

GULF COAST
INTERCOLLEGIATE
CONSORTIUM
ACADEMIC
SYMPOSIUM

2024

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 • 9 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

PRESERVING PLURALISM:

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATION

COM
College of the Mainland.

G.C.I.C.
GULF COAST INTERCOLLEGIATE CONSORTIUM

WELCOME

to College of the Mainland's Tenth Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium Academic Symposium 2024!

Our theme this year is “Preserving Pluralism: An Interdisciplinary Conversation.”

How do we do this? Have we done this? Is pluralism real or fiction?

One of the many privileges we have in this country is access to publicly funded education. Ideally, we learn to access a high-quality education because it leads to a better understanding of living, being, and existing. It also helps us better understand how other beings live and exist as well as how certain forms of living, being, and existing become extinct or morph as time passes. A quality education extends beyond the walls of a given classroom, the dates of a semester, and the edges of certificates, diplomas, and degrees. A quality education—which includes sustained interrogation of why and how—is a lifelong pursuit that leads to better living, and better living leads to understanding why and how we must exist on Earth within our micro and macro ecosystems. A quality education yields an understanding of literal and metaphorical interconnectedness. It helps us understand that we are all interdependent and that contemporary existence renders individualism mostly a mirage and self-reliance also.

Thus, a quality education can or ought to engender pluralism.

While plurality is ideal because it recognizes and champions the many ways of being and thinking that make up the complex human existence, with it comes disagreement and dissension and a need for commitment to some working approximation of agreement.

Homogeneity is easier. Sameness is easier. Assimilation is easier. Is easier better? Better for whom? And why? Is ease a birthright or a violence? Is entitlement a birthright or a violence?

This year's theme, “Preserving Pluralism: An Interdisciplinary Conversation,” asks us to pause and take stock of where we are in the world right now. What have we accomplished as a people? What have we accomplished as a nation? Of what are we proud? What is undignified? To what do we feel entitled and why?

The theme is broad and lends itself to cross-disciplinary examination, which is the driving force of our academic symposium. Today's student scholar presenters promise to surprise us with their take on the theme. We invite you to peruse the presentation schedule and select sessions that best suit your interests; when in sessions, we ask you to engage actively with student presenters during Q&A. The aim is for them to grow as scholars during this experience and for their work to enrich the day's conversation.

Our hope for this symposium is that it serves multiple goals including enhancing students' communication skills, facilitating networking across disciplines and colleges, and helping students build self-confidence and feel ownership of their work.

Enjoy yourself and thank you for supporting student scholarship.

Sincerely,

Professors Dalel Serda and Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow

GCIC Academic Symposium Co-Chairs

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

8:30 – 9:20 a.m. **Registration, Coffee, and Breakfast Bites** ICB Lobby

9:20 – 9:30 a.m. **Welcome Remarks in all session rooms: Please report to session rooms by 9:20 am.**

College of the Mainland Administration Remarks
Professors Dalel Serda and Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow, GCIC Academic Symposium Co-Chairs

A SESSIONS: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session A1: Session A1: Mental Health** ICB 201

Understanding the Depths of Eating Disorders

Liza Munoz, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nicholas Rangel

Corruption in Mental Institutions: The Problem Within Caregiving

Anthony Romero, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward and Javier Ramirez

Does *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* Follow DSM-5?

Melisa Gultan, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session A2: Economics** ICB 203

Gen Z vs. Economic Inflation: A Study on America's Future Workforce Mentality

Isabella MacDonald, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Elaine Childs

No Free Lunch: The Underlying Cost of Rent Control

Victoria Martinez, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Qing Li

Break-Even Brownies: A Study on Creating a Successful Business from Scratch

Mario Garza, College of the Mainland | Independent Scholar

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session A3: Gendered Struggles and Gaps in Expectations** ICB 206

My Education Journey

Annie Jones, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

Women's Tennis

Ethan Samuel, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Chronically Ignored: The Double Burden Women Face in Healthcare and Pain Management

Nova Dowdell, College of the Mainland | Independent Scholar

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session A4: Athleticism and Exercise** ICB 221

Soccer Can Be a Dangerous Sport

Angel Perez – Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Volleyball: Shining Light on Pluralism On and Off the Court

Daven J. Bofil, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

How Did the Gym Affect Me?

Elizabeth Hodge, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session A5: Pluralism in Healthcare** ICB 227

Pluralism in American Healthcare

Richard McClanahan, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Kay Carrier

Sickle Cell Disease and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Chloe Orozco, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

Sickle Cell Disease and Religious Beliefs

Jillian Drisdale, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session A6: Healthcare Technologies and Education** ICB 228

AI and its Effectiveness on EKGs

John Garcia, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

CPR is an Invaluable Skill

Ristee Tran, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

The Evolution of Prosthetic Heart Valves: Past, Present, and Future Perspectives

Huynh Phuong Thao Do, Houston Community College - Spring Branch | Advisor: Brandon Williams

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session A7: Writing** ICB 301

The Thunderfist: Torston

Dustin Cooley, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

Journaling and Its Purpose for Coping with Issues

Jazmin Henriquez, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

Comedy and Drama

Sebastian Tamayo, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Session A8: Philosophy and Religion ICB 303

Preserving Pluralism

Alyssa Landry, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

The Role of Religion in Modern Society

Austin Cook, Houston Community College - Spring Branch | Advisor: Brandon Williams

All Roads Lead to Zion: Analyzing the First Mormons and the Cyclical Violence of Xenophobia in 19th Century America

Sean Foley, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Debra Ramsey

B SESSIONS: 10:40 to 11:40 a.m.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B1: Success..... ICB 201

Emotional Intelligence: Why IQ Alone Doesn't Guarantee Success

Natalia Chigne Saud, Houston Community College - Northwest | Advisor: Brandon Williams

Success: What it Means to be Successful and What it Looks Like

Mario Garza, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Kristin O'Brien

Habits Are the Key to Student Success

Alessandra Renovato, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Kristen O'Brien

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B2: Politics, Government, Legislation..... ICB 203

From Fear to Safety: Unveiling the Safety Dilemma in Schools and the Quest for Solutions

Janessa Benavides, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

Blade Runner: Isolation Amid Late-stage Capitalism

Jack McHaney, Lee College | Advisor: Heather Morrill

How the Bible Influences the Ballot

Victoria Martinez, College of the Mainland | Advisor, Shinya Wakao

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B3: The Self and Society..... ICB 206

Pluralism and Freedom of Tolerance

Angelica Villadei, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Dale Serda

The Hands of Diversity Hold Us Together

Lindsey Wilson, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Self-Hate: Analyzing *Moral Ore's* Antagonist

Layla Leeah, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward and Ethan Arbuckle

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B4: Fashion ICB 221

Patterns of Entertainment

Armani Roberts, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Fashion's Diversity

Karla Balleza, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

The Evolution of Sleeping Beauty

Emily Beacham, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward and Javier Ramirez

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B5: Pluralism and Culture..... ICB 227

A Life with Pluralism

Daniel Fernandez, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Pluralism in Houston

Gabriela R. Delgado, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

"What Are You?": Multiraciality and Culture

Corey McCoy-Lovos, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B6: K-12..... ICB 228

The Missing Muse: The Degradation of Arts Education in K-12 Schools

Alma Ramirez, Lucas Halbardier, and Kieten Dicks, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

The Mental Effects of Working Part-Time as a High School Student

Mia Phan, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Elaine Childs

Impact of Recess on Whole-Child Development in K-12 Schools: A Comprehensive Investigation

Genesis Young and Lynn Dobbins, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B7: Politics and Practices of Difference..... ICB 301

Embracing Pluralism in AI: Exploring Perspectives and Strategies for Inclusive Diversity

Auburn Carvell, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Capitalism: Exploitation from the Past and Present

Makayah Kellum-Rivera, Lee College | Advisors: Portia Hopkins and Georgeann Ward

Uncovering the Federal Reserve's History and Influence During Times of Crisis

Abdurrahman Meguader, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Siromi Wijesinghe

10:40 – 11:40 a.m.

Session B8: College of the Mainland's Creative Writers NONJURIED SESSION ICB 303

Moderators: Lisa Frase and Courtney Pugh

Student readers: Dustin Cooley, Kaleb Palacio, Natalie Search-Chavarria, Rhonda Shiflet, Destiny Tobey, Ashley

Tompkins, and TJ Walker.

C SESSIONS: 11:50 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Session C1: Youth and Literacy ICB 201**

Regulating Social Media in Consideration of Upcoming Generations

Richard Iyun, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Elaine Childs

Why Parents Should Read to Their Children

Kaleb Palacio, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

Free the Books: Unmasking the Impact of Book Banning on Education and Expression

Jade Mayo, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Session C2: Individuals and Plurality ICB 203**

Femininity

Destiny Tobey, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

The Pluralistic Gap

Marco Huerta, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Rachel Fano

Border Towns: An Experience Through the Eyes of My Parents

Leina Cantu, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Session C3: Language and Culture..... ICB 206**

What Does It Mean for Us to Be Pluralistic?

Shanna Skinner, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

The Effect of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity on Our Literacy Learning: Traveling for Critical Literacy

Seyma Ozden, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Dalel Serda

Preserving Plurality in Language of Immigrant Families

Anisah Khan, University of Houston | Advisors: Jason Berger, Blake Heller, and Eunjeong Lee

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Session C4: Preserving the Arts..... ICB 221**

The Importance of The Arts in Preserving Pluralism

Isra Malik, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

The Role of Preserving and Keeping Cultural Traditions, Stories, and Folk Tales

Noah Mubiru, Alvin High School | Independent Scholar

The Unity Music Brings Upon Communities

Kayla Bonilla, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Session C5: Pluralistic Sciences ICB 227**

Harry Harlow and His "Pit of Despair"

Maria Ornelas, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Scientific Plurality

Alyson Ramos, Houston Community College | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Renaissance Resonance: Pluralism's Echo in Modern Science

Kylie McGee, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Stacey Burlison

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Session C6: Gaps in Educational Equity..... ICB 228**

Latinos in Education. Bridging the Gap: A Comprehensive Exploration of Educational Inequity Faced by Latinos in the United States from Historical Struggles to Current Challenges

Siney Lira, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Navigating the Path to Pluralism Through Understanding Minority Dropout Dynamics

Adrian Lewis, College of the Mainland | Independent Scholar

Educational Equity Unbound: Funding Undocumented Students in Pursuit of Higher Education

Carla Lopes, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Dalel Serda

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Session C7: Pressures on Diverse Mental and Physical Health ICB 301**

Overloaded and Overwhelmed: The Impact of Excessive Homework on K-12 Students

Lucero Trevino, Lilluann Trevinio, Alejandra Sosa, San Jacinto | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

Risk of Contaminated Water

Anyi Hernandez, Houston Community College Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

The Bipartite Will: The Philosophy of Choice

Johnathan Shirley, Lee College | Advisors: Michael Carson and Georgeann Ward

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Session C8: College of the Mainland's Literary Journal: *The Badelynge Review* ICB 303
NONJURIED SESSION

Moderator: Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow

Student Panelists: Annalicia Salazar, Jordyn Vasquez, Regino Briones, Madison Howell, Aurionna Simmons, Kaneburley Rimpler, Kaitlyn Dougharty, and Trevon Garner

1:00 – 1:20 p.m. Complimentary Lunch STEM 120

1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Keynote Talk and Q & A: Dr. Jesse Esparza STEM 120

Preserving Pluralism: The San Felipe ISD Example

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. Awards, Photos, and Wrap-Up STEM 120

STUDENT PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

In order of scheduled presentation; please see the presentation schedule above.

NOTE: These abstracts have been lightly edited to preserve students’ intellectual property and authenticity. When necessary, abstracts were shortened to the required maximum of 300 words.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A1 ICB 201: Mental Health

Understanding the Depths of Eating Disorders

Liza Munoz, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nicholas Rangel

Food plays an important role in a human’s life; it is essential to continue growing and living. We can gain our energy from the food, our nutrients come from different sources of food, it allows our brain to function, helps strengthen our immune system, etc. Eating disorders focus mainly on all of this, the food, and the consumption of it, which is why it’s such a serious and can be a deadly mental illness. There are many types of eating disorders, but all of them either focus on not eating or having binge episodes where a lot of food is consumed during a short period. But eating disorders are far more complex than that. The most common and known eating disorders are anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder. They all have their own differences and own long-term lasting effects. And although they are as common as they are in today’s age, they are still incredibly hard for people to try to understand. The mind is difficult to understand, and all of these disorders stem from our brain and how we may think of things, as well as how we may react to food. Comprehending what all three are and how they may differ from each other can help people understand more about how they can help themselves or others around them. All three of these fall under the two main categories, but are very different from one another.

Corruption in Mental Institutions: The Problem Within Caregiving

Anthony Romero, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward and Javier Ramirez

According to a study by Dr. Michael Roguski on the hidden abuse of disabled people among communities, there are four different environments where the abuse occurs the most: residential services like nursing homes, institutional settings such as mental hospitals, home-based environments like homecare services, and community settings such as openly out in public. In my presentation, I will be focusing on the institutional setting of a mental hospital, particularly the mental institution where Miloš Forman’s seminal 1975 film, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* takes place. We will analyze the ways in which Nurse Ratched (played by Louise Fletcher) treats her patients within this institution, along with Randle McMurphy (played by Jack Nicholson), one of her patients who does not have a mental disability and serves as a manipulator in his own way. By using visual analysis of the 1975 film adaptation of the eponymous novel along with studying Plato’s concept of enlightenment that is highlighted in his “Allegory of the Cave,” I will elucidate in this presentation how mental hospitals can be guised as institutions that aid their patients when in reality, caregivers can be abusive towards their patients.

Does *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* Follow DSM-5?

Melisa Gultan, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Don Quixote, *Hamlet*, *Psycho* and *A Beautiful Mind* are examples of impactful works of art whose popularity and power to attract people throughout time appears unstoppable. When common features of these works are examined, there is a salient fact that these works of art bring mental illnesses into the forefront of attention. Correspondingly, the video game industry utilizes mental illnesses in their products as well. Games such as *Silent Hill*, *Life is Strange*, *The Cat Lady*, and *Amnesia* are but a few examples of a larger selection within the gaming industry. *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* was released in 2010 and obtained

remarkable success in the horror genre. The story revolves around amnesiac Daniel, who needs to uncover his past life in order to continue forward. This paper will explore the accuracy between Daniel's amnesiac moments in the game and the symptoms of Amnesia in the DSM-5.

Following the path of previous works, the gaming industry has begun to explore topics relating to mental illness. In comparison to other games, *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* gives the narrative a vital function revolving around the real-world issue of amnesia. The game *Amnesia: The Dark Descent* has attempted to bring dissociative amnesia into the forefront of attention for gamers. There are elements which follow the DSM as well as elements which diverge from the DSM's criteria. The game was able to competently reveal how amnesia impairs information retrieval from memory and displayed the possible functions pertaining to flashbacks. However, the game was less consistent with its approach to amnesia in some aspects, such as Daniel having a priori knowledge about his amnesia.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A2 ICB 203: Economics

Gen Z vs. Economic Inflation: A Study on America's Future Workforce Mentality

Isabella MacDonald, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Elaine Childs

It has been shown in recent years that newer generations have become increasingly unmotivated or disillusioned with their jobs/future jobs and even college. Generation Z, ages 11-27, have become the main victims of this phenomenon. Many older generations will attribute this to laziness or lack of discipline in Gen Z. According to CNBC's Nessa Anwar, she states, "A survey done by Resume Builder, a resource website for job seekers, revealed that around 3 out of 4 managers find that Gen Z is the most challenging generation to work with." While there has been a decline in willingness to work and participation in the workforce, this can be attributed to the upheaval in the economy. In the past, people and families have come to the United States in search of economic prosperity. Many were promised land and homes at the expense of their labor. Nowadays, this promise has been revoked and instead reversed. After the COVID-19 Pandemic/aftermath, the immense increase in inflation and the slow disappearance of the middle class have massively impacted young people in 2024. These elements have placed more and more pressure on the new generations causing stress and burnout, leading to disillusionment with something that was once inspirational. This paper argues that it is economic inequality shown in Generation Z's lifetime that causes such distress and demotivation in young people.

No Free Lunch: The Underlying Cost of Rent Control

Victoria Martinez, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Qing Li

Rent control is one of the greatest zero-sum fallacies that people still zealously support. Cities like New York City have dealt with rent control policies since as early as 1920. When a housing shortage brought along higher rents, tenants made their displeasure known in the form of rent strikes. In response, a rent cap was put into effect by politicians to protect tenants. The resulting issue was a restrictive price ceiling. This leads to

changes in incentives which are expressed by: the lack of or poor property maintenance, a decline in new housing projects, the subsidization of lost revenue among tenants, insurance fraud arson, and housing overconsumption among other examples. The unfortunate reality is that this form of government policy benefits no one except politicians. Rent control is supported by a misguided belief that it will protect tenants, and politicians receive praise when they advocate for it. This continues the terrible cycle that ultimately ends in the destruction of a city.

Economists have agreed that when it comes to rent control, there is no solution, only tradeoffs. Although, the low-income populations that rely on rent control are more than just a number or statistic; each is a life, with history, culture, and inter-communities. Without rent control, the displacement of millions of native, low-income populations is inevitable. I intend to explain and analyze these issues from an economic perspective. Through the examination of policy recommendations based on theoretical and empirical findings, and by comparing "controlled" markets (cities that are or have been under rent control) with "free" markets, I aim to briefly illustrate the situation in the housing markets and implications of such policies to try to answer the question: How can landlords, tenants, and politicians coexist in the housing market?

Break-Even Brownies: A Study on Creating a Successful Business from Scratch

Mario Garza, College of the Mainland | Independent Scholar

High school is notorious for omitting practical life skills such as maintaining a budget, repairing a car, or doing your taxes. Running a business has been something I have aspired to do; however, classes on entrepreneurship are few and far between. My reasoning has always come from a background of wanting to earn money to assist my mother with family finances and contribute towards my share of the expenses. A natural result of this mindset was the desire to form a small independent business. Through an investigation of previously successful student ventures, I realized that high school students would be willing to pay for a warm Oreo and cookie brownie during the school day. Through this new business venture/side hustle I was able to learn rough ideas of business such as negotiating, sales, marketing, budgeting, management, and decision-making. Authentically learning these skills has helped me retain the lessons I have learned. With these lessons, I have seen that I have a lot more to learn. With this presentation, I plan to showcase an Honor Contract that addresses the breakeven analysis concept and demonstrates how this business can be taken to profit territory. I plan to showcase how to determine market rates and competition, research pricing of products, distribution challenges, overhead expenses, and other applicable concepts of managerial accounting.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A3 ICB 206: Gendered Struggles and Gaps in Expectations

My Education Journey

Annie Jones, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

This presentation explores my educational journey as a nontraditional college student. I will explore the obstacles I faced to get here and the support systems I have to help me

thrive now that I am here. I am a mother-college student and aspire to become a nurse. I will explore the academic support systems here at College of the Mainland and how they have helped bridge the gap between my at-home support and the support systems here at the College. My exploration will speak to the doubt many of us face when we embark on a journey that we know is both long and difficult, but in the end, it is well worth it.

Women's Tennis

Ethan Samuel, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Tennis match play involves short repeated high-intensity activities over an unpredictable time. The rules of the International Tennis Federation or called the (ITF) for short form and this means that they mandate that high-intensity periods are separated by recovery intervals of predefined duration. Over the past 20 to 30 years, tennis has evolved into a physically demanding sport in all age groups and both gender (Matthais Hoope, 2020). Keeping pace with this progress requires specific training drills for which knowledge of match play data is essential. In tennis, match play data have been separated into data describing the activity profiles, technical-tactical actions, mechanical power outputs, and physiological responses of the players. Mainly in males, many studies summarized in reviews have investigated the activity profiles and physiological responses, whereas only a few studies have examined the mechanical power outputs and technical-tactical behaviors. Saying who has the better swing, who is faster, who has the best forehand, and who has the best backhand, but this lack of research is surprising because both aspects strongly determine multifactorial tennis performance. These effects of passive, active, and mixed playing strategies on external and internal loads in female tennis players during match play. Also, the underlying effects on the technical-tactical actions and activity profiles. Based on studies, each playing strategy has a different impact on the external and internal loads, technical-tactical actions, and activity profiles of the players during play. Research in psychology may help to explain some of the unmeasured determinants of the earnings gap. There is substantial literature reporting that men are more physically and verbally aggressive and more competitive than women based on responses to questionnaires (Matthais Hoope, 2020).

Chronically Ignored: The Double Burden Women Face in Healthcare and Pain Management

Nova Dowdell, College of the Mainland | Independent Scholar

Within the labyrinth of modern medicine exists a disturbing reality: the pervasive silence surrounding women's pain. We have come far since the days of diagnosed female hysteria, but historical misconceptions about women's physiology continue to cast their shadow over the healthcare system. Despite the strides made in modern medicine, many women still suffer in silence as their agonizing experiences with chronic conditions are overlooked, dismissed, or outright ignored within clinical settings.

Women suffer from chronic conditions at significantly higher rates than men, making up more than half of all cases of chronic illness. Despite the substantial impacts chronic illness and pain have on quality of life and the frequency in which women

experience it, women's pain often remains dismissed. Chronically ill women are more likely than men to be under or misdiagnosed, medically neglected, and denied effective treatment for pain management.

Additionally, within this system of disregard for women lies an even greater pattern of neglect. Women of Color, specifically Black women, are the greatest victims of medical mistreatment. Pain doesn't discriminate, so why does its treatment? Due to systemic implicit biases, medical racism, and underrepresentation in medical research, women's pain continues to be ignored and dismissed, leading to profound disparities in pain management outcomes. The gender biases in our healthcare systems have serious and even fatal consequences. Drawing on medical literature, patient narratives, and through personally spoken word poetry, this presentation examines the underlying social, historical, cultural, and economic factors contributing to these disparities and opens up a conversation to potential solutions to ensure equitable access to comprehensive pain management strategies that account for intersectional gender-specific needs.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A4 ICB 221: Athleticism and Exercise

Soccer Can Be a Dangerous Sport

Angel Perez, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Despite its widespread popularity, soccer comes with some inherent risks and dangers. Player mistakes are the most common concern. They can range in the ones that are bad and others that aren't that bad from simple sprains and strains to more nasty looking ones like problems including fractures and nose bleeds. Players are exposed to collisions, quick-paced, and air challenges to the game's fast-paced and physically demanding physics, all of which increase the risk of not stepping on the pitch ever again. During intense matches, when players are motivated by winning a game and frequently push their bodies to run and fatigue, the danger is very significant. Furthermore, heading is a common soccer thing that carries some risk of getting a concussion, when two players hit their heads when jumping to hit the ball in the air.

Because of the competitive, emotional, and intense nature of soccer players they feel they can occasionally make aggressive plays that end in fouls, impacts between players, or excessive force on one another using their bodies. These kinds of things not only put athletes in danger of injury, but they also raise the possibility of psychological and emotional strain. The natural aggressiveness of soccer, with physically demanding sports, and the desire to win can occasionally result in dangerous circumstances, even in the face of efforts to enforce regulations and good sportsmanship. In response to these worries, continued study, developments in sports medicine, and the use of safety measures seek to reduce the risks related to soccer, guaranteeing a balance between the excitement of the game and the player's health.

Volleyball: Shining Light on Pluralism On and Off the Court

Daven J. Bofil, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Growing tensions within colleges and groups of individuals can spur from ideologies and stereotypes on ethnic, racial, and religious topics practiced by a spectrum of various backgrounds. As such, society has complications dealing with diversity from time to time but occasionally will find peace through sport, a commonality through the sea of differences. Volleyball, in particular, has served the role of preserving pluralism. By engaging its players to socialize with strangers old and new no matter the background, but to what extent? This project focuses on proving the thesis that volleyball advocates for the concepts of pluralism through honesty, sportsmanship, and adversity. The relevancy of this question arises from the common stigma that sports ignite competition, anger, and dividing factions—those that overshadow the benefits of said sport. The research methodology used is qualitative research with the use of surveys and analytical research through article examination. It was concluded that for every unique grouping, the data collected unified and strengthened the argument that volleyball has effectively brought people of diverse backgrounds together. No matter the level, age, color, or shape of an individual, players found a commonality and were able to respect each other on and off the court. Essentially shining light on the misconception that the sport is not for everyone, when the numbers prove the myth wrong.

How Did the Gym Affect Me?

Elizabeth Hodge, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

Working out does not necessarily mean being in the gym five days a week. It can be as simple as getting up and walking around for thirty minutes a day. Working out also does not mean just lifting weights or doing cardio such as running or walking but it is also included in sports. For me sports were the root of where I began to get in the gym. Softball was the sport I chose to play about eight years ago. Choosing that sport has left a significant impact on me in my physical well-being as well as mental well-being. Just doing the same routine every day for practice or game days was really relieving and refreshing knowing that I am going to be just as active as I was the day prior. I noticed a drastic difference in my physique while playing softball. I lost weight as well as gaining more muscle. Not only did it change my physique, but it helped with my mental health throughout playing when I was older. I thought if I could get through this workout or drill, I could conquer anything I set my mind to. It pushed me further and further in school and in my outside life. Not only did softball have a significant impact on me but so did powerlifting. Powerlifting gave me much more strength than I had before, taught me how to eat better and made me fall in love with my body. I had a hunger to go to the gym and to be better than I was the day before.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A5 ICB 227: Pluralism in Healthcare

Pluralism in American Healthcare

Richard McClanahan, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Kay Carrier

Pluralism in American healthcare, despite its objectives to enhance equity and inclusivity, faces several significant challenges. These problems stem from deep-seated systemic,

institutional, and social barriers that impede the full realization of racial pluralism's goals. Addressing these issues is crucial for advancing health equity and improving health outcomes across all racial and ethnic groups.

Systemic racism, embedded within healthcare policies, practices, and structures, continues to adversely affect minority populations. Discrimination can manifest in various forms, including bias in clinical decision-making, unequal access to healthcare services, and disparities in the quality of care provided to racial and ethnic minority patients. Such systemic biases contribute to mistrust in the healthcare system among these communities. Despite efforts to diversify the healthcare workforce, racial and ethnic minorities remain underrepresented among healthcare professionals. This lack of representation can lead to a shortage of providers who have a deep understanding of the cultural, social, and linguistic needs of diverse patient populations, which is essential for delivering culturally competent care.

Racial and ethnic minority groups continue to experience significant health disparities, including higher rates of certain chronic conditions, lower life expectancies, and greater obstacles to accessing care. These disparities are influenced by social determinants of health such as poverty, education, and housing. Addressing these root causes requires a multi-faceted approach that extends beyond the healthcare system. Comprehensive data collection and research are essential for understanding and addressing health disparities. However, there are significant gaps in data related to racial and ethnic minorities, including underrepresentation in clinical trials. This lack of data hinders the development of targeted interventions and policies to address the specific health needs of diverse populations.

Sickle Cell Disease and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Chloe Orozco, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

Sickle Cell Disease is a genetic blood disorder that alters the shape of the bodies red blood cells. Normal red blood cells have a round flexible shape, while those of sickle cell disease have a stiff, crescent shape. This abnormal shape can lead to blockages in the blood vessels, which can lead to many other lifelong complications. While there are many approaches to managing symptoms through medications, psychological therapy has the potential to play a supportive role in managing the lifelong disease. Just like any other diagnosis, there are emotional challenges along the way that can lead to a decline in mental health. One effective therapy proven to be effective in those with sickle cell disease is cognitive behavioral therapy. This therapy focuses on turning negative thoughts and behaviors into healthy coping strategies. Counseling and support groups can also be beneficial as they provide a safe space for those with the disease to connect and share their experiences. While therapy is not a cure, it is a good way to manage the impact the condition has on the person's quality of life.

Sickle Cell Disease and Religious Beliefs

Jillian Drisdale, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

Sickle Cell disease is a genetic disease, that is more common in the African American group. This disease requires continuous

medical attention for the rest of their life. Currently there aren't many medications for this disease, the few that are available are very invasive that include blood transfusion, narcotics, Oxbryta, or chemotherapy. Some religious communities don't accept blood transfusion, but they are necessary for treatment of SCD patients. Children under the care of parents with religious beliefs may cause the welfare of the child to become compromised. From personal experience, I witnessed a family member commit suicide due to not receiving appropriate care in his youth due to a parent being a Jehovah's Witness. SCD parents from religious groups are putting kids' lives in danger from refusal of appropriate care. I believe it is a better way to help these children get the care they need from medical professionals through prenatal screening, family education, blood tests on parents before having children, and family counseling.

Conclusions are follows: There is a need for increased awareness campaigns directed at the religious communities that restrict invasive treatments; encouraging families with sickle cell disease children to seek care early in the disease process when the symptoms can be managed with less invasive treatments; more research is needed to find treatments that are acceptable to families with unique religious restrictions.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A6 ICB 228: Healthcare Technologies and Education

AI and its Effectiveness on EKGs

John Garcia, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has shown positive results in leading and changing the medical field today, especially in EKGs. AI on EKGs can give cardiologists the information and data needed on a patient in a timely manner. Sometimes cardiologists may miss a sign that can result in a misdiagnosis or disease. Incorporating AI on EKGs can give fast results, detect EKG abnormalities, provide personalized care, and predict future heart diseases. Haq, et al. notes, "AI would improve healthcare efficiency and reduce cost by providing rapid and accurate image interpretation, improving workflow in healthcare delivery, and empowering patients by allowing them to monitor their health" (1). AI can revolutionize and help cardiologists with finding precise information about a patient. Analyzing data accurately and quickly without the use of humans can lower EKG costs and make it more affordable for patients. The ability to access AI and EKGs through multiple databases is vital because it's cost efficient and accessible. In addition, we can spread awareness about AI and give patients the care they need through finding abnormalities and prediction of future diseases, leading to a healthier and productive society.

CPR is an Invaluable Skill

Ristee Tran, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

10, 10; 10, 10; 10, 10; 20 Left; 20 Right; 16, 16, 15, 14 Up; 14, 15, 16, 16 Down; These are numbers I encourage everyone at COM to remember in case of an emergency. As a firefighter, I would count the number of steps I took to any floor to perform search and rescue when there was smoke and fire all around. While switching from night vision to thermals to infrared, knowing how many

steps were in a staircase was crucial to firefighting in the military.

10, 10; 20; are how many steps there are in the LRC staircase just to reach the 2nd floor. There are 20 steps to the left and right of the librarian's desk. In the IBC Building, we are looking at 16, 16, 15, 14 up and 14, 15, 16, 16 down. If visibility is low due to smoke and fire, a power outage, or pushing and shoving from panic, knowing these numbers can help you not fall or meet a worse fate. And of course, if you don't know, you don't know.

5cm; 4 cm; 2 inches; 1 and a half inches; 30; 2; On their own, these numbers and measurements mean nothing because if you don't know, you don't know. According to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation, US data in 2021 showed that the out of hospital adult cardiac arrest percentage was 73.4% in residence and homes. It shows 16.3% in public settings. And it shows 10.3% in nursing homes. And 90% of these cases were fatal. Statistically, if there are 100 of us here right now, 16 of us can go into sudden cardiac arrest and 90% of those 16 would not make it.

The Evolution of Prosthetic Heart Valves: Past, Present, and Future Perspectives

Huynh Phuong Thao Do, Houston Community College - Spring Branch | Advisor: Brandon Williams

The evolution of prosthetic heart valves is a testament to the relentless pursuit of innovation and adaptation in medical technology. This paper aims to provide an in-depth exploration of the historical development, the current state, and the future perspectives of prosthetic heart valve technology.

The paper commences by tracing the origins of prosthetic heart valves, meticulously highlighting the key milestones and technological breakthroughs that have shaped the field. This historical overview not only provides a context for understanding the current state of prosthetic heart valve technology but also underscores the challenges and triumphs that have marked this journey.

Following the historical overview, the paper delves into the present-day landscape of prosthetic heart valve technology. It provides a detailed discussion of the various types of prosthetic heart valves currently in use, their design principles, the materials used in their construction, and the clinical outcomes associated with their use. This section of the paper also includes a comparative analysis of the different types of prosthetic heart valves, highlighting their respective advantages and disadvantages.

In addition to discussing the current state of the field, the paper also explores emerging trends and future directions. The paper aims to provide a holistic understanding of the evolution of prosthetic heart valves. It sheds light on the challenges that have been overcome, the progress that has been made, and the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. The paper concludes with a discussion of the potential implications of these advancements for patients and healthcare providers and a reflection on the future of prosthetic heart valve technology.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A7 ICB 301: Writing

The Thunderfist: Torston

Dustin Cooley, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

My short fiction piece revolves around a side character from my novel set in an epic fantasy medieval war. The scene showcases the character's impressive physical and powerful abilities, while also delving into his contemplation about the ruling empire and the need for a better king. The piece hints at the political and social structure of the story, with the current empire being governed by an emperor and six kings who act as glorified governors, constantly vying for power through land disputes. As the piece progresses, the character is reluctantly forced to do things against his will, prompting him to question his beliefs and upbringing. This internal conflict sets the stage for a significant transformation three books later. The overarching theme of my novel explores the concept of authentic and healthy masculinity. Although this specific piece may not appear in the novel, it holds great significance as it shapes the featured character's journey throughout the story. Ultimately, the piece culminates in tragedy as Torston, the character in question, finds himself surrounded by enemy soldiers and subsequently captured. This narrative element emphasizes the diverse world in which the story is set, with characters possessing a range of ideas and personalities. We witness their growth and evolution, directly influenced by the seeds planted in this short story.

Journaling and its Purpose for Coping with Issues

Jazmin Henriquez, College of the Mainland | Advisor: James Mubiru

Stress is a trait everyone gets; no matter the situation they could be in, stress is something they can feel. I as a student and employer have been stressed for a while when times get hard. I get anxiety on the amount of stress I get, and it ends up hurting my mental health; there were not many distractions that helped release my stress till I started to note down all my issues. I was inspired to obtain a journal, once I did, I realized noting down all my problems, it helped me release my stress little by little. Journaling has allowed me to cope with many issues. When in a stressful environment, I am one to spazz out; I end up being angry at everyone and everything. This caused many problems and issues reflected towards my attitude. I couldn't talk it out with anyone because I didn't want people to see the issues going through in my mind. When I learned to cope with it by journaling, I was able to spill out all my thoughts, opinions, and feelings. It was the only way I was able to let out any feelings without putting it out in environments it wasn't necessary in. I now journal almost every day, I talk about my stresses and negative issues as well the good things that bring me joy. It allows me to express any situation in ways that are understanding to me as my own individual. While talking things out with another person can help, I like to keep most of my feelings within just me and my mind, which journaling I can see my feelings and reflect upon them at later times.

Comedy and Drama

Sebastian Tamayo, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Comedy and dramas can both be useful tools when trying to

get a certain message across to an audience. But in the context of moral instruction, drama may be more effective for what the author wants to accomplish. Comedy has a more light-hearted connotation associated with the word and idea. The audience may not be in the mindset to be morally tested. On the other hand, when someone chooses to read a drama, they are expected to be put through an emotional roller coaster with various dilemmas. The audience welcomes complex ideas and having to really think about the situations characters are in. And moral instruction is practically the pinnacle of complex ideas since the concept deals in beliefs and how one should go about life. While comedies can definitely be a viable option when discussing moral instruction, the audience may be more accepting of your words if you go for the drama approach.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. | Session A8 ICB 303: Philosophy and Religion

Preserving Pluralism

Alyssa Landry, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

As humans, we all are unique and different, and those differences are enriched in culture and experience and with that allowing us to connect with one another in different ways and create and learn in new ways. This appreciation and sharing of culture is considered pluralism. To preserve pluralism, we are preserving cultural divergence to expand our knowledge of others experiences as well and use this knowledge to create new cultural experiences. Ontology is a metaphysical concept that strives to explore human existence and our being, while epistemology is the study of knowledge, which in pluralism guides us to understand and learn about other cultures and theories on existence. Religion is a cultural value that has historically driven many people and cultures as well as separated and caused harm between opposing groups and beliefs. As much as it can drift others apart, in the sense of epistemological pluralism, it should be viewed as a way to bring everyone together to learn about one another. Religions such as Christianity, Catholic, Judaism, and Hinduism are just a few examples of religions that have similarities and differences in values and beliefs and all of which are intriguing and should allow us to explore the depths that religion can take us down. In this study, I will be voluntarily surveying and interviewing participants on their personal beliefs as well as religious and spiritual values to gauge how that affects their relationship and connections with people of different beliefs.

The Role of Religion in Modern Society

Austin Cook, Houston Community College - Spring Branch | Advisor: Brandon Williams

The primary role of religion in modern society is to serve as a motivator towards action. While specific actions and goals will differ across religions, cultures, and historical periods, these elements are not relevant for examination. Rather, it is the force of motivation itself that religion serves as. Like the spark of an engine, this motivating force does not lead an individual or group towards any specific destination but rather gives momentum that may be used to reach a desired end. These desired ends, which the momentum of religion helps

push individuals towards, fall into one of three categories. Individualistic, communal, or political ends.

Religion can give answers to existential questions, such as the meaning of life or where one goes when they die. In addition, it can provide a moral framework for behaving ethically and give individuals the resolve necessary to endure hardship. As for communal ends, religion creates a shared identity among its adherents through shared rituals, practices, and beliefs. This encourages the development of social bonds, as individuals within a religious community have a common frame of reference for engaging with one another. These social bonds are reinforced through religious activities, such as attending church every Sunday in the case of Christianity, as well as holidays and festivals. These events bring individuals together but also give them a shared lens of experience in which to contextualize these events. Finally, the individualistic and communal motivators merge to create political ends. The ethics a religious group adheres to, with the social systems they develop, will create a means of social organization that may be translated into political action. This political action can be implicit or explicit and used for positive or negative change.

All Roads Lead to Zion: Analyzing the First Mormons and the Cyclical Violence of Xenophobia in 19th Century America

Sean Foley, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Debra Ramsey

The violent history of the Church of Latter Day Saints is generally interpreted as a result of religious fanaticism, religious persecution, or some combination of both. This project argues that the violence inflicted both on and by the Mormon people was not principally caused by religious fanaticism and persecution, but as a result of the xenophobic policy and attitudes of the state and federal governments of America throughout the 19th century, as well as the eventual adoption of similar attitudes and policy within the Mormon church. This project will use the large volume of primary sources maintained by the Church of Latter Day Saints, the American government, and the 19th century media as well as secondary sources from well reasoned, well researched, and unbiased scholars. This project is highly relevant to the subject of pluralism as it covers a dramatic failure to navigate the expanding diversity of America in the 19th century and attempts to analyze the xenophobic violence inflicted both on and by the Mormon people in terms of the policies and attitudes responsible in order to provide a more constructive understanding.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B1 ICB 201: Success

Emotional Intelligence: Why IQ Alone Doesn't Guarantee Success

Natalia Chigne Saud, Houston Community College - Northwest | Advisor: Brandon Williams

When we think about intelligence, our first thought goes directly to how cognitively capable we are: how quickly we learn mathematics, how likely we are to become doctors, and the numeric quotient assigned to our ability to problem solve and figure out patterns. But does intelligence really end there? The answer is no. Not even close, actually. We function in the world beyond our ability to understand numbers and facts; in fact, IQ

is the smaller half of our day-to-day life. Emotional intelligence, also known as our “second brain,” follows us everywhere we go, from the roots of a marriage to our relationships with our bosses and coworkers. It impacts our experience of sickness and recovery, how we regain stability after a traumatic event, and how we fully experience the world through our emotions. Therefore, I seek to open a conversation about what exactly is EQ as well as why IQ cognition alone is not enough to manage through our lives, why self-awareness and knowing one’s emotions is a super-power, how managing them is a Life-Improving skill, how emotions make achieving our goals more gratifying, and most of all how essential EQ is in having healthy relationships. Based on the research done by Best-Selling author, psychologist, and science journalist Daniel Goleman, this presentation explores the groundbreaking concept of Emotional Intelligence as we redefine what it means to be smart.

Success: What it Means to be Successful and What it Looks Like

Mario Garza, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Kristin O'Brien

“Success” has been an idea emphasized and heavily discussed in modern times. Although defined by Oxford languages as “The accomplishment of an aim or purpose,” the full realization of success is highly subjective and shaped by a multitude of different factors. More and more people are rooting their idea of success in their financial situation and its manifestation through material wealth. There has not been a similar effort to measure success on other factors besides finances. Whether it be through achievements or awards, positions of authority, mental and physical health, or local impact, there are other valid and logical metrics to indicate success. With this subjectivity, there has not been a consensus on what success is or how to be successful. While success is not an obvious term to define, it’s a subject that should be explored more to engage people’s sense of self and purpose. Most successful people share various habits, traits, and perspectives such as consistency, optimism, routines, and visualization that have made them fulfilled in previous metrics stated. The current aim of this project is to find qualitative similarities such as habits, traits, and perspectives, between successful people through exploratory interviews and showcase those commonalities. I hope to clarify what success is as a concept and share my findings on habits, traits, and perspectives that can be applied in my life and the lives of others as a means of facilitating a path toward success. With these insights, this study will serve as a reminder that success is not a linear path, but a web of opportunities formed by discipline, resilience, and vision.

Habits Are the Key to Student Success

Alessandra Renovato, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Kristen O'Brien

Starting college is a new experience. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and approach their education with different habits. I wanted to explore habits that impact students’ academic success through the framework of “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students” (Covey, 2014). These “7 Habits...” include (1) being proactive, (2) beginning with the end in mind, (3) putting first things first by prioritizing tasks, (4) seeking mutual benefit in interactions through a “win-win” mindset, (5) seeking first to understand and then to be understood, (6) synergizing with others, and (7) continually

sharpening the saw through self-improvement. This project investigates which of the “7 Habits...” are most challenging for College of the Mainland students, thus shedding light on areas where targeted interventions may be beneficial for improving academic success. I will disseminate a comprehensive survey designed to assess the degree to which college students engage with each of the “7 Habits...”. By analyzing and interpreting data on students’ experiences related to these habits, I aim to reveal the most prevalent struggles among College of the Mainland students and identify actionable steps toward solutions. Ultimately, this presentation seeks to contribute to the ongoing conversation surrounding student success by not only providing valuable insights for students, but also by guiding educators, administrators, and student support services who seek to foster both academic achievement and student well-being.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B2 ICB 203: Politics, Government, Legislation

From Fear to Safety: Unveiling the Safety Dilemma in Schools and the Quest for Solutions

Janessa Benavides, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

In recent years, a concerning trend has emerged as an increasing number of students express heightened feelings of insecurity within the educational environment. This growing apprehension stems from a complex interplay of factors, including mental health issues, school shootings, and bullying. Of particular concern is the rising frequency of school shootings, which have become distressingly prevalent, particularly in the United States. The pervasive fear instilled by numerous news reports on these tragic incidents has transformed the act of attending school into an anxiety-ridden experience for many students and their families. Shockingly, recent statistics reveal that guns have now emerged as the leading cause of death for children in America since 2020, claiming the lives of approximately 4,300 children in that year alone, according to data from Nea.org.

This disconcerting situation compels us to examine the evolution of school safety measures over time, the effectiveness of 21st-century interventions in mitigating violence, bullying, and cyber threats within educational institutions, and the existing gaps that demand urgent attention. Our comprehensive investigation focuses on three key thematic areas: cyberbullying, mental health support in schools, and the pressing issue of gun violence within educational settings.

By conducting an in-depth analysis of these critical facets, our research aims to shed light on the current state of school safety, critically evaluate the efficacy of existing measures, and identify specific areas that warrant targeted interventions and policy reforms. As students navigate an increasingly complex and challenging educational landscape, a deeper understanding of these multifaceted issues is essential to ensure the creation of secure, nurturing, and conducive learning environments that promote the well-being and academic success of all students.

Blade Runner: Isolation Amid Late-stage Capitalism

Jack McHaney, Lee College | Advisor: Heather Morrill

Ridley Scott’s *Blade Runner* (1982) explores a wide array of

themes and ideas, including statements about marginalized groups, gender ideology, and the hubris of humanity. However, there is one aspect that is present in all of Scott’s contributions to the Science Fiction film genre that holds great significance in the environment that the film pioneered. In line with the conventions of the Science Fiction film genre, *Blade Runner* takes place in the future and features advanced technology, including bio-engineered androids called replicants. These replicants, nearly identical to humans apart from their shortened lifespans, were created by the Tyrell Corporation with the purpose of serving as an off-world labor force. The film also uniquely utilizes elements of film-noir, a film genre common in the 40’s and 50’s. In this presentation, I will demonstrate how *Blade Runner* combines the *mise-en-scène* of film-noir with the thematic elements of the Science Fiction film genre to serve as a staunch warning of the fascistic qualities that arise within late-stage capitalism, such as the commodification of life and identity.

How the Bible Influences the Ballot

Victoria Martinez, College of the Mainland | Advisor, Shinya Wakao

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the government from establishing a religion. In practice, however, certain religious organizations and elected officials inform each other with no regard for subtlety. Additionally, religious pressure in legislature appears to be getting stronger despite an overall decline in U.S. church membership. Why did some states pass laws in support of certain religious beliefs recently? I hypothesize that a certain political environment encourages these politicians to reach their religious goals—to pass state laws supported by religious organizations. First, I argue that political ideology and partisanship in each state assist these political activities. I use a degree of conservative principles among voters as a proxy of conservativeness in these states. Second, I expect that those two indicators have a positive relationship with the religious-based legislature. To analyze this, I use the past presidential election results as a proxy of partisanship. The third hypothesis is a correlation between low voter turnout and religious legislation in states. Previous studies show that low voter turnout makes interest groups’ influence stronger. To analyze this, I examine voter turnout in the federal elections. Finally, I use abortion regulations in each state as an example of religious legislation.

Through this examination, we can understand where Texas’s religious entrenchment stands in comparison to these states. As a nation, we have sustained an exhausting tug-of-war with extreme views on both the right and left spectrum of ideology. The center of our rope has frayed with decades of religious friction, misguided intent, and offensive ignorance. Religion, when separated from our statutes, does not pose an issue. However, when religion makes its way into law through sectarian bills and rulings, these ordinances must be scrutinized to preserve the plurality our Founding Fathers intended.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B3 ICB 206: The Self and Society

Pluralism and Freedom of Tolerance

Angelica Villadei, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Dalel Serda

Each and every one of us is different in its own way. This is pluralism: the harmonious coexistence of people of different cultures, religions, ethnicities and more. It is the universal right to express our diversity that makes us equal. We are united in our diversity. Nevertheless, there is an essential factor that underlies pluralism: tolerance.

Tolerance is the key to preserving pluralism, as it allows us to recognize and respect other cultures and people. Without tolerance, however, there would be little room to express oneself and to be oneself. Thus, freedom of expression is an unyielding factor that contributes to the promotion of pluralism: how can we possibly claim our diversity, if we do not share our ideas, beliefs, traditions, and culture? Freedom of expression inevitably gifts us the freedom to be ourselves, even if we are different. It is by promoting freedom of expression and tolerance that we promote pluralism. As Voltaire said in "Treatise on Tolerance": "Tolerance has never provoked a civil war; intolerance has covered the Earth in carnage." Lack of tolerance and freedom of expression would cause irreversible damage to the diverse world we now know.

However, pluralism is in menace: it is threatened by the monotonous monopoly of conformity, caused by the now growing anarchy of social media and an ever-evolving globalization.

How can we save and preserve our pluralism when there are so many factors that influence the way we live and think? How can we preserve our identity while promoting pluralism? This is what I will try to explore in my presentation: how each of us can make a difference in protecting our pluralism through freedom of expression and tolerance.

The Hands of Diversity Hold Us Together

Lindsey Wilson, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Diversity is a topic that brings up several conversations. People who oppose it and want to see it dwindle versus people who support it and think it should be more prevalent. Some fall somewhere in between. Despite all this rebuttal, one central question is what is diversity and why or not is it important? Asking the core question of what diversity is, reins in on the conversation about it since diversity is such a broad concept that many people probably don't realize. It isn't associated with just one thing; it is all around us from the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and even the ground we walk on tells stories of diversity. There is more than one face to the essence of diversity, and I'd like for people to know more about it. My research will conclude by finding common ways diversity can connect and bring many people together and gathering conclusions from others on their insights of diversity and connecting that to my research. The end result of my project is to have more awareness and information about the depth, variety of opinion, and beauty of diversity despite its controversy as it ties into the theme of pluralism.

Self-Hate: Analyzing *Moral Orel's* Antagonist

Layla Leeah, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward and Ethan Arbuckle

Moral Orel was a satirical 2005 Adult Swim animated series, following the life of a naïve, devout Christian boy named Orel

Puppington. The show critiqued Middle American white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant (WASP) culture and religious fundamentalism. The series' main patriarch and antagonist is Orel's father, Clay, an abusive alcoholic confining himself heavily to gender conventions. The APA Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Boys and Men is a document created for psychologists that details the various issues men face and gives suggestions on how to better work with them considering said circumstances. Through the lens of The APA Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Boys and Men, I will be analyzing the character Clay Puppington to explore the ways in which gender and religious norms negatively impact men and those around them. To support my claim, I will describe scenes from *Moral Orel* where Clay is directly affected by the society around him, and how it has affected the way he treats his family, friends, and himself. The sections of the APA Guidelines that will be most vital to my presentation are those pertaining to gender role strain, the intersection of cultural and gender norms, and interpersonal relationships.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B4

ICB 221: Fashion

Patterns of Entertainment

Armani Roberts, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

In everyday media, there's something for everyone. For book lovers, there's the idea of tropes, which is the way main characters fall in love according to category (i.e., enemies to lovers, etc.), music to depict a wide range of emotion, heart-wrenching movies for those times when people want to cry, and there's fashion elements in everything as a form of expression for whoever characters may be. There's a plethora of ways to depict a person's feelings and thoughts that connect with other people, so, for my abstract, I'd like to put the main ones on display. Just like there's thousands of love songs, there's also thousands of breakup songs, and those songs in between when the artists really don't know what to do or feel. In books and movies, people can fall in love in ways fit for a fairytale or disaster that several people love to see play out from the moment they lock their eyes. Reality is people die, and children's shows and general media, depending on the genre, depicts death as something that happens every day, often in heartbreaking ways you'd never expect; some of these scenes we've seen as kids stay with us for life. Fashion in shows, particularly a period piece on Netflix called *Bridgerton*, shows the story of a character through analysis of their life and the way they think, developing who they become. Love, hate, the in between, fashion, tropes, and death are all elements of society that occur in various ways and form what humanity finds entertaining and what they've gone through.

Fashion Diversity

Karla Balleza, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Fashion has catered to white thin people, even Karl Lagerfeld said, "No one wants to see curvy women," yet in recent times consumers have fought back to be represented. One has seen curvy women walk down the runway, including Barbie Ferreira. Diversity seen in the fashion industry does not stop at just size

but as well people of color, age and gender. From 2009 the ratio of white to black models in New York Fashion week was 83% percent white and 8% black, these numbers have changed since then. This increase of diversity can also be shown by different fashion houses having different models of color be their face for the brand, including Adut Akech and Zendaya. Vivienne Westwood has helped older women and men be put in the spotlight, to emphasize that older people can also be dressed in current trends, that they don't have to tucked away for the public not to see. Including herself, before her passing she wore many different cuts, patterns and colors even when she was shown of older age. Savage Fenti is an intimate clothing brand where they actually show men in different body types, which is very much an underrepresented category, much of fashion's definition of diversity only lies on the color and size, yet this sometimes doesn't apply to men until now.

The Evolution of Sleeping Beauty

Emily Beacham, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward

Fairytales are well-known and widely beloved everywhere around the world. While they are often believed to serve merely as stories for children, the evolution of fairytales has a long, extensive history and has adapted throughout the ages. The fairytale commonly known as "Sleeping Beauty" is no exception to this piece of history. Although there are clear distinctions between each version of this story passed down through the centuries, the main plot remains relatively similar. The overall story goes as such: a beautiful princess is cursed by an evil, magical woman and in some way saved by a prince whom she marries in the end. When we look at the evolution of these stories, though, we are able to see how time, place, and environment shape the stories we write and share. I have chosen three versions to specifically review. In my presentation I will review and explain the 1697 version written by Charles Perrault, the Brothers Grimm version from 1812, and Disney's 1959 film adaptation. By sharing the research I have found and gathered, I intend to identify the differences in each version of "Sleeping Beauty" and explain the significance of each story along with the context behind these versions.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B5 ICB 227: Pluralism and Culture

A Life with Pluralism

Daniel Fernandez, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Often, we go around thinking the world revolves around us. We believe that our culture is everybody's, and we end up living in a bubble. Yet, as we grow up, we realize that we live in a world with a myriad of differences. A world in which everyone is unique and contributes to its diversity. However, some barriers do not allow us to enjoy and celebrate foreign cultures. Some tend to highlight the differences between cultures instead of appreciating the diversity. Pluralism is the idea that we can live in a society where cultures can commemorate their diversity and make these distinctions a source of strength rather than division. Pluralism can create a more harmonious society, as we will avoid conflicts from discrimination. It is achieved by having

an open mind and letting go of stigmas from the past. The hardship is that most beliefs are ingrained into society, and it will be difficult to change from day to night. Pluralism has been achieved before, as people from many places can work together to keep the world running. In conclusion, pluralism is real, and it is achieved by being an understanding and open-minded human being who has respect for others.

Pluralism in Houston

Gabriela R. Delgado, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Since the mid-1900s diversity has been a huge part of Houston's population and through that comes understanding, inclusion, growth, and acceptance within the Community. Pluralism is a huge part of what brings people together. It's the ability to have diversity in a union but come together at the end of the day.

Pluralism is something that truly differentiates Houston from other parts of the world. Here in Houston, we are granted the ability to a public or private high school with people from different states to different continents and it's truly evolutionary to see. We are highly exposed to different religious groups such as Catholic, Christian, Baptist, Muslim, Jewish, and so much more. This is something not granted in other parts of the world and being able to learn, understand, and respect the religious beliefs and opinions of other people is a key skill to carry on in life. In Houston about 44% are Hispanic/Latino, 23.7% are white, 22.1% are black or African American, and 7.1% are Asian. Through this, pluralism has increased in the community. Within each different ethnicity are different cultures and backgrounds to learn from. This allows a community to form, becoming inclusive to differentially and understand all individuals' differences way beyond just their ethnicity.

Art is a huge reason Houston stands out to many. Houston is incredibly big in the art community and in certain parts of Houston it is an artistic form of expression, sending a message, speaking up to social differences, educating, including all, and so much more. What makes art so special is its individuality as everyone's art is unique to them.

"What Are You?": Multiraciality and Culture

Corey McCoy-Lovos, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow

The experiences that multiracial people have with culture are often complicated. We often feel like racial impostors, and that we're separated or alienated from our cultures. We are asked, "What are you?" and don't know how to answer. Many people have expressed that their experience as a biracial person has made them more understanding of other cultures and is an overwhelmingly positive experience. More than ten percent of Americans identify as multiracial, and that number is steadily growing, but where do we fit? Are we both, or neither? Those who only grew up with one parent, and consequently one culture, often feel lost in an ethnicity that, while ingrained in their DNA, feels alien to them. Multiracial people who know both parents' cultures often feel inept when interacting with one or the other. Navigating more than one culture can be daunting and many cope via code-switching since childhood.

Alternatively, being enmeshed in multiple cultures can raise confidence in oneself. The multiracial experience is a broad and shifting thing across races, cultures, and individuals. This presentation will analyze how multiracial people interact with their cultures, touching on many ethnic and racial groups, while showcasing individual experiences, literary examples, and academic research.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B6
ICB 228: K-12

The Missing Muse: The Degradation of Arts Education in K-12 Schools

Alma Ramirez, Lucas Halbardier, and Kieten Dicks, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

Arts education has traditionally played a key role in K-12 settings, shaping not only artistic expression but also academic achievement, social-emotional skills, and critical thinking. However, budget constraints and changing educational priorities have led to reduced or eliminated arts programs in many schools. This paper explores the potential consequences of this loss for students' overall development. The paper defines key terms like "arts education" and "holistic education," and examines three key research questions: Does losing arts education hinder academic performance and cognitive development? How does it impact social-emotional skills and self-esteem? Does it stifle creativity and problem-solving abilities?

By analyzing historical trends and research on various themes, the paper investigates the potential benefits of arts education across different domains. These themes include academic performance, social-emotional development, creativity and innovation, cultural understanding, and educational equity. Additionally, the paper explores alternative approaches to integrating arts into education despite challenges. Ultimately, the paper emphasizes the potential value of arts education in nurturing well-rounded individuals and calls for its continued presence in K-12 curriculum. While specific studies or findings are not mentioned due to age restrictions, the paper highlights the importance of further research and underscores the potential impact of arts education on students' lives.

The Mental Effects of Working Part-Time as a High School Student

Mia Phan, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Elaine Childs

Mental health has been a growing concern among teenagers, and the question of what factors may affect their health in positive and negative ways. Teenage years consist of finishing your childhood and transitioning to your adulthood life; part of this transition is getting a job. A common first-time job for teens is working in the front-line service such as cashiers or hostesses. Fast-food industry jobs are primarily known to take on part-time high school students; they provide a fast-paced environment that involves learning to talk professionally and multitasking. With this most likely being the teen's first job, the structure and foundation of work is learned in the front-line service environment. If the environment is negative, it can have a drastic effect on the teen's attitude toward work and levels of depression. It is also important for a teenager to still maintain

a social life and not jump into adulthood and miss out on their adolescence. If a teen is constantly working, they might miss out on events of still being a child. I am researching the mental effects of working part-time as a teenager while being a full-time student, and how a teenager may cope with keeping up with grades, managing a social life, and handling the conflicts of having a job.

Impact of Recess on Whole-Child Development in K-12 Schools: A Comprehensive Investigation

Genesis Young and Lynn Dobbins, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

This literature review critically examines the integral role of recess within the K-12 educational paradigm, scrutinizing its broad-ranging impacts on student physical health, cognitive development, and socio-emotional well-being. Through meticulous analysis, foundational terms such as "recess," "physical activity," and "cognitive development" are delineated, establishing a comprehensive framework for exploring how recess contributes to the holistic development of students. The investigation is propelled by essential research questions that seek to elucidate the physical, cognitive, and social advantages of recess, alongside its overarching significance within the educational milieu.

Historically, the conceptualization and implementation of recess have undergone significant transformations, mirroring the dynamic shifts in educational policies and theoretical orientations. This review meticulously charts these historical developments, shedding light on the evolution of recess practices and their adaptation to changing educational imperatives.

At the heart of the review are several thematic pillars: the physical health benefits of recess, underscored by its pivotal role in fostering fitness and combating obesity; the cognitive and academic enhancements attributed to recess, particularly its facilitation of improved concentration and learning efficacy; and the socio-emotional growth fostered through recess, highlighting its vital contribution to the cultivation of social competencies and emotional resilience.

In conclusion, the review amalgamates the principal findings to underscore the indispensable value of recess within the K-12 educational framework. It acknowledges the addressed research inquiries and identifies lacunae in extant literature, positing avenues for future scholarly exploration. This review articulates a compelling argument for the critical preservation and augmentation of recess in educational policies and practices, advocating for its vital role in enriching and rounding the educational experience of students.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B7
ICB 301: Politics and Practices of Difference

Embracing Pluralism in AI: Exploring Perspectives and Strategies for Inclusive Diversity

Auburn Carvell, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

In the rapidly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) field, recognizing diverse perspectives is pivotal in comprehending

and navigating the complexities ingrained in fostering pluralistic diversity within AI systems. This abstract explores the multifaceted interplay between diverse viewpoints within the AI field and the imperative of promoting and preserving pluralism. Diversity within the realm of AI contains various disciplines, ranging from computer science to sociology, ethics to creative arts, each offering unique insights into the challenges and opportunities entwined with pluralistic diversity. By embracing many perspectives, AI stakeholders can better understand the intricate social, cultural, and ethical extents that shape AI development and deployment. Moreover, diverse AI perspectives facilitate a deeper understanding of the challenges and pave the way for innovative solutions. Explored strategies will be formulated to ensure inclusivity and equitable representation in AI systems by harnessing the collective wisdom of varied disciplines. These strategies may encompass inclusive design principles, ethical guidelines, and participatory approaches that engage stakeholders from diverse backgrounds in the AI development process.

However, realizing the potential of diverse perspectives in promoting pluralistic diversity in AI systems necessitates intended efforts to address systemic biases and power imbalances inherent within the AI ecosystem. This demands a commitment to fostering inclusive environments within AI research institutions, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, and amplifying underrepresented voices in AI discourse. In conclusion, exploring diverse perspectives within artificial intelligence offers a promising road for understanding and addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with promoting and preserving pluralistic diversity in AI systems. By embracing inclusivity and equitable representation, AI stakeholders can pave the way for more ethically sound and socially responsible AI technologies that reflect the range of human diversity.

Capitalism: Exploitation from the Past and Present

Makayah Kellum-Rivera, Lee College | Advisors: Portia Hopkins and Georgeann Ward

Our government, economic system, and our history is based on capitalism, “an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market” (Merriam-Webster). There are two types of capitalism: pure and modified capitalism. Pure capitalism is where there are no regulations or restrictions to hold back a business (Sovern). In “pure capitalism” or unregulated capitalism, a person can get away with stealing a cut of a business’ money or overwork staff to the point it becomes forced labor, not paying employees sufficient for suitable living. Modified capitalism, on the other hand, allows for the government to have regulations on a business like requiring a certification or license to operate or start business, having safety regulations for the workers’ environment, or having eight-hour workdays compared to sixteen to not to overwork staff.

The government gets involved to some extent through regulations to protect everyone that will be involved. The system of capitalism can be beneficial to the government and

economy, but also has setbacks when unregulated. When it comes to the workers involved with manufacturing a consumer product, capitalism may exploit their tedious work and or put them in dangerous inhumane environments to work in. In this presentation, I will be discussing the history of capitalism in the United States, and how it evolved the work environment but at the same time caused harm toward those involved.

Uncovering the Federal Reserve's History and Influence During Times of Crisis

Abdurrahman Meguader, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Siromi Wijesinghe

The decisions made by the Federal Reserve impact the lives and livelihoods of all people in the United States. They determine whether an individual’s savings are secure and ultimately whether the nation prospers or fails. Therefore, this study will showcase the history of the Federal Reserve, focusing on its role in managing price stability and controlling the money supply in our economy. Beginning with the creation of the Federal Reserve, along with the departure of the Gold Standard Act, we will understand how this shift gave dominant control to the Federal Reserve. This research will focus on the complexities of policy practices employed throughout major crises in efforts to achieve economic stability. This study will examine the cause of the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis and how the introduction of quantitative easing was utilized to stabilize our economy. Furthermore, this study will shed light on the challenges Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, faced during 2006-2008 as he worked to keep the economy from entering a depression. Overall, this research will not only examine the history of the Federal Reserve and its decision-making during times of economic downturns but also provide insights into how the utilization of its policy strategies led to a positive impact on the economy.

10:40 – 11:40 a.m. | Session B8

ICB 303: College of the Mainland's Creative Writers NONJURIED SESSION

Moderators: Lisa Frase and Courtney Pugh

Student readers: Dustin Cooley, Kaleb Palacio, Natalie Search-Chavarria, Rhonda Shiflet, Destiny Tobey, Ashley Tompkins, and TJ Walker.

Creative writing is an artistic endeavor where authors paint with words to immerse readers into exploring experiences that are uniquely human. Approaching the craft of creative writing necessitates revealing the human condition through the power of prose, poetry, and creative expression. Through words on the written page, we learn to coexist in harmony with a broader understanding of our diverse traditions and shared emotional resonance. The emphasis in creative writing is on the narrative tradition and poetics, character development, and language awareness, as well as celebrating the written word’s power to move, reflect, and interpret reality. Stories and poetry arise from the oral tradition, which is at the heart of the human condition. Personal experiences and observations blend into factual narratives in creative nonfiction, and some writers experiment with the way these genres intersect. The writers in the session, students in the COM Creative Writing Club and current Introduction to Creative Writing class will share short, original

pieces of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The session will be advisor moderated.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C1 **ICB 201: Youth and Literacy**

Regulating Social Media in Consideration of Upcoming Generations

Richard Iyun, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Elaine Childs

Numerous dangers face the adolescents of the digital age. Specifically, the effects of social media, cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and the mental and physical health effects of excessive screen time are significant dangers that must be addressed. Those who have the greatest influence on these apps are the companies themselves, and companies routinely invest in psychological research and algorithm development to maximize app usage. Thus, this paper aims to determine to what extent the US government should create new policies regarding social media companies to protect Generation Z and Generation Alpha from prolonged technology usage. Recent activity on this issue, notably the recent Senate hearings aiming to hold Zuckerberg and other social media companies accountable for failing to protect younger users, has aimed to address the social aspect of social media's effect on adolescents, targeting which types of users can interact on the platform, and how. However, preceding these issues is the initial problem of social media apps capturing and continuously retaining user attention. The design of a social media app plays a crucial role in determining the time a user spends on the app, and thus the type and severity of effects that result in an app's users. The visual design of apps as well as the algorithms used to deliver content are the most important areas that government policymakers must target to prevent adverse effects in Generation Z and Generation Alpha.

Why Parents Should Read to Their Children

Kaleb Palacio, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

My goal and purpose for this presentation is for people to understand the importance of why parents should read to their children. I aim for the audience to leave with a renewed mindset towards reading and reading aloud. It is paramount for the academic community at large to look at reading from a different perspective. This is an important topic of discussion, because not only does reading to children help them read better, but it also altogether increases literacy. Most people are not aware of these statistics, but twenty-one percent of adult Americans are illiterate, and most of those who are, come from low-income households. I believe that raising awareness and mindful thinking in this field would greatly increase literacy in the community. I have three pieces of evidence that come from journals and two from online articles. The evidence goes into finer detail of why parents should read to their children. Of the evidence, I should also mention in general it talks about reading aloud and how to maximize its effectiveness. This topic is an acceptable addition to preserving pluralism because it capitalizes on parent-to-child interaction. This ties in by reason that if we can raise good people and have them be literate, the capacity for strong decision-making would certainly be more prevalent.

Free the Books: Unmasking the Impact of Book Banning on Education and Expression

Jade Mayo, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

In the United States, the debate over book banning has underscored critical issues concerning freedom of expression and literature's role in public discourse. The American Library Association reports thousands of book challenges annually, with figures consistently between 500 and 600 cases, predominantly affecting educational content. This trend reflects a tension between educational goals and perceived sensitivities, raising concerns about restricting students' access to literature that could resonate with their experiences or inspire them to engage in discourse. The practice of book banning, seen as a form of censorship, significantly impacts students by limiting their freedom of expression and teachers by restricting pedagogical freedom. The persistence of this trend threatens to exclude essential discussions on controversial issues and diverse cultures from educational settings.

Motivations for book bans vary, commonly due to content deemed explicit or discussions on race, gender, or LGBTQ+ issues. This literature review analysis explores the history of book banning over the last century, identifying frequently challenged books and examining the reasons behind their censorship. The study highlights the negative effects of book bans, including reduced exposure to diverse perspectives, stigmatization of certain topics, detrimental impacts on academic performance, and a general sense of marginalization among students. By exploring the rationale for and consequences of book banning, this comprehensive review sheds light on the dynamics at play, stressing the significant implications for education and intellectual freedom in the United States.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C2 **ICB 203: Individuals and Plurality**

Femininity

Destiny Tobey, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Lisa Frase

This piece will cover femininity and many of women's insecurities about being "feminine enough." It will use examples from my life, and the lives of my peers to speak on body dysphoria, infertility, "mom-shaming," gender dysphoria, and other insecurities that women face from adolescence into the late years of life. It will delve deep into the emotional and mental toll that these issues take on women that often go unnoticed and lead many women to develop major depression, anxiety, and post-partum depression and how these issues cause an endless, self-sustaining cycle. Hopefully, by sharing this, it can bring more attention to the mental illness that comes with being a woman in a world that is always telling you that you are not woman enough, and open minds to a more diverse idea of what it truly means to be a woman whether it be physical, mental, emotional, or biological.

The Pluralistic Gap

Marco Huerta, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Rachel Fano

The fundamental of pluralism is that two entities can co-exist even when both do not necessarily agree but somehow

harmonize. The most common examples being religions, races, or nationalities co-existing yet believing in different principles. But there is a different theme I find quite intriguing. The different notions in student nurses' and registered nurses' thoughts on nursing education. Many registered nurses will say that nursing school doesn't prepare students all that well for what you will do in the career you are studying. In fact, many say that nursing school is just to obtain knowledge that ultimately gives you a license. On the contrary nursing students are to believe that nursing school is to prepare you for a nursing career. When these two ideas clash in a clinical setting there are two different beliefs co-existing, yet somehow, they seem to work. Thus, a pluralistic credence between what student nurses and nurses thriving in their career believe brings many people to the table to discuss the pluralistic nursing milieu. In my presentation I wish to explore what challenges student nurses and practicing nurses have with nursing education. How do we as nursing students and practicing nurses benefit and how do we start to reshape this pluralistic ambiance.

Border Towns: An Experience through the Eyes of My Parents

Leina Cantu, Lee College | Advisor: Georgeann Ward

My research was initially inspired by Gloria Anzaldua's chapter "The Homeland" in her book *Borderlands: La Frontera*. Anzaldua explores the idea of how the border is a physical and figurative boundary that divides two cultures. It creates tensions and projects ideas of the individuals who live on the other side of the border. Likening the border to an open wound, Anzaldua states, "Before a scab forms, it hemorrhages again, the lifeblood of two worlds merging to form a third country – a border culture" (Anzaldua 25). Anzaldua's work brings light to the issues that reside with the Texas-Mexico border, and after I read *The Boy Kings of Texas* by Domingo Martinez, it sparked my interest in the hardships he describes as he navigated varying cultures within his hometown. In this presentation, I will apply Anzaldua's work and the story of Martinez to a real-life example of my parents, who also grew up in Brownsville. I will also document my experiences in Brownsville through photographs as I visit significant sites that were part of my parents' upbringing. In my presentation, I will analyze and compare how my parents and Domingo Martinez's cultural life on the border has similarities and differences and how Anzaldua's ideas show how borders create tensions and cultural differences between two countries and affect the identities of people who live there.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C3 ICB 206: Language and Culture

What Does It Mean for Us to Be Pluralistic?

Shanna Skinner, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

In embracing pluralism, we acknowledge the idea that pluralism means to make a commitment to the coexistence of diverse perspectives, cultures, and beliefs and inclusive environment that values respect, tolerance, and understanding of our communities through the celebration of differences. The importance of understanding the difference between pluralist and pluralistic society. The difference with pluralist means to

involve a diversity of different ideas or Individuals. A pluralistic society is when the diverse is one, where the people believe all kinds of different things and tolerate each other's beliefs even when they don't match their own. When pluralism plays a crucial role in people's lives it can influence their perspectives, values, and interactions within diverse societies. This dynamic interplay an environment where individuals encounter big ideas, traditions, and the view of the world as a whole. When exposed to diverse perspectives it encourages open-mindedness and promotes a broader understanding of the world. Some examples of pluralism are during religion, culture, and education. These examples play a key role in pluralism as a whole diversity when it comes to the importance of a society. The way religion plays a role is with diverse beliefs. Thus, the way culture is created by individuals from various backgrounds can interact, share experiences, and build connections. Lastly, the way education plays a role is by showing diverse perspectives into programs and students gain a more comprehensive understanding of the world and its various places. In essence, being pluralistic is mostly about being recognized and respecting another people and celebrating the diversity that defines us as individuals and as a society. As we are learning from it, we must continue to promote beliefs, cultures, and identities that coexist within our communities.

The Effect of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity on Our Literacy Learning: Traveling for Critical

Seyma Ozden, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Dalel Serda

In American academic settings, cultural and linguistic diversity is present and seemingly ever-expanding. Existing research shows that academic agendas perceive cultural and linguistic diversity as challenges for teachers and students to overcome. As an international student who has had a chance to travel abroad and experience different cultures, I have developed what I call a "multicultural lens." In this presentation, I argue that a multicultural lens can cause personal improvement and increase critical awareness. Travel is the most effective method to serve this purpose.

I utilized a questionnaire and asked international students to explain the meaning of multiculturalism, challenges they faced, and advantages they had as international students. The findings of my research indicate that multiculturalism is perceived by international students as an empowering and beneficial concept. Also, the advantages of being an international student are not only improvement in linguistic aspects but also becoming stronger individuals. Moreover, participants mostly emphasized fostering cultural differences and taking those differences as advantages to develop stronger behaviors.

I highlight the significance of cultural diversity to determine the role of multiculturalism in people's critical literacy life and suggest that traveling should be considered more seriously as a tool of critical literacy learning since it is an original method for personal improvement. Further, considering various obstacles to physical traveling, I suggest multiculturalism in classrooms and redesigning the curriculum accordingly. Based on the benefits perceived by these international students, instilling cultural and linguistic diversity in education will improve the critical literacy of all students.

Preserving Plurality in Language of Immigrant Families

Anisah Khan, University of Houston | Advisors: Jason Berger, Blake Heller, and Eunjeong Lee

America has been defined as the melting pot as it is the home for many races, nationalities, and religious group. The essence of pluralism—two or more cultural backgrounds keeping their own traditions in a society. Pluralism exists to the human eye. The clothes, cuisine, and language are tangible and appeal to the senses. However, Texas education programs do not provide variety of languages for students to fulfill their foreign language requirement that matches the diversity present in American society. Additionally, ESL classes (English as a Second Language) intent is to teach students who do not know English. Though a common trend in schools tend to place children of immigrants in ESL classes despite being fluent in English. I myself, as a daughter of Pakistani immigrants was fluent in both English and Urdu yet was placed in ESL classes. Unfortunately, this story is not uncommon in the United States which threatens the plurality of languages in American culture. Schools are conforming student's language abilities to speak English instead of allowing students exercise their native languages and embrace their culture in classes. Plurality in language is at threat with schools in Texas not offering a variety of languages other than French and Spanish (the most common languages offered in schools) to students at the junior high level. The goal of this presentation is to see 1) how is pluralism in languages are being restricted in schools, 2) what can independent school districts do to take action in preserving plurality of languages, 3) come up with a system to accurately assess students who are not fluent in English and will benefit from ESL classes, and lastly 4) come up with strategies that can help bilingual students maintain and strengthen their languages, especially since their environment such as reading, media, and music in America have a heavy emphasis in English.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C4 ICB 221: Preserving the Arts

The Importance of The Arts in Preserving Pluralism

Isra Malik, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Pluralism in society is the coexistence of different kinds of people, each with their unique way of life. Traditions are what make each person who they are, and each different person together creates pluralistic diversity. Art is a driving force in preserving this pluralistic diversity. Art is the expression of what it means to be a human being and relays a specific feeling. Everyone knows a feeling and even with all our different paths of living we can understand one another through art. Feeling translates and is relatable through art because it is the lens through which we can understand one another's traditions, history, and perspective to then go on to respect them. Humanities is the practice of this which is how we will always have people who believe it is important to saturate the mind with unique ways of life we are not accustomed to on our own. The use of color, expression, medium, and style are all significant in paintings to the culture the creator resides in and during which certain period. Similarly, in music beats and rhythm are significant to a country's history and what the community looks

like there. With these in existence, we find an appreciation for our neighbors and the significance of everyone being different, together.

The Role of Preserving and Keeping Cultural Traditions, Stories, and Folk Tales

Noah Mubiru, Alvin High School | Independent Scholar

Stories and folklore play a pivotal role in preserving and transmitting cultural traditions across generations. They serve as repositories of wisdom, encapsulating the values, beliefs, and collective experiences of a community or society. Through these narratives, passed down orally or through written texts, we gain insight into the historical, social, and cultural context of our ancestors, fostering a deeper connection to our roots and identity. Moreover, stories and folklore serve as vehicles for moral teachings, imparting valuable lessons about kindness, courage, resilience, and the consequences of our actions. They provide a framework for understanding complex concepts and navigating the challenges of life, offering guidance and inspiration in times of adversity. Preserving cultural traditions, stories, and folk tales is essential for maintaining cultural diversity and enriching our collective tapestry of human experience. By safeguarding these narratives, we ensure that future generations have access to the rich cultural heritage of their ancestors, fostering a sense of continuity and belonging. Furthermore, cultural traditions and folk tales serve as bridges between generations, fostering intergenerational communication and understanding. They provide a common ground for people of different ages to connect and share experiences, strengthening familial and communal bonds. In essence, the preservation of cultural traditions, stories, and folk tales is not just a matter of preserving the past; it is an investment in the future, enriching our lives and shaping the identities of generations to come. As custodians of our cultural heritage, we have a responsibility to cherish, protect, and pass on these invaluable treasures to posterity.

The Unity Music Brings Upon Communities

Kayla Bonilla, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

Music has been a wide influence all over the world since its creation. With different genres, lyrics, and instrumentals, people can find connections and peace within these musical projects that contribute many emotions into one's life. There being such a broad variety of music, the attraction of the rhythms brings people together in ways like never before. In our Houston area, events that occur in places like Discovery Green that involve music have shown great levels of diversity and interaction from all ages and backgrounds. As citizens of the community, we allow ourselves to unify with one another and push away any negative thoughts or assumptions about people with different morals and ethical drives to enjoy a single moment in happiness.

Music has diversity of its own by deriving in different languages all over the world, and living in a community like Houston, it is common to find music from all over the world and see how differently every person warms up to the rhythm and still finds pleasure through its rhythms despite the lack of knowledge in the language and that is important to point out because it is never about whether the person understands, it is about how the individual feels with the music which most of the time brings

positive behaviors that bring things such as influence, specifically curiosity. Having that curiosity allows for a space full of new ideas and beneficial impacts such as new pleasures apart from the individual's common culture. It is a nice environment to be in when people are more understanding of new cultures and the ideas behind each one of them.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C5 **ICB 227: Pluralistic Sciences**

Harry Harlow and his "Pit of Despair"

Maria Ornelas, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

In this research, I will be talking about psychologist Harry Harlow and his unethical experiment "The Pit Of Despair." In the 1960s an American psychologist, known as Harry Harlow, conducted an experiment on infant rhesus monkeys which would become one of the most ethically troubling studies ever done. The investigation, also known as, "The Pit of Despair," has become well-known due to its cruelty and disregard for the well-being of the animals involved in the experiment. Harry Harlow's experiment is highly unethical as he showed no remorse for the infant rhesus monkeys, seeing them only as test subjects. The main reason Harlow's experiment was unethical was because of how long the monkeys had to suffer to see the results. In the experiment, baby rhesus monkeys were taken away shortly after birth and placed into isolation chambers referred to as the "Pit of Despair," which doesn't sound like the most pleasant place to be. Although animals were used as test subjects before this experiment, this one is a complete moral violation. The animals were left permanently damaged with psychological and emotional issues. There is even a principle that helps reduce and minimize the pain of animals called the, "3R's alternative" which should have been used in Harlow's experiment. The first R stands for replacement which refers to technologies or approaches that directly replace or avoid the use of animals. The second R stands for reduction which means using fewer animals to experiment with. The last R stands for refinement refers to modifications of experimental procedures that minimize pain and distress in animals. Harry Harlow's experiment is a great example of an unethical experiment done on animals because he psychologically damaged the animals permanently.

Scientific Plurality

Alyson Ramos, Houston Community College | Advisor: Nick Rangel

How we see the world is all different, which is reflected even in scientific plurality. Science is seen as an easy subject in the way that it is simply facts, which follow common sense and are straightforward. Science is simply science. We have explanations and evidence for all the different concepts and ideas. But then why do we have different theories addressing the same concept, or differing conceptualizations of the same ideas? Because of the existence of scientific plurality, we see multiple models or representations of the same ideas. This isn't an issue because we just get different perspectives to a solution, coming from different angles. This also gives rise to an environment that fosters creativity and promotes diversity.

Renaissance Resonance: Pluralism's Echo in Modern Science

Kylie McGee, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Stacey Burlison

In the delicate brushstrokes of da Vinci's art and the precise calculations of Galileo's observations, the Renaissance not only sculpted an era of cultural rebirth but also forged the uncharted territories of modern scientific thought. This project delves into the Renaissance's enduring scientific legacy and its profound relevance in today's dynamic intellectual landscape, emphasizing the integration of pluralism as a catalyst for innovation. The Renaissance, spanning the 14th to the 17th centuries, not only birthed groundbreaking scientific advancements but also embraced a diversity of perspectives, laying the foundation for a pluralistic approach to knowledge. Drawing parallels to our current era, where interdisciplinary collaboration is paramount, I will explore how the Renaissance's pluralistic ethos can inform and inspire contemporary scientific discourse. By examining historical examples such as the interconnectedness of art and science during this period, we gain insights into fostering creativity and cross-disciplinary cooperation in today's scientific endeavors.

In the context of pressing global challenges, the Renaissance's legacy serves as a touching reminder that solutions often emerge from the intersection of seemingly unrelated fields. Moreover, the presentation will explore how the inclusive spirit of the Renaissance can inform science communication, encouraging scientists to bridge the gap between their specialized knowledge and public understanding. By revisiting the Renaissance's scientific renaissance and the integration of pluralism, I seek to not only celebrate historical achievements but also prompt a reevaluation of contemporary scientific practices. In a world grappling with unprecedented challenges, the pluralistic approach of the Renaissance offers a valuable paradigm for fostering innovation, collaboration, and public engagement, thereby propelling scientific inquiry toward new frontiers and discovery.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C6 **ICB 228: Gaps in Educational Equity**

Latinos in Education. Bridging the Gap: A Comprehensive Exploration of Educational Inequity Faced by Latinos in the United States from Historical Struggles to Current Challenges

Siney Lira, San Jacinto College | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

Despite being the largest and fastest-growing minority group in the country, Latinos have the lowest college completion rates, with only 15% holding a bachelor's degree or higher. Our research is dedicated to understanding the underlying factors contributing to the underrepresentation of Latinos in higher education in the United States. This study delves into the historical evolution of the struggle for educational equity for Latinos, examining the challenges and opportunities that currently shape their pursuit of educational equality. One of the central issues addressed in this research is the difficulty Latino students face in traditional educational settings, particularly in terms of language barriers, inadequate resources for non-English-speaking students and their families, and obstacles related to immigration and economic status. Our study explores how these challenges have persisted from the pre-20th century

era through the 20th century into the 21st century, shedding light on the need for systemic changes. A critical aspect of our research focuses on the examination of the current school curriculum and its responsiveness to the cultural, historical, and academic needs of Latino students. We seek to identify areas where the curriculum falls short and propose improvements that can better support Latino students on their educational journey.

Three overarching themes are central to our investigation: school segregation, language and economic barriers, and undocumented status. These themes provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the multifaceted challenges faced by Latinos in their pursuit of higher education. By addressing these themes and delving into their historical evolution, our research aims to provide insights and recommendations that can contribute to increased Latino representation in higher education and promote educational equity for all Latino students in the United States.

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Navigating the Path to Pluralism Through Understanding Minority Dropout Dynamics

Adrian Lewis, College of the Mainland | Independent Scholar

In alignment with the symposium's theme of "Preserving Pluralism," this study delves into the disproportionately high dropout rates among minority high school students, underlining the urgency of addressing educational disparities to maintain a diverse and inclusive society. Our research explores the intricate factors contributing to these rates, including poverty, home life, and cognitive perspectives towards education, through a mixed-methods approach. By examining the systemic barriers that minority students encounter, such as economic hardships, unstable living conditions, and educational practices that may not reflect their cultural contexts, this study sheds light on the significant obstacles impacting their academic persistence. Preliminary findings emphasize the necessity of a holistic intervention strategy that not only addresses immediate educational inequalities but also fosters an environment where diversity in thought and background is recognized as a strength. This research contributes to the discourse on how to sustain pluralism through educational equity, offering insights for educators, policymakers, and community advocates. By proposing actionable solutions aimed at dismantling the barriers faced by minority students, our study supports the symposium's vision of preserving pluralism by ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have equal opportunities to succeed academically and contribute to a pluralistic society.

Educational Equity Unbound: Funding Undocumented Students in Pursuit of Higher Education

Carla Lopes, College of the Mainland | Advisor: Dalel Serda

Some nations consider higher education to be a fundamental human and civil right because it supports the students' development while strengthening a community's workforce and a community's economic base. In the United States, though, government-sponsored educational financial aid is often perceived as a "handout"; the perhaps unacknowledged implication is that American society perceives higher education as a privilege that must be "earned," or that higher education is for those who can provide family-based financial sponsorships. This suggests

Americans might not perceive higher education as a fundamental human right for all humans but rather for some humans.

Current policies discourage undocumented youth from pursuing post-secondary education. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program currently unavailable in Texas, provides temporary relief for undocumented immigrants, allowing them to pursue education and employment in the United States. However, DACA recipients face varying policies, social challenges, and limited access to federal financial aid. These barriers undermine the program's efficacy in ensuring adequate higher education opportunities for undocumented youth. If offered financial support to higher education, educated immigrant youth can become contributors to the economy through employment and tax contributions. This, in return, stimulates economic growth by expanding the labor force and fostering a more resilient economy.

This presentation will overview the mixed method research I undertook to conclude that against the backdrop of heated contemporary and hyper-political rhetoric about immigration policy, Americans might open to reconsiderations of policies that deal with our most promising undocumented students. Through primary and scholarly research, I conclude there is a human cost behind every immigration policy. I argue in favor of comprehensive immigration reform and compassionate solutions to truly unlock educational pathways for Dreamers and undocumented youth that positively affect the American economy.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C7 ICB 301: Pressures on Diverse Mental and Physical Health

Overloaded and Overwhelmed: The Impact of Excessive Homework on K-12 Students

Lucero Trevino, Lilluann Trevino, Alejandra Sosa, San Jacinto | Advisor: Judith Maima Skeele

This literature review examines the impact of excessive homework on K-12 students, engaging with debates on its effectiveness and potential negative outcomes. Defining excessive homework as assignments that exceed developmental appropriateness, it explores related issues such as academic stress, student well-being, and educational outcomes. The review addresses how excessive homework affects students psychologically and physically, its implications for academic achievement, and its social and familial repercussions.

A historical overview of homework practices shows the evolution of attitudes and policies informing current debates. The thematic analysis covers the psychological toll of homework, including stress and anxiety; physical health concerns like sleep deprivation; the complex relationship between homework volume and academic performance; and the effects on family time and social life. It also examines the unequal impact of homework based on socioeconomic status and the variances in homework practices globally. Concluding, the review synthesizes findings on the diverse effects of excessive homework on K-12 students, highlighting research gaps, such as the need for longitudinal and cross-cultural studies. It calls for future research to deepen understanding of homework's long-term

effects and promote equitable practices across educational contexts.

Risk of Contaminated Water

Anyi Hernandez, Houston Community College - Central | Advisor: Nick Rangel

One health concern in India is water contamination. Water contamination is water that is not safe for drinking or use. One way that it can get contaminated is through exposure to chemicals or bodies of water that carry a lot of pollution. This is a health concern because many people of India rely on river water for drinking and use at their homes. But how does this occur? Well, in India there are a lot of factories (industries). These factories have an unsafe way of releasing the chemicals that the machines release. Most of them have water runways that lead straight to rivers. In India, most families get their water from the rivers, but the problem is that they contain high levels of lead. When a person gets high levels of lead in their body it could be fatal since they don't have resources for healthcare. The age group more at risk is children because if they consume unsanitary water, they would potentially end up with brain damage and have problems with their growth. Also, pregnant women are at risk. The consumption of unsanitary water is not safe for anybody since it contains toxic chemicals for everyone. Something should be done to save those people who don't have any resources.

The Bipartite Will: The Philosophy of Choice

Johnathan Shirley, Lee College | Advisors: Michael Carson and Georgeann Ward

When we attempt to develop opinions on actions and judge the extent of their morality, we find ourselves using intuition to guide us, giving in to a force so deterministic as to be unreliable and dangerous. Two ways we commonly examine actions are through the material consequence and the contemplation of the actor's desire. We are missing, however, the extent to which anxiety manipulates our decisions and the huge role that it plays in the execution of action. Soren Kierkegaard's concept of anxiety gives us a wonderful perspective of the origins of anxiety as a feature of the human condition. Though people commonly consider anxiety as a mental health disorder, Kierkegaard described anxiety as the state of being conscious of the ability to make choices and live with their consequences. If anxiety exists as this force that pulls a being of desire towards reason, how can we not consider it when judging the actions of another? That is The Bipartite Will: the recognition that anxiety plays a role in choice at varying degrees and attempting to find where that interplay between our desired choices and our anxious choices intersect to manifest action. In this presentation, I will discuss Kierkegaard and other philosophers' ideas on the tension between desire and anxiety in the decision-making process.

11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. | Session C8 ICB 303: College of the Mainland's Literary Journal: The Badelynge Review NONJURIED SESSION

Moderator: Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow

Student Panelists: Annalicia Salazar, Jordyn Vasquez, Regino Briones, Madison Howell, Aurionna Simmons, Kaneburley Rimpler, Kaitlyn Dougharty, and Trevon Garner

College literary journals have been a staple in our nation's higher education system for over two centuries and have continued to stay relevant through the generations. They emphasize creativity, accomplishment, teamwork, and duty in the minds of today's youth. The student-run *The Badelynge Review*, now in its second year, upholds the tradition set by many American institutions in its publishing of poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, and academic essays written by COM students. The staff has grown in the time since its first year, boasting seven Readers, evaluating submitted writing, four Editors, helping authors hone their work, and one Reviewer, who ensures the academic portions of the literary journal's works are factually correct. Additionally, three graphic arts students design the journal's layout, front cover, and back cover. This session will see the student staff of *The Badelynge Review* discuss the events of its second year, the types of necessary student involvement to make it happen, why the journal is an important contribution to the campus, and how it might grow in the future.

KEYNOTE

Dr. Jesús Jesse Esparza: Preserving Pluralism: The San Felipe ISD Example

Bio: Dr. Jesús Jesse Esparza is an Associate Professor of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences at Texas Southern University, where he has taught since 2009. His area of expertise is on the history of Latinos in the United States, emphasizing civil rights activism. Dr. Esparza's manuscript, *Raza Schools: The Fight for Latino Educational Autonomy in a West Texas Borderlands Town*, is scheduled for release in September 2023. The University of Oklahoma Press will publish it as part of the New Directions in Tejano History series. Dr. Esparza teaches Mexican American, Texas, and Civil Rights history. He received his B.A. and a master's degree in history from Southwest Texas State University and a Ph.D. in History in 2008 from the University of Houston.

Abstract: This talk will explore a Latino community in the borderland city of Del Rio, Texas, that, in 1929, established the first and perhaps only autonomous Mexican-American school system called the San Felipe Independent School District against a background of institutional racism, poverty, and segregation. As detailed in *Raza Schools* (September 2023), this talk traces the experiences of the residents of San Felipe who faced a Jim Crow society in which deep-seated discrimination extended to education, making biased curriculum, inferior facilities, and prejudiced teachers the norm. Moreover, this talk highlights how the people of San Felipe harnessed the mechanisms and structures of this discriminatory system to create their own educational institutions, using the courts whenever necessary to protect their autonomy. For forty-two years, the Latino community funded, maintained and managed its own school system—until 1971, when, in an attempt to address school segregation, the federal government forced San Felipe ISD to consolidate with a larger neighboring, predominantly white school district. This talk will conclude with a description of the ensuing clashes—over curriculum, school governance, teachers' positions, and funding—as several multiracial communities in Del Rio struggled to find and maintain a sense of pluralism.

THANK YOU

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Sincerely,

Professors Dalel Serda and Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow
GCIC Academic Symposium Co-Chairs