



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH  
**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**



**WELCOMES YOU**  
**to the Eighth Annual Texas**  
**HASBSEB Conference**

**Humanities**

**Arts**

**Social and**

**Behavioral**

**Sciences**

**Education**

**Business**

Galloway Building –  
Landes Auditorium  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021





**Welcome to the  
Eighth Annual  
HASBSEB Conference  
at Lamar University!**



**Acting Director of O.U.R.  
Dr. Cristian Bahrim**

Our annual conference on Humanities, Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Education, and Business celebrates its eighth edition. This year we have thirty student presentations from seven academic areas, including business, political sciences, sociology, criminal justice, history, speech and hearing, and deaf studies and deaf education, communication, and media.

We are welcoming our five SURF HASBSEB students, who got rich research experience over the past summer working in labs and other facilities here, at Lamar. Their commitment and effort to generate quality research is to be commended. We are proud of our SURF students!

The chance to work on research projects sponsored by Lamar is due to continuous support from our President Jaime Taylor, Provost Brenda Nichols, and all academic Deans and Chairs, to whom O.U.R. thanks heartily.

This year, we have the privilege to welcome a special guest speaker, Dr. Juan Luis Nicolau, Marriott Professor of Revenue Management, and Graduate Director of PhD program at the Virginia Tech. He is an internationally acclaimed scholar in the field of tourism management, with more than 130 research papers published and 21 awards received, including the MPV award for research excellence in 2020 and 2021 at Virginia Tech.

Lamar's students, today we celebrate your fine scholarly success. Congratulations to all! Enjoy the conference!

**Advisory Board of O.U.R.  
2021-2022**

**Dr. Robert Kelley Bradley**  
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College of Arts & Sciences

**Mr. Juan Zabala**  
University Advancement

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## Message from Lamar University's Dr. Dan French, Dean of the College of Business

I would like to welcome everyone to the Eight HASBSEB Conference. As Dean of the College of Business, it is a pleasure to recognize the students and faculty engaged in the 2021 Office of Undergraduate Research Grants and Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships. Today's conference features presentations of the results of these research projects. I also want to recognize other students from Lamar who choose to spend their weekend participating in this event. We are very proud of all of you!

Lamar is especially honored to welcome Dr. Juan Luis Nicolau, Marriott Professor of Revenue Management at Virginia Tech University. Dr. Nicolau is a world-renowned expert in marketing and tourism, and I am pleased that the College of Business could join the Office of Undergraduate Research in sponsoring his presentation here today. I am also particularly pleased that business student Viviana Denova participated as a SURF fellow, researching the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small and medium enterprises (especially in the hospitality and dining industries of Southeast Texas), working closely with Dr. Henry Venta and Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan.



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## PLENARY GUEST SPEAKER

*Dr. Juan Luis Nicolau*

*Marriott Professor of Revenue Management  
Graduate Director Ph.D. Program  
Virginia Tech University*

Juan Luis Nicolau is currently the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Professor of Revenue Management at Virginia Tech. Prior to joining Virginia Tech in 2017, he was Full Professor of Marketing and Dean of the College of Economics and Business at University of Alicante, Spain. Included in the top-25 international researchers in tourism in the ranking published by *Tourism Management Perspectives*, he has been the recipient of 21 awards (19 research awards and 2 teaching excellence awards) and published more than 130 research articles (105 of them included in the *Journal of Citation Reports of the Web of Science*), two books and five book chapters. His research appears in top hospitality and tourism journals as well as general management and marketing journals such as *Strategic Management Journal*, *Omega*, and *Marketing Letters*. He is member of 13 editorial review boards of scientific journals, including Associate Editor of *Journal of Travel Research*, *Tourism Management*, *Annals of Tourism Research* and *Tourism Economics*. He is included in the World's Top 2% most cited scientists according to the Stanford University ranking. He has received the MVP award for research excellence (Annual Faculty Award for Excellence in Research awarded by the Virginia Tech Pamplin College of Business) in two consecutive years—2020 and 2021.

### APPLICATIONS OF BIG DATA TO TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY RESEARCH

As more and more customers tend to post online where they have been to, what they did while visiting a destination and how satisfactory the experience was, tourism and hospitality researchers can take advantage of the posts these customers write. As the focus of research is to advance our knowledge of a specific field and find solutions for issues that may relate to society in general and an industry in particular, the existence of big data is a great opportunity if we are able to exploit the potentialities that this large amount of information provides. In this session, we will see some applications of user-generated content in the context of tourism and hospitality. Beyond the typical analysis of online numerical ratings through which we can see how satisfied people are with the service provided in, say, a hotel, a restaurant or an airline, we can also look at different facets of that content; facets from which we can unearth and observe new relationships between certain variables of interest. For example, from the reviews themselves—which is a qualitative input—we can conduct a sentiment analysis and determine how customers feel about a service—which is a quantitative output. Also, from some characteristics of the photos posted we can try to observe some effects on other variables, and from the searches that potential customers conduct on the Internet we can see different behavioral patterns when making the decision about, for instance, an accommodation type. To sum up, in this session we will talk about the opportunity that the use of big data represents for research on the tourism and hospitality industry by providing examples of empirical applications.



**Message from  
Lamar University's  
Dean Derina  
Holtzhausen,  
College of Fine Arts  
and Communication**

Today, Lamar HASBSEB Community celebrates the Eighth Annual Conference. I congratulate all student presenters for their efforts to generate quality research and for preparing interesting posters and talks. We are proud of you, all!

We have four HASBSEB presentations from the SURF 2021 cohort, with five of Lamar's fine students. Four SURF students are from our College of Fine Arts and Communication: Ms. Chloe Smith, with mentor Dr. Monica Harn, Ms. Madison Fondren and Ms. Kinlee Buesing, with mentor Dr. Jamie Azios, all from the Department of Speech and Hearing, and Mr. Cesar Delgado, with mentors from the Department of Communication and Media, Professors Andre Favors and O'Brien Stanley. The larger presence of our SURF undergraduate research to this edition of the HASBSEB conference clearly indicates the great value our college puts into undergraduate research experiences and creative activities. I wish to all students good luck with the presentations, today! We will cheer for your achievements!



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*The morning events will take place on Zoom platform with ID: **879-918-4160** and password **88888***

**WELCOME TO THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HASBSEB CONFERENCE**

- 8:30 AM                      Opening remarks and Conference Overview – Dr. Cristian Bahrim, Acting Director of O.U.R., Professor of Physics
- 8:45 AM                      Welcoming Remarks – Chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the HASBSEB conference, Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan, Assistant Professor of Finance, College of Business.
- 8:50 AM                      Introduction of our guest speaker by Dean Dan French from College of Business  
Plenary talk by Dr. Juan Luis Nicolau from Virginia Tech University, Marriott Professor of Revenue Management, and Graduate Director of the Ph.D. Program
- 9:45 AM                      Formal recognition of our guest, Professor Dr. Juan Luis Nicolau

**O.U.R. Sponsored Research  
2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)**

- 9:50 AM                      SURF Overview – Dr. Cristian Bahrim, Acting Director of O.U.R.
- 9:55 AM                      SURF Presenters are introduced by Dean Derina Holtzhausen of the College of Fine Arts and Communication

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS – Dean Dan French**

- 10:00 AM                      **Viviana Denova** | major in Business and Biology |  
Mentor: Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan  
Research in Business Management and Finances “*The Financial Impact of COVID-19 on Businesses in Dining and Hospitality Industries in Southeast Texas.*”

**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS –  
Dean Derina Holtzhausen**

10:15 AM

**Cesar Julian Delgado** | major in English and Modern Languages |  
Mentors: **Prof. Andre Favors** and **Prof. O’Brien Stanley**  
Research in Intercultural Communication “*Cultural Identity and Digital  
Citizenship: How Do Social Media Consumers and Creators Reconcile their  
Identities in the Digital World.*”

10:30 AM

**Chloe Smith** | major in Speech and Hearing Sciences |  
Mentor: **Dr. Monica Harn**  
Research in Speech and Hearing Sciences “*A Cross-sectional Study of the  
Portrayal of Childhood Speech Sound Disorder Interventions in YouTube  
Videos.*”

10:45 AM

**Madison Fondren** and **Kinlee Buesing** | major in Speech and Hearing Science |  
Mentor: **Dr. Jamie Azios**  
Research in Speech and Hearing Sciences “*Where are my friends?*” *A Narrative  
Inquiry of Friendship Maintenance and Dissolution in the Early Period Post-  
stroke and Aphasia.*”

**11:00 AM**

**Coffee Break**

11:15 AM

Plenary Session: “*LU Reads for Change*” at Lamar University Initiative  
Panelists: Dr. Alyse Jordan – Head of Reference of the Mary and John Gray  
Library  
Ms. Shelbe Rodriguez – Public Affairs Manager, Office of Marketing  
Communications  
Dr. Lekeitha R. Morris – Associate Professor, Department of Speech and Hearing  
Mrs. Jennifer Ravey – Director of the Writing Center

**12:00 PM**

**Lunch Break**

**12:50 PM**

**Group Photo (in front of the Galloway building)**

**Poster Session I      1:00 – 2:00pm**

**Chair: Dr. Bianca Easterly – Hallway of Galloway bldg.**



## Breakout Session A1a

2:00 – 2:40pm

**Chair: Prof. Andre Favors – Galloway 116**

Zoom platform with **ID: 879-918-4160** and **password 88888**

2:00 PM

*Advanced Level*

**Tristian Tonche** – major in ASL Interpretation

Mentors: Dr. Diane Clark and Mrs. Beverly Buchanan

Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education

*“Deaf Native Americans Current Acquisition of PISL.”*

2:13 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Kaylee Goodspeed** – major in Psychology (Pre-Law)

Mentors: Dr. Terri Davis and Dr. James Nelson

Department of Political Science

*“Economic Success, Cultural Assimilation, and Indigenous Peoples:*

*A Comparative Analysis of Life Quality Measures in Indigenous Communities in the United States and Canada.”*

2:26 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Audrey Vincent-Eze** – major in Political Science

Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis

Department of Political Science

*“Nigeria: A Study of the Impact of Climate Change on the Political Realities of a Nation.”*

## Breakout Session B1a

2:00 – 2:40pm

**Chair: Dr. Brendan Gillis – Galloway 127**

Zoom platform with **ID: 310-681-0795** and **password 9bD7ML**

2:00 PM

*Advanced Level*

**Addison Rice** – major in Political Science

Mentor: Dr. Bianca Easterly

Department of Political Science

*“Nowhere to Go: An Analysis of Beaumont’s Homeless Problem and Why Permanent Supportive Housing is the Solution.”*

2:13 PM

*Advanced Level*

**Claudia Cooper** – major in English and Biology

Mentor: Dr. Bianca Easterly

Department of Political Science

*“Beaumont's Environmental Quality Needs Help.”*

2:26 PM

*Advanced Level*

**Paul Daleo** – major in Psychology

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

*“The Effects of COVID-19 on Suicide in Southeast Texas.”*

## **Breakout Session A1b**

**2:45 – 3:25pm**

**Chair: Prof. Andre Favors – Galloway 116**

*Zoom platform with ID: 879-918-4160 and password 88888*

2:45 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Addison Rice** – major in Political Science

Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis

Department of Political Science

*“Hate and Violence Against Transgender Persons:*

*An Unreported and Silent Statistic.”*

2:58 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Lindsey Chirafis** – major in Political Science

Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis

Department of Political Science

*“Gender Disparities in Sentencing of Sexual Abuse and Assault Cases:*

*An Analysis of the Correlation Between Gender and Sentencing.”*

3:11 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Rachel Hellums** – major in Communication Studies

Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis

Department of Political Science

*“Texas Senate Bill 8 and the Future of Roe v. Wade: A Judicial Process Analysis*

*of the Roberts Court’s Review of Senate Bill 8 as Predictive Indicators the*

*Court’s Future Ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.”*

**3:25 – 3:40 PM**

**Coffee Break**

## Breakout Session B1b

2:45 – 3:25pm

**Chair: Dr. Brendan Gillis – Galloway 127**

*Zoom platform with ID: 310-681-0795 and password 9bD7ML*

2:45 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Tien Nguyen** – major in Computer Science

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

*“Women in Military: Naomi Dunlap.”*

2:58 PM

*Advanced Level*

**Jaidyn Green** – major in Nursing

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

*“Women in the Air Force: Carolyn Stateczny.”*

3:11 PM

*In-progress Level*

**David Grimes** – major in History

Mentor: Dr. Brendan Gillis

Department of History

*“Unrestrictive U.S. Submarine Warfare Against Imperial Japan During World War II.”*

3:25 – 3:40 PM

**Coffee Break**

## Breakout Session A2

3:40 – 4:20pm

**Chair: Dr. Mamta Singh – Galloway 116**

*Zoom platform with ID: 879-918-4160 and password 88888*

3:40 PM

*Advanced Level*

**James Clemmer** – major in Criminal Justice

Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Shelton

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

*“Are Fatal Police Shootings Racially Motivated and How to Prevent Fatal Shootings.”*

3:53 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Jayce Martin** – major in Political Science

Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis

Department of Political Science

*“Opposition to Vaccinations: An Analysis of the Interplay between Politics and Science.”*

4:06 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Laura Velasquez Matos** – major in Political Science

Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis

Department of Political Science

*“Feeding Communism: A Comparative Analysis of the Relationship between the United States and Cuba during Democratic and Republican Presidential Administrations.”*

## **Breakout Session B2      3:40 – 4:20pm**

**Chair: Dr. Dorothy Sisk – Galloway 127**

*Zoom platform with ID: 310-681-0795 and password 9bD7ML*

3:40 PM

*Early-phase Level*

**Kevin Bogany** – major in Criminal Justice

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

*“CBD and Mental Health.”*

3:53 PM

*Early-phase Level*

**Anthony Cooper** – major in General Studies

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

*“How High Can You Get, And Can You Always Come Back Down?”*

4:06 PM

*Early-phase Level*

**Joshua Taylor** – major in Psychology

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

*“The Differences in Legal Status Between THC and CBD.”*

**Breakout Session C      4:25 – 5:05pm**

**Chair: Dr. Nicki Michalski – Landes Auditorium**

*Zoom platform with ID: 879-918-4160 and password 88888*

4:25 PM

*Advanced Level*

**Gabriel Poarch** – major in Communication–Broadcasting

Mentor: Prof. Andre Favors

Department of Communication and Media

*“Michael Oher: Human or Monster?: An Analysis of Michael Oher’s Criticism of The Blind Side.”*

4:38 PM

*Advanced Level*

**Mattie Hamilton** – major in Communication–PR

Mentor: Prof. Andre Favors

Department of Communication and Media

*“A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Hillary Clinton’s Keynote at the 2015 Women in the World Summit.”*

4:51 PM

*In-progress Level*

**Rachel Hellums** – major in Communication Studies

Mentor: Prof. O’Brien Stanley

Department of Communication and Media

*“Remixing History and Broadway: The Music of “Six””*

**Classical Guitar Performance – Dr. Juan Luis Nicolau**

**5:10 – 5:30 PM**

**Landes Auditorium**



**Recognition of Awardees at 8<sup>th</sup> HASBSEB Conference**  
**5:30 – 6:00 PM**

**OUR AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED**

**The Best SURF Project**

**The Most Interactive SURF Presenter**

**Best Presentation for Early-phase Research Level**

**Best Presentation for In-progress Research Level**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place**

**Best Presentation for Advanced Research Level**

**Winner and runner-up**

**Other awards:**

- The Center for History and Culture will award three Dr. Mary Scheer Prizes in the amount of \$200 each to projects related to Southeast Texas and the Greater Gulf Coast. Formal recognition by Dr. Brendan Gillis.
- LGBTQ+ Programming and Initiatives Committee Top Paper Award - Formal recognition by Prof. Andre Favors, on December 15, 2021.



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**Recognition of our guest speaker Dr. Juan Luis Nicolau**



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*Certificate of Appreciation*

*Dr. Juan Louis Nicolau*

Marriott Professor of Revenue Management  
Graduate Director Ph.D. Program  
Virginia Tech University

*In recognition of your outstanding talk at  
The 8th Annual HASBSEB Conference*



Cristian Bahrim, Ph.D.  
Acting Director of O.U.R.

November 20, 2021



Brenda Nichols, Ph.D.  
Provost and VPAA

**A big “Thank You!” to all judges  
for their time in assessing student presentations**

**Dr. Bianca Easterly**

Assis. Professor of Political Science

**Mr. Andre Favors**

Instructor of Communication

**Dr. Alyse Jordan**

Head of Reference at Mary and Gray Library

**Dr. Nicki Michalski**

Assoc. Professor and Chair of Communication

**Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan**

Assis. Professor of Finance

**Dr. Mamta Singh**

Assoc. Professor of Science Education

**Dr. Sheila Springer**

Instructor of Communication

**Dr. Cristian Bahrim**

Professor of Physics

**Dr. Terri Davis**

Assoc. Professor of Political Science

**Dr. Brendan Gillis**

Assoc. Professor of History

**Dr. Ian Lian**

Assoc. Professor of Biology

**Dr. James Nelson**

Assoc. Professor of Political Science

**Dr. Jeremy Shelton**

Interim Department Chair – Psychology

**Dr. Dorothy Sisk**

Professor of Educational Leadership

**Ms. Lauren Wilson**

Development Coordinator



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## Award Winners

### Best SURF Project

**Winner:**

**Chloe Smith** – major in Speech and Hearing Sciences  
Research in Speech and Hearing Sciences

*“A Cross-sectional Study of the Portrayal of Childhood Speech Sound Disorder Interventions in YouTube Videos.”*



### Most Interactive SURF Presenter

**Winner:**

**Chloe Smith** – major in Speech and Hearing Sciences  
Research in Speech and Hearing Sciences

*“A Cross-sectional Study of the Portrayal of Childhood Speech Sound Disorder Interventions in YouTube Videos.”*

### Best Presentation for Advanced Research

**Winner:**

**Mattie Hamilton** – major in Communication-PR  
Research in Communication and Media

*“A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Hillary Clinton’s Keynote at the 2015 Women in the World Summit.”*



**Runner-up:**

**Paul Daleo** – major in Psychology  
Research in Sociology

*“The Effects of COVID-19 on Suicide in Southeast Texas.”*



# Congratulations!

## Award Winners

### Best Presentation for In-progress Research



**First place:**

**Addison Rice** – major in Political Science

Research in Political Science

*“Hate and Violence Against Transgender Persons: An Unreported and Silent Statistics”*



**Second place:**

**Rachel Hellums** – major in Communication Studies

Research in Communication and Media

*“Remixing History and Broadway: The Music of “Six””*



**Third place (tie):**

**Taylor Cox** – major in Political Science

Research in Political Science

*“Guilty until Proven Innocent: A Race-Based Analysis of Exonerated Criminal Defendants in the United States and the Impact of Jury Bias and Eyewitness Testimony.”*



**Third place (tie):**

**Kaylee Goodspeed** – major in Psychology (Pre-Law)

Research in Political Science

*“Economic Success, Cultural Assimilation, and Indigenous Peoples: A Comparative Analysis of Life Quality Measures in Indigenous Communities in the United States and Canada.”*

# Congratulations!

# Posters

**Posters to be set up Saturday 11/20 before 8:15AM**

**Chairs: Dr. Bianca Easterly**

## Poster 1

**Presenter: Taylor Cox**

Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis

Department of Political Science, Lamar University

**Research in Political Science**

Title: *“Guilty until Proven Innocent:*

*A Race-Based Analysis of Exonerated Criminal Defendants in the United States and the Impact of Jury Bias and Eyewitness Testimony.”*

[ Research: In-progress ]

## Poster 2

**Presenter: Clinton Essien**

**Major in Communication**

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Lamar University

**Research in Sociology**

Title: *“Veteran Medication.”*

[ Research: In-Progress ]

## Poster 3

**Presenter: Destiny Kinlaw**

**Major in Sociology**

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, Lamar University

**Research in Sociology**

Title: *“Effects of Coronavirus Pandemic on Mental Health of College Students.”*

[ Research: In-Progress ]

**Poster 4 (Withdrawn)**

**Presenter: Ashley Staggs**

Mentor: Dr. Lilian Felipe

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Lamar University

**Research in Speech and Hearing**

Title: “*Auditory Evaluation of Musician Students:  
Is Musical Ability Associated with an Enhanced Auditory System?*”

[ Research: Early-Stage ]

**Poster 5**

**Presenter: Chloe Smith**

Mentor: Dr. Monica Harn

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Lamar University

**Research in Speech and Hearing**

Title: “*A Cross-Sectional Study of the Portrayal of Childhood  
Speech Sound Disorder Interventions in YouTube Videos.*”

[ SURF Research ]

**Poster 6 (Withdrawn)**

**Presenter: LaTane Davis**

**Major in Sociology**

Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, Lamar University

**Research in Sociology**

Title: “*Did social media and the internet cause panic  
and more depression in adolescents in the USA during the pandemic?*”

[ Research: Early-Stage ]



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## **“C.J.” Cesar Delgado**

Major in English and Modern Languages

Mentor: Andre Favors, ABD and Professor O’Brien Stanley

Research in Intercultural Communication

Department of Communication and Media



### **Cultural Identity and Digital Citizenship:**

## **How Do Social Media Consumers and Creators Reconcile their Identities the Digital World**

### **Hypothesis:**

Ethnicity and/or race does alter our experience in social media. Additionally, it obligates us to alter how we interact with others on social media as opposed as to how we interact with those who are within the same ethno-racial group.

### **Research Experience**

During this summer, I was given the amazing opportunity to do research in a field that I find interesting. My interest in the specific study was sparked upon reading “Digital citizenship among ethnic minority youths in the Netherlands and Flanders.” In this article, Leen D’Haenens, Joyce Koeman, and Frieda Saeys focused on information and communication technology access among minorities, as well as how this may facilitate or hinder digital citizenship. Nonetheless, this article failed to examine how these groups interacted with each other. As a result, my project mentors and I decided to design a study that covered both technology access and group interaction. To accomplish this, it was determined that the best way to get input from the Lamar student population was through a survey. Thereafter, we would interpret the results to draw general conclusions.

For the most part, there were no major challenges in accomplishing this. However, one minor bump was dealing with IRB. With a project mentor having to be replaced, the new co-principal investigator had to get his CITI training done to move forward with the IRB submission and approval. This would put us behind our projected timeline, but we would still end up back on track in time for the symposium. Additionally, we would

have to redesign our survey to have a qualitative aspect to it because interviews were no longer within the timeframe. Nonetheless, everything worked out for us, and we were able to have data to draw conclusions from!

Throughout my fellowship, I acquired new skills and perspectives. To begin with, it was the first time I went through the IRB process. That by itself was a learning experience! Additionally, it was also the first time I used Qualtrics for research and could confidently say that that is another hard skill I picked up. Other skills I picked up were soft skills such as: communication, analysis, critical thinking, problem-solving and public speaking. Along with the research experience, these skills helped me see that my longterm interests are in continuing to do research with minority students in a collegiate setting. Moreover, it motivated me to keep an academic career in mind!

Overall, the research experience was profound as an investigator and student! Although I have not been able to present my research, I look forward to presenting it at HASBSEB. Before then, I intend to meet up with my project mentors to see what, if any, modifications would have to be made to provide a second round of responses to corroborate the first set of results.

## **Study**

This study received 35 total responses. To consider a response as valid, we filtered out submissions in which there were answers missing and/or fields were left blank. Of these 35 responses, 19 respondents identified as Non-Hispanic (or Latine/x) White while the other 16 were in a minority group. The results were as follow:

### *Technological Access*

Of the 35 respondents, 33 were able to count on a secondary device regardless of ethnicity or race. Furthermore, access to technology throughout these students' academic careers was not a concern for most. Interestingly, the median age (13) when a minority student gets their first technological device was lower compared to their non-minority peers (16).

### *Digital Citizenship*

94% of surveyed students do not participate heavily in social or political discussion on social media. However, those that do are either minorities or nonminorities that acknowledge that their peers go through "hardships and issues." This neutral sentiment bled into follow/friend behavior. For the most part, people did not follow/friend others along ethnic or racial lines.

The respondents who did follow along these lines were mostly minority students who “felt like they could relate to them more” or “want[ed] their feed to feel more inviting.” In other words, they felt more comfortable following/friending people in their same ethnic and/or racial group.

46% of respondents agreed that the topics of discussion drastically differ between ethnic and/or racial groups. Specifically, when it comes to current movements that deal with discrimination such as BLM or Stop AAPI. On this same issue, there were minority respondents that stated that when these types of conversations are had, they can count on an “accepting [...] respectable and understanding” friends/followers who do not belong to their groups.

89% of those who experienced some type of racial or ethnic discrimination were minorities or non-minorities that support their peers. Additionally, some of these respondents have experienced discrimination outside of social media. One respondent was harassed on social media because of going to a political event that was anti-racist.

Many respondents did not feel the need to put their social media on Private due to having already done this early on in their academic/professional careers. However, those that have had to do this are ethnic minorities. In one case a Hispanic respondent stated: “I’ve always been private because ally [sic] of people I went to school with bullied me.”

## **Conclusion**

The findings of this study are a good baseline on understanding how our minority and non-minority experience social media. Although the results showed that the “digital gap” no longer affects our minority students, discrimination still does. While minority students do not have to alter their interactions with those outside their ethnic or racial groups— because they count on understanding peers— they are still more prone to dealing with racism than their non-minority counterparts. In summary, the data partially confirms the hypothesis proposed in the beginning of the research.

## Appendix: Themes on Experiencing Racism and/or Discrimination on Social Media

**Question: Have you ever been personally antagonized on social media based on ethnicity and/or race? If so, explain.**

Participant Responses	Theme
“Yes because I am Arab, people usually think negative”	Negative comments
“Yes. I am Hispanic. In recent years, especially when trump the president. I felt personally attacked because of some of the comments people would share.”	Racism during Trump administration
“Yes. During Trump's first campaign, I spoke about his racism and we called the N word and told to go back to Africa. “	Racism during Trump administration
“yes, I have been bullied for my hair and skin”	Comments about appearance



**Question: How did the situation previously mentioned make you feel?**

Participant Responses	Theme
“Personally attacked. I felt as if the progress we had made as a country to end racial tensions were disseminating.”	Feeling attacked
“I was shocked. I did not even know how to react. I could not even been upset because it is so ridiculous on how people act.”	Taken aback by comments
“It made me feel angered because I feel like once you have been pushed aside and spat on by people that don’t even know you, you learn to be more accepting to people. Unfortunately, the people who are making these comments have no empathy for the people they are hurting and they get away with it.”	Feeling angry
“I don't let it bother me, I'm not even African and people like that are ignorant.”	Unbothered by racist/discriminatory comments
“I feel privileged”  <i>Note: This was a response from a non-minority student who has not experienced racism on social media</i>	Feelings of privilege when not confronted by racism or discrimination
“belittled”	Feeling lesser
“Pretty angry and annoyed. I think it is ridiculous to socially bully people with differing views especially knowing they would never speak that way to someone face to face.”	Feeling angry
“it makes me feel disappointed”	Disillusionment after experiencing racism and/or discrimination on social media

**Viviana Denova**

Major in Business Management

Mentor: Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan

Research in Business Management and Finances

Department of Economics and Finances



## **The Financial Impact of COVID 19 on Businesses in Dining and Hospitality Industries in Southeast Texas**

**Introduction**

COVID-19 has had a negative influence on the service sector, according to recent studies. Many businesses had to change their service delivery strategy in order to continue operating normally. Food vendors, for example, are now supplying households rather than restaurants. Some supply chains are dealing with increased demand for products that cannot be manufactured in accordance with safety rules and guidelines. The economic decline caused by the pandemic had a direct impact on businesses in the dining and hospitality industries. These businesses and sectors are hampered by the safety standards and guidelines put in place for our protection. Due to the absence of economic activity, they have taken out debts that will take years to repay. Some businesses in the dining and hospitality industries have devised strategies for providing services and products while adhering to legislation and guidelines. Curbside pickup is quite popular since it assures both employee and client safety. Some businesses and industries, on the other hand, have not been so fortunate as to be spared the long-term implications.

**Methods**

I used the PARM methodology created by Sargsyan et al. 2020. where they adapted the PACA logic to design the Participatory Analysis of Risk Management (PARM) methodology. The PARM method helps to identify the risk management practices of recovery and resiliency from disasters/economic disruptions. The other aim of this tool is to diagnose challenges and risks that local businesses experience from disasters/economic disruptions to help mitigate losses during the next events. PARM is appropriate for areas where disasters/economic disruptions have occurred recently and there is a need to analyze the situation and plan local economic growth. The most important advantage is that this tool helps to formulate appropriate conclusions and recommendations to recover from disasters/economic disruptions quickly.

The first part of this research investigates the impact of COVID-19 on business performance while the second part studies the impact of attitude and investment decision behavioral control on investment intentions. A survey was created to identify the cause-and-effect relationship among variables. The constructs of the survey are measured in a 5-point Likert scale, where 1=Strongly decrease; 2=Decrease, 3=No impact; 4=Increase, 5=Strongly increase. The second part of the survey studied

the causal relationship between attitude and investment intentions, and investment decision behavioral control and investment intentions. The constructs in the second part are measured by a 5-point Likert scale using 1= Strongly disagree; 2=Disagree; 3=Neutral; 4=Agree; 5=Strongly agree.

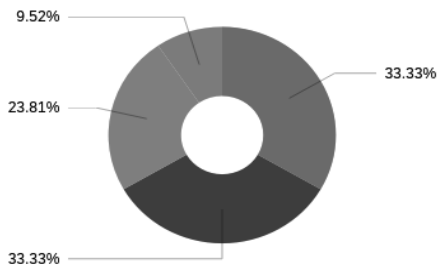
To distribute the survey and obtain responses I visited, emailed, or called businesses and asked if they were interested in being a part of this study.

**Conclusion**

The response rate was much lower than I was expecting. I only received 21 responses after visiting 80 businesses, sending 133 emails and calling 130 businesses.

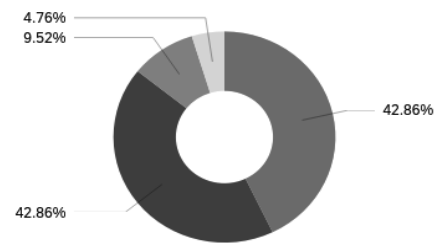
Because a lot of information was collected in my research, I have selected graphs from each part to analyze.

Customer Dimension: How has COVID-19 impacted the quality of services/products?



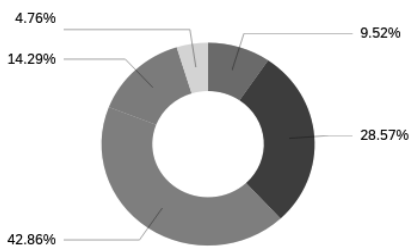
Strongly decreased   Decreased   No impact   Increased   Strongly increased

HR Dimension: How has COVID-19 impacted employee satisfaction



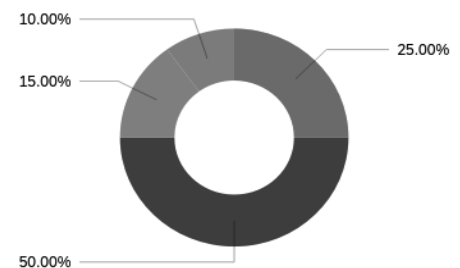
Strongly decreased   Decreased   No impact   Increased   Strongly increased

Production Dimension: How has COVID 19 impacted the reliability of our suppliers?



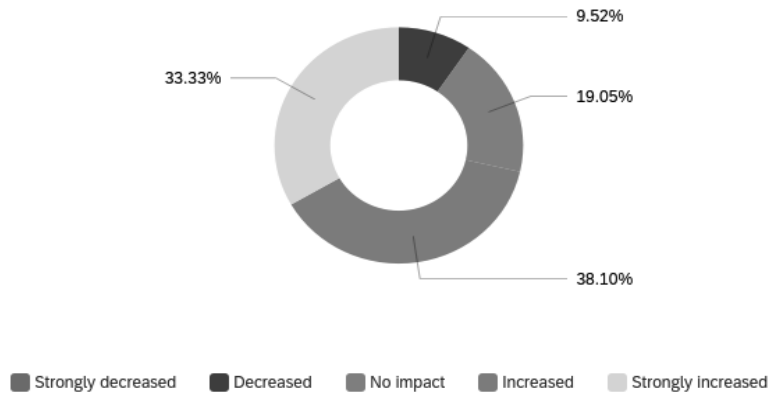
Strongly decreased   Decreased   No impact   Increased   Strongly increased

Finance Dimension: How has COVID-19 impacted the overall revenue of the business?

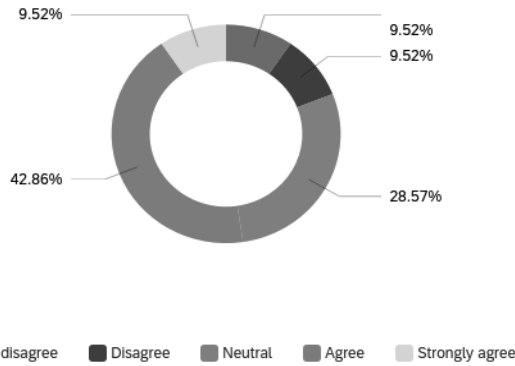


Strongly decreased   Decreased   No impact   Increased   Strongly increase

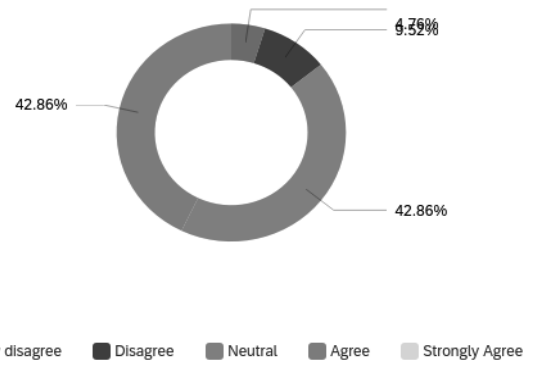
How has COVID-19 impacted the expenditures/costs of the business?



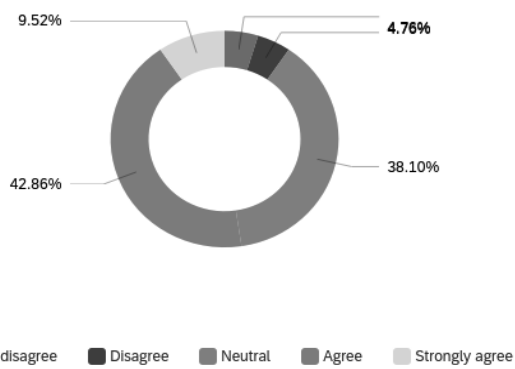
COVID-19 has improved my organization's ability to create new products and services.



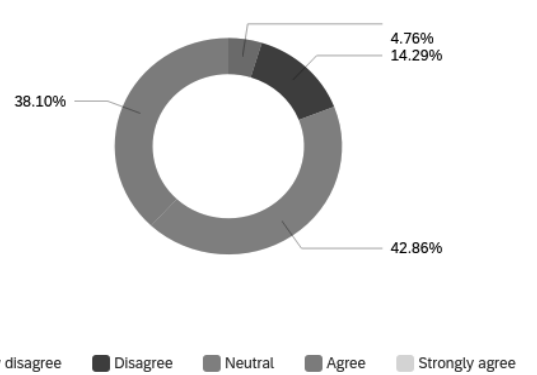
Making an additional investment is a wise decision.



Making further investments in my organization is desirable.



I will allocate investment for new projects.



**Madison Fondren and Kinlee Buesing**

Majors in Speech and Hearing Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Jamie Azios

Research in Speech and Hearing Sciences

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

**“Where are my friends?”****A narrative inquiry of friendship maintenance and dissolution in the early period post- stroke and aphasia.**

Any traumatic event like a stroke, which affects the brain, can cause someone to have many other health issues, including aphasia. Aphasia is a language disorder that impacts the ability to speak, listen, read, and write. These factors can easily cause someone to feel isolated, lonely, and can lead to depression. Since friendships help with social inclusion, contribute to the quality of life, and are often viewed as a common source of joy, they are viewed as a positive benefit to one recovering with aphasia. However, sadly most people report having minimal or no friends after being diagnosed. There is limited research regarding what causes one with aphasia to lose friends early on after stroke or other brain injury. Consequently, we used a qualitative data analysis from published narratives in order to gain a better understanding of why and how friendships dissolve in the early stages of aphasia post-stroke. Since our research is considered a qualitative research analysis, we did not have a specific hypothesis. Instead, we gathered information and let our data reveal the outcome.

We were able to begin our research immediately by searching through 15 books that were generated by people living with aphasia and their partners. These biographies and autobiographies helped direct us to finding significant information related to our research topic. Our methodology consisted of searching for the word friend in each book, extracting each paragraph that included the word friend, coding each paragraph inductively, comparing the set of codes across the data set to group each pattern together, and transitioning each code into themes.

The information found throughout the books led us to the discovery of our four themes. The names of these themes consisted of “Different Journeys to Coping”, “Talking Used to be Such Fun”, “Most will Simply Evolve”, “Dedicated Networks are Willing to Stick Around”. Throughout the books, there were many common

patterns found that led us to these four themes. For example, in “Different Journeys to Coping”, we found many reasons friendships drifted, such as: having a new identity, spousal issues, early bad encounters, physiological challenges and lack of knowledge. Friendships begin to dissolve due to the person with aphasia’s new identity because they have feelings of embarrassment of the new person that they are and early bad encounters they face with their friends after their stroke. Spousal issues with friends emerge because the spouse is trying to help their partner, but it ends up interfering with the friend and their connection with the spouse. Many friends do not understand how to cope with aphasia, and this can cause the person with aphasia to experience physiological challenges because of their lack of knowledge.

We noticed that many friendships drift away in the early stages of aphasia due to the lack of language. This brought us to our next theme, “Talking Used to be Such Fun.” Communication is such an important ingredient of friendships, as well as a quality of life. Without it, it is a struggle for one to exchange information, express wants and needs, and connect with others. We saw this often throughout our research. For example, in the book, *Identity theft*, Debra Meyerson said, “I cherish the same values, love the same family, work with the same determination. But I can no longer teach, talk as easily with family and friends, or ride a bike on my own.” Due to the lack of communication, friends began to talk over or for the person with aphasia which can cause a lack of independence and a sense of frustration. These friendships may easily start to dissolve due to the struggles faced through limited success in interacting with others.

What led us to our next theme “Most will Simply Evolve” was a quote from Debra Meyerson in the book *Identity Theft* that said, “Inevitably, relationships change after stroke. A few people will disappoint; a few will astound. Some friendships will tighten, and others will drift. Most will simply evolve.” In some ways friendships are better, in some ways they are worse, but overall, they are just different. Friendships aren’t influenced just by the impairment of aphasia, but all other “ripples” that happen such as their new lifestyle and hobbies. We realized that many friendships are built on commonality. Sometimes people are only friends because of a single connection, and many may not realize this until a traumatic situation like this occurs that challenges the friendship. We also found that because friendships are a two-way street, important friendships will strengthen and evolve while weak ones fade. Friends are changing their lives and they are showing up, but they are not always getting things back, this can impact the friend negatively because they feel like they aren’t being cared for but it often makes the people with aphasia feel like a burden as well.

Last, the final theme that our work revealed was “Dedicated networks are willing to stick around.” Friends are often eager to help in any way they can in the early stages of aphasia, but it is less common as the recovery process continues. This is indicated in the book, *Identity Theft*, when Kim said, “She offered to help with anything

I needed, from the logistics of travel to putting in my contacts. She said she'd help make space for me to have fun, whatever that meant, and whatever that took." Since committed friends are hard to come by at this stage, we found that people with aphasia are appreciative for the friends that did stay and were dedicated to helping during their time of need. These friends become dedicated to helping, have a positive outlook, are selfless, and give hope to one struggling. These are the types of friends who stay. This is proof that dedicated friends are the ones who stick around, and you can depend on most.

Since beginning this project, we have improved our critical analysis skills and learned how to look at data as a whole. We extracted a large amount of data and then we had to learn to pick the significant pieces that were truly relevant to our research. To find our themes, we had to stay focused on the broad picture to see how our data aligned with our main research question. This research experience has affected our interests and career goals because prior to this research we had limited knowledge of aphasia. Now that we know more about aphasia, we have found ourselves even more interested in the topic and truly cannot wait to make a difference, as a future speech-language pathologist.

#### "Different Journeys to Coping"

- A new identity
- Spousal issues
- Early bad encounters
- Physiological challenges
- Lack of knowledge

#### "Talking Used to be Such Fun"

- Lack of specech causes friendships to drift away.
- Communication is such an important ingredient of friendships and a quality of life.

#### "Most Will Simply Evolve"

- Friendships are just *different*.
- Friendships are built on commonality
- Important friendships will strengthen and evolve while weak one's fade.

#### "Dedicated Networks are Willing to Stick Around"

- Qualities of friends who stay:**
- Dedicated
- Positive Outlook
- Selfless
- Hopeful

**Chloe Smith**

Major in Speech and Hearing Sciences

Mentor: Dr. Monica Harn

Research in Speech and Hearing Sciences

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences



## **A Cross-Sectional Study of the Portrayal of Childhood Speech Sound Disorder Interventions in YouTube Videos**

This summer, I participated in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). The goal of my project was to examine the source, type of intervention, evidence, usability, and actionability of speech sound disorder intervention-related information contained in the top 100 videos directed to families of children seeking speech sound disorder interventions on YouTube. To achieve this, I first gathered the keywords I would be using to search for videos on YouTube. A panel of faculty, students, and clients provided many keywords to use. Unfortunately, when entered into Google Trends, the words produced no results, which indicated a need for professionals to assist their clients with providing relevant keywords to search online. Instead, I used three keywords provided by my mentor. Next, I gathered the top 100 videos about childhood speech sound disorder interventions and recorded the meta-data of each video. Lastly, I coded each video based on the video source, type of intervention, and if it was evidence-based.

I then scored each video using the Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool for Audiovisual Materials (PEMAT-AV). This program evaluates the understandability and actionability of videos. Dr. Harn and I utilized the user's guide to become familiar with PEMAT-AV. Then, we evaluated and scored 20 videos about speech sound disorder interventions to calibrate our responses on the PEMAT-AV. The ICC for understandability and actionability sub-scales were 0.98 and 0.99, respectively, suggesting good inter-rater reliability for PEMAT-AV. Once I finished scoring the 100 videos, statistical analysis was conducted using the IBM SPSS Software Version 24. The Kruskal-Wallis H test was used to examine if the evidence and the PEMAT-AV scores varied across the video source.



**Table 1**

	Mean	SD	Range
Number of views			
Speech-Language Pathologist	24,103	58,487	35 to 333,319
University Student	3,777	5,886	58 to 26,177
Health/SLP Practice Group (n=14 videos)	20,102	65,941	3 to 248,966
SLP Assistant/Parent (n=2 videos)	15,946	19,907	1,870 to 30,032
All	14,843	45,802	3 to 333,319
Video length (min)			
Speech-Language Pathologist	5:57	2:53	1.2 to 13:04
University Student	7:09	2:46	2:17 to 13:05
Health/SLP Practice Group	3:19	1:46	0:47 to 6:07
SLP Assistant/Parent	3:36	0:36	3:11 to 4:02
All	6:02	2:57	0:47 to 13:05
Thumbs-up (Likes)			
Speech-Language Pathologist	279	630	0 to 3,400
University Student	18.8	30.3	0 to 143
Health/SLP Practice Group	64.9	198.7	0 to 753
SLP Assistant/Parent	141	176.7	16 to 266
All	137	431	0 to 3,400
Thumbs-down (Dislikes)			
Speech-Language Pathologist	6.8	15.9	0 to 86
University Student	0.93	1.8	0 to 8
Health/SLP Practice Group	9.3	33.3	0 to 124
SLP Assistant/Parent	9.5	13.4	0 to 19
All	4.72	16.3	0 to 125

Lastly, I recorded my results. Table 1 presents the descriptive data of the popularity-based meta-data for the videos. Of the 100 videos gathered, 42 were made by speech-language pathologists, 42 were made by university students, 14 were made by a health/speech-language pathologist practice group, and 2 were made by an SLP assistant or parent. The three most common interventions seen in the 100 videos gathered were motor-based approaches, the minimal pair approach, and the cycles approach comprising 27%, 21%, and 13% of the videos, respectively. Almost half of the videos developed by speech-language pathologists focused on motor-based approaches for articulation disorders (47.6%). University students developed videos with the most diversity across approaches when compared to other video sources. Health/SLP practice groups had a considerable portion of their videos (28.6%) fall in the “other” category, which included several lesser-known intervention approaches.

For items within the sub-scale of understandability, the frequency of agree responses were highest for active voice, clarity of purpose, and audio clarity, 100%, 96%, and 93% respectively. Most videos received agree responses for breaking information into short sections (73%), presenting information in a logical sequence (89%), and clarity of text (58%). Most videos received disagree responses for use of informative headers (61%), provision of a summary (95%), use of common language (55%), and use of medical terms (65%). Within the sub-scale of

actionability, most videos were rated as disagree. A majority of videos did not identify a minimum of one action the user could take, address the user directly, and did not break down any action into manageable, explicit steps, with 57%, 58%, and 55% respectively.

**Table 2**

Source	Mean	SD	Range
Understandability			
Speech-Language Pathologist	67.3	11.9	30 to 90
University Student	59.6	9.8	30 to 81.8
Health/SLP Practice Group	60.9	13.5	45.5 to 91.7
SLP Assistant/Parent	65	21.2	50 to 80
All	63.1	11.9	30 to 91.7
Actionability			
Speech-Language Pathologist	77.4	36.4	0 to 100
University Student	9.7	17.5	0 to 66.7
Health/SLP Practice Group	42.3	40.4	0 to 100
SLP Assistant/Parent	83.3	23.6	66.7 to 100
All	44.2	43.5	0 to 100

Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics of PEMAT-AV scores across video source categories. The overall mean scores indicate that videos did not reach adequate levels of understandability (i.e., 70% or higher), though SLP-generated videos neared adequate levels. Overall, mean scores indicate that videos did not demonstrate adequate levels of actionability. However, the SLP-generated videos were indicative of adequate actionability (i.e., 77.4%). The results of the Kruskal-Wallis  $H$  test showed that there is a significant difference in understandability scores between videos from different sources (Chi-square = 11.3,  $p=0.003$ ), but no significant difference in actionability scores between videos from different sources (Chi-square = 48.04,  $p<0.001$ ). The pairwise comparisons of understandability scores with Bonferroni Post Hoc tests showed that SLP videos were significantly more understandable when compared to university student videos ( $p=0.006$ ), but no statistically significant difference was found between SLP and Health/SLP Practice Group ( $p=0.056$ ) and university student and Health/SLP Practice Group ( $p=1$ ) videos. The pairwise comparisons of actionability scores showed that university student videos were significantly less actionable when compares to SLP ( $p<0.001$ ) and Health/SLP Practice Group ( $p=0.047$ ), but no difference between university student and Health/SLP Practice Group ( $p=0.06$ ) videos.

There is opportunity for possible continuation of this project. As I noted earlier, most people do not know effective key terms to use when searching for information on the internet. A deeper analysis of this issue to find a way to solve this problem would be beneficial to both professionals and clients. In addition, the portrayal of many different disorders or interventions on YouTube could be examined similarly using PEMAT-AV.

Before I started my research, my knowledge of speech sound disorders and their interventions was very limited. I had only taken two courses relevant to my major at the time. Reading research papers for my literature review and watching the videos on speech sound disorder interventions helped me gain an understanding of my project, classes I will be taking soon, and what I will be doing in my future career as a speech-language pathologist. After seeing SLPs work in the videos I watched, I now have an interest in working in pediatrics eventually. One skill I acquired from this experience was the ability to recognize high or low levels of understandability and actionability in audiovisual materials. This will be important in the future when I recommend videos for clients to watch. I also gained a better ability to read and comprehend research papers, which is something I found difficult before this summer. I now understand how the papers are organized and the logic that goes behind structuring one. This helped me write and format my own research paper, which I will be submitting for publication soon. I also recently submitted a proposal to present at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) Convention in February.

## POSTERS

*In alphabetical order*

*Research – In Progress / Poster*

**Presenter: Taylor Cox**

**Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**

### **Guilty until Proven Innocent:**

#### **A Race-Based Analysis of Exonerated Criminal Defendants in the United States and the Impact of Jury Bias and Eyewitness Testimony in Criminal Trials**

Studies reveal that since 1989, nearly one-half of the 2,000 people exonerated for crimes in the United States are black (Gross, et. al., 2017). My research examines whether racial bias in the American criminal justice system contributes to innocent black defendants being found guilty of criminal offenses more often than innocent white defendants. I hypothesize that a positive correlation exists between racial bias and the issuance of guilty verdicts of innocent black defendants. Using scientific qualitative data collection methodology, I specifically examine the variables of jury bias in sentencing with respect to the race of the victim, the role of eyewitness testimony in criminal trials, and jury bias with respect to the sentences given to innocent black defendants as compared to innocent white defendants. My paper concludes with a summary of the data revealed through my research and a normative discussion about the impact of racial bias in the American criminal justice system.

#### **Works Cited**

Samuel Gross, Maurice Possley and Klara Stephens, “Race and Wrongful Convictions in the United States,” *National Registry of Exonerations*, Last modified March 7, 2017, [http://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Documents/Race\\_and\\_Wrongful\\_Convictions.pdf](http://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Documents/Race_and_Wrongful_Convictions.pdf) (accessed October 19, 2021).

**Presenter: Clinton Essier**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Sociology**

## **Veteran Medications**

Medical cannabis is a useful method for veterans to treat PTSD symptoms. About 12.9% of veterans suffer from PTSD. Some veterans are interested in using medical cannabis as a treatment option because research shows that cannabis is effective in treating pain and alleviating PTSD symptoms. Steps are being taken for veterans to be able to use medical cannabis without losing their VA benefits. The use of cannabis for PTSD treatment and other illness is supported by a large number of veterans across the nation.

**Presenter: Destiny Kinlaw**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Sociology**

## **Effects of Coronavirus Pandemic on Mental Health of College Students**

In April of 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic (or COVID-19) caused mass hysteria, extremely high death tolls, and a toilet paper shortage. While many undergraduate students are already tasked with facing the new struggles of adulthood, COVID-19 may have added an extra layer. The full scope of pressure that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused on mental health is unknown as of now, but this data review will hopefully lay down a foundation to understanding. Literature containing studies of psychological effects of the Coronavirus pandemic was examined. "South East Texas university students of 2020-Current have been managing the daily tasks of early adulthood, college courses, and a special twist of global pandemic. It's unpredictable and unprecedented nature brings uncertainty to every facet of our lives. This has caused heightened issues within their mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a genre of mental health issues in college students from the mental stressors it has presented. These mental strains that need to be addressed include depression, anxiety, and stress.

**Presenter: Ashley Staggs**

**Mentor: Dr. Lillian Felipe**

**Department of Speech and Hearing, LU**

**Research in Speech and Hearing**



## **Auditory Evaluation of Musician Students: Is Musical Ability Associated with an Enhanced Auditory System?**

Musicians train their auditory system to differentiate auditory stimuli on a level that is beyond the typical listener. Professional musicians undergo continuous and specific training throughout their career to recognize pitch, tempo, and rhythmic changes based solely on auditory stimulus. Most of this training occurs primarily in the university setting as a student; however, it can begin earlier and throughout the musician's career. Given the amount of training and that musical ability has always been linked to enhanced cognitive and intellectual skills. We are interested in the relation between musical ability as short-time cognitive processing measured by event-related potentials, particularly in auditory processing. Musicians are also exposed to increased levels of noise over time which increases the likelihood of noise-induced hearing loss. Although the risk of hearing loss is one area of concern, studies have shown that the degree and severity of noise-induced hearing loss among musicians still requires additional research. The other concern is an increased susceptibility to tinnitus and hyperacusis among musicians. These are two hearing disorders that are often co-occur with hearing loss and high levels of noise exposure and can negatively impact a musician's quality of life. Additionally, the possibility of auditory decline with hearing loss could have repercussions on a musician's career that should be considered. For these reasons the monitoring of musician hearing status should be introduced early.

**Presenter: Chloe Smith**

**Mentor: Dr. Monica Harn**

**Department of Speech and Hearing, LU**

**Research in Speech and Hearing**



## **A Cross-Sectional Study of the Portrayal of Childhood Speech Sound Disorder Interventions in YouTube Videos**

**Purpose:** This study examined meta-data, source, intervention type, evidence, understandability and actionability of YouTube content related to speech sound intervention (SSD) for children.

**Method:** The 100 most widely viewed videos related to children to SSD were obtained. Meta-data and sources of the upload were identified. Intervention type and associated evidence was identified. The Patient Education Material Assessment Tool-AudioVisual (PEMAT-AV) was used to assess understandability and actionability.

**Results:** The overall mean scores indicate that videos did not reach adequate levels of understandability or actionability, though SLP-generated videos neared adequate understandability levels and had an acceptable actionability score. The results of the Kruskal-Wallis H test showed that there is a significant difference in understandability scores between videos from different sources, but no significant difference in actionability scores between videos from different sources.

**Conclusions:** Improvement is needed in understandability, but especially in actionability. Professionals can begin to understand the existing beliefs others may have about certain interventions for childhood speech sound disorders through analyzing these videos to which clients are exposed. In turn, more professionals can develop their own understandable, actionable, accessible, and evidence-based videos using the PEMAT-AV as a guide.



**Presenter: LaTane Davis (withdrawn)**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Sociology**

## **Did social media and the internet cause panic and more depression in adolescents in the USA during the pandemic?**

In 2020 life around the world abruptly changed for everyone due to the deadly covid-19 disease. People were forced to be confined to their homes, children had to learn from home, and everyone depended heavily on the news, social media, and the internet not only as just a source of information on the disease, but as a way to stay connected. With the world on pause, people's dependency on these resources to be informed and in touch with friends and family was at an all-time high. With the circulation of so much information and disinformation, and in a country that had a rising pre-pandemic suicide rate, one can imagine the usage impacted mental health specifically within the youth.

### **Objective**

The aim of the study is to determine how social media impacted mental health and panic in adolescents in the U.S due to the dependency on social media and the internet as the only means of information and communication. In children's age 12 to 18.

### **Research Methods Content Analysis**

### **Conclusion**

Media was found to either be extremely unreliable or very factual during the pandemic depending on the viewer. Research shows that infectious disease directly affects a person psychologically. Research also found that out of

all users of the internet and social media adolescents were the most active users. The results show that anxiety levels, depressive symptoms in children, and poor sleeping habits were prevalent during the start of the pandemic. The children most prone to panic and anxiety were children living in urban areas and those with other chronic diseases. The research seems to suggest that female children were more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression. Although the symptoms of panic and depression did increase during the pandemic it was not high enough to be considered a medical emergency. Although social media and the internet did lead to more fear and panic with children research suggests that there were other factors that could have led to panic and fear other than just the internet. Such as child abuse, poverty, hunger, and chronic diseases, and mental illness that were already present or not yet diagnosed pre pandemic.

## **Breakout sessions**

*In alphabetical order*

*Research – Early Stage – Talk*

**Presenter: Kevin Bogany**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Sociology**

### **CBD and Mental Health**

Depression and anxiety effects millions of people around the world. CBD is a substance from the cannabis plant that is known to be useful for depression and anxiety. Data from the Anxiety and Depression Association of America shows that CBD targets certain parts of the brain to help with depression and anxiety. It appears that CBD can be useful in treating depression and anxiety, but it is not the answer in terms of permanently curing these two mental health issues.

**Presenter: Lindsey Chirafis**

**Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**

## **Gender Disparities in Sentencing of Sexual Abuse and Assault Cases: An Analysis of the Correlation Between Gender and Sentencing**

A study performed by the United States Department of Justice indicates that by the end of the twentieth century, “only 1,500 women were estimated to be imprisoned for sexual offenses compared to 140,000 men” (Goodwin, 2018, p. 436). Numerous variables may contribute to the gender discrepancy in sexual offense imprisonments. My research employs a scientific case study methodology to examine sentencing in sexual assault and abuse cases when the following factors are present: the defendant is male and the victim is female; the defendant is female and the victim is male; the defendant is male and over the age of 18 and the victim is female and under the age of 18; the defendant is female and over the age of 18 and the victim is male and under the age of 18. I hypothesize that female defendants are more likely to receive more lenient sentences for sexual assault and abuse cases than are male defendants. My research concludes with a summary of my findings and a discussion about possible sociological and political reasons for gender disparities in sentencing.

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**Presenter: James Clemmer**

**Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Shelton**

**Department of Political Science, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

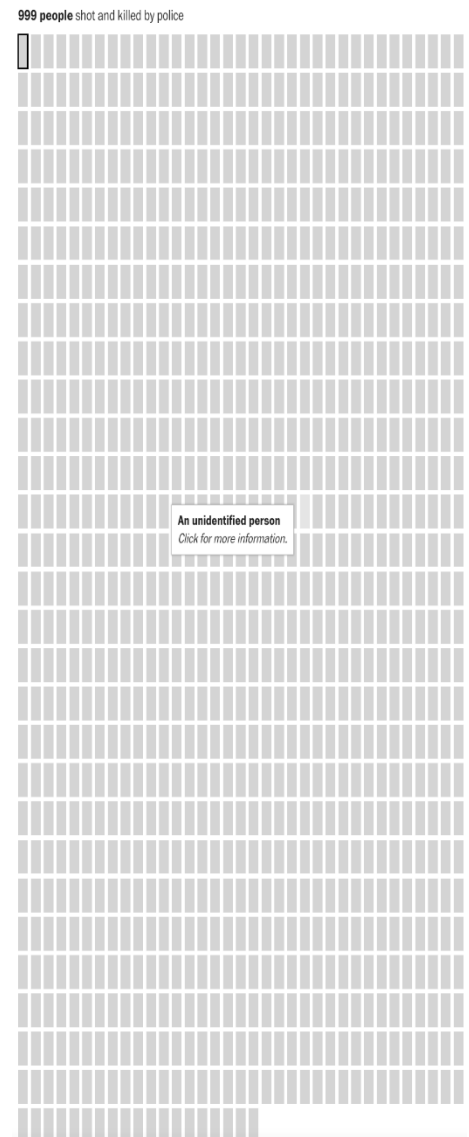
**Research in Criminal Justice**

## **Are Fatal Police Shootings Racially Motivated and How to Prevent Fatal Shootings**

Police fatal shootings are very important to everyone but are police shootings racially biased or motivated.

There have been many studies and research done that proves that there is no wide-scale racial bias in fatal shootings lab scenarios and in policing in large metropolitan areas such as the city of Houston. But statistically, there is a racial bias in police shootings in homogeneous small to medium-sized cities where the officers do not have a large amount of experience with other races and cultures. The lab studies proved this by using shoot or don't shoot scenarios, while field studies, studied trends of real fatal police shootings.

There are a few things we can implement to help prevent police shootings, ranging from difficult to easy to implement. These changes include an end to partner policing and mandating higher education for police officers while also where possible assign officers in areas where they represent the population of the area. The sources used are: **Implicit Bias: The Decision to Shoot or Not Shoot, The Reverse Racism Effect, Fatal Force database by the Washington Post, and the Department of Justice.**



**Presenter: Anthony Cooper**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Sociology**

## **How High Can You Get, And Can You Always Come Back Down?**

### **Background:**

An early study involving 50, 465 Swedish conscripts identified that cannabis users who tried the drug by age 18 were 2.4 times more vulnerable to be diagnosed with schizophrenia than people that did not with a negative link between frequency of cannabis use and diagnosis. A fifteen-year checkup followed an initial twenty-seven-year study that found dosage correspondence relationship between interval usage with baseline and vulnerability of schizophrenia.

### **Methods**

I used Google for scholarly Articles. I selected Cannabis and Schizophrenia. I selected The Association Between Cannabis Use and Schizophrenia: Causative or Curative? A Systematic Review. I selected Cannabis Use and The Risk of Developing Psychotic Disorders. I selected Is There a Link Between Marijuana Use and Psychiatric Disorders

### **Results**

Quantity along with age and gene potential cause disorder. Newly available research shows regular high potency daily use increase the risk for schizophrenia by nearly five times. Volume for first use and genetic potential suggest this connection. National Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions has compiled analyzed Longitudinal research from associations concerning marijuana usage, mood, anxiety and substance usage disorders.

## **Conclusions**

After at least eight thousand years of hemp use, modern medication still has not figured out its total effects with certainty. There appears to be a link between Schizophrenia and Cannabis. Research shows mixed opinions. However, compile research from national Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions demonstrates no significant association between marijuana and psychotic disorders like schizophrenia.

**Presenter: Claudia Cooper**

**Mentor: Dr. Bianca Easterly**

**Department of Political Sciences**

**Research in Political Science**

## **Beaumont's Environmental Quality Needs Help**

Beaumont's oil refineries have been harming the local environment for decades and are some of the leaders in illegal air pollution in Texas. October 12, 2021, Beaumont City Council held a meeting and passed an item that addressed this issue: the approval of an order of a compliance supplemental environmental project. The compliance SEP will be used to improve the environment of the local region affected by the company's wrongdoing. The compliance SEP should be used to fund curbside recycling, composting, and the development of green spaces in Beaumont. Curbside recycling and composting would address the city's growing landfills and provide new economic opportunities. After reviewing Austin, Texas' initiatives in implementing recycling into their economy, if Beaumont followed those same initiatives, interest in recycling would rise as well as make it more profitable. Fort Worth, Texas' approach to composting shows that it is effective in reducing the amount of trash going into landfills and profitable as the food waste can be sold off to farms as fertilizer. The development of green spaces serves several functions: directly improving the environment, increasing environmental awareness, city beautification, and serving underprivileged communities. Analyzing a study conducted on The Kentucky Garden in Cleveland, Ohio, the study revealed the social benefits of having community gardens as well as providing fresh food in urban spaces where access is limited or expensive. Therefore, any one of these three options (recycling, composting, development of green spaces) presented would best suit Beaumont's needs.



**Presenter: Paul Daleo**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Psychology**



## **The Effects of COVID-19 on Suicide in Southeast Texas**

There is a general consensus among researchers that economic hardship, unemployment, and social isolation are associated with increased rates of suicide. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many experts were concerned that the stress caused by the disease and the corresponding lockdowns would trigger a significant increase in suicide. Although early models predicted an increase ranging from 1% to 145%, recent data has indicated that suicide rates have remained stable or, in some cases, decreased during the pandemic. The aim of this study was to investigate whether suicide rates in the Southeast Texas region followed a similar pattern. Suicide data was collected for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020 using the CDC Wonder Search and the Texas Department of State Health Services. Crude suicide rates per 100,000 residents of six counties located in the Southeast Texas region were calculated and compared. A Chi Square test was performed on the data. The analysis showed a negligible decrease in suicide from 2019 to 2020 (-0.8%); 2020 had a slightly higher suicide rate than 2018 (+2.4%). Neither of these differences were found to be statistically significant. These results demonstrate that, despite COVID-19 and the hardships that accompanied the virus, the suicide rate in Southeast Texas remained stable throughout the 2020 pandemic.

**Presenter: Kaylee Goodspeed**

**Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis and Dr. James Nelson**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**



## **Economic Success, Cultural Assimilation, and Indigenous Peoples: A Comparative Analysis of Life Quality Measures in Indigenous Communities in the United States and Canada**

Native Americans are among the most impoverished and marginalized ethnic groups in the United States (National Congress of American Indians, 2021). My research examines the impact of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (1988) on Native American populations in the United States and compares it to the impact of the Canadian Human Rights Act (2008) and Constitution Act (1982) on native and indigenous populations in Canada. I hypothesize that national legislation and initiatives taken by the Canadian government have been more successful in ensuring a higher quality of life for indigenous peoples than legislation and initiatives taken by the United States government. Using qualitative data collection – case study methodology, I specifically examine and compare the economic, psychological, and quality of life impacts of United States and Canadian initiatives on the nations’ respective native and indigenous populations. My paper concludes with a summary of the findings produced from my research and a normative discussion about the ways in which comparative empirical analyses can inform future relations impacting indigenous rights.

National Congress of American Indians. "Demographics." <https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes/demographics> (Accessed October 1, 2021).

**Presenter: Jaidyn Green**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, LU**

**Major in Nursing**

## **Women in the Air Force: Carolyn Stateczny**

This paper discusses a deeper look into the lives of women in the United States Air Force, through the experiences of Major Carolyn Stateczny. Major Carolyn Stateczny has been serving in the United States Air Force since 2003. Major Carolyn Stateczny shared high praise about the air force, but a concern with the new generation of young adults entering the service. She expressed that throughout her years in the military, she has experienced several learning opportunities and gained remarkable bonds that are extremely dear to her heart. Due to the passion she has for her job in the air force, she has become slightly concerned about what the work ethic of the current generation entering the service has to bring to the table in regards to bettering the military. She shared concerns about the lack of drive and motivation in young people that is ultimately restricting them from taking the initiative and getting things done themselves. In response to these concerns, she gave advice to the newly enlisted individuals as well as any people interested to join in the future. Stateczny expressed a high level of respect and gratitude toward the United States Air Force, and a desire to prepare the next generation in order to maintain the value that it holds.

**Presenter: David Grimes**

**Mentor: Dr. Brendan Gillis**

**Department of History, LU**

**Research in History**



## **Unrestrictive U.S. Submarine Warfare Against Imperial Japan During World War II**

On December 7, 1941, Imperial Japanese Armed Forces bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and attacked the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island, Midway Island, Thailand, and Shanghai. On December 8, the United States was at war with Germany and Japan. At the start of World War II, the Imperial Japanese Navy was the strongest force in the Pacific in number of aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers. In the early months of the war, the only naval force left to confront Japan was the U.S. Submarine Fleet. Unrestricted Submarine Warfare was declared against Imperial Japan. My paper seeks to analyze the problems faced by the U.S. Submarine Force in the Pacific War. I have used books written by RADM Rickard O’Kane, ADM Eugene Fluckey, and ADM Charles Lockwood as my primary sources. My secondary sources are from books and articles written by such authors as Alex Kershaw, Michael Green, and James Scott. The U.S. Submarine Service was called, “The Silent Service” in World War II. The American Press covered the stories of U.S.S. Gudgeon’s first war patrol and U.S.S. Wahoo’s third war patrol. America needed war heroes. Then, the news stories about submarine operations faded away. My paper will discuss the acts of bravery and dedication of the submarine service during the time of unrestrictive submarine warfare.

**Presenter: Mattie Hamilton****Mentor: Prof. Andre Favors****Department of Communications and Media, LU****Research in Communication–PR**

## **A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Hillary Clinton’s Keynote at the 2015 Women in the World Summit**

The research presented in this paper centers around the effectiveness of Hillary Clinton’s rhetoric throughout her speech at the 2015 Women in the World Summit. This analysis poses the question of how a Neo-Aristotelian approach to rhetorical criticism when combined with an exploration of third-wave feminism can be used to measure the efficacy in Clinton’s rhetoric. Previous academic research that analyzes the rhetorical elements within Clinton’s discourse along with an exploration of feminism throughout her political career was used to identify the way in which the rhetoric observed in her speech at the 2015 Summit is representative of her transformation from a masculine to feminine political rhetor. This analysis seeks to review the re-shaping of Hillary Clinton’s image, both as a politician and a modern-day feminist, in order to present the importance of this renewal in her rhetoric. Research conducted throughout this evaluation identifies both the structure of the five rhetorical canons of oration and the features of intersectional, third-wave feminism that is present throughout today’s society and highlighted within Clinton’s speech. Through the employment of a feminist interpretation applied to the Neo-Aristotelian approach to criticism, the research put forward in this paper depicts an effective use of rhetoric by Hillary Clinton at the 2015 Women in the World Summit that is representative of a transformative image as a feminist rhetor.

*Keywords:* Neo-Aristotelian approach, third-wave feminism, rhetorical criticism, rhetorical canons

*Research – In Progress / Talk*

**Presenter: Rachel Hellums**

**Mentor: Professor Stanley O'Brien**

**Department of Communication and Media, LU**

**Research in Communication Studies**



## **Remixing History on Broadway: The Music of “Six”**

When most people think about Tudor history, they don't think about six former queens of England dancing around in vibrant costumes and singing about their ex. Historians have viewed the tragic accounts of the six wives from Henry VIII's point of view for hundreds of years, gathering what we know of these women from the male perspective. History has come a long way since the time of Henry VIII and the writers of the international Broadway hit, *Six: The Musical* wanted the six queens to have their moment. By looking through the lens of popular feminism and turning Laura Mulvey's "male gaze" on its head, the author analyzes the music of *Six* and interprets the empowerment of the stories of the six ex-wives of Henry VIII, meeting them on their own stage and turning Henry VIII's his-story into her-story.

**Presenter: Rachel Hellums**

**Mentor: Dr. Terry Davis**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Communication Studies**



## **Texas Senate Bill 8 and the Future of *Roe v. Wade*: A Judicial Process Analysis of the Roberts Court’s Review of Senate Bill 8 as Predictive Indicators the Court’s Future Ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization***

Texas Senate Bill 8 (SB8), passed by the Texas legislature and signed into law by Governor Greg Abbot in May 2021, is currently in the national spotlight. The bill prohibits pregnant persons from obtaining abortion services in Texas after a fetal heartbeat is detected; significantly restricts the constitutional right of a person to terminate their pregnancy as established in *Roe v. Wade*; and further allows any private citizen in Texas, or elsewhere, to sue anyone who performs an abortion, “aids or abets” or intends to aid and abet anyone planning to get an abortion. Prior to the passage of SB8 and two reviews of the bill by the United States Supreme Court, the Court granted a request to hear oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, a case concerning a Mississippi law that prohibits all pre-viability abortions. My research employs judicial process methodology - the attitudinal model, small group analysis, and textual review of previous opinions concerning abortion issued by the sitting justices - to determine whether the Court’s previous reviews of SB8 serves as a predictor of how the court will rule in the *Dobbs* case. I hypothesize that the Court’s recent decisions on SB8 will not be an indicator of the Court’s ruling in *Dobbs* and that the precedent abortion decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* will not be reversed by the *Dobbs* decision. I conclude the paper with a summary of my findings.

**Presenter: Jayce Martin**

**Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**

## **Opposition to Vaccinations: An Analysis of the Interplay between Politics and Science**

The United States ranks 57<sup>th</sup> in the world in the percentage of its population vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus (Scott, 2021). My research explores whether a correlation exists between the comparatively low national vaccination rate in the United States and the political rhetoric of former President Donald Trump while in office. I hypothesize that states that supported Trump in the 2020 presidential election have lower Covid-19 vaccination rates than do states that supported President Joseph Biden. I employ a scientific qualitative data collection and case study methodology by first examining the political rhetoric of President Trump with respect to vaccinations; the efficacy and reliability of the Center for Disease Control (CDC); and the potential danger of the Covid-19 virus to the American people. Second, using available CDC data, I will determine the three states with the highest vaccination rates and the three states with the lowest vaccination rates. Third, using official election results provided by the Federal Election Commission, I will present the popular result votes for Trump and Biden in the 2020 presidential election. I further examine the literature to determine if the issue of vaccinations had an impact on voting behavior in the six states comprising my case study. I conclude with a discussion of my findings and the impact political rhetoric has on public health.

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**Presenter: Tien Nguyen**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Human Rights, Civic Life**

## **Women in Military: Naomi Dunlap**

This paper will be discussing my oral-history interview with Naomi Dunlap, an 8-year Marine Corp veteran, born in Rochester NY, and 26 years of age. We discussed what it's like to work in a male dominated field and what obstacles that it poses, the culture around workplace relationships, services that are available to specifically female veterans, and more. She also brought up how her idols and mentors helped her escape negative stereotypes and become a leader for other young female marines. The goal of this paper is to shed light on the issues, benefits, and all aspects of what it's like to be a woman in the military in the hopes of changing the public's general sentiment on military women.



**Presenter: Gabriel Poarch**

**Mentor: Prof. Andre Favors**

**Department of Communication and Media, LU**

**Research in Communication–Broadcasting**

## **Michael Oher: Human or Monster?: An Analysis of Michael Oher’s Criticism of The Blind Side.**

*The Blind Side* was released in 2009 and portrays the life of Michael Oher. The film won many awards, including an Academy Award for Best Performance by an Actress; Sandra Bullock. It also was a major success at the box office, as it earned \$309 million with a budget of only \$29 million. Despite the financial success *The Blind Side* earned, Michael Oher, the subject of the movie, believes he was inaccurately represented and so were specific aspects about his life. This presentation will compare-and-contrast the ways that the film *The Blind Side* infuses the many different themes, or hidden messages, such as the white savior complex, the American dream, post-racism, and colorblindness to portray the character of Michael Oher as a figurative “monster” versus how Michael Oher fought to reframe, reanimate, or humanize his identity created from the film.

**Presenter: Addison Rice**

**Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**



## **Hate and Violence Against Transgender Persons: An Unreported and Silent Statistic**

Statistical data of crime against transgender persons in the United States is virtually non-existent. The original goal of my research was to investigate possible correlations between states in the United States (U.S.) with laws protecting transgender rights and the number of hate crimes committed against transgender persons. Early research revealed, however, that no such data exists largely due to the underreporting of bias-motivated crimes at the state level (Bates, *TIME*). My research therefore examines efforts made by the U.S. government to protect transgender rights including reporting and documenting cases of abuse against transgender persons compared to similar efforts made by Western European countries. I employ a case study methodology to examine transgender hate crime data reporting systems used in the U. S. compared to those used by the countries of Spain, France, and the United Kingdom. I hypothesize that Western European governments are more supportive of transgender rights and maintain more comprehensive and statistically valid records of crimes against transgender individuals than does the U. S. government. My paper concludes with a summary of my research findings and a prescriptive model for how countries can provide greater protections for transgender rights and enhance data collection, reporting, and dissemination of information about crimes against transgender persons.

### **Works Cited**

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**Presenter: Addison Rice**

**Mentor: Dr. Bianca Easterly**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**



## **Nowhere to Go: An Analysis of Beaumont’s Homeless Problem and Why Permanent Supportive Housing is the Solution**

There are at least 212 homeless persons residing in Beaumont according to a recent count by the South East Texas Homelessness Coalition (Boone, 2021). However, no permanent and complete solution exists to address the crisis. In this paper, I examine the homeless problem facing the city of Beaumont and how a resolution can be reached through the implementation of permanent supportive housing (PSH). Based on a case study examination of Denver, Houston, and Salt Lake City, I conclude that Beaumont should allocate resources into PSH units versus temporary shelters.

### **Works Cited**

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**Presenter: Joshua Taylor**

**Mentor: Dr. Margot Gage**

**Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, LU**

**Research in Sociology**

## **The Differences in Legal Status Between THC and CBD**

Despite THC and CBD both being cannabinoids, THC is more restricted legally than CBD. Medicinal cannabis has several uses. For example, CBD is commonly used to treat anxiety, and inflammation, whereas THC has been found useful in treating glaucoma. When the Agricultural Improvement Act was signed into law in 2018 this made hemp legal to grow and sell in all 50 US states, this automatically made CBD legal. However, there are some states which have strict regulations on the usage of hemp or CBD products and still view it as a narcotic. Alternatively, products that exceed the legal level of THC (0.3%), is legal in only 18 states for recreational uses, and 13 states have decriminalized its use. Medicinal use of marijuana with a doctor's note is only legal in 36 states with 12 other states restricting the levels of THC allowed. It is estimated that CBD has been used by a third of Americans. Before a person considers attempts to use cannabis for medicinal purposes, it important to know their state regulations, because states do not legally handle the plant equally.

**Presenter: Tristian Tonche**

**Mentor: Dr. Diane Clark and Mrs. Beverly Buchanan**

**Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, LU**

**Research in Deaf Studies**

## **Deaf Native Americans Current Acquisition of PISL**

Indian Sign Language (PISL) is an endangered language due to sign language oppression during the twentieth century and a lack of accessibility. Historically, this language was widely used within Native American tribes among Deaf and hearing tribe members. Unlike American Sign Language (ASL), PISL includes more gestures. Currently, PISL remains practiced by less than one hundred individuals and has officially been classified as endangered due to language discrimination. This study analyzed Deaf Native Americans' acquisition of their language in order to determine the current view of PISL. In order to study language acquisition of PISL, snowball sampling was used to find willing participants through networking. Participants were asked to complete a demographics survey along with the consent form. Individual interviews were held with four participants where they were asked 12 pre-developed questions. The results found several themes including, that their first language was ASL, that most experienced some kind of trauma including abuse and being removed from their families, and that they discovered PISL later in life. These results show that Deaf Native Americans did not have access to PISL while growing up due to lack of resources or awareness. Like many Indigenous peoples, these individuals were working to revitalize PISL in the hope that it would not become language death.

**Presenter: Laura Velazquez Matos**

**Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**

## **Feeding Communism: A Comparative Analysis of the Relationship between the United States and Cuba during Democratic and Republican Presidential Administrations**

The United States has had a long and troubled relationship with Cuba since Fidel Castro and communist rebels overthrew Fulgencio Batista in the Cuban Revolution of 1959 (*The Conversation*, 2021). My research examines United States foreign policy toward Cuba through the lens of presidential initiatives undertaken from 1993-2021, beginning with former president Bill Clinton and concluding with current president Joseph Biden. I hypothesize that foreign policy initiatives taken by Democratic presidents tend to initiate more open relationships with Cuba than those of Republican presidents. The paper concludes with a summary of my research findings and a normative discussion about the ways in which initiatives taken by both Democratic and Republican presidents vary but continue to assist in the preservation of communism as Cuba's form of government.

### **Works Cited**

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**Presenter: Audrey Vincent-Eze**

**Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis**

**Department of Political Science, LU**

**Research in Political Science**

## **Nigeria: A Study of the Impact of Climate Change on the Political Realities of a Nation**

Competition for farmland in Nigeria has long resulted in “bloody clashes between farmers and nomadic herders” but climate change has added to political instability by putting more pressure on resources (Nugent, 2018). My research examines the ways in which climate change may currently contribute to a more volatile political environment in Nigeria. I hypothesize there is a positive correlation between climate change and mounting political instability in the country. Case study methodology will be employed to determine if peak incidents of climate change such as desertification (fertile land becoming barren desert), increasing temperatures, variable rainfall, and rising sea levels and flooding contribute to a rise in ethnic and tribal conflicts in Nigeria. Using a timeline analysis, I examine whether political instability occurs more frequently as incidents resulting from climate change conditions increase. The paper concludes with a summary of my research findings and a discussion about the future of Nigeria in an age of global warming and climate change.

### **Works Cited**

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“LURA was founded in fall 2019 to fulfill the need for a community *by and for* undergraduate students to discuss, collaborate, and learn how effectively one can conduct research. The consistent quality and volume of research conducted by undergraduate students at Lamar University has made it clear that there is a need for an organization to act as a vital resource for building young researchers. Thus, LURA provides an academic forum that connects all level students from freshmen to seniors with their professors and mentors, and facilitates communication between Lamar undergraduates and their peers around the nation.

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