

12:45 pm – Welcome and Recognition of Winners of the Distinguished Faculty Research Mentor Award (Richard England, MC)

1 pm - Culture and Identity (Dr. Richard England, Moderator)

Maya Hunter, Political Science, Foreign Languages

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Janssen Danyi, Political Science

The Role of Language Education in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: The Case of Cyprus

Abstract: Does language instruction contribute to peacebuilding? In ethnically divided societies, when communities in conflict do not share each other's language, the promotion of a neutral third language can aid in the development of a syncretic national identity. Additionally, the method of instruction can shape the paradigm through which students learn and develop their own ideas. By emphasizing critical thinking skills in lessons, and by including learning material from diverse cultures and perspectives, language instructors can help develop the practical and cognitive skills with which students can better understand other communities – a necessary foundation of lasting peace. Such dual lessons have proven capable of fostering peace in Rwanda and the Balkans, but what about Cyprus? Due to the physical and mental barriers between the two main ethnic communities, members of both have lost what little bilingualism and sense of common Cypriot identity they once shared. Could English language education be helping to mend this division? This research is based on the hypothesis that instruction using English-language media, when coupled with implicit or explicit lessons on critical thinking, offers students the opportunity to critically examine the historical and current narratives of the Cyprus Conflict – narratives often highly nationalist in nature. This project investigates the role of language education in this peacebuilding context through an ethnographic study of high school English instructors in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Using classroom observations and semi-structured interviews with instructors, typical teaching methods are examined for the inclusion of English-language media in lessons. Such media usage, if present, is then analyzed for evidence of conveyed values that support critical thinking skills. Specific attention is paid to the relationship between such dual lessons and students' development of political ideologies, communal/national identities, and perspectives on the Cyprus Conflict. As this research proposes, when students are given both the language and mental skills necessary to engage in dialogue with the other community, their views on the potential resolution of the Conflict are altered. Data for this research was gathered through fieldwork in Northern Cyprus between September and December 2019, and includes information and perspectives gained through the researcher's experience in academic and civil organizations active in the peacebuilding process. The findings of this project may offer valuable insights into the role of third-language education in the peacebuilding process of linguistically-divided post-conflict societies.

Kathrine Gosnell, History

Cultural Hybridity in Burials During the Egyptian Ptolemaic and Roman Periods

Abstract: During the Egyptian Ptolemaic and Roman Periods, it is undeniable that the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures interacted with each other an intimate level. As foreign cultures became more prominent in society, they mixed together to create a new hybrid culture rather than the native traditions being erased by the foreign ones. This study investigates cultural hybridity through the lens of burials and mortuary practices and how these artifacts gives insight into cultural identity of the locals of Egypt during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. To reach a broad conclusion, a variety of different sources are examined, including funerary papyri, mummy masks, and mummy portraits. All were produced during the time period and come from a variety of different backgrounds and cultures. Analysis shows that individuals coming from various types ethnic backgrounds saw themselves as multi-cultural beings. Preferences varied from person to person and mortuary art allowed the person to express their personal identity within the Egyptian traditional structure. Egyptian traditions were not replaced or destroyed. Rather, a new hybrid culture emerged in which Roman and Greek traditions could co-exist with native Egyptian ones. As burial items show, individuals did not see themselves as belonging to one specific culture, but rather, as mixture of all three.

2 pm - English Studies (Dr. Suzie Park, moderator)

Alexis Lawson, English

The Christian Recorder (1854)

Abstract: The Christian Recorder was published in 1854. It did not start out as a movement, but that is what it turned out to be. There were so many bad things happening to African Americans that they wanted nothing more than to be free. This newspaper helped African Americans live their daily lives under the conditions they found themselves in. It made a large impact on the people during this time period.

Maria Ruettiger, English

The Significance of Women's Hair Post-WWI

Abstract: This essay focuses on the novel Not So Quiet... by Helen Zenna Smith and how women's hairstyles were influenced during and after WW1. Showing how the main characters, Toshy and Smith, were rebelling against gender ideology and how WW1 influenced women by them deciding to take control over their own lives. Providing examples of how hair was idolized before and after WW1 through ads and seeing how women's hairstyles changed because of this. Also presenting the idea that the generation fighting in the war were going away from the older generations traditions and rejecting them. I argue that the novel's larger thematic point is to show that women were actually not quiet at all.

Angela Steineman, English

The Cast of a Giant's Shadow

Abstract: Adapting fairy tales and folklore has been an ongoing endeavor by storytellers and artists since the very first story was repeated. The evidence can be seen in the many versions of tales like those of the sleeping beauty, from Giambattista Basile's "Sun, Moon, and Talia" to Walt Disney's "Maleficent." However, unlike their European counterparts, adaptations of American tales outside of children's literature are not as ubiquitous. My writing rectifies this by adding to the resurging interest seen in recent retellings like Matt Bell's "Appleseed: The Monstrous Birth." In an effort to reframe the American tall tale and adapt these stories for the modern reader, I write from the points-of-view of secondary characters, many of them women. In my collection, Babe, Johnny Inkslinger, Slue-Foot Sue, and technology get the chance to escape the shadows of giants like Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, and John Henry; and the sycamore from the Jamestown Mother-In-Law Tree legend finally speaks of the role it plays in the unforgiving nature of a controlling mother. My adaptations will help keep American tall tales and folklore alive; similar to what the books of Angela Carter, Carol Ann Duffy, and Neil Gaiman do for European fairy tales.

3 pm - Sensory Ethnography (Dr. Angela Glaros, moderator)

Ryan Moore, Sociology

Faculty Mentor Angela Glaros, Sociology and Anthropology

"Elbows Straight: Bodies, Space, and Power in Student-Led Organizations"

Abstract: This project examines bodily metaphors, nonverbal communication, and the use of space among participants in the legislative board room at the Illinois Residence Hall Association annual conference. Student participants vote on constitutional changes for the association and decide on award recipients. Sensory participant observation during the meeting revealed that members deferred to representatives of more powerful institutions, physically turning toward them when a vote was called, and literally gave those representatives more space. Additionally, the expectations surrounding full participation and voting were predicated on ableist assumptions of bodily comportment. I conclude that in spite of egalitarian procedures, decision-making power rested mostly with members who are white, able-bodied, and attached to institutions with relatively greater influence within the association.

Grace Osborn, Biology

Faculty Mentor Angela Glaros, Sociology and Anthropology

Smelling Cultures: Sensory Participation in a Laboratory Space

Abstract: This multimedia project explores the sensory aspects of laboratory work in microbiology, specifically the smells encountered during the culturing of bacterial samples. I conducted sensory participant-observation while engaged in streak-plating and Gram staining to create microscopic slides for six different bacterial species. While work in a microbiology laboratory involves many distinct odors, I use my experience with one specific aroma to argue that the olfactory sense cues the performance of laboratory work and marks the spatial boundaries of scientific practices.

4 pm – Sustainability Studies (Dr. Nichole Hugo, Moderator)

Yasmine Ben Miloud - Sustainable Energy (GRAD)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nichole Hugo

Analysis of sustainable community development: A case study of a college town

Small towns face major challenges to ensure their sustainable development in a time where migrating toward cities is a trend among citizens. A university town growth is even more sensitive to such a trend. It is a special urban space with unique attributes that needs specific consideration when planning its development. Recruiting industries and entrepreneurial initiatives are the most popular approaches to communities' development. Industry recruitment is the traditional approach, but not always the best solution. Self-development by relying on community involvement to support change and solve problems may show better results. The purpose of this research is to examine ways for community self-development for a college town in the Midwest. A qualitative study based on interviews with community members is used to collect perspectives, identify strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities of the town, in addition to a review of the comprehensive plan to help tailor solutions for this community, in respect to its key attributes to grow sustainably.

Christine Kariuki - Sustainable Energy (GRAD)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nichole Hugo

Sustainability Initiatives tracking and measuring in EIU

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. In the last 15 years, there has been significant growth in the higher education sustainability movement, necessitating the need for tracking and measuring progress in achieving sustainability goals. Eastern Illinois University has committed to integrating sustainability issues into its curriculum, operations, and research. There is a need to track and measure the performance of these initiatives in order to identify challenges, best practices and opportunities, create dynamic processes for improvements, and establish performance baselines.

Martin Osei - Sustainability Studies (GRAD)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nichole Hugo

Design of an Insulated Solar Electric Cooking Stove

Insulated Solar Electric Cooking (ISEC) is an inexpensive (~\$1.00) heater that connects directly to a solar panel to allow for cooking food and providing electricity to charge batteries or power

appliances. Direct DC Solar (DDS) electricity also inexpensively cooks food and charges appliances. Insulated Solar Electric Cooking (ISEC) originally used DDS to power a resistive heater. However, a heater made from a chain of diodes extracts more energy from a solar panel over a variety of solar intensities and also acts as a rough, very inexpensive voltage regulator to charge batteries and power appliances. Using a diode chain can make use of nearly 100% of solar panel capacity because the diode-based cooker utilizes solar panel electricity near the panel's peak power voltage, and the electricity not used by appliances cooks the food. The resulting cost of electricity (less than most grid electricity, and less than a hundredth the cost of electricity from disposable batteries) is already cost competitive with biomass cooking for many areas. Benefits include inexpensive access to electricity, reduced indoor air pollution, deforestation, and cost/burden of providing cooking fuel.

Manjil Puri - Sustainable Energy (GRAD)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peter Ping-Liu

Techno-economic study of Solar Powered Electric Vehicle Charging Station for rural midwestern town of the USA case study EV installation at Sarah Bush Hospital

The transportation sector in the US is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions and represents one-third of the total emissions. Rural communities in the US are scattered and 40 % of them lack public transportation. Therefore, the electric vehicle seems to be a promising solution to make to reduce emissions and make transportation sustainable in these communities. In this research, a Solar PV based electric vehicle charging system will be designed for a rural midwestern town and its feasibility will be studied under technical and financial terms. The sizing of the PV system will be done under three different cases of total vehicle share, current EV adoption (1.15%), medium growth (5%) and high growth (10%). Energy demand is calculated using the battery capacity, range and charge cycle of the top ten brands of EVs sold in the US. The system will be designed under multiple specifications and usage, to measure its feasibility under different scenarios. The financial metrics to study the feasibility of the project are NPV, IRR, LCOE, ROR and payback period.