



## Undergraduate Research Fall Poster Presentations

Friday, December 6, 2019

11:00-12:30pm

Sill Center Large Conference Room

### **Abigail Barney** - *UTAH PROSECUTOR'S RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC*

(Claudia Geist, Steve Nelson) Department of Sociology and Political Science

Utah has ranked among the top ten in the nation for opioid overdose deaths over the last ten years. Prosecutors across the nation have been faced with the consequences of this growing epidemic. Due in large part to the discretion given to officials in prosecutors' offices, responses from individual counties have varied dramatically. In this study, all County and District Attorneys in Utah were surveyed to understand how their offices have responded. The survey asked about charging practices for dealers, doctors, and pharmaceutical companies. The survey also asked about prosecutor-lead diversion programs and community outreach. Responses will be compared between frontier, rural, and urban jurisdictions.

### **Kaitlyn Fox** - *CONTENT OF DAILY JOURNALING BY CHILDREN WITH CANCER USING A GAME-BASED APP*

(Lauri Linder) College of Nursing

**BACKGROUND**-Childhood cancer considerably alters a child's routines and lifestyle. This disruption can take them away from school, time with friends and family, and other activities. The Color Me Healthy application allows a child with cancer to keep track of tasks accomplished, daily goals, and trends and to journal about their symptoms, feelings, and daily experiences.

**OBJECTIVE**-Analyzing and comparing the daily journaling content, frequency, and associations allows for an outside understanding of the experience of childhood cancer. It provides the opportunity to assess the quality of the child's life and ensure the markers of wellbeing are being met.

**METHODS**-The children were asked to use the app for at least five days. They were allowed to access the app when they wanted and journal, or not, on their own accord. The data were analyzed by the content and the frequency of entries by age, gender, and diagnosis.

**RESULTS**-The study sample included 12 boys and 7 girls. The diagnoses consisted of 9 Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, 2 Hodgkin Lymphoma, 2 Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, 2 Osteosarcoma, and 4 Brain Tumor patients. Five participants did not use the application's journal function. Fifty-three entries from 14 children were included. Boys (B) completed 28 entries and girls (G) completed 25. On average boys journaled 36% of the time they opened and used the application and girls 47% of the time. The entries were analyzed for their use of emojis (B=2, G=3), reference to people (B=5, G=2), activities (B=5, G=2), school (B=0, G=2), the hospital or treatment (B=2, G=2), and the app (B=0, G=1), symptom journaling (B=3, G=3), and associations with positive (B=6, G=3), negative (B=0, G=0) or mixed feelings (B=1, G=1).

**IMPLICATIONS**-The journal entries allow for some insight into what the day-to-day life of a child with cancer consists of. The entries show what avenues and resources are available to these children to help cope with cancer. It is crucial that these children still get the same experiences, as they would have without cancer, so they can continue to grow and develop. The use of the journaling function in the application may support caregivers to better understand the child's experience through cancer and ensure wellbeing is met.

### **Rachel Griffin** - *HEROINES OF CONFUCIANISM: CHINESE WOMEN OF THE HIGH QING*

(Margaret Wan) Department of World Languages and Cultures

Confucianism is a core cultural aspect present in nearly all Qing Dynasty Chinese literature. While China is traditionally patriarchal, women play an important role within the context of Confucianism. Novels written at this time such as *Dream of the Red Chamber*, *Flowers in the Mirror* and *The Tale of Heroic Sons and Daughters* provide a unique perspective into the lives of women and what constitutes a Confucian heroine. These novels place women in situations where they are able to perform nontraditional roles within the family and in society. Though the novels are fictional, they give insight into the virtues and abilities that were praised in women of the Qing Dynasty. While *Dream of the Red Chamber* focuses on the virtuous woman of home-centered life, the other novels praise talented women who stand up for Confucian virtues in society such as service to the government and filial piety. Analysis of these three novels demonstrates that women are truly shown as Confucian heroines who have a positive impact on their families and society as a whole.

**Fiona Kastel** - *ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS*

(Scott Schaefer) Department of Finance

The designation of national monuments is widely debated, particularly in regard to whether the economic effect of monuments on surrounding areas is positive or negative. While many large national monuments protect existing valid uses, they still restrict land-use and alter the focus of an economy so that development in the area depends more on tourism than farming or extractive industries. This begets the question of whether this shift in the economy is positive or negative. Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) is one of the oldest landscape-scale national monuments and is therefore the focus of this case study on the economic impact of monument designation. This paper analyzes pre- and post-designation paths of total and categorical taxable sales and construction permit value in the counties surrounding the GSENM using difference-in-differences regression analysis. The data ultimately indicate that monument designation has no significant impact on regional taxable sales or construction value.

**Camranh Le** - *EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF POWER DYNAMICS ON MULTIRACIAL PERCEPTIONS IN THE WORKPLACE*

(Jacqueline Chen) Department of Psychology

The psychology of person perception is crucial to understanding how people interact with others every day. One area of person perception that has been growing is the study of multiracial person perception, meaning how people perceive other people who are more than one race. This is an important area to look at due to the changing demographics of the United States, which have shifted to include a large and quickly growing population of multiracial individuals. The goal of this study was to examine potential interactions between power dynamics and perceptions of multiracial people in a workplace setting.

**Sophia McQueen** - *THE IMPLICATIONS OF DEMENTIA DIALOGUES ON HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND CARE TAKERS*

(Rebecca Utz) Department of Health, Society and Policy

More than 5.5 million people have Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia in the U.S., yet public awareness about the disease is low, with many basing their belief off of fears and myths. Dementia Dialogues is a 5-session educational program, aimed at teaching caregivers (formal and informal) about what dementia is and how-to best support patients with dementia. Upon evaluation of the Dementia Dialogues program in Utah, it was determined that the program is effective. Results support prior literature and indicate a positive relationship between the education and public awareness that Dementia Dialogues provides. The sample included 1198 individuals from 67 separate sessions held between August 2016 to September 2019. A survey was administered to all participants and a pre- and post-test was used to examine whether there was a knowledge change in participants; the majority increased on average 7.06 points between the two. This study provided evidence that individuals are able to participate in this program and leave more knowledgeable about dementia and the symptoms, how to assist patients with the disease, and how-to manage caregiver stresses in relation to caring for dementia patients. Continued exploration of the Dementia Dialogues program and positive effects it has for caregivers and patients will add to the broad range of literature on this subject and may lead to state or nationwide interventions that increase public awareness and knowledge about Alzheimer's Disease and dementia.

**Laura Sofia Ortega-Flores** - *CONTRACEPTION KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES AMONG HISPANIC WOMEN*

(Ana Sanchez-Birkhead) College of Nursing

**Purpose:** Unintended pregnancies are among the most troubling public health concerns and a major reproductive health issue in women's health (Yazdkhasti, Pourreza, Pirak & Abdi, 2015). Nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended, with the highest rates among Blacks, Hispanics, and teenagers between the ages of 15 to 19 years of age (Craig, Dehlendorf, Borrero, Harper & Rocca, 2014). Unintended pregnancies mainly result from not using contraception and inconsistent or incorrect use of effective contraceptive methods (Tonlaar & Ayoola, 2014). In order to decrease rates of unintended pregnancies, we need to better understand the social and cultural influences, level of awareness and education, and barriers to access among all women (particularly those at higher-risk) about the use of contraception. Greater efforts to comprehend the reasons women experience unintended pregnancies will ultimately lower disparities and improve quality of life for all women. The purpose of this project was to better understand the facilitators and barriers of the use of contraception among a group of reproductive-age Hispanic women.

**Methods:** A semi-structured interview guide was developed and administered to eight primiparous Hispanic women, ages 18-30. The interview guide included questions about their use of contraception, awareness of various methods, level of education about birth control and the social/cultural, familial, and religious influences regarding their decision to use

contraception. Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed for data analysis. Recurrent codes and themes were identified by the bilingual, bicultural investigator and faculty mentor.

**Results:** Four main themes were identified including; family influence, education provided vs. needed, religious influence, and the women's role related to birth control. Hispanic women in this study reported that these factors influenced their decision to use or not use contraception.

**Conclusion:** This pilot study highlighted the important factors that affect contraception use and decision making among Hispanic women of reproductive-age. Although the findings from this small sample cannot be generalized for the whole population of Hispanic women in Utah, they shed light on important factors that should be considered by healthcare professionals in women's health. Exploring women's contraceptive knowledge and attitudes will allow clinicians to better educate and empower women with the necessary information for them to make the best informed choices and decrease the number of unintended pregnancies. These findings also contribute to the gaps in research in this critical area of women's health and help to inform efforts aimed at increasing health equity and decreasing health disparities.