



## Development Day

Celebration of Faculty Excellence and  
Faculty Research Symposium

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021



CO-SPONSORED BY  
The Center  
for Faculty Scholarship



# Development Day — Tuesday, May 18, 2021



**GOOGLE MEET:** <https://meet.google.com/daa-bwee-yjr>

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/4565f23a-f921-402b-a4d1-3953e0000f4b>

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## Celebration of Faculty Excellence

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### 8:30 – 9:30 AM Presentations

- Dr. Richard Lapidus, President  
Dr. Alberto Cardelle, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Tenure
  - Promotions
  - Retirements
  - Emeriti
  - Faculty Award for Service
  - Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship
  - Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching
  - Contributions to Graduate Program Award

### 9:30 – 10:00 AM Remarks

Dr. Alberto Cardelle,  
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

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## Faculty Research Symposium

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### 10:00 – 10:15 AM Overview of Faculty Research Symposium, Updates from the Center for Faculty Scholarship

Dr. Eric Budd  
Co-Coordinator, Center for Faculty Scholarship  
Professor, Economics, History, & Political Science

Dr. Elisabet Takehana  
Co-Coordinator, Center for Faculty Scholarship  
Associate Professor, English Studies

### 10:15 – 10:45 AM One of These Things is Not Like the Other: Questions in Algebraic Group Theory

Dr. Catherine Buell  
Associate Professor, Mathematics  
2020 Recipient of Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

### 10:45 – 11:00 AM Break

### 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Concurrent Sessions I: Interdisciplinary Research Presentations by Faculty and Librarians

### 12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch Break

### 1:00 – 2:00 PM Concurrent Sessions II: Interdisciplinary Research Presentations by Faculty and Librarians

## OPTION 1 — CULTURE AND ECONOMICS

Moderated by Dr. Eric Budd

**GOOGLE MEET LINK:** [meet.google.com/aaz-bwfq-ydx](https://meet.google.com/aaz-bwfq-ydx)

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/d98710da-e511-435b-9de2-831e1c5c5b1b>

### Guns vs. Butter in the Major Schools of Economic Thought

Dr. Adem Elveren, Associate Professor, Economics, History, & Political Science

**ABSTRACT:** This paper discusses the role of military in the economy in general and the effect of military spending on economic growth, particularly concerning the major schools of economic thought, namely Neoclassical, Keynesian, and Marxist. The paper aims to summarize each school's pros and cons from theoretical and empirical perspectives and introduce an adapted theoretical model on the impact of military spending on the rate of profit and provide empirical evidence for the main proposition of the model for the US.

### Collection of Advertisements for Video Games from Mass Market Comic Books Published Between 1982 and 1992

Dr. Samuel Tobin, Associate Professor, Communications Media

**ABSTRACT:** This paper is based on a collection of advertisements for video games from mass market comic books published between 1982 and 1992. In this collection there are quite a few ads which promise to let a consumer, in one way or another, bring the video arcade home. These ads for games for home consoles games, like the Nintendo Entertainment System or Sega Genesis, sell ideas of arcades and arcade play and experiences that are complex and powerful. In looking at how the arcade was used to sell domestic games, we can see how the arcade was imagined in this late 20th century time period, an imaginary which continues today and has implications for contemporary game and media culture.

In starting to understand what these ads offer the would-be domestic player we can begin to see how the arcade as an idea, style, promise, and mode was constructed and sold. This paper seeks to open up unexamined aspects of the arcade as a historical space and also makes attempts to connect to larger issues of adaptation, domesticity, authenticity, and consumption at the end of the 20th century.

### Case Study: A Chinese Social Video App TikTok Violates the Children's Privacy Law in the United States

Mr. John Crawley, Assistant Professor, Business Administration

Dr. Yang Liu, Assistant Professor, Business Administration

Mr. John Lohmann, Assistant Professor, Business Administration

**ABSTRACT:** This paper observes the business of TikTok in China and the United States and analyzes the legal issue involving TikTok's violation of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) in the United States by collecting and providing users' privacy information from children under thirteen years of age without explicit parental approval or oversight. One explanation hypothesized for TikTok's actions and the development of this issue could be the lack of a Chinese equivalent to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) during the time period in question. Unlike the US, in which the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) is well defined. The first Chinese law regulating the protection of children's personal information on the internet took effect on October 1, 2019. The Chinese government has been working on Regulations on the Protection of Children (Draft for Deliberation) until Nov 29, 2019. This is the first time "online protection" has been added into it as the Chapter 5. For Chinese companies, their domestic legal environment is significantly different from that in the United States.

By analyzing this case, authors conclude that companies operating in foreign countries have the duty to follow the domestic law, which will require expert legal counsel with attorneys familiar with the domestic laws prior to these companies beginning to operate in foreign countries. Failure to obtain this counsel will likely lead to a situation faced by TikTok resulting children being placed at risk and for the companies multi-million dollar fines, settlements and verdicts.

## Record Label Boycott of 1981

Dr. Katherine Jewell, Associate Professor, Economics, History, & Political Science

College radio developed a well-known reputation for launching musical acts to superstardom, from U2 to R.E.M. to Public Enemy. But these stations were not always the darlings of the music industry, acting as a farm team for acts to prove themselves before singing major-label contracts. This paper examines the imposition of fees for record service in 1980 that prompted an extensive boycott of several labels by college stations and the ironic harvests of that moment for popular culture.

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM / CONCURRENT SESSIONS I:

## OPTION 2 — SCIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

Moderated by Dr. Elyse Clark

**GOOGLE MEET LINK:** [meet.google.com/tsn-yiit-mtx](https://meet.google.com/tsn-yiit-mtx)

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/7c1dd722-a1b7-4a01-b291-02fad506a6e6>

## The Effect of COVID-19 on Participation in Both Aerobic and Resistance Training Exercise, As Well as Changes in Overall Body Weight

Dr. Jessica Alsup, Assistant Professor, Exercise & Sports Science

Dr. Lindsay Parisi, Assistant Professor, Exercise & Sports Science

**ABSTRACT:** According to the American College of Sport Medicine (2018), all healthy individuals between the ages of 18 and 65 should regularly participate in aerobic exercise as well as resistance training exercise. The American College of Sports Medicine recommends individuals accumulate a minimum of 150 min per week of moderate intensity aerobic exercise or 75 min per week of vigorous intensity aerobic exercise, as well as participate in resistance training exercises at least twice a week. There are numerous reasons healthy adults are not active. These reasons are often described as barriers. In March of 2020, the COVID Pandemic changed the way many people in the United States conducted their day to day lives. Purpose: This research aims to examine whether the COVID pandemic has influenced individual's ability to participate in aerobic exercise, resistance training exercise, as well as any influence the pandemic has had on overall body weight. Methods: Individuals between the age of 18 and 65, living in the United States, who self-identify as "healthy" have been asked to complete a twenty-two question survey (through google forms). Individuals who are currently pregnant or who have been pregnant at any point since June 2019 are asked not to participate in this survey. Participants are currently being recruited via social media.

## Chemical Approach to Studying the Role of Quinoline-Based Antimalarials in Inhibiting Hemozoin Formation

Dr. Dennis Awasabisah, Assistant Professor, Biology & Chemistry

**ABSTRACT:** Quinoline-based compounds have very important applications ranging from anti-cancer agents, antibacterials and antimalarial agents. When used as antimalarials, quinoline-based drugs are believed to inhibit hemozoin (malarial pigment) formation by interacting with the prosthetic heme group of hemoglobin, thus resulting in the treatment of malaria. The mechanism of the hemozoin inhibition process has been the subject of debate in recent years. My group's long term research goal is to study the hemozoin inhibition process, which is an important step to finding effective treatment modalities for malarial. Our most recent research study involves the use of synthetic model compounds to mimic the heme group, and the study of their reactivity with antimalarial drugs.

In the past few semesters, my research students, under my supervision and our collaborator at the University of Oklahoma have made some progress in this research. In particular, we have prepared some stable synthetic heme models, viz ruthenium(II) porphyrin complexes and have found them to be reactive with quinoline-based compounds to form heme-quinolinyl adducts. We have characterized the adducts by Infrared, Ultraviolet-visible and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, which suggest



ruthenium binding to the quinoline nitrogen of the antimalarial drugs. We have obtained X-ray crystal structures of the synthetic heme-quinoline adducts to support our interpretation of the spectroscopic data. We have also studied the electrochemical properties of the heme-quinoline adducts obtained by cyclic voltammetry, which suggests porphyrin-centered oxidations. Our data gives insight into the role quinolinebased drugs play in inhibiting hemozoin during the development of the malaria disease.

### **Assessing the Impact of Road Salt Applications on the Water Quality of the Nashua River**

Dr. Elyse Clark, Assistant Professor, Earth & Geographic Sciences

Mr. Robert P. Carpenter, Undergraduate Student

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**ABSTRACT:** The use of road de-icers in winter has been linked to the increasing salinization of surface waters and detrimental impacts to aquatic organisms. Although road de-icer applications occur during winter, the effects of de-icers are evident year-round. To characterize the impacts of road de-icer applications on water quality in our region, we designed an experiment to examine the upstream to downstream water quality at six sites in the Nashua River. The upstream site is forested with minimal human influence, and the downstream sites are more urbanized. For the downstream sites, we targeted sites with major road crossings, including the Rt. 2 and the I-190 bridge crossings over the Nashua River. At each of the six study sites, we deployed conductivity loggers, which have continuously measured river salinity every 30 minutes since October 2020. Soil samples were collected from the river bank at all six sites in fall, winter, and spring. Roadside snow samples were collected in February 2021. Initial results indicate that the river salinity increases from upstream to downstream and that road de-icer applications result in acute pulses of salt inputs to the river. Snow samples indicate that roadside snow banks accumulate large amounts of salts, which are slowly released to the environment when melting. Soil samples indicate that salt is stored in roadside soils and that these soils may be a source of salt to the river year-round. This is an on-going project, thus data collection will continue until October 2021.

### **Good Vibrations: The Effect of Vibrations on Perceived and Preferred Loudness of Sounds**

Dr. Michael Hove, Associate Professor, Psychological Science

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**ABSTRACT:** Music perception is typically considered a purely auditory experience, but it is also affected by other modalities, such as vision and vibrotactile sensation. The present study investigates the effects of vibration on perceived and preferred loudness of sound.

Participants completed a perceived loudness task and a preferred loudness task while wearing a vibrating backpack. In the perceived loudness task, participants ranked the loudness of two tones, one of which was paired with a vibration. The loudness of the tone with vibration adjusted adaptively until perceived as equally loud.

In the preferred loudness task, participants listened to music with and without the vibrating backpack and adjusted the loudness to their preferred level. Results indicated that vibrations significantly increased the perceived loudness of tones,  $F(1,24)=16.42$ ,  $p < .001$ . For preferred loudness, participants significantly (and unexpectedly) increased the music loudness when paired with vibrations,  $F(9,144)=6.60$ ,  $p < .001$ . This unexpected result might stem from experiencing increased engagement and enjoyment when sound is accompanied by vibration. In sum, vibrations significantly increase perceived loudness and alter the experience of music listening. An ongoing follow-up study investigates the auditory threshold with vs. without vibration while blocking vestibular stimulation.

## OPTION 3 — INTERACTION, COACHING, AND MENTORING

Moderated by Dr. EB Caron

**GOOGLE MEET LINK:** [meet.google.com/jme-ikbv-ogy](https://meet.google.com/jme-ikbv-ogy)

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/73768986-04c5-4966-a2f9-d2d720e4e88a>

### Strategies that Promote Therapists' Engagement in Active and Experiential Learning:

#### Micro-Level Sequential Analysis

Dr. EB Caron, Assistant Professor, Psychological Science

**ABSTRACT:** Active and experiential learning leads learners to demonstrate greater behavior change than passive, didactic learning. This study examined the communication processes that predict learners' subsequent active learning engagement, in the context of consultation to support therapist trainees learning a new intervention. Specifically, the current study used sequential analysis to examine consultant behaviors associated with increased and decreased probability of eliciting trainees' active learning during one-on-one consultation sessions. The study included 162 consultation sessions from 27 community therapists implementing Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC), an evidence-based parenting intervention for high-risk infants. Therapists received weekly consultation to support their fidelity of implementation. Consultation session recordings were coded second-by-second using Noldus XT Observer software to categorize each instance of speech.

Time-lagged analyses examined which consultant behaviors were associated with significantly increased or decreased odds of eliciting therapists' active learning (e.g., reflection, role-play) within the subsequent 3 seconds. Consultants' information provision, client discussion, and modeling of therapeutic strategies were associated with reduced likelihood of therapist active learning. Consultants' questions, engagement in active learning strategies, use of video, and silence were associated with greater likelihood of therapist active learning. This is the only study to date to examine second-by-second processes of individual consultation. Findings contribute to the literature on evidence-based strategies of consultation and suggest both processes that can encourage therapists' active learning, as well as consultation activities that may detract from active learning. Parallels to classroom teaching and learning processes will be discussed.

### Development and Evaluation of a Roleplaying Gamification Module for Deeper Learning in an Online Graduate Course

Dr. Audrey Pereira, Associate Professor, Business Administration

**ABSTRACT:** An empirically successful approach that includes deeper learning principles (DLPs) in online curricula is through game-based learning (GBL). GBL has been found to facilitate cognitive rehearsal (CR), or the visualization of a skill or behavioral response to a situation, which can increase self-efficacy through vicarious experience. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to develop an online gamified roleplaying module, funded by a Fitchburg State University Special Projects Grant, to support CR to improve DL, and evaluate how well it encourages DLPs and CR. Data from 106 students within two sections of a management theory class in an online master's of business administration (MBA) program were analyzed, where nearly half the students used the module. Scores on the assignment were compared between students who used and did not use the module, and students who used the module scored statistically significantly higher ( $p = 0.0003$ ). Major themes from students' responses to a survey indicate that the module led to CR and problem-solving, which is evidence of DLPs. In regards to learning objectives, between 87% and 90% of students reported the module helped them learn the lesson content. Findings from this study suggest that GBL and other methods to induce CR should be further explored in online higher education to help facilitate improved student learning outcomes.

## Decentering the Book(room) and (Re)Centering Students' Interest in Contemporary Issues: Theories, Questions, and Relevance

Dr. Katharine Covino-Poutasse, Assistant Professor, English Studies

Dr. Annamary Consalvo, Associate Professor of Literacy, English Department, The University of Texas at Tyler

Ms. Natalie Chase, High School English Teacher, Lincoln Charter School

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**ABSTRACT:** Our purpose in writing this article is to encourage teacher educators to lend their efforts to preservice and novice teachers, who may be reluctant to step outside traditional methods of teaching canonical texts. Studies point to the need and desire of youth to see themselves in texts (Brooks, 2006), to find relevance to their own lives in texts (Ivey & Johnston, 2015), and to articulate social issues about which they can exercise agency on a personal or community level (Moje et al., 2008). At stake are the literate lives of students.

Though we know that teacher candidates engage in coursework that often challenges the status quo, many times, when they begin their careers, they find themselves eager to apply what they have learned but unable to find space and support to do so. Instead of being bound by limiting choices, teachers can exercise their own power and prerogative, and focus on cogent and timely social issues using different theories as a guiding lens. We hope this work will help teacher-educators (and the next generation of teachers) to view their texts and their fields in new and dynamic ways. What is teaching if not the chance to help students connect with texts in ways that disquiet the status quo and inspire critical thinking? While all teachers, and particularly those in their early careers, may feel hesitant to approach traditional texts from an unconventional angle, we believe that this framework is one that can grow with the teacher as they build confidence in the work of (de)centering the canon. In a time of changing (and challenging) norms, we offer this work to support early-career teachers' agency toward focusing less on narrow conceptions of what counts as 'doing it right' and more on helping students critically read and think—to become thoughtful and engaged scholars—at once, compassionate and unafraid.

## Facilitating English Language Immersion in Spain

Dr. Scott Tyner, Assistant Professor, Education

Dr. Felicia Farron-Davis, Associate Professor, Education

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**ABSTRACT:** The purpose of this faculty-led study abroad program provides teacher candidates at FSU with an exciting and unique international service-learning experience that is rich in opportunities for future educators to examine and engage with diverse perspectives. The goal is for FSU's future educators to increase their own cultural proficiency as they prepare to meet the diverse abilities of English language learners in their classrooms. The Education Department at Fitchburg State University will collaborate with the Pueblo Inglés/Diverbo language program based in Madrid, Spain to create a 100-hour certificate program in facilitation of English language immersion for Spanish adults. In the week-long program, a group of 10 student volunteers will live at a beautiful hotel resort and participate in conversation in English with 10-15 Spanish cohorts, through a diverse daily schedule.

Spanish adults are there to practice and improve their English in a natural way. Activities change every hour to keep the program fun and engaging. One-to-one conversation periods are mixed with mealtime discussions, group sessions and evening entertainment. While preference will be given to Education majors who sign up, this program represents a great opportunity for all native English-speakers who want to spend a week abroad enjoying culture, conversation, and connecting with people. This program is scheduled for Summer 2022 at which time we will bring the first cohort of FSU students. Our goal is to collect data from participants to determine the extent to which our goal of expanding students' worldview through this service-learning study abroad experience was achieved.

**12:00 – 1:00 PM — LUNCH BREAK**

## OPTION 1 — COMMUNITY WITH AND OF STUDENTS

Moderated by Dr. Hong Yu

**GOOGLE MEET LINK:** [meet.google.com/zqh-uhnj-vij](https://meet.google.com/zqh-uhnj-vij)

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/98895d71-b832-4402-9f24-e3d6372de648>

### Developing an Interactive OER Text

Dr. Peter Staab, Professor, Mathematics

**ABSTRACT:** This talk will cover many of the decisions that I made for my Spring 2020 dissertation project, in which I took my course notes for *Math 3001: Scientific Computation* and developed an OER (Open Education Resource) textbook. The content of the book is a blend of mathematics and computer science in that code is run to solve mathematical or other scientific problems. In addition, the text covers how to use visualization tools on both mathematical and data content. I will discuss some of the tools that I used to create the book (and why) as well as my current endeavor to get it on the libretext website in an interactive format.

### Three Year Progression of Community Based Physical Activity Research

Dr. Danielle Wigmore, Department Chair and Professor, Exercise & Sports Science

Dr. Deborah Benes, Associate Professor, Nursing

Dr. Monica Maldari, Associate Professor, Exercise & Sports Science

**ABSTRACT:** Community engaged research provides a rich opportunity to learn about knowledge and behaviors of a community, but it also comes with challenges. In this session, we will describe the progression of a community based research project aimed at understanding health outcomes and physical activity habits of Fitchburg residents. This work was carried out over the course of three summers as part of the student-faculty Summer Research Collaborative, where multi-disciplinary teams of faculty engaged undergraduate students in an 8 week research project. We will also share the benefits and challenges of engaging undergraduate students in community based research involving human subjects.

### Embedded Sensor Performance Platform for Solar Decathlon

Dr. Hong Yu, Assistant Professor, Engineering Technology

**ABSTRACT:** In past decade, many facilities and residencies have observed with growing deeply concern the sustainable renewable energy-harvested development. As an important role of renewable energies, the clean solar energy is the main role of the solar decathlon project. There is a need of a platform with multiple embedded sensors to monitor the circumstance in this project. These sensors, especially humidity sensors, temperature sensors, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and oxygen density detection sensors applied to the solar decathlon project will monitor the environment effectively and instantly inform us the safety levels of environment of the solar decathlon house such as carbon dioxide density. In this project, the activities of the platform not only align these courses lectures and experiments to upgrade the engineering technology curriculum and involve the diversity disciplines of Engineering Technology and Computer Science to utilize the clear energy for solar decathlon. Recent changes in Engineering Technology Curriculum (AUC#29, AUC#36 and AUC#38) will apply to the algorithmic embedded sensors.

Additionally, the project will provide the opportunity to support our ABET accreditation outcomes related to data and enhance the background of computer programming for the engineering technology major. Moreover, the project will help the students to obtain the ability to apply their learnings to the realistic projects for peripheral controllable hardware circuits and the interfaces properly. Obviously, it also helps the students for their career successful in the different disciplines of the engineering technology.



## Changing Minds Changing Lives (CMCL): A Resilience Intervention for Student Athletes

Dr. Nellipher Lewis Mchenga, Assistant Professor, Nursing

Ms. Genevieve Elizabeth Chandler, College of Nursing, UMass Amherst

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**ABSTRACT:** Changing Minds, Changing Lives: A resilience intervention for student athletes “Push through it!” That is the mantra of student athletes and their coaches. Most athletes get to college with the same coping mechanisms they used in high school and fail to succeed because they cannot adapt. This mixed method study examined the effects of the student-centered resilience intervention on the adaptation of freshman football players to college life. We expanded this study by examining the effects of our intervention on young, urban high school athletes. The intervention impact was captured by measuring resilience, stress, emotional awareness, adverse childhood experiences and written narratives. Results revealed an increase in coping skills, emotional awareness and leadership capacity.

Participants also reported reduced stress and a deepened sense of belonging with a new awareness of the similarities among each other through active listening and reflecting on narrative writings. The statistics and stories echo participant observations that they were learning to manage stress, communicate their emotions and watch out for one another. Supporting a student cohort who represent the highest diversity on most predominantly white university campuses by building contemplative practices into their lives, is critical to the academic and athletic success for some of our most vulnerable students in our colleges and beyond.

**NEXT STEPS:** We plan to test the feasibility of the CMCL program among pre-nursing major students here at Fitchburg State University. The long term goal is to develop and test FYE content that can be incorporated into our FYE program in order to improve graduation rate, promote resilience, promote positive academic life and encourage success in academic and beyond.

OPTION 2 — NATION AND RELIGION

Moderated by Ms. Jackie Kremer

**GOOGLE MEET LINK:** [meet.google.com/qdn-ktqp-dsn](https://meet.google.com/qdn-ktqp-dsn)

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/5186c1f2-c755-4874-9dc9-901dc0876082>

**Jewish and Christian Art and Exegesis in Fourteenth and Fifteenth-Century Illustrated Copies of Nicholas of Lyra's Postilla Super Totam Bibliam**

Dr. Sarah Bromberg, Assistant Professor, Humanities

**ABSTRACT:** My research project is relevant to a multi-disciplinary audience for two reasons. First, I examine an instance in which one culture and religion expresses a simultaneous fascination and anxiety about another culture and religion. Second, I investigate an aspect of human nature through observations of visual imagery. In particular, I examine Christianity's multifaceted perception of its Jewish ancestry. My broad research questions are: What is the utility of Jewish biblical exegesis to Christian exegesis? What is the relationship of Jewish and Christian art in the later middle ages? How does late medieval Christian visual imagery respond to Jewish biblical commentary and Jewish art? To answer these questions, my project examines visual images in fourteenth and fifteenth-century manuscript and printed copies of Nicholas of Lyra's illustrated biblical commentary, the *Postilla litteralis super totam bibliam* (Literal Commentary on the Entire Bible). In the *Postilla*, Nicholas, a Franciscan biblical scholar at the University of Paris, compared Jewish and Christian commentaries on the Old Testament and designed illustrations to augment those comparisons. Nicholas wrote and illustrated the *Postilla* between 1322 and 1331. The *Postilla* was copied and reproduced with such an astounding frequency that it can be considered a medieval best seller.

My talk examines copies of Nicholas of Lyra's images that compare Jewish and Christian commentary on the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel's vision of a four-headed creature. My findings indicate that Nicholas carefully scrutinized Jewish biblical texts with a demonstrable curiosity, while colonizing Jewish beliefs into a narrative that ends with Christian triumph.

**Imagining Early American Jews**

Dr. Michael Hoberman, Professor, English Studies

**ABSTRACT:** Alan Cheuse's 2011 novel, *The Song of Slaves in the Desert*, tells the story of a family of Jewish slaveholders in South Carolina during the middle decades of the nineteenth-century. Near the middle of Cheuse's account, an unnamed omniscient narrator poses the question about Jews that motivates the entire novel and helps to explain its Exodus-themed title: "Do they treat others as they would be treated themselves?" For Nathan Pereira, a young man with abolitionist tendencies who takes the lesson of Egyptian slavery to heart, the answer is, "Yes."

Historical scholarship confirms that few, if any, Jews are likely to have asked this question about themselves in the 1850s as they contemplated the issue of African American slavery. That Cheuse's book is an unreliable source of insight into the historical personages whose legacy it wishes to explore should neither surprise nor disappoint us, however. After all, it does shed considerable light on contemporary interest in the relationship between African Americans and Jews.

My study explores three distinct forms that contemporary representations and commemorations of early Jewish American history have taken since the 1950s: 1) the writing and publication of historical fiction; 2) the curation and public presentation of extant architectural remains, including house sites and early synagogues; and 3) the preservation of traditions and lore among the descendants of the families featured in genealogist Malcolm Stern's *Americans of Jewish Descent* (1960).

## Models of American Critical Patriotism and Why We Need Them Today

Dr. Benjamin Railton, Professor, English Studies

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**ABSTRACT:** At the heart of my new book, *Of Thee I Sing: The Contested History of American Patriotism* (2021), is an argument that our shared visions of patriotism have too often focused on two types: celebratory, the participation in rituals that celebrate an idealized America; and mythic, the creation of exclusionary national myths that leave out numerous Americans and that define anyone who does not celebrate such myths as unpatriotic and even un-American. In contrast to those two visions, I argue for two alternative forms of patriotism that have also always been part of our national conversations: active patriotism, service and service on behalf of our shared community; and critical patriotism, efforts to highlight our flaws and failures in order to push the nation toward its ideals.

Critical patriotism in particular offers a vital way to recognize the dark sides of American history and identity while still celebrating ideals of inclusion, equality, and liberty and justice for all. In this symposium presentation, I will briefly make the case for such critical patriotism, and highlight what we can learn from three models of critical patriotism from across American history: the early 19th century Native American preacher, orator, and activist William Apress; the early 20th century suffrage activists the Silent Sentinels; and a 21st century figure who extends these critical patriotic legacies, Colin Kaepernick.

## Modernity, Nationhood and Independence in the Nineteenth-Century Caribbean

Dr. Diego Ubiera, Assistant Professor, English Studies

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**ABSTRACT:** This presentation offers an intellectual history of the island of Hispaniola during the last decades of the nineteenth century. I focus on the writings of one intellectual, Pedro F. Bonó (1828-1906).

Known as the first Dominican novelist, Bonó lived through some of the most dynamic moments in Dominican History: The Haitian Period (1822-1844), The War of Restoration (1861-1865) and the dramatic shift in the economy when sugar capital traveled from revolutionary Cuba to eastern Santo Domingo (1880s-1916). In his writings, Bonó wrote directly about these historical moments, producing some of the most important texts for scholars interested in exploring the island's labored projects of independence, modernization and nation-building.

The story of Dominican independence is one of the most compelling in the Americas. As Dominican leaders in the 1820s claimed independence from Spain—as most Latin American nations did at the time—the entire island came under the control of the Haitian state. Led by Jean-Pierre Boyer (1776-1850), Haitian leaders feared Spanish, French and American imperial aggression in the 1820s and took control over the island in the name of pan-Caribbean autonomy. Once independent from the Haitian state, elites in the Dominican Republic handed the nation back to slave-holding Spain, producing one of the most interesting events in Caribbean History—The Dominican War of Restoration (1861-1865). Bonó's most compelling essays come from this period following the restoration war.

Examining his essays reworks key questions in Caribbean historiography, nationhood and Dominican/Haitian relations. Feedback is welcome from faculty interested in the impact of the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), the challenges of mining the archive for narrating both popular and elite subjectivity, and conceptions of freedom and nationhood in the nineteenth-century Americas.

## OPTION 3 — STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Moderated by Dr. Benjamin Levy

**GOOGLE MEET LINK:** [meet.google.com/owt-vibq-sok](https://meet.google.com/owt-vibq-sok)

**LIVESTREAM:** <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/2aa3c132-20e3-4ad3-82ab-121ec1aa65f5>

### Africa in Context of the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages

Dr. Kisha Tracy, Associate Professor, English Studies

**ABSTRACT:** The field of medieval disability studies has been developing for the last decade. While this decade has seen an explosion of interest in this area, much of the initial scholarship began with the necessity of grounding itself in the language and critical traditions of modern disability studies. Recently, the field of medieval disability studies has been able to think more about the uniqueness of disability in this period and to rethink the connections that exist across time and geography. Medieval studies itself has begun the process of expanding into global areas of the world, beyond the traditional—and inaccurate—boundaries of Europe.

I would like to consider medieval Africa in the context of the study of disability in the Middle Ages. This study would begin with the Epic of Sundiata, analyzing the aspects of disability in the titular character and his mother Sogolon, before expanding into other narratives, written and oral, and in descriptions of practices and rituals—such as the Lebu ndeup and the Kotoko putchu guinadji—and healing practitioners—such as the Ethiopian debteras. This study will necessarily consider the Islamic and Christian approaches to disability and perhaps how these approaches manifest in Africa. The purposes of this exploration are to begin to expand the scope of medieval disability studies into the global world, emphasize the unique aspects of disability in medieval Africa, and reveal points of synthesis. It also could be a step towards a companion to the Medieval Disability Sourcebook: Western Europe, published last year. This research is relevant to the decolonization of disability studies, which draws on sociology, psychology, literary studies, art history, history, religion, philosophy, anthropology, medicine, and biology, among other fields.

### Alternative Communication Strategies: An Online Training Module for Library Student Employees

Ms. Kelly Boudreau, Librarian II, Amelia V. Galucci-Cirio Library

Ms. Sherry Packard, Assistant Librarian, Amelia V. Galucci-Cirio Library

Dr. Connie Strittmatter, Associate Librarian, Amelia V. Galucci-Cirio Library

**ABSTRACT:** University libraries strive to meet the needs of all library users. Recognizing that we have students with ASD on our campus, we wanted to assess our current library environment and communication strategies to ensure that we are providing the best possible service to students with ASD.

Using Florida State University's manual, Project A+: Serving Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Academic Library, as a framework, we completed an in-depth evaluation of our library over the course of two semesters. We conducted an environmental scan, reviewed existing signage, and examined our communication strategies when interacting with all students. Specifically we developed an online training module for library student employees that aims to help increase understanding of and empathy for those on the autism spectrum. The training provides student employees with alternative communication strategies that they can employ if they experience challenges communicating with and assisting library users. In this presentation, we will discuss the elements of the training module and the feedback we received from student employees regarding the training.

This training program could serve as a model for other departments or organizations who want to provide a resource on alternative communication strategies when engaging with individuals who may be on the spectrum.

## An Intersectional Analysis of COVID-19 Unemployment

Dr. Ozge Ozay, Associate Professor, Economics, History, & Political Science

Dr. Armagan Gezici, Professor of Economics, Keene State College

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**ABSTRACT:** Using the April 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS) micro dataset, we explore the racialized and gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the probability of being unemployed. The distribution of the pandemic-induced job losses for women and men or for different racial/ethnic categories has been studied in the recent literature. We contribute to this literature by providing an intersectional analysis of unemployment under COVID-19, where we examine the differences in the likelihood of unemployment across groups of White men, White women, Black men, Black women, Hispanic men, and Hispanic women.

As a case of study of the COVID-19 recession, our work engages with the broader empirical literature testing the discrimination theories based on the unexplained gap after accounting for observable characteristics of women, men, and different races/ethnicities and their labor market positions. Controlling for individual characteristics such as education and age, as well as industry and occupation effects, we show that women of all three racial/ethnic categories are more likely to be unemployed compared to men, yet there are substantial differences across these groups based on different unemployment measures. Hispanic women have the highest likelihood of being unemployed, followed by Black women, who are still more likely to be unemployed than White women. We also examine if the ability to work from home has benefited any particular group in terms of lowering their likelihood of unemployment during the pandemic. We find that in industries with a high degree of teleworkable jobs, White women, Black men, and Hispanic men are no longer more likely to be unemployed relative to White men. However, Black women and Hispanic Women still experience a significantly higher probability of job loss compared to White men even if they are employed in industries with highly teleworkable jobs. As we control for both individual and aggregate factors, our results suggest that these differences are not simply the result of overrepresentation of women of color in certain industries and occupations; rather, unobservable factors such as discrimination could be at work.

## Modeling the Effect of HIV/AIDS Stigma on HIV Infection Dynamics in Kenya

Dr. Benjamin Levy, Associate Professor, Mathematics

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**ABSTRACT:** In this application we formulate a disease model to consider how stigma towards people living with HIV/AIDS has impeded the response to the disease. Our model consists of a compartmental system of ordinary differential equations (ODEs) that was formulated to describe dynamics in Kenya. We take a data-driven approach to embed a time-dependent stigma function within our model and to estimate model parameters from published data. We explore a range of scenarios to understand the potential impact of different public health interventions on key HIV metrics such as prevalence and disease-related death, and to predict how close Kenya will come to achieving UN Goals for these HIV and stigma metrics by 2030.