Wichita State University
6th Annual
Sociology Symposium

October 19, 2018

Sponsored by

Wichita State University
Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology

Shocker Sociology
Student Affiliate of Wichita State University’s Department of Sociology
October 19, 2018
Friday 9:00 am - 3:15 pm
LAS Dean’s Conference
Room 200 - Lindquist Hall

9:00-9:30 Morning Mingle
(coffee provided)

9:30-10:45 The Life Course

11-12:00 International Sociology

12:00-1:15 Lunch (on your own)

1:15-1:45 Keynote Speaker
Jodie Hertzog PhD

2:00-3:00 Local Sociology

3:00-3:15 Concluding Remarks
Keynote Speaker:
Jodie Hertzog, Ph.D.
Sociology Department Chair

Dr. Hertzog is the Sociology Department Chair for Wichita State University. Maintaining in-demand job skills and understanding the needs of 21st century employment guide the development of curriculum and internship opportunities for Sociology students. Dr. Hertzog presents crucial data on the skills and qualities that employers are looking for to assist students in “packaging” themselves.
Minority students continue to suffer within a school system that is has failed to adapt to the need of the students, yet continues to demand for students to adapt to an enforced curriculum and behavior standards. Despite the social progress that has been made in terms of racial acceptance, researchers are still finding out that institutions are still racially segregated. One of these vital institutions is the education system, which continues to pass racially majority students while crippling their minority counterparts. Minority students report lower success within the classroom, tend to feel less accepted within the school system, and disproportionately receive harsher actions of discipline. All of these factors contribute to the stifling of minority student success within the classroom. The goal of this paper is to analyze how African American students continue to fail within the education system by analyzing this problem through the theoretical lens of Du Bois’ Color Line, Jameson’s Aestheticization of Reality and Horkheimer and Culture of Sameness.
The Formation, Maintenance and Necessity of Queer Safe Spaces.

Despite increasingly common calls from modern, affluent, young gay-identified people that safe spaces for queer people are becoming unnecessary, many individuals in less densely urban areas as well as those within the LGBTQ+ community who do not have as much access to levels of social privilege do still often seek out and/or create designated spaces to form communities called safe spaces. A safe space is a place where anyone can relax and be able to express themselves, without fear of being made to feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or unsafe because of biological sex, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, cultural background, religious affiliation or age. Those with minority status specifically seek out and create safe spaces as a means of self-protection and freedom of authenticity. This presentation will exclusively focus on the need of safe spaces for those of LGBTQ+ status, and more specifically safe spaces amongst those individuals within the LGBTQ+ community who have intersecting identities, especially racial minority and class minority status. The ability to have a choice between public gay spaces or simply being gay in normative public spaces is not an aspect of life afforded to many people that live in places without a safe space, or without being in a densely populated urban area. This presentation will explore the necessity for safe spaces as it relates to those who identify as queer, that is, those who are not heterosexual and cis-gendered. This presentation will cover an overview of interviews about the topic as well as literature surrounding the necessity of safe spaces for queer people. This presentation will also discuss the ways that race, privilege, and space play out, as well as illustrate ways that safe spaces are desired, created, and maintained by an area's queer community, and the crucial role that language plays in this process.
The desire for many Americans to maintain youthfulness is prevalent in a lot of ways. Whether through the use of anti-aging products or plastic surgery for example, the actions of society express a certain fear for growing older. I would like to know how many songs in pop culture deal with this anti-aging concept. Using the medium of song lyrics, I use the iTunes Top five downloads from the last five years to explore aging in pop culture in my case study that my presentation centers around. I am curious to how many of culture’s most popular songs deal with the concept of aging or youthfulness. The opposite could exist though: do artists express the desire to grow old through their lyrics? The analysis of the research hints that about a little under half of the top songs over the years songs deal with some theme of aging, and also that when aging is mentioned it typically follows common themes with other songs. Since these are some of the most downloaded songs of the time, it reflects societies fears and thoughts of the time as well. The songs that deal with aging and youth typically express themes of Carpe Diem or Tempus Fugit, which are common themes throughout life and literature. The fear of aging and letting time conquer oneself is expressed through these concepts and further through the lyrics that deal with aging. Macklemore’s “Thrift Shop” salutes old clothing and things of the past as something desirable, but it is done so in a light-hearted way. Songs listed above tend allude to childhood at times as a golden era, one of innocence and opportunity, full of nostalgia like in Twenty-One Pilots’ “Stressed Out".
Children’s Aid to Parents: Gender Roles, Social Context, and Patterns of Caregiving

The aging of the American population has led to concern about how care will be provided to the increasing proportion of older people. Most assistance is actually provided informally by family members, much of it by adult children of aging parents. While cohort differences in marital status, fertility rates, and employment behavior undoubtedly affect the availability of adult child caregivers, gender role and social context changes also seem likely to affect whether or not a child provides care, what types of care, and/or how much care is provided. Differences in individual’s characteristics affecting provision of care at different time points, both within and across families, can highlight consistency or variability in larger patterns of family caregiving. This presentation compares results from analyses of the first two waves of the National Survey of Families and Households (1987-1988 and 1992-1994) with analyses of the Health and Retirement study (waves 2002 to 2010), with particular focus on sons’ participation.
This study presents the results of analysis of the content and placement of graffiti in the cities of New Orleans, LA; Hilo, HI; Belgrade, Serbia; Novi Sad, Serbia; and Wichita, KS. Graffiti containing words were used within the comparison and non-English was translated idiomatically whenever possible, for tone and common phrases. Content was compared for visual tropes including animal and human representations, and emotive variables including aggression, playfulness. Comparison was also made between marks of simple nouns of possession (tagging). Results were compared to Sociological and Anthropological methods for mapping cultural regions. It was confirmed graffiti provides a mappable variable with cultural information unavailable through other standard techniques including inter-community dialog. Further, a flaw was identified in previous work showing that an absence of imagery within a location, itself surrounded by dense imagery, is not a clear indication of respect by the surrounding population.
It is well-documented that culture and society have a profound impact on individuals. I have been lucky enough to witness this impact firsthand as I have family that were born and raised in Saudi Arabia. The cultural differences between our two countries are extreme and I have always found them to be highly interesting and of great importance. In the fall of 2017 I was given the opportunity to conduct an interview for a class assignment. For this interview I chose to have a discussion with my youngest female cousin, Lujain, about the importance of culture and her experiences in both her home country and when visiting the United States. Additionally, this past summer I had the opportunity to visit Saudi Arabia for two weeks to attend Lujain’s wedding. This visit allowed me to witness many of the distinctions Lujain had made in her interview and to experience the difference in our two cultures. This presentation will cover both qualitative research methods: the interview project and my personal experiences during my visit. Cultural differences will be discussed and analyzed and similarities will be drawn out.
Global Sex Work: Applying Sociological Theory and Perspectives

Globalization of capitalist economies has led to the development of meso-level or jurisdictional markets (Harvey as cited in Dillon, 2010: p.469; Jones, 2008). These localized markets, especially Asia, seek to entice potential investors (transnational capitalist class) who are wanting to capitalize on the unprecedented growth in the Asian economic system (Hoang, 2015; Sklair as cited in Dillon, 2010: p.466). Sex workers are used to demonstrate capital and status to potential investors in nations with rapidly increasing GDP (Hoang, 2015). Sex work is more lucrative for participants than factory labor because of the distribution of wealth in developing nations (Brody et al, 2016; Sinha, 2015; Jones, 2008; Shah, 2003). Women are enticed to support the new face of Asian capitalism, modeled in the image of South Korean culture (Hoang, 2015; Hoang, 2014). Women engage in economic rational choice and consider sex work economic liberation with high returns, rather than suffer the exploitation of being employed in factory labor, producing goods for the capitalist machine (Sinha, 2015; Shah, 2003). Sociological theories will be applied to this phenomenon, exploring the role of colonialism, orientalism, and de-humanization in the practice of global sex work.
Lunch

Lunch on your own
12:00-1:15

Keynote Presentation
1:15pm-1:45pm
Jodie Hertzog, PhD
Higher Education and the 21st Century Economy: What Do Wichitans Think?

Recent public discussions across the Wichita area have focused on education as a key factor affecting the region's economic struggles. In particular, it has been alleged that Wichitans are significantly more likely than residents of other U.S. regions to express "anti-education" attitudes. I investigate these claims using data from the Pew Research Center and the Knight Foundation Soul of the Community survey. Results contradict the claim that Wichitans are less supportive of higher education than average. I contextualize these findings within broader trends regarding higher education in the U.S. There is a crisis in higher education in the U.S., but my results reveal that this is not a phenomenon unique to Wichita. I discuss the implications of these findings for ongoing debates regarding appropriate strategies for improving the regional economy in South Central Kansas.
A famous quote by Winston Churchill reads “History is written by the victors”. In general this is how history was and is still written, whether to bolster national identity, political affiliation, or community loyalty it becomes a part of the global narrative. This narrow narrative gives room to just one view, one voice. Joachim Peiper said, “History is always written by the victor, and the history of the losing parties belong to a shrinking circle of those who were there”. The exclusion of the narrative of those “losing parties” has left contributions, cultural legacies, and historical truths from the global narrative. Searching for those omissions in the global narrative is an enormous undertaking, but perhaps by starting with one small town, one community’s narrative we can begin to build a new, inclusive narrative that not only discovers and reclaims the voice of the “losing parties”, but tears down the divide between communities, the me and the them and bridges together contemporary communities. Newton, Kansas is one of those small towns, in which its history and founding is heavily tied to Mexican immigration. Through thorough research of state and county, newspaper and church archives as well as personal interviews I have compiled a timeline that documents the significant historical impact of the Mexican immigrant community of Newton, Kansas. These contributions beginning in the late 19th century will demonstrate the instrumental role this community played in the creation, founding, and contemporary identity of Newton, Kansas.
Kansas Food Bank: Reigning Capital and Dehumanizing the Poor

This presentation utilizes the application of sociological theory to describe a service-learning opportunity for the Advanced Sociological Theory course, instructed by Chuck Koeber PhD. Using Pierre Bourdieu’s Theory of Capital and Sigmut Baumann’s Theory of Post-Modern Dehumanization, the demographics of volunteers, the nature of volunteerism, and potential shortcomings in the volunteer process are highlighted. New theories about volunteerism are developed, with the discussion of the “benevolent volunteer” and the “restitutive volunteer”. The history of the Cargill Cares Kansas Food Bank, volunteer opportunities, and the benefit of volunteering are discussed from a skeptical perspective, prompting the audience to examine the motives and networking processes of volunteers at the Kansas Food Bank.
Please provide your thoughts by filling out our survey questionnaire about this event before you leave. Your feedback is essential to our planning and we appreciate your suggestions!
Save the Date!

Friday, March 31, 2019

6th Annual
Gender & Sexuality Conference
at Wichita State University

Keynote Speaker:
TBA

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A Special Thank You to:

LaDawna Hobkirk,
Sociology Administrative Assistant

Wichita State University