

## Undergraduate Paper Abstracts

Kara Apodaca, Lindsey Harris & Sarah Nusbaum; Grand Rapids Community College

Sustainability in the Face of Globalization: A Community College Study Abroad in South Africa

Study abroad experiences are considered highly valuable for not only developing knowledgeable global citizens, but also wise and judicious leaders; yet, although half of American post-secondary students are enrolled in community colleges, most of these institutions do not offer study abroad opportunities. The Grand Rapids Community College Geography program makes available a study abroad experience to Africa, which incorporates a highly comprehensive itinerary. The relationship between people and places is examined in urban Cape Town and Soweto, as well as rural Limpopo and Mpumalanga. Safaris offer insight with regard to the interwoven nature of environmental conservation, tourism, and indigenous lifeways, while interviews with people from across four provinces provide understanding with regard to the lasting impact of Apartheid, the status of women, and social issues that prevail today. Participants recount their experiences and offer an interpretation of South African landscapes explored from Mediterranean Winelands to Tropical Savanna.

Benjamin Aippersbach, CSU Humboldt

Imperial Landscapes: Humboldt County, 1850-1870

Abstract: This paper examines the rise of the timber industry in the Humboldt Bay region, during the area's colonial history, between 1850 and 1870. Tracing back from the emergence of mill towns in Humboldt County during California's gold rush, this paper follows their consequential role in the lumber industry's rise to prominence during the Gilded Age of the 19th century. It demonstrates how Humboldt County, as a landscape of virgin forests, was colonized and industrialized in less than 20 years, and the social, economic and political processes involved in doing so. It thus examines how this European-American social ideology was constructed into the landscape, and argues, in fact, that all social ideologies reflect themselves onto the landscapes which they occupy. Therefore, I argue that greater understanding of the ways landscapes have been shaped by societies will allow for much greater awareness of the social values which that society addresses.

Alyssa Caldwell, CSU Chico

Threats to Wildlife in Patagonia and Efforts at Conservation

In Patagonia, several species of native wildlife are all vulnerable to extinction. After reviewing and analyzing over ten scholarly journal articles, I concluded that conversion of forest to farmland, tourism, poaching, and the introduction of invasive livestock all negatively impact wildlife. The Patagonian steppe ecoregion has degraded to a state where there are not enough resources to support all species, leading

to a drastic decrease in the population size of certain wildlife. I specifically studied the human impacts on huemul deer, guanacos, the Andean condor, and various seabird colonies and the recent and current conservation efforts in the region. This research can be used to show how human and animal expansion and development harm a previously natural, wild environment.

Lauren Cockrell, UC Davis

Exploring "Know Your Farm, Know Your Food" (KYF 2)

The externalization of costs in California agriculture exemplifies one method in which agri-corporations accumulate and concentrate wealth and power. Challenging agri-corporate power, through externalization of costs, is a traditional radical tactic. Recently, however institutions not associated with radicalism (i.e. the USDA) have begun promoting the internalization of costs. "Know Your Farmer, Know your food" (KYF 2) is a program of the USDA to promote local food (which in part internalizes the environmental costs of pollution caused by transportation of food). Although it might appear that the USDA is promoting radical challenges to agri-corporate power and wealth accumulation, in some ways the KYF 2 program exacerbates it. My paper expands upon Gimenez and Shattuck's argument in "Food Crises, Food Regimes and Food Movements Rumbblings of Reform or Tides of Transformation?" that programs such as KYF 2 exemplify the reformist arm of neoliberalism. These reformist programs, although they may seem radical, do not undermine global capital accumulation. Progressive programs (i.e. CSA's) also do not radically challenge capital accumulation by agri-corporations, however they temporarily alleviate externalities and could exist in a post-capitalistic society. My paper argues in favor of progressive and radical food movements working together towards an inclusive, liberated society and deconstructing the working of reformist food movements.

Rodolfo Curiel, CSU Humboldt

Gentrification and Community Centers in Santa Ana, CA

Gentrification in gateway cities such as Santa Ana, CA, increases the importance of cultural centers for local minority groups to foster a sense of communal identity. As former underdeveloped spaces in the Downtown District become redeveloped for commercial use, centers such as 'El Centro Cultural de Mexico', despite having been displaced from their original location in the heart of the Downtown District, has increased events that serve to counter the commercial culture that has moved in to the city. Such events include the 'Anti-Mall', a monthly marketplace for local merchants and artists that gives the opportunity to engage directly with local community members. Spaces such as 'El Centro Cultural de Mexico' and events such as the 'Anti-Mall' are directed at and embraced by local community members to develop an alternative communal identity.

Monica Dimson, CSU Sonoma

#### Local perceptions of vineyards and natural landscapes

Two large vineyard developments in Sonoma County's Gualala River Watershed propose clear cutting nearly two thousand acres of oak and redwood forest. The county has implemented a four-month moratorium on the projects in response to environmental groups on local to global scales that oppose the land conversions. Tree removal has implications beyond habitat alteration; increased soil erosion and stream sedimentation affect the entire watershed. Yet the significance of this environmental alteration is as disputed as attitudes towards the role of vineyards themselves. With Gualala Watershed as a case study, this paper examines local perceptions of vineyards that influence land use decisions in Sonoma County. Through questionnaires distributed among local environmentalists, grape growers, and county residents, the study considers how different values assigned to grape vines versus oak woodlands and coastal redwoods have altered the local landscape.

Laura Maria Eagleston, CSU Humboldt

#### Geography: Wildlife Conservation's Greatest Tool

This presentation covers the importance of using geographical knowledge in the field of wildlife conservation, and especially when dealing with human-wildlife conflict issues. It touches base on how technological assistance, such as GIS, can strengthen environmental efforts while keeping a good relationship with the local community.

Samantha Felice, CSU Stanislaus

#### Spatial Fluctuations in Crime by Season and the Green Crime Paradigm

Quetelet (1796-1874) published the first empirical analysis on seasonal variations in crime. Neither Quetelet nor subsequent peer research has centered on combining spatial and seasonal crime research. Using Sacramento Police data, 2005-2009, this study explores the spatial distribution of personal (battery) and property (petty theft) crime by season (month). Results show that both personal and property crime are relatively stable by season. Spatial density maps show little seasonal patterning in the distribution of crime. Spatial correlations suggest little pattern in the spatial distribution of crime by season. This study illustrates the untapped possibilities within the green crime paradigm, and the potential for greening of the broader criminological paradigm. The current green paradigm centers on acts of the powerful as environmental crime. "Normal" criminology centers on crimes of the powerless. This model reflects a green perspective on crimes of the powerless – and an attempt to bridge green and normal criminology.

Martha Veronica Garcia, Marymount College

"The Basis for China's Attitude Toward Addiction Treatment"

Countries around the world are challenged by the pressure of addiction and the effects it has on its society. Each country though perceives addiction within the context of its own unique culture, history, and politics. Countries such as China have a different perception on how to handle the addictive traits that come along with the disease. Addicts in China do not have the same opportunities and resources to get proper treatment they require. In the United States we emphasize rehabilitation through different forms of therapy treatments. Right now in China half a million people are confined within compulsory drug detention centers. What then is the basis for these very different approaches to addiction treatment taken by China? This paper explores the basis for the Chinese attitudes toward addiction within Chinese Culture, politics, and the distinct role of addiction in modern Chinese history. My research also revealed an alternative holistic approach to addiction that is not as well known.

Scott Tyler Gaston, CSU Chico

Pedagogy of the outdoor classroom and its effects

In my research I plan on looking at the data collected the last few spring semesters of California State University Chico's outdoor classroom and how they align with the California Environmental Education Standards, along with some of the information about how outdoor education affects the perception of the environment. Secondly I will be focusing on California's budget in relation to funding for the different pedagogical teaching methods outside of the standard teaching methods.

The pedagogical aspects of teaching in an outdoor classroom has had many different impacts on how young children view both themselves and the environment. Studies have shown that moving children from the classroom to a new learning environment, i.e. the outdoor classroom, can have many more psychological effects that can in turn change some of their views."

Cameron Gose, CSU Stanislaus

Exploring Assisted Reproductive Technologies in a Geographic Context

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), as the name suggests is technology that aids in human reproduction. ART is a relatively new technology that came about due to an increasing rate in infertility among the population. Initial analysis was done with clinic data provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which was cleaned with various Python scripts to be exported into SPSS to find possible correlations. To bring the CDC clinic data into a geographic context, a program written in Java was used to obtain each clinic location by scraping the web. Exploring the geographic location of clinics in

comparison to demographic data from the 2010 Census may give insight as to clinic spatial distribution, who might use them, and who is participating in developing the technology.

Carissa Green, CSU Sonoma

Bayer Farm Ethnobotany Project: the Regional Geography of People, Medicinal Plants and Herbal Remedies

People that live in and around Roseland, California, Sonoma County possess valuable traditional knowledge of herbal pharmacopeia from different cultural origins; however this knowledge is not documented and is therefore threatened with unrecoverable loss. The Bayer Farm Ethnobotany Project (BFEP or, the project) addresses this issue by collecting and cataloging information on medicinal plants and herbal remedies through interviews, and establishing the Bayer Farm Medicinal Plant Garden with volunteers. This project will serve to institutionalize and validate the informal knowledge of the community and create a readily accessible community resource. The research objectives of the paper are to document the BFEP and results in an effort to preserve valuable cultural and community knowledge of plants/herbal remedies, and offers a critical analysis of the process and procedures. Finally, the study seeks to identify geospatial patterns of herbal remedy migrations in relation to cyclical human migrations and informal networks.

Jeffrey Stephen Johnson, CSU Sonoma

A Geographical History and Spatial Significance of St. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church

Russian influence is well known in Sonoma County. The Russian settlement of Fort Ross north of Bodega Bay is a reminder of the Russian colonization of northern California. However the reasons behind the establishment of St. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church on Stony Point road on the outskirts of Santa Rosa are unknown and there is little to no documentation. This paper seeks to identify reasons for settlement, geographic significance of place, and its role to the community. To address these factors the history of Fort Ross and Russian colonization is examined through historical texts, articles, and personal interviews. Personal interviews are also used to establish reasons for the settlement of the church, and the role of the church in the community. This study is significant as it provides knowledge, documentation, and understanding of Russian influence on a fine local scale in Sonoma County.

Nicholas Klein-Baer, CSU Humboldt

Commoditization of Rusticism in Truckee, California

Despite a global trend of populations shifting from rural to urban areas, some rural – particularly mountain – communities have recently seen unprecedented growth. The phenomenon of people

moving to mountain (or otherwise rural) communities for their environmental, aesthetic, and recreational qualities has been labeled “amenity migration”. In the past decade, a growing body of literature has begun to address this issue. However these studies have primarily focused on its driving forces and socioeconomic effects. Instead, I seek to understand how the sense of place of Truckee, CA has changed as a result of recent amenity migration. Truckee provides an interesting case study because of its location near Lake Tahoe and it’s history as a working community. Truckee’s historic sense of place has been co-opted – replaced by a new sense of place based on a commoditization of rusticism.

Michael Howard Lydon, CSU Humboldt

#### Silicon Valley's Team: A Geographic Study of the San Jose Sharks

For nearly 20 years, the San Jose Sharks have been a National Hockey League team that has thrived in a non-traditional location and have become a model NHL expansion franchise. Overall, there has been a lack of geographic inquiry into this successful Silicon Valley based sports team and the affect it has had on landscape and culture. Interviews with former NHL player Owen Nolan, Head Economist of the San Jose Department of Economic Development highlight methods used to draw conclusions in this research paper. Additionally, the utilization of maps and authoritative sources on sports geography are used to explain why the capital of Silicon Valley is an ideal sports market and how it has evolved a “hockey culture” because of the presence of the Sharks franchise.

Lily MacIver, UC Davis

#### Inseparability of Ideology and Empathy in a Communal Agricultural Economy

This fictional anecdotal essay explores, through a cultural geographical lens, the relationship between ideology and empathy and how these elements potentially shape a society’s social sphere and influence economic practices. The premise is a supposed increase in empathy due to a biological change in a rural population, the resulting morality and customs of the population produce a unique economic system and social order. The main character’s enculturation is used to discuss the potential agency of the individual within the greater society. Human nature is critiqued because even though the human capacity for empathy increases, it remains at odds with ideology. Ideology is hypothesized to be a limiting factor for empathy, creating certain circumstances in which empathy is appropriate or inappropriate. Empathy is questioned as to whether or not it is more of a biological attribute for human beings or a cultural one, or a complex interplay between the two.

Sara E. Matthews, CSU Humboldt

To drive or bike: Examining transportation choices at Humboldt State University

The city of Arcata, CA is a case reflecting attempted transition towards more active transport. An estimated 20 percent of trips in Arcata are done on foot or bike and although this percentage is high (nearly ten times that of California) the residents and the City feel that Arcata is capable of raising these trips to 50 percent. Indeed, with a population of about 16,000, short distances between locales, moderate temperatures, relatively mild topography, and a populace who largely identifies as being environmentally friendly, Arcata seems to be an ideal place to expand into more active, sustainable transport. Why then, do nearly 70 percent of these commuters still choose to use automobiles? This research looks through the lens of modes of transport used by Humboldt State students on their daily trip to school to explore the correlation between an array of motivating factors and transportation trends.

Ryan Miller, CSU Chico

Offramps to Nowhere: California State Route 149 and the Politics of State Highway Funding

This paper reviews public finance literature and examines recent traffic data to highlight the imbalances present in current methods of funding state highway projects. While imbalances in state highway funding are present throughout the United States, this paper takes a focused look at funding systems in California. Using the example of Butte County's State Route 149, this analysis shows how political factors can align to allow the construction of expensive new projects that benefit relatively few people. As overall infrastructure health in California continues to deteriorate, and as demand grows for better public transportation, this analysis closes with recommendations on how to set highway funding back on the right track."

Timothy Scott, CSU Sonoma

Optimal fire station siting using GIS

With the declining budget for municipal services becoming common place across America the need for frugal and effective civil services is imperative. The city of San Rafael and SRFD has been partnering with the unincorporated community of Marinwood to administer first response services to San Rafael for an annual subsidization over the three decade. However with the recent opening of fire station #3 in close proximity to Marinwood's district of influence the agreement between the two parties has been under an annual review. This paper seeks to address this issue by examining the current level of service and the locations from which service is provided. Location, response time, and population are all taken into consideration as these variables are examined in a GIS. This will ultimately aid in determining the configuration of fire districts throughout San Rafael.

Adrienna Ozinga & Brian Woodin, Grand Rapids Community College

#### Integrating Field Studies of Local Grocery Stores in the World Regional Geography Curriculum

During the current era of globalization, grocery stores reveal much about the changing character of American landscapes. In the World Regional Geography course at Grand Rapids Community College, students are tasked with completing an assignment that requires visits to grocers characterized by different cultural attributes. Because each store offers various selections of produce, meat, fish, and canned goods, which are largely unlike those found in conventional retail outlets, incorporating this exercise in the geography curriculum lends much understanding to examinations of ethnicity, dietary preferences, and the environment. Aspiring geographers discuss the nature of this exercise as well as its value in developing knowledge about people and places on the global scene.

Erik Rademacher, CSU Humboldt

#### Using Stratigraphy to Determine the Effects of Paleogeography and Regional Geomorphology on Humboldt County's Pleistocene Paleoclimate

This study examines local changes in paleoclimate throughout the Pleistocene epoch along the contemporary coast of Humboldt County. Four fossiliferous sedimentary outcrops representing a stratigraphic cross section of the Pleistocene epoch are examined. Both paleontological and sedimentary evidence from these sites are used to determine what local paleogeographic and geomorphic factors affected local climate. Such factors from each site are then analyzed in conjunction with the global paleoclimate contemporary to their deposition in order to understand the region's unique regional climates of the past. The results of this study indicate that although the geomorphology of the region was dynamic, the local topographic factors affecting climate remained relatively stable throughout the region during the Pleistocene. Although these local physical factors stayed the same, global climate changed throughout the epoch, which would have caused the local climate to change with it.

Kirsten Ray, CSU Humboldt

#### Native Dutch College Students' Perceptions of Muslim Immigration in the Netherlands

This paper investigates native Dutch college students' perceptions of Muslim immigrants in the Netherlands. This paper suggests that while Dutch students generally support multiculturalism in the Netherlands, they believe that Muslim immigrants should integrate as soon as possible because of the cultural differences from those of Dutch culture. To determine the perceptions of Muslim immigrants, I surveyed approximately 200 students at a number of Universities across the Netherlands and conducted 25 semi-structured in-depth interviews. Items such as economic threat, safety threat, cultural threat, and endorsement of multiculturalism were measured in the survey, as well as specific attitudes about



Moroccan and Turkish immigrants. Results from my field research indicate that, although discussion of immigration in Western Europe and the Netherlands is prominent in the political arena, Dutch college students support the idea of multiculturalism in the Netherlands.

Allegra Roth, UC Davis

#### Human-Nature Relationship

In a broad and philosophical sense, human civilization, on both a micro and macro level, has struggled to define its relationship to the environment in which it is situated. That environment has been conducive to survival, as a cultivating and appealing setting and as a resource hotbed that evolved out of primal geographical and biological processes. Yet the physical state humanity finds itself in has also historically felt like a universal constriction on the create ideals that have arisen out of the human desire for more. It can be argued that in comprehending the human relationship to nature, the survival of the human species has necessitated processes of dominance; beginning with human dominance over nature, then men over women, the powerful over the weak, the wealthy over the poor, patterns of dominance that are still prevalent. Humanity has, in the name of survival, manipulated nature to assert its dominance, to engage in a “ ceaseless struggle for self assertion” (Emma Goldman, quoted in Zinn: 345).

Tyler Shafsky, CSU Sonoma

#### The Spatial Fix of Income Inequality

Given the need for creative destruction, and a spatial fix to solve its inherent problems of capital accumulation. Does the economic system of capitalism, through the manners of solving its financial crisis', lead to economic inequality and income stratification in a country where such fixes occurred. If so did this economic inequality, or relative psychosocial stress, lead to an increase in negative social trends. This paper will look specifically at the impacts on imprisonment rates and obesity rates before and after a crisis.

Bryndan Stueve, UC Davis

#### The Political-Economic Alliance of State and Industry in the Genetic Improvement of Soybean Seed and the Impact on Farmer Socio-Economic Welfare

The soybean production industry has been significantly impacted through the technological development of herbicide tolerant soybeans. Proponents of HT soybeans list benefits for soybean farmers to include increased yields, decreased herbicide requirements, and simplification of the spraying process resulting in decreased farm management requirements – in short, that farmer welfare is increased. Conversely, others claim this development has not only failed to improve soybean farmer

welfare, but was never intended to. Those who hold this view point to the interests and role of the state in advancing the capitalist economy through increasing privatization, and the interests of agribusinesses in controlling privatization for the purposes of capital accumulation. In seeking to answer the question as to who benefits from the development of HT soybeans, this paper explores and analyzes these opposing viewpoints in context of the changes HT has brought to the US soybean production industry over the last 15 years.

Vincent Sugrue, CSU Sonoma

The Geography of Protest and Identity: Occupy Oakland's Fight for a Permanent Place.

Occupy Oakland became the leading West Coast movement related to Occupy Wall Street in a fight for income and social equality within the United States. Inspired by uprisings in the Arab Spring, Occupy Oakland is striving to bring about radical change within the political system in the city of Oakland itself, California politics, and the United States political agenda. This paper analyzes Occupy Oakland's fight to maintain a permanent place as a means to build an identity and community within the city of Oakland. Using the methods of participant observation, unstructured, and structured interviews, I investigate the issues faced within the Occupy encampment, their various uses of place throughout Oakland, and their current issue of the movement not having a permanent place. Combining Castells' notion of identity with several geographic conceptualizations of place, I explain Occupy Oakland's aggressive pursuit of a permanent place and its role in the movements' continuance.

Christopher Paul Westover, CSU Sonoma

Austin Creek Preserve Oak Hybridization

In Sonoma County, California, oaks are a keystone species in danger from a pathogen known as sudden oak death, (*Phytophthora Ramorum*), fire suppression, and climate change. It is of considerable value to understand if recent hybridization from two different parental oak species may be an evolutionary response to the aforementioned threats. In Austin Creek Preserve I observed six factors affecting oak stands: Wind, temperature change, fog, precipitation change, slope gradient, and slope aspect. The association between variables suggests hybrids may have enhanced adaptation for survival over parent species. I sectioned three areas (south, southwest, and southeast facing) to establish wind flow pollination and oak's growth preferences. I accounted for all oak species and mapped correlating optimal oak survival and possible implication of wind flow as hybrid pollinations. The results of the study provide a sharper path of possible human support of healthy oak stands in this region.

Jared Whear, CSU Humboldt

## Reshaping Identity and Challenging Claims to Territory: Cornish-American Heritage Societies in the Digital Age

In Southwestern Great Britain lies the English county of Cornwall. Cornwall is home to the Cornish, a Celtic group of people known for their innovative hard rock mining techniques. During the mid-19th century as Cornwall experienced a decrease in mining, many Cornish people immigrated to work in the mines of the United States. During this time period a large transnational space existed between Cornwall and the Cornish diaspora, resulting in the creation of numerous Cornish Societies, organizations aimed at fostering connections between Cornish immigrants and Cornwall. Alas, as generations passed, and many American mines began closing, this transnational space disappeared, and along with it went Cornish Societies, and Cornish identity. However, beginning in the late 20th century a renewed transnational space emerged amongst the Cornish diaspora and Cornwall, resulting in the rise of a new, more assertive (and strictly non-English) Cornish identity, and the re-formation of Cornish Societies across America.