Research Project Title: The teleology of trauma: how haruki murakami shapes narratives and their methods in creating and understanding trauma

Student Presenter: Noah Blacker

Faculty Mentor: Amy Shuman

Faculty Mentor Department: English

Research Abstract: Haruki Murakami (1949-) is a contemporary Japanese author whose works present our world on the cusp of embracing another where cats and sheep men can talk, where woman disappear, and where wells are as deep as unconsciousness. However, the majority of his works have a common theme throughout - trauma. The goal of this thesis is to accurately describe the trauma that can be found within many of Murakami’s works, but also to understand Murakami’s literary project and narrative theory via trauma. By conducting a close reading (formal identification of genre, consideration of narrative structure and methods) and analysis (psychoanalytic study of character, comparative theories of trauma) of Murakami’s works, I show the trauma that is presented through the genre of magical realism in various ways including creating a different way to examine magical realism as a genre, and how the narrative structural elements of the texts such as narrators, tense, time, and the organization of the stories and framed narratives allude to trauma. In my analysis I move to combine genre and narrative structure in how the texts present expectations for us as readers that are never or are partially fulfilled with narrative closure creating trauma affect for readers. Finally, I take genre, structure, and closure into account resulting in an understanding of how we as readers interpret Murakami and trauma via a hermeneutic evaluation of his works in how we understand meaning and truth but also the meaning and truth of trauma. In my conclusion I propose that the common theme of trauma doesn't just permeate the worlds and characters Murakami creates, but it also encapsulates how the narratives are told, how they end, and how we interpret them.
Research Project Title: Refugee resettlement and NGO assistance: Refugees in Columbus

Student Presenter: Yuchen Huang

Faculty Mentor: Erin Lin

Faculty Mentor Department: Political Science

Research Abstract: Introduction: Refugee crisis is becoming an increasingly severe issue spreading in the international community. The paper here chose to research refugees in Columbus, Ohio, to examine the assistance the local NGOs provided to them. The refugees here are two groups, ones without assistance of NGO while the ones with assistance of NGO. I want to compare these two groups, to analyze the impacts of projects NGO provided. I hope the paper will can have more implications for the future development of NGO programs. The field work will take place in a local NGO, Community Resettlement Immigration Servicer Center (CRIS) and a local Somalian refugee community.

Methodology: Primary sources are Interviews and open-ended surveys. Secondary sources: Related articles found in libraries, UNHCR and other international organizations’ paper works. The self-sufficiency refugees are marked as B group and the refugees receiving assistance are marked as N group. Since I do the volunteering job at CRIS weekly, I can have access to interview refugees and officials there. I am going to ask a graduate student who is also doing the research on Somalian refugees in Columbus if I can go with her to do the field work.
Research Project Title: Post-migration challenges, family resources, and social support among Bhutanese-Nepali refugees: Results from a community needs assessment.

Student Presenter: Hannah Kayuha

Faculty Mentor: Jennifer Kue

Faculty Mentor Department: Public Health

Research Abstract: Over 15,000 Bhutanese-Nepali refugees have resettled in Columbus, Ohio since 2008. The majority of research on this community has focused on mental health and the rate of suicide among the Bhutanese. However, there is little known about post-migration living difficulties (PMLD) that Bhutanese-Nepali refugees face after resettlement.

Bilingual Nepali-speaking interviewers conducted a community needs assessment with Bhutanese-Nepali women and men, aged 18 years and older living in Columbus, OH. The questionnaire included topics of healthcare practices, cancer knowledge and screening behavior, mental health issues and preferences for mental health services, social support, family resources, and barriers to health/social services and resources. For the purpose of this study, secondary data analysis examined PMLD, social support, and family resources. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, t-test) were conducted using SPSS ver. 24.

A total of 201 participants were surveyed. More than half were men (51.7%) and 53.7% were between the ages of 25-44 years. More than 75% were on Medicare/Medicaid, 43.1% have a total family income of less than $15,000, and while over 50% are employed full-time, almost 35% are not working. The most commonly reported PMLD was communication/language difficulties with 54.2% of participants reporting a somewhat to a serious problem. Secondly, 40.3% reported a somewhat to a serious problem in difficulty adjusting to the weather/climate. Finally, 39% of participants reported being unable to find work and insufficient government help with welfare a somewhat to a serious problem. Regarding family resources, there is a significant difference between men and women in terms of monetary resources, t(197)= 1.12, p= 0.019. There is also a significant difference in perceived social support between men and women, t(197)= 1.30, p= 0.003.

Results from this study provide greater insight into the cultural and linguistic needs of Bhutanese-Nepali refugees who have recently resettled in Columbus. Language and communication is a major barrier to finding employment and resources. Despite these challenges, participants reported that they have strong social support, which may ease some of the burdens of resettlement. Future studies may want to examine ways to help maintain strong social networks in refugee communities to eliminate post-migration challenges.
Research Project Title: How has the United Kingdom responded to the HIV epidemic among women?

Student Presenter: Kenneth Kaple

Faculty Mentor: Tasleem Padamsee

Faculty Mentor Department: OSU College of Public Health - Division of Health Services Management and Policy

Research Abstract: Introduction/Background

Since the emergence of the HIV/AIDS in the United Kingdom, little attention has been provided to the socioeconomic and cultural dimensions of the disease, particularly among women. Women remain peripheral in the response to the HIV epidemic, with about 40 percent of the U.K.'s HIV cases among women, a large proportion (44 in every 1,000) of those cases occurring among black African women, and an estimated 22% of women with HIV remaining undiagnosed.

Methods

The goal of this project was to answer the question: “How has the United Kingdom responded to the HIV/AIDS epidemic among populations of diverse women?” To answer this question, I conducted an inductive qualitative analysis of informant data based on original interviews conducted with policymakers in the United Kingdom from 2005 to 2011.

Results

From these data, I found that in response to inequalities in HIV treatment and prevention in the U.K., organizations like the African Health Policy Network have attempted to address the socioeconomic and cultural barriers to treatment facing many African and migrant women living within the United Kingdom. Additionally, other initiatives to treat the HIV epidemic among women have focused on empowering women to take control of their sexuality by understanding the linkages between unsafe sex, injection drug use, teenage pregnancy, breastfeeding, and HIV transmission. Many policymakers and advocacy groups such as the National Support Team for Public Health Policy, the British HIV Association, and Positively U.K. have advocated for setting up sexual assault referral centers, supporting the implementation of sexual health strategies within HIV prevention, access to HIV testing, and other process-driven initiatives.

Conclusions

In conclusion, I found that despite increased initiatives to incorporate women into the HIV agenda, remaining issues - particularly the prevalence of HIV among African women and lack of clear recommendations for infant breastfeeding - reveal that the United Kingdom needs to further adjust its approach to the HIV epidemic among women.
Research Project Title: How did attitudes towards contraception from the Catholic Church impact the HIV epidemic in Iringa, Tanzania?

Student Presenter: Gabriella Leccese

Faculty Mentor: Thomas McDow

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: The Catholic Church has had a longstanding opposition towards the use of contraception because it prevents procreation. The church maintained this attitude world-wide throughout the 1980s and 1990s, even in the face of the burgeoning HIV epidemic and wide use of condoms as a preventative measure. Pope Benedict XVI, in 2005, stated that although HIV was a cruel epidemic, it could not be prevented by using contraception, further stigmatizing condom use for Catholics. Yet even as current Pope Francis acknowledged a place of condom use for disease prevention among Catholics, Tanzanian Catholics have insisted on more conservative practices (Zhou, 2009). This study focus on the Iringa region in Tanzania, with a high prevalence of HIV (9.1%, 2014) and practicing Catholicism (26.8%, 2016). This study is based on in-depth interviews with priests and Catholics university students in Iringa. Here we show that attitudes of parishioners and priests still reflected Pope Benedict’s original statements- in fact, contraception usage even as a method of prevention was considered morally abhorrent, demonstrating that conservative policy is still implemented by members of the Catholic Church. We found that even though HIV prevention campaigns have encouraged contraceptive use in the region since 1999, priests and parishioners report that contraceptive usage was not discussed by the church. While religious justifications were primary, both priests and students used popular misconceptions about condoms, such as the need for their refrigeration, to challenge their use. These findings demonstrate ongoing adherence in some religious communities to a set of beliefs that challenge HIV-prevention teachings and raise questions about what prevention techniques might be more acceptable to Catholics (Morgan, 2014).
Research Project Title: More than Babel: Iraqi women's narratives of migration and settlement

Student Presenter: Gretchen Klingler

Faculty Mentor: Jeffrey H. Cohen

Faculty Mentor Department: Anthropology

Research Abstract: Our paper explores how Iraqi women negotiate migration, settlement and their personal agency using an insecurity model; specifically, we define the insecurities that women face during each step of the migration process. Using ethnographic research methods to obtain qualitative data, Cohen and Klingler build upon Cohen and Sirkeci’s model of migration and insecurity (2011). While migration and settlement vary in relation to an individual’s status; status and agency are influenced by insecurities that are defined by real and imagined processes at points of origin and destination.

First, there is the complexity that movers confront as they decide to leave, including a model Klingler refers to as “death versus the potential of avoiding death”; second, there are the challenges that face movers as they leave and as they are in transit to settlement; and third, the challenges that are associated with settlement. Once settled in the US these women face new multi-faceted hurdles they must navigate or overcome regarding the multiethnic settings that define their destinations in the US, as well as the difficulties associated with the unanticipated expectations that other immigrants, ethnic minorities and native born North American citizens carry as they meet. Using our work with Iraqi women who have settled in the US (around the bay area of California as well as central Ohio) we explore how they manage agency and negotiate status in the face of changing insecurities. We argue that decision making must always take account of the many challenges to be faced and negotiated.
Research Project Title: The rhetoric of world-building: challenges and offerings of the hybrid-world form

Student Presenter: Matthew Martello

Faculty Mentor: James Phelan

Faculty Mentor Department: English

Research Abstract: Fiction has the capacity to imitate reality, to drastically deviate from it, and to alter mere particulars, by turn offering the reader an interaction with a fictional world either similar to or different from the world in which she sits with the book. This research examines a variety of such interactions from a rhetorical perspective; that is, I’m interested in storyworlds (worlds evoked by narratives) as they’re constructed by authors for some purpose. I track the multilayered experience of storyworld immersion through seven literary narratives: Zadie Smith’s White Teeth, Salman Rushdie’s Haroun and the Sea of Stories, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” Thomas Pynchon’s The Crying of Lot 49, Colson Whitehead’s Zone One, Ian McEwan’s Nutshell, and Bruce Sterling’s “Bicycle Repairman.” Each of these storyworlds exhibits a unique degree of difference from the actual world, and I use this variation in difference to construct a theoretical continuum on which every storyworld can be situated. The continuum runs from the primary world (the storyworld that is identical to the actual world in every important way) to the secondary world (the storyworld that is saliently and significantly different from the actual world) or, say, from historical fiction to hard fantasy. My general claim is that authors place storyworlds at certain points on the continuum in efforts to guide readers’ interpretive and experiential responses. From there I zoom in on what I call the hybrid world, the apparent primary world that cuts across its own realism with one or few impossible or extraordinary phenomena. This arrangement, I argue, provides a uniquely active and demanding reading experience. For if a story takes place in a fictive version of our world, yet it contains a phenomenon that our world deems impossible, we must work to understand how and why and to what end that phenomenon has happened in such world. By meeting the challenge to our understanding offered by these hybrid worlds, we sharpen our cognitive capacities; moreover, by attending to the ways hybrid worlds shed light on our actual world, we expand our knowledge of how to live in it.
Research Project Title: Incentive-based HIV prevention interventions - Iringa, Tanzania

Student Presenter: Shannon Phillips

Faculty Mentor: Jesse Kwiek

Faculty Mentor Department: Microbiology

Research Abstract: Introduction:

In Tanzania women are disproportionately affected by HIV. In 2011, HIV prevalence among women was 6.2% compared to 3.8% of men, according to the Tanzania HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey; this is due, in part, to a lack of economic opportunity. Incentive-based interventions, which distribute monetary supplements contingent upon preventative health-related behavior, have the potential to reduce their risk for HIV. Incentive-based interventions are a relatively new HIV prevention strategy, and the best way to implement these interventions is currently unknown.

Methods:

The goal of this project was to use personal interviews and existing literature to explore multiple perspectives of incentive-based HIV programs implemented in Iringa. Two local programs were studied, Sauti (voice, in Swahili) and TAHEA (Tanzania Home Economics Association). Sauti, an NGO USaid-funded organization that promotes HIV testing, counseling, and linkage to appropriate HIV services, has recently partnered with TAHEA, a local professional organization, to organize and promote community savings and loans groups. These groups comprise of 20-25 young women who each contribute to a group fund, which is then used to provide loans to group members.

Results:

Through a series of interviews, a few common themes/challenges emerged that better describe incentive-based HIV interventions in Iringa which can improve how they are implemented in the future. Among the eleven group members who were interviewed, most had success with starting a small business and have become financially independent. The women interviewed also benefited from the social support created from these groups. The major complaint among the interviewees was the need for the government or a financial institution to help contribute to their funds.

Conclusions:

This feedback from the beneficiaries will provide valuable information for how incentive-based HIV interventions can be implemented in the future, making sure that these programs are tailored specially for their target audience. These findings align with other studies to further provide evidence that incentive-based interventions are a promising strategy in a holistic approach to HIV prevention.
Research Project Title: Mobilizing linguistic resources for diabetes management in Latino families

Student Presenter: Jordan Royster

Faculty Mentor: Glenn Martinez

Faculty Mentor Department: Professor of Hispanic Linguistics, Director of CLLC Faculty

Research Abstract: Spanish-speakers are at a higher risk for being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Previous studies have been conducted on health outcomes in relationship to familismo on patients with diabetes. Familismo is a cultural value, which emphasizes the needs of one’s nuclear or extended family over one’s personal needs. However, this project aimed to focus on the process of familismo and the effect of trans-lingual interactions on the patient’s experience of diabetes disease management. Previous research has not been conducted to examine the interplay of disease management and cultural values. Data was collected through case studies with diabetic, Spanish-speakers in Ohio and members of their household. A content analysis was performed from data collected from the interviews based on deductive and inductive identified themes. This study elucidates the value of cultural influences on Spanish-speaking diabetic patients and thus enabling better care by leveraging resources in the community.
Research Project Title: Perceived quality of life with emphasis on social support in adaptive rowers

Student Presenter: Sarah Stark

Faculty Mentor: Jill Clutter

Faculty Mentor Department: Health Sciences

Research Abstract: Disabilities across the vast spectrum are recognized worldwide, and among those with physical and mental disabilities exists a high prevalence of sedentary lifestyles, predisposing them to an array of diseases and conditions. Participating in a competitive or noncompetitive sport can serve as a way to gain a sense of independence and purpose, as well as engage in regular exercise, assisting in the maintenance of overall health. Health is just one of the many domains that makes up an individual’s quality of life (QOL), or perceived general well-being. The specific domain being analyzed in this study is social support, referring to the physical, emotional or spiritual support given by peers or loved ones. Athletes were asked questions regarding external supports and motivational factors involved in the persistence of rowing participation, in hopes of identifying common themes across their responses.

This study used a sample of approximately 10 adaptive rowing athletes from the Greater Columbus Rowing Association club team. Members gave consent to participate before any data was collected. Once their consent forms were completed and retrieved, subjects were interviewed in a private space to ensure that their responses remained confidential; interviews were audio recorded, allowing for the data to be securely stored and qualitatively analyzed.

Initial analyses suggest that health maintenance and social opportunities are primary motivational factors, with social support from loved ones, peers and mentors proving beneficial and appreciated in the athletes’ participation in adaptive rowing. Further studies are necessary to determine the correlation between social support and success within an adaptive sport.
Research Project Title: The perspective of Tanzanian physicians on their positions in global health

Student Presenter: Nanditha Ravichandran

Faculty Mentor: Thomas McDow

Faculty Mentor Department: History

Research Abstract: How do Tanzanian physicians view their positions in the global fight against HIV? In the context of the HIV epidemic, Africa became the land of opportunity for Western scientists investigating manifestations and possible cures for the virus. Foreign researchers and physicians sought to take advantage of the abundant patient population in countries like Tanzania, and this led to what one author has called “a scramble for Africa” among global health professionals. As Tanzania’s largest donor, the United States alone has spent $107.96 million towards global health efforts there. Although the work of these foreign scientists, workers, and donors have been well documented and disseminated, that of their African counterparts is less well known. This research seeks to understand the perspective of Tanzanian clinicians and to detail how they view themselves as contributors to global health interventions through in-depth interviews. Understanding these perspectives can help improve relationship within global health between practitioners in resource-poor settings and organizations that enlist their help to achieve healthcare objectives. Better communication with on-the-ground health practitioners can improve patient outcomes, thereby increasing efficacy of global health interventions in place.
Research Project Title: Youth story telling through journaling: the power of words & pictures in learning

Student Presenter: Ellen Williams

Faculty Mentor: Dawn Anderson-Butcher

Faculty Mentor Department: Social Work

Research Abstract: Sport-based youth development (PYD) programs contribute to improving protective factors, reducing risk factors, and promoting healthy development among youth participants (Gavin, et al., 2010). One sport-based PYD program, LiFEsports, serves over 600 youth annually through a 19-day Summer Camp. LiFEsports is designed to improve social and athletic competencies of youth by teaching Self-Control, Effort, Teamwork, and Social Responsibility (i.e. SETS). Past LiFEsports research has used various methodologies to demonstrate positive youth outcomes resulting from participation. This study aims to deepen our understanding of these positive outcomes and processes through qualitative research examining how youth understand, learn about, and apply SETS by exploring content presented in their youth journals. Specifically, 275 youth journals were randomly selected of which 235 were examined on the following elements: 1) self-reflective processing, 2) degree of reflection, and 3) youth understanding of SETS through word choice, pictures, and themes. A coding rubric utilizing both the Boud (1985) and Mezirow (1991) models of assessing self-reflections evaluated the overall youth reflective processing. Additionally, NVivo Software was used to examine youth understanding of SETS and to code for word choice and the associated themes. When organized into similar age groups (i.e. 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14), results display commonalities and differences in word usages, pictures, and themes across age groups. In addition, findings indicate that youth who score higher on the degree of self-reflection also display a greater understanding of SETS, as well as utilize an advanced level of words and themes when taking into account age. Notably, the study suggests that the presence of higher levels of self-reflective elements lead to a greater understanding of SETS and an increased transfer of social skills outside of LiFEsports Camp. Youth entries in their journals suggest LiFEsports is a groundbreaking model which uses sport to positively influence youth outcomes.
Research Project Title: Religiosity and restorative justice in Rwanda

Student Presenter: Jamie Wise

Faculty Mentor: Hollie Nyseth Brehm

Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology

Research Abstract: One of the most pressing challenges during the recovery from mass violence is designing a transitional justice process that effectively provides punishment to perpetrators, consolation to survivors, and healing to the nation. After the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, the Rwandan government revived and modernized a community-based form of justice called the Gacaca courts, during which genocide perpetrators were incentivized to confess their crimes and survivors were encouraged to forgive. Although religion is an important aspect of Rwandan society, few scholars have investigated the impact of religiosity on the Gacaca courts as a means of restorative justice. This study consequently examines the contribution of spiritual attitudes, religious beliefs, and church institutions to the context of Gacaca. Particularly, it focuses on understanding the influence of religious teachings about forgiveness and confession on participation in Gacaca and in the broader national reconciliation process. This study draws from a collection of approximately 100 survivor interviews and testimonies, which reference religion during discussions of the genocide or its aftermath. Interviews were conducted with individuals who are actively involved in religious communities in Rwanda, as well as with defendants, witnesses, and judges who participated in Gacaca. Qualitative analysis of pertinent themes addressed during these interviews will contribute to knowledge about the relationship between religion and coping with mass violence, both on individual and community levels. Better understanding the influence of religion in the context of Gacaca can enable the development of suitable transitional justice mechanisms that successfully integrate culturally-specific factors following incidents of mass violence.
Research Project Title: The evolution of health promotion in the Iringa region and its effectiveness

Student Presenter: Reginald Woods

Faculty Mentor: Jesse Kwiek

Faculty Mentor Department: Microbiology

Research Abstract: Health promotion is the process of enabling people to have more control over their health including individual, social and environmental interventions. Previous studies have shown that community-based health education and access programs have become more prevalent throughout the last 2 decades. Although programming has increased, the base knowledge of behavior change methods and strategies that are essential for those community-based health education programs to be effective has not advanced. The gap between the output of programming and the stagnancy of individual knowledge can be reconciled by social marketing and health communication. In Tanzania, more specifically Iringa, we should know more about the evolution of social marketing and health communication, as well as how they may influence health promotion and health outcomes. The purpose of this study is to shows the evolution of HIV prevention based social marketing and the interpretations of this imagery from local Tanzanians. We collected 35 photos posted in Iringa, as well posters archived online. Our sample was then analyzed under a systematic inspection. To get the local perception of the social marketing and health communication, we conducted 15 minute interviews with 10 students at Ruaha Catholic University. This study found that the audiences targeted, individuals depicted, and the use of the acronym in advertisements changed after the introduction of antiretroviral therapy to the general population in the region in around 2003. Our qualitative data from the interviews conducted suggests the social marketing and health communication efforts affected our sample of students differently. This study is a model for larger studies that combine the evolution of health communication and social marketing to understand how to better implement community-based HIV programming. Previous studies have shown on a smaller scale that the advancements of programming leads to greater participants reached. This study provides how the marketing of community-based HIV programming has evolved and affected students in Iringa. This is relevant for such developments in decreasing HIV transmission and acquisition in the region.
Research Project Title: Language and language impressions in Hong Kong: A geolinguistic exploration

Student Presenter: Hannah Shaheen Mosiniak

Faculty Mentor: Marjorie Chan

Faculty Mentor Department: Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures

Research Abstract: This study examines the geographic relationship between language, education, and income in Hong Kong. A 2005 study by Mee-Ling Lai found that high school students in Hong Kong perceive English speakers as wealthy and educated. This study seeks to determine if these perceptions of language speakers have a basis in real trends, and if those trends are geographic. Language (Cantonese, English, and Putonghua), income, and education data were analyzed for correlations by district and tested for spatial autocorrelation. A strong, positive correlation of 0.982 exists between the percentage of the population earning more than HK$30,000 per month and rates of English spoken by district (t0.05, 16= 20.894, p<0.001). Likewise, percentages of the population with a university degree and rates of English spoken by district have a strong positive correlation of 0.957 (s= 42, p<0.001). Bivariate choropleth maps of the data show direct correlations. These findings indicate that a spatial correlation between language, income, and education exists and may influence the perception of language speakers in Hong Kong.
Research Project Title: Creating a moving history in the light of difference

Student Presenter: Erin Yen

Faculty Mentor: Daniel Roberts

Faculty Mentor Department: Dance

Research Abstract: If I started two dances from the same movement phrase, would the resulting pieces created be shaped around the intricacies of the community doing the moving? Or would the voice of my own history’s movement lead both works down the same exploration? I was, and remain, interested in how dancers’ diverse movement histories show up in contemporary choreography. I wanted to investigate how different bodies full of eclectic movement trainings work together, and affect one another to actively shape a collective moving history (a dance).

I began in separate, weekly-scheduled rehearsals with each cast, where I taught both Group A and Group B a set 1.5-minute movement phrase generated from my body. Through the developing weeks I leaned into each new creative journey. I tracked how the groups differentiated themselves over time as dancers layered their own embodied histories in the movement given. To document this process, I used the Laban systems of movement analysis, a system of notating movement akin to musical notation, I recorded movement phrases as they developed alongside the dancers, and I drew my own scribbles and sensations on page. I also asked dancers to fill out self-evaluations proceeding each rehearsal. All forms of documentation have provided many lenses and languages through which I have viewed these separate group dances’ evolutions.

Through these processes we have recognized each other as individually diverse bodies of work; we have built our own cohesive works reflective of the eclecticism we found in our created communities. We shared the weight of our present physicality to the community, and we learned how to be responsible for the continued safety of others’ weight as they shared. We together learned how to better negotiate the space between our different movement trainings while moving forward to create a history of our own. In a space left open to acknowledging the intricacies of our diverse humanity, we found a way to agree as we allowed our differences to remain in conversation.
Research Project Title: Writing through adolescence: transition and transformation in diary-like writing within young adult literature

Student Presenter: Maggie Brim

Faculty Mentor: Rachel Rickard

Faculty Mentor Department: Teaching and Learning

Research Abstract: Background

Adolescence is often defined as a time of growth and change from childhood to adulthood. Psychologists and sociologists often characterize adolescence as a period of independence, turmoil, failures and victories. It is not a coincidence that diaries often start during times of transition in a person’s life and that many teens, both in the literary world and in reality, begin a diary to help them process the choppy waters of adolescence. Exploring, explaining, dissecting and persevering through these trials and moments help define the new world the young adult inhabits after periods of transitions.

Methods

YA diaries as a form have a substantial presence in young adult literature. Well-known examples include The Diary of Anne Frank or other historical diaries; however there are a plethora of other diaries and diary-like books., From Beatrice Sparks’s Go Ask Alice to Sherman Alexie’s The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian, diaries in young adult literature show levels of vulnerability in writing that provide permission to adolescents to do the same.

Through this research, I analyze two works of young adult literature that play with the diary form in some capacity. By looking at Laurie Halse Anderson’s classic, Speak, which can be read as a diary, and Regine Stokke’s, blog-turned-book, Regine’s Book, I explore the transformation a diary plays in the life of fictional and actual teens.

Results

Through examining nontraditional diaries, I hope to identify patterns in why the teen writers in these books begin to write diaries and, more importantly, to discover what they get out of their writing. Understanding the way characters within these books use diaries will allow for better understanding of the importance of the role writing outlets can play for adolescents.

Conclusions

Diary like writing has a much needed place within young adult literature because it allows for greater access to characters that relate to trials today’s teens are facing. Representation is important, young adult literature in a diary format creates more representation in literature.
Research Project Title: Somali women's health project: understanding barriers to preventative health care among Somali immigrants in Columbus, Ohio

Student Presenter: Radhika Pandit

Faculty Mentor: Alison Norris

Faculty Mentor Department: College of Public Health Division of Epidemiology and College of Medicine Division of Infectious Diseases

Research Abstract: Civil war in Somalia has driven displaced Somalis to seek permanent asylum in the US since the early 1990s. In 2013, an estimated 45,000 Somali immigrants lived in Columbus, Ohio; the second largest settlement site in the US. Somali immigrants, particularly women, appear to have low levels of preventative health care utilization. Relatively little research has been carried out among African immigrants nationally or in Columbus, so specific barriers to healthcare utilization faced by Somali immigrants in Franklin County are not well-characterized.

Between July 2015 and November 2016, 10 in-depth qualitative interviews (IDIs) were conducted with healthcare providers who regularly care for Somali women in Columbus, with a goal of understanding providers’ perspectives into these barriers. These IDIs were transcribed, coded, and analyzed for key themes.

Two dominant themes emerged about barriers to healthcare. First, providers’ described significant language barriers. Although interpreters help, interpreters often have limited medical knowledge and cannot accurately communicate providers’ instructions to patients. In one instance, an interpreter failed to communicate a cancer diagnosis to a patient; the patient returned to the clinic expecting an X-ray, instead of the true treatment of chemotherapy. Language barriers between Somali patients and healthcare providers impair doctor-patient relationships and reduce the quality of care.

Secondly, cultural and religious differences create obstacles to high quality care. Many unmarried women are reluctant to discuss sexual health, due to the highly taboo nature of the subject. Many pregnant women strongly resist delivering via Caesarean section, regardless of their providers’ recommendations, due to fear of harming the baby. Providers who do not adapt their approaches to address these cultural norms may fail to connect with their Somali patients, leading to distrust of the healthcare system.

Low utilization of preventative reproductive healthcare services has enduring repercussions, particularly for women, and also impacts their families and community. Securing the health of the sizable Somali immigrant population is critical to providers and policy makers. Research about Somali women’s access to healthcare can guide culturally-engaged, evidence-based programs to increase access to care and improve reproductive health outcomes.
Research Project Title: The funeral industry with Jessica Mitford and the Caitlin Doughty

Student Presenter: Emily Boes

Faculty Mentor: Jolie Braun

Faculty Mentor Department: Special Collections

Research Abstract: “The Funeral Industry with Jessica Mitford and the Caitlin Doughty” revolves around author and freethinker Jessica Mitford and how her views on death and the American funeral industry have influenced modern cultural perceptions of death. Mitford was born to an aristocratic English family before eventually moving to the States and marrying lawyer Robert Treuhaft. She joined the Communist Party, fought for civil rights, and wrote the best-selling 1963 exposé on the funeral industry, The American Way of Death. Using this book, along with its sequel, The American Way of Death Revisited, I am comparing Mitford’s passionate views on the American funeral industry with how practices have changed in modern times.

I am using Caitlin Doughty’s 2014 piece, Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, as a supplement to Mitford’s books. Doughty’s autobiography features her time as a young woman newly employed as a crematory operator in Oakland, California. Both Mitford and Doughty believe that the American public in general is ignorant in the ways of death, but whereas Mitford focuses on the suspicious selling tactics of funeral directors, Doughty specializes in the public’s death-denying demeanor.

The two authors speak from experience in working with funeral homes, although they speak from different ends of the funeral process: the consumer and the worker providing the service. They agree that the American funeral industry needs to change, but they disagree on how. My goal is to reconcile the merits of their different opinions and explore how Mitford may have sparked changes in the funeral industry since the 1960s.
Research Project Title: Preaching vs. speaking: an analysis of the sermons and positionality of afro-sanctified women preachers

Student Presenter: Oyindamola Bola

Faculty Mentor: Korie Edwards

Faculty Mentor Department: Sociology

Research Abstract: Scholars have shown that there exists a relationship between the content and structure of sermons and the identity of the preacher. Unlike previous studies, my research explores this relationship solely among Afro-Sanctified women preachers. I use open-ended interviews and content analyses to examine common life experiences and beliefs among black women preachers, as well as dominant themes and structures within their sermons. Thus, I ask within Sanctified women-preaching-spaces (a) how do preachers assemble sermons? And (b) what experiences arise from being an Afro-Sanctified woman preacher? Preliminary analyses (four interviews and twelve sermons) reveal similar experiences among the women, such as teaching biblical classes and a struggle to accept the “call” to preach. While patterns in sermon topics and structures also emerged, such as encouraging educational attainment, emulating Christ, popular culture references, and biblical passages. I ask these questions as it is valuable for sociology to investigate the actions of marginalized people who are given the platform to speak. Ultimately, I will collect twenty sermons (two from each preacher) and interview ten Sanctified formal (head pastors) and informal (non-head pastors) ministers in Columbus, Ohio. My research expands sociological research by showing yet another way marginalization affects African American women via an investigation of race, gender, class, and religiosity.
Research Project Title: Nuggets of truth and the creative writing process

Student Presenter: Alejandra Timmins

Faculty Mentor: William White

Faculty Mentor Department: English

Research Abstract: In narrative writing, we split genres based on truth: fiction or non-fiction. In the world of fiction, we think that the author has free reign to decide how the world of the story works and whether laws of physics even apply there. However, in fictitious stories, the author must always keep truth in mind. This truth is not factual, but rather it is the emotional honesty of the piece. For my honors thesis, I worked on a collection of short stories that explored the theme of motherhood in different contexts. The stories are different in many aspects: one short story looks at the tension between a wealthy matriarch and her middle-aged son while another is about a young girl who struggles to comply to her mother’s standard of beauty. Despite their differences, throughout them all is an attempt to scratch the surface of the emotional truths below the surface of relationships between mothers and their children. In the creative writing process, one of the biggest struggles is to know when or how to communicate these truths. The timing and demonstration of these moments drastically changes the way a reader interacts with the work, and whether or not they choose to believe these truths.
Research Project Title: The Alsatian connection: Preserving the cultural heritage of "The Little Alsace of Texas"

Student Presenter: Troy Weider

Faculty Mentor: Jennifer Willging

Faculty Mentor Department: French

Research Abstract: The rural Texan community of Castroville was founded in September 1844 by Henri Castro and a few dozen European colonists. The majority of these immigrants were from the French border region of Alsace, which had long been fought over by the French and the Germans. These Alsatians possessed their own unique regional culture that was the product of this complicated history, and while they were French citizens, their language, cuisine, architecture, and customs were Germanic in origin. This community, while less than 30 miles west from San Antonio, remained very isolated for one hundred years and they preserved the language and culture of their homeland. During this period, you were more likely to hear Alsatian than English in Castroville, but two World Wars and a number of sociocultural factors led to the rapid decline of Texas Alsatian. After years of irreversible linguistic decline, local activists attempted to revive the Alsatian culture of the town. In the 1970's, a series of exchanges and partnerships between the "Little Alsace of Texas" and Alsace, France were initiated, and a cultural renaissance ensued. Numerous heritage associations were founded, many old Texas Alsatian buildings were restored, and old recipes and traditions were reintroduced. While these efforts have managed to keep the culture alive, language use in the region is continuing its rapid decline. Today few people can speak Alsatian and this once dominant group feels that its influence in the town is declining, as 'outsiders' are moving in and San Antonio continues its rapid expansion westward. Current identity politics play a major role in a town trying to preserve its foreign heritage while receiving an influx of new Mexican and American residents. Castroville has been changing for decades, but globalization and an aging population of Alsatian speakers are threatening the future of this isolated community. Within the next generation, the Alsatian language will die out in Castroville, but the Texas Alsatian culture of the community will persist. This study examines how culture can survive after language death, and how this is not the last generation of Alsatian cowboys in Texas.
Research Project Title: Tune in and let go: tracking movement, sensitivity, and catharsis in the body

Student Presenter: Calder White

Faculty Mentor: Norah Zuniga-Shaw

Faculty Mentor Department: ACCAD/Dance

Research Abstract: For my Senior Distinction Project in Dance, I am researching catharsis in the body and artistic means of expressing sensitivity and care toward self and others. Emerging from my interest in recent political events, social justice, and group dance improvisation, I am interested in representing how sensitivity can be nurtured on an individual level, between individuals, within communities, and across real and perceived borders. Using these themes, I choreographed a durational group dance that was performed in the rotunda of Sullivant Hall in December of 2017 and a solo that will be performed at the American College Dance Association conference at Ohio University as well as in the Motion Lab at OSU this March. I am interested in how we sense what we are doing and feeling on the surface and internally, and how these subtle shifts of state can signal progression towards larger personal and shared goals. In these efforts, the theme of catharsis arises in my work from my awareness of the effect of sociopolitical tension on bodies and our emotions. I am curious about how the stages of catharsis—an implied past or present tension preceding a current or eventual release—can occur in the muscularity of the body, in the atmosphere of a dance work, in the relationships created between performers and for the audience in the act of viewing.
Research Project Title: How South Korean pop music (Kpop) has redefined Korean masculinity

Student Presenter: Kyle Williams

Faculty Mentor: Phil Ho Kim

Faculty Mentor Department: Department of East Asian Languages and Literature

Research Abstract: South Korean pop music (Kpop) has been the quintessential driving force for gender liberalization in South Korea since 1996. The performers over the past two decades have redefined the idea of what "masculinity" is by wearing makeup, wearing bright and colorful clothes, and having traditionally "feminine" body language. Throughout my research, I examine how South Korean music and society prior to the country's economic liberalization in the late 1980s was traditional and conservative. The exposure to western media created the very first Kpop bands and throughout the decades the music genre has developed into a cultural staple of South Korea. Throughout the next twenty years, these boy bands have given Korean millennials an opportunity to see a new perspective on male gender. The acceptance of gender bending amongst Korean youth also coincides with the growing acceptance of homosexuality. According to the Pew Research center, 71% of Korean millennials support LGBT rights. My research attributes this small victory for the Korean LGBT community to the success of Kpop and the performers abilities to redefine to a generation what being a man means.