



# **Pennsylvania Sociological Society 69th Annual Meeting**

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**October 11 – 12, 2019  
Elizabethtown College  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022**



# Welcome to the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

## Message from the President



Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome! This year marks the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Sociological Society. I am excited to host the conference at Elizabethtown College which is centrally located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (between “The Sweetest Place on Earth” and the State Capital). The theme for this year’s conference is *Engaged Pedagogy through a Sociological Lens*.

In an era of limited conference travel resources, increased teaching, research, and service loads, and enrollment challenges, our state sociological society is the perfect place to provide professional development and networking opportunities for students, faculty of all ranks, and those from community colleges to four-year public institutions. Of course, as the new Editor of the journal *Teaching Sociology*, I am particularly interested in finding ways to encourage publication of the scholarship of teaching and learning happening within Pennsylvania’s colleges and universities and I will be facilitating a workshop on Saturday, on publishing in the journal.

The Friday night session will consist of a special teaching demonstration of the stratification and inequality simulation Star Power which was developed by R. Gary Shirts in 1969. Barbara Prince, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Lebanon Valley College, and I successfully use the Star Power simulation in the current classroom. We will share the details of our 2015 article in *Teaching Sociology* including the assessment results.

The PSS Annual Meeting is also an excellent place to introduce undergraduate students to the conference environment. My first experience attending the annual meeting was as an undergraduate student my junior year. At the time, I was a newly minted Sociology/Anthropology major. The experience was life changing for me. I presented my Research Methods paper using data from the 1982 wave of the General Social Survey. While I did not win the Undergraduate Student Research Paper Competition that year, I did take first place in the same competition the next year with my senior thesis consisting of primary research using my church congregation to examine Catholic views of women in the military. As a graduate student at The Pennsylvania State University, I continued to attend the PSS annual meetings in order to fine tune my presentation skills without costly travel or regional/national conference registration fees. One of my greatest joys has been bringing the undergraduate students from Elizabethtown College that I mentor to PSS to present their research in a friendly environment.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your time at the PSS annual meeting this year, engaging with sociologists from across the state and learning from each other.

Sincerely,  
Michele Lee Kozimor, Ph.D.  
PSS President, 2018-2019

**Keynote Speaker: Hugo Cerón-Anaya, Ph.D.**



“Why Shall Sociologists Study the Privileged?”

Sociologists have a relatively nuanced understanding of the tastes, pastimes, consumption practices, socialization patterns, educational aspirations, perceptions of gender, notions of violence, and racial ideas of the lower classes but a very shallow understanding of the corresponding attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors among upper-middle and upper classes. The limited understanding social scientists and policymakers have about these groups might have inadvertently let them benefit greatly under today’s capitalist system. This talk will offer a reflection of what I have learned by studying the upper-middle and upper classes in Mexico and what are the implications of this knowledge for the United States.

Hugo Cerón-Anaya is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Lehigh University. His work focuses on social hierarchies, inequalities, and privilege, examining how class, race, and gender inform the behavior and perceptions of affluent people. He is particularly interested in the wide array of ordinary and everyday practices that reproduce privilege. He is the author of *Privilege at Play: Class, Race, Gender and Golf in Mexico*, Oxford University Press, 2019.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Friday, October 11, 2019

**6:00-8:00pm**

#### ***Star Power Simulation***

Facilitated by: Michele Lee Kozimor, Elizabethtown College and Barbara Prince, Lebanon Valley College

**Room: Hoover 110**

*Star Power* was created in 1969 by R. Garry Shirts and has been played by over three million people within institutions of higher education, sociology classes, businesses, and other organizations for diversity and leadership training. *Star Power* is a face-to-face, real time, non-computer simulation of human behavior within a society. During this session we will run the complete simulation of *Star Power* (approximately 1.5 hours) and then spend a half hour debriefing about the experience and explaining how to use this simulation in classes. Assessment materials and our article “An Old Tool for a New Generation: Using the *Star Power* Simulation to Teach Social Inequality”, originally published in *Teaching Sociology*, will also be provided.

### Saturday, October 12, 2019

**8:30 am-2:00 pm** –Registration Myer Hall- Susquehanna Room

**8:30 am-10:00 am**--Continental Breakfast Myer Hall - Susquehanna Room

**9:30 am – 10:45 am**

#### **Session 1- Undergraduate/Graduate Paper Competition Session**

Presider- Emalie Rell, Elizabethtown College

Room: Hoover 114

*Down and Working in the Dumps: The Effects of Job Satisfaction, Work Stress, and Work Hours on Depression*

Rachel Bickelman, Elizabethtown College

*Birth Mother Trauma Within Adoption*

Amanda Schwinger, Lebanon Valley College

*A Force to be Reckoned With: The Effects of Age and Social Media Usage on the Views of Police Use of Force*

Jessica Cox, Elizabethtown College

*Religiosity and Faith: Effects on Life Satisfaction, Marriages, Health and Relationships in the United States*

Casey L. Glunt, Bloomsburg University

*The Policy Implications of Social Movements: How #Metoo Can Bring Change*

Janel Myers, Elizabethtown College

**11:00 am-12:15 pm**

**Session 2A- General Paper Session**

Presider- Rachel Bickelman, Elizabethtown College

Room: Hoover 211

*Changing Strains: A Mertonian Exploration of Marijuana Use*

David Borton, University of Delaware

*Dream Job to Nightmare/Bullying Students in the Classroom*

Janice Purk, Mansfield University and Ying Yang, Shippensburg University

*Press on Regardless: An Exploratory Examination of American Stage Rally Racing Culture*

Michele Lee Kozimor, Elizabethtown College, Emalie Rell, Elizabethtown College, and Barbara Prince, Lebanon Valley College

*"We enable them because we give them free Narcan": The Narrative Work of Compassion Fatigue among First Responders in the Opioid Epidemic*

Christian Vaccaro, Melissa Swauger, Ashley Niccolai, Shayna Morrison, Erick Lauber, Alex Heckert, Victor Garcia, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**Session 2B: Undergraduate Poster Session**

Room: Hoover 114

*The Use of Social Media in College Aged Romantic Relationships*

Hannah Colen, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

*Perceptions of Stress in Correlation to Academic Major*

Amanda Schwinger, Lebanon Valley College

*2 Strikes and You're Out: Women of Color in the Workplace*

Michaela Maw, Bloomsburg University

*Low Income Students at Indiana University of Pennsylvania: Material Hardship, Academic Success, and Quality of Life*

Kathryn Misiak, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**We request that posters remain on display until 2 pm.**

**Session 2C: Workshop: Accessing Census Data: A Review and a Preview**

Presenter- Joseph P. Quartullo, U.S. Census Bureau

Room: Hoover 214

**Session 2D: Workshop: Taking Inventory: Using Clifton Strengths and Rubin's Four Tendencies in the Classroom.**

Presenter- Barbara Prince, Lebanon Valley College

Room: Hoover 215

**12:30-1:45**

**LUNCH:** Myer Hall - Susquehanna Room

**Welcome and Introduction:** Conrad Kanagy, Elizabethtown College

**Keynote:** *“Why Shall Sociologists Study the Privileged?”*  
Hugo Cerón-Anaya, Lehigh University

Election

Awards & Election Results

**2:00 pm-3:15 pm**

**Session 3A- Paper Session: Marriage and Family Dynamics**

Presider- Jessica Cox, Elizabethtown College

Room: Hoover 211

*Mandatory Childhood Vaccines: A Tale of Two Fears*  
Regan Gearhart, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

*Attitudes towards Marriage among Chinese and American College Students: A Comparative Study*  
Timothy Madigan, Mansfield University and Sampson Blair, SUNY Buffalo

*Breaking Up in the Digital Age*  
Peter Gillece, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**Session 3B: The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and Scholarly Teaching: Publishing in Teaching Sociology and TRAILS**

Room: Hoover 215

Presenters- Michele Lee Kozimor, Elizabethtown College, Barbara Prince, Lebanon Valley College, and Delaney Dammeyer, Elizabethtown College

**3:30 pm**

**PSS Business Meeting**

Room: Hoover 215

*All are welcome.*

**Papers/Workshops**  
**(In Alphabetical Order by Last Name of First Author)**

David Borton, University of Delaware, Center for Drug and Health Studies

[dborton@udel.edu](mailto:dborton@udel.edu)

*Changing Strains: A Mertonian Exploration of Marijuana Use*

The use of marijuana has become increasingly accepted in recent years, resulting in pushes for legalization of marijuana use at both state and federal levels. For decades prior to the recent push for acceptance, smoking marijuana has been considered deviant behavior. Many – most significantly Becker (1953) – have investigated what leads to individuals engaging in this form of deviance. However, the growing acceptance of marijuana use signifies a shift from being deviant to being normative, similar to the shift that occurred with alcohol in the post-prohibition era. A direction yet unexplored in marijuana use research is how, if at all, factors related to use shift as perception of the substance changes. This study applies elements of Merton's strain theory (1938) to multiple years of data to determine a) if indicators of the presence of social strain are related to an individual's marijuana use; and b) if the strength of these relationships changes as acceptance of marijuana grows. These relationships will be investigated using data from the 1999, 2009, and 2019 11<sup>th</sup> grade Delaware School Surveys (DSS). The DSS is an annual survey conducted since 1995 at a census of schools in the state of Delaware. The DSS includes questions related to students' use of drugs, their academic success, and their living situation. Regression models will be used to determine whether indicators of social strain are related to marijuana use, as well as how these relationships differ relative to how deviant marijuana use was considered during that time period. This approach to analysis may reveal shifts in what types of people are using marijuana. Limitations to this approach include the lack of direct indicators of social strain in the data, and the lack of questions directly addressing perception of marijuana. Context around the acceptance of marijuana during the selected time periods are discussed.

Regan Gearhart, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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*Mandatory Childhood Vaccines: A Tale of Two Fears*

With outbreaks of preventable diseases on the rise, understanding why some parents elect not to vaccinate their children is more important than ever. As an undergraduate, I conducted a qualitative study on this subject for the honors program in anthropology. In this study, I conducted several qualitative interviews, among the sample, six mothers. The interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify their common themes regarding childhood vaccinations. As a graduate student in sociology, I have conducted thematic analyses of commentary by "mommy bloggers" in opinion pieces or articles on their blogs or websites. In my conference paper, I compare the fears and concerns expressed in both data sources and provide explanations for the similarities and differences in opinions.

Peter Gillece, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

[pgillece90@gmail.com](mailto:pgillece90@gmail.com)

*Breaking Up in the Digital Age*

Young adults today engage in and disengage from romantic relationships differently than previous generations, evidenced by the emergence of hook-up culture, apps such as Tinder, and the most recent phenomenon of "ghosting" or ending a relationship by disengaging entirely. To

explore whether relationship dissolution has changed significantly, I analyze interviews with 13 college-aged individuals who recently experienced the end of a romantic relationship to see whether existing models of relationship dissolution remain useful. Preliminary findings of my research are presented.

Michele Lee Kozimor, Elizabethtown College, Barbara Prince, Lebanon Valley College, and Delaney Dammeyer, Elizabethtown College

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*The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and Scholarly Teaching: Publishing in Teaching Sociology and TRAILS*

Are you currently (or considering) using innovative activities or pedagogy in the classroom? Have you thought about presenting such innovations at conferences or publishing the results of your assessments? Do you want to learn how to contribute to the scholarship of teaching and learning within the discipline of sociology? This panel, led by the Editor, Deputy Editor and Undergraduate Editorial Assistant of *Teaching Sociology*, will provide you with information on two key publication outlets for your work: *Teaching Sociology* (TS) and TRAILS. In this workshop, we will discuss the differences in the materials that are published in TS and TRAILS, highlight the expectations for submissions and provide opportunities for attendees to talk to others about their current projects. This workshop will be especially useful for meeting attendees who are presenting original work on pedagogy at the annual meeting.

Michele Lee Kozimor, Elizabethtown College, Emalie Rell, Elizabethtown College, and Barbara Prince, Lebanon Valley College

*Press on Regardless: An Exploratory Examination of American Stage Rally Racing Culture*

[Kozimor-kim@etown.edu](mailto:Kozimor-kim@etown.edu), [relle@etown.edu](mailto:relle@etown.edu), [prince@lvc.edu](mailto:prince@lvc.edu)

Interest in motorized sports in the United States is gaining sociological attention as it is a growing aspect of popular American culture. More specifically, the examination of core sociological concepts including culture, diversity, gender, stratification, and inequality have been studied within the subfield called sociology of sport. Despite growing sociological interest in NASCAR, the social sciences have paid little attention to other motorsports with less name or sport recognition. For example, American performance (stage) rally is less known in the United States, but quite popular in a global context. Less funding, lack of professionalization, and commercialization are three potential reasons for the smaller audience sizes. The current ethnographic research study will explore the culture of American performance (stage) rally with a specific focus on issues of gender stratification and inequality. The purpose of the current ethnographic project is to collect data, establish credibility, and create interest in the project among those in the American performance (stage) rally culture. Data has begun to be collected through in-person interviews at national and regional performance (stage) rally events and phone interviews. Respondents include drivers, codrivers, spectators, volunteers, and family members. Some preliminary findings suggest themes such as “rally family,” and “camaraderie.” Preliminary results will be presented.

Timothy Madigan, Mansfield University and Sampson Blair, SUNY Buffalo  
[tmadigan@mansfield.edu](mailto:tmadigan@mansfield.edu)

*Attitudes towards Marriage among Chinese and American College Students: A Comparative Study*

This study compared attitudes toward marriage held by Chinese and American college students. The dimensions included whether to marry or not, ideal spousal characteristics, age of marriage, number of desired children, and age to begin to have children. In addition, attitudes towards divorce, cohabitation before marriage, blended marriages and gender roles within marriage were also explored. Hundreds of college students in several large universities in China and one regional university in the US made up the respondents. The Chinese were found to prefer marrying and to start having children a year later in age compared to the American students. Also, the Chinese preferred having one fewer total number of children on average compared to the Americans. Surprisingly, the Chinese were more agreeable to divorce. The Americans were more pro gender equality within marriage and acceptable of a blended type of marriage. Both groups were nearly equal on approval toward cohabitation with the one whom they plan on marrying. The results are discussed in terms of cultural convergence theory and historical particularism.

Janice Purk, Mansfield University and Ying Yang, Shippensburg University  
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*Dream Job to Nightmare/Bullying Students in the Classroom*

The dream job in higher education today can quickly change to a nightmare when student problems arise. Issue of incivility in the classroom by students have been examined in some forms but today this incivility has expanded to bullying of professors by students. Bullying has been considered acceptable behavior for some of the current student body. Today, as probably in the past, the issue of bullying is more than just a peer issue, however the change in the students with the belief of "Academic entitlement" now threatening the faculty. This research examines the classroom experiences through a 59 question survey of professor experiences with students' behaviors in the course of the teaching roles including the exposure to bullying and other disrespectful behaviors. Faculty respondents from five state universities completed the survey voluntarily. 448 faculty surveys were completed in an online format. The majority of respondents identified as female faculty (54%). The preliminary data indicates that 23% report that they have experienced student verbal disrespect in the classroom, 21.9% report having their authority in the classroom challenged by students, and 66.2% report students have threatened them. 61.4% of respondents felt that student bullying has increased in the last 5 years. As far as reporting incidents of bullying and disrespect to the administration only 18.4% of those reported being bullied (103) had done so. Of those that reported only 18.4% felt the concerns were appropriately addressed. This data leads to a deeper look at the changing classroom and the students' believed right of entitlement, as well as, the concerns about which professors are more likely to experience disruptive and inappropriate behavior in the classroom. This research also raises concerns about the administrative support and follow-through as perceived by faculty and reasons for non-report of these problems.

Barbara Prince, Lebanon Valley College  
[prince@lvc.edu](mailto:prince@lvc.edu)

*Taking Inventory: Using Clifton Strengths and Rubin's Four Tendencies in the Classroom*

Understanding what motivates others and how to effectively work with different personality types is vital for effective teaching, advising, and mentoring. According to Rubin, by understanding how we respond to outer and inner expectations, we can gain insight into ourselves and understand others far more effectively. Similarly, Clifton's StrengthsFinder allows individuals to identify and develop strengths so we can reach our full potential. Based in positive psychology, both inventories can provide new insights for improving teaching, increasing student learning, managing classroom dynamics, and enhancing mentoring relationships. For the past several years I have utilized Strengths, and more recently the Four Tendencies, to inform my teaching and increase student engagement. In this workshop I will discuss both inventories in detail, provide handouts on how to access the inventories, and offer examples of how I have used these inventories in multiple courses including Introduction to Sociology, Probability and Statistics, Research Methods, and Senior Seminar. Special attention will be paid to using Strengths and Tendencies in group work, advising, mentoring, and framing instructions for assignments to better reach all types of students. Participants will have the opportunity to complete the Four Tendencies inventory, ask questions, and brainstorm how these inventories can be used in specific classes and situations.

Joseph P. Quartullo, United States Census Bureau and Camden County College  
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*Accessing Census Data: A Review and a Preview*

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey collects and provides social, economic and housing data from a very large sample of 3.54 million housing units and group quarters each year. The primary method for accessing this data has been through the "American Factfinder" data tool. However, this tool is currently being phased out and is being replaced by a new data tool with enhanced ease and potential "data.census.gov." This hands on workshop will allow students, faculty and researchers an opportunity to review the abilities of "American Factfinder" and to preview the potential of "data.census.gov." Learning to use the new data tool is especially important now as the most current ACS data (2018) will only be available in the new platform. Bring your laptop as we work together with some hands-on examples with both data tools. We are all beginners with the new data.census.gov tool; no previous work with census data is required for the preview.

Christian Vaccaro, Melissa Swauger, Ashley Niccolai, Shayna Morrison, Erick Lauber, Alex Heckert, Victor Garcia, Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
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*"We enable them because we give them free Narcan": The Narrative Work of Compassion Fatigue among First Responders in the Opioid Epidemic*

The state of Pennsylvania and its rural communities – where this research takes place – has been devastated by the opioid epidemic and is considered an epicenter for overdose deaths. Our research focus is on those that have been on the frontline in managing this crisis, often known as first responders. We try to understand how rural first responders self-manage their emotions in response to the opioid crisis, negotiate expectations of their own resiliency, and disengage from work that is often quite personal? Data for this paper is drawn from a larger mixed methods study including EMS workers, law enforcement personnel, 911 dispatchers, and coroners. Although findings here are preliminary, we surmise that frontline responders engaged in narrative constructions as a type of protective work that enables them to deal with the challenges and

traumas of these face-to-face encounters. This narrative work becomes the basis for interactions marked by a lack of trust between first responders and users and creates a strong barrier that makes good working relationships difficult. It is notable this type of narrative work is characteristic of the lack of empathy and its behavioral analogs of compassion fatigue.

### **Graduate Competition Papers (In Alphabetical Order by Last Name)**

Janel Myers, Elizabethtown College

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*The Policy Implications of Social Movements: How #Metoo Can Bring Change*

Following the Harvey Weinstein sexual abuse allegations, the hashtag Me too (#Metoo) was used on Twitter to launch a national conversation on the nature of sexual harassment and assault within the United States, in turn conveying the severity and depth of the issue. Using a case study approach, this paper presents initial findings from an analysis of the #Metoo Movement. I find that opposing views of power in democracy affect perceptions of social movement outcomes. By researching the relationship of policy to movement related variables, it becomes evident the movement lacked a direct impact. However, the significant relationship between the movement and media attention ( $P < .000$ ) suggests movements do have an effect on their environment which may then affect policy outcomes. I also find that the movement generated several indirect influences, which can facilitate and give rise to future policy change. Future studies should allow for more time to allow the development of research-based policy solutions and more comprehensive analyses of influence.

### **Undergraduate Papers (In Alphabetical Order by Last Name)**

Rachel Bickelman, Elizabethtown College

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*Down and Working in the Dumps: The Effects of Job Satisfaction, Work Stress, and Work Hours on Depression*

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines depression as an individual who experiences a depressive mood characterized by sadness, irritability, or feelings of emptiness that is accompanied by a loss of pleasure in daily life. Individuals with depression also have cognitive, behavior, or neurovegetative symptoms. Together these symptoms inhibit an individual's ability to function. Previous literature suggests that there is a relationship between one's work life and development and severity of depression; however, these studies are outdated and have yielded mixed results of causal or related significance. Job satisfaction, work stress, and work hours have been connected to life satisfaction and depression via a spillover effect of work and mental well-being. This research examines the effects of job satisfaction, work stress, and work hours on depression to clarify whether a relationship exists. The data for this research were obtained from the 2016 wave of the General Social Survey (GSS) conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. After deleting missing cases, the total sample size consisted of 464 individuals. The majority of individuals (72.6 percent) were not depressed and were satisfied with their job. Results from bivariate and multivariate analysis are included. The results of this study update the literature on the relationship between work life and depression. It also is useful for workplaces to create wellness programs and assessments for satisfaction and

stress to gain insight and understand the effects of the workplace on depression. This research ultimately helps to inform employers of the influence of job satisfaction and work stress on depression and overall mental wellbeing.

Jessica Cox, Elizabethtown College

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*A Force to be Reckoned With: The Effects of Age and Social Media Usage on the Views of Police Use of Force*

Although there is no one agreed upon definition for police use of force, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) defines force as the amount of effort a police officer uses to make a citizen cooperate. Previous literature has suggested that police officers are trained to use force in situations that defend themselves or another citizen. Limited research has examined the relationship between age and social media usage on views of police use of force; however, studies have examined the effects of race in depth. This research examined the effects of age and social media usage on the views of police use of force. The data for this research were obtained from the 2016 wave of the General Social Survey (GSS) conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. After deleting missing cases, the total sample size consisted of 1,099 individuals. The majority of respondents agreed that it was acceptable for a police officer to strike an adult male citizen in any situation. In a situation where an officer was being attacked by a citizen, the majority of respondents supported the officer to strike a citizen. The hypotheses of this research were both not supported by the results of the bivariate and multi-variate analysis. The findings of this research are useful for police officers, individuals in the law enforcement sector, and citizens.

Casey L. Glunt, Bloomsburg University

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*Religiosity and Faith: Effects on Life Satisfaction, Marriages, Health and Relationships in the United States*

Religion in many societies across the United States is the foundation of a marriage. The United States is experiencing a large disconnect between religious individuals and those not religious. As previous research suggests religiosity enhances happiness, overall well-being, life satisfaction, marital success, health and longevity, and relationships with others. This study uses the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY97) to determine if a relationship exists between religiosity/faith importance and life satisfaction, marital statuses, health, and to whom one confides in with personal problems. Results from this current research show a positive relationship between religiosity/faith level and life satisfaction and are mixed between faith and to whom one turns to with personal problems. However, results of religiosity/faith level relationships for marital statuses and health are not what one may expect to observe based on previous literature. Further research should be focused on this topic.

Amanda Schwinger, Lebanon Valley College

[as030@lvc.edu](mailto:as030@lvc.edu)

*Birth Mother Trauma Within Adoption*

One of the most under-acknowledged topics within adoption is trauma experienced by a birthmother who places her child. Regardless of causes of the decision to relinquish her parental

custody, a birthmother will face the seven core issues within adoption in a unique manner depending on her circumstances. These seven issues are loss, rejection, guilt and shame, grief, identity, intimacy, and control (Silverstein & Kaplan, 1982). The other person who experiences these seven issues at the same magnitude as the mother is the child who has been adopted. These stages are faced differently by every individual involved in adoption. To gain a deeper understanding why, they must be analyzed from the perspective of those impacted by them. Looking at the core issues in conjunction with the stages of placing a child for adoption allows a glimpse into the experience of a birth mother and a comprehension of the trauma she endures.

### **Undergraduate Posters (In Alphabetical Order by Last Name)**

Hannah Colen, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

[csrw@iup.edu](mailto:csrw@iup.edu)

#### *The Use of Social Media in College Aged Romantic Relationships*

This research project examines the role social media plays in college-aged dating patterns. To answer this question, we developed a survey that asks various questions about college-aged student use and preference for social media platforms followed by a series of questions regarding the role social media has played in the initiation of, continuation in, dissolution of, and denouement of romantic relationships. In general, students have a neutral to negative view of the role social media has in their romantic relationship. Additional findings from the survey suggest that students, more likely than not, use social media to seek out information about potential romantic partner, initiate interest in starting a relationship, highlight positive aspects of a romantic relationship, and surveil the activities of an ex-romantic partner. Conversely, students are less likely to use social media to air grievances about their romantic relationship and use information from social media to terminate a relationship. This project was developed as part of the Frederick Douglass Research Academy (FDRA). The FDRA is designed to increase the involvement of underrepresented, first-generation, and low income undergraduate students in research and encourage them to pursue graduate-level research and study.

Michaela Maw, Bloomsburg University

[kaylamaw12@gmail.com](mailto:kaylamaw12@gmail.com)

#### *2 Strikes and You're Out: Women of Color in the Workplace*

Equal pay for women has been a hot topic in society for some time now and has been gaining momentum and although this is an important issue, it's not specific enough. In the fight for true equality for women, the disparities that exist between the treatment and conditions of women of color, more specifically black women, and white women cannot be ignored. Black women are more likely to be the target of both verbal and sexual harassment at work, discrimination, and also are more likely to be overlooked when it comes to promotions and job opportunities (Glynn, 2018). Black women as of 2019 are still earning 61 cents to every white male dollar compared to an average of 80 cents for all women to that same dollar (U.S Census 2018). In addition to being paid less, as if that wasn't enough, black women also experience more job segregation than white women, as assumptions based off their race are made to determine what job role in the workplace would suit them best (Frye, 2019). Black women have had the highest rates of labor

force participation for years. This is greatly due to the fact that black women have always been expected to work outside the home compared to white women who could participate in the traditional American family dynamic, where women took care of the household duties and men were expected to bring in the money (Frye, 2019)(Glynn, 2016). In addition to the unattainable traditional family, black women are also more likely than white women to be raising children while unmarried, thus making them the breadwinners of their family (Glynn, 2016). Nearly 80% of black women are breadwinners for their families, making up 4 million people out of the population, and out of that same 4 million, one third of that group lives below the poverty line (Anderson 2018)(U.S Census 2018). How can the black women even attempt to play on the same field as their white counterparts if our society, government, and corporations continue to overlook the need for equal pay? My study focuses on the differences in treatment, specifically harassment and racial discrimination between white women and black women in the workplace. I will be using the GSS to access surveys pertaining to the previously mentioned topics. My hypothesis is the data will show that black women experience higher rates of racial discrimination and harassment than white women in the workplace.

Kathryn Misiak, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

[katie.misiak@gmail.com](mailto:katie.misiak@gmail.com)

*Low Income Students at Indiana University of Pennsylvania: Material Hardship, Academic Success, and Quality of Life*

This study explores how college students who receive financial aid to attend a public state university navigate the demands of working, attending classes, and maintaining a social life. According to other research, college students today face higher rates of material hardship than the general population (Broton & Goldrick-Rab, 2016). Guided broadly by the stress and coping framework, we examined student efforts to manage economic strains such as the costs of tuition, books, housing, food, and energy, among other everyday expenses. We conducted an anonymous online survey of a convenience sample of 50 students at a school where a large portion of students receive financial aid, and many students are first-generation and/or working class. The results indicate two major areas where students typically struggle with some level of material hardship: access to food and paying for campus parking. Although it is common for students to experience difficulty in balancing the different areas of their lives, food insecurity and the expense of parking on campus exacerbated students' economic insecurity in this study. Economic insecurity is negatively related to students' academic success and graduation rates (O'Neill & Maguire, 2017), but the good news is that these areas lend themselves to interventions that can affect change. This research can inform efforts in higher education to promote retention by reducing economic barriers to persistence through small, positive impacts on students who experience economic insecurity. Examples of low cost but potentially meaningful interventions include institutional support for campus food pantry initiatives and offering parking subsidies for low income students. The results of this study are idiosyncratic, not just because it comes from a small convenience sample at one school, but because the economic barriers to persistence in higher education likely vary considerably both across institutions and within them. An important conclusion, therefore, is that each school can benefit from routine yet simple assessment of economic challenges for their students and consider novel and innovative ways to address those issues to support students in achieving their educational goals.

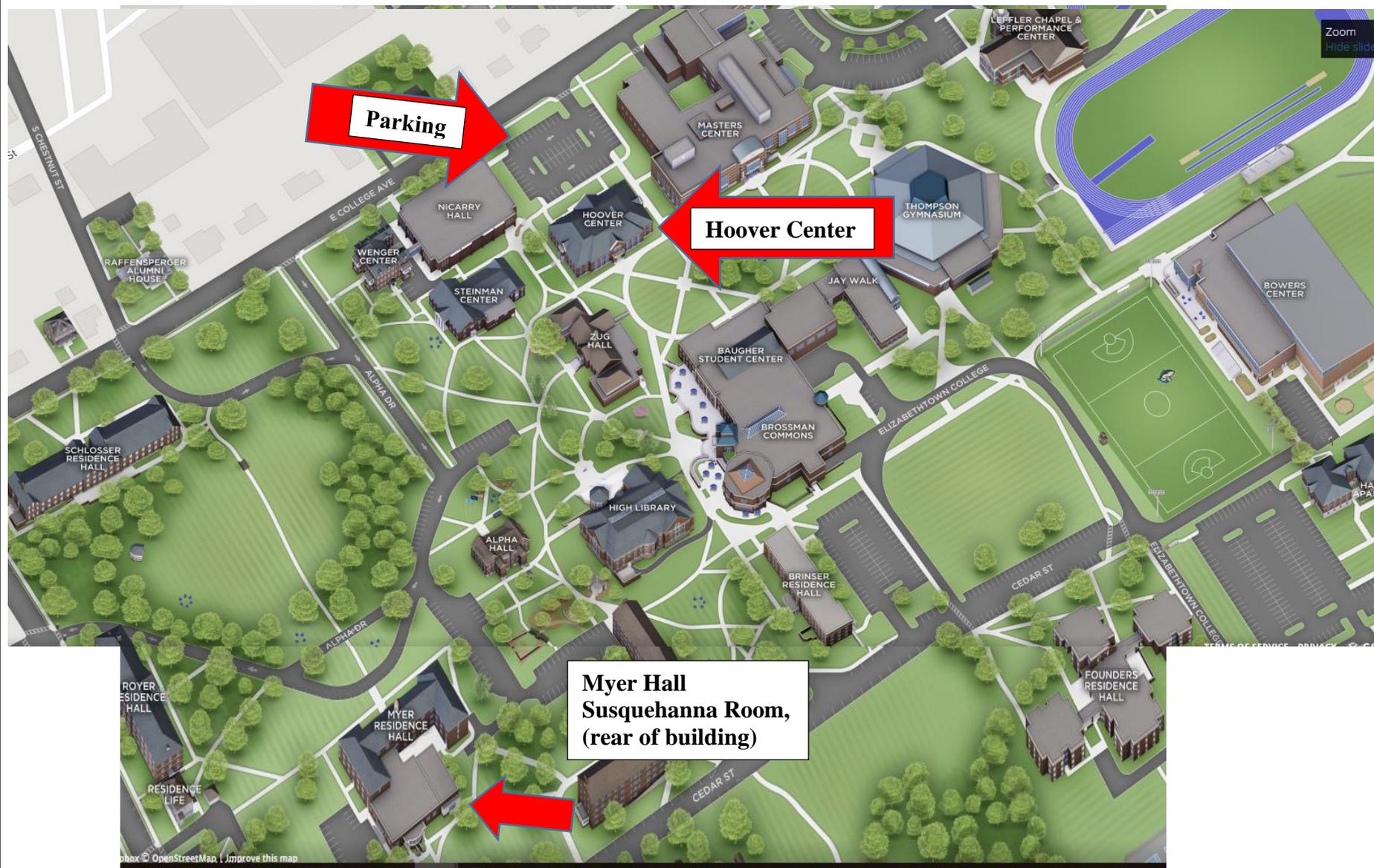
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*Perceptions of Stress in Correlation to Academic Major*

The purpose of this study was to examine if there was a correlation between academic major and stress, specifically in those areas of study which were highly promoted by the university. By analyzing Karl Marx's capitalist theory, the idea that colleges are business can be explored. Because these institutions are financially-driven, they need to enroll students who will pay them tuition, they place emphasis on highly desirable majors in growing career fields to capture student attention. A survey was distributed by email to all current students at Lebanon Valley College, and of the approximate 450 responses received, 235 were randomly selected. A Chi-Square Analysis provided a significance value of .000, allowing the researchers to reject the null hypothesis





Star Power (Friday night) in Hoover Center for Business, room 110  
Registration, Breakfast and Lunch in the Susquehanna Room in Myer Hall  
All paper and poster sessions in Hoover Center for Business