SOCIOLOGY 2010 SENIOR THESIS WRITERS

DIVIDED BY FAITH:
RELIGION, ETHNICITY, AND THE BOUNDARIES OF BELONGING IN CONTEMPORARY FIJI

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize

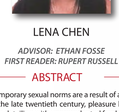
JESSAMIN BIRDSALL

ADVISOR: ALISON DENTON JONES
FIRST READER: NATASHA WARIKOO

ABSTRACT

This senior thesis addresses the gendered experiences of African physician immigrants to the U.S. It My thesis is a case study of Hindu and Christian Indo-Fijians that seeks to answer the following two questions: How has the ethnic boundary between Indigenous Fijians and Indo-Fijians persisted with such strength and for so many generations? To what extent and in what ways does religion—in terms of identity, discourse, performance, and institutional membership—create, maintain, or blur ethnic boundaries on the macro and micro levels of Fijian society? Fiji provides a fascinating context in which to explore the relationship between religion, ethnicity and social boundaries because of its colonial history and current demographic and political situation. Ethnically, the Fijian population is divided into two main groups: Indigenous Fijians (57%) and Indo-Fijians (37%), most of whom are descendents of indentured servants brought during the British colonial era. To a large extent, religious affiliation in Fiji maps onto ethnicity, as the vast majority of Fijians are Christian (97%) and most Indo-Fijians are Hindu (76%). The remaining Indo-Fijians are primarily Muslim (14%) and Christian (7%). Since gaining independence from Britain in 1970, Fiji has been the site of ongoing ethnically and religiously framed conflict, and advocating the concept of Fiji as "Christian nation" has played a significant role in the indigenous-dominated government's efforts to establish ethnic Fijian hegemony. Although Indo-Fijians have lived in Fiji for five generations, they remain largely separate from the indigenous Fijian community, continuing to speak Hindi, wear Indian clothing, attend Indian schools, work in Indian-owned businesses, socialize primarily with fellow Indians, and practice Hinduism. One of the goals of my study is to explain the endurance of these boundaries. I chose to do a comparative study of Hindus and Christians in order to tease apart the ways in which religion functions to reinforce or to blur boundaries between ethnic groups.
I spent approximately nine months in the Nadi area of Fiji, conducting in-depth interviews and collecting ethnographic data in a variety of formal and informal religious and social settings. My primary findings are the following: First, for both indigenous Christians and Indo-Fijian Hindus, religious identity serves as a powerful motivating force and tool for the construction and maintenance of social boundaries along ethnic lines. For Indo-Fijian Christians, on the other hand, religious identity and ideology inspire an effort to erase social boundaries, although this effort is neither uniformly supported by Christians nor entirely successful. In chapter one, I argue that indigenous Fijian leaders use Christian discourse and performance to institionalize ethnic boundaries in several important societal spheres, thereby creating significant barriers to Indo-Fijian assimilation. In the second chapter I explore how Indo-Fijians have responded to these boundaries not by seeking to penetrate them but rather by reinforcing them through the construction of a set of moral boundaries. I argue that they create these boundaries in order to preserve ethnic solidarity in the face of discrimination and to protect their position of economic dominance. In the final chapter, I analyze how Indo-Fijian Christians use Christian ideology to contest racial boundaries and advocate for racial integration. However, I argue that the degree to which the symbolic erasure of racial boundaries translates into genuine integration depends on a number of other variables, most notably the language use of the congregation.

FROM VEILED VIRGINS TO PURITY PLEDGERS:
THE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF SEXUAL NORMS IN AMERICA



LENA CHEN

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ABSTRACT

In this thesis, I argue that contemporary sexual norms are a result of adaptation to economic changes in post-industrial America. By the late twentieth century, pleasure had replaced procreation as the purpose of sex. *The Joy of Sex* was detailing with unprecedented frankness the diversity of sexual experience, and Erica Jong was writing of the "zipless f**k"—a casual, no-strings-attached sexual encounter. Virginity, however, remained as contentious as ever, as the sexual abstinence movement preached in classrooms and college campus the dangers of premarital sex and "hooking up". Why, despite the stigmas that accompany virginity, do sexual norms persist? Using historical sociological methods, I examine primary sources from early Christianity, feudal Europe, and contemporary America to explore why and how ideas about pre- and non-marital sex evolve and reproduce. I argue that sexual norms, rather than being eliminated in the context of greater personal freedom, adapt to new economic and social conditions. I moreover contend that virginity-based norms complement and reinforce the way marriage is defined as a sociolegal institution by the state, which accounts in large part for the ongoing appeal of these norms.

WHEN THE SPICS BECAME HISPANIC:
THE TRANSFORMATION AND RENEGOTIATION OF PLACE IN A GENTRIFYING LANDSCAPE

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize

MELISSA DEAS

ADVISOR: TIMOTHY NELSON
FIRST READER: VAN TRAN

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores a residential and commercial subsection of the Boston neighborhood Jamaica Plain called Hyde Jackson Square, which was recently rebranded as Boston's Latin Quarter by a non-profit group hoping to market the commercial district. This rebranding offers a lens to analyze a multicultural neighborhood renegotiating its place—based identity as it gentrifies. Empirical findings are based on census information and data collected from 49 interviews with residents, business owners, and non- profit leaders. This research complicates and builds on literature regarding gentrification, authenticity, preservation, and race/ethnicity.
Overall, the findings of this study suggest that the process of rebranding is much more multifaceted than previously theorized. The addition of race and class into the analytical mix reveals that the creation of "Boston's Latin Quarter," is an attempt to both renew and maintain the image of this ethnically Latino neighborhood. However, it does so at the risk of commodifying Latinos to be marketed towards the white middle-class. I analyze how white gentrifiers and Latinos understand themselves as having a legitimate right to live in this community, showing that different groups have different understandings of who can define place authentically. I also analyze the role of black members of the community. One of the most interesting findings is how the rebranding effort creates social distance between both blacks and Latinos and blacks and whites by framing Latinos as model minorities based on their entrepreneurial success. This is most dramatically observed as stereotypes about black failure justify the exclusion of the "black" public housing project from inclusion into Boston's Latin Quarter, while the image of Latinos as successful entrepreneurs who fulfill the American Dream is emphasized by it. Paradoxically census data shows that a significant number of Latinos live in this "black" public housing, however these people become invisible thereby conflating race/ethnicity and class.

MORE THAN JUST CLASS:
UNDERSTANDING HOW SOCIAL NETWORKS SHAPE PARENTING STRATEGIES

NATALIA FESTA

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ABSTRACT

This research seeks to combine conceptual frameworks from both social capital and cultural scholarship so as to examine how parents' social ties influence parenting strategies. Employing Annette Lareau's *Unequal Childhoods* as the catalyst for my project, I critically examine Lareau's assumption that parental dispositions and strategies in institutional settings can be understood from a perspective of class, alone. I ask if the structure of parents' social ties can also have implications for parental strategies. More specifically, I examine if one's parental core discussion network (parental CDN) ties, provide a framework through which culturally-based parental strategies and orientations may diffuse. I understand the parental CDN to be a social unit comprised of the 1-5 individuals with whom mothers confide intimately, regarding matters of childrearing.
To examine my research question, I conducted 40 interviews with mothers of children between 7-12 years of age in the Boston area for. Interview participants were roughly evenly divided with respect to four structurally different parental CDNs, with respect to class and homophily. I examined the relationship between the parental CDN and parental strategies in the following settings: the household environment; the educational institution and the medical institution. My findings revealed variations in parental strategies and dispositions between participants pertaining to differently structured parental CDNs. Working class participants with heterophilous parental CDNs seemed to enter institutional interactions and approach childrearing with different strategies than their working class counterparts, with homophilous parental CDNs. Middle class participants did not seem to have significantly altered parental strategies based upon parental CDN structure, as my analysis revealed that middle class mothers often employed overlapping strategies. The impact of the structure of parental CDN was most pronounced with respect to the ways in which parents navigate the educational institution and structure their household environment, while such effects were present but less pronounced with respect to parental negotiation of the medical institution. My research suggests that social ties provide a structuring framework for parental strategies and practices.

TRUST AND CONDOM USE IN AMERICAN ADOLESCENT SEXUAL LIFE

ALLISON GROSSMAN

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FIRST READER: ELIZABETH BLAIR

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: How are trust and condom use related in adolescent social and sexual life? This essay examines the social embeddedness, condom use, and reported relationship type to better understand how trust in the social setting either encourages or discourages condom use, and how condom use affects the ways in which adolescents romanticize or de-romanticize their relationships. I hypothesize (1) that increased social embeddedness would reduce the odds of condom use, and (2) that condom use would reduce the odds of romanticizing relationships.
METHODS: I analyze survey information about the sexual relationships of a population of 9,714 heterosexual non-romantic, "liked," and romantic sexual pairs surveyed during 1995, as part of the Wave I of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (*Add Health*).
RESULTS: For female respondents, very weakly and very strongly embedded sexual partnerships are associated with decreased odds of using condoms; moderate embeddedness is associated with increased odds of condom use. Condom use increases the odds that female respondents conceptualize their sexual relationships as romantic, and it raises the odds that male respondents understand their sexual relationships as non-romantic.
CONCLUSIONS: The results partially support the first hypothesis for female respondents only and the second hypothesis for male respondents only.

VIOLENCE, HIP HOP, AND THE LIFE OUTCOMES OF BLACK YOUTH

BENJAMIN JENKINS

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ABSTRACT

A large number of black men in the U.S. are on risky life paths and experience a variety of negative life outcomes. More specifically, black men in the U.S. have higher rates of violence, criminality, incarceration, offending, and victimization when compared to other races (Smelser et al, 2002). Many behavioral theorists tend suggest that nature, nurture, or sometimes both explain risky behavior and negative life outcomes (e.g., Wilson and Herrnstein, 1985; Jencks, 1993). These theoretical perspectives and extant empirical studies documenting negative life outcomes for a moteworthy number of black men often generate scholarly and practical debate over whether biological or environmental factors generate these observed differences across racial and ethnic groups. Within the environment perspective, scholars contend that structural factors (neighborhood effects), culture, or both have a powerful influence on life outcomes, and of particular interest for this study, is the idea that hip hop culture, mainly the music, is negatively impacting the life outcomes of black youth.
In order to assess the potential influence of hip hop on life outcomes, 200 hip hop songs were coded to examine violent themes in the artist lyrics and to determine the content of the most prevalent messages in contemporary hip hop lyrics. Thirty black men, from varying social classes and life trajectories (positive and negative), were interviewed to determine how they use, consume, and draw meaning from hip hop music. The oft-repeated declaration (Anderson and Berkowitz, 2003) that hip hop negatively influences black youth is based on the assumption that hip hop is one comprehensive entity that universally affects black youth in virtually the same way. Based on the insights drawn from my interview work, this does not seem to be the case for the young black men who participated in this study. Hip hop is a multidimensional, fluid music genre that is consumed differently and that holds varying levels of meaning for different groups of black youth. More work needs to be done to better understand how different groups of black youth draw meaning from hip hop before a definitive link can be drawn between hip hop and life outcomes.

YOUNG BLACK MEN, BARACK OBAMA, AND THE POWER OF HIP-HOP

JARELL LEE

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FIRST READER: CAMERON VAN PATTERSON & BRANDON TERRY

ABSTRACT

Generally, Black men, particularly young Black men, vote at lower rates than their peers in other racial groups. However, the 2008 presidential election brought a boost in Black youth turnout, without significant shifts in the group's political and social conditions (i.e., education, income, political orientation, social movements, etc.). With traditional variables held virtually constant, what caused this increase in voter turnout? I argue that hip-hop played a factor in this election and I investigate its ability to motivate young black men to support Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election.
This research is significant because traditionally, young Black men have been apathetical, skeptical, and reluctant to actively engage as citizens interested in electoral politics. Grabbing the attention of these men, many rappers endorsed Barack Obama through interviews, benefit concerts, and songs recorded in his honor, but this involvement has not gotten scholarly attention. By analyzing 30 in-depth interviews with young Black men in the Boston area, I show the role hip-hop played in the 2008 election. I investigate why Obama appealed to young Black men and how hip-hop interacted with this connection. My research provides insight on how to mobilize one of the most underrepresented groups, young Black men, with a tool that is feared and misunderstood, hip-hop.

PERFORMATIVES OF SOVEREIGNTY:
THE SHINNECOCK INDIAN NATION

KELSEY LEONARD

SOCIOLOGY ADVISOR: JEFF DENIS
ANTHROPOLOGY ADVISOR: MATT LIEBMANN

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this Senior Thesis is to examine the ways in which a contemporary indigenous entity—the Shinnecock Indian Nation—performs and enacts its sovereignty. Currently, there is a United States government process for Indian groups within America to petition to gain recognition as a sovereign entity, known as the Federal Acknowledgment Process (FAP). However, there are deficiencies inherent in the process by which the United States defines sovereignty for Indian tribes, because the process does not take into account the many performatives of sovereignty that Indian nations are currently enacting in defense of their rights as nations.Looking specifically at one case study of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, one of the oldest self-governing Indian nations who continue to own their ancestral land on Long Island, this thesis examines the processes by which the most recent tribe up for review under the FAP asserts its sovereignty. The data shows there are eight performatives of sovereignty enacted by the Shinnecock Indian Nation and its citizenry and extrapolates such performatives as assertions of sovereignty that can be made by other indigenous nations today.

"WE CAN'T AFFORD (NOT) TO EAT THIS WAY":
FOOD STAMP USERS AND THE ALTERNATIVE FOOD MOVEMENT

Albert M. Fulton, Class of 1897 Prize for the best thesis in the field of Sociology

JESSICA LUNA

ADVISOR: TIMOTHY NELSON
FIRST READER: LAWRENCE BOBO

ABSTRACT

Access to local, fresh, and affordable food for America's poor is not only a matter of proper nutrition, but of social justice. Farmers' markets are one proposed way to include low-income people in the alternative food movement by allowing food stamp benefits to be redeemed at markets.
This thesis asks about differences between food stamp users who shop at farmers' markets and those who do not. I compare the food purchasing behaviors, their opinions on local food, organic food, and farmers' markets, their understanding of food's influence on health, and their value judgments about food. Through semi-structured interviews with 46 respondents, I find that non-farmers'-market shoppers value quantity and having enough food to eat; they mistrust most claims about local and organic food, and they do not view a farmers' market as different than a grocery store. They view food expenses within a more complex framework of spending on their limited income.
Farmers' market shoppers, although also low-income, make different value judgments about how to allocate their limited finances, such as buying less food in order to have "good food"; these responses in some way mirror the habits of upper-class respondents. However, differences in formal educational levels between the two groups are not the only predictors of interest in local food, contrary to what the literature suggests: informal cultural capital experiences with food and farming in one's background, as well as experience with personal illness, can mediate awareness of and interest in fruits, vegetables, and farmers' markets.
Future efforts to increase local food access to low-income people must thus move beyond merely expanding access through markets typically geared toward clientele with different value judgments. Community engagement and buy-in to culturally relevant locations are imperative; policymakers must consider creating and maintaining markets or grocery stores marketed for and run by members of low-income communities.

CONTROLLING CREATIVITY:
ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

STEPHANIE MILLER

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FIRST READER: DAVID AGER

ABSTRACT

The charter school movement was started with the aspiration of improving public education. However, there is wide variation in performance among charter schools. The question directing this paper is: What explains the variance in performance in charter schools? While a relatively large body of research exists using quantitative methods to analyze performance outcomes from charter schools, relatively little research has been conducted on how charter schools actually operate. I elected to focus on the organizational forms of charter schools. Based on in-depth interviews with leaders at four charter schools, I found that charter schools use two very different strategies to organize their schools: innovation and consistency. Two of the schools each employed one of the two strategies almost exclusively. This led to two remarkably different organizational forms: the *consistency form* and the *innovation form*. The final two schools, meanwhile, were able to successfully incorporate both strategies using the *hybrid form*. This combination of strategies effectively created a new strategy—the *improvisation strategy*—which was associated not only with improved educational outcomes, but also increased teacher satisfaction, staff solidarity, and organizational stability. These findings demonstrate that the two strategies of innovation and consistency are not mutually exclusive as previous educators and theorists have assumed. Rather, they can be successfully integrated using a distinct approach that encourages creativity within certain guidelines—a finding that has important implications not only for the future structuring of educational organizations, but for other types of organizations as well.

ALIEN NATION:
SYMBOLIC BOUNDARIES AND NIGERIAN SUB-ETHNIC IDENTITY IN SPAIN

ADORA MORA

ADVISOR: CHRISTOPHER BAIL
FIRST READER: EVGENY FIRSOV

ABSTRACT

The recent transition from net emigration to net immigration in Spain has been duly noted. This trend includes a rise in the number of Sub-Saharan Africa immigrants in the past few decades, which has been the subject of critical media attention and intense policy debate. However, beyond polarizing discussions concerning the nature of this "new" immigration, little scholarship addresses the lives of these immigrants after they reach Spain. In this thesis, I examine this knowledge gap using the lenses of boundaries, assimilation, and the labeling of the Nigerian immigrant as "Other" in the Spanish mainstream. I argue that scholars have notably overlooked both the perspective of and sub-ethnic differences within minority immigrant groups. I find that sub-ethnic identity materially governs the perception of the boundaries these immigrants face. I rely on 3 field experts, my own ethnographic research and in-depth interviews with 19 first-generation immigrants from the three largest Nigerian subethnic groups in Madrid to explore subgroup variance across the boundaries of religion, language, and citizenship. My findings show that Nigerian subgroups ascribe different symbolic meanings to existing social boundaries, fundamentally affecting how they conceptualize their ability to re-negotiate these boundaries. Moreover, I found that respondents transported their sub-ethnic religious and linguistic cultural traits from their country of origin – strategically using them to create lines of inclusion and exclusion in the Spanish context. Based on these findings, I conclude that through the hypothesized mechanisms of cultural repertoires and social networks, subgroups materially frame how Nigerian immigrants envisage boundary permeability and permissibility.

WHO'S YOUR MAMA?
PARENTING STYLES AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT WITHIN THE WORKING CLASS IN SINGAPORE

JUSTIN NG

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FIRST READER: TIMOTHY NELSON

ABSTRACT

Singapore is an anomaly in all sense of the word. It is a city, island, and a country altogether. Moreover, it is the only Asian country where English is spoken with native fluency. In fact, one may mistake it for a European microstate just by looking at its high GDP per capita. These facts, coupled with the fact that it is often labeled a "nanny state," make it an interesting country to study sociologically.
Singapore's education system is consistently ranked among the best in the world. However, such rankings do not show the class inequalities within. Perhaps as a result of the lack of published work on the poor and the myth that such groups do not exist, studies on the working class are far and few between. This thesis seeks to establish the relationship between parenting styles and educational attainment. Through ethnographic work and a series of interviews with 29 families (more than 29 interviews with both parents and their children), four distinct family types were observed. They are "Academic," "Behavioral," "Academic + Behavioral" and "Money-minded." As hypothesized, these distinct family types lead to different academic outcomes for their children. For example, while children raised by Academic parents go the furthest academically, Money-minded parents relegate education to merely being one of the means to success in life. This thesis also finds that parental self-interest may influence how children are raised. Indeed, Behavioral parents assess that high educational attainment is out of their children's reach and as such, only focus on their moral development as they feel that the probability of attaining success there is far greater. By pursing the "moral" track, they are more likely to have enriching parenting experiences than focusing on their children's academic progress.
In sum, this thesis extends some existing theories on parenting style by introducing the concept of unique parenting moulds. Future research directions are suggested in particular looking at teacher expectations of students from different class backgrounds.

NOT ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL:
NEGOTIATING HEALTH SERVICES POST-INCARCERATION

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize

DWIGHT BERNARD NIPPERT POPE

ADVISOR: BRUCE WESTERN
FIRST READER: EVA ROSEN

ABSTRACT

The prison population is disproportionately burdened by health conditions. Despite the prevalence of these conditions, once released, former inmates often do not access health care, and frequently fail to continue treatment initiated during treatment. On release from jail or prison, health conditions impact the procurement of employment and housing. Given the importance of health in the during the reentry process, my research seeks to understand how former inmates negotiate health services after release. In order to address this question, I use a two-tiered qualitative approach. First, I conducted 31 in-depth interviews with formerly incarcerated men living in Boston. Second, in order to contextualize the interviews, I conducted participant observation of three health services that respondents utilize.
The health services include a social support group, a drug rehabilitation clinic, and a multiservice center that refers individuals to direct health care providers and provides health counseling. I find that on the whole, respondents select their health services in search of the opportunity to develop supportive social relationships with others. The lack of strong family ties in the respondents' lives underscore the importance of health services and the social relationships they look for in them. For many respondents, health services share many functional similarities as family—they are a source of information and social and emotional support. In this sense, the clientele of a health service becomes a fictive family. Ultimately, however, the health services' bureaucracies structure and provide the context in which former inmates choose health resources that impede access to and receipt of health treatment, suggesting that there exists a "hidden" population that has neither prosocial family ties nor access to the social opportunities health may provide.

FROM ISOLATION TO INTEGRATION:
THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORKS IN BOSTON AND TORONTO

LIZ POWERS

ADVISOR: ONOSO IMOAGENE
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ABSTRACT

Canada and the U.S. have markedly different government policies towards immigrant integration: Canada has an official policy of multiculturalism that recognizes ethnic groups and funds ethnic organizations while the U.S. does not. This thesis analyzes how these divergent government policies affect the support networks of immigrants. Specifically, I study how formal support organizations provide South Asian immigrant women with resources that facilitate integration. I define "South Asian" as Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, or Sri Lankan. My approach is to compare the effectiveness of two specific organizations, Boston's South Asian Women's Group (BSAWG) and Toronto's South Asian Women's Group (TSAWG). I ask: Is BSAWG or TSAWG more effective at helping immigrant women access resources and make friends? To answer this question, I conducted ethnographic research and interviewed a total of 41 South Asian immigrant women: 21 women in Toronto and 20 in Boston. The majority of my interviewees were either clients, volunteers, or employees of BSAWG or TSAWG.
I find that women in each city face several similar challenges including language and cultural differences and domestic violence. While BSAWG and TSAWG have similar missions and serve women who face similar challenges, they have remarkably different organizational structures and levels of effectiveness. I find that, due in part to the policy of multiculturalism in Canada, TSAWG is able to increase access to resources, conduct outreach towards isolated women, and expand the social support networks of South Asian immigrant women. Due in part to the lack of support from the U.S. government, BSAWG is only able to help some immigrant women develop marketable skills and gain domestic violence assistance. It is not able to conduct extensive outreach or expand the social networks of many isolated women.

CHART(ER)ING INNOVATION AND REPLICATING SUCCESS IN URBAN EDUCATION

SOREN ROSIER

ADVISOR: ANN OWENS
FIRST READER: MARY BRINTON

ABSTRACT

Charter schools were created with the hope that they might innovate the United States out of its deeply entrenched educational inequalities, particularly in our inner cities. In order to do that, they were freed from the constrictions of the traditional, district-driven school model. Some nonprofit charter networks are proving to significantly alter the trajectory of disadvantaged students. However, it is questionable whether they are living up to their original mission of not only inventing new ways to educate children, but also disseminating solutions to the majority of America's schools. Through in depth interviews with teachers and administrators for both charter and traditional district schools, my paper first establishes that in Boston, the discoveries of charters are passed amongst one another, yet are self-contained within that charter community. Then, it looks at why good ideas are not spreading from innovative charters to the mainstream. Based on the revelations gleaned from teachers and administrators regarding their experiences and views, the study identifies specific sources of impasse in disseminating ideas across the borders between schools and offers ways to break down those barriers.

BETWEEN IMAGE AND ALTRUISM:
SOCIAL ACCOUNTS OF CELEBRITIES' PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS

GABRIELLE RUBENSTEIN

ADVISOR: CHRIS WINSHIP
FIRST READER: DAVID AGER

ABSTRACT

In this thesis, I look at celebrities' motivations for philanthropic involvement and then consider the effectiveness of their efforts. At the beginning of the project, I spoke with public relations (PR) professionals to gain a better understanding of how celebrities become 'matched' with specific philanthropies. I then prepared a quantitative database—compiled from a variety of primary and secondary sources—of the types and age of celebrities involved in philanthropy and the kind of philanthropies in which they participate. Finally, I conducted in-depth interviews with a sample of celebrities and well-known public figures to get a better idea of the social accounts they use to describe their motivations for philanthropic involvement and their own assessment of their effectiveness.
Ultimately, I found celebrities have common experiences or qualities that have inspired them to give back. While they may originally become involved in philanthropy for image or PR reasons, my celebrity interviewees have each moved beyond image to purposeful giving. They find fulfillment when their philanthropy efforts meet their personal desire for meaning. Once they begin to feel effective, that their philanthropy has made an impact, their involvement continues to snowball. They spend more time and resources and ultimately find an even deeper purpose in their lives. In the process, they gain humility. In turn, this humility attracts the public's attention and they become role models for others.

THE HILL VS. THE FIELD:
A CASE-STUDY ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINED GANG VIOLENCE BETWEEN TWO BOSTON GANGS

DANIELLE SCHNUR

ADVISOR: BRUCE WESTERN
FIRST READER: ANTHONY BRAGA

ABSTRACT

Gang violence accounts for the majority of youth homicides in the Boston area. As such, it is important to understand the continuity of violent gang rivalries that cause these homicides. My thesis tests national and Boston-specific theories of the continuity of gang violence on a micro-level by conducting a case study analysis of two notoriously violent Boston gangs: the Franklin Hill Giants and Franklin Field Boyz.
I conducted 20 in-depth interviews with law enforcement personnel, youth workers, and former gang members and longtime community members to determine what has continued the gang violence between Franklin Hill and Franklin Field. My primary focus was on determining the root cause of the violent rivalry, as well as the continued motivations for violence. To supplement these interviews, I conducted several quantitative analyses of shooting data from the Franklin Hill and Franklin Field areas to understand the retaliation between these two neighborhoods.
The findings of my research suggest the violent gang rivalry between Franklin Hill and Franklin Field is consistent with national and Boston-specific theories of the continuity of gang violence, with the rivalry emerging from drug and turf disputes during the crack cocaine era and continuing due to cultural explanations of retaliation for disrespect in accordance with a "code of the street." Long-term deferred retaliation is the most commonly used form of shooting retaliation between these two gangs, helping to sustain the nearly 30 years of this violent rivalry. My thesis concludes with policy implications, suggestions for intervention efforts to stop this violent gang rivalry, and recommendations for future research.

MISSING FATHERS:
HOW PATERNAL INCARCERATION TRIGGERS A PROCESS OF CUMULATIVE DISADVANTAGE FOR CHILDREN

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize

CATHY SIROIS

ADVISOR: BRUCE WESTERN
FIRST READER: KAIA STERN

ABSTRACT

The rate of paternal incarceration is increasing rapidly for children in the United States, particularly in communities of concentrated disadvantage. However, paternal absence is not a new phenomenon within these communities. In this thesis, I explore whether paternal incarceration is a unique form of paternal absence. To do this, I employ a mixed methods approach. I conduct a quantitative analysis of the Fragile Families Study in Year 5 comparing a number of behavioral and emotional measures between children whose fathers are incarcerated and children whose fathers are otherwise absent. In addition, I explore whether the negative effects of paternal incarceration are concentrated only among children whose fathers were highly involved prior to their incarceration. For my qualitative analysis, I interview 21 fathers who have recently been released from prison in order to gain insight into their perspectives on fatherhood and incarceration. I find that young children whose fathers are incarcerated display significantly more externalizing behaviors at age five, even when compared to children whose fathers are otherwise absent. Furthermore, these negative effects are not confined solely to children whose fathers were highly involved prior to incarceration. The disadvantage that paternal incarceration causes for young children appears to be perpetuated as children get older because of the unique constraints that imprisonment places on fathers. After examining my quantitative and qualitative results, I conclude that paternal incarceration triggers a unique process of cumulative disadvantage for children.

OF BEYHES AND iMparity:
HOW THE SMARTPHONE IMPACTS TRENDS IN DIGITAL INEQUALITY

ANTHONY SPEARE

ADVISOR: MATT KALINER
FIRST READER: JOEL PODOLNY

ABSTRACT

Scholars studying the Internet have shown how the technology engenders inequality. This inequality is usually framed in terms of a "digital divide," which describes the gap between those who have access to the Internet and those who do not, or "digital inequality," a term that encompasses inequalities between users who already have Internet access. Smartphones, mobile phones possessing the ability to access the Internet and carry out other computer-like functions, constitute a new frontier of Internet technology. New evidence shows that they are already disrupting the status quo in regard to Internet access. I examine emerging patterns of Internet access and use in the context of the smartphone, using past research on the Internet and inequality as a reference. More importantly, I seek to expand conventional understandings of how Internet technology is used and disseminated by examining the smartphone in its role as a consumer good. To accomplish this latter task, I synthesize literature on the Internet and inequality with theories concerning social class, race, and culture and their roles in consumption. Ultimately, the results of this research provide strong justification for incorporating considerations of the dynamics of consumption into future research on Internet technology – especially mobile Internet technology like the smartphone.

RE-EXAMINING THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PARADOX :
ACCULTURATION AND WELL-BEING AMONG LATINA IMMIGRANTS

RAQUEL TOLEDO

ADVISOR: VAN TRAN
FIRST READER: LUISA HEREDIA

ABSTRACT

This senior thesis addresses the problem of why Puerto Rican women do not experience the immigrant advantage in low birth weight outcomes. Specifically, it examines the ways in which Puerto Rican women acculturate to life in the U.S. compared with Central American women, and how different migration motivations and experiences contribute. The sample includes fourteen Central American immigrants and ten Puerto Rican migrants. Each woman had given birth to at least one child in the continental U.S. after having spent most of her life in her nation of origin. In-depth interviews with the women were conducted in Spanish, and then translated, coded, and analyzed for content. The study finds several distinctions between the groups of women in the process of acculturation and the impact that their migration experiences have on their lives. While both groups of women report adopting healthier diets in the U.S., the Central Americans achieve it by adding foods, while the Puerto Ricans limit other foods. Additionally, strong communities and stable romantic relationships contribute to the well-being of Central American women, while Puerto Rican women do not share these advantages. Adjustment to work life in the U.S. is found to limit the amount of time that participants had to spend with friends and to cook healthful meals and eat at regular intervals. Access to health care is found to be adequate for all participants during pregnancy, but differentiates after the post-partum period. The findings of this study indicate that current measures of acculturation are not sufficiently nuanced to fully encompass this issue. Improved research methods, as well as nutritional and employment support in Puerto Rico and the U.S., are recommended to address the problem of low birth weight among Puerto Rican women.

TRANSNATIONALISM ONLINE :
THE CHANGING NATURE OF COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY AMONG MEXICAN MIGRANTS AND NONMIGRANTS

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ABSTRACT

A popular topic of study within the field of immigration is transnationalism, or the ability for migrants to maintain connections and ties to their countries of origin, even after settling in their new places of residence. In my thesis, I study a "new" form of transnational communication, a social networking website for the people from the town of San Juilan in the Mexican state of Jalisco. Through an analysis of qualitative interviews with 42 website users in both San Juilan and Chicago, I find that this website has changed the transnational experience of my respondents in important ways. First, the website has increased the amount of transnational communication that both migrants and nonmigrants have with people who live on the other side of the border. I also find that his website has changed the very *nature* of transnational communication by allowing people to engage in social, political, and economic transnational activities more quickly, efficiently, and interactively than was previously possible. Finally, I argue that aside from being a *form* of transnational communication, this website also constitutes an online *transnational space* where Sanjuilaneses can convene and interact, regardless of where they are geographically located.