

*The Department of
Sociology and Anthropology at*
MUHLENBERG
COLLEGE

presents

*The 14th Annual
Senior Research Symposium*



Wednesday, May 2, 2014
4:30 pm



*The Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Welcomes You!*

Dr. Janine Chi, Associate Professor of Sociology & Department Chair

Dr. Benjamin Carter, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Maura Finkelstein, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. Sahar Sadeghi, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology

Dr. Casey Miller, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Mrs. Tracy Kline, Department Office Manager

Schedule of Events

Senior Seminar Posters

- ◇ **Behind the Red Doors: A Closer Look at Muhlenberg's Campus Community**
Michelle Blazewicz, Sarah Roussel, and Taylor Sprague
(Sociology)
- ◇ **Take the Initiative: Effective Strategies for the Sustainable Student**
Gwen Kelly and Kerren Segal (Sociology)
- ◇ **A Race Toward Equity: Half a Century of Racial Protests at Muhlenberg College**
Tabitha Chasse and Stefanie Grodman (Sociology)
- ◇ **Get Moving! But Where? And Why? Gender and People's Choices in the Life Sports Center**
Sam Davis and Erin Lindenmuth (Sociology)
- ◇ **Organized Chaos: Organized Labor in Late Nineteenth Century Pennsylvania (1875-1900)**
Brock Juliano (Anthropology)
- ◇ **Constructing Progress: The Eighth Street Bridge and the Building of a Modern City**
Sean Kenney (Anthropology)
- ◇ **Allentown Silk in the Nineteenth Century: Reassertion of Gender Hierarchies**
Heather Lash (Anthropology)
- ◇ **From Pogroms to Pennsylvania: Jewish Settlement Patterns in 19th Century Allentown**
Emma Shavrick (Anthropology)



Schedule of Events

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Janine Chi

Honors Presentation

- ◇ **Industrial Landscapes Lost in the Wild: Creating a Methodology for the Remote Identification of Charcoal Hearths**
Weston Conner (Anthropology)

Senior Seminar Presentations

- ◇ **Behind the Red Doors: A Closer Look at Muhlenberg's Campus Community**
Michelle Blazewicz, Sarah Roussel, and Taylor Sprague
(Sociology)
- ◇ **Take the Initiative: Effective Strategies for the Sustainable Student**
Gwen Kelly and Kerren Segal (Sociology)

Concluding Remarks

Dr. Benjamin Carter





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Welcome to the Fourteenth Annual Senior Symposium in Sociology and Anthropology.

We are proud of the students presenting their research today. These include students enrolled in both Anthropology and Sociology CUE Capstone courses, as well as Anthropology honors student, Weston Conner. All of our students have spent many hours conducting library and archival research, writing and editing numerous versions of IRB proposals, talking to each other (and themselves), planning and transcribing interviews, wrangling with difficult software and making maps, coding and crunching data, and writing up and preparing to present their results. The amount of time spent on their research projects are minimal compared to the time and energy spent on decoding faculty feedback on their drafts, how many emails per day they should send their advisors, and figuring out the best poster/presentation format for their study. These are the important skills – and coping strategies – that our students have acquired through the Capstone process. The anxiety and exhaustion students feel from this research process can only be matched by the elation and pride of having completed something of, and on, their own. As faculty, we are pleased to have guided and mentored our students on their path of learning, proud to see them deepen their knowledge and acquire self-confidence, and gratified to see that they are well on their way to becoming mature productive citizens.

We thank family, friends, students, faculty and administration colleagues for joining us this evening.

Drs. Carter and Chi (CUE Advisors)

Honors Presentation



Weston Conner (Anthropology)

***Industrial Landscapes Lost in the Wild:
Creating a Methodology for the Remote
Identification of Charcoal Hearths***

Abstract: This project examined industrial landscapes hidden within State Game Lands #217, near Palmerton, Pennsylvania. During the mid and late nineteenth century, extensive tracts of forests were felled and converted into charcoal to power iron furnaces. In the Lehigh Valley, this impact was felt on the Blue Mountain near two furnaces started by the Balliet family. This mountain remains covered in charcoal hearths, a testament to its past industrial use. This project developed a methodology for remote identification of charcoal hearths utilizing QGIS and LiDAR data, alongside multiple rounds of systematic pedestrian survey to ground-truth potential hearths. Special attention was given to hearths located on flat spaces, which were more difficult to identify. Through this survey and methodology, the hidden industrial landscape of State Game Lands #217 came to be better understood, and its current perception problematized.



Senior Seminar Presentation/Poster



**Michelle Blazewicz, Sarah Roussel,
and Taylor Sprague (Sociology)**

***Behind the Red Doors: A Closer Look at
Muhlenberg's Campus Community***

Abstract: This research aims to examine how Muhlenberg College presents specific notions of its community to prospective students and the ways in which those ideas compare to students' lived experiences of campus community. We examined and analyzed how Muhlenberg College presents itself in 24 different admissions materials to four prospective student groups: international students, varsity athletes, members of honors programs, and members of the Emerging Leaders program. To assess students' experiences on campus and perceptions of the College community, a series of three focus groups were conducted with students in our four groups of interest. We aim to uncover if there are differences between the notions of community that the College promotes to prospective students and what students actually experience, as well as how those differences manifest. We additionally ask how the College uses admissions materials to represent itself to students differently based on their potential membership(s) in specific campus groups. Findings suggest that differences between admissions materials and student experiences do differ, and that a variety of variables can affect whether a student views their campus community positively or negatively.



Senior Seminar Presentation/Poster



**Gwen Kelly and Kerren Segal
(Sociology)**

*Take The Initiative: Effective
Strategies for the Sustainable
Student*

Abstract: This study examines the student strategies and contextual factors that contribute to the success of student-led sustainability initiatives on college campuses. Our research analyzes two such initiatives at Muhlenberg College through case studies of the “Just Tap It” campaign between Spring 2007 to Spring 2010 and “Divestment for Muhlenberg” campaign between Fall 2015 to present. Qualitative methods include archival research of the Muhlenberg Weekly articles as well as interviews with students and faculty involved with these two initiatives. We expected the success of the initiatives to be indicated primarily by effective strategy use, but analysis of data suggests an equally strong association between background variables (faculty participation, authoritative influence, sociohistorical context, and length of time) and initiative success. Additionally, strategies that gain public visibility and community support are key indicators of these initiatives’ levels of success.



Senior Seminar Poster



Tabitha Chasse and Stefanie Grodman (Sociology)

A Race Toward Equity: Half a Century of Racial Protests at Muhlenberg College

Abstract: College campuses have been a hub of social change and a space for young adults to become educated about the systemic inequities in higher education. As a result, campuses frequently serve as venues of protest as a means of social change advocacy. We explored the ways in which protests have changed at Muhlenberg in the period between 1960-2010, noting the specific spaces and techniques that were effective in yielding media attention and mobilizing bodies. Relying on the archives of *The Muhlenberg Weekly* from 1960- 2010, we examined the ways in which Muhlenberg College functioned as a space of discussion, protest, and policy change spanning from the 1960's Civil Rights movement to the 2000's, following the election of President Obama. We classified articles' reports of protest data into categories of traditional demonstrations, written pieces by singular voices, and academic lectures to examine ideological progress and student participation. Through this research we found that Muhlenberg has historically dealt with issues of race on a more academic and theoretical level rather than actively confronting them through demonstrations.



Senior Seminar Poster



**Sam Davis and Erin Lindenmuth
(Sociology)**

***Get Moving! But Where? And Why?
Gender and People's Choices in the
Life Sports Center***

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between gender, fitness ideals, and the use of the cardio loft and weight room in the Muhlenberg Life Sports Center (LSC). Past research has examined the ways in which sports still operate as a gendered institution, which can be seen through the perpetuation of gendered fitness ideals and expectations. Based on existing theories regarding gender roles in relation to athletics, we develop and use the concept of “gendered athleticism” to explain the ways in which users decide to use different workout spaces in the LSC. Using both participant observations and in depth interviews, this study demonstrates how gendered ideals and fitness expectations impact participants’ usage and perception of self in the weight room and cardio loft. This study finds that the use for both the weight room and cardio loft are related to gender, perceived fitness level, and membership on a sports team.



Senior Seminar Poster



Brock Juliano (Anthropology)

Organized Chaos: Organized Labor in Late Nineteenth Century Pennsylvania (1875-1900)

Abstract: The late nineteenth century was a period of great change throughout Pennsylvania. Many areas in Pennsylvania became increasingly tied to national and international economic and political trends, transforming society in Pennsylvania. These transformations directly affected the organization of labor. Many workers became frustrated with the depersonalized and uncaring ways in which large employers, such as coal mines and factories, treated their employees, and workers began to organize and strike in order to create change. However, some strikes, such as the Lattimer Massacre of 1897, were violently repressed while others, including those in Allentown, were met with less hostility from local governments. Based on data from the 1880 census, city registries, newspaper articles and historical accounts comparative analyses were conducted to explore the causes and circumstances that led to strikes becoming more violent. This research project demonstrates that xenophobia was a key factor in creating the conditions the led to the development of especially violent strikes in late nineteenth century Pennsylvania.



Senior Seminar Poster



Sean Kenney (Anthropology)

Constructing Progress: The Eighth Street Bridge and the Building of a Modern City

Abstract: In the early 20th Century the concept of modernity was inspiring notable and historic developments in New York City and Philadelphia, while many of the great works of New York and Philadelphia are commonly known and celebrated, not much has been studied about the works in Allentown. Using a theoretical and historical analysis of newspaper articles and contemporary writings of modernity, this study seeks to examine how “modernity” was used to promote and celebrate Allentown’s Eighth Street Bridge. This study regarding use of modern architecture, science, and art to create an aura of “the modern,” also examines Harry C. Trexler, an Allentown industrialist and capitalist, and his influence on the production process as a vision for Allentown and himself. What we find is that Harry C. Trexler had a pattern of using these works to offset negative business actions, tied back to him.



Senior Seminar Poster



Heather Lash (Anthropology)

Allentown Silk in the Nineteenth Century: Reassertion of Gender Hierarchies

Abstract: Industrial jobs in Allentown during the 1880s were overwhelmingly occupied by men, leaving women responsible for domestic work including cooking, cleaning, raising children and making clothes. While production of textiles was originally monopolized by women, as textile production industrialized, people bought fabric from merchants. While women no longer needed to produce goods within her own domestic space, they were expected to have a job, leading to women working “double duty,” having both a job in industry and one at home. Opportunities for employment for women in Allentown increased with the introduction of the Adelaide Silk Mill in 1881 from Paterson, New Jersey. Despite proclamations in Allentown newspapers, *The Allentown Leader* and *The Allentown Democrat*, on the necessity of working women during and after World War I, women were not treated equal to men within the silk industry. Women were treated poorly by employers, categorized as “unskilled” workers despite having dressmaking experience, and were paid at a lower rate than men. Through the use of the 1880 census, the 1880 census of industry manufacture, and 1880 census on the manufacture of wages, published by the United States Government, the gender and job hierarchies within the Silk industry are evident.



Senior Seminar Poster



Emma Shavrick (Anthropology)

From Pogroms to Pennsylvania: Jewish Settlement Patterns in the 19th Century Allentown

Abstract: Allentown in the 19th century was a rapidly growing city, with an increasingly diverse population. Immigrants from all over Europe were arriving in Allentown, and that included a large number of Jews looking to escape religious persecution and violence. While Allentown history and Jewish history is well known, the history and experience of Jews in Allentown has not been studied. This research project intends to better understand where these Jewish immigrants were settling, what they were doing in Allentown, and how their newly established community was perceived by the greater Allentown community. These questions were answered through research of Lehigh Valley history and Jewish history, as well as analysis of Allentown newspapers, the 1880 Census, and Allentown Directories from the 19th century. While there was no major patterns found concerning where Jews lived, many interesting occupational patterns were revealed. In comparison to the larger Allentown population, a much larger percentage of Jews held white collar jobs and owned businesses, and Jewish businesses and business owners were clustered around a small area of Allentown.



Special Thanks to:

Tracy Kline, Department Office Manager

Kerren Segal '18, Student Office Worker

Madison Panto '21, Student Office Worker

