



## Liberal Arts Research Collaborative

### Abstracts/Student Presentations

Friday September 21, 2012 - Ford Hall/Room 122

**Octaviano Chavarin.** Latinos in Rural Oregon: The Politics of Geographic Isolation  
(Advisors: Professors Emily Drew & Brianne Davila, Sociology and American Ethnic Studies)

The presence of various organizations that work with and for the rights of immigrants changes the ways in which immigration status is discussed. As such, I argue that the lack of such organizations advocating for immigrants rights in rural Oregon forces undocumented individuals and by extension, their families, into the shadows. Additionally, I argue that immigration policy does not solely impact those who are undocumented but entire families who live under the same roof with multiple immigration statuses. However, despite the lack of organizational presences in the area, families actively build community around their commonalities.

**Delia Olmos-Garcia.** Under One Roof: Understanding the Effects of Immigration Policy for Mixed-Status Families in Oregon  
(Advisor: Professor Emily Drew, Sociology)

“Mixed-status” families, those likely to have a U.S. born citizen, a foreign born person with legal residency, and/or a person who is not documented all living under the same roof, present an important and complicated challenge for policy makers. Immigration policies, developed at the federal level and implemented on the local level, are increasingly creating “divided fates” within such families. Through this research project, I examine the consequences of immigration policy on mixed-status Latino families, and consider how policy can accentuate and attenuates stratification *upon* and *within* families. In order to understand the consequences of immigration policy enforcement on mixed-status Latino families, we conducted in-depth interviews with 32 families in Oregon. Through analysis of this data, I will investigate how immigration policy produces a unique circumstance for mixed-status families, one that affects participation in everyday life, civic engagement, and economic opportunity.

**Sarai Rivas** Understanding the Need for and Efficiency of Bridge Programs  
(Advisor: Professor Brianne Davila, Sociology)

Willamette Academy (WA) is a college access program on Willamette University's campus that provides various resources to students from underrepresented communities. My research focuses on the impact this program has had on its former students' college experience. This allows an examination of the efficacy of bridge programs in providing their students tools, not only to get in college, but also to be successful in college. In order to investigate this, WA alumni who enrolled in Willamette University, Western Oregon University, and/or Chemeketa Community College were interviewed, and asked to share their experience while in the program and their experience as college students. This research is still in its preliminary stage of data analysis. But with the data gathered, I hope to compare and contrast the students' experiences by institution type to evaluate the preparation students gained from their participation at the academy; and the obstacles they faced, if any, at each of these institutions.

**Ariel Wilson.** *Nervous State: An exploration of tintype photography and psychological phenomena (Advisor: Professor Alexandra Opie, Art)*

This presentation will discuss the inspiration, process, and results of a summer research project exploring tintype photography, a historical method of creating images. The chemical and aesthetic process of making tintype photographs differs greatly from contemporary process of photography. Working with this process creates a different sense of value in relation to the photograph than that which we experience today. The research and creation process was time intensive, delicate, and difficult to control, making the exploration challenging and engaging. The process of portrait photography, as was practiced in the mid 19th century, forced the subject to sit still for extended periods of time. The exploration and resulting series of nine tintype images addresses our relationship to this experience of time. It also aims to illustrate anxiety as psychological phenomena, self-soothing behaviors, and the relationships between the body, time, and society.

**Cara Thompson.** *Ode to Hasseldorf: An exploration of curiosity cabinets and collecting. (Advisor: Professor Heidi Grew, Art)*

In this presentation I will discuss the artistic process for my LARC project, which I used to create an installation piece currently on display in the student gallery. In my research I explore the themes of collecting and curiosity cabinets, which subsequently provoked my own summer collection of found objects. My final piece, *Ode to Hasseldorf*, displays these found objects juxtaposed with precious articles. The piece is a “cabinet of curiosities” intending to question our perception of value and evoke wonder in the viewer.

**AnnaMaria Mencarelli.** *Preserving Memory: MISSING Kyron Horman. (Advisor: Professor Catherine Collins, Rhetoric and Media Studies)*

Seven-year old Kyron Richard Horman disappeared from Skyline Elementary June 4th 2010, joining the ranks of the 800,000 missing children reported that year. Two years later, his search has become comparable to the infamous Etan Patz disappearance reminding society fo the continued presence of child exploitation and abduction. Our research will comprise a series of articles that intends to investigate the physical and virtual memorials utilized to preserve Kyron's memory, advocate his cause, and cope with the trauma of his disappearance and the ambiguity of his whereabouts. Through our initial investigations we found that the images of Kyron, in particular the final image of the boy at the science fair taken moments prior to his disappearance has served as the most consistent medium for the public to rally for this iconic missing child. We argue that it Kyron's images that are the epitome of preserving the memory of this disturbing case in the public realm.

**Emily Dougan.** *Learning Through Process: Creating a Ritual Space at Zena Forest (Advisors: Professors James Thompson, Art, and Wendy Peterson Boring, History)*

Using Zena Forest as a classroom, our LARC group studied ritual, the power of place, and the importance of space through the process of creating a ritual site at Zena. In addition to studying ritual through the actual process of creating a space and ritual at Zena, our goal was to create a welcoming and accessible environment at Zena for the Willamette community as a whole. The final product with this project was the creation of a public ritual space at Zena Forest, and the creation of a trail map and guide which will be made accessible to all members of the Willamette community.

**Marshall Curry.** Leadership Training at Zena Forest.

*(Advisors: Professors James Thompson, Art, and Wendy Peterson Boring, History)*

The place-based, hands on learning of food systems education is known to offer unique opportunities to develop student's knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices. Through my explorative research into how classrooms work, I found that students in these programs can also develop skills as communicators, learners, leaders, and agents of change. I will present how my qualitative study of curriculum setting and its relation to the students, the farm work, and the communal elements of the Summer Institute of Sustainable Agriculture at Willamette's Zena Forest and Farm, combine to create a laboratory for self-reflection, ethics formation, and paradigm change for students. I will also discuss learning objectives and lesson plans derived from the research that could be added to any program to incorporate these outcomes that are integral to any leadership training.

**Heather Kyllingmark.** Film Screening: Being Eleven.

*(Advisor: Professor Bobby Brewer-Wallin, Theatre)*

This short film offers a glimpse into a young girl's experience of memory, loss, and longing in the face of adolescence. Following the screening, I will discuss my research, which centered around the expression of grief and absence as displayed through the medium of narrative film. I will also discuss character development and aesthetic choices.

**Dawn Hinrichs.** Descriptive and Proscriptive: The Victimization of Queer Youth.

*(Advisor: Professor Jade Aguilar, Sociology)*

Portrayals of LGBTQ youth in the media are overwhelmingly, if not exclusively, negative and highlight queer youth as victims of violence, rejection, and suicide. In my research, I call into question the tokenized, seemingly singular narrative of tragic LGBTQ adolescence, in favor of media portrayals of youth that capture a wide range of experiences. By exploring the impact the media has on mainstream conceptions of LGBTQ adolescence and, in turn, how those notions affect the lived realities of LGBTQ youth, I hope to shed light on how the marketed victimization of LGBTQ youth is as descriptive as it is proscriptive. Based on the economic and political gain of LGBTQ youth centered campaigns, I argue that pro-LGBTQ organizations unintentionally victimize and directly exploit their own youth, while attempting to raise awareness, financial resources, and support for LGBTQ-related causes.

**Amanda Beggs.** Is the Black Church Dead? An Examination of the Obstacles to Modern Prophecy.

*(Advisor: Professor David Gutterman, Politics)*

Why does the Civil Rights movement seem like the last time something good came of religion's entry into politics? Has the influence of the Black Church really been absent in its wake? My research aims to discuss these questions, among others, through a focused examination of prophecy's role in the Black Church, both of the historic successes of prophetic movements and current claims that prophecy in the church is dead or dying. Using this examination, my research analyzes modern-day obstacles to prophecy, ultimately arguing that the influence of neoliberal capitalism has made it more difficult than ever for progressive social movements against injustice to come from a religious foundation.

**Sarah Greiner.** An Unsustainable Paradise: Gender Performativity in *Paradise Lost*.  
(Advisor: Professor Allison Hobgood, English)

My summer work investigated how the characters in *Paradise Lost* perform their genders in ways which reveal this part of their identities to be socially constructed. This notion of gender performativity comes out of Judith Butler's work in post-structuralist feminist theory, and postulates that gender is learned and culturally, rather than biologically, based. My final essay is a close reading of John Milton's epic poem coupled with an application of this feminist theory, and challenges western ideas about gender roles, which are traditionally reinforced, rather than destabilized, by the Judeo-Christian story of Creation.

**Victoria Gray.** The Mormon Triumph over California's Proposition 8: A Silent Victory for Mormons and their Polygamous Past  
(Advisor: Professor David Gutterman, Politics)

An investigation into the hierarchical structure, insular nature, and adaptive doctrine of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Questions to be answered: Has this structure helped advance the political goals of the LDS Church? Should the federal government revoke the tax exempt status of the LDS Church? What are the consequences of the increased influence of the Church of Latter Day Saints?  
Case Study: The passage of Proposition 8 in the state of California.