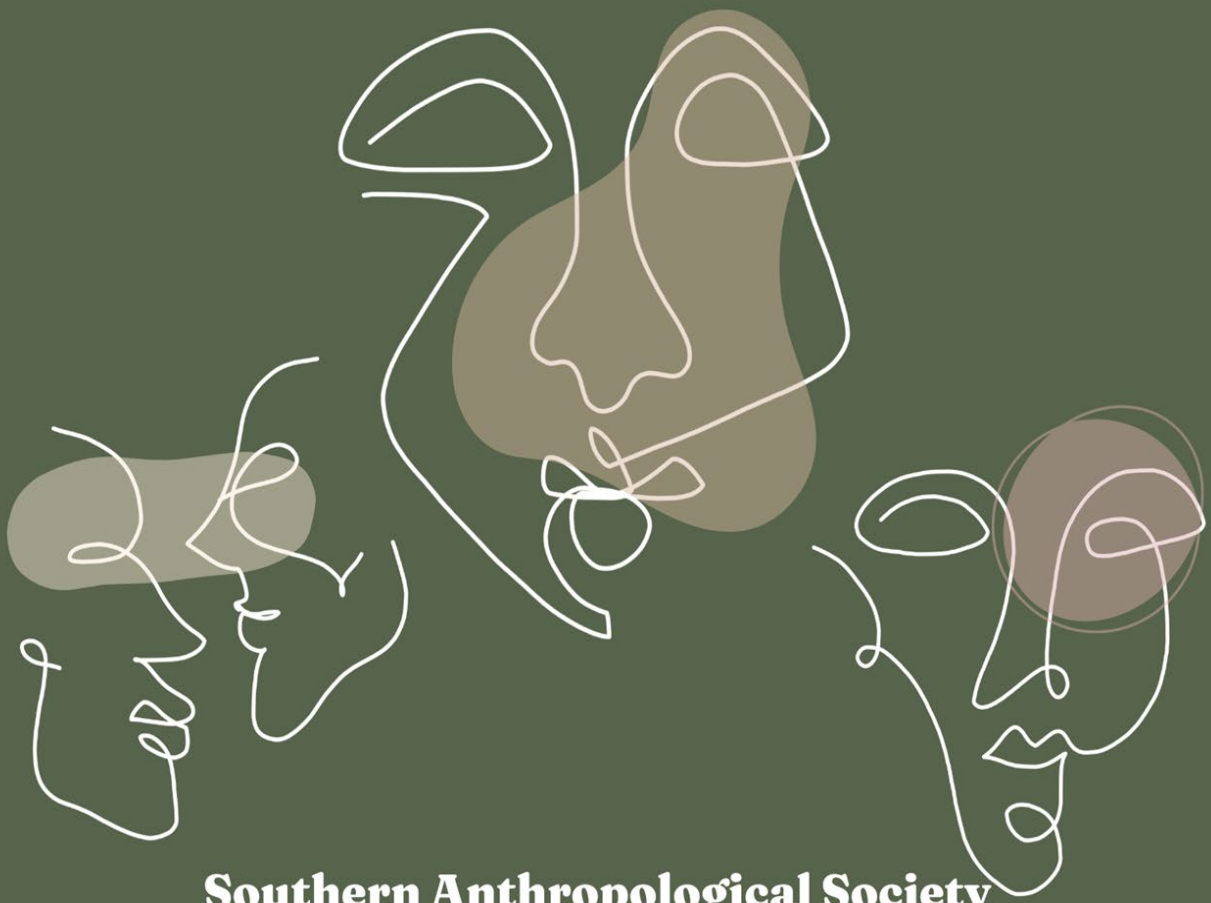


Anthropological Orientations: Ways of Being Interdisciplinary



**Southern Anthropological Society
56th Annual Meeting**

**9-11, March 2023
Valdosta, Georgia**



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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2023 (and 56th) Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society. Last year's meeting in Raleigh was a successful in-person experience following our virtual meeting in 2021. The theme, "Public Interest and Professional Anthropology in the South," provoked some meaningful discussion, particularly in a workshop on our last morning together. The discussion centered on how we can be more visible in bringing anthropology to bear on the public sphere and how we might respond to some of the issues, threats even, facing those of us who work in higher education environments. We also recognized that different kinds of environments face different challenges. This year's theme is "Anthropological Orientations: Ways of Being Interdisciplinary," and registration for this year's conference (nearly double that of last year!) has a wider disciplinary representation than I can remember from the past three decades. Interdisciplinary conversations provide another way to bring an anthropological vision to the conversations and contexts in which we are engaged in our daily lives.



For those who are new, the SAS began as a regional organization focused on anthropology in the South and Southeast, and we welcome members from everywhere and value research on any topic or region. I've noted this before, but the preposition is important. Most of us might do anthropology "in" the South, yet we are concerned with the practice of anthropology that transcends the South and reflects our desire for conversation with publics far and near. In these days of war, ongoing and shifting pandemics, and persisting calls for social justice, the anthropological task is to seek to look for ways to connect with and learn from each other (and from those with whom we work) across borders of enmity and division of all kinds. The Society is also in a time of transition as we work to revitalize and create a new identity for the future. There is

plenty of space for new members to assume leadership roles or to find creative ways to make contributions to our work. We are open to suggestions, and we would welcome contributions to one of our publications. You might even consider editing a guest edition of the *Southern Anthropologist*. The executive board can also use help in strengthening our social media identity and in increasing our ability to project our work in more sustainable ways on campuses and in communities throughout the South and beyond.

Finally, a thank you to the planning and program committee for this meeting, especially Shelly Yankovskyy at Valdosta State. Other members include Amanda Reinke (Kennesaw State), Abby Wightman (Mary Baldwin), and Catherine Bowers, Fred Knowles Jr., and Bobbie Ticknor (all from Valdosta State). And a special word of thanks to Amanda Reinke who has made major contributions to the SAS since becoming secretary-treasurer in 2018. Amanda's work has been instrumental in holding us together through COVID lockdowns and beyond.

Thanks to everyone for participating in this meeting and in our work of making sense of how an interdisciplinary orientation shapes a discipline that is itself inherently interdisciplinary in outlook and action. We also look forward to seeing you next year at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia.

Sincerely,

Matt Samson (Davidson College)
President, Southern Anthropological Society (2020-2023)

SAS OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

ORGANIZATION

PRESIDENT (2020-Present), Matt Samson, Davidson College

PRESIDENT ELECT (2020-2022), VACANT

PAST PRESIDENT (2018-2020), Betty J. Duggan, Curator of Ethnology and Ethnography, NY State Museum (ret.), UT Chattanooga (adj.)

Secretary/Treasurer (2018-2023), Amanda J. Reinke, Kennesaw State University

Councillor (2018-2022), VACANT

Councillor (2020-2023), Abby Wightman, Mary Baldwin University

Councillor (2020-2023), Marjorie Snipes, West Georgia University

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Editorial Board. Robbie Ethridge (University of Mississippi), Heidi Altman (Georgia Southern University), Carrie B. Douglas (University of Virginia), Dan Ingersoll, (St. Mary's College of Maryland)

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ZORA NEAL HURSTON PRIZE COORDINATOR

Lisa Lefler, Western Carolina University

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Marcos Mendoza, University of Mississippi

2023 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Abby Wightman (Mary Baldwin), Marjorie Snipes, (West Georgia), Robbie Ethridge (University of Mississippi)

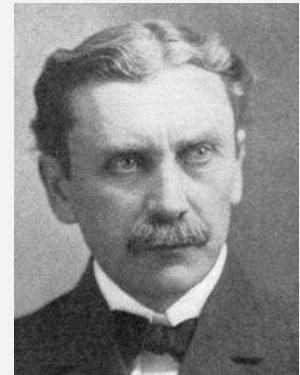
2023 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Shelly Yankovskyy (Valdosta State University), Abby Wightman (Mary Baldwin), Amanda Reinke (Kennesaw State University), Catherine Bowers (Valdosta State University), Bobbie Ticknor (Valdosta State University), and Fred Knowles (Valdosta State University)

AWARDS

JAMES MOONEY AWARD

The James Mooney Award recognizes and thereby encourages distinguished anthropological scholarship on the South and Southerners. Presented annually, the award includes a \$500 cash prize and certificate of recognition presented to the winning author at an awards ceremony. In addition, an Honorable Mention Award includes a certificate of recognition. The winning presses also receive certificates of recognition and are granted free exhibit space at the Society's annual meeting and, for one-year, free advertising space for the winning books in the *Southern Anthropologist*. To be considered for the 2022 James Mooney Award presented in 2023, a book must have been published in 2021 or 2022. The judges welcome works on the South or Southern peoples and cultures (past or present) in, of, or from the region. Books are judged by a committee of anthropologists from different subfields in the discipline. The winner will be announced at the 2023 SAS annual meeting. Contact Kate Ingersoll (clockersfancy@gmail.com) or Daniel Ingersoll (dwingersoll@smcm.edu) for more information. For a list of previous winners visit the SAS website Archives and Photos page, and for details on how to submit a book for consideration, see the Awards and Prizes page.



ZORA NEALE HURSTON AWARD



The Zora Neale Hurston Award acknowledges an anthropologist who has shown mentoring, service, and scholarship within historically underserved populations of the South. Established in 2006, the Hurston Award recognizes those SAS members who have made exceptional contributions to anthropology and the public good by exemplifying the skills of the discipline for the benefit of others. This award is presented specifically to a senior scholar for their works in the form of scholarship, applied research, multi-media (book, film, articles), and/or organization and mobilization of people to provide meaningful services to communities. Zora Neale Hurston (1891 – 1960) knew the adversity, pain and challenges that cut across issues of ethnicity, class, and gender. Born and reared in Florida, she studied folklore at Howard University and Barnard College (her institution of matriculation, B.A. 1928). From 1928-1932, she studied anthropology at Columbia University with Franz Boas. Ms. Hurston was a writer and leader in the Harlem Renaissance during the 1920's and 1930's. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship, 1936 and 1938; Litt.D. from Morgan State College, 1939; Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in Race Relations, 1943; Howard University's Distinguished Alumni Award, 1943;

Bethune-Cookman College Award for Education and Human Relations. Alice Walker claimed Hurston as a "literary ancestor" in the 1970's and placed a tombstone on her unmarked grave which reads "Zora Neale Hurston, A Genius of the South". This award, in her honor, pays tribute to her many lasting contributions to anthropology and southern studies and is a testament to her enduring spirit, courage, and ability to make ethnographic work and folklore meaningful to the public. For nomination information and deadlines for the Zora Neale Hurston Prize contact: Chair: Lisa Lefler (2008-2015), Executive Director, Center for Native health, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, Phone: 828-227-2167; Email: llefler@email.wcu.edu.

STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION

Each year, the Southern Anthropological Society holds a student research paper competition. Both a graduate and an undergraduate winner are selected, and awards are announced at the annual meeting. The winners receive a cash prize of \$200.00.

SAS PROCEEDINGS

The *SAS Proceedings*, developed from annual Keynote Symposia and selected annual meeting papers, was published for the first time in 1967. The most recently published *SAS Proceedings* include:

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The *SAS Proceedings*, developed from annual Keynote Symposia and selected annual meeting papers, was published for the first time in 1967. The most recently published *SAS Proceedings* include:

- *Anthropology: Weaving Our Discipline with Community*. Lisa J. Lefler, ed. Selected Papers from the Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, Cherokee, North Carolina, March 30–April 1, 2014. Knoxville: Newfound Press, 2020.
- *Reinventing and Reinvesting in the Local for Our Common Good*. Brian A. Hoey, ed. Selected Papers from the Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, Huntington, West Virginia, 2015. Knoxville: Newfound Press, 2020.
- *Ethnocentrism in Its Many Guises*. Marjorie M. Snipes, ed. Selected Papers from the Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society, Carrollton, Georgia, March 2017. Knoxville: Newfound Press, 2021.

UPCOMING SAS MEETINGS

Please join us in Spring 2024 for our annual meeting at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia!

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAM EVENTS

Thursday, March 9, 2023

3:30 – 6:00 **Registration, VSU University Center (Lobby)**

4:00 – 6:00 **VSU University Center (Cypress Room)**

Interdisciplinary Inquiries (Shelly Yankovskyy, Session Chair)

Evans, Jenny. (Valdosta State University). What happens when Anthropology and Art Education Collide

Swan, Glenda. (Valdosta State University). Teaching Students to Look with an Anthropological Eye at Ancient Material Culture.

Kicey, Charles. (Valdosta State University). Can we intersect Math and Anthro?

Reid, Denise and Yankovskyy, Shelly. (Valdosta State University). Math and Science Across Cultures: An Interdisciplinary Course.

Prine, Rudy. (Valdosta State University). Anthropological Influences on a Criminologist: An Homage to Dr. Steve Childs.

Storey, Phillip. (Valdosta State University). Interdisciplinary Approaches to First Time Anthropological Instruction.

6:00 – 7:30 **Reception, VSU University Center (Lobby)**

Friday, March 10, 2023

7:30 am – 5:00 **Registration, VSU University Center**

7:30 – 8:30 **Breakfast, VSU University Center**

8:30 – 10:00 **VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)**

Enduring Legacies (Thomas Hochschild Jr., Session Chair)

Fallmer, Rory. (Davidson College). Skeletons for Sale: Investigating The History of Osteological Collections and Their Enduring Legacies of Harm

Conrad, Maximilian X. (University of Mississippi). Touristic Imaginaries and Public Space in a Confederate Brazilian Museum).

Thieme, Donald. (Valdosta State University). Ceramic change and raw material sources in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico, an homage to Mary Stevenson Thieme

Hochschild Jr., Thomas and Lorna Alvarez-Rivera. (Valdosta State University). Fragmentation of the Social Sciences: Is a Path Towards Unification Possible?

8:30 – 10:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 2)

Evolution and the Environment (Catherine Bowers, Session Chair)

Ring, Brian. (Valdosta State University). Contemporary Meets Ancient Human DNA: Emerging Fields of Biological Anthropology.

Stevens, Sandra. (Valdosta State University) The Effects of Climate Change in Your Kitchen.

Wheeler, Dillon. (Lee University) “Always Gotta Replant the Berries”: Planting and Protection as Generalized Reciprocity Among Appalachian Ginseng Hunters

Bowers, Catherine (Valdosta State University) The Evolution of Information Literacy in Anthropology: Thresholds in the Ecosystem of Library Research

10:00 – 12:30

VSU University Center (Lobby)

Posters

Martin, Sommer and Putt, Shelby (Illinois State University). Is the Temporal Styloid Process a Unique Speech Structure in Humans?

Miller, Crystal. (Valdosta State University). When anthropology meets librarianship: Helping organize a book event series.

Saucier, Ari. (Valdosta State University) “4 of Costs” Alternative Altar Project: Plastic Pollution and Its Impact on the Environment

Rethinking the Canon: Genealogies for the Present in American Anthropology (Regis, Helen A. Session Chair)

Jones, Charlotte. (Louisiana State University) Creolization, Transculturation, or Ethnogenesis?: Exploring Theories of Identity, Integration, and Deviation in Cultural Anthropology.

Rustamani, Kashif. (Louisiana State University) Dancing a Life: Katherine Dunham.

Valenzuela-Hernandez, Latasha. (Louisiana State University) Aris Clemons: Native Anthropologist and Rising Star.

Honeycutt, Danielle L. (Louisiana State University) Material Culture and Clothed Bodies: Anthropological Thought and Theory through Colonial and Post-Colonial Dress Research.

Smith, Tiffany R. (Louisiana State University) Zora Neale Hurston: Misunderstood Genius

Aldrighetti, Jacopo. (Louisiana State University) Is Anything Really Missing?

10:30 - 12:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)

Identity, Heritage, and Place (Abby Wightman, Session Chair)

Wightman, Abby (Mary Baldwin University). Re-settled Landscapes: Heritage and Activism in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Westermeyer, William (University of South Carolina). Patriot Aesthetics: Artistic Frames in American Right-Wing Populism

Caro, Lennin. (Camino Research Institute) Results and Reflections on the 2022 Mecklenburg County Latino Strengths and Needs Assessment

Knowles, Fred. (Valdosta State University). McGrit and Castro-Huerto: The Supreme Court and Tribal Sovereignty.

10:30 - 12:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 2)

Religious Experience and Community (Ingram-Basby, Antonia, Session Chair)

Haggard, Dixie (Valdosta State University) Mission Witches and Indian Slavery: A Metaphysical Interpretation of the 1704 Attacks on Spanish Missions in Florida.

Scott, Jennifer (University of West Georgia) Community Identity among the Bruderhof.

Hughes, Rodney (Louisiana State University) THE MOURNER'S BENCH: Afro-Baptist Ritual Performance and Discourse Central to Conversion.

Ingram-Basby, Antonia (Louisiana State University) Take Me To The Water: The Baptism Ritual Experience of Women in the African American Baptist Church.

Moon, Emily (University of West Georgia) An Investigation of the Anomalous Experiences of Hospice Workers.

12:00 - 1:15

Executive Board Meeting (Live Oak Conference Room)

1:15 - 2:15

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)

**Health and Access to Health Services (Md Asaduzzaman,
Session Chair)**

Asaduzzaman, Md (Arizona State University). Strategies of Dealing with Healthcare Barriers in the Resettled Phase of Rohingya Refugees: Analyzing Ethnographic Data in the Context of U.S. Healthcare System in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Younce, Chloe (Christopher Newport University). Invisible Problems: Establishing a Needs-Based Food Pantry on a College Campus.

Logan, Ellis (Valdosta State University). Taking a Bite out of Health Disparities: Variation in Oral Health Among U.S. Veterans.

1:15 - 2:15 **VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 2)**

Diverse Forms of Human Expression (Dana Dawson, Session Chair)

Ellis, Charles Steven (Valdosta State University). Virtual Reality Offers the World: How Digital Representations Transcend Culture and Language.

Saucier, Ari (Valdosta State University). Experiencing Art and Gallery Culture.

Dawson, Dana (University of Alabama at Birmingham). Embodiment & Meaning: Muay Thai in Different Cultural Contexts

2:15 - 3:15 **VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)**

Roundtable: What Can I Do with My Degree?" How Anthropology Shapes Our Interdisciplinary Lives

Matthew Newsom (organizer, chair), Southern Utah University

Melissa Coleman (participant), Advocacy Wealth Management

Mandy Anderson, (participant), University of West Florida

Russ Anderson (participant), 2050 Consortium

Natasha Fast (participant), Grassroots Coffee Roasters

3:15 - 3:30 **Break**

3:30 – 5:00 **VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)**

Workshop: Leslie Sandra Jones (Valdosta State University)

Hands-On Workshop Using the Biology of Human Skin Colors to Contradict Racial Categorization

3:30 – 5:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 2)

Workshop: Chalise Ludlow (Valdosta State University)

Object-Based Costume History Research Class Activity and how it relates to Material Culture

5:00 – 6:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)

Membership Meeting

All are welcome! Please attend for an update on SAS and future planning.

6:15 – 7:30

Georgia Beer Company

109 S Briggs St, Valdosta, GA 31601

RECEPTION, Awards Ceremony at 6:45

Mooney Award (Dan Ingersoll)

Student Paper Competition (Abby Wightman)

Saturday, March 11, 2023

7:30 – 8:30

Breakfast, VSU University Center

8:30 – 10:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)

Mental Health and Wellbeing (Anne Price, Session Chair)

Yankovskyy, Shelly and Price, Anne (Valdosta State University) The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health in South Georgia..

Custer, Ieasa. (Christopher Newport University). Prioritizing Long Distance Hiking: The Appalachian Trail as a Form of Self-Care.

Woolridge, Nicole (Valdosta State University) On-Campus Greenspaces, Student Mental Health, and Landscape Genetics.

Campbell, Drew (Valdosta State University). Sociocultural Barriers to Mental Health in Law Enforcement.

8:30 – 10:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 2)

**Situating COVID in a Local Context (Marjorie M. Snipes,
Session Chair)**

McGraw, Ashley. (University of South Carolina) COVID-19 Oral Histories as
News Stories of Appalachia.

Molinari, Kiley E. (Francis Marion University) A Pandemic Picture: An
Interdisciplinary Approach to Exploring Student Engagement in the Pee
Dee Region of South Carolina.

LaGarde, Shyra. (Valdosta State University) Topological Data Analysis Of
SARS-COV-2 Variant Surges Over the Top 50 Most Populated Countries
Based on Their Stringency of Policies.

Snipes, Marjorie M. (University of West Georgia) Ritual in Transition: Supple v.
Brittle Ritual Facing Change

10:00 - 11:00

VSU University Center (Theater)

**“Masking “Indian,” Identity, and the African Turn: Journeying
with the Spirit of Fi Yi Yi and the Mandingo Warriors**

Jeffrey David Ehrenreich (University of New Orleans)

10:00 - 11:30

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)

Waters of Life (Celeste Ray Session Chair)

Ray, Celeste (Sewanee: The University of the South) Sacred Waters as
Biocultural Resources.

Hollifield, Emma (Sewanee: The University of the South) Taking the Waters at
Spring Resorts of the American Southeast.

Clate, Nicholas (Sewanee: The University of the South) Pure water as a Limited
Medical Resource.

Johnson, William (Sewanee: The University of the South) Sacred Water Sites in
Tamang Culture.

Michel, J.T. (Sewanee: The University of the South) Exploring Drivers of
Preferential Spring Use: The Sewanee Spring Community.

10:00 - 11:30

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 2)

**Inequity in the Human Experience (Jodie Boisvert, Session
Chair)**

Goldsboro, Tanisha. (Valdosta State University) Gaps in Women’s Leadership
and

Pay Across 26 University System of Georgia Institutions.
 Sisco, Kaitlyn. (University of Mississippi) Un forzudo con peluca [A strongman with a wig]: Gender Dynamics and Feminine Erasure in Club Andino Bariloche.
 Boisvert, Jodie. (Florida Atlantic University) An Interdisciplinary Approach to Studying the Effects of Migration on Xenophobia.
 Amuneke, Obina. (Valdosta State University) Black People's Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice Systems of the USA and Canada and the Impact of Black Lives Matter on Criminal Justice Policies.

11:30 - 1:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)

Resistance and Activism (Marcos Mendoza, Session Chair)

Mendoza, Marcos. (University of Mississippi) Liberation Shrines: Narco-Power, Mundane Aesthetics, and Territorial Reclamation in Mexico.
 Muise, Mandy. (Davidson College) Education in the New Latino South: Activism in (Post)Pandemic Charlotte.
 Samson, Matthews C. (Matt) (Davidson College) Maya Identity, Peruvian Protests, and Indigenous Responses to Social and Environmental Injustice in Latin America.
 Bennett, Cheyenne. (New South Associates) Liberated Spaces: Accumulation by Dispossession in Tellico.

11:30 - 1:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 2)

Gender Identity and Expression (Elizabeth Rivera, Session Chair)

Mahmud, Sumiya (Arizona State university, Tempe) Transnational Experience of 'Homemaking' among Bangladeshi Female Migrants across Continents.
 Rivera, Elizabeth and Anne Price and Ellis Logan (Valdosta State University) "Childfree" Movement: How Individuals Negotiate Identities on Reddit.
 Wesley, Nashie (Valdosta State University) How do Societies Socialize Gender Identity Expression and Sexual Orientation Through Institutions.
 Darko, Esther (Valdosta State University) Diversity and Inclusion: Intersectionality in the Workplace.

1:00 - 2:00

VSU University Center (Theater)

Film Screening: Kashif Rustamani

College Football Tailgating at LSU

1:00 - 2:00

VSU University Center (Magnolia Room 1)

**Roundtable: Shared Stories: The Impact that Anthropology
Has Had on Your Life.**

Schmertzing, Richard (Valdosta State University) Organizer
Jeffrey David. Ehrenreich, University of New Orleans

**END OF THE 2023 56th ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE SOUTHERN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING.**

SAS MEETING ABSTRACTS 2023

Roundtable and Workshop Abstracts

Hands-On Workshop Using the Biology of Human Skin Colors to Contradict Racial Categorization (Workshop)

- **Leslie Sandra Jones** (Valdosta State University)

Since historic patterns of global migration correspond to the protective differences in pigmentation seen in ancestral indigenous populations, this Hands-On Workshop demonstrates with simple manipulatives how the three common patterns of natural selection account for changes in skin colors. Phenotypes and established genetic markers follow directional, disruptive, and stabilizing models of natural selection corresponding to geographical variation in exposure to UV radiation. This lesson can be used as an activity to show students that racial categories are rooted in ignorance of the biological basis for superficial human differences. Scientific characterization of how evolution led to variation in skin colors challenges racism by demonstrating how to distinguish the biological reality of human diversity from the social construction of race. Coupling this with documentation of how biomedical, scientific racism coincided with the Eurocentric need to justify colonialism, imperialism, and slavery fits nicely with the fact that some astute early anthropologists such as Franz Boas and Ashley Montagu were the first to point out the fallacy of these human divisions.

Object-Based Costume History Research Class Activity and how it relates to Material Culture (Workshop)

- **Chalise Ludlow** (Valdosta State University)

This workshop will provide a technique to help students engage and be excited about research in the classroom. Object-Based research is a relatively new methodology in the world of costume history but it has a direct link to material studies. The Dress Detective by Ingrid Mida proposes the slow method of looking at a garment to uncover its hidden stories. Using this methodology, a civil war era dress, a pair of woolen trousers, and a tux jacket the workshop will allow participants to use Dr. Mida's slow approach to seeing. The workshop will discuss ways to implement this activity in the classroom and will share student success stories.

“What Can I Do with My Degree?” How Anthropology Shapes Our Interdisciplinary Lives (Roundtable)

- **Matthew Newsom, (organizer, chair), Southern Utah University**
- **Melissa Coleman (participant), Advocacy Wealth Management**
- **Mandy Anderson (participant), University of West Florida**
- **Russ Anderson (participant), ACRT Services**

Studying anthropology can open the world in unexpected ways. This roundtable provides a forum in which the participants—all former VSU anthropology majors who are now working in diverse career fields—discuss how their undergraduate studies impacted their life trajectories. In keeping with the theme of this year's conference, our goal for this discussion is to explore how anthropology frames the ways in which we understand our interdisciplinary worlds. While reflecting on personal perspectives and histories, we hope to offer current students attending the conference a more tangible sense of how anthropology might influence their own futures. This conversation will address common concerns about what one might do after graduation, but will likely also pique the interest of other attendees, for whom anthropology has no doubt unlocked a range of human experience.

Shared Stories: The Impact that Anthropology Has Had on Your Life. (Roundtable/Open Discussion)

- **Schmertzing, Richard (Organizer) Valdosta State University**
- **Jeffrey David Ehrenreich, (Participant) University of New Orleans**

Come share your stories about the ways anthropology has influenced your life and deepened your understanding of the world around us. No preparation. No presentation. In the true spirit of anthropology - it is story time.

SAS Poster and Film Abstracts

Martin, Sommer and Putt, Shelby (Illinois State University) **Is the Temporal Styloid Process a Unique Speech Structure in Humans?** The elongated temporal styloid process in humans serves as an attachment point for the styloglossus, stylohyoid, and stylopharyngeus, which are involved in tongue movement and deglutition. We hypothesized that an elongated styloid process in humans is the result of selection for increased musculature that would support tongue movements that are involved in speech and aid in the movement of the oropharynx and laryngopharynx during deglutition. This hypothesis assumes that an elongated styloid process is unique to humans. To test this hypothesis, we conducted a comparative analysis of the presence or absence of the temporal styloid process on ten species of Old World primates. We found that this structure is not unique to humans but also exists in baboons, *Papio* and *Theropithecus*. In baboons, the styloid ligament, styloglossus, stylohyoid, and stylopharyngeus attach to the styloid process in a similar manner to the human soft tissue articulations. This indicates that the temporal styloid process that is present in humans and baboons is a convergent evolutionary structure and therefore not specially adapted for speech.

Miller, Crystal R. (Valdosta State University) **When anthropology meets librarianship: Helping organize a book event series.** Sometimes an undergraduate degree in anthropology does not lead to a career in anthropology directly, sometimes it leads to applied work and advanced degrees in other fields. This poster will show how one library paraprofessional used the training in both fields to help a women's and gender studies department organize an event series analyzing books on various aspects of reproductive rights from historical to current popular dialogue.

Rustamani, Kashif (Louisiana State University) **College Football Tailgating at LSU.** In this short ethnographic film, I follow two spaces, in the form of tailgating tents between September to November 2022 at Louisiana State University (LSU). Through observational and participatory techniques, interviews, and ethnographic filmmaking practices this film explores participants' perceptions of established tailgates and relatively newer ones. This research uses the theoretical approach of "actors" and "events" (Shrum, et al., 2017) to document and analyze social events by using a micro-level analysis of group behavior and social interactions revolving around the tailgate and football games. The movie answers two questions. First, how does tailgating function as a social and cultural space that draws people from across the southern United States? Second, how people reinforce the networks consisting of actor and their social relations by participating in the event "tailgating." Findings show that tailgating as event and experience is deeply rooted in the social structure of communities who are avid followers of college football. Over the years, established tailgates have formed strong relations among members and are teaching the young generation how to host tailgates through participatory experience. The future of LSU tailgates depends on the younger generation setting up new tailgates and adapting to latest trends in college football. Works Cited Wesley Shrum and Scott Greg 2017 Video Ethnography in Practice: Planning, Shooting, and Editing for Social Analysis. Thousand Oaks, CA : SAGE.

Saucier, Ari (Valdosta State University) **"4 of Costs" Alternative Altar Project: Plastic Pollution and Its Impact on the Environment.** My artwork, 4 of Costs Altar, involves both the

process and construction of an altar designed to draw attention to plastic pollution. This altar is made of found and collected items including plastics and old magazines, as well as ceramic and printed elements. It is important for me to incorporate materials such as ceramic and paper to highlight the alternatives to plastic, both ephemeral and lasting, and to make the case that we should be using these materials instead. The main focal piece of the altar will be the “4 of Costs” card, a screen print modeled after the 4 of Pentacles card from the Rider Waite-Smith tarot deck, which is associated with wealth of some sort, especially when accompanied by a mindset of scarcity. The tarot for me is about the rituals we look to for guidance, as well as how we put those into practice, which is why it’s at the core of this project. This entire artwork is about holding on to practices that are harmful, such as creating and throwing away plastic. I made it a ritual to collect, clean, and repurpose plastic items so that I might inspire change within others around me.

SAS Full Panel Poster Abstracts

Regis, Helen A. (Louisiana State University) **Rethinking the Canon: Genealogies for the Present in American Anthropology.** The posters in this session explore the history of anthropology from a presentist perspective, informed by contemporary social movements, concerns about representation, calls for decolonizing the disciplines, and moves toward expanding the archive and rethinking the anthropological canon. Students enrolled in a History of Anthropology seminar (including students from Comparative Literature, Hispanic Studies, Textile Design, and Mass Communication) explored these themes through one of four lenses: 1. Other Founders and Ancestors for contemporary anthropology, explore a scholar whose work has been historically marginalized, erased, dismissed, caricatured, misread, or overlooked within the field of anthropology and whose legacy has recently been re-evaluated (or should be). 2. Rethinking a Classic text or author; 3. Genealogy of the Present, starting with a pressing concern in the field today as you see it (an idea, concept, problem or research question), and trace its history; and 4. Intersections of Science, Popular culture and Public Policy, as modelled by Lee Baker’s foundational text *From Savage to Negro*. Posters in this session consider foundational figures of Katherine Dunham, Zora Neale Huston, and the current boundary crossing work of Aris Clemons on race and language linguistic anthropology, historical trajectories of colonial and post-colonial dress research and evolving debates around creolization, transculturation, ethnogenesis, mestizaje and vira-latas complex in Brazil.

Participants:

Jones, Charlotte (Louisiana State University) **Creolization, Transculturation, or Ethnogenesis?: Exploring Theories of Identity, Integration, and Deviation in Cultural Anthropology.** Twentieth-century anthropology bore several reconfigured concepts regarding the transformation or diffusion of cultural groups and identities. This poster examines three different theories around cultural change; it seeks to answer these questions: How have anthropological theories involving the medley, transformation, and integration of two or more cultures into new cultural phenomena changed over time? Which of these theories (if any) is the most appropriate term for developing theoretical frameworks in cultural anthropology? For whom and by whom? To answer these questions, this poster presents the history and uses of

three anthropological theories that are intertwined yet fundamentally different: creolization, transculturation, and ethnogenesis.

Rustamani, Kashif (Louisiana State University) **Dancing a Life: Katherine Dunham.** This research poster considers the life and work of Katherine Dunham and her contributions to the history of anthropology – specifically focusing on her fieldwork, her innovations in dance practice (i.e. the Dunham Technique combining African-based movement with ballet and modern dance) and contributions to dance scholarship, and her role in experimenting with different forms for sharing and circulating research products. Training in Anthropology at the University of Chicago, Dunham employed dance and performance to challenge racial inequality and influenced Black freedom movements in the US and abroad.

Valenzuela – Hernandez, Latasha (Louisiana State University) **Aris Clemons: Native Anthropologist and Rising Star** In light of the historic marginalization of interdisciplinary scholarship by Black scholars, this poster reframes “Native Anthropology” through the boundary-crossing work of Aris Clemons at the intersections of language ideologies, race, and educational policies, Hispanic Studies, and Anthropology. It makes an argument for the need to be interdisciplinary, the ongoing relevance of research on racism and linguistic practices, and call for contributing to a more expansive understanding of Blackness.

Honeycutt, Danielle L. (Louisiana State University) **Material Culture and Clothed Bodies: Anthropological Thought and Theory through Colonial and Post-Colonial Dress Research.** To explore how the field of anthropology has examined colonial clothing and clothed bodies during colonialism, a genealogy of notable academic contributions was researched and investigated. Through the lens of French colonial and post-colonial dress, theoretical conversations about material culture, dress practices and clothed bodies within Anthropology were examined. The findings revealed how French colonialism influenced and changed the material culture landscape of the communities it colonized, how colonial clothing was used as a symbol of power, how indigenous dress was often victim to external design piracy, and how dress conventions experienced hybridization during post-colonial periods.

Smith, Tiffany R. (Louisiana State University) **Zora Neale Hurston: Misunderstood Genius.** Zora Neale Hurston has been called a genius. Trickster. Victim. Emancipator. Misunderstood. Feminist. An embarrassment to the race. Pioneer. Since Alice Walker’s 1975 piece on “In Search of Zora”, Hurston’s books that were once out of print or never published, are being reprinted and sold as her popularity rises again. There has been a resurgence of interest of her life and works. Hurston is most well-known as a novelist with her most popular book being, “Their Eyes were Watching God”. Conversely, she was criticized by Black scholars and activist because of some her political stances in the early 1950s. This poster will explore the complexity of Hurston’s work and life. We will examine her life as novelist and playwright but also as a researcher and anthropologist.

Aldrighetti, Jacopo (Louisiana State University) **Is Anything Really Missing? The “Complexo de Vira-Latas” in Brazil.** Often referred to as ‘mongrel’s complex’, the ‘vira-lata complex’ is a unique, prominent concept in Brazilian cultural studies. In the words of the creator of this neologism, Nelson Rodrigues, vira-latismo stands for “The inferiority in which Brazilians put themselves . . . compared to the rest of the world” (Rodrigues, 1993: 62). Exclusive to Brazil,

it provides an interesting contrast to the much more popular and discussed ‘mestizaje’. In fact, these two concepts appear to be polar opposites. While mestizaje is a term that originally aims to elevate the social realities of Latin America and lead to the creation of the myth of the ‘raza cosmica’, a vision of a stage of humanity that overcomes racial differences by encompassing and appropriating all races, vira-latismo serves a radically different purpose in that it relegates anything Brazilian to a lesser role when compared to North American and European countries. Ultimately, a discussion of vira-latismo in the frame of postcolonial studies could be useful in terms of providing an additional tool for the analysis of social and racial phenomena in Latin American countries other than Brazil.

SAS Full Panel Paper Abstracts

Waters of Life. Pre-existing and required for all known forms of life, water uncoincidentally symbolizes life cross-culturally. Less than 3% of the earth’s water is fresh, only 30% of that is liquid (not locked in ice caps and glaciers), and 97% of earth’s liquid water flows beneath the land surface as groundwater, so that lakes, rivers and spring-fed ponds are a very small percentage of the water composing our blue planet. For those now accustomed to water derived from a tap, the comparative rarity of fresh, liquid surface water may have little impact on daily life, yet the search for water sources and their protection and ritual celebration has shaped all societies since the origins of humanity. This panel examines water sources as the central nodes of Local Ecological Knowledge, as therapeutic and healing sites across time periods, and as compromised by human use in a moment when human overpopulation conflates with water-intensive medical practices. Individual contributors consider how viewing water sources as biocultural resources can foster socio-ecological resilience in the face of water insecurity and how understanding particular sites deemed culturally significant can help monitor local water supplies more generally.

Ray, Celeste (Sewanee: The University of the South) **“Sacred Waters as Biocultural Resources.”** Aquatic Sacred Natural Sites and their associated traditions have many striking similarities around the world. As sites of biocultural diversity, sacred springs and holy wells are places where cultural beliefs and practices are both shaped by local biota and also help protect and maintain stocks of particular flora and fauna (because these are perceived as curative, numinous, or as totems). Rituals at watery sites that encode Local Ecological Knowledge and perpetuate biodiversity conservation deserve our attention. This paper identifies patterns in panhuman hydrolatry and asks how cultural perceptions of water’s sacrality can be employed to foster resilient human-environmental relationships in the growing water crises of the twenty-first century.

Hollifield, Emma (Sewanee: The University of the South) **“Taking the Waters at Spring Resorts of the American Southeast.”** Vital for the sustenance of life, water has become the focus of religious understanding and ritual performance across time and place. Water has also been an integral part of recreation, sociability, and therapeutic practices. Roman bathhouses were often built over previously sacred springs, as were early modern European spas. Emulating European, but more specifically English, practices of “Taking the Waters,” spring resorts developed in their thousands across the American Southeast. While many doctors prescribed a

stay at such resorts for the health of their patients, other guests came for what can be viewed as the proto-vacation for music, balls, fresh air and good food. This paper considers the economic and cultural context of spring resorts in the South with a focus on the prescriptive rituals and social expectations of Tennessee spas where the ill mingled with the bored.

Clate, Nicholas (Sewanee: The University of the South) "**Pure water as a Limited Medical Resource.**" From folk traditions to the ancient Galen, and from early modern spa prescriptions for "Taking the Waters" to contemporary science, medical treatment have always relied on water as a central curative element. Modern medical practitioners require water evaluated at the microbial level—purified and/or having a specific mineral quality—which is called "pure water." With increasing water scarcity and insecurity around the world, developing new and improved medicines and treatment paths that also employ less water should be a priority. An undergraduate and faculty research team at Sewanee is working to minimize the water footprint in treating tumorigenic cancers. Chemotherapy requires water-based solutions and IV fluid treatments requiring considerable quantities of pure water. It is hoped that in utilizing a fast-acting localized treatment, the requirement for water as an integral portion of treatment will be lessened. This paper explores how we culturally consider both water and medical treatments, and how innovation in medicine requires an evolved cultural model of pure water as a limited resource.

Johnson, William (Sewanee: The University of the South) **Sacred Water Sites in Tamang Culture.** In the Tibetan Culture Area, many aspects of Buddhist practice relate to a syncretic veneration of water. From restorative sacred hot springs, and water-powered prayer wheels, to high-altitude sacred lakes, water possesses many different qualities and many genii loci from Bon-po shamans to Buddhist gurus. This paper focuses on sacred water practices of the Tamangs of Rasuwa in Northern Nepal whose identity is closely linked to sacred watery sites. At the foothills of the Himalayas, nestled between Ganesh Himal (China/Tibet) and Langtang Lirung (Nepal), is the Rasuwa District. There, pilgrimage-attracting waters which have long been significant to the Tamang across shamanic, Hindu and Buddhist eras include multiple hot springs and a sacred lake; ritual practices at each still reveal a layered sacrality.

Michel, J.T. (Sewanee: The University of the South) "**Exploring Drivers of Preferential Spring Use: The Sewanee Spring Community.**" Though effortless water acquisition is now common in affluent portions of Appalachia, some groups and individuals continue to gather their water from alternative sources. These water gatherers have access to convenient water, deemed safe by government standards, but choose to spend time seeking drinking water from roadside springs (which can be contaminated). In prior studies, motivations for collecting spring water were superficially related to the taste, quality, or presumed health of the water, but this paper demonstrates how such water collection correlates strongly to personal beliefs about spring water. Interviews with locals who utilize one particular water source on the Cumberland Plateau in Sewanee, TN document either a familial, or long-term individual, practice of drinking spring waters, or spiritual beliefs about the water's benefits that position water as the blood or vital life force of nature and as a source of cures. This paper considers how water-gatherers form a community around their shared source and beliefs. Awareness of these personal drivers for spring water preference is necessary to promote "safe water," and also for the stewardship of

roadside springs for public health and as biocultural resources which can be indicative of the health of local water tables more generally.

SAS Paper Abstracts

Amuneke, Obina (Valdosta State University) **Title: Black People's Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice Systems of the USA and Canada and the Impact of Black Lives Matter on Criminal Justice Policies.** Previous research has found a disproportional number of Black males are incarcerated in the USA, Canada, and England; this study aims to explore the current incarceration rate of Black people in the USA and Canada regardless of gender. Furthermore, the author analyzes whether Black Lives Matter (BLM) impacts criminal justice policies in the U.S. and Canada. Utilizing the Qualitative Comparative Analysis methodology and Critical Race Theory framework, the author found the U.S. incarcerates black people at slightly higher rates than Canada. At this current time, the researcher cannot conclude whether BLM has influenced criminal justice policies pertaining to black people in the two countries. Due to the disproportionality in the criminal justice system, Black communities have a larger number of formerly incarcerated folks that face high unemployment rates and lack of access to housing.

Asaduzzaman, Md (Arizona State University) **Strategies of Dealing with Healthcare Barriers in the Resettled Phase of Rohingya Refugees: Analyzing Ethnographic Data in the Context of U.S. Healthcare System in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.** Rohingya refugees are forcibly fled from Myanmar, they are considered one of the biggest stateless ethnicities in the world. The U.S. began accepting Rohingya refugees in 2015. During the phase of resettlement, they are seeking the best options for healthcare in their existing circumstances. This study aims to explore what are the healthcare barriers for Rohingya refugees during the phase of resettlement, and what strategies they are applying to deal with these barriers. Through the theoretical lens of medical pluralism, and therapy management network this study analyzes what factors influence them to decide regarding seeking healthcare in the different settings from their rooted culture. In this study, data was gained through ethnographic fieldwork. Unstructured, semi-structured interviews, Key informant interviews, case studies, and observation, are key methods to collect data.

Bennett, Cheyenne (New South Associates). **Liberated Spaces: Accumulation by Dispossession in Tellico.** Drawing upon the notion of accumulation by dispossession (ABD), this paper aims to describe and analyze how the history of displacement and migration in the Little Tennessee River Valley is associated with the creation and accumulation of different forms of capital. ABD is the process by which private or government entities 'liberate' spaces through the dispossession of people from their land. State entities transform these liberated spaces to facilitate new methods of accumulating capital. This paper investigates the various processes of ABD the Tellico landscape has experienced to understand the current power dynamics between the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Tellico Village, and those displaced by the Tellico Dam. I argue that the past and contemporary processes of capitalist expansion in the Tellico Valley have caused the valley to become a palimpsest upon which different visions of capitalist progress have been layered.

Boisvert, Jodie (Florida Atlantic University) **An Interdisciplinary Approach to Studying the Effects of Migration on Xenophobia.** Employing the scholarly work of interdisciplinary intellectuals, this project seeks to identify the connection between migration and xenophobia in the United States. The paper engages with the theories of globalization (Noland, 2005), visible and invisible immigrants (Savas et al., 2021), Xenophobia (van der Veer, et al. 2013), and the concepts of assimilation versus interculturalism (Yogeeswaran, 2021). Through the course of this paper, the author analyzes mixed-method approaches from the fields of anthropology, sociology, political science, and psychology to study whether xenophobia has been on the rise in the United States due to the increase in migration or some other factors. The paper finds that while visible xenophobia has been on the rise in the United States over the last decade, the cause is more complex than simple migration. Scholars believe that an array of factors including political leaders, media, and migration have negatively impacted the instances of xenophobia in the United States. This analytical paper is a pre-cursor to a larger qualitative study looking to discover Americans' perceptions of the causes of xenophobia in the United States.

Bowers, Catherine (Valdosta State University) **The Evolution of Information Literacy in Anthropology: Thresholds in the Ecosystem of Library Research.** Information literacy is a set of practices and behaviors that allows researchers to navigate and use information and consider many aspects of the process, however, there is very little inquiry into the intersection of anthropology and information literacy. This presentation will address the evolution of information literacy principles for anthropology students and researchers, especially in the idea of using library resources for research and the librarians who work with them. As background, this presentation will outline general principles in information literacy described in the 2015 Framework for Information Literacy, and connect the primary principles to the ecosystems of information needs of researchers. Among these ideas such as the idea of authority as constructed and contextual, elements of the scholarly conversation, and perhaps most significantly for anthropologists, the value of and access to information, plus the evolving ideas of information ethics, and where infolite concepts could be implemented for the teaching and learning of anthropology and complementary fields. This presentation would especially welcome questions and responses from anthropologists who work with undergraduate students.

Campbell, Drew (Valdosta State University) **Sociocultural Barriers to Mental Health in Law Enforcement.** This research is intended to examine the cultural landscape of Law Enforcement as it has developed in historical context as a profession as well as the experienced landscape of officers. Examining the implications of sociological theory when applied to law enforcement as an institutional and personal phenomenon in the lives of law enforcement officers, one observes that numerous factors must be considered when navigating the world of public safety personnel, especially when addressing or examining mental health. This research is tempered by the lived experience of the author in the field of law enforcement as an officer and administrator of policy. Classical theories are applied here to understand the considerations necessary to conduct effective and reliable research in the realm of law enforcement with the perspective of the social sciences. Incentive exists to proscribe individual officers from effective and edifying participation in not only research, but psychological assistance as well. When considering research in the realm of law enforcement and public safety, researchers are encouraged to consider the principals and phenomena discussed in this work.

Caro, Lenin (Camino Research Institute) **Results and Reflections on the 2022 Mecklenburg County Latino Strengths and Needs Assessment.** North Carolina is one of twelve states with over one million Latinos. However, there is limited research on the experiences, strengths, and needs of this population. To address this, Camino Research Institute is conducting a statewide Latino community strength and needs assessment, starting with a pilot in Mecklenburg County. This study uses Community Based Participatory Research framework; regional Community Advisory Boards composed of representatives of the Latino community informed each step of the research process. Collaborators included Latino and non-Latino experts from different disciplines, including medical, public health, behavioral health, social work, and anthropology. This paper presents results based on 458 surveys and 4 focus groups with Latino participants from Mecklenburg County. Findings show health-related services like dental, vision, and preventative health are most needed. Latino immigrants experience discrimination due to documentation status and struggle navigating educational and medical systems. Entrepreneurship and bilingualism are the top strengths identified by respondents, which can be leveraged to meet identified needs. Results were disseminated back to the community in both English and Spanish through infographics, reports, and video. This paper reflects on the collaborative process in developing a culturally competent and interdisciplinary research project from the perspective of a cultural anthropologist.

Conrad, Maximilian, X. (University of Mississippi) **Touristic Imaginaries and Public Space in a Confederate Brazilian Museum.** The Fraternity of American Descendants is a nonprofit organization based in the town of Santa Bárbara d'Oeste in the Brazilian state of São Paulo since 1954. The stated goal of the organization is the maintenance of the historic patrimony of immigration by Confederados, American Southerners that fled the United States after the defeat of the Confederacy in the American Civil War. The organization also contributes to a local museum of immigration – the Museu da Imigração. The museum acts as an ethnic museum, containing exhibits related to the history and culture of the Americans that migrated there and elsewhere in Brazil. However, the purveyance of contentious history in public space and its relationship to tourism complicate the dynamics of the museum. The Museu da Imigração employs a limited touristic imaginary while simultaneously engaging in public discourse surrounding immigration, ethnicity, and politics. Using data collected from the Museu da Imigração and scholarship in Museum Studies, this paper will interrogate its discursive role in public and touristic space at the local and regional level.

Custer, Ieasa (Christopher Newport University) **Prioritizing Long Distance Hiking: The Appalachian Trail as a Form of Self-Care.** This study examines those who choose to long distance hike the Appalachian Trail as a means of self-care. Many people use outdoor activities as a form of mental health aid and this is taken a step further when deciding to embark on a long distance trek. To translate this form of self-care to more accessible versions this research was driven by the question why do people prioritize long distance hiking the Appalachian Trail as a form of self-care. All of the data utilized to corroborate these findings was collected in regard to the Appalachian Long Distance Hiker Association Gathering in western Massachusetts. At the Gathering over 20 hours of ethnographic data was collected through interviews and observations of the setting. Three main themes that cause people to prioritize long distance hiking as their outlet for improving mental health were identified. The first of which being the sense of community, the second being the confidence that self-reliance inspires, and lastly the liberation from ridding themselves of materialistic desires and social positionings.

Darko, Esther (Valdosta State University) **Diversity and Inclusion: Intersectionality in the Workplace.** The term Intersectionality was coined in 1989 by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a professor at Columbia Law School and the University of California Los Angeles. This theory discusses how race, class, gender, ethnicity and other individual characteristics “intersect” or overlap each other causing a complex system of oppression. Oftentimes, the pitfalls of intersectionality are seen in places of employment, when employees who belong to two or more underrepresented groups face discrimination and lack of opportunity. Companies that disregard intersectionality when creating their diversity and inclusion policies risk excluding a portion of their employees from their efforts. This in turn could negatively impact the operations of the company if it continues to be ignored. This research paper aims to demonstrate the importance of understanding the effects of intersectionality in order to promote diversity and inclusion within organizations and institutions. It also describes how failure to acknowledge complex oppression system could lead to discrimination in the workplace and stifle individuals from reaching their full potential. The goal of this paper is to review intersectionality theory, and assess how it relates to inequities in unemployment and wages, professional development, harassment and overall job satisfaction.

Dawson, Dana (University of Alabama at Birmingham) **Embodiment & Meaning: Muay Thai in Different Cultural Contexts.** Drawing on ethnographies, martial arts studies, cultural studies, and anthropological literature to examine Muay Thai, this paper seeks to explore the different meanings that emerge in the different cultural contexts in which Muay Thai is performed. In exploring the different cultural contexts of Muay Thai, this paper will also address concerns of cultural heritage and the global diffusion of martial arts. Drawing from anthropological literature on embodiment, anthropology of the body, and cultural performance to frame martial arts generally as an embodied cultural performance disseminated through bodily knowledge and practice, martial arts become equivalent to something like dance: versatile in meaning and significance, depending on the practitioner and the context. The meaning that emerges from Muay Thai changes depending on the performing body(ies) and the context: the cultural contexts I will be analyzing include 1) Native practitioners in Thailand 2) Foreign practitioners in Thailand and 3) practitioners outside of Thailand practicing Muay Thai within the broader discipline of mixed martial arts.

Ehrenreich, Jeffrey David (University of New Orleans) **“Masking “Indian,” Identity, and the African Turn: Journeying with the Spirit of Fi Yi Yi and the Mandingo Warriors.** This presentation documents an innovation and transformation of performance and identity in the masking tradition of New Orleans Black culture. In “masking Indian” among its African American participants—commonly known as “Mardi Gras Indians” (MGI)—covering one’s face was dangerous during the Jim Crow era. In common cause with Indigenous native Americans, celebrating “tribes” or “gangs” paraded through their own neighborhoods in “suits” with headdresses inspired by indigenous peoples of the Great Plains and with their faces mostly visible. In contrast, some groups have increasingly taken their inspirations from designs more obviously African. One group—the Mandingo Warriors, the Spirit of Fi Yi Yi—has pioneered the covering of the entire face with masks unmistakably African in their design, as well as with face paintings, all with the conscious understanding that it is an African identity, not an Indian one, that is proudly being displayed. Other groups have been influenced by, and now copy, this style of masking. From an historical and anthropological perspective, the tradition and

performance of “masking Indian” is being brought full circle back to its African roots and origins.

Ellis, Charles Steven (Valdosta State University) **Virtual Reality Offers the World: How Digital Representations Transcend Culture and Language.** Humans communicate thoughts by using language to illustrate images. Pierce any one of these elements, we can make inroads into understanding the others. By more clearly defining vocabulary, we can understand another person’s thoughts. By visualizing a person’s thoughts, we better comprehend how they use language and understand their world. We use simple diagrams to explain and teach students concepts, from material mechanics to more abstract principles. Illustrations are able to transcend language and cultural obstacles. By building a catalogue of images, we begin to establish a vocabulary that helps us understand and communicate through cultures while we can better envision our world from various perspectives. Virtual Reality technology helps us to experience these paradigms rather than only recognizes them. To accomplish this requires an interdisciplinary approach in both its creation and its subject content. Linguistics is involved by examining the relationships between thoughts and language. Artistry is needed to find the most effective ways to represent these images and diagrams. Philosophy contributes its ability to work through abstract ideas to connect them to what is being represented. Psychology lend itself to mapping the thoughts to be represented. Anthropology guides the project by contextualizing the thoughts and ideas within a humanistic framework. This paper explores the possibility and worthiness of embarking on such a project.

Evans, Jenny (Valdosta State University) **What happens when Anthropology and Art Education Collide.** The unique project shares the outcomes of using experiential learning in an archeology class with art in higher education. The research is following a trend in higher education of including experiential learning, touting the benefits to students. The project involved one university archeology class, and two lessons exploring basketry and ceramics. These items are typically found on archeology digs in multiple cultures around the world. The presentation is full of pictures and information, the survey research uncovers what the students take away from hands-on learning, and what cultural appreciation students place on the items they made or may find in the future. The presentation further aligns the outcomes with the experiences held by students with various educational experience theories. Data from the post-experience survey identifies where the connection of subject to product are made with the students. Educators in middle, high school and higher education could take from this presentation a "how to" and replicate the process with other subjects demonstrating the value of arts integration as well as experiential learning.

Fallmer, Rory (Davidson College) **Skeletons for Sale: Investigating The History of Osteological Collections and Their Enduring Legacies of Harm.** During the 19th century, private collectors and academic institutions across Western Europe, Canada, and the United States amassed osteological collections through colonial violence and imperialism, specifically via graverobbing, trophy-taking, and the purchase of human remains from the distributors of natural history and biological materials. Osteological collections were assembled, in part, as a means to justify white supremacy through race science that was dependent on the objectification and dehumanization of the remains of marginalized peoples. Building on my work on the origins of the human skeletal individuals at Davidson College, this paper investigates the history of

osteological collections and the key figures that contributed to their conception, formation, and legacy. Informed by this history, I argue for an anti-racist, decolonial approach when working with human skeletal individuals in osteological collections that prioritizes humanity, dignity, respect, and the prevention of perpetuating further violence.

Goldsboro, Tanisha (Valdosta State University) **Gaps in Women's Leadership and Pay Across 26 University System of Georgia Institutions.** Nationally, women make up about 60% of college students. Does leadership of University System of Georgia (USG) institutions reflect the same gender distribution? And, are there gender pay gaps across universities in Georgia? This study was conducted using entirely publicly available data. We collected name, title, and salary data from openGA.gov for the year 2020 and combined this with a gender variable we created by inferring gender based on first and middle names, and referring to faculty biographies for gender pronouns. The findings that in the Georgia university system, there are 7 female presidents out of 26 universities. 33% of the highest paid positions belong to women. 47% of deans are women. 45% of department heads are women. Male full professors make on average \$7,110 more than women. The average salary for female full professors is around \$97,000 compared to the average of \$104,000 that a male professor makes. There is a significant positive relationship between the percentage of women in the top 20 highest paid positions and having a female president. There is a positive relationship between the percentage of department heads that are women and the percent women in the top 20 highest paid. There is a negative relationship between the percentage of women in the top 20 highest paid positions and the gender salary gap for full professors, meaning universities with more highly paid women have less of a gap in the pay for full professors. There is a positive relationship between the percentage of the student body that is African American and the percentage of women in the top 5 highest paid. Universities with more highly paid women are associated with more African American students.

Haggard, Dixie. (Valdosta State University) **Mission Witches and Indian Slavery: A Metaphysical Interpretation of the 1704 Attacks on Spanish Missions in Florida.** This paper is a preliminary attempt to understand why the Eastern Muscogulges (later known as the Lower Creeks) and the Yamasees chose to attack and annihilate the Apalachee missions of Spanish Florida in the late seventeenth and very early eighteenth centuries. The traditional explanation for these attacks claims that the Muscogulges and the Yamasees acted as agents of the English in South Carolina and were driven by the economic benefits of selling captured Apalachees into the English slave trade. An analysis of these attacks within the context of the Muscogulge and Yamasee spiritual system reveals the cultural issues that provided the primary motivation for these attacks. The fact that these raids created captives used in the English slave trade served only as an economic bonus for the Muscogulges and the Yamasees, not as the prime motivation for hostilities. The context for interpretation is created by using ethnohistoric and interdisciplinary methodologies as generated by anthropologists, archaeologists, folklorists, and historians.

Hochschild Jr., Thomas R. and Alvarez-Rivera, Lorna (Valdosta State University) **Fragmentation of the Social Sciences: Is a Path Towards Unification Possible?** The social sciences are not taken seriously by many students, political decision makers, and the general public. A primary reason for this lack of consideration is that social scientists are not unified in

the delineation of our respective fields. Anthropology is often thought of broadly as the “science of humans,” a scope of inquiry so broad that it can create confusion across disciplines. Additionally, “social science” and “sociology” are epistemologically synonymous, but sociology is treated as merely “one of” the social sciences. The deleterious consequences of these issues include academic disunity, antagonistic “boundary work,” confusion for students and the general public, and less consideration from political decision makers. The authors discuss possible benefits and drawbacks that could occur if the social sciences were restructured, and argue that these changes could result in academic unification, enhanced student learning, and the increased influence of social science in the public sphere.

Hughes, Rodney. (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA) **“THE MOURNER’S BENCH: Afro-Baptist Ritual Performance and Discourse Central to Conversion.”**

The research proposed for this presentation investigates the historical practice of conversion within the BIPOC spiritual traditions. It takes a closer look at the role language and performative play in shaping the cultural significance of the conversion ritual referred to as the Mourner’s Bench. Various concepts and theoretical frameworks concerning the ways in which language functions in a cultural context are addressed by leading anthropologists, historians, linguists, and contemplative ethnographies that converge to highlight the value of this practice within a specific community. It broadens the discussion around ritual performance and rites of passage that is particularly important to Afro-Baptist tradition and other movements arising from the liberating spiritual practices of BIPOC. The presentation will focus specifically on a corpus of material that has been published by esteemed scholars making relevant contributions to the subject of BIPOC culture, discourse, and musical analysis. It seeks to expand the conversation being had by scholars who push the conversation forward as to how language, in its poetic form, operates to alter semantic fields by creating and recreating meaning as applied to the rituals of conversion in the Black church and society at large.

Ingram-Basby, Antonia S. (Louisiana State University) **Take Me to the Water: The Baptism Ritual Experience of Women in the African American Baptist Church.** How is the movement into womanhood influenced by participation in the baptism rite of the African American Baptist Church? According to Christian beliefs, baptism is an outward expression identifying with the death and resurrection of Christ. Hence, baptism is a rite of passage that individuals partake in, marking their initiation into the Christian faith and local church congregation. However, historically and culturally, the practice of baptism has been transmitted across generations of women and men, yet its interpretation is disseminated primarily by men. Thus, with an awareness of the impact of women within the Baptist Church, the true meaning of baptism should be interpreted and reimaged for the contemporary Church that suffers from historical and culturally divisive ideologies around gender roles. This study intended to understand how participation in the Christian rite of baptism, leading to initiation in the Baptist church, influences the identity development of African American women.

Kicey, Charles (Valdosta State University) **Can we intersect Math and Anthro?** One extreme viewpoint some philosophers argue is that mathematics is strictly a human invention, while the opposite extreme proposes that mathematics is an innate component of the physical universe, being discovered by humans. Either way, mathematics is a ubiquitous feature to the human

experience, but with unique appearances through cultures and history. A good starting point is just numeration, where various cultures represent the same abstract numbers with different physical representations. As a professional mathematics and novel social scientist, we would like to informally discuss some ways the mathematics discipline fits in and overlaps with some anthropological perspectives.

Knowles, Fred (Valdosta State University) **McGirt and Castro-Huerta: The Supreme Court and Tribal Sovereignty.** The issue of sovereignty has been at the crux of Federal Indian Law for over two hundred years. Whether Indian People have authority to sell their own land, prosecute crimes committed on their land, administer civil justice, and preserve language and culture has been contested in the federal courts, to include the Supreme Court. While challenges to sovereignty are frequently framed in relation to the plenary power held by Congress for the federal government, when the challenge arises from the states, it is normally couched on the Enabling Act which made the state a state. In two recent cases, we see the fluid nature of the Court's position regarding sovereignty, a position that is informed by the political ideology of the justices. As both of these cases involve criminal jurisdiction, this paper will provide a summary of the evolution of criminal jurisdiction, culminating with McGirt and Castro-Huerta. The paper will also contrast those two cases, both arising out of Oklahoma, and project what we may expect from the Court on the issue in coming years.

LaGarde, Shyra (Valdosta State University) **Topological Data Analysis Of SARS-COV-2 Variant Surges Over the Top 50 Most Populated Countries Based on Their Stringency of Policies.** This research explores an innovative approach for recognizing indicators of policy change employed to counter surges of Covid-19 variants across the 50 most populous countries, which represent various geographical regions. The study encompasses all continents affected by the coronavirus and examines the correlation between variant surges and policy modifications. Our qualitative investigation employs Topological Data Analysis and Persistent Homology to detect salient topological structures such as 1-cycles in the data and use them to infer the effects of policy shifts. We use topological data analysis (TDA) algorithms to analyze the dataset and capture homological details using the R statistical computing environment to extract the topological insights. Our preliminary results have yielded a collection of scatterplots that displays the correlation between new Covid-19 cases and deaths. The plots provide a visual representation of the topological features, which vary across different countries and within countries during further variant surges. Additionally, the scatterplots have an accompanying persistent diagram that displays significant topological features in the datasets of each country, which may be related to policy changes.

Logan, Ellis S. (Valdosta State University) **Taking a Bite out of Health Disparities: Variation in Oral Health Among U.S. Veterans.** Health researchers have increasingly focused “upstream” socio-environmental impacts on health, and various forms of structural inequality which create impediments for health seeking and maintenance behaviors, and create structural health inequalities in a variety of health outcomes. In line with a focus on more socially “invisible” and marginalized groups, our research focuses on self-assessed dental health and usage to dental care among United States military veterans. This research adds to the growing field of health disparities in the veteran population compared to the civilian population, but investigates a relatively understudied aspect of health maintenance—dental health. Thus, we aim

to identify and assess aspects of military experiences which are responsible for differences in veterans' perceived dental health and dental healthcare utilization.

Mahmud, Sumiya (Arizona State University, Tempe) **Transnational Experience of 'Homemaking' among Bangladeshi Female Migrants across Continents.**

My comparative ethnographic study among South Asian immigrants in the United States and Qatar looks at migrants' satisfaction and migratory condition with particular emphasis on female migrant's conception of homemaking in their new destination countries. Access to citizenship plays a vital role in migrants' ability to establish home and belonging in their destination country. Despite US citizenship, many of my interviewees in the US shares the experience of rigorous marginalization and exclusion. By contrast, female migrants in Qatar reportedly experience deep sense of belonging despite their temporary visa status in the Gulf. Comparing the perspectives of these female migrants in the US and Qatar, I explore the role of the destination state in shaping their perception of home and strategies of belonging. I recognize that the experience of being "at home" is shaped by factors including the presence of ethnic and religious communities in addition to economic integration and legal immigration status. I also observe how gender dimension plays as an exclusive determinant in "Homemaking" experience in the host society. Hence my research findings offer critical insights and understanding about migrants' integration and transnationalism experience through a unique lens and frame.

McGraw, Ashley (University of South Carolina) **COVID-19 Oral Histories as News Stories of Appalachia.** Oral historians have often felt obligated to collect stories during disasters and crises, to preserve recollections of experiences and trauma of those affected. During the onset of COVID-19 in the United States, this surge was certainly present. Appalachia, although its boundaries are contested, has a strong association with oral histories, and thus was the focus of one project in particular: a collaboration with the Blue Ridge Public Radio and the Foxfire Appalachian Heritage Museum to collect, curate, publish, and broadcast oral histories of "local" individuals. But, what does it mean to be local, in a region as broad as Appalachia? What content, or rather whose stories, make a good news story or a magazine story? How are stories altered to fit this frame of representing Appalachia? This paper discusses how stories traveled, from storytellers to the archives of Foxfire Appalachian Heritage Museum in Mountain City, Georgia, and were transformed into publishable and circulatable digital and printed news stories. Using discussions of entextualization, re-contextualization, and remediation, I aim to analyze these transcripts to answer these questions of story-making and identity (Bauman and Briggs 1990; Bauman 2016).

Mendoza, Marcos (University of Mississippi) **Trial and Tribulations in the Mexican Justice System: Liberation Shrines: Narco-Power, Mundane Aesthetics, and Territorial Reclamation in Mexico.** The scholarship on narco-aesthetics has largely focused on political messaging between criminal groups (narco-mantas, propaganda videos, and public violence), culture industry products related to organized crime (films, music, television), consumer lifestyles that draw upon narco-styling, and tourism venues selling proximity to narco-spectacle. What has rarely received close attention is how populations have developed their own everyday aesthetic responses to organized crime and the drug trade that highlight the territorial politics of reclamation. Based on ethnographic research in western Mexico, this study contributes to understanding the mundane aesthetics of rural communities affected by narco-power and how

they work to define the boundaries of political community, memorize popular struggle, reclaim territory for civil life, and envision liberation from widespread criminality.

Molinari, Kiley (Francis Marion University) **“A Pandemic Picture: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Exploring Student Engagement in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina”**. The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the lives of nearly every segment of our world, but the impact on students will most likely not be known for years. For this interdisciplinary project, we are analyzing the impact of COVID-19 on K-12 students. More specifically, how has COVID-19 affected students who may be entering colleges in South Carolina and the Pee Dee region particularly? Among other topics, this project will explore aspects of how students were supported inside and outside of school by faculty, staff, and other district representatives, how students’ behavior might have changed during the pandemic, and how teachers, as well as standardized tests, interpreted student’s learning outcomes/losses pre-pandemic until now. Our study involves a mixed method approach that addresses our definition of engagement. We define student engagement in terms of both (a) district-level outcomes (e.g., reading skills, mathematics skills, behavioral records) and (b) classroom-level outcomes (e.g., attendance, completion of academic activities, etc). Examining what these topics looked like before, during, and after the Covid-19 pandemic is part of an ongoing research project to understand what this might suggest for incoming college students.

Moon, Emily (University of West Georgia) **An Investigation of the Anomalous Experiences of Hospice Workers**. Very little research has been performed in the American hospice house, and an even smaller amount of that research has been anthropological. I will investigate the anomalous experiences of hospice workers using a survey and interview. The anthropological method blends well with the holistic method of hospice work because of the multidimensional approach. I am performing a survey and an interview portion in this study to glean general perceptions and personal experiences. An anomalous experience is any experience outside the realm of normal that can be interpreted as religious, spiritual, or paranormal. Anomalous experiences are common at times and sites of death by those present during the event. By studying these phenomena I hope to reveal their frequency and their effect on hospice workers. Understanding more about what happens in a hospice house, even just on the workers’ sides, will help reduce stigma around the subject.

Muise, Mandy (Davidson College) **Education in the New Latino South: Activism in (Post)Pandemic Charlotte**. This paper examines how the work of the Latin American Education Committee, a grassroots activist organization in Charlotte, North Carolina, has encouraged and strengthened agency and activism within the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System (CMS) and in the broader the Latin@ community of Charlotte. I take an engaged, activist approach to ethnography as a means of analyzing my collaboration with educators in the Committee, evaluating the Committee’s challenges to xenophobic rhetoric directed toward newcomer Latin@ students along with the group’s role in providing external resources to individuals within CMS. I argue that the work of the Committee is most impactful to student experiences when it challenges prevalent discourse around the Latin@ educational achievement gap, identifying structural inequities, rather than cultural deficit, as the origin of achievement gaps between Latin@ students and their white counterparts in Charlotte. By analyzing the Committee’s work, this project pays homage to the often-unrecognized work of Latin@ activist-

educators in Charlotte, individuals who have shaped educational policy and fought for equity throughout CMS from within spaces that have historically excluded their voices. Ultimately, this ethnographic work consolidates and contextualizes the Committee's work in an effort to strengthen the group's impact as its members continue to advocate for equitable educational policy reform. Key Words: Engaged Anthropology; Grassroots Activism; New Latino South; Latinx Education; Educational Policy

Prine, Rudy K. (Valdosta State University) **Title: Anthropological Influences on a Criminologist: An Homage to Dr. Steve Childs.** The presentation outlines the ways an Anthropology Professor influenced the academic development of a Criminologist. The process began with a set of Anthropology courses taken as out of major electives at the undergraduate level and continues to the present. The topics include a reference to the Anthropology of Law, a brief sojourn into rural deviance, and last how observational principles inform current CJ Internships at VSU.

Reid, Denise and Yankovskyy, Shelly (Valdosta State University) **Math and Science Across Cultures: An Interdisciplinary Course.** Academic disciplines are not discrete, but instead are often overlapping in ideas. With this in mind, a course entitled "Math and Science Across Cultures" was developed at Valdosta State University. In this presentation, I will provide an overview of the ideas presented in the course. I will also discuss the various assessments which are used, many of which are project based to provide students with a hands-on experience.

Ring, Brian C. (Valdosta State University) **Contemporary Meets Ancient Human DNA: Emerging Fields of Biological Anthropology.** Since the release of the first human draft genome in 2003 many technological advances have enabled scientists to compare genomic sequences of extant and ancient human and/or hominid sources. Nearly 10 years after the first human genome was released over 1,000 extant human genomes from around the world have been sequenced to create a population database "snapshot" of our genetic diversity. With consumer direct DNA testing growing in popularity, a network of millions of human DNA datasets are now interconnected allowing for advancements in health, genealogy, forensics, and more. More recent developments have allowed older specimens of ancient DNA from fossil sources to be sequenced and compared to the various databases above. Several interdisciplinary fields of biology (genomics) and anthropology are now emerging where comparisons can be made between our contemporary snap shot of human population genetics and those ancestors that lived before us. Some of these emerging fields will be presented as case studies from the literature. The potential of understanding how our current anthropological groups compared to those in the past will undoubtedly expand into our future.

Rivera, Elizabeth and Price, Ann and Logan, Ellis (Valdosta State University) **"Childfree" Movement: How Individuals Negotiate Identities on Reddit.** This research project focuses on how individuals navigate their choice of not procreating, thus placing them as a member of the "Childfree Movement." Individuals in this movement showcase a high degree of agency despite social and cultural pressure to procreate. Content analysis was performed on the user-generated Reddit posts under the "Childfree" subreddit in March 2021 and March 2022. These posts are coded thematically based on the primary rationale for choosing to remain childfree (financial, medical, environmental, etc.). The posts' tone and demographics provided by the users have been

collected, analyzed, and coded. Comparisons will be drawn between two months of data, highlighting how the conversations have changed in a year (before and after the announcement of *Roe v. Wade* going back to the Supreme Court). This research hopes to explore some of the key sociocultural factors that frame the childfree advocates' decisions and the individual narratives negotiating in an online community.

Samson, Matt (Davidson College) **Maya Identity, Peruvian Protests, and Indigenous Responses to Social and Environmental Injustice.** This paper is an exercise in reflexive ethnography considering how Maya ethnic identity in Mexico and political protests in Peru emphasize issues of extractivist development and the desire to affirm cultural rights in Latin America. It begins in Mesoamerica with the so-called Maya train megaproject in Mexico, a project promoted as a way of harnessing cultural tourism for economic development in the southeastern part of the country. Interviews with a Maya activist foreground resistance to what this activist refers to as the “no-Maya train”—and to government agendas that exclude Indigenous peoples in their conceptualization and execution. The analysis turns to the recent political and social conflict in Peru where an elected president was deposed for trying to close the national congress and the newly installed president has declared a state of emergency that has resulted in the deaths of several dozen protesters. The social concerns of rural and Indigenous populations are accentuated when protesters challenge the legitimacy of the political system and reject the current congress with the demand “Que se vayan todos!” (“That they all go!”).
Keywords: Peru, Mesoamerica, no-Maya train, extractivism, cultural rights

Saucier, Ari (Carrie Grimes) (Valdosta State University) **Experiencing Art and Gallery Culture.** What is it like to exist in a gallery among the art? What draws individuals from different walks of life to these places to spend time interacting with others in the spaces as well as with the art itself? How popular are these spaces? Do the same people often frequent them or is it a new crowd for each show? How, and for what purpose are these spaces used? Qualitative research was conducted over the course of a semester in the spring of 2022 in order to address these questions. Specifically, data was gathered through participant observation as a gallery assistant, alongside the collection of interviews with important figures from the gallery. The paper this research culminated into describes both the space itself and typical social interactions occurring within it to “set the stage” on which art and gallery culture plays out. The paper then explores subjective experience, the so-called “gallery effect,” the appeal of student art, and lastly the socialization that occurs within gallery and art spaces. Findings suggest that a distinct gallery culture does exist which can be felt and observed within the space. These findings are in line with other scholars' work, such as that of Cameron, who suggests that gallery culture not only exists, but is actively constructed by those involved. Other researchers, such as Grosvenor, also argue that galleries and their culture have a direct impact on society at large through processes of public education. The research discussed herein is important because it shows how we create different cultural spaces through our held beliefs and their practical applications, as well as the broader impact these spaces can have on people, generally. This tells us more about the emergent nature of culture through our designation and delegation of space.

Scott, Jennifer (University of West Georgia) **Community Identity among the Bruderhof.** This is a paper evaluating the distinct socialization experiences within certain societal populations. I will be comparing a more closed, intentional community (In this instance, the Bruderhof community. The Bruderhof are an anabaptist movement with 24 communities worldwide.) with a

secular, nonreligious, multi-community in terms of their socialization processes. I hypothesize that intentional communities put more emphasis in their childhood social education on community and brotherhood and that this lends itself to a greater sense of empathy, compassion, and understanding throughout the lives of the community members as they grow and age and that this is why we see less interpersonal violence within these communities. I would like to better understand what intentional communities are doing differently in the social education of their children to reach this outcome and how these methods can be utilized in outside communities. This is currently library-based research in preparation for ethnographic interviews with members of the Bruderhof community this summer.

Sisco, Kaitlyn (University of Mississippi) **Un forzado con peluca [A strongman with a wig]: Gender Dynamics and Feminine Erasure in Club Andino Bariloche.** The Club Andino Bariloche (CAB) is an Argentine mountaineering and winter sports club that was established in San Carlos de Bariloche in 1931. The CAB has been historically charged with constructing mountain refuges, spearheading ambitious expeditions, and facilitating educational courses on mountaineering, skiing, and nature. A recently established digital archive of CAB annual reports chronicles these activities, offering insight into the club's configuration of gender, nature, and sport. This paper provides a historical assessment of gender dynamics and mountaineering subjectivities in the CAB's archive from 1931 to 2011. Specifically, I examine how club members describe the presence of women within the association, the successes and failures of women in mountain sports, and gendered characterizations of the Andean landscape. I argue that a history of feminine erasure marks much of the CAB expeditionary record, drawing attention to gendered ideology of masculine control over mountain space. For most of the CAB's existence, male mountaineers have denigrated the accomplishments of women and appropriated images of femininity and sexual conquest to construct the Andes as a space of masculine power, status, and accomplishment. Though some semblance of mutual respect emerges in the 1980s, the CAB has historically considered mountaineering incommensurable with femininity—effectively erasing any sense of womanhood from the mountaineering world. Keywords: Argentina, mountaineering, gender, feminism, nature, Patagonia, Andes

Snipes, Marjorie M. (University of West Georgia) **Ritual in Transition: Supple v. Brittle Ritual Facing Change.** During the pandemic period, social institutions encountered multiple types of stress in adapting to immediate need. Religious institutions faced stress from the disruption of services, meetings, and informal gatherings. This ethnographic research, focused on mainline Christian churches in Carroll County, GA, examines ways that the experience of shutdown and social isolation affected various Christian churches and denominations differently, focusing specifically on the challenges within the practice of ritual. As congregations became displaced and re-shaped, the experience of unity and common vision (*communitas*) underwent rapid culture change. Preliminary conclusions from this research indicate some common challenges that social groups face when *communitas* is disrupted, including migration and socio-emotional distress, but a variability in the adaptation of rituals that led to very different outcomes.

Stevens, Sandra (Valdosta State University) **The Effects of Climate Change in Your Kitchen.** The effect humans have on the earth is a chain reaction that not only affects communities at large but negatively impacts the physical environment as well. The environment that individuals experience can heavily impact their worldview which goes on to impact their physical/mental

health and their cultural practices. As a result of this chain reaction, individuals have become more susceptible to the adverse consequences of capitalism and over-commodification. Climate change has negatively affected farmers across the world and capitalism and over commodification have accelerated environmental issues. Local farmers have been forced to adapt to the effects of climate change and a fluctuating economy. This study aims to investigate the impact that climate change has on local farmers and a fraction of the communities they provide for. This study's research will also take into account other perspectives in literature as well.

Storey, Phillip (Valdosta State University) **Interdisciplinary Approaches to First Time Anthropological Instruction.** How does an interdisciplinary approach produce quality instruction for a first-time Anthropology lecturer and improve their ability to teach other disciplines? The anthropological orientation toward examining humanity is present in social scientists studying various fields, but is also a unique addition to the scholarly world in comparison with other disciplines. In the same way, other disciplines offer their own unique insights through various approaches and theoretical orientations. By understanding and integrating these differences, an individual beginning instruction within anthropology can speak to a broader range of issues, consider more viewpoints, and communicate anthropological knowledge to students with diverse interests. Additionally, through integration of anthropological methods and topics, the faculty member may approach their subject matter with new insights and considerations.

Swan, Glenda (Valdosta State University) **Teaching Students to Look with an Anthropological Eye at Ancient Material Culture.** Most students do not view the art of the past as an interesting and relevant source of study because they do not understand how to meaningfully analyze material culture. By providing students with a variety of ways to engage and interact with the material remains of earlier times and places – most of which are informed by archaeological and other anthropological perspectives – students can learn how to become constructors of meaning through this exposure to lifeways and perspectives outside of their own. In this way, students not only discover meaningful similarities and differences between the past and the present, but they also learn how the study of images and their context can inform and enrich their understanding of today's postmodern visual world.

Thieme, Donald M. (Valdosta State University) **Ceramic change and raw material sources in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico, an homage to Mary Stevenson Thieme.** This presentation will summarize research conducted with my mother, Mary Stevenson Thieme, a museum anthropologist, who recently passed away here in Valdosta. We collected samples from raw material sources in the Valley of Oaxaca which demonstrated continuous use of those sources since preHispanic times. These were sources used by potters at Santa María Atzompa, a modern pottery-producing village six kilometers north of Monte Alban, an important center of preHispanic culture beginning ca 300 BCE. Broad-spectrum chemical analyses using instrumental neutron-activation analysis (INAA) were complemented with x-ray diffraction analysis of mineral and rock materials. Comparison of the combined results with previously published studies of Monte Albán ceramics indicated continuity in methods of procuring and preparing ceramic raw materials as well as in general geologic "provenance." Collaboration between a museum anthropologist (Mary Thieme) and archaeological geologist (myself) enabled a key contribution to sourcing of Mesoamerican archaeological ceramics and understanding of technological continuity in the Valley of Oaxaca.

Wesley, Nashie (Valdosta State University) **How do Societies Socialize Gender Identity Expression and Sexual Orientation Through Institutions.** Gender fluidity on college campuses is gaining popularity. Concepts and definitions that refer to sexual orientation, and gender identity are an ever-evolving field. This study Investigates how social institutions socialize and reinforce the constraints of gender and one's performance. Participants in the study were between the ages of 18 and 22 in a public University in South Georgia. This study uses mixed methods to investigate gender expression; specifically, the study used participant observation to collect qualitative data and refine and frame the quantity analysis in a survey. The study will employ sociological concepts such as idioculture, anomie, some theoretical insights from Emile Durkheim using Kimberle Crenshaw's intersectional framework. In terms of institutional influences, the project focuses on three main social institutions: family, religion, and education. These three main institutions are at the core of both societal functioning and our individual lives which create overlapping structural and individual influences which serve to restrain and reinforce the dominant gender hegemony. Initial results from the observational portion of the study indicate that the hegemonic societal gaze may create situations where individuals feel unsafe within certain institutions, in terms of expressing their gender freely or in establishing or negotiating their own gender identity.

Westermeyer, William H. (University of South Carolina, Aiken) **Patriot Aesthetics: Artistic Frames in American Right-Wing Populism.** In the interdisciplinary field of social movements studies, anthropologists most often complement and diverge from the subject's more numerous scholars in sociology and political science. Anthropology's unique theory and methods contribute perspectives of how social movements are agents of cultural production, meaning making, and identity formation. I spent over a decade studying Tea Party activists in North Carolina--one of the most vibrant and colorful social movements to emerge in recent memory. Much of this vibrance can be attributed to the cultural resources produced and utilized by the Tea Party that require a wholly different disciplinary reference, namely fine arts. Social movements have often drawn upon aesthetic cultural resources to build and maintain solidarity (Morris 1984; Reed 2005; Sartwell 2010). For Tea Partysts, cultural resources such as images, costumes, and songs functioned as symbolic mediators (Vygotsky1978) or more simply shortcuts to understand, order, and enunciate ideology and fashion collective political identities. In this paper, I will discuss how the political aesthetic of the Tea Party, expressed through songs and visual art, is not simply a form of propaganda but provides resonant frames for identity formation, social movement enculturation, and solidarity. Key words: Tea Party Mvt., right-wing, social movements, political aesthetics.

Wheeler, Dillon (Lee University) **"Always Gotta Replant the Berries": Planting and Protection as Generalized Reciprocity Among Appalachian Ginseng Hunters.** The harvesting of wild American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) has been an important cultural practice in Appalachia since the plant's identification by colonists in 1716. The large majority of ginseng harvested by Appalachian "ginseng hunters" is exported to Chinese consumers, embedding the unique regional practice within an expansive global trade system. Many populations of American ginseng are currently shrinking, harming a tradition that is central to a sense of collective Appalachian identity for many. Based on formal interviews, informal conversations, and participant observation conducted with ginseng hunters in southeast Tennessee, this project examines the conservation practices of Appalachian ginseng hunters as a unique example of Marshall Sahlin's generalized reciprocity. The study shows that many

hunters, while motivated to meet their own consumption needs, conserve the plant for others without a foreseeable return from the beneficiaries of these altruistic gifts. Many will plant ginseng seeds, replant ginseng roots, or hide ginseng patches to bolster the bonds of future kin through tradition, assist the broader Appalachian community, and sustain the livelihood of the plant itself.

Wightman, Abby (Mary Baldwin University) **Re-settled Landscapes: Heritage and Activism in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains.** In the mid-1930s, around 500 families were displaced from their homes in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to establish Shenandoah National Park (Powell 2007). In the attempt to create a “park in the Western tradition,” the land was intentionally unsettled of its human population and shaped in the image of a Western wilderness. Homes and barns were burned or dismantled, roads became hiking trails, and pastureland was allowed to regrow. Many “displaced” families were forcibly resettled into nearby communities in the valleys and foothills, often receiving very little compensation in exchange for their land in the mountains (Lambert 1989). Within a few decades, there was little physical evidence of the long history of human habitation in the mountains that became Shenandoah National Park. In this presentation, I will present the findings from my ongoing research with descendants of the displaced families and local organizations who are working to preserve mountain heritage. I argue that the descendants of displaced families have coalesced into a distinct identity based on kinship, a connection to the mountain as both physical and cultural landscape, and a shared sense of injustice over the displacement. This injustice has fueled a type of salvage heritage practice focused on memorializing the history of the displacement and their ancestors. Beyond preservation, some descendants engage in heritage activism by disrupting dominant heritage regimes of Shenandoah National Park.

Woolridge, Nicole (Valdosta State University) **On-Campus Greenspaces, Student Mental Health, and Landscape Genetics.** Greenspace use, especially in conjunction with other mental health therapies, has the potential to improve student success by reducing the prevalence of mental health issues among college students today. In the spring of 2022 and 2023, qualitative research was carried out on a campus in South Georgia to determine whether greenspaces were being utilized and the self-reported impact on mental health. Students over the age of 18 participated in in-person interviews and online surveys. Questions asked students how they spend their free time, how often they visit campus greenspaces, and whether there was a difference between before and after COVID. The majority of students did make frequent use of the greenspaces, and they found that the greenspaces on campus helped improve their mental health. The author's interests in anthropology and biology served as the motivation for this investigation. The relevance of landscape genetics, the study of landscape ecology and population genetics, and the outcomes of interactions between humans and greenspaces will all be taken into consideration as the author continues to build on this research by replotting trees and measuring width growths with devices such as GPS. Prior data will also be used to compare tree inventory growth and loss for this campus compared to another Georgia university.

Yankovskyy, Shelly and Price, Anne (Valdosta State University) **Mental Health in South Georgia as a Social Problem: An Interdisciplinary Approach.** Mental health is a current hot topic among academics and policymakers, especially relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. The continued rise in mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, suicide, opioid overdose,

youth depression, and so forth are especially concerning. In Georgia new programs and policies have been put in place to address and support mental health at various institutional levels, such as the Georgia Mental Health Parity Act which took effect in July 2022. However, the focus on mental health and well-being can also be a distraction from systemic issues that strain mental health, making a societal problem into a personal one. While we agree that mental health issues are a major societal concern and need to be addressed, we also recognize that the emotional and mental distress that people are experiencing are often very normal responses to real social problems. In this interdisciplinary study, we examine mental health challenges and responses at multiple institutional levels. We are especially focusing on the region of South Georgia, and include perspectives from law enforcement, mental health providers, university administrators, faculty and students.

Younce, Chloe (Christopher Newport University) **Invisible Problems: Establishing a Needs-Based Food Pantry on a College Campus.** Many college students struggle to meet their food needs. Food insecurity among college students is an invisible problem, because those who are paying for college are assumed to be financially secure. In actuality, according to numerous studies conducted at college campuses throughout the United States, 20 to 50 percent of college students experience food insecurity. A higher proportion of college students are dependent on food banks and pantries than the general population. The purpose of this project is to determine the food needs of students at Christopher Newport University. Data collected through a widely-disseminated survey, interviews, and connections with student organizations will be used to provide evidence for the benefit of a needs-based food pantry on the university campus. This research will be utilized to formulate a multi-step plan to establish a volunteer run, free food pantry made by students, for students.



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