

UNDERGRAD RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Indiana University South Bend

April 18, 2025

Education & Arts Building

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**2025 INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**

Conference Program and Abstracts

SCHEDULE

8:00 – 9:00	a.m.	Registration	Education and Arts Building (EA) Atrium
9:00 – 10:15	a.m.	Session I	EA classrooms 1010-1025
10:30 – 11:45	a.m.	Session II	EA classrooms 1010-1025
12:00 – 1:00	p.m.	Lunch	The Grill
1:15 – 2:30	p.m.	Session II	EA classrooms 1010-1025



Council on Undergraduate Research

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025 Indiana University South Bend Undergraduate Research Conference! Over the years, the URC has grown into a springtime institution on our campus. This year, the call for the URC in 2025 generated approximately 79 distinct proposals, including the participation of over one hundred students, faculty, staff, and observers. It is wonderful to witness and experience this sincere commitment to the research process on our campus. The URC is one of many outlets for IUSB students to showcase the academic work they complete in their classes or as part of research teams with faculty. The conference serves as a moment to officially recognize the high quality of students' work.

The conference program this year consists of a wide range of exciting research from several disciplines including Theater, New Media, Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Criminal Justice, Dental Hygiene, English, Communication Studies, Health Sciences, History, Nursing, Political Science, and Psychology. The 2025 URC features presentations and poster topics ranging from human rights violations in Honduras, to healthier dental hygiene for a variety of demographics, to the effects of agricultural chemicals on soybean symbiotic bacterium *bradyrhizobium japonicum*. We encourage you all to attend presentations in many disciplines, and hope you will engage with student presenters, peers, and classmates—asking about their research, methods, and findings.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As co-chairs of the conference planning committee, we have many individuals to thank for their time, energy, and hard work to make this event successful. To our fellow URC Planning Committee members: Stacie Merken, Barbara Spinda, Huanan Xu, Carlos Lisoni, Natasha Somerville—thank you for your tireless efforts in planning, preparing, and promoting the conference! To Terri Langel and Eileen Villanueva—thank you for all the help and support regarding use of space—we are so grateful. To all the faculty mentors (names in parentheses in this program)—without your mentorship guiding our students, we would not have such a successful conference! We appreciate all your encouragement and hard work! To all the judges and moderators---we greatly appreciate your time and dedication to our students. To Erika Zynda—thank you for your help with budget preparation and assisting in hospitality! We would also like to congratulate and thank all the students participating this year.

We deeply appreciate the enthusiastic support provided by Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Jill Pearon and her commitment to IU South Bend instructors and staff. Thank you for speaking with our students about the importance of research. We would also like to acknowledge our guest speaker Arram Almanaseer, an IU South Bend graduate. Thank you for your willingness to return to campus to share the value of research with our current students as well as real world insights.

This year's conference poster and program cover were designed by Nix DeLucia, a current IUSB Student and graphic design major. Thank you, Nix!

No conference is possible without the behind-the-scenes work that often goes unacknowledged in the areas of purchasing, facilities scheduling and setup, food preparation and catering,

maintenance, information technology, and many more. Thank you to all those who helped make this conference possible!

We hope you all enjoy the experience!

Sincerely,

Drs. Brett Labbe and AJ Schmitz, URC 2025 Co-Chairs

PROFESSIONAL COURTESY

Please be considerate by silencing your cell phone and refraining from entering and leaving session rooms during presentations.

**CONCURRENT PANELS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS: SESSION I (9:00–10:15
A.M.)**

Location: EA classrooms 1010-1025)

CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

Panel: Creative Writing: Memoir, Poetry, and Book Publishing (EA 1013)

Moderator: Kelcey Ervick

Ancestry of Selves

LILLIAN MAGERS-PERSHING (Kelcey Ervick)

Waiting in the Wings

NATASHA COLLINS (Kelcey Ervick)

A Love Letter to the Bastards

PAIGE PHILLIPS (Kelcey Ervick)

Panel: Film: Melodrama, Musical, Masculinity and Mali (EA 1015)

Moderator: Elaine Roth

Elements of Melodrama within Alfred Hitchcock's Film Noir: Shadow of A Doubt

AMANDA JENKINS (Elaine Roth)

La La Land: Does the Music's Quantity or Quality Truly Make It a Musical?

GEORGIA WIGGINS (Elaine Roth)

The Male Melodrama: A Discussion of Masculinity in Melodramatic Film

RHETT GREER (Elaine Roth)

Danser et Rêver de Changement Politique: Photographie de Malick Sidibé

ELIZABETH HOWARD (Heather Jones)

Panel: Mind, Body, Community, and Healthy Lifestyles (EA 1019)

Moderator: Henry Scott

Healthy Body Healthy Mind Program

REBECCA NORMAN, EVELIN LOPEZ, NIA MARK, & MARBERID CARDONA
(Mallory Roberts)

What Pain Intervention Methods Help Reduce Opioid Use and Increase Patient
Satisfaction?

ALEXANDRA HERR (Kip Borkholder)

Una Comunidad Un Futuro: Expanding Access to Community Resources for Economically Disadvantaged Adults in Elkhart County
JASMINE RAMIREZ, DAVID MUNOZ, VERENICE HURTADO, & IRAIDA ZAPATA (Mallory Roberts)

Engineering a biosensor for lactate, a marker for inflammation and bacterial fermentation
ALISSA SONNENBERG (Shahir S. Rizk)

Panel: Memory, Justice, and Democracy (EA 1021)

Moderator: Carlos Lisoni

Seven Thousand Souls: the Massacres of Koriukivka
NIKA ANDERSON (Carlos Lisoni)

The Panama Canal: Impetus for Social Injustice or Extension of Colonial Legacies
KATELYN ALYOUSIF (Carlos Lisoni)

The Miskito Tribe and their Relationship with Nicaraguan Civil Rights
JOSHUA LECKRONE (Carlos Lisoni)

Honduras how human rights have been violated before and after the coup
SARAH HIEBER (Carlos Lisoni)

Panel: Media Madness: Perceptions of Terrorism, Street Gangs, School Shootings, and Prison Subculture (EA 1023)

Moderator: Stacie Merken

Right-Wing Domestic Terrorism
MANNY VARGAS (Stacie Merken)

Beyond the Myths: Podcast Narratives and the Reality of Prison Subculture
FABIOLA BARAJAS (Stacie Merken)

The Media Portrayal of Street Gangs in Fictional Crime Television Shows
VIVIANNE GARCIA (Stacie Merken)

An Agenda to Terrorize
SYDNEY KUZMA (Stacie Merken)

POSTER SESSION

Social Sciences and Arts Posters (EA 1025)

The Mafia Mirage: Social Construction of the Mafia through Fictional Television Shows

TEYLORE ORONA (Stacie Merken)

Behind the Mic: Exploring the Role of Podcasts in Understanding and Addressing Sexual Offending

SAVANA STRATER (Stacie Merken)

“I Never Thought it Could Be Me”: Social Construction of Cults Through the Media

JASMINE PERRY (Stacie Merken)

Guns First, Then Paperwork Later: Analyzing the Police Work in Crime Films

BRYCE HAMPTON (Stacie Merken)

A Front Seat to the Thin Blue Line: Examining Effective Police De-escalation

JAMES SCHULTZ (Stacie Merken)

White-Collar Crime and Its Relationship to Social Constructs

NICK SAMMONS (Stacie Merken)

Behind the Badge: Women Police Portrayals in Fictional Crime Dramas

ADRIANA PONCE (Stacie Merken)

Connectedness of Siblings Through Grief and Coping

DAVID SALEH (Brett Labbe)

Treatment at mixed LGBTQ+ Nightlife in Large Cities

DENIZ ARIKAN (Igor Juricevic)

**CONCURRENT PANELS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS: SESSION II (10:30–11:45
A.M.)**

Location: EA classrooms 1013-1017, 1010

CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

Panel: *Love and...: Short Stories from a Class Anthology* (EA 1013)

Moderator: Kelcey Ervick

Love and the Captain

DEANDRE BARTON (Kelcey Ervick)

Love and the Lottery

DRAKE DEBEW (Kelcey Ervick)

Love and Firsts

PAIGE PHILLIPS (Kelcey Ervick)

Panel: *Challenged Civil Rights: Issues on Identity and Freedom of Expression Then and Now* (EA 1017)

Moderator: Tami Martinez

Livestream, Extreme, Mainstream: How Social Media Platforms are Complicit in Terror and Why Governments Must Intervene

MIRA COSTELLO (Brett Labbe)

Freedom of Expression on United States Campuses Amid the Gaza-Israel Conflict

DAVID SALEH (Brett Labbe)

The Queer Life of Hildegard von Bingen

NATASHA COLLINS (Jen Kazmierczak)

Panel: *From the Power of Ideas to Literal Politics* (EA 1021)

Moderator: Jamie Smith

Rousseau and Feminism

KATELYN ALYOUSIF (Steven Gerencser)

Two Dozen Options: The Role of the 2019/2020 Democratic Presidential Primary in Shaping Political Fortunes

CALEB RICE (Jamie Smith)

Labor Unions Institutional Effect on Voter Turnout: A Look at Indiana's Biggest Cities

JARRETT TAFT (Jamie Smith)

If You Want a Pet in D.C. Make it a Dog

JAROD LECKRONE (Jonathan Nashel)

Panel: Exposing the Myths: How Media Portrayals of Victims and Offenders are Constructed (EA 1023)

Moderator: Stacie Merken

Shattered But Strong: The Journey of Rape Victims Toward Healing
KAREN MEDINA (Stacie Merken)

Prisoners of The Mind: The Lingering Effects of Media Misrepresentations of Cults
MERCY WILLIAMS (Stacie Merken)

Juvenile Offender Portrayals in Fictional Crime TV Shows
KATE REIHL (Stacie Merken)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
JESSICA CENKO (Stacie Merken)

CONCURRENT POSTER SESSIONS

Health Science Posters (EA 1010)

BMI in Relation to Oral Hygiene Habits
JESENIA LINARES-MOCTEZUMA & HALLIE HEDMAN (Angela Alwine)

The Effect of Dental Pain on Individual's Quality of Life
ALEXIS MCNEELY, JAYLA WILLIAMS, & KENDALL HOSKINS (Angela Alwine)

Prevalence of Dental Caries in Children Aged 6-12: Key Contributing Factors in a Local Community
CARSYN RYAN, DELAYNA HOCKENHULL, & KELSEY MORALES AVILES (Angela Alwine)

Oral Health Habits and College Students
TAYA STEWART & ANAHI CEBALLOS (Angela Alwine)

Attitudes Towards Fluoride
MAKENNA BECK, HALEY MALCOM, & SAMANTHA MILLS (Angela Alwine)

The Behavioral Effects of Menopause on the Oral Cavity
PAMELA MURILLO, BROOKE STAFFORD, & JULIE WALTONSLARK (Angela Alwine)

How can Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) improve language and communication skills in justice-involved youths with cognitive communication disorders (CCD), and how does this impact the school-to-confinement pipeline?
RYLEE FOLTZ (Andrew Doyle)

Natural Science Posters (EA 1025)

Developing a Sensitive Electrochemical Sensor for Detecting Cortisol in Biological Samples

EDWIN CORTEZ FLORES (Grace Muna)

Assessment of Metal Contamination in Soil: A Correlation Study of Metal Ion Levels with Source, Home Location and Age

DHRUVAL MUKESHKUMAR CHAUDHARI (Grace Muna)

Investigating Methods of Estrone Synthesis: Russel Earle Marker's First Synthesis and a Modern Synthesis Using the Diels-Alder Reaction

ANNE WOLFE (Kasey Clear)

Exoplanet Surveys of Light Curves

JOSIAH NELSON (Jerry Hinnefeld)

Improving Hoosier Health by Exploring the Role of the Alsin2 Gene in Lou Gehrig's Disease

ETHAN MCGRATH (Kirk Mecklenburg)

Developing a Sucrose Biosensor using an engineered periplasmic binding protein

ALISSA SONNENBERG, EMILY BARRERA, KRISTIN MILLER, JOEL RAEL, & MACKENCIE REASOR (Shahir S. Rizk)

Effects of Agricultural Chemicals on Soybean Symbiotic Bacterium *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*

KENNEDY WOLF (Yilei Qian)

LUNCH (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)

Location: The Grill

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Jill Pearson, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, IU South Bend

Arram Almanaseer, MPA CJ Track Student/Criminal Justice Alumni, IU South Bend

**CONCURRENT PANELS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS: SESSION III (1:15 – 2:30
P.M.)**

Location: EA Rooms 1010 – 1025

CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

Creative Writing: Comics from First-Year Stories (EA 1013)

Moderator: Kelcey Erick

Comics Devour

LOKI WIPPERMAN (Kelcey Erick)

Moon Crystal

DUBLIN MARTIN (Kelcey Ervick)

Comfort in Death

PEDRO ESCOBEDO (Kelcey Ervick)

And There I Was Floating

JOYNAE FICKLEN (Kelcey Ervick)

Voice, Power, and Value: A Selection of Literary Analyses (EA 1015)

Moderator: Rebecca Brittenham

Galloping between Connections and Disconnections: *Black Beauty* from the Horse's Mouth to the Humans' Ears

ALEJANDRO CUAUTLE-QUINTANA (Rebecca Brittenham)

The Gaze of Oppression: Power and Identity in Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*

LILLIAN MAGERS-PERSHING (Rebecca Brittenham)

Consider the Beauty that the Animal Beholder Sees: The Influence of Observation in Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*

ALEX SMITH (Rebecca Brittenham)

"FULLBOOD BETRAYS EVERY DEAD INDIAN BEFORE HIM": "Double-Consciousness" in Indigenous Identity in Stephen Graham Jones' *The Only Good Indians*

BROOKE BELORK (Jake Mattox)

Theory, Ethics, and Translations: A Panorama of Research (EA 1017)

Moderator: Tami Martinez

The Process of Translating Children's Books: French to English
ALLISON LONG (Heather Jones)

Today in The World of Freedom: How the East German People Remember the Division
Caused by The Berlin Wall
LINDSEY LES (Jonathan Nashal)

Informed Consent: Unraveling its Definition, Exploring Historical Practices, Analyzing
Evolution, and Advocating for Ethical Progress and Accountability
DHRUVAL MUKESHKUMAR CHAUDHARI (Lyle Zynda)

The Reality of the State of Nature: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Marx's Approach to
Our Relationships with One Another
CALEB RICE (Steven Gerencser)

Women, Civil Rights, and Democratic Backsliding in Central America (EA 1021)

Moderator: Carlos Lisoni

The Resurgence of Authoritarian Tendencies in El Salvador
CHARLOTTE GASKILL (Carlos Lisoni)

The Struggles and Suffering of Women in Honduras
ELIZABETH BARTOSZEWICZ (Carlos Lisoni)

Undermined from Within: Cartels, Corruption, and the Breakdown of Reform in
Guatemala
KARA WRIGHT (Carlos Lisoni)

Civil Rights in Central America: A comparative analysis of reproductive rights in El
Salvador and Costa Rica
ELIZABETH HOWARD (Carlos Lisoni)

**Panel: Sensationalism at its Finest: Social Construction of Victimization and Crime
Through a Critical Lens (EA 1023)**

Moderator: Stacie Merken

Rape Victim Portrayals in Online Newspapers
BREANNA WILLIAMS (Stacie Merken)

"I Want to Be a Lady Again:" Examining Media Portrayals of Female and Transgender
Sex Workers
CHLOE GARNER (Stacie Merken)

Missing, Runaway, or Dead? How Missing Person Portrayals Impacts Society's View on Victims

NOVA SCHMITT-GONZALEZ (Stacie Merken)

Under the Radar: The Criminal Justice System's Response to Stalking

HAILEY MENDOZA (Stacie Merken)

POSTER SESSION

Health Science Posters (EA 1010)

Making Smiles Matter St. Margaret's House

DELAYNA HOCKENHULL, MARIANA REYES, KENDALL HOSKINS, & PRISCILLA RAMIREZ (Mallory Roberts)

Radiant Smiles

ANAHI CEBALLOS, MARILYN GARCIA, PAMELA MURILLO, & KELSEY MONRALES AVILES (Mallory Roberts)

Strong Mind, Strong Classroom

MAKENNA BECK, CARSYN RYAN, BROOKE STAFFORD, HALLIE HEDMAN, & MADALYN WHITEHEAD (Mallory Roberts)

Green Light to Health

KATIE RODRIGUEZ APARICIO, MACY VONDOLOSKI, ASHLEY MCINTIRE, MACY VONOLOSKI, ASHLEY MCINTIRE, & HANNAH COLLINGSWROTH (Mallory Roberts)

Stress Less Solutions: Mindful Crafts and Conversations

LAUREN WHITE, JULIETA WALTONCLARK, TAYA STEWART, THALIA HUYS-HERNANDEZ, NAYELI NUNEZ-RODRIGUEZ, & CAROLINE PATINO (Mallory Roberts)

Smiles and Bites: Building Healthy Oral Habits for Life

ALEXIS MCNEELY, HALEY MALCOM, JESENIA LINARES-MOCTEZUMA, JAYLA WILLIAMS, SAMANTHA MILLS, & DEJAH PAYTON (Mallory Roberts)

Sip Smart

CHABALA MWILA, CAIYA RENNE RAES, & HAILEY CHENEY (Mallory Roberts)

PRESENTATION AND POSTER ABSTRACTS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY TITLE)

A Love Letter to the Bastards

Paige Phillips

This work is a collection of poems highlighting a unique beauty, that is often overlooked, in the broken, defeated, and downtrodden members of society. It romanticizes and humanizes people's failures and shortcomings while also speaking honestly about topics that are often swept under the rug.

An Agenda to Terrorize

Sydney Kuzma

School shootings have plagued the United States for decades, leaving communities shattered and families devastated. Tragic events such as Sandy Hook and Parkland highlight the vulnerability of students and teachers. The excessive media coverage of school shootings has sparked debates about their societal and psychological impact. This study examines the persistent and detailed reports of mass shootings and how they influence policy-making and the public's perception. By analyzing five documentaries, *Just Yesterday: 10 Years Since Sandy Hook* (2022), *Parkland: Inside Building 12* (2019), *American Tragedy* (2019), *Inside the Uvalde Response* (2023), and *77 Minutes: Surviving the Uvalde Mass Shooting* (2023), this paper explores reoccurring themes in media portrayals. Findings suggest that while media coverage can serve as a tool of awareness, it can cause unnecessary fear. This study employs a qualitative content analysis approach using data collection, thematic coding, modified inductive analysis, and ethical consideration. The study will address the limitations of its implementation and explore directions for future research.

Ancestry of Selves

Lillian Magers-Pershing

What role does the legacy of our ancestry play in the identity we create? In a deeply intimate collection of personal essays, written over the course of a semester, Lillian Magers-Pershing seeks to find an answer to this question by navigating the entwining aspects of the idea of self and family. Through the research and writing process, the exploration expanded into a question of the additional role the history plays in the construction of identity, specifically a biracial identity. The essays were compiled as a final project and became the book, *Ancestry of Selves*, which traverses through Magers-Pershing's memory and experiences with her grandmothers to explore the complications and beauty of mental health, racial identity, grief, and her place in history and her own genealogy. The author is a descendant of generations of Hoosier women, and her roots and identity are intrinsically tied to Indiana as evident by the expressions of connection, the heavily featured landscape of Indiana, and the idea of home represented in many of the essays. *Ancestry of Selves* represents the significance that personal memory and storytelling has in preserving and chronicling specific histories and experiences.

And There I Was Floating

Joynae Ficklen

An astronaut's journey throughout Space, Time, Reality. Underlying themes of self-acceptance and psychological horror.

Assessment of Metal Contamination in Soil: A Correlation Study of Metal Ion Levels with Source, Home Location and Age

Dhruval Mukeshkumar Chaudhari

The presence of metal ions such as lead, copper, zinc and manganese in high concentrations in the soil can be a source of pollution. For example, lead is a potent neurotoxin with no known safe level of exposure, making it a significant public health concern. High concentrations of zinc in the human body interferes with the absorption of other essential minerals and disrupts cellular processes. Copper is toxic when excess in the body because it disrupts cellular processes by causing oxidative stress and DNA damage. Elevated levels of manganese can potentially cause neurological disorders that affect brain development in children. The goal of the present work was to extract and analyze metal ions in soils from several homes within the Michiana area to gauge the level of metal contamination. The samples were extracted using a modified EPA method 3050B and analyzed using microwave plasma atomic emission spectroscopy. The results show a correlation between metal ion levels with the location, source, and the age of the homes. Homes located in the city show higher amounts of metal ions compared to homes located on farms or in newly developed areas. Older homes had higher levels of metal ions than newer homes.

Attitudes Towards Fluoride

MaKenna Beck, Haley Malcom, & Samantha Mills

Parental involvement is critical for promoting children's oral health, especially in fluoride application. Despite its well-documented benefits in preventing tooth decay, fluoride use remains a topic of debate among parents, often influenced by misinformation and varying levels of health literacy. Previous studies indicate that many parents lack the health literacy and perception of fluoride safety necessary to make evidence-based decisions regarding their children's oral care. Misinformation from social media and a lack of trust in dental professionals further contribute to fluoride use in children. This study investigates attitudes towards fluoride among parents and caregivers in northern Indiana who are responsible for children under 18. The study utilized quantitative data collection through a 16 multiple-choice survey. It was piloted using a purposive sampling system to parents with children ages 3-5. Next, the survey was shared on a private Facebook group within the same community using convenience sampling to enlarge the sample size. A total of 77 responses were recorded. The study revealed that many parents in this community are willing to use fluoride, despite some limitations in health literacy, and dental professionals are a trusted source of fluoride-related information. These results do not support the initial hypothesis that parents are neglecting fluoride use due to a lack of knowledge. Contrary to what has been assumed, parents are using fluoride to benefit their children's oral health even while uncertainty remains.

The Behavioral Effects of Menopause on the Oral Cavity

Pamela Murillo, Brooke Stafford, & Julie Waltonclark

This proposal demonstrates the need for an understanding that emotional and physiological changes in women during the natural occurrence of menopause can negatively affect the oral cavity. The target audience for this study incorporates women going through the menopausal and postmenopausal stages of life. There are no restrictions on the location of this research project. The methodology involved an electronic survey created using Google Forms, consisting of six multiple-choice questions and two open-ended questions to gather both quantitative and

qualitative data. It was distributed through Facebook and flyers at CFX gym in Mishawaka, In. It is hypothesized that biological women undergoing the natural cycle of post menopause and menopause will have an increased risk for the progression of periodontal disease due to behavioral effects. Primary data gathered included responses from 33 participants. The data showed that 84.8% of participants believed menopause increased the risk of oral health concerns, yet 72.7% reported no discussions on the topic with health care providers. Symptoms like dry mouth, receding gums, tooth sensitivity, pain and bleeding were common, with low motivation for extra oral care. Sharing these results can enhance awareness of menopause-related changes, promoting better oral health prevention. Additionally, the findings could be shared with dental providers or dental care product makers who could then educate the population.

Behind the Mic: Exploring the Role of Podcasts in Understanding and Addressing Sexual Offending

Savana Strater

The media often portrays sex offenders through a socially constructed lens, incorporating various myths. These myths can further promote misconceptions about sex offenders to the general public. These myths influence public attitudes, shape policies, and hinder efforts to address sexual offending in a nuanced and effective manner. There are misconceptions when it comes to the media where the public thinks the offender's victim is a stranger, which is a myth. While conducting a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis, five different podcasts included (First lies club, Hotel Horror-Sex Offender, Sex Offenders and Access to Missouri Schools, Sorry Means Nothing, Inside the Minds of Sex Offenders). This type of methodology provides a way to examine patterns to emerge from the data. The findings included five major themes: gender of victim, gender of offender, race of victim, race of offender, and victim-offender relationships. Future research and potential limitations of the study will be discussed.

Behind the Badge: Women Police Portrayals in Fictional Crime Dramas

Adriana Ponce

The perception of gender in policing has long been displayed through various media forms. Oftentimes, numerous myths are portrayed, especially on fictional crime TV shows. This research examines gender portrayals in the field of policing on fictional crime shows (Law and Order: SVU, The Rookie, The Closer, and Chicago PD) on workplace perception, which is important since there is a lack of adequate insight into what is “reality” within fictional crime dramas. Using a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis, four episodes were viewed to examine emerging themes related to gender portrayals in policing. A total of 16 hours of fictional crime TV shows, aimed at audiences of all kinds, were analyzed to determine policewomen's portrayals. As a result, many myths as well as themes identified further analysis on conceptual and relational proximity analysis, to further understand the underlying cause. Limitations of implementing this study and future research will be addressed.

Beyond the Myths: Podcast Narratives and the Reality of Prison Subculture

Fabiola Barajas

What truly breaks a person behind prison walls? Unearth the haunting realities of dehumanization and isolation, revealed through the powerful, intimate voices of those who live it. To provide a comprehensive understanding of prison subculture, this research examines both the authentic narratives found in podcasts and the distorted perceptions perpetuated by media and

public myths. After considering the myths that distort public understanding of prison subculture, this study employed a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis on podcast narratives, revealing plausible themes of dehumanization, isolation, and the inherent tension between control and rehabilitation goals within the correctional system. Utilizing podcasts as the primary media source allows for direct access to unfiltered narratives and provides nuanced insights into the lived experiences of incarcerated individuals. This study delved into podcasts focused on prison subculture, meticulously extracting both conceptual and relational themes to illuminate the lived experiences of incarcerated individuals. This analysis aims to provide a balanced perspective by considering both the study's limitations and the potential for future research to build upon these findings.

BMI in Relation to Oral Hygiene Habits

Jesenia Linares-Moctezuma & Hallie Hedman

This project explores the relationship between body mass index (BMI) and oral hygiene habits in college-aged individuals. This study aims to determine whether a higher BMI is associated with poorer oral hygiene practices, such as less frequent brushing, flossing, and routine dental visits. Given the increasing prevalence of obesity and the link between oral health and overall health, understanding this connection is crucial. Previous studies suggest that individuals with a higher BMI are more likely to exhibit poor oral hygiene habits, which could lead to an increased risk of oral diseases like cavities and periodontal disease. Factors such as diet, social stigma, and mental health may contribute to these habits. A quantitative online survey-based methodology is used to gather data from local participants aged 18-23, from the IUSB campus. Participants will self-report their height and weight to calculate BMI and oral hygiene behaviors. Purposive sampling was used to distribute QR codes around campus to reach our target population. Out of 27 participants, 14 respondents are overweight or obese. Among them, 21.4% believe they should visit the dentist only once a year and 35.7% reported only using interdental aids 3-4 times a week. Individuals with a higher BMI are less likely to visit the dentist twice a year and routinely utilize interdental aids. These findings can guide the development of targeted interventions and education to highlight awareness of the potential risks associated with poor oral health and a higher BMI.

Civil Rights in Central America: A comparative analysis of reproductive rights in El Salvador and Costa Rica

Elizabeth Howard

Central America has been a region that faces persistent issues and restrictions in regard to civil rights. When thinking about civil rights, the most common are right to life, equality before the law, right to due process, etc. Central America as a region have strict laws that target women's reproductive rights. By looking back at the colonial period in Central America, it is evident that women have always been oppressed and targets for violence. Looking at El Salvador and Costa Rica specifically, it seems as though these two countries differ in regard to civil rights, as El Salvador does seem more strict. Civil rights was and still is an issue in El Salvador. In El Salvador, abortion is completely illegal under all circumstances. Women face severe penalties if they undergo abortions. In Costa Rica, abortion is permitted only the mother's life is at risk.

Comfort in Death

Pedro Escobedo

This is a comic about my journey in finding peace that all things must come to an end. It begins with a small discovery of a pile of bones in the woods, followed by both a physical and spiritual journey where i learn something valuable about my life, my ancestors, and my future.

Connectedness of Siblings Through Grief and Coping

David Saleh

Keywords: coping mechanisms, social support, emerging adults, siblings, family systems theory
Grief challenges everyone's ability to function, yet emerging adults worldwide, when faced with the loss of a parent, often find themselves at a crossroads—searching for ways to navigate their emotions, maintain family connections, and rebuild a sense of stability in the face of profound change (Arnett, 2000). This paper explores the impact of a parental death on emerging adults (ages 18–26), focusing on sibling relationships as a means of coping. The literature review examines themes such as mental health, grieving processes, coping mechanisms, and the role of social support (Aguirre et. al, 2024; Feder, 2021; Martínez-Montilla, 2017). Research highlights that parental death can disrupt family dynamics and significantly affect mental health, causing emotional and psychological challenges (Lansford et al., 2021). Sibling connectedness is shown to be a vital coping strategy, fostering emotional resilience and social support through shared grief (Walker, 2004). Using Family Systems Theory developed by Dr. Murray Bowen, this study emphasizes the importance of open communication and interdependence within the family system to effectively manage loss (Thomas-Maddox, 2022). Findings underscore the need for improved coping strategies and communication to help siblings navigate grief and maintain family stability.

Consider the Beauty that the Animal Beholder Sees: The Influence of Observation in Anna Sewell's Black Beauty

Alex Smith

People learn from other perspectives because they share similarities with the character. In order for humans to learn from animal-centric narrations, the animal must possess morality to be considered worthy of providing an impact. This force of morality brings to question whether the animal kingdom benefits from the human observation or if the human observation has a right to consider the animal kingdom as a place to learn from. In novels, like Anna Sewell's Black Beauty, where the first-person narration comes from a horse, the reader is forced to acknowledge their own role in the life story of an animal. This presentation will connect the animal-centric narration in Black Beauty to the ambiguity set by comparing humans to animals in the first place. I will argue that the observation of animals is detrimental to the life they live, but also necessary to make changes in the relationship between animals in the future.

Creative Writing Panel: Comics Devour

Loki Wipperman

A comic about depression.

Danser et Rêver de Changement Politique: Photographie de Malick Sidibé Elizabeth Howard

Le film « Twist à Bamako » est un film se déroulant dans les années 1960 au Mali, un pays qui vient d'obtenir son indépendance. Samba, un socialiste qui est en train de voyager le Mali pour parler du socialisme, rencontre Lara dans un village. Lara est dans un mariage forcé. Lara et Samba tombent amoureux après qu'elle ait quitté le village. Alors que Samba et le pays de Bamako sont confrontés à de nombreux problèmes politiques : le commerce, les lois sur le mariage et les lois concernant la danse et les clubs. Samba et Lara doivent se battre pour leur amour alors que le mari de Lara la recherche. Le film « Twist A Bamako » était un hommage au photographe malien Malick Sidibé. Au début des années 1960, Malick Sidibé immortalise la période de transition du Mali, de la colonisation française à l'indépendance, en s'intéressant aux jeunes Africains qui s'imprègnent de la mode, de la musique et de la culture occidentales. Des influences comme le rock'n'roll et des styles vestimentaires audacieux gagnent en popularité dans les années 1960, reflétant un mélange de culture occidentale et d'héritage malien. En 1962, Sidibé ouvre son studio, Studio Malick, où il se fait connaître pour ses photographies dynamiques. Il capture la vie nocturne animée du Mali, où de nombreux jeunes dansent et expriment leur individualité.

Developing a Sensitive Electrochemical Sensor for Detecting Cortisol in Biological Samples Edwin Cortez Flores

Constant exposure to stress leads to the production of cortisol, a major risk factor and a silent contributor to various health-related disorders. Developing more sensitive approaches to monitoring cortisol levels can help us better understand its biological and physiological effects, including blood glucose levels, blood pressure, immune system responses, and diseases such as Cushing Syndrome or Addison's disease. We tested whether cortisol could be detected by using a self-assembled monolayer of dithiobis (succinimidyl) propionate (DTSP) on gold nanostructures. This creates a surface that can be used to immobilize the cortisol antibodies through the primary amine group and the amine-reactive N-hydroxysuccinimide ester on the DTSP molecule creating a surface to detect cortisol through binding. The detection of cortisol was monitored using cyclic voltammetry and differential pulse voltammetry techniques. When measuring the differential pulse voltammetry, a ferri/ferrocyanide ($\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6^{3-/4-}$) probe was used to quantitate the signal generated in the presence of cortisol. When cortisol binds to the antibodies, this blocks the probe from accessing the electrode surface which affects the voltammetry signal. We found that the oxidation peak decreased as the concentration of cortisol increased. Indicating that cortisol was binding to the cortisol antibodies. Future work will focus on determining the limit of detection (LOD), stability, and selectivity of the developed method as well as testing its performance in determining cortisol in real samples.

Developing a Sucrose Biosensor using an engineered periplasmic binding protein Alissa Sonnenberg, Emily Barrera, Kristin Miller, Joel Rael, & Mackenzie Reasor

Sucrose is the main ingredient in many processed foods, and overconsumption of sucrose can increase the risk for obesity and diabetes. Hence, it is important to measure sucrose levels in real-time. Traditional analytical methods are time-consuming and expensive, but by using alternative methods we can determine sucrose levels more efficiently and continuously. Here, we engineer a biosensor for sucrose from sucrose binding protein (SuBP). To accomplish this, we designed four cysteine mutants of SuBP to attach four different thiol-reactive fluorophores, yielding 16

conjugates. We analyzed their change in fluorescence when sucrose was added. Seven of the 16 SuBP mutant-fluorophore conjugates showed > 10% change in fluorescence. Titrations were carried out to determine the dissociation constants (Kd) for four of these conjugates and analyze their affinity for sucrose. The fluorescent conjugates developed here show potential as sucrose biosensors.

The Effect of Dental Pain on Individual's Quality of Life

Alexis McNeely, Jayla Williams, & Kendall Hoskins

This research investigates the impact of dental pain on the daily lives of adults in Northern Indiana, focusing on its effects on physical health, emotional well-being, social interactions, sleep, work productivity, and quality of life. The primary objective of this study was to assess the extent to which dental pain influences various aspects of daily living. A quantitative approach was used, with an online questionnaire distributed through social media platforms. The survey included answer choices of "Yes," "No," or "I don't know," allowing for clear and concise responses. Purposive sampling targeted individuals in Northern Indiana aged 18-40 who had experienced dental pain at least once in the past 12 months. The results revealed that dental pain significantly decreases the quality of life, particularly in relation to food, with more severe pain correlating with greater negative impacts on physical functioning, emotional health, and social interactions. Additionally, disrupted sleep, decreased work productivity, and changes in dietary habits were reported. Among the 71 respondents, 59% experienced spontaneous tooth pain, 75% had sensitivity to hot or cold foods, and 50% altered their diet due to tooth pain. Furthermore, 55% reported feeling stressed due to their tooth pain, and 51% lost sleep as a result. These results underline the broader impact of dental pain on daily life, with particular emphasis on its effect on food-related quality of life. The findings suggest implications for healthcare professionals, policymakers, and employers to develop initiatives aimed at improving care and support for individuals affected by dental pain.

Effects of Agricultural Chemicals on Soybean Symbiotic Bacterium *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*

Kennedy Wolf

Soybean is an important crop for agricultural production in Midwest United States including the Michiana area. During spring planting, the soybean seeds are often mixed with a proprietary mixture containing the symbiotic bacterium *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*, which is a member of the soil *Rhizobium* family known for their association with legume plants. They live in root nodules of soybean plants and carry out nitrogen fixation, therefore promoting plant growth. However, throughout soybean growth, many chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides are applied in the field to prevent weed growth and insect damage to the crop. In addition to other environmental concerns, these agricultural chemicals could also have a negative effect on soil rhizobia which supplies fixed nitrogen to the plant. To test this, we isolated *B. japonicum* from Corteva Agriscience preplanting seed mix and validated it with morphological. We used a common herbicide, glyphosate and a pesticide cyantraniliprole as treatment in an agar disk diffusion test. Our results showed that both isolates of *B. japonicum* were highly susceptible to glyphosate but were resistant to cyantraniliprole. This suggests that agricultural chemicals may negatively affect certain beneficial bacteria in the soil and thus the fertility of the soil.

Elements of Melodrama within Alfred Hitchcock's Film Noir: Shadow of A Doubt

Amanda Jenkins

The U.S. film genre Film Noir can be categorized as moody, depressing, and containing cynical narratives. *Shadow of A Doubt* directed by Alfred Hitchcock, reflects the characteristics of the genre during the time period after World War II due to its murderous main character. While the film depicts the dark and steely lifestyle, one can't help but wonder whether the Melodrama film genre made a contribution to the overall message of the movie. In this case, most of the main characters expressed heightened emotions when dealing with the film's main antagonist, Uncle Charlie. Charlie Newton, named after her beloved Uncle, has no idea that he's been the perpetrator of murders across the East. After the information is finally uncovered, the elements of Melodrama reveal themselves through tears, interpersonal conflicts, and melos amalgamated with drama.

Engineering a biosensor for lactate, a marker for inflammation and bacterial fermentation

Alissa Sonnenberg

Lactate levels within the human body can be indicative of inflammation or injury. Lactate is also a byproduct of fermentation, and therefore, its levels can be used to assess if foods are properly preserved. Here, we engineer a protein-based biosensor for lactate to improve how lactate is measured and monitored. To accomplish this, we utilized a bacterial lactate binding protein from *Thermus thermophilus*. We constructed mutations to introduce individual cysteines at specific positions for attachment of thiol-reactive fluorophores. After identifying the cysteine mutation and fluorophore combination that showed the greatest fluorescence change in response to lactate binding, we carried out titrations with lactate to determine the dissociation constant (K_d) of the protein for lactate. The K_d , which indicates the midpoint of the concentration range the biosensor can detect lactate, was $1.4 \mu\text{M}$, reflecting the high affinity of the biosensor for lactate. These results, and results from experiments utilizing artificial sweat, fetal bovine serum, and pickle and olive juice, suggest that our biosensor could identify stress in the body, and also test foods to ensure they've been adequately preserved. Further research should be conducted to test the biosensor's abilities in human sweat and blood.

Exoplanet Surveys of Light Curves

Josiah Nelson

The discovery and characterization of exoplanets have revolutionized our understanding of planetary systems, offering insights into the diversity of worlds beyond our solar system. Studying the stars has led the human race to discover distant worlds. Astronauts continue to explore near space on manned rockets while humans study distant space here on Earth. The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a satellite designed to discover thousands of exoplanets in orbit around the brightest dwarf stars, launched in April 2018. Over the years, there has been a need for ground-based observation of exoplanets to support all-sky, exoplanet surveys such as TESS. One of the main purposes ground observations serve for such surveys is to discern real exoplanet transits from false positives, such as those produced by nearby eclipsing binary systems. This research focuses on a follow-up study of a candidate exoplanet using a ground-based telescope in an observatory, applying the method of transit photometry.

Freedom of Expression on United States Campuses Amid the Gaza-Israel Conflict

David Saleh

Keywords: Free speech, Hate speech, Gaza-Israel conflict, U.S. college campuses

Academic freedom has long been considered a cornerstone of higher education, enabling the free exchange of ideas and fostering intellectual diversity. However, recent global events, such as the Gaza-Israel conflict, have intensified debates surrounding free speech and hate speech on U.S. college campuses (Guess, 2024; Jobain et al., 2023). This paper explores the complexities of protecting free expression while addressing the harm caused by hate speech, particularly in politically charged environments. It examines the historical evolution of academic freedom, legal precedents such as *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) and *Snyder v. Phelps* (2011), and recent incidents highlighting the tension between freedom of expression and inclusivity (Roth, 2024; Wright et al., 2024). Through an analysis of the challenges posed by supporting Palestine within a Western framework, this paper advocates for a balanced approach to campus speech policies. By implementing clear guidelines (Buheji & Ahmed, 2024), fostering constructive dialogue (Hanna, 2023), and ensuring support systems for affected students, universities can create environments that uphold democratic principles while protecting marginalized voices. The discussion underscores the necessity of striking this balance to preserve intellectual growth and inclusivity in higher education.

From Streets to Scripts: The Media's Gang Obsession

Vivianne Garcia

The portrayal of street gangs in fictional crime television significantly influences public perceptions of crime and criminal justice policies. Fictional narratives often reinforce stereotypes, depicting gangs as predominantly violent and racially homogeneous organizations. This research examines the social construction of street gangs in four fictional crime television series: *The Wire*, *Top Boy*, *The Shield*, and *Bosch*. Utilizing a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis, selected episodes were analyzed to identify recurring themes related to gang behavior, leadership, and interactions with law enforcement. The study categorizes common stereotypes, including racial and socioeconomic representations, power dynamics, and the justification of criminal actions. Findings suggest that fictional portrayals often exaggerate gang violence while overlooking socioeconomic factors influencing gang membership. These misrepresentations contribute to distorted public perceptions and potential policy implications, such as harsher sentencing laws and biased policing practices. Limitations of the study and future research will be discussed to explore the broader impact of media portrayals on public policy and criminal justice decision-making.

A Front Seat to the Thin Blue Line: Examining Effective Police De-escalation

James Schultz

Although police departments in the U.S. invest significantly in officer training resources and staffing to mitigate risk, the media portrays policing as a busy, thrill-seeking, and dangerous profession. While de-escalation training is utilized throughout the country, there are some inconsistencies in how these practices are applied. Using a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis, 15 episodes of the docuseries *On Patrol: Live* were viewed to examine conceptual and relational themes focusing on police-citizen encounters. Positive police portrayals are most common, with themes including heroism, dedication, and boldness. *On Patrol: Live* intends to improve public perception of policing by showcasing officers who

demonstrate strong community-oriented policing skills. This reflects scenes where officers patrol regularly, urgently respond to calls, and positively interact with community members. However, there are still police officers featured in this docuseries who resort to verbal and physical force in handling situations. Based on these themes, this research will explore ways of improving situational outcomes through police officer de-escalation while addressing police department policies portrayed through the media. This study will address limitations and future research.

"FULLBOOD BETRAYS EVERY DEAD INDIAN BEFORE HIM": "Double-Consciousness" in Indigenous Identity in Stephen Graham Jones' *The Only Good Indians*
Brooke Belork

This research applies W.E.B. Du Bois' "double-consciousness" theory to Stephen Graham Jones' *The Only Good Indians*, arguing that Indigenous peoples operate under double consciousness due to internalized stereotypes and cultural expectations. To prove this, this paper utilizes the usage of "headlines" throughout *The Only Good Indians* as evidence of the internalization of stereotypes, inevitably leading to the Indigenous characters' demise. Sources include various postcolonial scholars and their respective analyses and research. This paper concludes with an additional interpretation for further exploration: *The Only Good Indians* condemns the colonizing population's lack of accountability.

Galloping between Connections and Disconnections: *Black Beauty* from the Horse's Mouth to the Humans

Alejandro Cuautle-Quintana

This presentation analyzes the connections and disconnections between humans and animals by looking at Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* through the lens of John Berger's "Why Look at Animals?" and Karla Armbruster's "What Do We Want from Talking Animals?" as theoretical and analytical frameworks. By giving animals a voice, *Black Beauty* allows animals to express emotions and suffering in ways that parallel human experiences. Sewell's portrayal of sentient animals combats problematic societal perceptions, reinforcing Berger's argument that animals are not mere commodities. As we go through the presentation, we see how Sewell's use of animal narration ultimately serves as a call for empathy.

The Gaze of Oppression: Power and Identity in Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*

Lillian Magers-Pershing

Power is in the eye of the beholder. The human gaze holds immense power as a means of constructing societal structures that often define the layered oppression which sets certain groups outside of a standard cultural ideal. This presentation looks to define and understand the human gaze as a gaze of oppression and discuss the ways in which this tool can be used to examine the context of literary works, such as Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*. In *Black Beauty*, the story is told through the perspective of a horse, and the literary gaze seems to be through the eyes of the horse. However, it is the human gaze that objectifies, commodifies, and appreciates the animals in the text; and it is the human gaze that oppresses and subjugates. I argue that the power of the human gaze is not just a tool to look at and admire beauty, but also a tool to control and exploit the beauty of animals, largely based on the value they provide to humans.

Green Light to Health

Katie Rodriguez Aparicio, Macy VonDoloski, Ashley McIntire, & Hannah Collingsworth

The Green Light to Health program worked with IUSB's Titans Feeding Titans Food Pantry to improve nutritional awareness and decision-making among pantry visitors through the implementation of the SWAP food categorization system. To address this, the program introduced a red, yellow, and green labeling system to categorize food items based on their nutritional value, training staff, and volunteers using the SWAP educational program. The program aimed to influence visitors' food selection behaviors by making nutritional information accessible and easily understood. Training completion sheets were utilized to verify staff and volunteer readiness, while we updated visitor sign-out forms to incorporate feedback mechanisms. These forms included a simple yes/no question to assess whether visitors noticed and used the nutritional labels to guide their choices. We determined that if 60% of the visitors at the pantry answered "yes" to utilizing the nutritional labels or noticed the labels, our program would be a success. After 2 weeks of implementation, data was gathered, and 75% of pantry visitors answered yes, making our program a success. By empowering pantry visitors to make healthier food choices, the Green Light to Health program has the potential to address nutritional gaps and contribute to improved health outcomes within the IUSB community.

Guns First, then Paperwork Later: Analyzing Police Work in Crime Films

Bryce Hampton

Local police officers have been identified as being gunslinging cowboys who would shoot their guns instead of using their social skills. This social construct is overall a myth because police rarely even have used their firearms during their careers, officers are also always trained to use other tactics and equipment before resorting to their firearms, and they have mandatory calls for backup when a situation becomes hostile (Special Agents Blogs 2024). This problem is significant because it promotes the idea to the audience that police are dangerous and hostile. People may also be reluctant to start careers as officers because of the violence in fictional movies. A Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis was utilized by watching five films (Heat, The Negotiator, The Devil's Own, Murder by Numbers, and Training Day) that involved local police which created four common themes. The general themes that emerged were the alone hero, ignoring established protocols, drinking to cope, and shoot first. These themes are all related to officers going outside their guidelines which resulted in the death of an offender or fellow officer and for even more crime to occur. Limitations and future research for this specific research will be discussed.

Healthy Body Healthy Mind Program

Rebecca Norman, Evelin Lopez, Nia Mark, & Marberid Cardona

The Healthy Body Healthy Mind Program aims to enhance the quality of life for adults with severe mental illness in Saint Joseph County by promoting health through nutrition and exercise education. In partnership with The Clubhouse of Saint Joseph County, a needs assessment including surveys and a focus group identified a need for enhanced nutrition education. The program was initiated through distribution of brochures highlighting the effects of poor nutrition on mental health, emphasizing perceived risks. The goal was to achieve at least 50% attendance at the workshops. With a maximum of 33 individuals regularly attending the Clubhouse, the participation of 25 attendees in the first session exceeded the success benchmark. Nutrition workshops were implemented addressing misconceptions related to nutrition and physical activity while considering financial constraints, health literacy, and resource barriers. Pre/Post

tests were administered to evaluate participants' nutrition knowledge. Average scores increased from 55% to 74.2%, reflecting a 19% increase in their knowledge levels. This demonstrated an increase in their understanding, constituting success in meeting impact objectives. The second workshop focused on behavioral change by building self-efficacy. The attendance of 19 participants exceeded the 50% attendance benchmark. Pre/Post tests were provided to measure confidence levels regarding the application of participants' individual knowledge. Participants rated their confidence on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 represented low confidence and 5 indicated very high confidence. Results demonstrated an increase in confidence levels with scores rising from 59% to 73% indicating a 14% improvement and reinforcing the program's overall effectiveness.

Honduras how human rights have been violated before and after the coup

Sarah Hieber

How human rights, and by proxy civil rights within Honduras have been violated before and after the 2009 coup. The groups being most affected being women and journalists. As well during the coup, civil and political liberties were restricted, until democracy was restored.

How can Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) improve language and communication skills in justice-involved youths with cognitive communication disorders (CCD), and how does this impact the school-to-confinement pipeline?

Rylee Foltz

Youth offenders or justice involved youths are juveniles that are in the justice system. The purpose of creating this critical appraisal topic is to highlight how SLPs can help improve narrative, comprehension, writing skills of these youths and prevent the school to confinement pathway. IU One search, and PubMed were used in this systematic search strategy for this topic. During the systematic search, the following terms were used: youth offenders, speech therapy, narrative skills, narrative discourse, justice involved youths, cognitive communication disorders, and speech language pathologist. 6 research articles were discovered from the databases. 3 of the research articles were reports on expert opinions. While 2 of the research articles were quasi experiments. The last research article entailed a case series experimental design. This systematic review consisted of research articles that are categorized as level 5 evidence. These research articles identify the possible benefits of having an SLP in a juvenile detention center. The findings of these studies concluded that SLPs can improve language skills such as oral and written communication, narrative discourse, and literacy. Improving these language skills can help minimize the deficits of the language disorder. Youths in the justice system that have cognitive and communication disorders (CCD) benefit from receiving speech services while being incarcerated. Since many justice involved youths may have a cognitive and communication disorder, SLPs are needed to interrupt the school to confinement pipeline by identifying children in schools that are suffering academically and behaving badly. If SLPs can then identify these 'misbehaving' children to have a language disorder, then the SLP can help improve their academic performance as well as their language skills to prevent the school to confinement pipeline. Lastly, SLPs can work alongside other professionals in schools to work with students with CCD to stop the school-to-confinement pipeline. Overall, SLPs provide great outcomes for justice involved youths through one-to-one intervention by improving their critical thinking, narrative, comprehension and writing skills.

"I never thought it could be me": Social construction of cults through the media

Jasmine Perry

While cults have been both an interesting and mysterious topic over the years, the media's social construction of cults tends to contradict with the actual factors that research proves actually contributes to one's decision to join a cult. The misrepresentation of this topic through the media can lead to increased susceptibility of falling victim to cult membership and improper knowledge of cults, while also creating inaccurate myths. Through Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis, cults and their depiction in the media were examined. Conceptual and relational themes regarding behavioral traits and geographical regions were researched using four different documentaries (Prophet's Prey, Bikram: Yogi, Guru, Predator, Going Clear: Scientology & the Prison of Belief, and Blessed Child). The data revealed four major themes that may increase one's chances of joining a cult. These themes are cult leader tactics, cult member personalities, cult leader personalities, and societal conformity. Limitations and future research will be discussed later in the study.

"I Want to Be a Lady Again:" Examining Media Portrayals of Female and Transgender Sex Workers

Chloe Garner

Social constructions of sex workers minimize their self-agency, falsely assuming that all sex workers are forced or coerced into the industry. Removing their autonomy leads to the societal perception of sex workers as perpetual victims of violence, often at the hands of their clients. Prior research focuses on this victimization narrative and the impacts it may have, such as the stigma sex workers face in healthcare and criminal justice fields. However, there is a significant gap in the literature analyzing the overall depiction of sex workers and their clientele. A modified qualitative content analysis of four documentaries (Hot Girls Wanted, Dreamcatcher, Save My Seoul, The Stroll) was utilized to identify themes regarding the treatment of sex workers and the portrayal of their clients in media. Each documentary was watched four times to unveil emerging themes of dehumanization/devaluation, financial motivation, childhood abuse and instability, drug abuse, and a desire to escape. Results, study implications, and research limitations will be discussed.

If you want a pet in D.C. make it a dog

Jarod Leckrone

The presentation will be on the history of presidents and their pets, primarily dogs, and how we as a society have become obsessed with the president selecting and owning a pet.

Improving Hoosier Health by Exploring the Role of the Alsin2 Gene in Lou Gehrig's Disease

Ethan McGrath

My undergraduate research project involves trying to determine the role of the Alsin2 gene in causing Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. According to The Indiana University ALS Center at IU Health in Indianapolis, ALS is a progressive degenerative condition that affects the nerve cells in your brain and spinal cord. ALS affects mainly your physical control of your muscles, not your ability to think. ALS is always fatal and has no cure. The human Alsin2 gene is shared with several animal model systems, thus allowing scientists to study the gene in animals. The gene codes for a protein with multiple functions. I have made DNA constructs of portions of the Alsin2 gene to try to discover the function of each

region. We are currently performing genetic experiments to insert the DNA constructs into fruit flies to analyze the function of these *Alsin2* gene regions.

Informed Consent: Unraveling its Definition, Exploring Historical Practices, Analyzing Evolution, and Advocating for Ethical Progress and Accountability

Dhruval Mukeshkumar Chaudhari

Informed consent refers to the action of an autonomous, informed person agreeing to submit to medical treatment or experimentation. Informed consent involves the voluntary agreement of an autonomous and informed individual to undergo medical treatment or experimentation. It signifies the deliberate and knowledgeable approval given by the person involved (Kumar, 1). The concept underscores the importance of respecting an individual's autonomy in healthcare decisions (Kumar, 1). The preconditions for obtaining informed consent include ensuring the competence of the patient or research participant and confirming their understanding of the disclosed information before obtaining consent voluntarily. Legal assessments often employ the "prudent patient test" to determine if sufficient information has been provided. The cultural difference does impact decision-making in regard to the extent of the disclosure. The purpose of this paper is to understand what informed content is, the evolution of Informed Consent: from Historical Practices to Contemporary Challenge, and shaping the Future of Informed Consent: A Call for Ethical Progress and Accountability.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Jessica Cenko

In our country, there are 32 individuals that experience intimate partner violence (IPV) every minute, some often end up victims in homicide. IPV occurs verbally, physically, sexually, and mentally more often than recognized and rarely gets resolved. The media has a huge role in shaping someone's opinion on IPV. There are several different media platforms that highlight IPV and we often overlook it. Over the years, IPV has increased by all factors such as the media. With this increase, IPV hotlines receive approximately 20,000 calls from victims every day. As this issue continues to increase, it is very important to gain knowledge on this topic. The research conducted will consist of different articles and podcasts exposing stories of victims and explaining this topic in depth. There are several myths within IPV that will also be analyzed. IPV will develop trauma as well, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is why gaining knowledge and attempting to break the cycle of IPV is crucial for current and future generations. The information gathered in this research will help guide future research conducted.

Investigating Methods of Estrone Synthesis: Russel Earle Marker's First Synthesis and a Modern Synthesis Using the Diels-Alder Reaction

Anne Wolfe

Estrone is the weakest form of estrogen, present in women throughout life. It plays key roles in regulating sexual development and reproductive health. The body is capable of converting estrone into estrogen. Most significantly, estrone is used in hormone therapy to treat menopausal symptoms. The infographic investigates the historical contributions of Russell Earl Marker, a chemist who pioneered the synthesis of estrone using plant-based materials. Further, it compares this historic mechanism with a more modern synthesis of estrone using the Diels-Alder reaction. It commemorates the importance of Marker's discoveries as his work led to the creation of the Mexican steroid hormone industry and the first applicable oral contraceptive. It contrasts this by

highlighting the modern advantages of the Diels-Alder mechanism, including its product stereospecificity. The infographic emphasizes the importance of estrone and its role in medical treatments, displays an example of evolving chemical processes, and shows unique chemical reactions that result in the same product.

Juvenile Offender Portrayals in Fictional Crime TV Shows

Kate Reihl

Due to the social construction of juvenile offenders, specifically in the media, the practice of punishment over rehabilitation has become more commonplace. This research specifically examines how fictional crime television shows (Law and Order, Law and Order: SVU, The Rookie, and Blue Bloods) depict juvenile offenders and how these portrayals shape public perception. Using a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis methodology allows the researcher to unravel the way media shapes perceptions about juvenile offenders. The research identifies various conceptual and relational themes that emerge from the data by analyzing episodes from the selected TV shows. Through the research, themes were found pertaining to juvenile offender portrayals on fictional crime TV shows. These themes include the typical demographics used to portray juvenile offenders, the portrayal of juvenile crime, and whether the integration of policies or programs could lead to greater rehabilitation success. Themes shaped by four different fictional tv show episodes continuously misinterpret the way juveniles should be seen and treated to give them the best shot of rehabilitation. Findings, limitations, and future research will be discussed.

La La Land: Does the Music's Quantity or Quality Truly Make It a Musical?

Georgia Wiggins

In this paper and presentation, I will explore the possibility that the film La La Land (2016) could be a melodrama rather than a musical based on the quantity, quality, and placement of the songs in the plot. I intend to explain the message and relevance of the musical numbers through mise-en-scene and how songs can drive the story in the musical genre as a whole. I will also use a critical reading from class to enhance my description of the genre and throw in an explanation of some melodrama elements to support my argument.

Labor Unions Institutional Effect on Voter Turnout: A Look at Indiana's Biggest Cities

Jarrett Taft

Labor unions are a democratic use of the working class to protect themselves from unfair labor practices and conditions. With this in mind, many labor unions often use their power to endorse and funnel candidates into our political system. These candidates are often determined to be champions of worker's rights and will stand up for the working class against pro-business interests in America. Unions also engage in voter registration, get out to vote campaigns, and sometimes canvas along with other fundraising techniques for the preferred candidates. With the fall of union rates in the United States, several scholars have pointed the finger at policies like the Taft-Hartley Act that allows states to enact what has been dubbed "Right-To-Work." This policy declares workers do not have to join the union that represents their workplace and do not have to pay union dues. Although non-union members are still entitled to the rights of the contract in the workplace. While looking at this policy in a state like Indiana, I plan to look at how a policy like right-to-work has affected voter turnout since its inception and to see if it has negatively affected voter participation in the electoral process. By looking at union rates in South

Bend and comparing it to when it was at its peak versus voter turnout to the most recent presidential election and determining if that is the case.

Livestream, Extreme, Mainstream: How Social Media Platforms are Complicit in Terror and Why Governments Must Intervene

Mira Costello

How many lives might have been saved if the mosque massacre in Christchurch, New Zealand was not livestreamed on Facebook, bringing violent extremism into the homes of millions of viewers? This question is impossible to answer, but more than eight suspected or proven copycat attacks worldwide suggest a nonzero figure. While the literature has established a strong connection between fringe social media platforms, like 8chan, and extremist violence, mainstream platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube contribute as much or more to the conception, planning, and execution of right-wing terrorism. A look at these platforms' algorithms and moderation methods shows us that although they are capable of higher standards, their current practices are not enough to address the growing threat of extremism. The U.S. judiciary's current reading of Section 230 is too generous and fails to hold platforms accountable as publishers, despite their use of speech actions that facilitate the proliferation of extremist content. The U.S. government has a responsibility to regulate these platforms as publishers and impose stronger regulations, and international success in similar endeavors provides a promising blueprint for safer online forums.

Love and Firsts

Paige Phillips

Love and Firsts explores two extremes of emotion colliding in a middle ground.

Love and the Captain

DeAndre Barton

Love and The Captain is about a heartbroken space pirate who doesn't want anything to do with the outside world until he takes a job that will push his limits to remember the past. The only two things convincing him to take the mission are the number of credits and his memories. Things soon get complicated when things from the past come to haunt him. Love and The Captain is part of a book of short stories written by the W301 class.

Love and the Lottery

Drake DeBew

This story is from a collection my Creative Writing class compiled into a class book, titled "Love and...". Each story within is unified by the simple theme of "love", but they all differ from one another in a second theme. Mine, for example, is "Love and the Lottery", which is a story about what someone would do in the name of love after winning millions of dollars in the lottery. The content of my story requires you to (in some ways) suspend your disbelief and embrace the possibility of the impossible.

Making Smiles Matter St. Margaret's House

Delayna Hockenhull, Mariana Reyes, Kendall Hoskins, & Priscilla Ramirez

St. Margaret's House, a women's shelter, recognized a need to improve oral health among its residents. Many women experienced oral pain and dental issues but lacked knowledge of proper

oral care. In response, a health promotion program was developed to educate women about effective dental health practices. The program included a pretest to assess participants' baseline knowledge, followed by a PowerPoint presentation teaching methods such as the C-shaped flossing technique, Bass brushing technique, denture cleaning, and alternatives when a toothbrush isn't available. The average pretest score was 45.03%, indicating participants had limited knowledge of basic oral hygiene. This suggested a need for further education on oral care. A posttest was given to evaluate knowledge gained from the program. The average posttest score was 66.67%, reflecting a significant improvement in participants' understanding of oral hygiene. Compared to the pretest, the posttest score showed that the program was effective in enhancing participants' knowledge. Participants also received goodie bags with adult and children's toothbrushes and toothpaste to support continued oral care. The findings from the pre and post tests suggest that participants gained valuable knowledge, though further improvements could be made, as the scores indicate there is still room for growth.

The Mafia Mirage: Social Construction of the Mafia through Fictional Television Shows **Teylore Orona**

The media's portrayal of organized crime groups, specifically the mafia, reinforces various myths about these individuals. The significance of this research lies in its ability to reveal how media representations, particularly through television shows, help solidify widely accepted misconceptions about the mafia. This research seeks to fill a gap in the literature by examining how these depictions shape audience perceptions of individuals involved in organized crime. Utilizing a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis, four fictional crime shows (e.g., The Sopranos, Peaky Blinders, Godfather of Harlem, and Boardwalk Empire) were examined. This methodology allows for conceptual and relational themes to emerge from the data. The research employed two guiding research questions that aligned with ethical narratives and mafia myths. The themes of mental health struggles and substance abuse issues as a coping mechanism highlight the emotional toll of a life in organized crime. The limitations of this study and potential directions for future research will be discussed.

The Male Melodrama: A Discussion of Masculinity in Melodramatic Film **Rhett Greer**

I will be discussing the specific genre of the male melodrama, focusing on films with male leads and how these stories create an effective commentary on masculinity in society.

The Miskito Tribe and their Relationship with Nicaraguan Civil Rights **Joshua Leckrone**

By looking at both the historical and modern actions of the Miskito tribe in Nicaragua, one can see how the respect of indigenous rights affects the sway of politics and economy of Nicaragua. We'll start off looking at the Miskitos history from the colonialism period to the 1990s to see how the Miskitos were able to keep their autonomy and avoid the same fate as the other tribes. We'll also be seeing how the lack of civil rights affected indigenous people's role in society. After the history, we'll be able to see how politically, and economically indigenous people's status has changed thanks to their push for civil rights. Politically with how they are able to impact politics by making known the needs of the natives and economically in how or if their role in the economy has changed or not. The current day topic of Miskito autonomy will be of special interest as it deals with the laws from differencing interests of political parties, native

women's role into his situation, and the non-indigenous people living there. I will then finish off by sharing my own opinion on the matter on indigenous civil rights and if I feel they need to be improved upon or not.

Missing, Runaway, or Dead? How Missing Person Portrayals Impacts Society's View on Victims

Nova Schmitt-Gonzalez

Often in the media, excessive coverage of missing people focuses on white women or children that are taken by strangers. This concept, known as Missing White Woman Syndrome, is further represented in fictional crime films. A Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis was conducted for this research to examine elements that are most common when it comes to missing person portrayals and victim-offender relationships. Four fictional crime films (*Last Seen Alive*, *Gone Baby Gone*, *Searching*, and *Gone*) were analyzed for their conceptual and relational themes that emerged. Research was conducted with multiple peer-reviewed articles that focused on the crime of missing persons combined with fictional films alongside the four crime films. Four major themes were found that reinforce the social construction of missing people relating to victim race/ethnicity, age of victim, relationship of victim/offender, and status of victim. Future research and limitations of the study will be discussed further in the paper.

Moon Crystal

Dublin Martin

My comics project, *Moon Crystal*, is a memoir that captures a difficult but transformative moment in my life—as a partner, a student, and a practicing witch. It explores themes of religious trauma, self-discovery, and the unexpected arrival of deep love. That love flipped my life upside down and became the best thing to ever happen to me. With over 30 hours of work put into it, I see this as my thesis project for the year—my most time-intensive and meaningful piece. My favorite part of *Moon Crystal* is the page where I got to draw my wonderful girlfriend in every panel. It illustrates the beginning of our relationship, and those panels feel so warm and cozy. I smiled the entire time I was drawing and inking that page. For this comic, I used Pigma Micron Fineliners and a Uniball Signo white gel pen. I fell in love with the clean, crisp look of the black lines and how easy it was to add texture and fix mistakes. For instance, I used short, clustered lines to depict fur and long, delicate lines and swirls for wood grain. I chose to work in black and white to focus on value and shading, which I want to master before introducing color—probably next semester.

Oral Health Habits and College Students

Taya Stewart & Anahi Ceballos

Since Fall 2024, the research group had been studying the challenges college students faced in maintaining oral health. Focusing on how different living arrangements, on-campus vs. off-campus, affected access to dental care, hygiene habits, and awareness. Using Google surveys, the data was collected to identify obstacles and explored strategies to improve oral health education and accessibility for students. Using snowball and convenience sampling methods, the assessment results of the online survey indicated that the majority of students, 60% lived off-campus, while the remaining 40% resided on-campus. Among all respondents, 80% reported brushing twice daily, flossing once daily, and visiting their dental office biannually. The primary barriers to maintaining oral health, as identified by most students, were lack of motivation and time rather than their living situation. These findings can inform the implementation of

motivational interviewing techniques to enhance commitment to self-care practices. Between the two groups it was found that 56% of the survey participants completed were seniors and 48% were between the ages of 21-23 years old. After the analysis of the data the original created hypothesis proved to be null but with the revelation of this information the data gathered will still prove valuable to the oral health community of college students here at South Bend.

The Panama Canal: Impetus for Social Injustice or Extension of Colonial Legacies

Katelyn Alyousif

This paper examines whether the current social injustices in Panama are linked to the construction of the Panama Canal, positioning it as a definitive turning point that intensified class inequalities, or if it was merely a continuation of the nation's colonial heritage, an outcome that would have occurred regardless. Two rival hypotheses are investigated: first, that the Canal's construction introduced considerable changes in labor systems, class hierarchies, and economic dependence, all of which contributed to present-day injustices; and second, that its inequalities were simply an extension of the long-established race-based discrimination and class divisions that emerged with the land's colonization. The paper outlines the Canal's societal repercussions, including the demographics and exploitation of laborers, and contrasts pre- and post-Canal social structures to determine whether the Canal brought new forms of injustice or merely intensified existing ones.

Prevalence of Dental Caries in Children Aged 6-12: Key Contributing Factors in a Local Community

Carsyn Ryan, Delayna Hockenhull, & Kelsey Morales Aviles

This project aims to identify the key factors contributing to dental caries in children aged 6-12 in Northern Indiana. The study focuses on understanding how health literacy, behavioral habits (such as brushing and flossing routines), socioeconomic status, and other health beliefs influence the development of dental caries. The findings of this research have implications for designing educational strategies and community outreach programs to prevent dental caries. Data was gathered from parent surveys using purposive sampling. Two existing instruments were combined for data collection: the WHO Pathfinder Survey and the CAMBRA Evaluation Form for children aged 6 and older. These tools helped gather quantitative data from the surveys, such as the frequency of dental caries diagnoses and the consumption of cariogenic foods, while reducing the need for clinical examination. Key findings include that at least 30% of children of parents surveyed have been diagnosed with cavities or have received treatment for caries within the past 7-23 months. Many parents reported that their children frequently consume fermentable carbohydrates, such as cookies, soda, or juice, which are known to contribute to dental caries. These results suggest that one effective approach to reducing caries may be to educate parents about the risks associated with cariogenic foods, as well as alternative healthy foods and habits that can help prevent dental decay.

Prisoners of The Mind: The Lingering Effects of Media Misrepresentations of Cults

Mercy Williams

Social construction of cults in media often lead to stereotypes and various myths. Research from the International Journal of Coercion, Abuse, and Manipulation (2023) found that ex-cult members received stigma throughout their recovery periods due to media coverage. Such inaccurate representations could lead to psychological implications caused by negative connotations. There is a need to address the gap in existing literature on cult portrayals in the

media and how that affects former cult members' recovery. A Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis method was used to look at emerging conceptual and relational themes about cults. Ten YouTube news reports were viewed to examine cult portrayals in the media. The overall research questions for the current study assessed leader personality types and violent crimes. Results showed four themes: 1. Dominant negative narratives, 2. Charismatic leader personalities, 3. Indoctrination/Fear tactics, 4. Insiders vs Outsiders mentality. Future research and study limitations will be addressed to advocate for ethical cult portrayals.

The Process of Translating Children's Books: French to English

Allison Long

Translating children's literature from French to English is a complex yet rewarding process that bridges cultures and opens up new worlds for young readers. This presentation delves into the intricacies of translating a French book on music for a young audience, highlighting the challenges and creative problem-solving involved. Central to the discussion is the task of preserving the author's intent while adapting the text to resonate with English learning readers. Special attention will be given to the difficulty of rendering French musical terminology into accessible and accurate English equivalents. Key topics include linguistic challenges, cultural adaptation, and maintaining the unique voice and tone of the original work. Real-life examples of idiomatic expressions, humor, and culturally specific references will demonstrate the translator's role as both a linguistic and a cultural mediator. The presentation also explores ethical considerations and creative decisions, emphasizing the importance of making the text engaging and relatable without sacrificing its essence. Attendees will gain insights into the fascinating interplay between translation, music, and global storytelling for young readers.

The Queer Life of Hildegard von Bingen

Natasha Collins

This paper explores the life and works of Hildegard von Bingen, a 12th-century nun, mystic, composer, and writer, through a queer theoretical lens. By examining her writings, visionary experiences, and relationships with women, this study seeks to uncover the complexities of her identity and her potential queerness in a historical context that often excluded or suppressed non-normative sexualities and gender expressions. Highlighting her challenges to traditional gender roles, her advocacy for female empowerment, and the intense emotional bonds she formed with other women, this paper investigates how Hildegard's life and works transcend binary conceptions of gender and sexuality. It also examines her spiritual and intellectual contributions as they relate to queer theory given their sapphic nature.

Radiant Smiles

Anahi Ceballos, Marilyn Garcia, Pamela Murillo, & Kelsey Morales Aviles

Radiant Smiles was an oral health education program designed to enhance oral health knowledge and practices among assisted living residents at Southfield Village in South Bend, Indiana. Implemented on March 8, 2025, the program was based on the Behavior Theory Model and incorporated instructional demonstrations and interactive activities to improve oral hygiene practices among residents. Participants received hands-on training in proper prosthesis care and engaged in an adjunct aid-themed bingo game to reinforce key oral health concepts in an engaging manner. The combination of interactive learning and repetition aimed to enhance residents' confidence and ability to perform denture care independently. To evaluate the program's effectiveness, skill assessments were conducted to measure residents' ability to

correctly demonstrate denture cleaning procedures, while pre- and post-tests assessed their knowledge and intent to use adjunct oral hygiene aids. The program set an objective for at least 50% of participants to achieve a minimum score of 80% on the skill assessment after the instructional session. The results indicated that this goal was surpassed, with 80% of participants demonstrating denture cleaning with 100% accuracy. Furthermore, there was a 20% increase in residents expressing intent to incorporate adjunct aids into their oral hygiene routines. These findings highlighted the program's success in improving oral health behaviors and awareness among assisted living residents. By integrating evidence-based instructional methods with interactive learning, Radiant Smiles effectively reinforced essential oral hygiene practices, contributing to long-term oral health benefits within this population.

Rape Victim Portrayals in Online Newspapers

Breanna Williams

Online Newspapers focus on the previous history, life, and crime components on the offenders of rape rather than providing information about the victim/survivors of rape, or when applicable the 'Jane Doe/John Doe' themselves. There is no deviation found within Online newspapers in comparison to other media platforms, (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles), regarding the social construction of rape myths, therefore placing the blame onto the victim/survivor of rape. This research employed a modified inductive qualitative content analysis methodology, eleven online newspapers were analyzed to examine the relational and conceptual themes associated with the victims and survivors of rape, both identified and unidentified individuals. The methodology has provided the researcher with two prominent, consistent, and relational themes within the data. The findings had showed two major themes related to the victims and survivors of rape: Victim/Offender relationships and sexual consent. Future research and limitations on victims and survivors of rape will be discussed.

The Reality of the State of Nature: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Marx's Approach to Our Relationships with One Another

Caleb Rice

As the enlightenment spread its influence on political thinking, the process by which we exist and live with one another in both political philosophy and "real life" underwent drastic changes. Massive cities began to emerge and the economic system that bonded societies together began to evolve in ways that just years before was completely unthinkable. These changes began a process by which political thinkers at the time were forced to examine the nature of our relationship to one another in what can be described as a modern political system - and did so by thinking of our natural states of existence within nature. John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Karl Marx all represent important evolutions in the ability for examining our stations from this natural state.

The Resurgence of Authoritarian Tendencies in El Salvador

Charlotte Gaskill

In recent years, there has been a rising trend of authoritarian tendencies in the country of El Salvador. With the "Mano Dura" (iron fist) as its doctrine in the fight against gang violence, many human rights violations and repression have occurred on its streets. This issue is important to analyze because it has worrying implications for the state of democracy and justice in the

modern world. A multifaceted approach is necessary, weighing the implications of both state violence with gang violence, to be able to approach the issue from all possible angles.

Right-Wing Domestic Terrorism

Manny Vargas

Terrorism is often thought of as an issue that occurs overseas and does not occur as often here at home, but research shows the complete opposite. We have seen domestic terrorism in the United States with the January Sixth Insurrection at the United States Capitol, the September Eleventh attacks, and in the Charleston church shooting. Domestic terrorists and “Right-Wing” extremists are constantly attacking individuals of opposing parties (Rich, 2020). After watching six Youtube news reports, domestic terrorism is depicted as mostly “Right-Wing”, leading to the theme of the research to be “Right-Wing domestic terrorism in the United States”. Utilizing a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis, six Youtube news reports were watched to examine the recurrent themes of domestic terrorism in the media. Findings show that domestic terrorism is consistently linked to “Right-Wing” organizations and another recurring theme is that “Right-Wing domestic terrorism” is also violent. Additional research is in the works and will be addressed.

Rousseau and Feminism

Katelyn Alyousif

This paper explores Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s perspectives on women, as expressed in his Discourse on Inequality and Emile works. Rousseau’s stance on women seems to reflect one particular tension, juggling their perceived inferior status with their acknowledged role in the social order. In Discourse on Inequality, Rousseau’s words seem to depict women as creatures subservient to men, with their roles confined to domestic and sexual responsibilities. Yet, in Emile, his words suggest that women are of crucial roles in shaping men’s moral and educational growth, while still shining some light on their subservience. How can women be positioned as subservient to men while also indispensable to their moral and educational uprising? Such contradictions invite numerous questions about Rousseau’s message, including whether he empowered some women of his time and influenced subsequent feminist thought. While it is improbable that Rousseau straight-up championed women’s intellectual or social emancipation, scholars like Gita May contend that his recognition of women’s contributions, while definitely limited, might have offered some form of appreciation to their societal roles. It is possible that figures like Madame de Staël and Olympe de Gouges, though rejective of Rousseau’s gender beliefs, drew some inspiration from his outlook, using it to strengthen arguments for women’s intellectual freedom and wider social participation. In this sense, Rousseau’s awareness of women’s roles might have faintly contributed to later feminist ideas, even if not so directly.

Seven Thousand Souls: the Massacres of Koriukivka

Nika Anderson

Few World War II historians are acquainted with the 1943 Koriukivka Massacres when Nazi-allied Hungarian invaders killed seven thousand Ukrainians. This paper evaluates the subsequent Chernihiv trials and the manipulated Soviet response to clarify the Koriukivka events. This essay explores the failure to expose the whole truth and the limited forms of justice offered to direct victims, families and the Koriukivka community as a whole. It focuses on the problematic nature of the investigation, judicial processes, and aftermath of these massacres. A portion of this essay attempts to interpret the inscrutable personality, beliefs, and motivations of Zoltan Aldya-Pap,

the Hungarian commander who ordered this slaughter. However, this paper is also a testimony of the resilience of the Koriukivka people to face invaders in 2022 as they did in 1943. This paper employs materials in the English, Russian, and Ukrainian languages, gathered from local researchers, transcripts from court sessions, and testimony from survivors. Attention is also dedicated to the current political arrangements between Ukraine, Hungary, and Russia that hinder truth and reconciliation efforts. This essay demonstrates the need for researchers to examine the often-overlooked war crimes that Hungarian forces perpetrated on civilians during Hitler's eastward campaign. The obscure massacres of Koriukivka are a startling reminder of how historical information is still used as a political bargaining chip a

Shattered But Strong: The Journey of Rape Victims Toward Healing

Karen Medina

Rape is a traumatic experience that leaves survivors with extreme and lasting consequences, that affect their physical, social, and mental health. The media portrays rape victims through a lens of victim blaming, and many stereotypes and rape myths which traumatizes the victim. This research utilized Modified Inductive Qualified Content Analyses to analyze patterns in the data for themes to emerge. Podcasts (After the Assault, Sexual Assault Survivor Stories Podcast, Something was Wrong, Hear me Roar and Thanks for Asking) were used to examine conceptual and relational themes regarding victims of rape. This research examines the social, psychological and other factors that affect the experience and recovery of rape victims as well as the most effective methods of support and assistance for them. The results are that many rape victims are afraid to speak about victimization. Limitations of the study and future research will be addressed.

Sip Smart

Chabala Mwila, Caiya Renne Raes, & Hailey Cheney

Our program, Sip Smart, aimed to promote responsible alcohol consumption during high-risk drinking holidays, focusing on St. Patrick's Day. The first phase, Sip & Scan, educated participants on the dangers of excessive drinking and impaired driving through an informational video and QR code survey. On March 19th, we implemented the program at Brothers Bar and Corby's Pub, distributing 63 out of 95 "Sip Smart: Cheers to Choices" bracelets in green to encourage safe drinking. We aimed for at least 25 survey responses, but only 20 individuals participated. Despite lower participation, results were positive: 95% of respondents correctly answered key questions on alcohol impairment and responsible drinking, with only one incorrect response. Corby's staff assisted in distributing QR codes and materials, engaging a broader audience. One participant shared a personal story about losing two friends to a drunk driver, highlighting the program's emotional impact. Our objective was to see a 10% reduction in alcohol overconsumption by March 2025 by raising awareness and encouraging safer drinking choices. While participation was lower than expected, the high level of engagement with the materials demonstrated strong understanding of responsible drinking. The program's positive reception underscores the importance of continued outreach to drive long-term behavioral change. This project will be presented on a poster at the Undergraduate Research Conference, showcasing Sip Smart's effectiveness in promoting safer drinking behaviors during high-risk holidays.

Smiles and Bites: Building Healthy Oral Habits for Life

Alexis McNeely, Haley Malcom, Jesenia Linares-Moctezuma, Jayla Williams, Samantha Mills, & DéJah Payton

The Smiles and Bites program explored the application of social learning theory to foster healthy oral habits in children through observation and imitation. By modeling healthy behaviors, including proper nutrition and toothbrushing techniques, and utilizing visual aids, the program aimed to actively engage children in learning. This initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Growing Kids Learning Center's afterschool program in Elkhart, Indiana, with 30 children aged 6 to 11 participating. The program focused on educating children about the causes of cavities, the role of sugary foods and tooth decay, and the foods that protect the teeth. A key component of the curriculum involved teaching proper toothbrushing techniques, specifically the Modified Bass Technique. Children were assessed on their ability to apply this technique, with a target proficiency of at least 61.5%. The program's primary goal was for children to achieve a minimum score of 60% on a posttest that evaluated their understanding of nutrition and oral health concepts. Following the program, children were expected to show an increased understanding of how cavities form and the impact of nutrition on oral health. Additionally, the participants were expected to demonstrate the Modified Bass Technique successfully, reflecting an effective transfer of skills. The results of the Smiles and Bites program will be available following implementation and will be presented through a poster.

Stress Less Solutions: Mindful Crafts and Conversations

Lauren White, Julieta WaltonClark, Taya Stewart, Thalia Huys-Hernandez, Nayeli Nunez-Rodriguez, & Caroline Patino

Stress Less Solutions: Mindful Crafts and Conversations was a mental health campaign created to spread awareness about resources available to college students at IUSB. In Fall 2024, this program utilized electronic and paper surveys to gather information from students to determine their greatest need and found that the majority of surveyed students reported struggling with their mental health, but they were also unaware of resources available to them on campus. Our program utilized social media and collaborated with Charlas and Churros, the Student Counseling Center, You Bring Change to Mind, and the CUBE to provide information about the Student Counseling Center, TimelyCare, and coping mechanisms to students. Three objectives were set for the event: 75% of participants will be able to list at least two resources available at IUSB, 75% of participants will be able to list at least two coping mechanisms that they can use; and 75% of participants will report a comfort level of 50% or higher when using mental health resources at IUSB. All were evaluated using a before- and after-event survey. After evaluating the data collected from the event, we determined that all of the program objectives were met.

Strong Mind, Strong Classroom

MaKenna Beck, Carsyn Ryan, Brooke Stafford, Hallie Hedman, & Madalyn Whitehead

The "Strong Mind, Strong Classroom" social media campaign aimed to raise awareness about the importance of educators' mental health in the Michiana region. We collaborated with mental and oral health professionals to provide relevant and supportive content. The campaign strived to break the stigma surrounding mental health and empower teachers to prioritize their well-being. Our goal was to connect educators with the resources they need to enhance their professional lives. The campaign offered information on self-care, stress management, and seeking help. Overall, we provided educators with valuable tools and resources to support their unique lives. Our impact objectives were to have three users acknowledge mental health resources by liking

the posts and encourage three users to share personal testimonials on how being an educator has impacted their mental health. Through formative evaluation, we adjusted our objectives to focus on both views and interactions because that proved more valuable than limiting to likes. The campaign was successful in meeting the first impact objective, with a total of 4,000 views, 226 interactions, and reaching 2,000 users. However, we did not meet the second, only received one inspiring testimonial to repost on March 12th. Our program provided a safe space for educators to learn about mental health and connect with others. Despite excelling in some areas, the campaign should focus on posts that build relationships with its users to receive additional testimonials.

The Struggles and Suffering of Women in Honduras

Elizabeth Bartoszewicz

Honduras, like many other countries in Central America, faces significant socio-political challenges that deeply affect the lives of its citizens. The nation's history, shaped by colonialism, political instability, and social inequality, has created an environment where women, in particular, experience systemic oppression. Deeply ingrained violence, gender roles, and insufficient legal protections worsen this oppression, with women experiencing the intersectionality of race, gender, and class. For many, survival in this context is a daily struggle. While specific to Honduras, these challenges are not unique to the region. Women across Central America and the world struggle with patriarchal systems, weak rule of law, and particularly reproductive justice. Without a complete understanding of these complex issues, there is an almost definite risk that these women will continue to be denied the equality and justice they deserve.

Today in The World of Freedom: How the East German People Remember the Division Caused by The Berlin Wall

Lindsey Les

“Today in The World of Freedom: How the East German People Remember the Division Caused by The Berlin Wall” is a research project that explores the perspective of ordinary citizens that resided in East Germany during the Cold War. It includes interviews from individuals who currently reside in South Bend Indiana, both relatively young when the Berlin Wall fell.

Treatment at mixed LGTBQ+ Nightlife in Large Cities

Deniz Arikan

There is a scarcity of LGBTQ+ nightlife spaces across the United States, having only emerged following various LGBTQ+ liberation movements. Among these spaces, a large portion of those operating now and in history have been created by and for gay male clientele. Thus, there is a lack of nightclubs that prioritize lesbians, women, and gender nonconforming individuals as their main clientele. This is likely attributed to much of nightlife throughout history being made exclusively for men, before women's liberation movements afforded women various degrees of economic, social, sexual, and educational freedoms— thus allowing for lives of their own, outside the home. As these movements made strides, the LGBTQ+ community grew, and many of these gay bars transitioned to mixed LGBTQ+ spaces due to an increase of women and transgender/gender non-conforming individuals participating in nightlife. I conducted a survey with a stratified sample of 21 LGBTQ+ adults engaging in nightlife in large cities, determining the differing treatment between individuals of various identities within. This data was used to determine women and gender nonconforming individuals' rates of acceptance in existing

LGBTQ+ nightlife spaces, and if they felt a need for spaces centering them. Over the last two semesters, I analyzed my data through qualitative and quantitative means, finding many mixed LGBTQ+ bars still primarily cater to cisgender males. My report concluded that lesbian and transgender clients had less positive experiences overall than gay men, and respondents highlighted a need for spaces where lesbians or transgender individuals were the prioritized clientele type.

Two Dozen Options: The Role of the 2019/2020 Democratic Presidential Primary in Shaping Political Fortunes

Caleb Rice

Every four years, major American political parties undergo a process that fulfills one of their most vital roles in the national political system – their selection of a candidate for president. This method of candidate selection has undergone a variety of changes and controversies in its history, but the importance of the exercise has only grown. Being able to see how the presidential primary and its many moving parts over the course of months and years work in practice is essential for being able to understand political trends and priorities for party elite and party electorates alike. The 2019/2020 Democratic presidential primary serves as one of the clearest examples of the conflicts that can arise during this process. A crowd of more than two dozen major declared candidates comprised political strands and experiences of all stripes from the nation’s political left – the “big tent” of Democratic politics being brought to the contentious forefront. For one of the first times, differing political objectives of major candidates within the same party were portrayed as directly at odds or even incompatible with each other. We can derive important information on what is successful in the marathon of the modern presidential primary from analyzing this case. This paper will use a qualitative analysis of the developments within this specific primary election and attempt to place it within the larger history and academic writing regarding the shape that the presidential primary plays in shaping American politics.

Under the Radar: The Criminal Justice System’s Response to Stalking

Hailey Mendoza

Stalking is a serious crime in the United States, but law enforcement responses and safeguards in place for victims vary by state. This study used a Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis to examine the docuseries “Stalked: Someone’s Watching.” Eight episodes were analyzed to identify emerging conceptual and relational themes. Three common emerging themes were identified: law enforcements handling of stalking, safeguards for victims, and minimal sanctions for perpetrators. Results discovered a trend of law enforcement oftentimes downplaying the severity of stalking cases, delaying intervention until escalation in perpetrator conduct and behavior. Research identified issues in which the legal system had shortcomings with providing adequate and consistent protection for stalking victims. The observed media highlights how stalking is addressed by the criminal justice system, the available resources and protection for stalking victims, and the amount of discretion police have in enforcing protective orders. Additional findings, limitations, and future research will be further discussed.

Una Comunidad Un Futuro: Expanding Access to Community Resources for Economically Disadvantaged Adults in Elkhart Count

Jasmine Ramirez, David Munoz, Verenice Hurtado, & Iraida Zapata

The Una Comunidad Un Futuro, One Community One Future initiative was implemented on March 12, 2025, in partnership with Church Community Services to address barriers to accessing essential community resources in Elkhart, Indiana. The need for this program was identified through a survey conducted in June 2024, which revealed that many individuals, particularly within minority populations, faced difficulties in obtaining services such as food pantries, healthcare, and other local assistance programs. To bridge this gap, we developed an online platform through Facebook to provide accurate, up-to-date information about available community resources in both English and Spanish. Recognizing literacy challenges, we also created video content to ensure accessibility for all. Our initiative aimed not only to provide information but also to foster community connections and raise awareness of available services. To measure the program's impact, we tracked engagement through QR code scans using the QR code Tiger software, which allowed us to assess reach and effectiveness.

Undermined from Within: Cartels, Corruption, and the Breakdown of Reform in Guatemala

Kara Wright

This project looks at why international efforts to fight corruption in Guatemala haven't worked—and how cartel violence, political resistance, and weak institutions all play a role. Even though there was some progress early on, those efforts fell apart under pressure from powerful elites and criminal networks. Organized crime still has a strong grip on the country's political and justice systems, which makes real reform nearly impossible. I argue that foreign anti-corruption programs failed because they didn't deal with the deeper, structural issues that keep corruption in place. As a result, public institutions have stayed weak, people have lost trust in their government, and many Guatemalans are leaving the country to escape violence, poverty, and insecurity. This research focuses on how foreign aid, local resistance, and organized crime interact to block meaningful reform. Guatemala shows just how difficult it is to build strong, trustworthy institutions when crime and politics are so deeply connected. Understanding that dynamic matters—not just for policy—but for the people living with the daily impacts of corruption, insecurity, and broken systems.

Waiting in the Wings

Natasha Collins

Waiting in the Wings is a creative nonfiction personal essay collection that offers a perspective on important issues: poverty, mental health, closeted sexuality, child loss, and the power of education. Theatre is the main theme that ties all these pieces together with poetic language, script formatting, and stories from the stage. These essays can serve as both education and inspiration to others.

What Pain Intervention Methods Help Reduce Opioid Use and Increase Patient Satisfaction?

Alexandra Herr

Pain management is one of the most important factors affecting patient outcomes after surgery. Nurses see early in their careers that pain negatively affects healing, mental health, and plays a role in the stress response causing other physiological symptoms. Nurses administer physicians'

orders for pain management and directly work with patients to ensure comfort. So, nurses must be aware of reducing opioid use or alternative pain interventions. This premise encouraged the comparison of pain interventions used to reduce the pain of shoulder surgery and their relation to opioid use. The PICO statement applied to this systematic review of current evidence-based practice is the pain management outcome of nerve block agents as compared with opioids on both pain levels & opioid usage? After compiling five peer-reviewed articles, the results showed that pain management interventions are best when applied in tandem. Some interventions without opioids showed more success than others. Most of the standard of care interventions by nurses is medication education. Although this paper focused on shoulder surgery, we feel this information is valuable for all nurses as pain management can be implemented with a multimodal plan of care based on prioritizing patient preferences and sparing the use of opioids.

White-Collar Crime and Its Relationship to Social Constructs

Nick Sammons

White-Collar Crimes (WCC) are often misrepresented in fictional crime TV shows, reinforcing misconceptions about punishment, offender traits, and simultaneously ignoring social constructs. A Modified Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis methodology was used to systematically examine data, identify patterns, and unify emerging themes. Four different fictional crime TV shows (White Collar, Suits, Law & Order, and Ozark) were analyzed to search for conceptual and relational themes. This analysis employed specific research questions to investigate whether common personality traits exist among WCC offenders and how socially constructed factors such as race, gender, and socioeconomic status influence the portrayal of WCC in fictional crime TV shows. However, it was found that the media propagated themes including higher socioeconomic status among offenders, minimal diversity, and extensive deception associated with WCC. Thus, this research acknowledges the limitations of fictional crime TV shows while urging further consideration of WCC, especially the implications of social constructs and their representation.