

**2013 Summer Humanities Institute and
California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars
Symposium Abstracts**

(Participants Listed in Presentation Order)

Halimat Somotan

Undergraduate Institution: Fairfield University

Harlem Renaissance as a Pan-African Phenomenon: Langston Hughes, Gladys May Casely-Hayford and the African Heritage

Abstract: During the Harlem Renaissance, literary scholars incorporated the African heritage into their writings on the development of a new black identity. However, historians do not consider the contributions of West African authors during the Renaissance. Their analyses especially neglect to demonstrate how the ideas of these authors connected with African Americans' writings on the black heritage. Thus, this paper will focus on selected poems of Langston Hughes and Gladys Casely-Hayford to illustrate their imagery of Africa. Casely-Hayford was born in the Gold Coast in 1904, and she published six poems in prominent black and white journals during the Renaissance. Although Casely-Hayford and Hughes did not meet or correspond with each other, their selected poems similarly denote positive and problematic depictions of Africa. As Hughes and Casely-Hayford portray a primitive Africa, they also glorify Africa and illustrate the suffering of Africans and African Americans in their writings. Their work serves as a precursor to the Négritude Movement of the 1930s and the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s. Hughes' and Casely-Hayford's poems demonstrate the transnational nature of the Harlem Renaissance as a Pan-African experience among Africans and African Americans.

Amanda Powell

Undergraduate Institution: Tuskegee University

African American Women and Obesity: Linking the Past and the Present

Abstract: For centuries there has been discrimination against black women who are obese, which is demonstrated through the life of nineteenth century South African Saartjie Baartman. African American writer Sapphire has criticized the issue of obesity as it pertains to images of full-figured black women. Her 1996 novel, *Push*, which was adapted into the film *Precious*, tells the story of a young, obese, black teenager named Claireece Precious Jones who overcomes molestation, abuse, and illiteracy. Her struggles reflect circumstances that some women who are categorized as obese encounter. Precious is not silenced like Baartman (commonly known as Hottentot Venus or Venus Hottentot), who was exploited because of her voluptuous figure, but she is instead liberated from such treatment. Some critics, however, feel as if Sapphire's work reflects negatively on all black women. Rather than depicting black women in a negative light, Sapphire humanizes the obese black woman, which counters the historical dehumanization and sexual exploitation of figures like Baartman. Moreover, Sapphire writes Precious out of the metaphorical cage in which she is placed. Both the historical figure Baartman and the fictitious character Precious show the dehumanizing treatment of obese black women as both a historical and current issue.

Yasmin Ismail

Undergraduate Institution: Lincoln University of Pennsylvania

A Thin Line Between *Love and Hip Hop: Atlanta*, Black Situation Comedy, and Minstrelsy

Abstract: In American television, representations of African Americans often rely upon an array of stereotypes, including the sapphire, the coon, the jezebel, and the buck. These stereotypes originated during the minstrelsy period of the 1830s, when white actors in blackface participated in theatrical comedy in order to portray an exaggerated image of black people. In the 1990s, there was an explosion of minstrel type stereotypes in sitcoms when the creation of Black programming became a profitable venture for new networks where African Americans have had little control over programming. The rise of reality television in the late 1990s/early 2000s has also incorporated old stereotypes of African Americans. This paper will review the literature on stereotypical Black representations and examine the case of *Love and Hip Hop: Atlanta*. It finds that white decision makers along with other factors play a major role in the persistence of these images.

Aaron Coleman

Undergraduate Institution: Fort Valley State University

Direct Action: December 5, 1955-April 4, 1968

Abstract: This paper examines how Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death initiated the SCLC's rapid decline, decreased direct action tactics among black advocacy organizations, and greatly reduced political representation for poor and working class blacks. By examining black political progress before and after King's death, I argue that King and his SCLC had effectively institutionalized protest, providing lower-class blacks with a sustainable tool for political representation. Furthermore, I contend that because of King's central role in the organization, his death negatively influenced poor and working class blacks. To prove my points, I use Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward's theory of social movements and Dr. King's books *Stride Towards Freedom* and *Why We Can't Wait* to explain how King's protest (nonviolent direct action such as protest marches, sit-ins, and freedom rides) was deliberate, strategic, and used for poor people. Piven and Cloward and King's works provide the critical basis for analyzing the SCLC documents and interviews and explaining how the decline of direct action after King's death reduced political representation for poor and working class blacks.

Bhaven Mistry

Graduate School: California State University, Northridge

Molecular Dynamics Simulation of Pressure Induced Pore Transport through an Incommensurate Channel

Abstract: Cells and organelles use pores embedded in their protective membranes to facilitate the transport of materials (ions, molecules, proteins, etc.) between their lumen and their surrounding environments. In a homogeneous particle environment, the flow through the pore channel can be driven by a no equilibrium pressure differential and can be modeled with molecular dynamics simulations. We extend this simulation to include the Frenkel-Kontorowa model and factor in the interaction between the owing particles and the periodic potential of the channel. We investigate how the relation between the equilibrium spacing of the particles and the channel's potential period will affect the flow of particles at constant pressure and temperature.

Scott Lydon

Graduate School: California State University, East Bay

Climate Change and the Fremont People of Utah: A Multiproxy Analysis of Climate During the Past Thousand Years for Denise Lake, Utah

Abstract: The documentation, assessment, and interpretation of climatic variability over the past thousand years at Denise Lake, Utah, provided the objectives of this study. The problem in question focused on examining the relationship between climatic variability, corn production, and ultimate collapse of Fremont Society on the Colorado Plateau. A Livingstone corer retrieved bottom sediment from the 11,500 ft. elevation lake. A regional analysis and synthesis of climate proxies (i.e. loss-on-ignition, magnetic susceptibility, dendroclimatology, & pollen) were utilized to infer climatic variability during the Medieval Warm Period (~ AD 950 - 1250) through the Little Ice Age (~ AD 1650 - 1900). Analysis sought to assess the likelihood of climate change influencing the collapse of Fremont corn production near Denise Lake. Research is ongoing -- and all findings are preliminary -- though data appears to support the hypothesis that climate significantly impacted the Fremont People's corn production.

Leroy Myers

Undergraduate Institution: University of Maryland Eastern Shore

The Marginalization of Blacks in Indian Territory

Abstract: In my paper, I argue that racial marginalization because of slavery and divisive landownership legislation from the federal government resulted in a caustic relationship between Native American Freedman, "state negroes," and the Five Civilized Tribes. This caused both groups to be dismissive towards each other despite their shared Black identity and desire for self-autonomy. Thus neither group was able to gain full acceptance in White and Native society. By examining Black and White news publications following the Civil War and interviews from Kristy Feldenhousen-Giles' *To Prove Who You Are: Freedmen Identities in Oklahoma*, I illustrate the problems that existed between these two seemingly disparate groups and how the Five Civilized Tribes resented the federal government's power; however, they saw themselves equal to Whites.

Donna Nelson

Undergraduate Institution: North Carolina Central University

The Erased Soldier: African American Participation in World War I

Abstract: African Americans have participated in America's war efforts since the founding of this country. However, the awareness of their participation in wars previous to World War II has faded from the national memory. This was the result of an erasure of African American participation, specifically in World War I, by the media and the American military command. They accomplished this by reaffirming the image that plagued the African American male from reconstruction to the beginnings of World War I: the Sambo and the big brute. African American valor in the war broke the stereotypes cemented around them and was pivotal in determining how African Americans would proceed to fight for civil rights in the twentieth century. America saw the need to regain control of the returning African American soldier by erasing his contributions in the war. An examination of contemporary newspapers that illustrate the struggle returning soldiers faced will expand upon the historical knowledge of World War I and America. This research will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the war by placing African Americans back in the historical narrative.

Christopher Johnson

Undergraduate Institution: University of South Carolina Upstate

Tales from the Other Side: Earl Caldwell and Resistance to Normative Journalistic Narratives about Black Power in the 1960s

Abstract: In the 1950s, the Civil Rights Movement was causing a stir in the American consciousness, stimulating national interest in the African American community. By the summer of 1965, frustration had mounted when the Watts riots erupted in the black neighborhoods of Los Angeles and the call for “Black Power” began to gain momentum. As this new philosophy gained attention in the mainstream news circuit, news organizations began mobilizing themselves to retrieve information about the political implications of this shift in ideology. However, the African American community was resistant to white journalists entering their neighborhoods. In response, white editors began hiring African American journalists to infiltrate the movement. One of those journalists was Earl Caldwell, who, like many other journalists of color, brought an alternative perspective into the newsroom that challenged how race was discussed in the media. The purpose of this study is to argue how Earl Caldwell resisted normative journalistic narratives about the function of Black Power in the African American community. In order to show how black journalists were essential to providing commentary on Black Power, I conduct a content analysis of five *New York Times* articles written by Earl Caldwell between the years of 1965-70. The analysis of these articles will demonstrate how important it was for black journalists to expand the definition of Black Power for a mass audience.

Shikaylah Brown

Undergraduate Institution: Lincoln University of Pennsylvania

Angela Davis: Persecution through Media

Abstract: Political activist Angela Yvonne Davis quickly gained mass media attention in the wake of the Marin County Courthouse shootings that took place in San Rafael, California on August 7, 1970. Daily news coverage played a tremendous role in the way that citizens viewed Angela Davis during this time. I examine the extent to which Davis’s image, specifically, was tarnished in the media. My research shows that Angela Davis’s personal image was distorted by the media at the time of the shooting at Marin Courthouse in August 1970 and throughout the early stages of her arrest. This study uses the concept of *mediated communication* as defined by Entman and Rojecki in *The Black Image in the White Mind* to analyze five national newspaper articles about Angela Davis as major examples of mainstream media distortions. Through looking at these five specific newspaper articles as major examples of mainstream media, it is clear that Angela Davis’s image was manipulated by the images of violence, communism, black militancy, fear, and guilt that were associated with her.

Michael Taylor

Undergraduate Institution: University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Peer Pressure and its Effect on Academic Success among Young Black Males

Abstract: The pressures to conform to group influences are powerful (Cullingford & Morrison, 1997) and can either negatively or positively affect the behaviors and academic achievement of young black males. This paper focuses on how peer pressure and the pressure to be “cool” negatively affect black male youth’s success in academia. In this paper I will compare and contrast the theories of Majors & Billson (1992), Noguera (2005), and Fordham & Ogbu (1986)

in order to gain a clearer understanding of the impact of peer pressure. I will investigate how the influence of peer pressure and the idea of being “cool” serve as behavior reinforcement and how these causal factors affect black male academic success. A consensus from the literature suggests that peer pressure is indeed a significant factor. Peer pressure is so influential because it provides guidance for young black males who experience a disconnection from educational institutions and are looking for purpose and belonging. Used as either an alternative means of survival or a form of social leverage, “cool pose” is a coping mechanism used by young black males.

Jiun Shen:

Graduate School: California State University, Long Beach

The Role of Family Conflict in Romantic Stress and Internalizing Symptoms in Asian-American and European-American Adolescents

Abstract: Although dating is an important aspect of adolescent development, stress from romantic relationships during adolescence has been shown to be a risk factor for internalizing symptoms of mental health such as depression and anxiety (La Greca & Harrison, 2005). Furthermore, in Asian-American families, family conflicts between adolescents and their parents can further exacerbate the level of stress that adolescents experience. For example, in many Asian families adolescent dating is generally not accepted and is often viewed as a distraction (Lau, Markham, Lin, Flores, & Chacko, 2009).

The present study seeks to examine the role of family conflict in the relationship between romantic stress and internalizing symptoms such as depression and anxiety in both Vietnamese-American (VA) and European-American (EA) adolescents. Participants included 209 VA and EA adolescents recruited from high schools in the greater Orange County area of Southern California (Mage = 15.59, SD = .64, 44% male, 60% VA, 40% EA). Analyses in this study revealed that for both VA and EA adolescents, family conflicts predicted that adolescents were more likely to seek support in the form of romantic relationships. However, romantic stress was not associated with internalizing symptoms. Results will be discussed in the context of the larger literature.

Sandra Davidson

Undergraduate Institution: Bennett College

Intimate Partner Violence among Black Female Students at an HBCU: Personal and Sociological Factors

Abstract: Research indicates that young women between the ages of 16-24 are experiencing increased rates of intimate partner violence (IPV). Moreover, researchers suggest that these rates are higher among young women of color, especially African American women. This paper seeks to increase our understanding of IPV among a particular group of women, college-going Black women. It examines survey data from Black female students at an HBCU who experienced IPV. Findings suggest that experiences with IPV among Black college women may be similar to those for black women and other women in general.

The following California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars will not participate in the presentations, but their abstracts are included below:

Michelle Gevedon

Graduate School: California State University, Fullerton

Zircon Trace Element and REE Analysis of the Early Cretaceous Batholith, Sierra Nevada, California

Abstract: The compound Sierra Nevada batholith (SNB) is the world's most comprehensively studied continental margin arc. At least one SNB segment, however, the Early Cretaceous batholith (EKB), remains widely uncharacterized in terms of geochemistry relative to the arc as a whole. In general, the EKB, located to 60 km south of Fresno, California, is older and more mafic than the plutons generated by the major pulse of Cretaceous SNB magmatism. The uniquely mafic nature of the EKB may allow geochemists to further understand processes occurring early in the stages of SNB magma differentiation, and more accurately determine the composition of the SNB magma source. My study is designed to better constrain the geochemical composition of the EKB mafic magmas. Zircon trace elements from 3 EKB samples (n=81), and one eastern SNB sample (n=28) were analyzed using the Cameca IMS 1270 ion microprobe at UCLA. Trace element geochemistry and zircon REE abundances will allow for calculations of crystallization temperatures, and REE enrichment trends which are integral components in determining the processes driving magma differentiation. Furthermore, the data produced will serve as a reference data base for future detrital zircon studies in the Great Valley intended to reconstruct the tectonic history of the Cordillera.

Patricia Cabral

Graduate School: California State University, Northridge

Neighborhood Resources & Parental Impact on Physical Activity among Children

Abstract: There is a lack of studies investigating the influence of both social and environmental factors on the physical activity level among children, especially across racial/ethnic groups. This study examined the combined influence of social (i.e., parental involvement) and environmental (i.e., neighborhood resources for physical activity) factors as well as the differences in children's physical activity (N = 59) across racial/ethnic groups. Children (Mean age = 11.02; SD = 1.57), primarily from the West Los Angeles area, completed a two month daily diary assessing social interactions within and outside the family, health behaviors, and physical activity.

Neighborhood resources for physical activity data were gathered by counting the parks present within 1 mile of the participant's home address as well as the distance to the nearest park. ANCOVA results showed no significant differences in physical activity level across racial/ethnic groups. A multiple regression indicated that the only significantly related variable to physical activity was parental involvement which also showed a marginal significance in predicting physical activity among children, $R^2_{change} = .058$, $F(1,55) = 3.38$, $p = .339$. These findings may provide health educators, health care providers, and the lay public with important information to guide children into a recommended amount of daily activity.