4th Annual Diversity Research Showcase

January 22, 2021
3:00-5:00PM EST
via Zoom

PRESENTED BY:
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Honors College
Undergraduate Research
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Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives
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Welcome

Welcome and thank you for attending the fourth annual Diversity Research Showcase (DRS) for MSU undergraduate students! The DRS provides students with the space to discuss their diversity research with peers, faculty, and staff in a supportive and constructive atmosphere. Topics span cultural, racial, ethnic, functional, gender, international, LGBTQ+, and political diversity.

The Diversity Research Showcase was made possible by sponsorship from the Honors College, the Undergraduate Research Office, the MSU Libraries, and the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives.

Special thanks to volunteers from the Undergraduate Research Office, MSU Libraries, Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Drew Science Scholars Program, International Studies and Programs, Honors College staff, and the Honors College Inclusive Excellence Strategic Committee.

SCHEDULE

Poster Presentations January 19-22 (asynchronous)

Oral Presentations Groups A1/A2 3:10-3:40PM EST

Oral Presentations Groups B1/B2 3:50-4:20PM EST

Awards Ceremony 4:45-5:00PM EST
Reasons for Alcohol & Substance Use in TGD Populations

Taylor Anderson (Psychology, Fourth-year), Terra Dunn (Neuroscience, Fourth-year), and Megan Wertz (Psychology, Third-year)

Data concerning reasons for alcohol/substance use was collected through a daily diary study of transgender and gender diverse (TGD) people (N = 181). A thematic analysis was used to code the data and determine themes and trends. While many reasons for use were somewhat universal (i.e. could also be reasons for cisgender individuals’ usage), some participants reported reasons due to the unique stressors experienced by transgender people, such as stigma, being misgendered, or being deadnamed.

Research Mentor: Dr. Jae Puckett

Parent Perceptions of Intimate Relationship Experiences of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: Comparisons with Typically Developing Siblings

Alanna de Sibour, Human Biology, Fourth-year

This study examines the role that parents play in the creation and maintenance of intimate relationships for their adult child with an intellectual disability (ID). This was done by asking parents who have an adult child with ID, as well as a typically developing (TD) adult child, to compare their experiences between these two adult children. This study finds that parents struggle with determining the appropriate level of involvement they should have in the romantic relationships of their adult child with ID, and that there is a strong need for coaching and mentoring for parents to help them navigate these experiences successfully.

Research Mentors: Dr. Sarah Douglas & Dr. Rebecca Kammes
Pregnancy and Drug Usage Across Ethnic Subgroups

Ishana Galgali, Neuroscience, First-year

For decades, public health authorities have tried to encourage pregnant mothers to abstain from alcohol and other drug use in order to reduce premature birth outcomes and infant mortality. In this project, the aim is to seek evidence that progress has been made toward this important public health goal and how that progress varies in United States (US) ethnic self-identified diverse subgroups, in order to understand differences in the effectiveness of public health efforts. This project uses a four-parameter functional analysis (Hill Function Analysis) of the results of audio computer-assisted self-interviews (ACASI), with standardized modules about extra-medical use of internationally regulated drugs (EMIRRD) use during the month prior to assessment.

Research Mentor: Dr. James Anthony

The Documented: Oral Histories from Spartan Students

Ben Goldman, Journalism, Fourth-year

This multimedia project documents the stories of Michigan State University students who are new U.S. citizens who deal with the undocumented status of family or international students who face persistent uncertainty that they will not be allowed to enter the country because of new travel bans. This initiative captures the joy of belonging and the heartache of separation because of deportation. The hope is this website is a window into the realities of immigrants and migrants, documented and undocumented, refugees and those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival status as well as international students as they pursue a better life in the form of a college degree.

Research Mentor: Dr. Geri Zeldes
The reorganizing of the traditional, dominating patriarchy that exists within undergraduate classrooms is essential for student educational, professional and emotional development. Traditional undergraduate classrooms follow a patriarchal structure: classrooms position professors into an immobile authoritative position, both physically and emotionally. This explicit portrayal of power puts students in a position where their voices need not be respected nor acknowledged. Experiential education pedagogy expands on the relationships between the professor and students within traditional undergraduate classrooms. Many experiential learning courses build upon an advocacy based framework found in feminist education literature. Applied experiential feminism is an approach that uses a foundation of policy and advocacy that potentially exists within classrooms. AEF positions these ideas so students are able to develop ownership on their own accord within the course. This study sought to answer these questions: In what ways is the success of an experiential education course function alongside the feminist applications of the instructors; the feminist makeup of the students within the course; or the feminist characterization of the course itself? How is the application of feminist practices in experiential education different than feminist practices found in traditional courses? We analyzed two courses through the lens of feminist education and found (1) the structure of the student-professor relationship more closely emulated that seen between professional colleagues, a result of the class space and the students’ ownership of the projects and (2) gender representation and success were apparent in the educational and professional outcomes of undergraduate students. In this sense, applied experiential feminism contributes to student social development by encouraging leadership and more equitable representation within the classroom.

Research Mentor: Dr. Eleanor Louison
POSTERS

Addressing Underserved Communities from the Judiciary: A Qualitative Study

Gabriel Gurule, History, Second-year

In November 2020, Erane Washington was elected to the 14B District Court in Ypsilanti Township, becoming the first woman of color elected to an open judgeship in Washtenaw County. Since her election, I have been leading a transition team composed of local stake holders including elected officials, community activists, and non-profit organizations. The goal of the team is to write policy rooted in the community through a lens of restorative justice that allows the 14B District court to decrease recidivism, better treat mental health issues, and more adequately treat substance abuse disorders.

Community Mentor: Judge Erane Washington

The Gerrymandering of Cities and the Politics of Racial Exclusion: Evidence from a Spatial Typology of Municipal Boundary Changes

Wisdom Henry, Urban Planning and History, Third-year

Municipal annexation is the most common means by which local governments in the United States redraw their jurisdictional borders. The highly contentious and often leads to the gerrymandering of city borders in convoluted ways. Prior research highlights two primary narratives regarding the politics of municipal annexation and the gerrymandering of city boundaries. In the first narrative, eager cities attempt to annex reluctant white and wealthy suburbs by redrawing their jurisdictional borders via inclusionary strip and satellite annexations. In the second narrative, reluctant cities wrap around but refuse to annex low-income and minority communities, creating unincorporated enclaves and islands that have been excluded from the city. We develop a typology that distinguishes between exclusionary, inclusionary, and neutral boundary changes using Python programming language and GIS software to systematically examine changes in the jurisdictional boundaries of 36 cities in the southern U.S. between 1990 and 2000. Our analysis confirms both the exclusionary and inclusionary narratives regarding municipal boundary changes but suggests that exclusionary changes play a more important role in the gerrymandering of cities.

Research Mentor: Dr. Noah Durst
POSTERS

The Lack of Black Women in the Upper Management of the Hospitality Industry

Foressia Hood, Hospitality Business, Third-year

This project will explore the cause behind black women being unable to move up in the industry. For this project, I would like to focus on black women in the hospitality industry and the lack of black women in the upper management roles in the industry. This project will focus solely on the hotel sector of the hospitality industry due to the lack of information on the other sectors of the industry. This topic is important because black women make up a large percentage of the working hospitality industry, yet they face many obstacles when it comes to moving up into the upper management roles in the industry. While this is a major issue that has been occurring for a while in the industry, this is an issue that is not talked about as often as it should. This project asks: Why is there only limited participation from black women in the upper management of the Hospitality Industry? The goal of the project is to provide more information on the obstacles black women face trying to advance in the industry and provide listeners with an idea of the issue going on in the industry to help come up with possible recommendations to assist with the issue.

Research Mentor: Dr. Joy Coates

Join the MLK Jr. Commemorative Celebration Committee on January 21 from 12:00-2:00PM EST for an interactive and engaging presentation on "Anti-bias Training: Moving Dr. King's message forward in a 2020 platform.” Kia Hagens (MEA) will facilitate this discussion and encourage dialogue among the participants. Attend online.
POSTERS

Variables, Injustice, and Reactions: Student Perceptions on Corporate Statements

Spriha Sharma, Psychology, Fourth-year

Social media has become a ready platform for companies to utilize to speak on political events as they happen. This may be a sign of eager activism and genuine concern but could also be interpreted as a way for companies to deflect responsibility. Corporate statements have run the gambit from supportive and action-oriented to disappointing and performative yet are the most popular form of organizational communication. This study aims to understand the varying perceptions of organizational statements made in response to racial injustice by judging the variables of said statements. Additionally, we will identify the variables and define how they can change the content of the organizational statements. Through a survey conducted through Michigan State, we are hoping to get a better sense of how students perceive said statements through survey data.

Research Mentors: Dr. Ann Marie Ryan & Lauren Collier-Spruel

For the Culture: The Story of Black Music as Our Leader, Our Reflection, Our Resistance

Sequoia Snyder, Jazz Studies, Fourth-year

The goal of this project is to investigate the culture created by Black music, the factors that connect Black music across genres, and its role as an agent of change. This will focus on rap/hip hop, soul, and jazz music specifically, their histories, and the themes that connect them.

Research Mentor: Dr. Joy Coates
POSTERS

Diabetes and Kidney Disease across Ethnic Subgroups
Elise Trost, Microbiology, First-year
The aim of this study is to estimate the potential association between diabetes and kidney disease, focusing on how this association might differ according to self-identified ethnicity.

Research Mentor: Dr. James Anthony

The Role of Age in the Acknowledgment of Employee's Voice Behavior
Xiaoqin Yan, Psychology, Fourth-year
This project investigates whether age plays a role in whether or not an employee's suggestions for improvement in the workplace (voice) are acknowledged. Many positive and negative stereotypes are associated with older workers. For example, older workers may be stereotyped as very wise, or they may be stereotyped as unwilling to try new things. So, one of our questions is, "Are older workers' voices more likely to be taken seriously or to be ignored?"

Research Mentors: Dr. Ann Marie Ryan & Jo Alanis

4th Annual MSU Social Justice Art Festival
Monday, January 18 – Thursday, January 21

Connect with the SJAF virtually January 18-21 for a 4-day festival featuring a variety of student artworks centered on social justice issues. It will be a week of contemplation and connection toward building a more inclusive MSU community. This event is hosted by James Madison College (JMC) and the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH).

More information.
Exploring the Relation between Race and Faculty Scholarly Influence in the Leading Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Alexandra Gormely, Criminal Justice, Fourth-year

A limited body of prior research in criminology and criminal justice reveals that faculty of color, who are historically underrepresented among the faculty in criminology and criminal justice, do not appear in the field’s leading journals compared to white faculty. This study seeks to further this literature by moving beyond the publication rate and explores the degree to which race/ethnicity is related to the individual faculty scholarly influence at the top 20 criminology and criminal justice doctoral programs in the USA. Using Google Scholar citation count as our measure of faculty influence, our analyses suggest that race and faculty rank are significantly related to scholarly influence; criminologists of color are cited less frequently than white scholars of equivalent rank.

Research Mentor: Dr. Sanja Kutnjak-Ivkovich

Examining Early Career Professional’s Perceptions of Gender Equality in the Hospitality Industry

Kailey Konkle, Hospitality Business, Fourth-year

Gender equality in the workplace has been an ongoing concern for many years. To examine its place in the hospitality industry, an online survey presented to recent hospitality program graduates in the workforce provided results that give insight to the thoughts and opinions of young professionals on how the industry is today.

Research Mentor: Dr. MiRan Kim
PRESENTATIONS

GROUP A1

Employing Andersen's Model to Evaluate HIV and STI Screening Among Transgender Men

Ishaan Modi, History, Philosophy, & Sociology of Science and Social Relations & Policy, Second-year

Andersen's Model is a behavioral model which aims to explain the factors influencing the utilization of healthcare services, with particular pertinence to disadvantaged populations. This project was focused on providing a theoretical framework through Andersen's Model and reviewing existing literature on HIV and STI screening among sexual and gender minorities. These findings were then used to inform and justify the variable set and categorizations for a secondary analysis of the Michigan Transgender Health Survey to evaluate HIV and STI screening among transgender men.

Research Mentors: Dr. Deirdre Shires & Lucas Prieto

Queering Migrant Communities: Identity Building and Activism for LGBTQI+ Migrants

Madison Nacker, Comparative Cultures & Politics and Social Relations & Policy, Fourth-year

Queer migrant communities have been recently manifesting in the last few decades, developing in ways that create a codependency between the community and activism which can be seen in trans, binational, and youth communities. Queer migrant activism and community building within and across borders of the United States have shifted to take the approach of radical interactionality, furthering queer migrants from the confines of an oppressive nation-state. This shift has impacted meanings of identity and community for queer migrants living within a nation-state that has functioned to distort, exclude, and marginalize these queer identities and communities.

Research Mentor: Dr. Anna Pegler-Gordon
The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented economic crisis globally and particularly in the U.S. Now, more than ever, the hospitality industry needs to focus on its main factor in the business: employees, and to understand the importance of diversity and inclusiveness to retain talents for hotels and restaurants. This study explores the impact of diverse and inclusive leadership on team-member exchange and employee delight, ultimately leading to customer delight and mutual delight.

Research Mentors: Dr. MiRan Kim & Dr. Bonnie Knutson

The majority of pregnancy cohort studies have unintentionally favored participation from socioeconomically advantaged mothers due to the high task load and follow-up requirements which have classically characterized longitudinal research methods. Through the use of optimized remote follow-up methods, the Archive for Research in Child Health and Baby Gut cohort study has helped pioneer a form of longitudinal research that is accessible to a low-household income group of mothers, providing a reproducible research model that will enable greater demographic representation in future studies of this kind.

Research Mentors: Dr. Sarah Comstock & Dr. Nigel Paneth
The Privatization of Immigration in Michigan: The Role of Lobbying to Expand, Enforce, & Profit

Janet Ibarra, Social Relations & Policy and Political Science (pre-law), Fourth-year

This project analyzes the influence of the GEO Group by analyzing campaign contributions to political contenders in the state of Michigan. In March of 2019, a private facility in Michigan known as the North Lake Correctional Facility was opened through a 10-year federal contract with the GEO Group. Through giving a comprehensive overview on the historical analysis of the privatization of prisons, criminalizing immigration policy, this paper will holistically understand how the current modern role of lobbying is used to expand and enforce immigration law.

Research Mentor: Dr. Anna Pegler-Gordon

Lansing Regional Youth Diversity Initiative

Sarah Oesterling, Marketing & Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science, Fourth-year

We have organized the Youth Advisory Committee, a group of high school students around the Lansing region who meet and organize student-led events with the primary purpose to connect youth and foster cross-cultural communication. The youth build relationships with both local and global students and discover how we differ and how we are alike, such as by hosting a successful virtual Global Connections Conference.

Research Mentor: Dr. Steven Gasteyer
Experimental Evidence of the Effects of Neighborhood Vacant Lots and Human Health: A Systematic Review

CJ Sivak, Urban & Regional Planning and Linguistics, Second-year

This study involves current evidence of the effects of vacant lots on human health and risks, based on experimental studies. Of the 11 experimental studies identified, the majority focused on health risks (n=7), followed by health effects (n=2), or both (n=2). A total of 67% (n=6) of studies found that vacant lot ‘greening’ interventions reduced health risks (e.g., crime, insect vectors, parasites), and 75% (n=3) found that ‘greening’ interventions improved health (e.g., self-reported mental health, stress, physical activity).

Research Mentor: Dr. Amber Pearson

Art Participation as Community Engagement

Alissa Hakim, Arts & Humanities and Political Theory & Constitutional Democracy, First-year

This project aims to investigate the importance of art as a method of community engagement in marginalized Detroit communities by taking and understanding the historical context of the city, identifying what groups have been negatively affected, and discussing the ways in which certain organizations have positively affected their communities through creative means.

Research Mentor: Juan Javier Pescador
Diversity in the Student Housing Cooperatives

Daniel Olweean, Social Relations & Policy, Fourth-year

The MSU Student Housing Cooperative is a community has an overwhelming majority white population. This study interviews members and non-members as to why this may be, and what can be done to change this.

Research Mentor: Dr. Steven Gold

Register to attend the event, featuring speakers:

- Debra Furr Holden, PhD, Associate Dean for Public Health Integration at the College of Human Medicine and Director of the Division of Public Health. Dr. Furr Holden is associate dean for Public Health Integration and director of the Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions. She also serves as MSU co-director of the Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center. She is an epidemiologist and classically trained public health professional.

- Praise Matemavi, DO, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine alum. One of the first Black female transplant surgeons in the United States, Dr. Matemavi is the 2020 recipient of the MSU Young Alumni Award. She is currently assistant professor of surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and editor of “Passion and Purpose: Black Female Surgeons.”
CREATIVITY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: ART AS A TOOL FOR COMBATING INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE

Tushya Mehta, Biology & German, Second-year

This project explores how individuals—particularly those hardest hit by the pandemic—are using creative outlets to cope with COVID-19 and challenge systemic discrimination to imagine a more just future. COVID-19 has called attention to the vast disparities in our society today, specifically how minority populations are disproportionately affected by this pandemic. The power of Black Lives Matter, the outrage over separation of immigrant and refugee families, and the harsh toll taken on racial and economic minorities, LGBTQ+, and disability communities all illustrate the importance of listening to the people whose lives have been most impacted; their creative practices illuminate new paths toward social justice. The aim of this project is to explore how diverse individuals are using creative practices that resist injustice, foster healing, and push back against the systemic inequities of COVID-19.

Research Mentor: Dr. Natalie Phillips

WHAT DO WE loose WHEN UNFETTERED CAPITALISM MEETS UNDER-UTILIZED SPECIES?

Rachel Drobnak, Crop & Soil Science, Second-year

The rise of under-utilized species opens an opportunity for cultures to benefit from ancestral knowledge and their stewardship of crops over generations; however, history has shown that these groups rarely benefit and are often exploited. While beneficial in the short-term, the rapid rise and fall of quinoa prices (approx. 2008-2015) was harmful to those involved in its production, to the environment, and to the economies of quinoa-producing communities. It is possible to learn from problems associated with the quinoa boom and bust to prevent similar levels of harm to future rising crops.

Research Mentor: Dr. Krista Isaacs
Fair Chance Reporting

Tyler Castillo, Journalism, Third-year

Through data collection, visualization, and analysis, journalism students determine how the demographic of the sources they interview correlate with public data describing the makeup of the communities they cover. With this information, they can sharpen their reporting, generate new visualization and check process.

Research Mentor: Joe Grimm

Fostering Societal Transformations in Neurodiverse Populations

Mariam Sayed, Physiology & French, Third-year

The overarching goal of this study is to foster innovative and transformational conversations between cutting-edge visionary leaders and neurodiverse self-advocates, providing for vertical transformative potential in science and society around disorders like autism. This project promotes the progress of marginalized groups towards greater rights, autonomy, and opportunities by creating a corpus of recordings of conversations on topics of urgent societal importance, using phenomenological data to test alternative hypotheses about causal reasons for problematic behaviors and symptoms, and developing and testing the effectiveness of personal narrative-based interventions for reducing discrimination and stigma against persons with neurodiversity-related diagnoses.

Research Mentor: Dr. Laura Dilley
A globally diverse institution, MSU welcomes thousands of international students each year. But how can we go beyond statistical diversity to ensure inclusion in the classroom environment and equity -- treating them fairly, mindful of their varied cultural norms, and giving them the best possible opportunities for success? Our team is preparing a series of instructional films for faculty to address these questions; in this video, "Why Won't They Talk?" we look at issues of in-class participation, from the perspective of international students.

Research Mentors: Dr. Cheryl Caesar & Dr. Joyce Meier

Inspired by NCORE’s webinar, "When They See Us: Experiences of Black Males Navigating Historically White Institutions," this summit centers on experiences of Black male students attending Michigan State University. Transcript of the NCORE session.

Register to attend.
GROUP B2

Racial Disparities in Organ Donation and Transplantation: COVID-19 Supply and Demand Shocks

Alison Ferer, Economics, Fourth-year

This project will look at how the changes in the number of living donations and changes to the process of organ donation during COVID-19 differentially affect transplant candidates by race. These findings will be compared to previously known racial disparities in the organ transplantation process.

Research Mentors: Dr. Stacy Dickert-Conlin & Dr. Michael Conlin

The Appetite for Cultural Epicenters: A Brixton Case Study on Gentrification

Crystal Bernard, Social Relations & Policy and International Relations, Third-year

My project is a research study about globalization's effects in London's urban centers. It argues that the expansion of corporate power creates a sharp increase in poverty in urban areas.

Research Mentor: Dr. Louise Jezierski
A presentation titled "An Ignored Pandemic: Racial/Ethnic Mortality Rates and COVID-19" by Joan Sirigiri, a Nursing student, highlights the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority populations. The study reveals that Latinx and Black populations had larger mortality rates of 187 per 100,000 and 184 per 100,000 respectively, compared to the White population with a mortality rate of 93 per 100,000. The purpose of this study is to identify risk factors such as comorbid conditions, lack of healthcare access, systemic racism, etc., that contribute to the COVID-19 disparity in the United States.

The research mentor is Dr. Horng-Shiuann Wu.

Another presentation, "Modeling and Analyzing the Spread of COVID-19 in South America" by Emma Brann, a Physics student, develops a novel SEIR model with a time-varying contact rate to describe how the spread of COVID-19 changes with non-pharmaceutical interventions and regulations. The model reveals the efficacy of different interventions and highlights the issues arising from poor reporting and limited testing capabilities in several South American countries.

The research mentor for this presentation is Dr. Shelby Wilson.
PRESENTATIONS

GROUP B2

Sociocultural Effects on Prevention and Care HIV: Immigrants and Transnational Migrants in the Dominican Republic

Stephanie Garcia, Humanities Pre-Law, Second-year

Sixty in-depth qualitative interviews were conducted in the Dominican Republic to further understand how sociocultural issues impact health outcomes for migrants with attention to how migration status impacted adherence to medical care. Results include various socio-political constraints on health and health seeking behaviors for immigrants diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Such constraints included: the governmental complexities of immigration processes, the pervasive criminalization rhetoric, racial bigotry and stigma, housing insecurity, inhumane detention processes, employment, and access to food. Within these constraints, migrant access to healthcare is limited, so HIV/AIDS treatment coupled with co-morbid illnesses and diseases are being left untreated.

Research Mentor: Dr. Pilar Horner

Join the virtual screening and community conversation featuring “Freedom Riders,” a film that tells the powerful, harrowing, and ultimately inspirational story of six months in 1961 that changed America forever. In 1961, more than 400 Americans risked their lives journeying through the Deep South, deliberately violating Jim Crow laws to challenge a segregated interstate travel system. Following the film, join a moderated online discussion with panelists. Register online.
Visit the Office for Inclusion & Intercultural Initiative’s website for the full calendar of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration events.

- Building Community & Celebrating Student Success
- Anti-bias Training: Moving Dr. King's message forward in a 2021 platform
- Coffee & Conversation
- MLK Jr. Day: Good Trouble: Reclaiming Our Democracy & Demanding Social Justice - Student Videos & Student Panel
- When They See Us: Experience of MSU Black Male Students
- Community Volunteer Projects
- MSU Libraries and WKAR Present Five Nights Toward Freedom: MLK Commemorative Film Series
- Beyond the Black Panther: Visions of Afrofuturism in American Comics
- MLK Virtual Networking - Service, Volunteerism, Activism, Community
- 4th Annual MSU Social Justice Art Festival
- Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert