Bray, Charles  (Lamar University, Communication)

Southeast Texas’ (SETX) Interactive Media Career Market Research—Survey

Abstract: The video game and electronic entertainment industry has a significant impact in the economy, as well as overlapping involvement and influence in other industries including but not limited to technology, transport, health and education. Our research project aims to collect and analyze data through a series of surveys performed in Lamar University and local School Districts. The surveys will target students and teachers, and address their knowledge and opinions about the video game industry, particularly as it relates to their career path choices and academic activities. The object of the study is to assess and determine whether there is a significant level of misinformation and potential bias against the video game industry which may be affecting the development and progress of the industry in Texas and local communities, as well as their education.

Cellular functions and phenotypes are known to be associated with the microenvironments in which they are grown. In the current study, we have systemically tested the effect of substrate rigidity on multiple cancer cell lines by culturing them on custom environments ranged from 0.2kPa to 96kPa. Interestingly, we observed several cell lines, notably breast (MDA-453) and ovarian (HeLa) tumor lines, can consistently form 3D spherical structures on softer substrates (< 2kPa). Compared with the conventional mammosphere assay protocol, our method has demonstrated to be more effective in generating cancer spheroids at various seeding density by simple bulk passages.

Caballero, Carlos  (Lamar University, English & Modern Languages)

Pinnacles and Collapses of Civilization: Trends and Threats from Within

Abstract: In One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez depicts the rise, height, and inevitable fall of a civilization by presenting Macondo as a microcosm of society. The purpose of this research is to examine the context of Garcia Marquez’s work and how it applies to society at large. Unchecked development, failure to learn from past mistakes, and government as well as corporate corruption are the overarching themes included in this research. The primary source used for the research is the book One Hundred Years of Solitude itself, but the research also draws form secondary sources in the form of literary reviews. In short, an in depth study of the aforementioned themes provides irrefutable evidence that by using Macondo as a microcosm of society Gabriel Garcia Marquez recounts the story of human civilization.

Cole, Winters  (Lamar University, Sociology)

The Changes in Social Pressure of Male to Female Transsexuals in Texas
Abstract: In Texas, there is a growing population of Transsexuals, whom face many struggles in everyday life. This study would dig deeper into the lives of women who were once considered men. My research would utilize surveys as well as interviews in order to learn more about my human subjects. I will also use literature for background information. I ultimately will learn how society pressures change at work, in education, and in their personal lives. This study would also hopefully further the subjects’ own understanding of their transition.

Daigle, Chelsey (Lamar University, Biology)

Foucaultian Rhetoric: An Analysis of How the Works of Michel Foucault Fit into the Rhetorical Tradition

Abstract: The impact of Michel Foucault’s work on the field of Rhetoric has been debated by many scholars, Barbara Biesecker and Raymie E. McKerrow among them. Through close readings of The Archaeology of Knowledge and The Order of Things, I extend Biesecker’s and McKerrow’s conclusions, arguing that Foucault’s discursive theories offer productive ways to understand rhetorical practices. Focusing on the style, language, and argumentative modes in these two central works by Foucault, I illustrate how these elements function in rhetorical practices past, present, and future. By considering Michel Foucault as a rhetorician and, thus, applying a rhetorical approach to reading his work, I articulate what I term a Foucaultian Rhetoric, which I argue provides an important tool to understanding contemporary changes in the field of Rhetoric.

MacGregor, Dougal (Lamar University, Communication)

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colonies mimicking in vivo phenotypes, and demonstrated potential implications in cancer research as well as drug screening applications.

Murphy, Skylar A. (Lamar University, Sociology)

Interview With a Succubus: The Single Women of Society

Abstract: American women face daily struggles that have led many of them to believe that singlehood is not a desirable lifestyle. The purpose of this study is to interview a young woman who defines herself as a single woman in order to determine whether the stereotypes of the past are still applicable. This detailed interview focuses on the experiences of the participant as a single woman. The study was created to test the validity of social stigmas and stereotypes found in the scant and anachronistic research on this topic. One of the themes that developed throughout the interview process was the conflict that the participant had between her perceptions of actions versus those imposed upon her by society. The participant created a nexus between the relationship of her parents and how this affected her relationship choices. The participant was able to maintain a positive sense of self-worth despite societal stigmas and judgments she faced.

Nunez, Ryan (Lamar University, English & Modern Languages)

Individuality, Rebellion, and Natural Instincts in the Totalitarian Society of Brave New World

Abstract: While the population of Aldous Huxley’s dystopian novel Brave New World has been heavily conditioned to near uniformity, I argue that the novel’s treatment of individuality and rebellion in John the Savage and Lenina Crowne demonstrates the complex tensions surrounding unconditioned natural instinct. Through close readings, I will show how John and Lenina’s rebellious acts of individualism stem from their vestiges of humanity and natural instincts. While most readers might overlook Lenina’s rebellion because it is less obvious and conscious than that of John, Helmholtz Watson, and Bernard Marx, in this paper I argue that the emphasis on unconditioned natural instinct in Lenina’s and John’s individuality gives it a unique position in relation to the World State. Despite the fact that the World State eventually succeeds in overpowering this individuality, John and Lenina are allowed to persist freely without interference, unlike Helmholtz Watson and Bernard Marx, eventually finding the pain of isolation from their peers too much to withstand. In this paper, I explore the complicated interplay between conscious and unconscious rebellion, and between individuality and the World State.

Patrick, Brandon (Lamar University, English and Modern Languages)

Music in Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man

Abstract: Ralph Ellison’s 1952 novel, Invisible Man, explores themes of racism, spirituality, and identity. While the plot of Invisible Man explicitly explores these themes through the use of imagery and various character dynamics, there are also more subtle and complex motifs embedded in the subtext of the story. Music, which has a constant but often quiet presence in the plot, guides a majority of the actions and character development in the text, as has been discussed by critics such as Christopher Hanion, Thomas Marvin, and Steve Pinkerton. This study will examine the connection between spirituality and rebirth, two key themes in the
novel, and music. I will pay particular attention to the ways music frames the novel in the prologue and epilogue, analyzing the ways that Ellison incorporates musical techniques into dialogue and public speaking. I will also investigate the parallels between Invisible Man and different religious myths and musical folklores. I argue that music serves as the protagonist’s tool to discover his own identity and communicate with the masses who refuse to see him, and as a medium through which Ellison can develop and connect seemingly unrelated characters, creating a sense of harmonious community in place of alienation and social division.