Panel Abstract

Purity culture, once a subculture of American Evangelicalism, has become a prominent component of U.S. domestic and foreign policy over the past twenty years. The central tenet of purity culture is that individuals should wait to engage in sexual activity, broadly defined to include anything from intense hugging to penile-vaginal intercourse, until marriage. This panel examines the effects of the mainstreaming of purity culture from multiple perspectives. Hough will discuss how the rhetoric of WWII legislation regarding prostitutes and Bush administration legislation regarding abstinence-only until marriage education (AOUM) both work to construct the sexually active female as an enemy of the state. Monson will talk about how understanding AOUM as an extension of cultural militarization, as described by Cynthia Enloe, explains its persistence despite the fact that it has been repeatedly shown to not be effective at meeting its goals of decreasing teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted infections. Murton will speak to the challenges of creating a sex positive classroom in an introductory Women’s Studies classroom with students who have grown up with purity culture through its presence in popular culture and/or AOUM.

Panelists

Jamie Hough (Purdue University): “White Crosses: Purity, Patriarchy, and White Supremacy”

Christina Monson (Western Illinois University): “Abstinence And Ammunition: Understanding AOUM As An Extension of Cultural Militarization”

Heather Murton (Purdue University): “After Abstinence: Teaching Sex-Positive Feminism to Students Who Grew Up With AOUM”

Panel Abstract

As industrial technologies and infrastructure have grown across the world, their influences on the environment have become abundantly clear—climate change, pollution, and development and habitat change among them. Their attendant effects on human and non-human life among these heavily-engineered environments are not always so evident. Setting aside traditional environmental concerns like climate change and environmental justice, how has industrialization changed the way people and animals exist in the spaces and places they have always called home? This panel explores life—for both human and non-human agents—in environments and landscapes shaped by industrial technologies. The papers collected here attempt to move beyond questions of transformation to those of adaptation when it comes to the localized impact of technological development. From wildlife alteration to geographic organization and the concentration of waste, they address the complications of life in the shadow of industrial and technological infrastructures.
Panelists

Ryan Schnurr (Purdue University) “Colonized Landscapes: On Jeremiah Wilson’s America”

(1:30-2:45pm): “A Different Face of the Midwest: Transnational Millennials and Generation Z”
Moderator: Dr. Rayvon Fouché

Panel Abstract

Millennials and Generation Z are avid actors in the racial transformation of “the heart of America” with the settlement of transnational students and Latina/o immigrants across Midwestern cities and towns. In 2010, Purdue University American Studies Students established the Cultivating Leaders of Indiana Program (CLIP) to bridge Purdue University students with the Frankfort community in Indiana. The program is led by transnational students and educators who center culture, media, education, social justice, and historical awareness to empower participants to embrace their identities as local and global citizens.

This panel consequently explores the autoethnographies of Latina high school students in the program, activists, and transnational scholars and educators of color and difference in Indiana. Rocío León, Jennifer Sdunzik, and Annagul Yaryyeva will present on “Academia and Community Engagement in Trump’s Midwest” by drawing upon their work and experiences in CLIP. Esmeralda Cruz’s presentation “No Walls: Bridging Gaps Between Minority Youth and Frankfort Community” addresses her advocacy work as a Latina leader in the region. Jessica Carapia, Flor Lopez, Rebecca Perez, and Scarlett Soto discuss “Growing Up Latina in Frankfort, IN” to give insight on the way Generation Z is coming of age in Trump’s Midwest. The panel showcases the importance of using American Studies resources and methodologies to engage transnational communities who have had limited access to academic discourses but whose identity formations and social locations are questions at the center of the field’s formation.

Panelists

Rocío León, Jennifer Sdunzik, Annagul Yaryyeva (Purdue University): “Academia and Community Engagement in Trump’s Midwest”
Esmeralda Cruz (Clinton County Purdue Extension Office): “No Walls: Bridging Gaps Between Minority Youth and Frankfurt Community
Jessica Carapia, Flor Lopez, Kassandra Santos, Scarlett Soto, Ruth Vazquez (Frankfurt Senior High School): “Growing Up Latina in Frankfurt, IN”
Sunday, April 30, 2017

(8am-9:30am): Recent Projects in American Studies
Moderator: Dr. Shannon McMullen

Panelists
Michelle Lee (Purdue University): “Transnational Cyber Feminism through the Virtual Encounters of Asian/America"
Andrea Adomako (Purdue University): “Postcolonial Black Girlhood in Ghana”
Salvador Gutierrez Peraza (Purdue University): “San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park: The Beale-Carson Monument”
Megan Williams (Purdue University): “The Social Life of Poundcake”

(9:45am-11:30am): “We the Voters - A New Civics Education Resource”
Discussant: Dr. Kimberly Osborne

Abstract
With all that is happening in our country right now, the need for civics education and engagement is perhaps greater than it has ever been. This session will present great free media resources that can help. We the Voters: 20 Films for the People is an anthology of short documentary, narrative, and animated films (about 5 mins each) that focus on nonpartisan issues related to voting, democracy, elections, and US governance, with accompanying educational materials developed by PBS Education. This free content will be available online in perpetuity to share in your community or classroom.

(11:45am-1:30pm): “Breaking into New Societies and Institutions: Analyzing the Role of Newcomers across Different Disciplines”
Moderator: Dr. Monica Trieu

Panel Abstract
The “American Dream” sells the United States as the country of opportunity where hard work and perseverance are enough to transform one’s social location. Nevertheless, scholars across different disciplines are dismantling the myth due to the social, economic, and political barriers imposed on its tenets of migration and education.

This panel seeks to explore processes of inclusion and exclusion that occur as newcomers, particularly students and immigrants, enter societies and institutions in which their presence is ahistorical and perceived as displaced. The presenters pay close attention to place and identity-making, unraveling tensions, liminality, and interdependence between newcomers and educational institutions and communities.

Jairo León focuses on the hidden curriculums and hospitality universities offer newcomers, with particular attention on minoritarian students. Rocío León analyzes the cultural formations and political impact Lafayette Latina/o small businesses impress upon their local communities. Dina Verdín’s research interest focuses on first-generation college students, specifically around changing deficit base paradigms by providing asset base perspectives for understanding this community. Annagul Yaryyeva explores the ways in which Trump’s travel ban has exposed the vulnerabilities of international
students in the U.S. and discusses the reactions of international students and U.S. institutions of higher learning to the “newcomer” administration’s executive orders.

In this collaborative effort, the presenters use methods and tools from their respective disciplines to contribute an analysis on the process of how and why newcomers form spaces of belonging in institutions that have traditionally resisted their inclusion.

Panelists

Jairo León (University of California, Los Angeles): “University Newcomers: Undocumented Students & the Ethics of Hospitality”

Rocío León (Purdue University): “Economies of Nostalgia: Ethnicity as a Cultural and Political Product of Lafayette Latina/o Businesses”

Annagul Yaryyeva (Purdue University): “When the “Newcomer “Administration Makes You feel Unwelcome: International Students, Higher Education, and Travel Ban”

Dina Verdín (Purdue University): “A Comparison of First-Generation and Non-First-Generation Engineering College Students”
**Nathanael Bassett** is a PhD student at the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Department of Communication and an NSF-IGERT Fellow in the Electronic Security and Privacy Program. His work examines non-use, the refusal of sociotechnical systems, and the agency of non-humans. His research interests include history/philosophy of technology and materialist approaches to media and STS, including media archaeology. His website is mrliterati.com and his twitter is @mrliterati.

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**Esmeralda Cruz,** M.S., received her Master’s Degree from Purdue University in Youth Development. In 2009, she received the Governor’s Award for Tomorrow’s Leaders. She was the director of the Afterschool Tutoring Program for the Community Schools of Frankfort for four years working with 250 regular students each year. She is currently the Health and Human Sciences Educator in Clinton County. She has been invited to present her work on various local and national conferences, such as the Tri State Diversity Conference, the NACDEP Conference, and Cambio de Colores Conference. She is actively involved in Healthy Communities of Clinton County Coalition, Social Services Committee, Quinton’s House Board, Clinton County Child Care Coalition, Latino Parent Advisory Board, and Community Raising and Starting Heroes.

**Jaime Hough** received her PhD in American Studies at Purdue University in May 2017. Her dissertation, “Virgin Land: Young Women, Sexual Citizenship, and the Contemporary United States” analyzes the rhetoric of virginity in medical, legal, and popular cultures during the World War II era (1940-1945) and the early War on Terror (2001-2008).

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**Jairo Leon’s** professional and scholarly work focuses on higher education, immigration, and LGBT Studies. He earned a B.A. in Literature & Writing from CSU San Marcos. Jairo is currently pursuing a Master’s in Education at UCLA, and serves as Assistant Resident Director within UCLA Residential Life.

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**Rocío León** is a first-year Purdue Doctoral Fellow in American Studies at Purdue University. She received a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH where she double majored in History and Latin American Studies. As an undergraduate student, Rocío was a recipient of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship and conducted her research on transnational communities in Southern California and central Mexico. Rocío’s research interests and work are shaped by her commitment to reproductive justice and encompass border studies, transnational migration, race & ethnicity, historical memory, and media studies. Prior to attending graduate school, Rocío worked for Planned Parenthood (Action Fund) of the Pacific Southwest. She was also a part of the first cohort of the California Latinas for Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute and volunteered for a local immigrant youth organization in her hometown of San Diego, CA.

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**Christina Monson** is working on an MA in Instructional Design and Technology at Western Illinois University. She has already completed an MA in Liberal Arts and Sciences at WIU and produced a thesis titled “The militarization of sex education: Understanding
the persistent federal funding of abstinence only until marriage." In addition to her academic pursuits Christi is active in her community as a School Board Member and advocates for comprehensive sex education. She hopes to some day design accessible, high quality, sex education programs. 
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Heather Murton is a second-year PhD student in Cultural Studies and Theory at Purdue University. Her research interests include feminist and queer studies with a focus on sex positive efforts to create consent culture on college campuses. As an instructor for Purdue’s Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department, Heather works with students to challenge rape culture and sex negative stigmas. 
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Kimberly Osborne: Recognized as a national and international authority in strategic communications, Dr. Kimberly Osborne has been an advisor to senior leaders of U.S. and foreign militaries and governments, Fortune 500 companies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations. Currently, she is the inaugural recipient of the C-SPAN Chair at Purdue University. Previously, she served NATO as the Chief Strategic Communications Advisor to the Afghan National Security Forces in Kabul, Afghanistan and launched numerous record-breaking new products and business lines for Fortune 500 companies. Kim has a Ph.D. in adult education from the University of Georgia and a M.A. in communications management from USC Annenberg. 

Jennifer Sdunzik is a Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. She received both her master’s and her bachelor’s degrees in American Studies from the Humboldt University, in Berlin, Germany. Her research interests include hate crimes, racial violence, and sundown studies. Her focus is mainly on the social construction of white spaces and white supremacist ideologies that undermine spatial, societal and cultural integration of ethnic and racial minorities. In the past, she has written on media representations of violence and crimes perpetrated against racial minorities, arguing that the construction of hegemonic myths and denigrating stereotypes of minorities have helped foster collective memories of racial superiority and justify extralegal violence. For her dissertation project, she aims to theorize and conceptualize the Geography of Hate, with the Midwest and Indiana, as the crossroad of the nation, as her sample states. 
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Ryan Schnurr is a writer, photographer, and doctoral student in American Studies at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. His work concerns photography, writing, and landscape change in 20th and 21st century America. His research interests include documentary photography, environmental literature, and technology and environment studies. Ryan is a member of the American Studies Association, the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, and the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. He has published in Midwestern Gothic, The Old Northwest Review, and Belt Magazine, among others. 
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Dina Verdín is a Ph.D. student in Engineering Education and M.S. student in Industrial Engineering at Purdue University. Dina is a first-generation college student, who completed her undergraduate degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering at San José State University. Dina is a 2016 recipient of the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship. The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. Dina’s research focuses on shifting the deficit perspective of first-generation college students by understanding their identity development in engineering and by seeking ways to connect students’ lived experiences to the classroom. Ultimately, she hopes her research will create change in how engineering is taught in college classrooms that is culturally relevant to first-generation college students and improve recruitment, retention, and belongingness of these students in engineering. Dina has published and presented proceedings at the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition, IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference, and National Association of Research in Science Teaching Annual International Conference. Contact Information: dverdin@purdue.edu

Annagul Yaryyeva is a PhD candidate in American Studies with a major field in Anthropology at Purdue University. She holds a B.A. in American Studies with concentration in Society and Culture from the American University of Central Asia. Ms. Yaryyeva received her M.A. in American Studies with a major field in Educational Studies in 2011 from Purdue University. Ms. Yaryyeva’s research focuses on transnational migration and identity formation of post-Soviet immigrants and migrants in the United States, in the context of U.S.-Russia relations. To understand everyday realities of the post-Soviet (im)migrants, she approaches her work with interdisciplinary curiosity in the intersection of migration, identity and sociocultural phenomena such as neoliberalism, imperialism, and international relations.

Ms. Yaryyeva’s professional interests also include the relationship between higher education, community activism, and social justice. For the past seventeen years, she has been working with international organizations and projects where she shares her academic expertise and professional development skills with underserved youth of color. Her goal is to continue working with global minority youth who aspire to become leaders and foster solutions to challenges facing their immediate communities and the world at large. Contact Information: ayaryeva@purdue.edu