

7th Annual Simpson Student
Research Symposium
Presentation and Poster Abstracts

[updated 3/3/17]

Saturday, March 4th, 2017
9:00am to 5:00pm

LaBaume-Rudat Hall
Simpson University
Redding, CA

Student Presentation Abstracts

Name: Blumert, Sarah

Degree Program: English

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: “Cloud Atlas: Representation or Appropriation?”

Presentation Abstract: The quality and perception of any written fictional work can be significantly impacted by the piece's authorial voice and presentation of the protagonist. These two aspects of narrative structure serve as the audience's primary conduits for the events and themes within the novel, short story, sketch, etc., and thus dictate, to a certain extent, to whom the piece is meant to appeal. David Mitchell's 2004 novel, *Cloud Atlas*, employs six different variations of both the authorial and narrative voices, each effectively shaping the perspective of their own section according to the protagonist's gender, race, and placement within their own society. Most regard this literary endeavor, which audaciously dismantles expectations for both genre and basic storytelling strategies, as a success; however, Mitchell's own scope of experience, as classified by race, gender, and sexual orientation, is only reflected in a small portion of his six interweaving narratives. My intent is to investigate to what extent a departure from the author's own experience is acceptable, specifically pertaining to Mitchell within his piece *Cloud Atlas*. I will apply concepts from multiple literary theorists, such as Gloria Anzaldúa and Hélène Cixous, to investigate the importance of representation within literature (again in reference to race, gender, and sexual orientation) as well as the significance of an author's scope of experience as it pertains to the realm of appropriation.

Name: Crew, Rachel

Degree Program: English

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: “Skating in a Sari: Hybridity, Gender, and Clothes in Monica Ali's ‘Brick Lane’”

Presentation Abstract: Monica Ali's debut novel "*Brick Lane*" explores the theme of cultural hybridity through the eyes of a young Bangladeshi woman living in London with her middle-aged husband. The book chronicles the main character's journey of self-realization as she encounters motherhood, love, and tragedy amidst a violent clash between two cultures. Ali presents cultural hybridity as an evolving concept that remains open to individual expression. This study will seek to examine the role of clothing in the way the characters establish belonging in Bangladesh, London, and the subcommunity of immigrants living along Brick Lane. Are these characters successful in their uses of clothing to assert belonging in specific groups and subgroups, or do their identities remain unchanging despite how they choose to alter their outward appearances? This question extends beyond nationality and culture to include issues of gender. It delves into the complex issues of hijab, power dynamics, and traditional roles.

The women of this novel are forced to navigate the idea of belonging in both the public and the private spheres, while balancing the seemingly incompatible concepts of Eastern and Western femininity. In each of these areas-public, private, East, and West-clothing plays a prominent role in attempting to define their ability to belong. This study will take into consideration the work of literary critics such as Alistair Cormack, Mrinalini Chakravorty, and John Marx.

Name: Geer, Shane

Degree Program: Biotechnology

Class: Sophomore

Presentation Title: “Belonging in Science: Biotech a History Full of Infamy”

Presentation Abstract: The purpose of this research paper is to take sources from both history and fantasy, such as *Inhuman: The Next and Final Phase of Man is Here* and *Frankenstein*, in order to present the idea that biotechnology belongs in the realm of science. Biotechnology has had a negative connotation for the implications it can be used for (and has been used for), but biotechnology has also been used positively and instead became overshadowed by the perversions in which twisted people have made out of a beneficial subject. My argument is that both helpful, advancing acts and horrendous, heinous acts have come out of such a field of study, and though that may be true it is not the field of study that deserves the blame for such a thing, but instead the people who dare to make choices to blemish the field of study. Therefore, with certain guidelines and regulations (that will be brushed over in this paper) biotechnology proves to be a valuable and necessary subject that belongs in the realm of science, in order to not only better the human race, but the world in which it holds dominion over, and this argument is the basis of this paper.

Name: Griffin, Scott

Degree Program: Business Administration

Class: Senior

Presentation Title: “Where Do Clouds Belong?”

Presentation Abstract: *Cloud Atlas* is a phenomenon of modern literature that stretches the boundaries of conventional terminology regarding genre and novel. What appears on the surface to be a work of fiction typically fits cleanly into one genre. By making the case for this book's lack of "novelty" one can reason against its inclusion in the genre of novel, which needs to be understood before making the counter claim that *Cloud Atlas* is a novel. This paper will focus on the reasons for and against this belonging to a specific genre. Concluding with the final argument for *Cloud Atlas*' role as a novel by analyzing what makes a book belong to a given genre while shedding light on the tradition of genre, and its importance in modern storytelling.

Name: Magera, Jordan

Degree Program: Social Studies

Class: Senior

Presentation Title: “The War on Trade: The Negative Impact of the Continental System and the Embargo of 1807 upon Britain”

Presentation Abstract: The Embargo of 1807 and the Continental System on Britain has been claimed by many historians to have a minimal at best impact on Britain. However, by removing the modern day economic lens, which is full of algorithms and complex matrixes, a much more drastic effect on the English economy is observed. A drastic decrease in trade is observed as well as a dizzying drop in bullion levels. This is magnified when examining the effects during the apex of these economic sanctions from 1807 to 1809. Using these guidelines, it becomes evident that the embargoes not only caused drastic harm to Britain, but they also put a serious amount of political pressure upon England to conform to the demands of the embargoes. The reason for the lack of change caused by these trade restrictions is not due to the embargoes being ineffective, but rather the political fortitude of Britain.

Name: Paradis, Kathryn

Degree Program: Biology

Class: Senior

Presentation Title: “Effects of Dog's Socialization on Behavior and Adoption at Haven Humane Society: A Case Study”

Presentation Abstract:

Background: Advances in animal adoption programs and practices have led to a substantial decrease of euthanasia practices from 96% in 1895 to 31% in recent years [1], [2], resulting in longer stays for dogs in animal shelters. The extended stay, in turn, presents new challenges to shelters as dogs are faced with less socialization than their adopted counterparts. Despite shelters facing a longer staying dog population, current work still presents open questions concerning individual dog welfare, in particular the effects of socialization on a dog's behavior [3], which ultimately could lead to lower chances of adoption.

Description: This work in progress presents a method to code an Individual dog's behavior through already existing socialization notes made by volunteers in an animal shelter. The coded behavior is in turn used to observe associations between a dog's socialization and behavior through the dog's lifetime in the kennel from his first day until adoption. We present early results of a case study at Haven Humane Society, an animal shelter in Anderson, CA employing the proposed method.

Contributions: Our early results suggest that the obtained behavioral codes could be used to improve the vocabulary of new volunteers in describing dog behavior, and address disagreement in descriptions of dog behavior in recent literature [3]. The

created behavioral codes through the dog's life in the animal shelter also allows for exploring associations between socialization and negative behavior, as it will be shown in this study.

Name: Pollard, Amy

Degree Program: Music

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: “Chasing Sanity”

Presentation Abstract: This piece was an exploration of the genre of minimalism. There are patterns within the piece that change very slowly over time by one or two notes at a time, and eventually turn into a completely different pattern. It's called "Chasing Sanity" to represent that everyone is going about their own pattern of life, which changes ever slowly (and sometimes not). We start with the same pattern in life, but then something changes and it creates a completely different way than you were living before. While we're all chasing our own form of normality or sanity, our lives come together and are dependent upon each other. We try to find a sense of belonging in our world by finding other people who are looking for the same kind of normality that you are. Once we find a place where the patterns are similar or the same, we think we've found that sense of belonging.

Name: Sanchez, Zachary

Degree Program: History

Class: Senior

Presentation Title: “Red Scare-Lavender Scare: How the Fear of Communism sparked the Gay Liberation Movement”

Presentation Abstract: Often times in the historical narrative, the Story of the Stonewall riots is generally accepted as the birth of the Gay Liberation movement. My research has lead me to challenge the general historiography in pursuit of the true origins of liberation that would eventually translate into civil rights.

Name: Soldahl, Amber

Degree Program: Cross-Cultural Studies

Class: Senior

Presentation Title: “Students and the Simpson Way”

Presentation Abstract: The Simpson Way is considered a cornerstone to the community identity from an institutional point of view, however a questions of student engagement comes to mind. As a student, is the Simpson Way seen as a vital part of our communal

identity? How is the Simpson way currently utilized by students? I want to find out what students think, how they utilize, and see the effectiveness of the Simpson Way.

Name: Stetler, Dillon

Degree Program: Mathematics

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: “Extremophilic Bacteria in Acid-Mine-Drainage”

Presentation Abstract: Iron Mountain Mine is a notorious U.S. EPA Superfund site that is known for its highly acidic environment. We visited the site to collect samples of soil and water containing high amounts of acid-mine-drainage (AMD). The AMD is known to contain various strains of extremophilic bacteria and archaea that thrive at the AMD's low pH. A previously characterized bacterial strain from the AMD runoff *Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans*, has been shown to actually hasten the production of sulfuric acid. However, other bacteria, called sulfate reducers, exist in the soil and have been shown to have the ability to neutralize acid. Samples of soil and runoff were acquired at various locations around the mine. We collected from Slick Rock Creek, the Richmond Mine area, and the Capped Waste area. From our samples, we calibrated our ion chromatograph (running the pre-installed "Chromeleon" software) and analyzed multiple samples from each area for the presence of acidic ions. Because of the very strong acid component, a ten-thousand fold dilution was required for the samples. Our initial data confirm a high prevalence of sulfate. We have further divided up our samples so we would have two control groups from each location. We then treated four samples with a specific substrate, two samples were treated with lactic acid, the other two were treated with acetic acid, and the last two were controls with no treatment. Results will be presented regarding the ability of these substrates to stimulate microbial activity to neutralize sulfuric acid in the samples.

Name: Struwe, Garrett

Degree Program: Bible/Theology - Honors

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: “The Implications of Jesus as a Nonviolent Nonconformist Protestor in the Gospel of John”

Presentation Abstract: No serious Bible scholar would argue against the idea that the life that Jesus lived was unconventional, revolutionary, and even radical. Martin Luther King Jr. went as far to say that Jesus was "the world's most dedicated nonconformist, whose ethical nonconformity still challenges the conscience of mankind." This paper examines the depiction of Jesus as a protestor in the gospel of John and what it means for those who call themselves his disciples. In the gospel, we see Jesus protesting the establishments and norms of his society by cleansing the temple, talking at length with the Samaritan woman, healing on the Sabbath, telling people to violate established Sabbath law, rejecting Jewish expectations concerning the Messiah, and more. He

conducts all of these protests while remaining faithful to his value for nonviolence. Meanwhile, he says of his disciples, "As the Father has sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world" (John 17:18). A deeper look into these texts and the scholarship surrounding them gives us a clearer view of John's idea of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in a world that is set against him.

Name: Sundquist, Heidi, Amanda Jones, Sara Salmon, and Sophia Williams

Degree Program: Psychology

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: "Evangelical Womanhood"

Presentation Abstract: Young women in Evangelical Christian universities often encounter hegemonic standards of womanhood presented by the majority culture, the university as an institution, and Evangelical peers. Oftentimes, these same young women do not fit in with ideal womanhood, known as the "Christian American Dream," yet still make space for themselves within the Evangelical Christian university. This research is aimed at discovering how young Evangelical Christian university women give new meaning to Evangelical Christian womanhood in a culture that holds traditional, contradictory views. This question was investigated using grounded theory and dialogical self analysis. Four group interviews with thirty-six Simpson University women, who identified as Evangelical Christians, were conducted to understand negotiations of meaning that occur within social groups. Dialogical self analysis of data was used to glean I-positions, or meaning positions, that assist in resisting hegemonic ideas of Evangelical womanhood and allowed for young women to negotiate overall identity as a Christian woman.

Name: Sundquist, Heidi

Degree Program: Psychology

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: "Does Personality Type Impact GPA?"

Presentation Abstract: The personality types of introversion and extroversion were measured using the Big Five personality test to examine whether introverts have a higher or lower average GPA than extroverts. Participants were placed into either the introvert or extrovert group depending on their respective scores on the extroversion scale. Individuals who scored 0-20 were placed into the introvert group, and those who scored 21-40 were placed into the extrovert group. GPA was self-reported by undergraduate university students (n = 26). A one-way ANOVA supported the researcher's hypothesis, showing that introverted individuals do have a higher average GPA than extroverts. This article explains the methods and procedures of the study, as well as provides suggestions for future research.

Name: Williams, Sophia

Degree Program: Psychology

Class: Junior

Presentation Title: “Music Preference and Personality Type”

Presentation Abstract: This study looked to see if there was a correlation between one's personality type and their music preference. Researchers hypothesized that there would be a difference in the music preferences between people who were scored as being introverts and extroverts. Participants' personalities were scored using a free version of the Myer's-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and a survey that measured non-genre related music preferences. Researchers determined that there was a significant difference between introverts and extroverts when it came to preference for heavy percussion, preference for fast beat, perceived popularity of music among peers, preference for soothing music like piano and acoustic guitar, and preference for instrumental music over music with vocalists. There were no differences found between introverts and extroverts when it came to the reason the participants listen to music, preferred type of music to listen to when studying, self-identified music taste, openness to foreign music, and preferred gender of singer. As a result of this data, researchers were able to conclude that there is a significant difference in the types of music introverts and extroverts prefer.

Name Wolfman, Bonnie

Degree Program: Ministry Leadership

Class: Graduate Students

Presentation Title: “MultiEthnic Tributaries: The Church as a River”

Presentation Abstract: In British New Testament scholar, N.T. Wright's, treatise, *Simple Christianity: Why Christianity Makes Sense*, he describes the church as “a single great river formed from tens of thousands of scattered tributaries.”¹ This presents an image of diversity. Much like the apostle John's vision of a “a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb (Revelation 7:9 NIV), there is the notion of movement, oneness and belonging.

In the current climate of ethnic and racial chaos, the Church should stand as a harbinger for every person, no matter their heritage. The image of many streams (people) being brought into one powerful single flow, reaches back to the Abrahamic covenant, where God takes a main stem (parent river), and moves it through until it reaches its confluence. Hence, it can be said that the Church is a series of multiethnic streams moving rapidly into one powerful single flow toward eternity.

As woman of color, it is my hope to present the Church as a unified image cultivated from many diverse streams (people) and to show that, we who are called to be agents of the Good News, have a common heredity, mission and purpose.

¹ N.T. Wright, *Simple Christianity: Why Christianity Makes Sense*, (Pymble: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006), 200.