O’NEILL EXPO

April 29, 2022

Indiana University O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Bloomington, Indiana
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SCHEDULE

All sessions available on Zoom, click panel title to attend

**Panel Session One 9:00–10:00 A.M.**
Panel 1A: Subnational Conflict & Crime | Room 277
Geneva Mazhandu, Anna Engel, Shibani Mody
Panel 1B: Healthcare & Workforce | Room A201
Noah Zucker, Rachel Moneta, Nicholas Stevens
Panel 1C: Environmental Science | Room A223
Hannah-Marie Lamle, Allyson Collins, Catie Pursifull
Panel 1D: Arts & Nonprofit Management | Room 167
Zoe Berensztein, Alexea Fleming, Ryan Paquette

**Panel Session Two 10:00—11:00 A.M.**
Panel 2A: Personnel Policy & Management | Room 277
Vernon R. Wilson II, Deaton Grove, Zachary Kibel
Panel 2B: Public Policy | Room A201
Evann Englert, Elizabeth McAvoy, Dayna Katz
Panel 2C: Environmental Policy & Management | Room A223
Amanda Christophe, Isabella Yallapragada, Charles Connon
Panel 2D: Public Policy | Room 167
Adam Rosenthall, Emily Glazier, Naomi Freel, Hannah Fry
Panel 2E: Graduate Presentations | Room A335
Capstone with Frank Nierzwicki, Jr., Clinical Assistant Professor

**Panel Session Three 11:00 - 12:00 PM**
Panel 3A: Media & Communications | Room 277
Rachel Goodwin, Reese Nordeen, Garrett Wright
Panel 3B: Health & Public Policy | Room A201
Jenna DeSantis, Patrick McPartlin, Ian Nowlin
Panel 3C: Environmental & Place | Room A223
Deena Leah Krawitz, Jonathan Thomas, Lindsey Huber
Panel 3E: Graduate Presentations | Room A335
Capstone with Anh Ngoc Tran, Professor, Elizabeth Brader
Panel 3F: Graduate Presentations | Room 169
Capstone with Mark Levin, Clinical Associate Professor
Panel 3G: The MSHM Showcase | Room A225
Presentation with current MSHM students

**Lunch Reception 12:00 - 1:00 PM**
First Floor Lounge
**Panel 1A:**
**Subnational Conflict & Crime**

Room 277
Panel Chair: Megan Darnley

**Tough on Crime? Exploring Variations in Attitudes towards Criminal Justice Reform Amongst Conservatives**

by Geneva Mazhandu

Criminal justice reform has received an increasing amount of bipartisan attention in recent years. There has been a move from focuses on entirely punitive sentencing measures to include rehabilitative programs in criminal justice systems throughout the country. We seek to understand the divergence in perceptions of criminal justice reform between older and younger self-identified conservatives.

Previous research has found there to be a correlation between consumption of right-wing media outlets and support for punitive sentencing, as well as a negative correlation between a conservative’s level of interest in politics and their levels of empathy. It is important to understand why this difference in views of criminal justice reform between conservatives of various age groups exists so that changes to criminal justice policy can be the most effective both in terms of how they impact those within the justice system and how public opinion feels about them.

Mentor: Jennifer Silva, Assistant Professor

**Rehabilitation over Recidivism: The Power of Successful Rehabilitative Programming Through Non-Profit Organizations and Government Funded Programs on Lowering Recidivism Rates for Hoosier Inmates**

by Shibani Mody

Former inmates coming from incarceration are being released into civic life every year with most not being prepared nor ready to transition into societal life. Ex-offenders face great barriers when attempting to transform into a productive member of the community and oftentimes these barriers lead them to either re-incarceration or poverty. The barriers released prisoners may face are difficulty securing and maintaining employment and housing, connecting with family, overcoming stigma and severe disenfranchisement as people are reluctant to accept and hire those with felony records. The employment opportunities that are available to most ex-offenders are low quality jobs which provide few benefits and little to no pay opportunities for advancement in the workplace. These former inmates also struggle with obstacles in public and private sector jobs since they have limited educational and vocational training access. When limited employment opportunities and resources are available, individuals struggle with maintaining their new lifestyle and fall back into criminal behavior, thus becoming more likely to reoffend. Without support, nearly 34% of adult ex-offenders in Indiana will return to prison within three years after release, according to the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC).

If current inmates are given effectively administered rehabilitative programming (i.e., vocational training, educational resources, post incarceration training), it can significantly aid in the transition from prison to civic life and change their social behavior and outlook on life. Prisons are supposed to be about rehabilitation, not severe punishment. My research so far has shown that nonprofit organizations that work with current and former inmates on post incarceration life and skills training do more for inmates than government funded programs which are not accessible to all inmates nor funded properly. This thesis will attempt to uncover answers to the following questions:

- What factors affect the quality of rehabilitation programs?
- Do seemingly higher quality rehabilitation programs impact recidivism rates within the state of Indiana?
- Are nonprofits aimed at offender rehabilitation programming and post incarceration aid more impactful in lowering recidivism rates than government funded programs within prisons?

Mentor: Jennifer Silva, Assistant Professor

**Modern Culpability: A Crime Data Analysis Exploring the Impact of the Felony Murder Rule on the Likelihood of a Plea Agreement in Cook County.**

by Anna Engel

In the United States, a prosecutor is required to prove an individual intended to kill someone to be charged with murder. However, there is one exception: the felony murder rule. States with the felony murder rule do not need to prove that a defendant intended to cause death but rather that they were present during a crime in which a death occurred. Proponents of the felony murder rule have argued that it prevents individuals from participating in felony crimes due to the possibility of being charged with felony murder. However, recent scholarly research on the felony murder rule has established that the presence of a felony murder rule does not in fact encourage deterrence. Given that the felony murder has been shown to not accomplish what it was designed to do—that is, deterrence—why do prosecutors continue to use it? This thesis will critically analyze the felony murder rule by exploring the history behind rising incarceration rates and tough on crime policies, prosecutorial incentives to induce plea bargains and prosecutorial misconduct. I argue that the felony murder rule serves to provide legal justification for prosecutors to charge crimes in a way that is more severe in hopes of inducing a plea agreement.

Mentor: Jennifer Silva, Assistant Professor

**Felony Murder on the Likelihood of a Plea Agreement.**

by Shibani Mody

In the United States, a prosecutor is required to prove an individual intended to kill someone to be charged with murder. However, there is one exception: the felony murder rule. States with the felony murder rule do not need to prove that a defendant intended to cause death but rather that they were present during a crime in which a death occurred. Proponents of the felony murder rule have argued that it prevents individuals from participating in felony crimes due to the possibility of being charged with felony murder. However, recent scholarly research on the felony murder rule has established that the presence of a felony murder rule does not in fact encourage deterrence. Given that the felony murder has been shown to not accomplish what it was designed to do—that is, deterrence—why do prosecutors continue to use it? This thesis will critically analyze the felony murder rule by exploring the history behind rising incarceration rates and tough on crime policies, prosecutorial incentives to induce plea bargains and prosecutorial misconduct. I argue that the felony murder rule serves to provide legal justification for prosecutors to charge crimes in a way that is more severe in hopes of inducing a plea agreement.

Mentor: Jennifer Silva, Assistant Professor

**Inmates on Post Incarceration Life and Skills Training: A Cost Analysis**

by Shibani Mody

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Mentor: Jennifer Silva, Assistant Professor

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Mentor: Jennifer Silva, Assistant Professor
Raising the Minimum Wage: Helpful or Hurtful for the Expansion of the Nonprofit Sector within the United States?
by Noah Zucker

To evaluate the changes of minimum wage in accordance with the growth of nonprofits in the United States, I am looking to answer the following: Does a raised minimum wage affect the expansion of 501(c)(3) nonprofits in the United States? Through this research, I will assess a cross-sectional evaluation between minimum wage and the growth of the nonprofit sector, based on archival data. The dataset will consist of financial information from different nonprofit industries including their size based on the number of employees. Although there has been research done on the effect of minimum wage, rarely does the nonprofit sector ever arise in conversation. In a similar research study, it was found that the nonprofit sector is affected more heavily by minimum wage changes than the private sector. The study is projected to find a correlation between an increased minimum wage and a decrease in size of the nonprofit sector. This research is useful to multiple policy-makers on both the federal and state level. With the proper policy, we can see growth in the nonprofit sector, allowing organizations to continue to help those in need.

Mentor: Laura Littlepage, Clinical Associate Professor

The Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program: Impact on Readmission and Mortality Rates
by Rachel Moneta

High readmission rates are a large contributor to healthcare spend-
ing in the United States. Furthermore, it is also an indicator of the quality of care patients receive while admitted to hospitals. Due to these high costs and poor patient outcomes, Medicare was motivated to implement the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) in 2012. The goal of this program is to reduce readmissions by financially penalizing hospitals; however, policymakers have expressed a concern that this program may have an unintended consequence of an increase in mortality rates. This thesis reviews a control group of hospitals that have adequate readmission rates prior to the HRRP and compares them to the readmission rates of hospitals after the implementation of the HRRP, revealing the program’s impact on readmission rates in the United States. This was also done to determine the HRRP’s impact on mortality rates for patients with pneumonia, heart failure, and acute myocardial infarction.

Mentor: Alex Hollingsworth, Associate Professor

Do Critical Access Hospitals Affect Mortality Rates in Rural Indiana Counties?
by Nicholas Stevens

Access to healthcare and healthcare facilities often leads to the thought that the communities with those facilities will have better health outcomes, and more specifically, lower mortality rates. However, what is the effect on a rural community when they do not have access to this healthcare and must rely on smaller facilities, like Critical Access Hospitals? This study investigates the relationship between mortality rates and the presence of Critical Access Hospitals in Indiana counties, as well as the relationship between mortality rates and unemployment rates in rural counties. Data revealed that mortality rates in Indiana counties increase with the presence of a Critical Access Hospital. Additionally, data revealed that mortality rates decrease when unemployment rates increase in rural Indiana counties.

Mentor: Alex Hollingsworth, Associate Professor

Coral Reefs under Threat: Could Repopulating the West Indian Spider Crab Help?
by Hannah-Marie Lamle

Marine Ecosystems in the Caribbean have been actively shifting from an ecological state of coral reefs to macroalgal dominated ecosystems which grow on stony coral skeletons. This shift in stable states has been expedited by the effects of anthropogenic climate change. Coral reefs and macroalgae are rival species that will compete for space in order to obtain nutrients, sunlight, and space to grow. Thus, since current conditions for coral growth are becoming more unfavorable due to climate change (increasing sea temperatures) macroalgae is becoming dominant on reefs in the Caribbean. In order to assist the restoration of Caribbean coral reefs, researchers have proposed reintroducing Minthrax spinosissimus, the West Indian Spider Crab, to the Florida Keys in order to limit competition between new coral recruitment and macroalgae growth. This paper works to create a management report for key components that must be necessary to ensure a successful reintroduction, including (1) pre-reintroduction laboratory and field experiments, (2) specific goals outlined in detail to analyze success of the reintroduction at different intervals after reintroduction. And (3) long term monitoring practices to analyze coral growth and species populations of spinosissimus.

Mentor: Stephen Glaholt, Laboratory Director
The effects of drought and decreased water volume on water quality in the Boulder Basin of Lake Mead by Allyson Collins

The 20-year megadrought in the southwestern United States has had lasting impacts on the Colorado River and its reservoirs. This research analyzed the potential effects of decreased water volume from the megadrought on eight water quality variables in the Boulder Basin of Lake Mead. Over the past 20 years, Boulder Basin has shown rapid decline in water volume due to the drought. This analysis investigated the effects of this decline on overall water quality by examining water quality data from the basin from primarily 2012 to 2016. The impacts of the variables were assessed, and specific conductance was the sole variable that showed a strong correlation to the decreased water volume of Lake Mead. In the future, drought could create uninhabitable conditions for communities that depend on Lake Mead for water. Therefore, this thesis addressed these water quality impacts on the socio-economic and environmental health of the southwestern United States.

Mentor: Todd Royer, Professor

How Will an Increase in Storm Events due to Climate Change Impact Water Quality? A Case Study of Lake Monroe in Bloomington, IN by Catie Pursifull

Safe and reliable water is a necessity and a human right. The ability of municipalities to provide this public good and protect water sources is a crucial measure of their capabilities. Projected climate change impacts on central Indiana include an increase in storms. These storms further increase non-point source pollution from agriculture and threaten the water source and quality. This thesis examines this process in South Fork of Salt Creek in Kurtz, IN, which has inputs of agriculture and is a part of the watershed of Lake Monroe, the water source for the City of Bloomington. I plotted total nitrogen, total phosphorus, Escherichia coli, and total organic carbon concentrations against changes in precipitation and storm events. I then explored how an increase in storm events due to climate change will impact the non-point source runoff of these pollutants into Lake Monroe. I find that the pollution load in the South Fork of Salt Creek increases with an increase of storms, which suggests that an increase in storm frequency or intensity will result in greater inputs of pollution to Lake Monroe. The City of Bloomington must prepare for this worsening of water quality in Lake Monroe due to climate change.

Mentor: Todd Royer, Professor

The Value of Virtual Programs in a Post-Pandemic Society: A Comparison of Visitor Engagement of In-Person and Virtual Programs Hosted By Art Museums by Alexea Fleming

While the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a significant economic toll on cultural institutions, it has also facilitated the surge of virtual programs hosted by art museums. Today, as the world gradually moves out of the pandemic and returns to a new normal, art museums have begun to reopen and restore in-person programming. Consequently, an important question has emerged: what is the value of virtual programs in a post-pandemic society? One approach to determining value is looking at how well the program engages audiences and facilitates learning. Therefore, this research study hopes to uncover the value of virtual programs by gauging the opinions of art museum staff regarding how visitor engagement differs between in-person and virtual programs. Interviews and surveys of staff members of art museums in the Midwest region of the United States are used to examine the differences in engagement of in-person and virtual programs, current best practices of measuring engagement, and how staff will likely navigate the benefits and challenges of virtual programming in the future. Though the findings suggest that engagement is generally higher for in-person programs, most of the responding staff believe that some level of virtual programming is here to stay.

Mentor: Frank Lewis, Senior Lecturer
Nonprofit organizations have an obligation to fulfill their mission and having an effective performance measurement system improves their ability to do that. Currently, there is a lack of research on the best practices in performance measurement specifically concerning youth development organizations. Interviews with five youth development organizations in Monroe County provide examples of patterns in the most effective performance measurement systems. It is important for organizations to measure a range of data, including outputs and outcomes for both managerial and program measures. Among the organizations, there was a positive relationship between investment in training staff in data analysis and the use of data in organizational decision making. Additionally, the organizations reported a consistent struggle to engage frontline staff in performance measurement, no matter the amount of top-down investment. These lessons give youth development organizations insight into how they can improve performance measurement, which ultimately leads to improving children’s lives.

*Mentor: Beth Gazley, Professor*
**Exploring the Influence of Job Enrichment on Satisfaction of Federal Employees: An Empirical Study**

by Vernon R. Wilson II

This investigation aimed to determine the influence of job enrichment on the satisfaction of federal employees. The foundational process of job design is a method oftentimes utilized in the public sector to restructure employment practices to suit internal and external market needs. Job enrichment is a form of job design, which describes the process of expanding employees’ tasks through dimensions of vertical loading, horizontal expansion, task significance, development, and feedback. To understand the historical significance of the term “enrichment,” a survey of the theoretical framework and semantic progression was reviewed. This was accompanied by a thorough assessment of satisfaction, an examination of the principle-agent problem, and concluding with an analysis of employment-related value conflicts. This cross-sectional observational investigation sourced data from the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) conducted in 2019, which presented descriptive statistics for all 385,000 survey respondents. Data shows that for every unit of enrichment, satisfaction increased by 36.2%, which is supported by the research measure accounting for nearly 80% of the variation in satisfaction in the survey. These findings are significant because they display the changing needs of the workforce and highlight what federal employees value. For enrichment to become sustainable, modern practices must have internal alignment with the corresponding above-mentioned enrichment dimensions.

**Combating the Labor Shortage in Restaurants**

by Deaton Grove

The United States restaurant industry is currently in the midst of a growing labor shortage. Restaurant owners are struggling to staff their restaurants which result in poor customer service, reduced hours, and possibly a failed business. While waitstaff in many high-end restaurants are able to earn acceptable wages, many employees are opting for different career paths that provide greater stability. Also, a large portion of the labor market has shifted. In the past, many of these jobs have been filled by younger employees in the 16 to 20 age group, but this workforce is shrinking. Restaurant owners have been scrambling to adapt to the changing labor market and are implementing new tactics to combat the labor shortage. What are restaurant owners and managers doing to combat the labor shortage and are any of these methods successful?

**The Flexible Workweek Preferences of College Students: Are College Recruiters Missing the Mark?**

by Zachary Kibel

Alternative workweeks have existed for decades, yet until recently there has been little action taken by many organizations to implement them. This changed with the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic and led to an increase in flexible schedules throughout the country. This paper aims to find what current college students prefer in terms of their potential workweek once they enter the workforce post-graduation, and how their preferences relate to organizational recruitment strategies. There is a lack of research on what current students who studied and worked throughout the pandemic prefer, along with the display of flexibility in college job board postings. There are implications for the mismatch between recruiters and student preferences, such as a lack of competitive recruiting, a decrease in job satisfaction, and lower retention rates and organizational output. Through research of job board postings and a survey, this analysis indicated that students generally prefer a hybrid or alternative workweek over a traditional workweek, yet few student-oriented job posts indicate this style of workweek is available or mention flexibility, indicating potential organizational costs associated with this mismatch.

**Cracking the College Conundrum: Do Mental Health Efforts on College Campuses Make a Discernible Impact on Health Outcomes?**

by Evann Englert

Increased efforts to better mental healthcare on college campuses has dominated the list of students’ demands for administrators. Numerous schools have instituted, within their counseling programs, free therapy sessions for enrolled students. While research has looked at the impact on healthcare spending when there is free/reduced cost of care, no scholarly work has assessed the health outcomes of free care. I hypothesize that inexpensive or free mental healthcare on college campuses leads to better health outcomes, including decreased drug and alcohol usage. A survey conducted electronically by students at all 14 Big Ten universities elicited data that shows a statistically significant positive relationship between free mental healthcare and health outcomes. The correlation is most robust with the variable involving students drinking 3-4 times per week; students who had more expensive health fees were more likely to drink alcohol 3-4 times per week. These findings suggest that further work is needed to...
assess the effects of free/inexpensive healthcare on broader populations.

**Mentor:** Alex Hollingsworth, Associate Professor

### Mitigating the Opioid Crisis: The Effect of Naloxone Access Laws (NALs) on Reducing Opioid Deaths

**by Elizabeth McAvoy**

From 1999–2020, almost 500,000 people died from an opioid overdose, and the number of opioid deaths is increasing overtime and is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, the rise of opioid deaths was caused by excessive opioid prescribers. Thus, to address this problem and save lives, states enacted laws to limit the prescribing of opioids. However, most opioid deaths are caused currently by synthetic opioids, particularly illegally made fentanyl. Since 2001, states have enacted naloxone access laws (NALs) to increase the access of naloxone, an opioid antagonist, to laypeople and decrease opioid deaths. However, there has been little research done on NALs’ effectiveness of reducing opioid deaths, in addition to the existing literature being mixed. This paper analyzes the effect of NALs on opioid deaths from 1999–2020 by using a two-stage difference-in-differences analysis.

**Mentor:** Alex Hollingsworth, Associate Professor

### Title IX Compliance in Michigan Public High School Sports

**by Dayna Katz**

While trends for high school’s Title IX compliance may be difficult to divulge, I theorize high schools in communities with lower household incomes, higher percent of students eligible for free lunch and possess a large competitive football team are on average less compliant with Title IX. The following study focuses on the relationship between Title IX compliance and three external variables: average household income, free lunch programs, and the presence of football. Using a geographically stratified sample and cross-sectional design method, I analyze the relationship these three variables have to high schools abiding by Title IX regulations. I evaluate the variables within the year 2017 across 18 Michigan public high schools. Using data from the Civil Rights Database, U.S Census Bureau, Casey Foundation Databank, and Michigan High School Athletic Association, I uncover evidence that schools with larger football programs and list sideline cheer as an athletic opportunity are less likely to be found compliant with Title IX. Additionally, many of the results were inconclusive from lack of accessibility to compliance information. These findings highlight the necessity for more research, stronger policy options, and better enforcement of Title IX at the high school level. The implementation of federal legislation can attempt to combat these issues of transparency.

**Mentor:** Jayma Meyer, Visiting Clinical Professor

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### PANEL 2C: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & MANAGEMENT

**Room A223**

**Panel Chair:** Shannon Conley

### Environmental Activism and the Implementation of Climate Policies: A Comparative Case Study of US Cities

**by Amanda Christophe**

Cities across the United States are playing key roles in pioneering climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Not only do cities operate at a scale to which many of the impacts of climate change will be felt, but they also represent a level of governance that is most responsive and accessible to citizens. Many cities have enacted climate action plans to address climate change impacts. Despite this, climate policy implementation across local governments is inconsistent, and continues to be low in many cases. There are several factors that influence a city’s commitment to sustainability, however the role of activism throughout the policy-making process remains understudied. Current literature indicates a growth of non-governmental organizations, public participation, and citizen activism in ensuring effective environmental governance, and has emphasized the need for a more formalized, institutional public participation process in environmental policy making. This paper employs a comparative case study of four U.S. cities to understand how systems of public participation impact a city’s ability to move enacted policies into implemented programs.

**Mentor:** Aaron Deslatte, Assistant Professor

### Mondamin Sickened: Human and Climate Effects on the Survival of Miami Ethnobotany

**by Isabella Yallapragada**

The Miami people of Indiana maintained an environmental ethic based upon subsistence and co-existence with the natural world. The knowledge generated from this relationship with Indiana’s environment includes an intimate understanding of native plant species and their medicinal, cultural, material, and technological uses. However, the diminished presence of the Miami in Indiana coupled with changing habitat conditions due to climate change and anthropogenic forces will significantly alter our understanding of native ethnobotany. This thesis utilizes documentation from 17th-19th century European missionaries, explorers, ethnobotanists, and the Miami people themselves to ask: How will future human and climate plant stressors affect the survival of ethnobotanical plants important to the Miami of southern Indiana?

**Mentor:** Jon Eldon, Lecturer
A comparative historical analysis of the property rights regimes and state-sanctioned destruction in Siberia from 2002 to 2022
by Charles Connon

Across the world, the rights of native peoples are under attack, and their historical connections to their ancestral lands are being blurred. As the largest and most sprawling state in the world, Russia is no exception to this pattern. Moreover, the modern Russian state works to legitimize its violations of both domestic and international laws that outline protections for the property rights of indigenous peoples, and the limited enforcement of these laws leave many native peoples powerless. Over the past two decades, Siberian landscapes have been heavily developed for resource extraction, with indigeneity becoming heavily policed and regulated as indigenous rights organizations fall further under state scrutiny and activists face state intimidation tactics. Through my research paper, I elucidate the ways through which the Russian state legitimizes its human rights abuses on indigenous peoples and their land. Through a comparative historical analysis of the two diverse Siberian districts of Kamchatka Krai and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, I pull and analyze data from independent news organizations, official government records, influential federal laws, and hydrocarbon company publications to paint a picture of the political economy of land rights in Siberia.

Mentor: Sarah Osterhoudt, Associate Professor

The Impacts of Shelby County v. Holder: A Comparative Analysis of Mississippi and Arkansas
by Adam Rosenthall

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 fulfilled the promises of the 15th Amendment by providing a structural solution to the problem of southern disenfranchisement. In 2013, however, the Supreme Court ruled Section 4(b), one of the most consequential provisions of the VRA, unconstitutional in Shelby County v. Holder. While several scholars have examined the effects of the VRA, very few have examined the effects of Shelby County. I use a comparative-historical analysis of Mississippi, a state covered by Section 4(b), and Arkansas, an uncovered state, to understand these effects. By analyzing the voting histories of both states, I evaluate the impacts the VRA and Shelby County have had on African American voting opportunities. My research indicates that little evidence exists to suggest Shelby County dramatically decreased the voting opportunities of African American voters in Mississippi. However, this does not mean discrimination has receded or disappeared. Without the tools the VRA provided, the degree and shape of discrimination become much harder to determine.

Mentor: Matthew Baggetta, Associate Professor

Unfit to Serve: The 25th Amendment and the Mental Health Stigma
by Emily Glazier

The Capitol riots on January 6th, 2021, prompted many strong reactions, including the discussion of Trump’s responsibility in the event and possible consequences. Many Americans, including government officials, cited the unprecedented event as evidence that President Trump was mentally unfit to serve, calling to invoke the 25th Amendment. However, Section 4 of the 25th Amendment’s ambiguous definition of Presidential inability and a lack of case law complicates a universal standard of applicability. This problem mirrored the eventual divisions within the U.S population regarding their justifications to call to invoke the 25th Amendment. This study seeks to analyze the role the mental health stigma plays in online discourse concerning ‘mental unfitness’ when there is an absence of a clear definition. The demographics of verified Twitter users, including political affiliation, sex, and age were recorded. Then, using a codebook, a component of the mental health stigma was identified in the language of their respective Tweet. The study reveals varying relationships between the two variables, providing a deeper analysis on stigmatizing discourse and the public’s interpretation of a mental disability.

Mentor: Beth Cate, Clinical Associate Professor

Race and Reproductive Rights: Understanding the Relationship Between a Woman’s Race and Public Opinion on Abortion Access
by Naomi Freel

Despite the prevalence of abortion in the United States, social stigmas persist which limit a woman’s ability to receive an abortion. This study aims to identify whether the race of the woman seeking an abortion is one such factor that changes public support for abortion access by asking: Does public support for abortion access change based on the race of an individual seeking an abortion? While limited research has been conducted on this question, the history of race, reproductive rights, and social constructions support two distinct possibilities: public support for access to abortion will be higher for (1) Black women or (2) white women. Using a survey experiment, the relationship between a woman’s race and public support for her access to abortion...
was examined. While further studies are needed to determine if there is a significant difference in public support, trends in this study suggest that while overall support for abortion access may be higher for Black women, public support resides with white women when strictly considering the morality of abortion.

Mentor: Jill Nicholson-Crotty, Associate Professor

**Philanthropy Circles: A Diversification and Remediation Tool for Higher Education and Philanthropy**
by Hannah Fry

Philanthropy circles are a relatively new identity-based fundraising model emerging in higher education institution settings that form collective identities and shared commitments to raise money and unify identity-based higher education constituents in a way that remediates the historic and systemic inequalities associated with philanthropy and higher education. Philanthropy circles create a welcoming space that meets diverse donors where they are and caters to their unique experiences in an effort to advance underrepresented populations. This study analyzes philanthropy circles as a viable fundraising model by tracking qualitative data regarding donor numbers, initial success, and revenues across time and with supplemental qualitative data regarding director, donor, and member experiences.

Mentor: Jill Nicholson-Crotty, Associate Professor

**PANEL 2E: GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS**
Room A335

**International Community Development Issues – Legionowo, Poland**
Capstone with Frank Nierzwicki, Jr., Clinical Assistant Professor

City of Legionowo is located approximately 15 miles from Warsaw, Poland. The city is just over 50,000 in population and is located within the greater Warsaw metropolitan area of over 3 million inhabitants. Legionowo has a very high population density, which has led to an increase in its crime rate during the COVID era. The high population densities are the result of large housing flats (apartments) within the city. The Warsaw metropolitan area has been drawing more workers and residents over the past decade that has led to huge demand in affordable housing.

Students enrolled in this capstone will serve as consultants to the City of Legionowo concerning the long-term viability, economic, social and community enhancement of selected housing blocks. This capstone project will have three (3) main components. (1) Analysis of previous neighborhood projects/programs that will include a program evaluation, (2) consider future community enhancement projects which will require review of best practices from American and European urban areas, (3) propose a plan for human capital development and (4) action plan that includes the neighborhood, the City of Legionowo, and the University of Warsaw.
Modern anti-Semitism is fundamentally distinct from the pre-Holocaust era, with the main perpetrators of anti-Semitic motivated acts and rhetoric now being citizens as opposed to governments and authority figures. To appropriately explore this phenomena, social media has become a crucial area of study, linking online speech to real-world action. I explored whether or not there is a correlation between social media use, specifically Facebook, and anti-Semitic hate crimes in the United States to gain a deeper understanding of social media's role in anti-Semitism. To conduct this study, I collected data on anti-Semitic hate crimes and active Facebook users in the U.S. from 2003 to 2019. Collecting this information involved utilization of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program and Facebook Annual Reports. Once this data was collected, I ran regressions to explore potential correlations and used an interrupted time series model to display trends. After conducting this research, the results show that there is not a statistically significant correlation between the number of Facebook users and anti-Semitic hate crimes in the United States.

Mentor: Thomas Stucky, Professor

Going Offensive: Negative Political Advertising And Perception of Candidates
by Reese Nordeen

Since the foundational work of Ansolabehere and Iyengar in 1994, researchers have utilized a variety of scientific methods to understand the relationship between negative political advertising and voter turnout. Despite efforts to develop a scientific consensus, uncertainty regarding the nature of the relationship persists. This paper identifies the mechanisms driving the relationship between negative political advertising and voter turnout, providing an explanation for why these ads are not effective at mobilizing voters. To identify these mechanisms, researchers utilized web surveys containing different types of political advertisements to determine how ads influence perceptions of candidates. Our findings indicate negative advertising has few benefits, both reinforcing stereotypes for those identifying with opposing parties and increasing frustration among independents and those who identify with the party producing the advertisement.

Mentor: Jill Nicholson-Crotty, Associate Professor

An Analysis of COVID-19 Vaccination Rates and Opinions in Registered Nurses and The Relationship of Politics to the Pandemic
by Jenna DeVellis

This research paper is aimed to understand the key factors and influences on Americans' decisions to get the COVID-19 vaccine. A case study is conducted with registered nurses to help analyze their influences and views on COVID-19 to help better understand healthcare workers' experience with COVID-19. The goal of this research is to help better understand how COVID-19 affected nurses who had a more direct experience with the pandemic than the average person.

I conducted a survey sent out to Travel Nurse Facebook groups since Travel Nurses are contracted so they do not fall under individual hospital vaccine mandates. Although the personal experience that the nurses had with COVID-19 played a large role in their views, social views were still a large factor. People who were registered Republicans and/or voted for Donald Trump in the 2020 election were more likely to have negative views on the vaccine and the current government handling of COVID-19.

Mentor: Alex Hollingsworth, Associate Professor

Support for the Unhoused Community: The Impact of Exclusionary Zoning Practices
by Patrick McPartlin

For decades, urban planners have used exclusionary zoning practices to take advantage of minority com-
munities by creating strict access to housing or housing resources. Traditionally, this practice has targeted groups based on race or ethnicity with the goal of removing access to a home, neighborhood, or community. Today, the practice is commonly used to exclude individuals based on economic status or income, resulting in a large number of housing vacancies. Due to the increasingly stringent housing policies in many cities across the United States, the unhoused community has suffered immense consequences. Specifically, the lack of affordable housing has created a strict divide among the housed and the homeless. This research will identify the correlation between these exclusionary zoning practices and public support for resources combating homelessness by specifically analyzing three contrasting U.S. cities: Austin, Texas; San Francisco, California; and Indianapolis; Indiana. This sample was derived from a list of cities with a population between 800,000 and 1,000,000 individuals and by the polarities between California and Texas, especially.

Mentor: Laura Littlepage, Clinical Associate Professor

PANEL 3C: ENVIRONMENTAL & PLACE
Room A223
Panel Chair: Wes Zabrowski

The Who and the Why: Demographic Correlates of Support for Afghan Refugee Resettlement and Residents’ Arguments For and Against Resettlement in Monroe County
by Ian Nowlin

The recent designation of Bloomington as a federal refugee resettlement location prompts the question, what types of people are going to support resettlement? Additionally, what arguments for or against resettlement will they find persuasive? A cross-sectional survey of 135 Monroe County residents was conducted. Respondents were presented with different arguments for and against resettlement and were asked how good an argument they thought each argument was. Responses were collected through outreach to community organizations, in public settings, and in Monroe County-oriented Facebook groups. The study found that residents, net of other factors, who were Democrats and had no religious affiliation were more likely to support Afghan refugee resettlement than Republican, Protestant residents. The most appealing arguments to supporters in favor of resettlement were empathy and the importance of diversity. However, the top arguments against resettlement among opponents were arguments of economic competition and resource drain.

Mentor: Laura Littlepage, Clinical Associate Professor

by Jonathan Thomas

The transition away from internal combustion engines and towards electric vehicles could be instrumental towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This thesis explains the barriers that hinder this transition and analyzes various policies that aim to diminish these barriers. Because the future electric vehicle market will rely heavily on today’s younger generations, a survey is used to evaluate current Midwest college students on their willingness to buy electric vehicles in the future and what they perceive as barriers to doing so. With these findings, I make recommendations on what policies could be most effective in increasing electric vehicle sales in the future.

Mentor: James Farmer, Associate Professor

Assessing the Potential Impact of Direct-Pay Renewable Tax Incentives: Renewable Generation in Rural Electric Cooperatives
by Lindsey Huber

Power generation in the United States comes from investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives, or municipal utilities. The focus of this study is rural electric cooperatives: private, nonprofit organizations owned by its members. Rural electric cooperatives serve 13% of electric customers in the United States but have largely been excluded from incentivizing efforts to raise levels of renewable power generation – such as renewable energy tax incentives – due to their nonprofit status. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the potential...
tial impacts and efficacy of cooperative access to direct-pay renewable tax incentives, a recent policy proposal for President Biden’s “Build Back Better” package.

Mentor: Nikolaos Zirogiannis, Assistant Professor

PANEL 3E: GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS
Room A335

Building Partnership for Higher Education Reform (PHER) in Vietnam

Capstone with Anh Ngoc Tran, Professor

A Reasonable Concern: The Broken System of America’s Higher Education Disability Accommodations by Elizabeth Brader

Disabled Americans continue to face a disproportionate burden when seeking higher education (Dunn et al. 2014). Modern accommodations do not sufficiently combat larger, systemic issues. As a result, injustices run deep beneath the shiny exterior of “equity and inclusion” touted by most universities. Furthermore, judicial interpretations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act have stripped Disabled students of their right to appeal accommodation decisions beyond the authority of their university. This inquiry will utilize relevant law and court cases and studies from the fields of higher education, communications, and the U.S. Department of Education. It will also incorporate analyses from the fields of law, alternative dispute resolution, philosophy, and psychology. The interdisciplinary review reveals foundational inequities engrained in disability accommodation systems. In the absence of a correction to this deferral of Disabled students’ rights to appeal, it suggests temporary solutions to increase communication, and consequently, justice. All solutions are derived from the dispute system design analytic framework which serves as a foundation for recommendations (Amsler, et al. 2020). Instructors must engage thoughtfully with their Disabled students (Currier 1999). By incorporating mandatory instructor training, open communication, and chances for transformative mediation, universities can begin to unravel their systemic ableism.

Mentor: Lisa Amsler, Distinguished Professor

PANEL 3F: GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS
Room 169

Developing Interest-Free Loan Program for Small and/or Minority-Owned Contractors and Policies and Procedures for Existing Programs

Capstone with Mark Levin, Clinical Associate Professor

The mission of CDFI Friendly Bloomington is “to strengthen the communities of Bloomington, Monroe County and neighboring south-central Indiana by increasing access to flexible, affordable capital for community development projects in the region.” To support the client’s execution of its mission, a team of Master of Public Affairs graduate students set out to produce a set of strategy and organizational support documents for this nascent organization under the guidance of Professor Mark Levin. We broke out into four teams to compose an administrative manual as well as build out the Client’s Bridge Loans, Energy Savings, and Marketing programs.

PANEL 3G: THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT SHOWCASE
Room A225

American Red Cross (ARC) Fellows, Mackenzie Nworah and Natali Jouzi, will share their journey in the Master of Science in Healthcare Management program by highlighting their leadership experiences and the project management tools and methodologies utilized in their capstone project at ARC Disaster Cycle Services.