal Health***

Doreen Okeh, Emory University

The aim of this study was to examine health disparities amongst pregnant Black women and other racial ethnicities. The leading choice of research was descriptive research using quantitative data. Data were collected by scouring medical databases ranging from 2008-2021. Sources revealed that Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die in childbirth than white women. Interestingly, it was discovered that 60% of pregnancy-related deaths were preventable, and there were no significant differences in preventability by race/ethnicity. The largest discrepancies were found with cardiomyopathy and pre-eclampsia conditions. Conclusions for the impacts of health disparity upon pregnant Black women are provided.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Andrea Fitzroy)



***Changing Racial Inequalities in Breast and Ovarian Cancer Prevalence for Women in the Southeast United States***

Sarah Haas, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

This paper explores breast and ovarian cancer prevalence among women in the Southeastern United States, with a focus on the states of Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Leveraging data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), an extensive nationwide survey, this research examines the impact of genetic screening for BRCA1 and BRCA2 on disparities in cancer prevalence, particularly emphasizing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic factors. Utilizing nested logistic regression models, this study examines how disparities in breast and ovarian cancer have shifted over time. Jo C. Phelan and Bruce G. Link's theory of fundamental causes provides the foundation for the work as it seeks to outline why the association between socioeconomic status (SES) and health disparities has persisted over time, particularly when diseases and conditions previously thought to cause morbidity and mortality among low SES individuals have resolved. The research investigates the intricate interplay between social determinants and health outcomes. It adopts a comprehensive approach, considering variables such as age, number of children, and education level. The study includes six race categories, not just black and white, which much of the current literature is limited to. The findings of this study not only shed light on the complex dynamics of health inequalities but offer insights crucial for policymakers, healthcare practitioners, and researchers striving to address the multifaceted challenges of cancer prevention and healthcare equity. Through detailed analysis and interpretation, the work contributes to our understanding of the evolving landscape of cancer prevalence and highlights the importance of addressing social determinants in promoting health equity and access to care

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Elizabeth Baker)

### **PANEL 3: GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY**

#### ***Do Descriptive Representatives Substantively Represent Latinas in California?***

Jahnvi Chamarthi, Emory University

This essay critically examines the descriptive and substantive representation of Latinas in California's political institutions, shedding light on the implications for the state's political vitality and the urgent need for equitable representation of women of color. The study of descriptive representation, which assesses the extent to which elected officials reflect the demographic composition of the population they serve, is central to understanding the inclusivity, diversity, and equity of the political landscape. However, this essay emphasizes that focusing solely on descriptive representation is insufficient to ensure the substantive representation of minority constituents. The analysis begins with a single-axis framework, providing quantitative data on the level of descriptive representation of women in California in comparison to other states. Two theories, namely Redistricting and Gender-Role Attitudes, are presented to explain the level of descriptive representation. The essay then delves into the descriptive representation of women of color through an intersectional approach, considering the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Latinas in political representation. Furthermore, the essay explores the substantive representation of Latinas, drawing from a qualitative research study that reviews the activities of three Latina senators from California. It offers theories for institutional and individual factors that contribute to the level of substantive representation, highlighting the underlying mechanisms that shape Latinas' representation in the political sphere. Ultimately, this critical analysis seeks to unravel the paradox of the comparatively high yet remarkably low level of descriptive representation of women and the overall high levels of Latina descriptive and substantive representation in California, offering valuable insights into the complexities of political representation and the imperative for advancing the equitable representation of Latinas in California's political institutions.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Beth Reingold)

#### ***Descriptive and Substantive Representation of Women in Ohio's State Legislature***

Sophie Schocket, Emory University

There are a variety of electoral, cultural, and political factors that influence both the descriptive and substantive representation of women in elected office. These factors help to explain why women are underrepresented in many elections and offices but succeed in others, and how other facets of their identity such as race can further impact the type of representation they receive. By applying existing theories on partisan gaps in representation and barriers to candidate emergence to the specific conditions in Ohio, this paper examines why women's descriptive representation in the Ohio's state legislature consistently rates below the national average. To better understand substantive representation in Ohio, it analyzes sponsorship patterns of bills that take action on abortion and reproductive health in Ohio's 134th General Assembly. The paper finds that Ohio's partisan environment, with a Republican dominated legislature, hinders representation, as women are more likely to emerge from Democrat primaries than Republican ones, only to lose in the general election. In Republican primaries, however, gatekeeping practices further impede the opportunities for women candidates to run and win. Though Ohio's 80% white population means women from racial minorities are less likely to find the support of a majority-minority district, the success Black women have had in Ohio's Congressional races appears to have improved the chances of Black women running for state legislature by offering them networks of support. In terms of substantive representation, the paper finds that men were more likely to sponsor bills on abortion than maternal health generally, while race and partisan landscape can shape both how and why women provide substantive representation on these topics.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Beth Reingold)

***The ‘Educated Educator’: An Analysis of Ethnographical Accounts by Black Women Childcare Workers Pursuing Advanced Academia Through a Womanist Perspective***

Rue Randall, Agnes Scott College

When it comes to the pursuit of education, its meaning, hold, and significance in the black community are both ancestral in nature and filled with many tribulations. From the literacy tests of the Jim Crow and Civil Rights era to the disparities of inequitable education that we see in predominantly black schools across the United States today, the pursuit of a degree; especially past a high school diploma; has been and is, an equally contested and admirable process in black communities and spaces. Black women specifically, especially relating to educational childhood spaces, make up a large majority of degree holders within their community. While there is little research done on the reasoning behind why black women in childcare pursue higher education, one can attribute their need to succeed, grit, and overall determination to a sense of obligation to want better for themselves, their community, and the Strong Black Woman Schema—a collection of traits that encompasses a lack of vulnerability and interdependence, suppression of emotions, and an obligation to appear strong as a result of intergenerational and systemic trauma or upheld belief systems culminated by the aforementioned traumatic experiences. This research paper is a sociological analysis of an Ethnographical series on Black women childcare workers; most of whom work in the Greater Atlanta and Decatur area. The goal of this analysis is to understand how black women succeed and triumph amongst systems lined against them, and how these ‘drives’ relate to the womanist ideologies discussed in lectures and discussions throughout the course. Through this research, I sought to find the driving force behind the grit that many Black women as Early Childhood Educators experience and carry—their why. Analysis of this why will be used to visualize the intersectionality [and further disparities] between race, class, and gender that we see in Black women who educate.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Douglas Falen)

***Exploring the Compatibility of Womanist Christian Theology and Lesbian Feminism***

Kennedi Malone, Agnes Scott College

This research interrogates the potential for a Christian faith that supports queer politics by exploring the compatibility of Womanist Christian theology and lesbian feminism. As a young Christian woman, my (left-leaning) politics and activism are firmly rooted in the love-one-another values I learned in church; however, I understand that Christianity has long been weaponized to justify forms of systematic exclusion, including gender and sexual oppression. In an effort to imagine a site for collaboration between the Christian faith and queer politics, this paper reviews lesbian feminist commentaries and Womanist Christian anthologies to identify and reconcile the central tenets of lesbian-feminist discourse and Womanist Christian teachings. My research has found that an affront to racism, an undermining of androcentric heteropatriarchy, and the centering of embodied female experiences are shared values among both Womanist Christian theology and lesbian feminism. In this way, the seemingly oppositional relationship between Christianity and queerness is challenged; harmonization between the two are possible along these values.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Douglas Falen)

## **PANEL 4: CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND EDUCATION**

### ***College Major and Social Media Posting Patterns: How College Students' Major Relates to Their Pressure to Post Popular Contents***

Mohan Wang, Emory University

This paper addresses the research question “What is the relationship between a student’s major and their pressure to post content that will be popular and get lots of comments on social media?” I hypothesize that students who have: (1) majors that typically relate to higher socioeconomic status background, and (2) majors that are less lucrative tend to have less pressure to pursue online popularity. Literature review suggests that the categories of majors that relate to higher socioeconomic status background tend to be less lucrative majors as well (Leppel et al. 2001, Wolniak et al. 2008). Consequently, during the operationalization process I combined two hypotheses into one. I use data from the Emory Social Media Survey, which was conducted by Emory University in 2018 using random sample of Emory undergraduates. I use the responses of the question “What is your current or anticipated major (primary)?” as independent variable, for which I re-categorized into binary categories: majors that are related to higher socioeconomic class background and majors that are related to lower socioeconomic class background. I use the responses of the question “Thinking more broadly about all your friends, in general, does social media make you feel pressure to post content that will be popular and get lots of comments?” as dependent variable; the responses are measured on a scale from 1-3 (yes, a lot; yes, a little; no). I find that there is no statistically significant evidence to claim that students who have majors that typically relate to higher socioeconomic status background, which are also less lucrative majors, tend to have less pressure to pursue online popularity. While my study did not find statistically significant evidence, it offers insights into the nuanced relationship between a college student's major, their socioeconomic background, and their social comparison pattern on social media.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Irene Browne)

### ***Class-Specific Forms of Cultural Capital as Fuel for Enduring Academic Challenges***

Olivia McClellan, Emory University

Inequality of opportunity permeates all aspects of American life, from youth to adulthood and beyond. Lodging itself within the hierarchical system of social classes, this parasite replicates throughout generations and produces outcomes stratified across class and intersectional boundaries. These classes are demarcated by unique forms of cultural capital that educational institutions trial for resilience, strength, and utility in the face of academic challenges. The study at hand seeks to determine the effect of cultural capital as accumulated through socialization and education on the ability of Emory University students to mitigate academic challenges, anticipating a positive relationship between cultural capital and the ability to manage difficulties effectively. In interviews with female students, those of lower social classes reported the deployment of adaptive forms of cultural capital, including community-based and family-taught resilience. In contrast, students of upper social classes wielded institutional and resource-based knowledge. Despite each social class holding strong and potent forms of cultural capital, certain forms differentially prepare students for mitigating academic challenges. That is, adaptive forms of cultural capital may translate poorly or hold limited transactional value in higher education settings. Further study and policy changes are warranted to align institutional support programs with modes of cultural capital used by marginalized individuals. Such interventions to support educational equity and empowerment will separate life outcomes and access to the American dream from the cultural influences of a socially stratified and inequitable society.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ju Hyun Park)

### ***The Shift of Importance of Education in Minority Communities***

Sophie Vasquez, Emory University

In this study, the researcher examined how cultural capital within minority female college students is experienced within the educational system. The researcher examined whether cultural capital for students fell under DiMaggio's or Bourdieu's idea of cultural capital. Minority students often are overlooked in studies done about their cultural capital or the race of the student is not given as much importance as needed when applying this theory to the real world. The researcher conducted observational interviews to gauge the student's experience firsthand within high school and collegiate institutions. The researcher found that minorities' importance of education was never the issue of why there is such a grand disparity of minorities in higher education but rather how society accepts the cultural capital from minorities.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ju Hyun Park)

### ***“Georgia Tech is not your adversary. Stop treating it this way:” Alumni Discourse and its Effects on the r/gatech Subreddit***

Beau Martin, Georgia Institute of Technology

Reddit is a social media platform where users form and govern their own communities called “subreddits.” In 2009 a user created the r/gatech subreddit dedicated to all topics related to the Georgia Institute of Technology (GT). Today it has more than 47,000 members with around two to three hundred active users on average during the day. It is a “buzzing” nexus of past, current, and future student interaction. The distinction of those three groups and their divergent interests means r/gatech is fruitful grounds for a study of group and individual power relations. The study focuses primarily on alumni and student relations. Given the importance of r/gatech as an information hub for incoming students and its possibility to serve as a cultural site for current students, the paper examines the nature of alumni discourse on r/gatech, its themes and manifestations, and what effects it has on r/gatech discourse. The research combines knowledge from communications and technology studies, media studies, and sociological studies, with an emphasis on power dynamics, to offer an interdisciplinary application of Pierre Bourdieu's field theory to the study of online communities. The data collected includes qualitative data from posts and comments and quantitative data collected via Reddit's Application Programming Interface. The analysis of the data revealed three themes of alumni discourse on r/gatech. All three of these discourses tended to promote alumni and GT administration interests and culture. From most to least explicit in these effects, the themes are negative alumni reactions to criticism of the GT administration or identity, neutral or unhelpful reactions to the same content, and alumni activity crowding out more student-centered activity and content.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kate Pride Brown)

## **PANEL 5: DISPARITIES IN HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE (II)**

### ***The Resilience of Community-Based Healthcare: A Study on the Inter-Organizational Dynamics and Competition in Community Services***

Kayla Ramos, University of Florida

Non-profit organizations play a role in the healthcare sector by meeting the needs of communities impacted by health disparities. This study explores the relationship between the characteristics of several non-profit organizations affiliated with a public medical university in the South and how they effectively reduce inequality while facing financial and organizational barriers and competition for resources. Specifically, this study aims to (i.) Comprehensively review the existing literature on the social relationships of non-profits, their organizational behaviors, and the competition of their role; (ii) Assess their relationships and characteristics and how this relates to their funding as a source of revenue; (iii) Examine the organizational reasons for the survival of non-profit organizations in the community healthcare sector and how such characteristics affect the effectiveness of their service. The data from this study was collected over a decade by a non-profit organization that awards grants to community-based healthcare organizations and departments within the University's medical school hospital system. Nearly four hundred grant applications were analyzed and divided into categories based on their relationship to the University health system, the community, and the target population they benefit from. The data analysis reveals redundancies in the applying organizations and grants they apply for, the duplication of services of several organizations, and patterns of the awarding of repeat organizations and departments within the hospital system. Together, this analysis examines the reasons for the survival of non-profit organizations by synthesizing findings from existing literature and results from the data analysis to provide insights into the reasons for the successes of non-profits in meeting their mission of promoting community well-being. Additionally, the findings of this study suggest that different strategies may be necessary to meet the needs of target populations at different times.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Won-tak Joo)

### ***Examining Healthcare Disparities as a Form of Structural Violence***

Kathryn Wise, Agnes Scott College

The World Health Organization (WHO) outlines the right to the highest attainable level of health as an internationally agreed upon human right, yet disparities in the United States' healthcare system are rampant and only getting worse. U.S. health disparities have led to alarming rates of avoidable illnesses and deaths, and these disproportionately affect individuals living in marginalized communities. The present paper utilizes recent findings surrounding healthcare disparities in the United States—primarily those faced by race, class, and gender minorities—in the systems of primary, reproductive, maternal, and mental health care. These inequalities are examined alongside Norwegian sociologist John Galtung's notion of structural violence with the purpose of demonstrating that healthcare disparities are a direct form of structural violence. This paper emphasizes healthcare disparities as being an epidemic of violence that produces negative implications for those living under systems of oppression in the United States. The examination of healthcare disparities through a lens of systemic violence is crucial in beginning to tackle each barrier that exists.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Yvonne D. Newsome)

***Navigating Healthcare and Language: Unraveling the Complex Experiences of Hispanic Americans' in Sickness and in Health***

Lillian Martin, Emory University

For Hispanic Americans, culturally distinct conceptions of wellness and illness, access to culturally appropriate care, and Low English Proficiency (LEP) are some of the largest barriers to consistent, high-quality healthcare. Using data collected through a Pew Research Center survey, this paper investigates the historical, cultural, and social contexts that inform Hispanics' health access and experiences in the United States, while deconstructing the homogenization of the label Hispanic. STATA software was used to conduct linear and logistic regression on the pool of nearly 15,000 participants and reveal the most salient commonalities of experience among Hispanics. Additionally, Spanish-dominant, bilingual, and English-dominant categories were isolated to provide further insight into the varied experiences of those within the Hispanic diaspora. As compared to their White peers, Hispanics reported significantly lower quality of care, but did not report a statistically significant difference in ease of accessing care nor receiving less respect from providers. Spanish-dominant and bilingual groups preferred and more frequently accessed ethnically concordant care. They also preferred Spanish concordance with providers, which they ranked as providing superior care. The findings of this study support implementing culturally informed healthcare for Hispanic populations through interpretation services, ethnic and linguistic concordant dyads, and increased health literacy within patient populations.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Rachel Hall-Clifford)

## **PANEL 6: RACIAL DYNAMICS IN THE PAST AND PRESENT**

### ***How is Gentle Parenting Perceived in the Black Community? A Meta-analysis of Various Perceived Child-Rearing Styles Amongst American Black Families***

Cameron Glasscho & Rue Randall, Agnes Scott College

‘Gentle Parenting’ is a child-rearing philosophy that promotes interactions and disciplinary techniques that foster empathy, understanding, and respect between the parent and child. While little research has been done concerning the intrinsic benefits of gentle parenting, what is available suggests that it strengthens personal and bodily autonomy, invokes independence, and encourages healthy boundaries within children of all ages. Given this lack of research on parenting styles, it should be further noted that there is even less data on parenting styles used in black American families and their long-term effects on black American children. The literature presented in this review suggests that many forces at play determine parenting styles in black communities, such as the link between intergenerational trauma and the emotional dysregulation that arises from it, parental behaviors developed from environmental influences and matrilineal inheritance, as well as other cultural and social factors. Ultimately, what is understood is that regardless of race, the parent shapes the child, and though there is little research on the effects of this style on Black children, what is available suggests that the benefits of each parenting style are correlated to the environment by which the child is raised in (Roche et al., 2007). Sources allocated in this review seek to understand what parenting styles are most prevalent in black families, as well as what external and internal factors come into play when utilizing various parenting methodologies and forming an opinion on gentle parenting in black spaces overall.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Douglas Falen)

### ***Racial Violence in Georgia: The Case of Ed White***

Tanvi Kulkarni, Emory University

In 1921, Georgia Governor Dorsey published a pamphlet titled, “The Negro in Georgia”, in which he described cases of violence against black people living in Georgia. The case labeled “County No. 21,” describes a “thrifty” and “hardworking” man who sends three daughters to school and buys 138 acres of land in 1908. Despite this, the man (later identified as Ed White of The Rock, Georgia) was accused of trespassing and sent to the Georgia chain gang in 1919. This project traces Ed White’s life, from his birth in approximately 1856 under slavery, to his death in 1944. After being sent to the chain gang, White’s wife and children moved across the country, and this research has sought to trace their lives as well. This case study has focused on three main aspects of White’s story: 1) the disappearance of his family after 1919, 2) the history Ed White’s plot of land, and 3) influential landowners and white families in Upson County, GA that interacted with Ed White. It has relied on census, marriage, death, military, tax, land deed, and will records collected via Ancestry.com and the Georgia State Archives, Upson County Archives, and Upson County Superior Court. Through the research, we were able to link Ed White’s family history both backwards, from his parents and slaveowners, and forwards, through 15 of his 18 children. We traced Plot No. 101-10, Ed White’s “coveted land” from 1821 to 2012. White’s case has shown that he faced consistent challenges due to his race. Race, even after the abolition of slavery, continued to play a major role in Georgia deep into the 1900s. Ed White’s case begs the question of if economic and social improvement was even a possibility for Black people when discrimination is so deeply embedded in the structure of towns.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Roberto Franzosi)



### ***Forcible Social Displacement***

Marq Riggins, Morehouse College

Forcible Social Displacement refers to both the name of this project as well as the theoretical backbone of it. Predicated on Pierre Bourdieu's social reproduction theory, FSD argues that social inequality is generated artificially, as opposed to cyclically, and functions to affirm the means of stratification through the interactions between authority and subordinate. This research is aimed at examining the phenomenon of authoritative self-sustenance through the proposed theory of forcible social displacement, defined as: the event in which an authoritative entity gives legitimacy to itself, cementing its position and right to hold said position. This is done through an interrogation of slave codes in the United States, specifically from the text *The American Slave Code in Theory and Practice* by William Goodell. This anthology of slave codes will be the primary object of analysis in ascertaining the authority/subordinate dynamic between White and Black people in the antebellum United States and understanding how the nuance of that dynamic allowed it to exist in near perpetuity. Specifically, this research is invested in exploring the following question: "How do the various components of Forcible Social Displacement manifest when used as a lens to examine the African American experience within the context of various portions of American History?"

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Marisela Martinez-Cola)

## **PANEL 7: HISTORY, POWER, AND INDIVIDUALS**

### ***From Population Control to Population Monitoring? Analyze the Dynamic Between Individuals And the PRC State Along the History of Birth Registration***

Keya Zhou, Davidson College

This research explores the intricate interplay between birth registration policies and state control in China, delving into their historical evolution and contemporary implications. The Sichuan province's recent revisions to birth registration measures, eliminating marriage certificate restrictions, serve as a focal point, indicative of the state's changing stance toward nonmarital childbearing. This revision, mirrored in other provinces, signals a departure from previous restrictions and suggests a nuanced shift away from policy-regulated categorizations of legitimate and illegitimate fertility. Examining the historical context reveals a trajectory marked by relaxation in fertility policies. From the rigid constraints imposed by the one-child policy in the 1970s to the present allowance of up to three children, coupled with the removal of marriage-related restrictions, the state appears to move beyond demographic control to embrace family and individual autonomy. This evolution prompts a contemplation of whether birth control is transforming from a tool for macro-level population management to a matter of personal choice. The discussion situates birth registration as a transformative process, turning individuals into components of the state apparatus. Those registered gain legal presence, while the unregistered become marginalized outsiders. The household registration system, integral to this dynamic, determines access to societal privileges, framing the dichotomy between those anchored within the system and those excluded. Birth registration, originally designed for demographic statistics, now functions as a medium for state control over citizens' behaviors, extending from reproductive choices to economic activities. The historical purpose of the household registration system was to divide the population based on residence for effective rural-urban management. The birth certificate system, aligned with family planning policies, facilitated control over population growth and individual reproductive behaviors. Cultural preferences for male offspring and economic shifts in the 1990s further complicated registration processes, resulting in the exclusion of certain groups from the system. The contemporary relaxation of reproductive policies suggests a semblance of respect for individual choices, but beneath this veneer, the state's perspective on the population as a tool for control persists. This study offers a nuanced understanding of China's reproductive governance, navigating the complex dynamics between evolving policies and the enduring perception of the population as a controllable entity.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Gayle Kaufman)

### ***Decoding Chinese Government Work Report through Natural Language Processing (NLP)***

Simon Bian (Co-authored with Dr. Roberto Franzosi), Emory University

The Chinese Government Work Report (CGWR) is delivered yearly by the presiding Premier to the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. Available since 1954, albeit with some missing years, the published documents provide a window into the working of the Chinese government at varied levels. In this paper, we use various Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools on the English translations of the CGWR using the freeware package NLP Suite (Franzosi, 2020; <https://github.com/NLP-Suite/NLP-Suite/wiki>). We use Stanford CoreNLP, SpaCy, and Stanza for text parsing. Part of Speech (POS) and Dependency Relations (DepRel) tags for nouns and verbs reveal the role of Presidents on government policy priorities, which include: the changing nature of the adjectives related to the word "development," in which words as "agricultural", "industrial", "financial", "social" were introduced by new Presidents, a growing use of gerund tenses that make no commitment to time, and nominalization which hide agency. We further use a number of measures to highlight the overtime decrease of sentence complexity and vocabulary richness, and parallelly observe an increase in text readability as the Premiers aim to reach wider audiences. Sentiment analysis via Bi-directional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT) models and Stanford CoreNLP reveal an increasing optimism over the years. Finally, we geocoded via Nominatim for mapping location tags from Named

Entity Recognition (NER). As we plot the results as pin maps via Google Earth Pro and heatmaps via Google Maps, we found such transformation of text information revealing distinct shifts overtime of geographic hot spots with changing presidencies.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Roberto Franzosi)

***The Rigged Game of Natural Disaster: The Winners and Losers of Hurricane Katrina***

Claire Hagan, University of Georgia

This paper discusses events that occurred before, during and after Hurricane Katrina that led to disproportionate rates of suffering and success in minority communities and the corporate sector, respectively. The storm which touched down on August 29, 2005, caused extreme casualties of human and ecological life, billions of dollars in property damage and irreversible social and political issues in the city of New Orleans. Using Hurricane Katrina as a case study, environmental political theories of environmental justice, ecological Marxism and Jason Moore's Capitalocene are discussed. This analysis focuses on the varying social, political and economic hierarchies that shaped the city's response to the disaster. The New Orleans example also supports additional concepts of intersectional sociology and Naomi Klein's disaster capitalism. The disparities in disaster prevention, initial response and reconstructive aid faced by poor communities and communities of color contrast starkly with the immense profits made by corporations amid the natural disaster. Issues of greenhouse gas emissions released by commercial development correlate to the rapid rise in ocean temperatures that many experts believe increase the likelihood of tropical storms like Katrina. This theoretical discussion also presents possible opportunities for future disaster prevention in the environmental, infrastructural and cultural sectors via the implementation of ecological equity as well as corporate and governmental accountability in the face of environmental crisis.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Anna Rogers)

***Phytoremediation as an avenue of reparations for Indigenous communities***

Matowacipi Horse, Emory University

For a discipline that is rooted in our interactions with the world and each other, sociology has long looked down from within the Ivory tower. To bridge and address this gap of academia and action I am focusing my efforts on what is commonly referred to as "public sociology". Take the matter of reparations for Indigenous communities, a subject that too often has become an erudite lecture towards the very communities owed recompense. While institutions release land acknowledgments tribal leaders have been calling for land back. An issue no doubt complex to address within an identity that is racial, ethnic, cultural, spiritual and tribal and when land is an issue that is historical, political and economically entangled. Due to this any solution would have to be interdisciplinary and use a multi-pronged approach. This research explores the potential of phytoremediation as a means of radical decolonization. This is a remediation method that uses plants specifically for the purpose of removing chemical contamination from soil. Plants such as sunflowers and willow trees are particularly effective at cleaning the soil of lead and other toxic metals, which are leftover as a direct side effect of colonization, the displacement of indigenous peoples, and the 1800's "gold rush." The project aims to address the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization on the environment and indigenous peoples by engaging in a collaborative process of healing and repatriation. Key aspects of the research include: ecological studying and testing, community collaboration. This research contributes to the ongoing efforts to address the legacies of colonization and environmental degradation by exploring innovative, community-based solutions that promote healing, restoration, and decolonization.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Timothy Dowd)

## **PANEL 8: STIGMATIZATION AND MENTAL HEALTH**

### ***Do Overweight and Obese Individuals Have a Greater Fear of Medical Help?: The Effect of Fatphobia on Patients***

Cecilia Kim, Emory University

It is understandable that an individual's weight holds considerable influence over one's self esteem and how others perceive them. Stemming from widespread media embracement of a specific body type, particularly thinness, and other conventional standards of beauty, weight is a sensitive topic for many who believe they do not fit the ideal shape for their gender and age group. One group who often find themselves excluded are overweight and obese people; this isolation is said to take appear in various settings ranging from the workplace, academia, and the focus of this article: healthcare. Not only does this condemnation result in discrimination towards people in bigger bodies in public spaces but also opens the possibility that it is occurring in more private zones, specifically between healthcare providers and patients. For this article, the topic of weight discrimination impacting how obese and overweight people feel about the care they receive from doctors and other medical assistants will be discussed in detail, ultimately leading to the research question: do obese and overweight persons have a greater fear of medical help? In order to answer this inquiry, this study will be broke up into two segments: first, data from the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys (CPES) will be examined in order to see if there is a correlation between higher body weight and a sense of fear when meeting healthcare providers or receiving medical help. Second, qualitative interviews with those who were self-classified to be overweight or obese will be done in order to supplement the findings of the first quantitative survey. One can expect to see an exploration of what it means to be fearful of medical help, the notion of weight discrimination, and the implications of said discrimination when navigating how society should handle this issue if heavily present.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ju Hyun Park)

### ***When Loneliness Becomes Extremism: Exploring Incel Violence***

Britney Schreiber, University of Georgia

Incels are an online community distinguished by their desire for violence against women and our "gynocentric" world. This paper offers a comprehensive examination of the phenomenon of incel violence, analyzing the involuntary celibate subculture and its proclivity towards radicalized behaviors. It explores the unique incel ideology, lexicon, and identity formation, as demonstrated by the numerous real-world incidents of incel terrorism. Drawing from Donald Black's framework of pure sociology, the mechanisms behind incel violence may be rooted in their ever-growing detachment from society and the radicalization potential within the incel community online. The work concludes by advocating for a nuanced approach to understanding and mitigating the risks associated with incel violence, highlighting the significance of dialogue, mental health support, and countering extremist narratives.

(Faculty Sponsor: Krysten Long, MLS MA)

***Introverted minorities: The effect of racial identity on social anxiety in the US***

Hillary Chu, Emory University

Racial identity in the US is widely accepted as a social determinant of health, both physical and mental. The institutional and societal barriers to social mobility are products unique to America's history of racial oppression, as well as its ethnic heterogeneity. A mechanism of negative health outcomes among racial minority groups is perceived discrimination, leading to a deleterious cycle of social withdrawal and loneliness. Loneliness stemming from a perceived lack of social support is a risk factor for morbidity and early mortality. Conversely, studies identify the prevalence of a Black-White mental health paradox, where Blacks report lower rates of psychiatric disorders than Whites despite societal barriers. This study aims to further explore a relationship between racial identity and social anxiety through the lens of Minority Stress Theory and Cultural Theory. Data from 20,013 participants (age 18+) in the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys (CPES) were used to determine racial differences in responses to three dimensions of social anxiety: Being extremely afraid or shy in social situations; Being afraid or uncomfortable with public speaking; Being very upset or nervous in social situations or in front of a group. Descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations were conducted. Racial identity was re-coded into "White Non-Hispanic" and "Non-White." Contrary to the hypothesis, across all three dimensions of social anxiety, a higher percentage of White respondents reported yes than Non-White (34.65%, 38.36%, 64.54% respectively, compared to 30.67%, 28.87%, 61.8% respectively), with p-value < 0.05 in all areas. Results from subsequent qualitative interviews were consistent with survey findings, pointing to a higher reported incidence of social anxiety among White people in the US. Future studies should further examine how experiences of discrimination impact social anxiety, as well as differences in attitudes about mental health between racial and cultural groups.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Irene Browne)

***Anxiety: Raising awareness and promoting change to reduce anxiety in African American College Students***

Evonne Downing, Fisk University

Anxiety is a severe emotion, and African American college students are at higher risk of developing persistent anxiety due to financial worries, racial discrimination, and pressure to overachieve. In a cross-sectional study in 1989 done by the Center for Collegiate Mental Health at Pennsylvania State University, increased levels of anxiety were observed in African American college students when compared to their White peers. It shows that African American college students are more likely to report moderate to severe anxiety than their White peers. A health professional conducted an event for African American students in Nashville to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health. The event was promoted through social media posts via Instagram, GroupMe, and word-of-mouth. In addition, data was collected through a pre-test and post-test to determine the knowledge gained from the event. Over 145 undergraduate college students attended this informational presentation, where information was shared regarding the different anxiety-related stressors, ways to decrease anxiety, and local and campus resources that provide mental health assistance at no cost to students attending Fisk University. There was a 43% increase in knowledge on the question regarding "ways African American college students can help regulate their mood when it comes to anxiety and stress." The event successfully increased participant knowledge, suggesting that raising awareness, sharing ways to lower its effects, and encouraging students to seek mental health therapy can make a real difference in reducing anxiety among African American college students.

(Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Rolande D. Dathis)